

A Biographical Message from a Humble Son about his lovable Father “Ceylon” Sinniah.
“Ceylon” Sinniah, a teacher, professional photographer, actor, one of the founding
committee members of MMO (UK) and with infinite professional talented dimensions.
Remembrance of Mr. “Ceylon” Sinniah on this Successful 10th Year Anniversary of
MMO (UK).



My father's birth took place at Kandy in Sri Lanka on 1939. Since he was 10 years old, he had immense passion for acting as he adamantly involved himself in the stage play version of the well renowned film "Parasakthi (1952)" (A grand debut of "Chevalier" Shivaji Ganesan as a leading hero) in a religious festival temple's event. He took upon the role of 'Parasakthi' statue and stood still throughout the play. This was his modest birth of his acting career path.

He belonged to Indian Origin's Tamil Community living in Sri Lanka, his ancestors are from Southern part of India in the state of Tamil Nadu, predominantly from Pudukkottai (Pudukkottai District formerly known under Thanjavur District).

Since his childhood times, he placed his valuable participation on many stage plays during his school epochs. In his 30s, he made his first appearance in Sri Lanka's Tamil Film Industry as an Actor in the film "Puthiyakattru" a film produced by Mr. V. P. Ganesan (Sri Lankan Trade Unionist, politician – founder of Democratic Workers Congress, film producer, film director and actor), consecutively he acted on another V. P. Ganesan's film "Naan Ungal Thozhan".

My father pride himself in acting with "Chevalier" Shivaji Ganesan (My father's respected, passionately loved, honoured and acclaimed "Guru") in the film "Pilot Premnath (1978)", directed by Mr. A. C. Tirulokchandar. The film was an "Indo-Sri Lankan joint-venture" produced by D.M Chandrasena, T. M. Menon and M. M. Saleem. My father acted as "Kanakupillai" (Accountant) for "Premnath" (Shivaji Ganesan).

He acted in a film directed by "Annakili" Mr. R. Selvaraj, in the film "Ponnu Oorukku Pudhusu (1979)" in the Tamil Film Industry in India. With Mr. Vijayakanth (Actor, Producer, Director and Politician – Founder of "Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam") he acted in the film "Agal Vilakku (1979)", which is also directed by "Annakili" Mr. R. Selvaraj.

My father acted as the leader of "Kuravan and Kurathi" (Tamil Nadu "Gypsies") in the film "Karai Kadantha Oruthi (1979)" directed by Mr. Mandhurai Babuji. His role name was "Singaan". He acted and danced in a song in the film, the song name was "Sonnathu Palikkuthu" (What I saying is coming true and happening), the lyrics were by "Kaviarasu" Mr. Kannadasan and music score were a debut for Mr. Gangai Amaran (music director, singer, lyricist, script writer, film director and actor).

Mr. Savumiamoorthy Thondaman (Sri Lankan trade unionist and politician - Founder of Ceylon Workers' Congress. He represented the Indian Tamils of Sri Lanka of which he was a member) made a special visit at the AVM Studio in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He saw my father's acted Indian Tamil film "Puthiya Adimaigal (1980) (directed by "Annakili" Mr. R. Selvaraj)" at the preview show and praised my father highly for the acting performance in the film, which my father would never forget and have always cherished that special moment with Thondaman.

My father has served more than 20 years in the education service as "Tamil" language & literature Teacher in the upcountry areas of Sri Lanka. He has received many awards and honours for his acting credentials. In Sri Lanka at Kandy on 1974, Kandy Hindu Maamandram, Hindu Illayingar Mandram and Kandy Kalarasigar Mandram have all conjointly awarded my father the title "Kalaichudar". In Sri Lanka at Eravur on 1977, Eravur Kalaivatam Matunagar (Batticaloa District) honoured my father with the title "Eelathu Kalaimagan". In India at Puthugai (Tamil Nadu) on 1980, Illayingar Mandram Puthugai have awarded the title "Kalaipithan".

In United Kingdom at London on 2004, Tamilini Manjari have awarded my father with Best Actor award. In United Kingdom at London on 2005, Eelavar Cine Arts Council – Kalaiarasu Award have honoured my father with the title "Kalavinathan". In United Kingdom at London on 2005, Yaalamuthu have awarded my father for his more than 25 years of service in the acting field. Mr. Nandakumar (UK - Tamil Director, Film Maker, Cinematographer and Producer) have given a paramount acting role for my father in his film "Santharpam" which were filmed in India (Tamil Nadu) and in UK with cast and crew from UK and India.

In terms of stage plays, radio voice drama and television drama, my father performed in many historic, Tamil literature orientated, social and religious context scripts. He also performed in Doordarshan in Tamil Nadu. His craze for "Chevalier" Shivaji Ganesan lead him to perform many of Shivaji Ganesan's films (and roles) in the stage play version and on the television. He has voiced many radio orientated drama at many radio stations, such as "Radio Ceylon". My father has acted more than 25 to 30 films in the Tamil Film Industry in India from various characters and roles. In Sri Lanka Tamil Film Industry, he has acted in many notable roles with wide range of genre of films.

Since the inauguration of MMO (UK), my father has placed his valuable help, support and contribution with his best ability in relation to MMO (UK)'s aims, mission, vision and objectives as one of the founding committee members of MMO (UK) and as an important member. He has acted in many stage plays in the cultural and arts events organised by MMO (UK), for example "Ponmalai Pozhuthu – 2010" event, whereby "Ceylon" Manohar (Mr. A. E. Manoharan) (pop singer and actor. He has acted in Tamil Nadu (India), Sri Lankan Tamil and Bollywood films) had come from India as a special entertainer for the event.

On January 7th 2011 my father's soul has gone to rest peacefully under God's feet in the heavenly gardens. We pray my father will be our eyes and watch us where go, we pray we will find my father's light and hold it in our hearts. May my father help us find a place, and guide us with his grace and give us faith so we will be safe. We will never forget you and you will be deeply missed by your loved ones, we will cherish you until the end of time. You will always will be a great and best "Thespian" in our mind, heart and soul.

On behalf of my late father Mr. "Ceylon" Sinniah and his family, from bottom of my heart I would like to congratulate MMO (UK) for its successful 10th Anniversary. May the sheer hard work continue and let God's grace be with MMO (UK)'s path and its future endeavours with many prosperities to support MMO (UK)'s mission and vision.

From A Humble Member of MMO (UK),

Mr. Yogaselvam Sinnaya (Son of Mr. "Ceylon" Sinniah)

