



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Stephanos Stephanides videos of Hail Mother Kali, 1988

Human Studies Film Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Human Studies Film Archives
Title:	Stephanos Stephanides videos of <i>Hail Mother Kali</i>
Date:	1988
Identifier:	HSFA.1991.01
Creator:	Stephanides, Stephanos
Extent:	9 Videocassettes (U-matic) (9 hours; color sound) 15 Videocassettes (VHS) (15 hours; color sound) Linear feet
Language:	Contains material in English, Hindi, Tamil, Creole.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Received from Stephanos Stephanides in 1991.

Provenance

Previously titled "Hail Mother Kali: Indo-Guyanese Video Project 1988."

Processing Information

Titles are supplied by the archivist for untitled films.

Preferred Citation

Stephanos Stephanides videos of Hail Mother Kali, 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

Full video record of an annual three-day Kalimai (Mother Kali) puja held in Berbice, Guyana. Footage documents various aspects of the worship of the Hindu Mother which was brought to Guyana by predominately south Indian indentured laborers (known as Madrasi) from the mid 19th to early 20th century. In contemporary Guyana this Creolized tradition continues to be known as Madrasi religion. Documentation features invocatory chants sung in Tamil and *bhajans* (devotional songs) and *kathas* (stories) in Hindi and English. Included are interviews with the *pujaris* (principal ritual specialists) who direct the event; preparations in the temple; and drumming, dancing, and chanting which leads to devotional possession of various participants.

The video also depicts the religious sacrifice of goats and the ritual flagellation of and fire-eating by devotees and includes an ethnohistory of the pujari who helped establish the Mother Kali tradition in Guyana.

Supplementary material: monograph; glossary of Hindi/Tamil/Creole terms used by devotees and bibliography of related materials

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.

Local Number

HSFA 1991.1.1

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Video recordings

Places:

Caribbean Area
Guyana