



# ***Borrowed Fire: The Shadow Puppets of Kerala***

**A film by Anurag Wadehra & Salil Singh**

Thursday, January 21, 2010, 6:30 p.m.

Stanford University, Cummings Art Building, Lower Level, Room 4

Department of Religious Studies at Stanford University and  
SACHI, Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India  
present

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Free to the public

Film running time: 48 minutes

On the southwestern coast of India an extraordinary performing art has evolved over many centuries. It is known as Tolpava Koothu - "the Play of Leather Shadows". Performed in special outdoor theatres facing temples of the goddess Bhadrakali, it enacts the story of the Ramayana, a sacred Hindu epic.

***Borrowed Fire*** documentary, set in South India, exquisitely captures this tradition on film. The struggle of the last surviving scholar and master-puppeteer to practice and preserve an ancient performing art provides a rare and poignant glimpse of a flame on the verge of extinction.

Q & A with filmmakers Anurag Wadehra & Salil Singh follows the film screening. For more information about this documentary and the filmmakers, visit [www.kathanjali.com](http://www.kathanjali.com).

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For directions go to campus map, <http://campus-map.stanford.edu/>



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