

M. S. Subbulakshmi




16 September 1916 – 11 December 2004

GEETHA

†.S. Subbulakshmi



A portrait of Adi Sankaracharya, a Hindu philosopher and theologian. He is depicted with a white beard and a white tilak on his forehead, wearing a white shawl. The background is a light blue gradient with a faint red circular halo around his head. The entire image is framed by a decorative border with scrollwork in the corners.

**Bhaja Govindam
Ragamalika
Adi Sankaracharya**

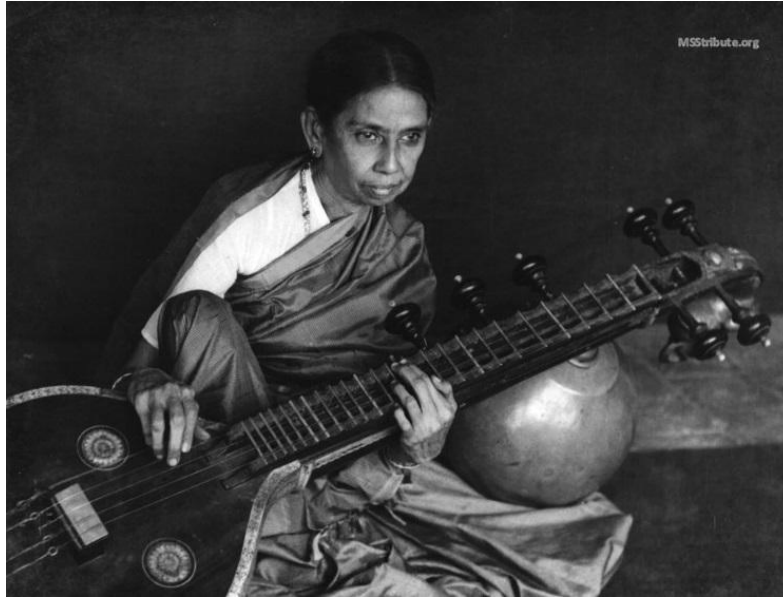
**MS Amma's Amma - Madurai Shanmuga vadivu
playing veena, as the kid "MS" sings...**

**Released in 1926 by
Twin Recording Co.**



Madurai Shanmukhavadivu Subbulakshmi

शन्मुगवडीउ – belonged to Devdasi community



Her father was Subramania Iyer, a lawyer by profession and a rasika,

Family lived in Maudrai – close to Meenakshi temple.
Elder brother **Shakativel** learned Mrindagam, younger sister
Vadivambal learned veena and **Kunjamma** (MS) excelled in Vocals



Carnatic vocalist MS Subbulakshmi seen during her younger years with her mother's veena in 1945.

Pic Courtesy/ Shanmukhanand Archives

"Kalki" Thiagaraja Sadasivam (4 September 1902 – 22 November 1997) was a leading [freedom fighter](#), [singer](#), [journalist](#) and [film producer](#) who was one of the founders, along with [Kalki Krishnamurthy](#) of the Tamil magazine [Kalki](#). He is well known as the husband of famous classical carnatic singer [M.S. Subbulakshmi](#)



Sadasivam had two daughters named Radha and Vijaya from his first wife, Smt. Apithakuchambal. In July 1936, Sadasivam met [M.S. Subbulakshmi](#),

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The two eventually married on July 10, 1940 after his first wife died. Sadasivam was also close to journalist and writer [Kalki Krishnamurthy](#) with whom he co-founded the popular magazine Kalki in 1940.

M.S. also acted in a few [Tamil](#) films in her youth. Her first movie, [Sevasadanam](#), was released on 2 May 1938. [F.G. Natesa Iyer](#) was the lead actor, opposite Subbulakshmi, in this film, directed by [K. Subramanyam](#). It was a critical and commercial success

MS Subbulakshmi also played the male role of [Narada](#) in "Savitri" (1941) to raise money for launching [Kalki](#), her husband's nationalist Tamil weekly.

Her title role of the [Rajasthani](#) saint-poetess [Meera](#) in the 1945 [film](#) gave her national prominence.

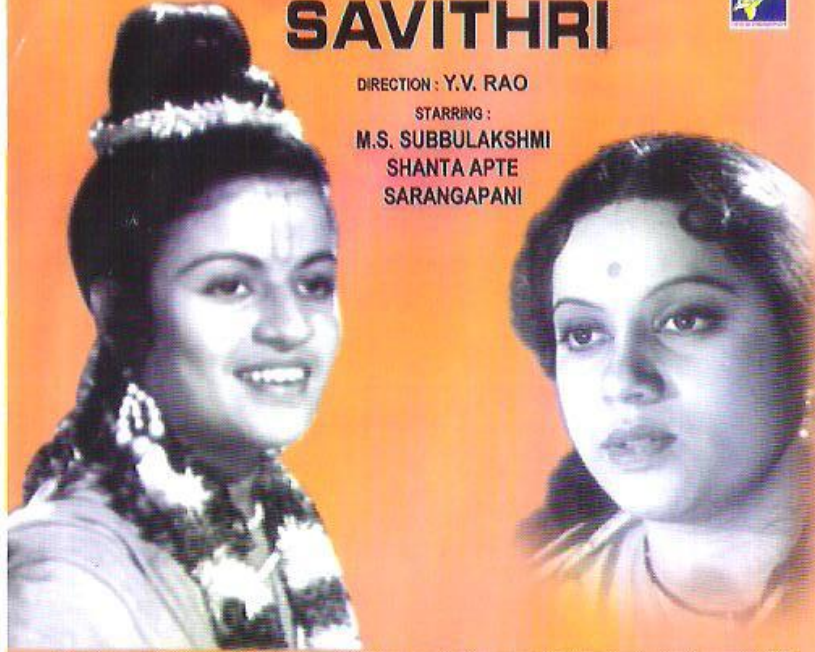
This movie was re-made in Hindi in 1947.



ROYAL TALKIES
M.S. SUBBULAKSHMI
IN
SAVITHRI

DIRECTION : Y.V. RAO

STARRING :
M.S. SUBBULAKSHMI
SHANTA APTE
SARANGAPANI



CATALOG	TITLE	LANGUAGE	DURATION	AUDIO	FORMAT	YEAR
BS DVD 091	SAVITHRI	TAMIL	152 MIN	DOLBY	NTSC ALL REGION	2007

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நடிகரும்



ராயல் டாக்சிஸ்

சாவித்ரி

டைரக்டர்
Y.V. ராவ்

SAVITHRI

BS DVD - 091



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CHANDRA PRABHA's

MEERA

Music : S.V.VENKATRAMAN

Direction : ELLIS R.DUNGAN

Starring

M.S.SUBHALAKSHMI
NAGAYYA



CATALOG	TITLE	LANGUAGE	DURATION	AUDIO	FORMAT	YEAR
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MEERA

BS DVD - 090

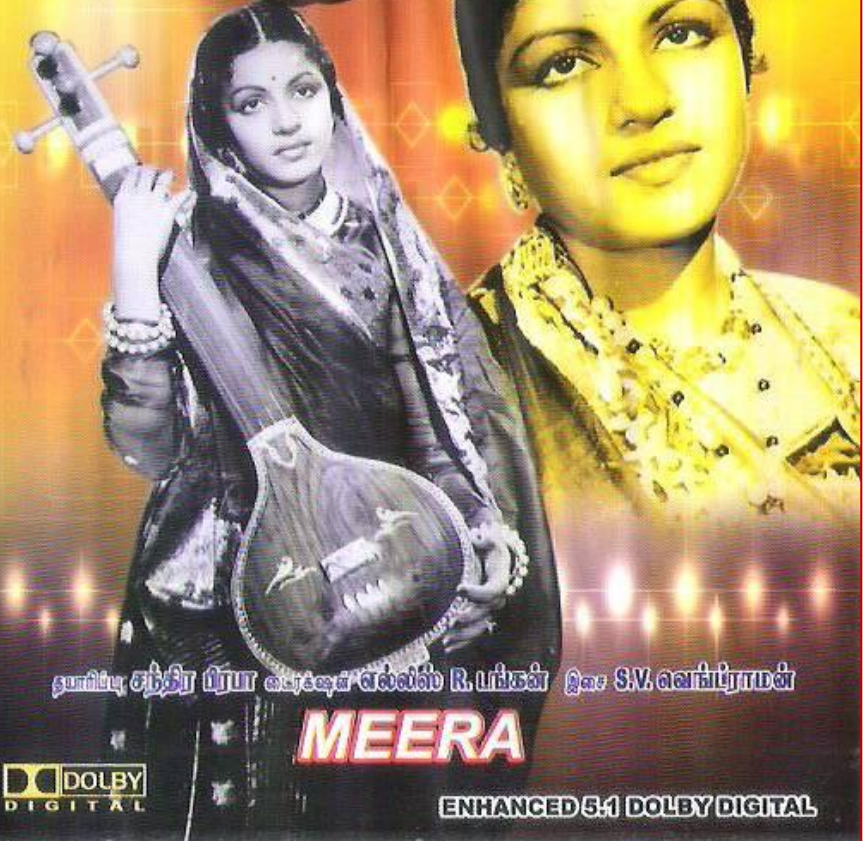
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பாரதராஜா
எம்.எஸ். சுப்புலக்ஷ்மி
நடிக்கும்

மீரா



தயாரிப்பு: சந்திர பிரகாஷ் என்டர்டைன்மென்ட்ஸ் R.பிரகாஷ் இசை: S.V. வெங்கட்ராமன்

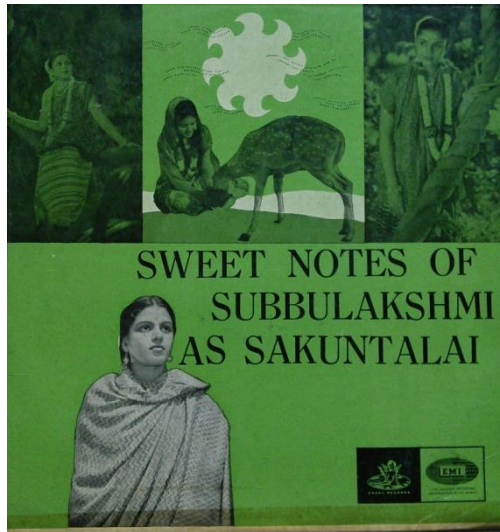
MEERA

DOLBY
DIGITAL

ENHANCED 5.1 DOLBY DIGITAL

Year	Film	Language	Role	Co-Star	Director	Music	
1938	<u>Sevasadanam</u>	<u>Tamil</u>	Sumathi	<u>F. G. Natesa Iyer</u>	<u>K. Subramanyam</u>	<u>Papanasam Sivan</u>	
1940	<u>Sakuntalai</u>	Tamil	<u>Shakunthala</u>	<u>G. N. Balasubramaniam</u> , <u>Radha Viswanathan</u>	<u>Ellis R. Dungan</u>	Papanasam Sovan	
1941	<i>Savithiri</i>	Tamil	<u>Saint Narada</u>	<u>Y. V. Rao</u> , <u>Shanta Apte</u>	<u>Y. V. Rao</u>	Thuraiyur Rajagopala Sarma & Kamaldas Gupta	
1945	<u>Meera</u>	Tamil	<u>Meerabai</u>	<u>Chittor V. Nagaiah</u>	<u>Ellis R. Dungan</u>	<u>S. V. Venkatraman</u>	
1947	<i>Meerabai</i>	<u>Hindi</u>	<u>Meerabai</u>		<u>Ellis R. Dungan</u>	<u>S. V. Venkatraman</u>	

Film Career – 1938-47



An American in Madras

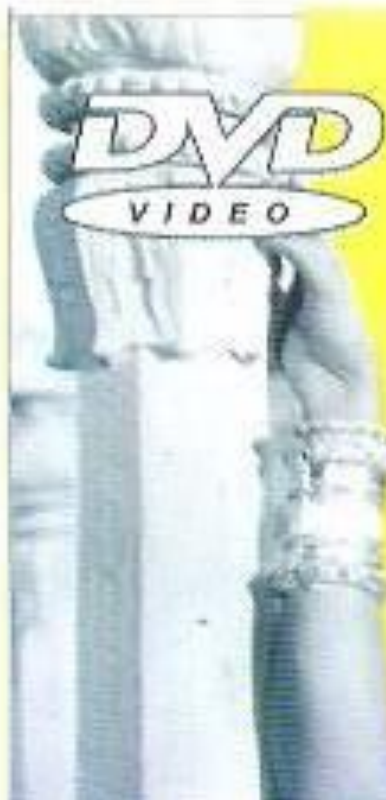
மதராஸில்
ஒரு அமெரிக்கன்





Known for her singing prowess, MS also acted in a few, popular films. Seen here in a still from the film Meera (1945), for which she also sang all the songs, and after its success, it was dubbed in Hindi for a wider release too.

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CHANDRA PRABHA's

MEERA

Music : S.V.VENKATRAMAN

Direction : ELLIS R.DUNGAN

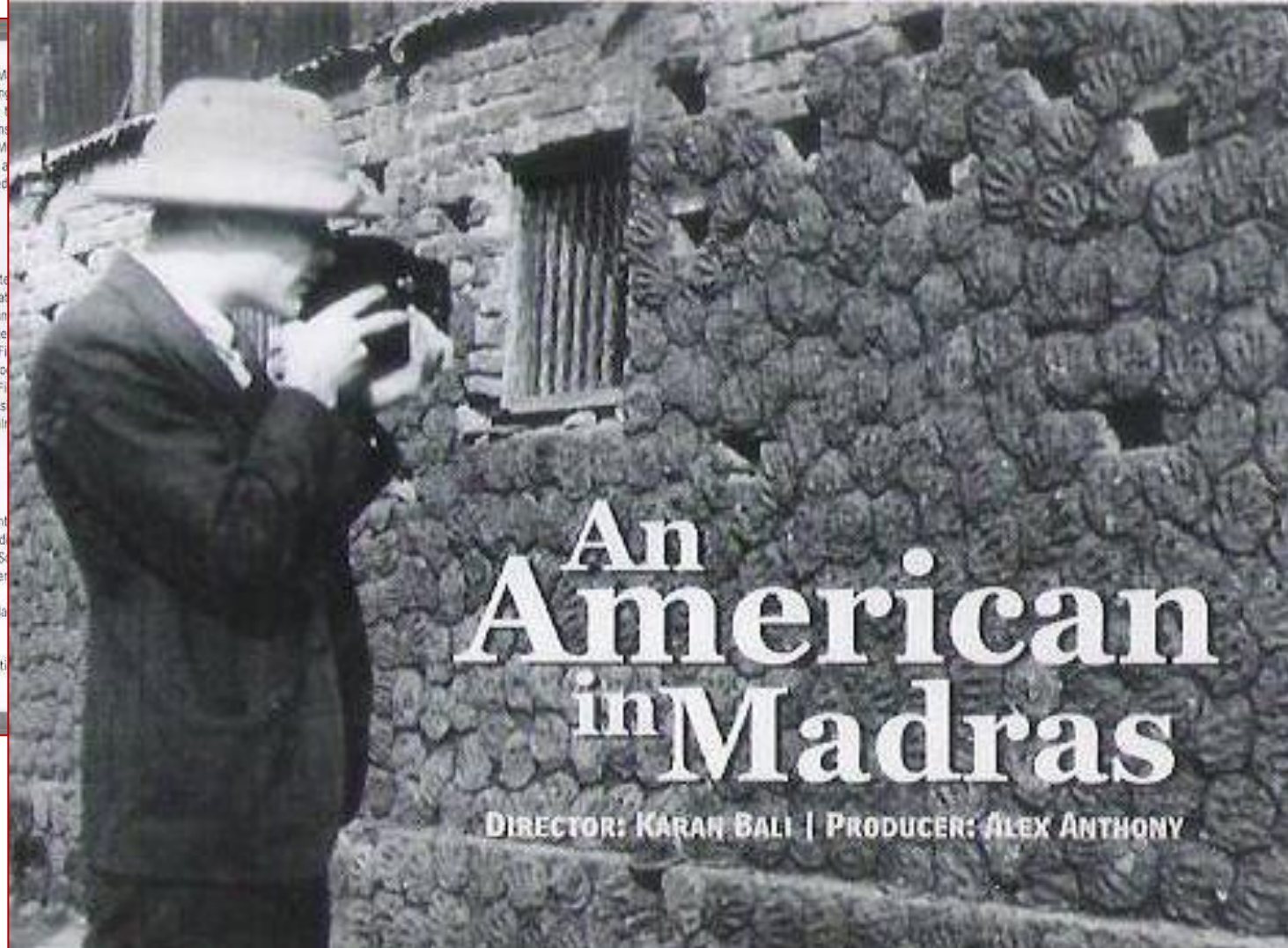
Starring

M.S.SUBHALAKSHMI

NAGAYYA

STIRRED PRODUCTIONS

Camera: RV Ramani | Editing: Irene Dhar Malik | Sound Design: Mohandas VP | Location Sound: R Elangovan



An American in Madras

DIRECTOR: KARAN BALI | PRODUCER: ALEX ANTHONY

An American in Madras, Ohio, during the 1950s. During the 15 years, during the 1950s, and infused a sense of Tamil superstar M. G. S. films, Sakuntalai and industry felicitated.

- The Chennai International
- Mumbai International
- New York International
- South Asian International
- London Indian Film
- International Documentary
- Prague Indian Film
- Seattle South Asian
- International Film

- 3 Indian Documentaries
- Gold for Best Editing
- Silver for Best Sound
- Special Jury Merit

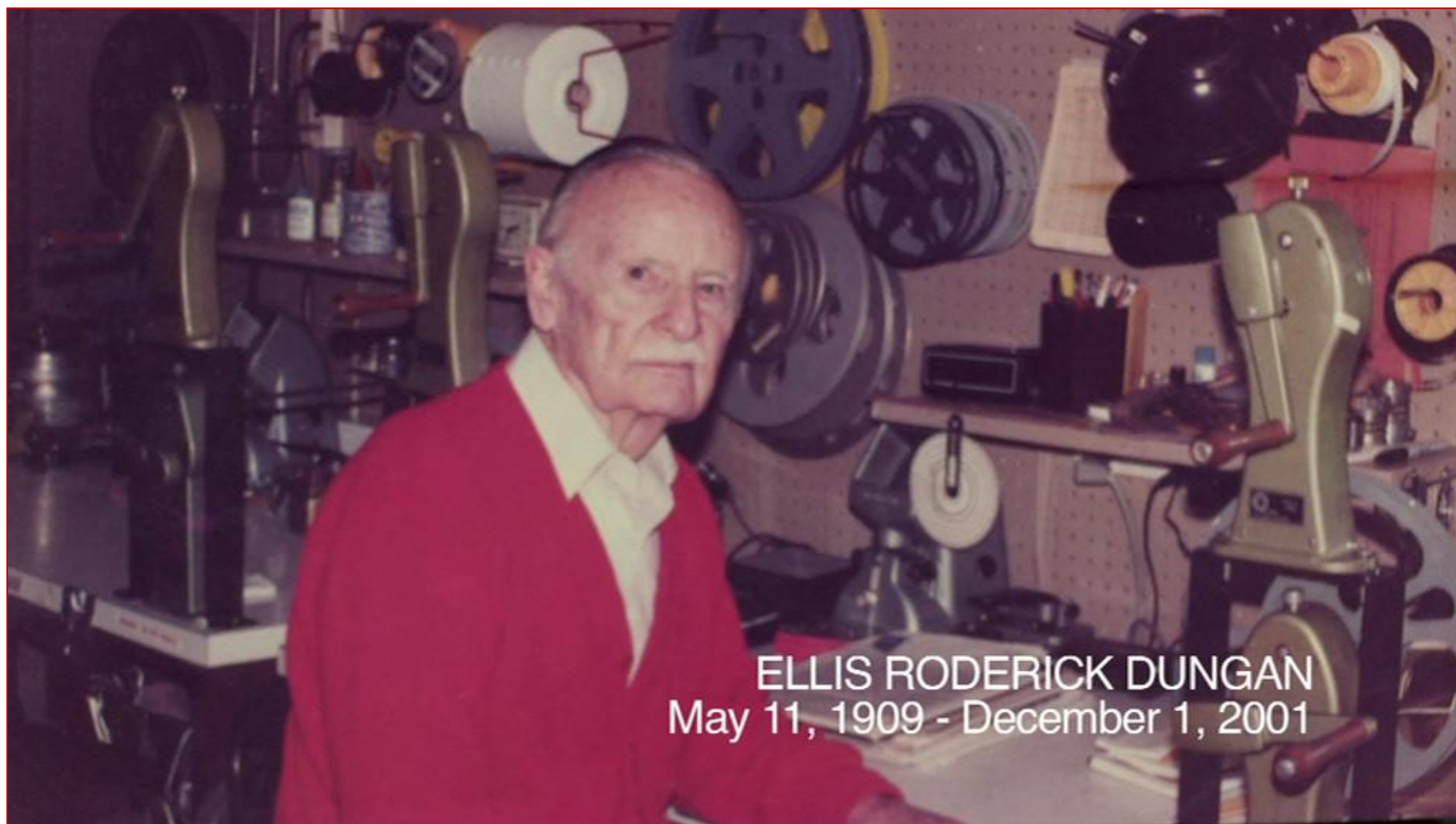
An American in Madras

© Stirred Productions

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R Elangovan

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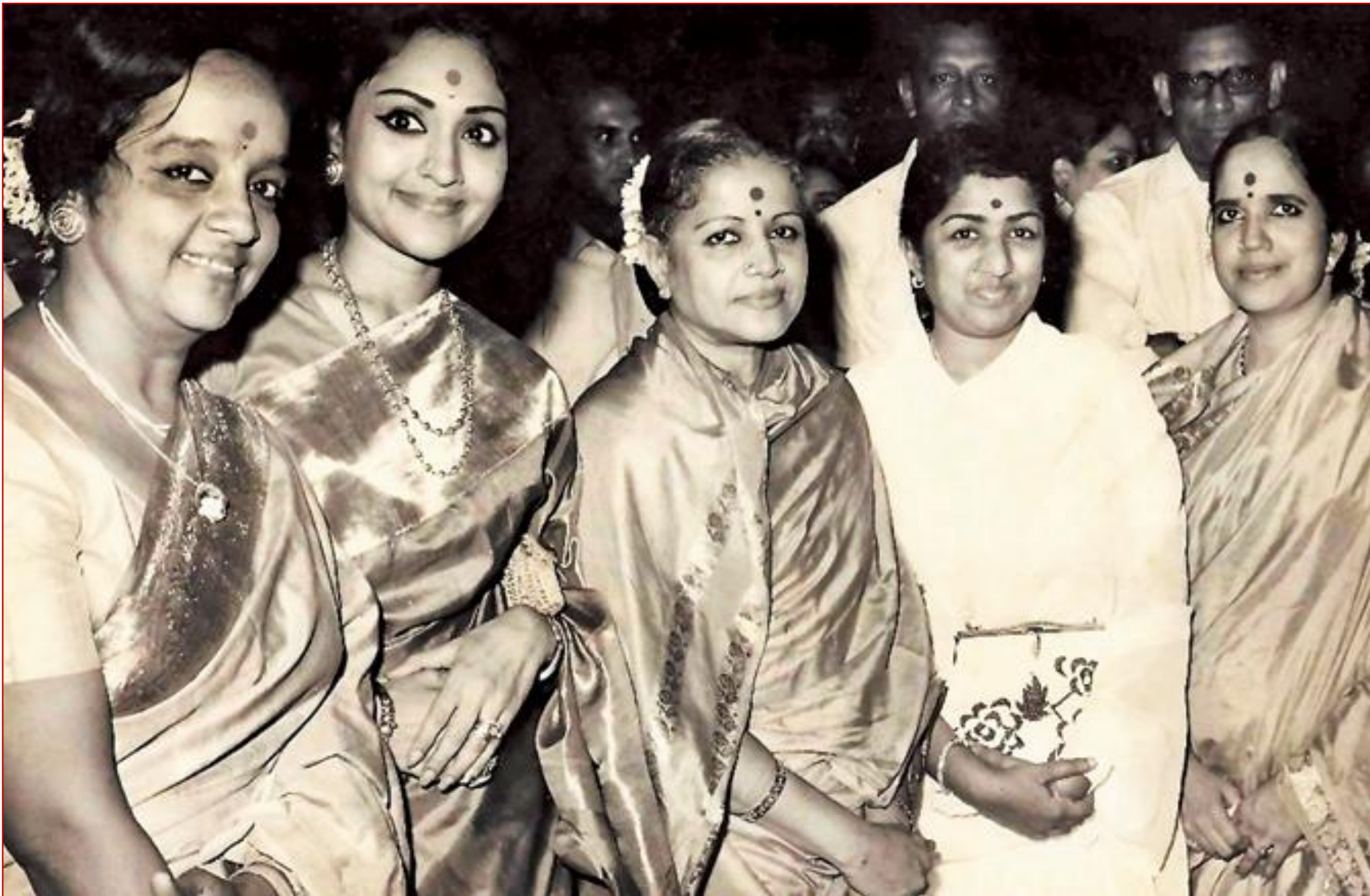
ELLIS RODERICK DUNGAN
May 11, 1909 - December 1, 2001







A light-hearted moment of MS trying her hand at photography. Pics courtesy/shanmukhananda archives



Seen with actress Vyjayanthimala Bali (second from left), singer Lata Mangeshkar, and her daughter Radha Viswanathan



The singer received honorary doctorate from five universities and was also the first Indian musician to receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award. Seen here with then Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi.



She was a devotee of Mahaswami of Kanchi Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati. She is seen praying before his image at her home.



After the death of her husband
Kalki Sadasivam in **1997**, she stopped
all her public performances.

Madurai Shanmukhavadivu Subbulakshmi

She was the first musician ever to be awarded the [Bharat Ratna](#), India's highest civilian honour in 1998



She is the first Indian musician to receive the [Ramon Magsaysay award](#), often considered Asia's Nobel Prize, in 1974 with the citation reading "Exacting purists acknowledge Srimati M. S. Subbulakshmi as the leading exponent of classical and semi-classical songs in the carnatic tradition of South India"



She was bestowed with enormous prize moneys with these awards, most of which she donated to charity.

She has given more than 200 charity concerts and raised well over Rs. 10,000,000. She was awarded honorary degrees from several Universities.

She was an ardent devotee of Kanchi Mahaswamigal and she rendered his composition *Maithreem Bhajatha* (O World! Cultivate peace) in her concert at the UN in 1966.

She made a 20-minute recording of Venkatesa Suprabhatam for HMV, the royalty from which goes to the Veda Patasala run by the Tirupati Tirumala Devasthanam.

She donated many of the royalties on several best sold records to many charity organisations.

She was honoured as a resident artist [Asthana Vidhwan]
of [Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams](#).

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Tirupati Urban Development Authority has installed a bronze statue of
M.S. Subbulakshmi at the Poornakumbham circle in the temple town.

It was unveiled by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister

[Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy](#) on 28 May 2006

The Kancheepuram Saree shade known as MS Blue was named after her.

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A commemorative postage stamp on her was issued on in December 2005



**She was widely honoured, praised and awarded.
Some of the more popular ones include**

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Padma Bhushan in 1954

Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1956

Sangeetha Kalanidhi in 1968

(She was the first woman recipient of the title)

Ramon Magsaysay award

(often considered Asia's Nobel Prize) in 1974

Padma Vibhushan in 1975

Sangeetha Kalasikhamani in 1975

by The Indian Fine Arts Society, Chennai

Kalidas Samman in 1988

Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration in 1990

Bharat Ratna in 1998.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had this to say about M.S. Subbulakshmi-
"Who am I, a mere Prime Minister before a Queen, a Queen of Music".

While Lata Mangeshkar called her *Tapaswini* (the Renunciate),
Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan termed her *Suswaralakshmi*
(the goddess of the perfect note),

Kishori Amonkar labelled her the ultimate eighth note or *Aathuvaan Sur*, which is above the
seven notes basic to all music.

The great national leader and poet Sarojini Naidu called her "Nightingale of India".

Her many famous renditions of bhajans include the chanting of Bhaja Govindam, Vishnu
sahasranama (1000 names of Vishnu), Hari Tuma Haro and
the Venkateswara Suprabhatam (musical hymns to awaken Lord Balaji early in the morning).

And Vande Mataram duet with Dilipkumar Roy!



THANKS!



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