

Kūṭiyāṭṭam, India's only living traditional Sanskrit theatre, has been continually performed in Kerala for at least a thousand years. The actors and drummers create an entire world in the empty space of the stage by using spectacular costumes and make-up and by an immensely rich interplay of words, rhythms, mime, and gestures.

This volume focuses on *Mantrāṅkam* and *Aṅguliyāṅkam*, the two great masterpieces of Kūṭiyāṭṭam. It provides fundamental general remarks and relates them to pan-Indian reflections on aesthetics, philology, ritual studies, and history. Authored by scholars and active Kūṭiyāṭṭam performers, this is the first attempt to bring together a set of sustained, multi-faceted interpretations of these masterpieces-in-performance.

With an aim to open up this ancient art form to readers interested in South Indian culture, religion, theatre and performance studies, philology as well as literature, this volume offers a new way to access a major art form of pre-modern and modern Kerala.

**Heike Oberlin** is associate professor, Department of Indology, University of Tübingen, Germany.

**David Shulman** is professor emeritus, Department of Asian Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.

The two ministers Yaugandharāyaṇa (left, Kalamandalam Sangeeth Chakyar) and Vasantaka (right, Kalamandalam Rama Chakyar) in *Mantrāṅkam*; photograph by: Heike Oberlin.

Back cover: Hanumān (Margi Madhu Chakyar) in *Aṅguliyāṅkam*; photograph by: Heike Oberlin.

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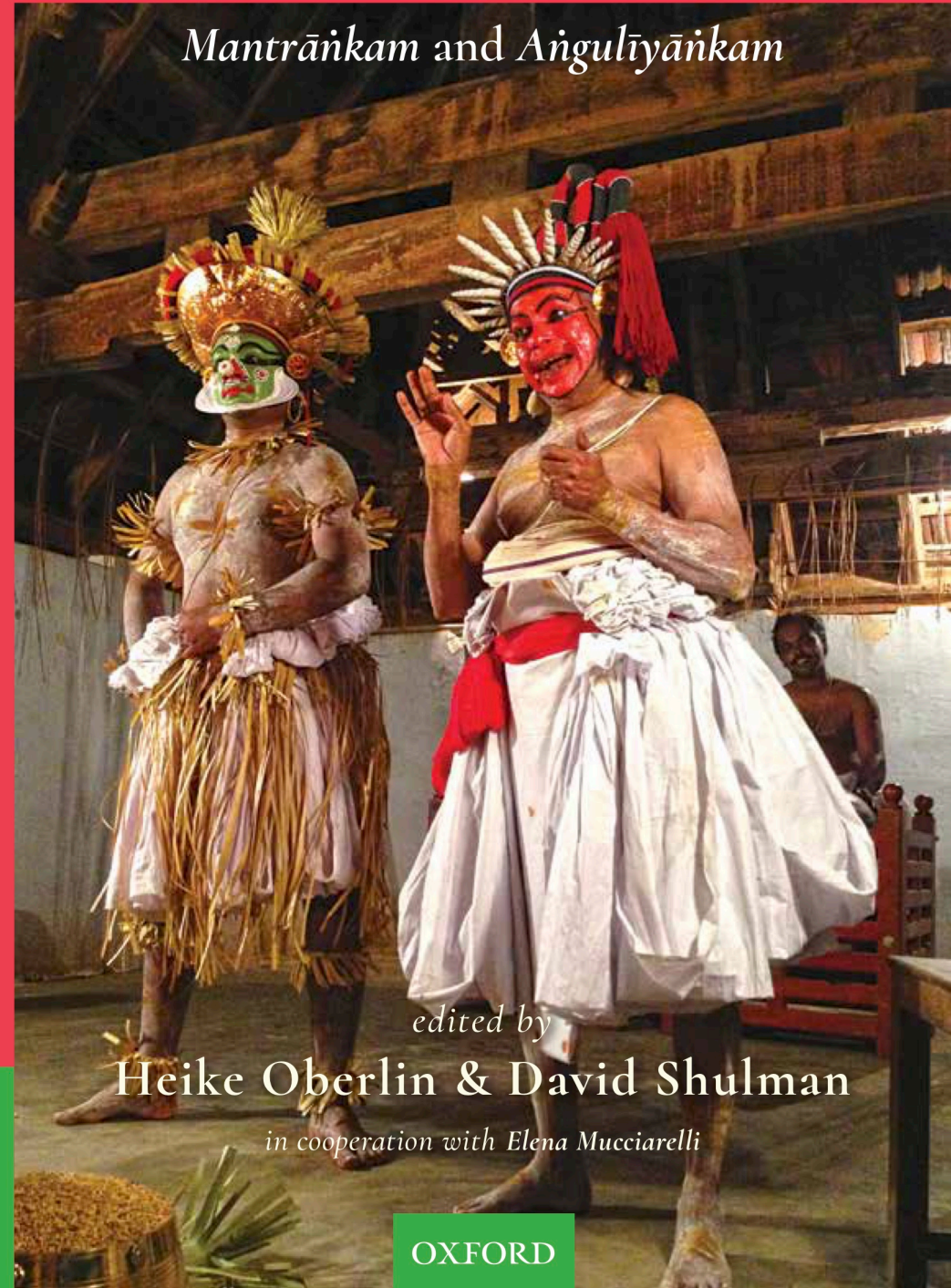
Two Masterpieces  
of Kūṭiyāṭṭam

Mantrāṅkam and  
Aṅguliyāṅkam

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Two Masterpieces of Kūṭiyāṭṭam

*Mantrāṅkam and Aṅguliyāṅkam*



edited by

**Heike Oberlin & David Shulman**

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