



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Clifford Reis Jones films, 1974-1975

Cataloging supported by Smithsonian Institution Women's Committee

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Human Studies Film Archives
Title:	Clifford Reis Jones films
Date:	1974-1975
Identifier:	HSFA.1977.03
Creator:	Jones, Clifford Reis
Extent:	4 Film reels (102 minutes; color sound; 3510 feet)
Language:	Undetermined .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Received from Clifford Reis Jones in 1977.

Preferred Citation

Clifford Reis Jones films, Human Studies Film Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The collection is open for research. Please contact the archives for information on availability of access copies of audiovisual recordings. Original audiovisual material in the Human Studies Film Archives may not be played.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Scope and Contents

Four edited films made in 1974 and 1975 by Clifford Reis Jones in India. Originally filmed in 35mm.

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or Anthropology Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Music
Puppet theater

Rites and ceremonies

Types of Materials:

Sound films

Places:

India
South Asia

Container Listing

[Worship of the Deity Ayyappan, 1975](#)

1 Film reel (21 minutes; color sound; 600 feet)

Notes: Edited film documenting temple worship of Nambudri Brahmins in Kerala, India. The film represents scenes from an eight-hour Nambudri ceremony which culminates in the possession of a shaman-priest and the oracular communications through him from the diety Ayyappan to devotees.

HSFA 1977.3.1

[The Serpent Deities, 1975](#)

1 Film reel (23 minutes; color sound; 690 feet)

Notes: Edited film documenting the worship of the serpent dieties by the Pulivan people of southern India. The film represents the forms of ritual, music, and art associated with these deities in order to ensure fertility and protect against harmful spirits. Featured are ritual sand paintings in the temple, costumes and body painting.

Film Subject: Arangottukkara ; Killimangalam ; Pallipuram ; Maniyur ; Keralastat

Technical Assistants: Yarma, Ravi ; Ramalingam, Ramosh ; Ethiraj, Selvanathan ; Vijayalabs, Ramanathan ; Kimjanambudrippad, K.

Legacy Keywords: Language and culture ; Musical instrument vina ; Musical instrument kutam ; Music ; Performance sacred texts ; Spirit Bhutam ; Clan Pulluvan ; Deity Brahma Shiva Vishnu ; Dance ; Costume ; Sandpaintings ; Song

HSFA 1977.3.2

[Shadow Puppet Drama in South India: the Ramayana of Kamban, 1975](#)

1 Film reel (30 minutes; color sound; 1020 feet)

Notes: Edited film was shot in Kerala, India, of the shadow puppet drama performed throughout southern India in honor of the goddess Bagivagit. The film depicts the consecration rites at a shrine to Bagivagit preparatory to the drama and the mythic struggle enacted by the puppet figures.

HSFA 1977.3.3

[Sanskrit Drama in the Temples of Kerala, 1974](#)

1 Film reel (28 minutes; color sound; 1200 feet)

Notes: Edited film shot in Kerala, India, documents the tradition of Kutiyatam, the only surviving Sanskrit drama. Scenes include: a temple constructed specifically for the drama, actors and musicians being instructed in the dramatic form, consecration of the stage, and excerpts from two Kutiyatam works: Act I of "Subhadradhananjayam" by King Kulasekhara Varma, ca. 10th century, and Act IV of "Ascaryacudamani" by Saktibhadra, ca. 8th century.

Legacy keywords: Language and culture ; Music ; Musical instruments ; Sanskrit ; Theatrical productions
HSFA 1977.3.4