

P. KRISHNAN, 75
LITERARY ARTS

A recipient of the prestigious Southeast Asian Write Award in 2005, Krishnan began writing in the early 1950s and actively contributed to Tamil-language newspapers and periodicals published in Singapore and Malaysia. Known also by his pseudonym Puthumaithasan, he wrote numerous essays and stories for various publications.

Having worked as a radio broadcaster for 31 years, he has also written radio plays and avidly promoted Tamil language and literature through the course of his career. Between 1951 and 2004, Krishnan wrote close to 40 short stories, 360 plays and 100 essays.

His short stories *Kaalakanakku (Prediction)* and *Vaazha Mudiyaathaval (Homecoming)* were part of the collection, *The Fiction of Singapore* (1990); while his short play, *Namakku Pinn (After Us)*, was included in *Modern ASEAN Plays* (1991).

Krishnan's first collection of short stories, *Puthumaithasan Kathaigal (Puthumaithasan Stories)*, which was published in 1993, received the Commendation Award from the National Book Development Council of Singapore in 1994.

His 1993 short story, *Uthirigal (Riff-Raff)*, was included in *Singha*, a Ministry of Education publication, and later featured in the National Library Board's READ! Singapore initiative in 2006.

Krishnan is no stranger to awards and accolades. In recognition of his writing, he was honoured with the Thamizhavel Award by the Association of Singapore Tamil Writers in 1998, Community Arts & Literary Award by the United Indian Muslim Association in 2000, Community Literary Award by the Singapore Tamilian Association in 2002, and Tamil Literary Award by the Tamil Language & Cultural Society in 2006.

Featured as one of the writers in the Singapore Literary Pioneers Gallery at the National Library, Krishnan is also well-known for translating Shakespeare's play, *Macbeth*, into Tamil – the first Shakespearean play to be translated into Tamil. This translated version was also adopted as a Supplementary Reader for schools and staged by a local drama group.

He conducted a writing workshop in conjunction with the Golden Point Awards in 1999, and served as Coordinating Judge for the Singapore Writers' Week story-writing competitions in 1995 and 1997.