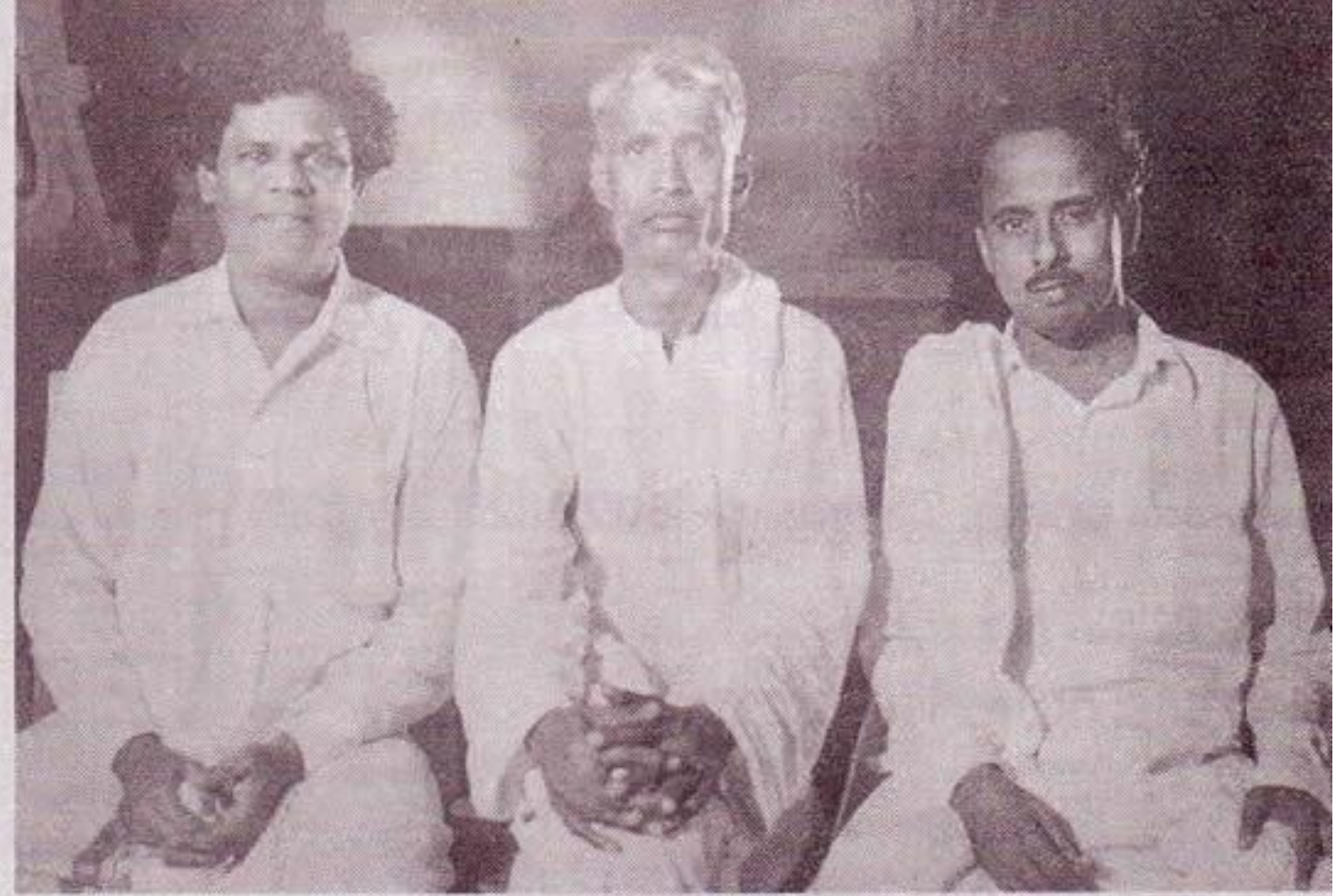


Wit and Wisdom  
of  
Kalaivanar  
and  
Kavirayar  
கலைவாணரும் கவிராயரும்

Anand

The Club

5-16-2020



N.S. கிருஷ்ணன் - உடுமலை நாராயண கவி - C.N. அண்ணாதுரை  
நடிகர் பாடல் ஆசிரியர் எழுத்தாளர்

## NSK and UNK

- Both were born in British India. Fought for independence along with Gandhiji
- Both were keen on social reforms. Fought against caste discrimination, uplifting the status of women, widow re-marriage, prohibition (madhu vilakku)
- Both tried to appeal the common people; working class
- Both came from drama groups
- Both were proficient in folk arts (villu pattu)
- Both were influenced by rationalism, science and DK movement. Both promoted DK ideology and DMK leaders



Kalaivanar N. S. Krishnan (1908-1957)

# N. S. Krishnan

- Born in Ozhukinachery, Nagercoil
- Early career- Villu pattu, stage shows, Tamil drama with TKS Brothers
- Started his own traveling drama company
  
- Later acting in films- comedy, satire, pun, social relevance, social reform
- Familiar with script editing, camera angle and film editing
- Good singer; Udumalai Narayana Kavi often wrote his songs
- Acted in 125 films (1935-1960); many with his wife T.A.Madhuram
- Directed films- Panam, Manamagal (promoted Padmini to heroine)
  
- Friend of M.K.Thyagaraja Bhagavathar; involved in a murder case with him and went to jail for 30 months
  
- Earned the titles of Kalaivanar and Charlie Chaplin of Tamilnadu
- But he relished the title- Modern Baffoon (Nagareega Komaali)
- Chaplin was known for slap stick comedy; NSK was more profound
- Played active role in DK movement; Karunanidhi's hero in real life
- Kalaivanar Arangam is a land mark in Chennai.



Udumalai Narayana Kavi (1899-1981)

# Udumalai Narayana Kavi

- Born in Poovilaivaadi (Poolavadi) village in Udumalai Taluk
- Education: upto 4<sup>th</sup> grade
- UNK showed interest in folk arts such as puravi aattam, sikku melam, thmbattam, udukkadip paattu, oyil kummi
- Ramanadakam Keerthanai was written by one of the Tamil Musical Trinity, Arunachala Kavirayar ( 1711- 1779)
- Ramanadakam stage play was written by Udumalai Sarabam Muthusamy Kavirayar (contemporary of UNK)
- UNK Acted as Lakshmana in Ramanadakam when it was staged at Mariamman Koil, Poolavadi
- Impressed by his acting , USMK took UNK as his student (1901-1914)

- Married Pechiammal when he was 25
- Ran cotton business and incurred heavy loss and accumulated debts
- Took a vow to go elsewhere, earn enough money and return to clear debts
- His mentor Muthusamy Kavirayar and Sankaradas Swamigal were friends and Kavirayar sent UNK to Swamigal.
- Joined Thavathiru Sankaradas Swamigal Drama Troupe in Madurai. Swamigal taught UNK Yappilakkanam.
- With Swamigal, UNK was involved in writing dramas and other works
- Regarded highly for his writing skills, earned good money
- Went back to Poolavadi and cleared all his debts
- Honesty, Self respect, Integrity- his personality traits

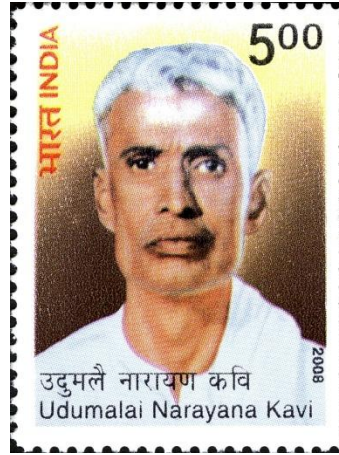


- Came into contact with T K S Brothers in Madurai. They were famous for their stage plays.
- Thru TKS, came into contact with N.S.Krishnan, the Charlie Chaplin of Tamil films. Actually UNK by his songs and short plays made NSK better than Chaplin ( not simply slapstick but dialogues with content)
- Director A Narayanan invited him to go to Chennai and write lyrics for movies
- UNK went to Chennai, wrote lyrics and short plays for at least sixty movies (1942-1976).
- His songs were simple, natural, had a message, rationalism, social reform
- Introduced folk tunes to cine songs; known in the field as Kavirayar
- Periyar, Anna , Kalaighnar, Bharatidasan valued his friendship.
- Died on May 23, 1981; Kalaighnar built a Manimandapam in Udumalai close to my house!

## Partial list of Movies with Narayana Kavi lyrics:

- Nalla Thambi
  - Velaikkaari
  - Devadas
  - Amara deepam
  - Parasakthi
  - Rathakanneer
  - Deiva Piravi
  - Kaveri
  - Panam
  - Poompuhar
  - Thooku Thooki
  - Vivasayee
  - Aasai
  - Manamagal
  - Rajarani
  - Manjal Makimai
  - Mudhal Thethi
  - Manohara
  - Enga veetu mahalakshmi
- 
- Wikipedia gives 61 films with dates

# Film Clips and Songs



[For ten NSK and Narayana Kavi Padalkal-  
click or paste the link below](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvCCTBtu2H3xS9MIXlh4qCoW8wqL9lOQI>

[For twenty Narayana Kavi Padalkal-  
click or paste the link below](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvCCTBtu2H3xOf0R3XQ31chpzhQXDdEh4>

Udumalai Narayana Kavi Padalkal in Internet  
A pdf file (275pages) was published by his three sons  
Click or paste the link:

<https://archive.org/details/UdumalaiNarayanaKaviPaatalakal/page/n273/mode/2up>