

[THE SOMASUNDARAMS / STAND-UP COMEDY]

TEASER SCRIPT FOR  
TANJORE TO TALLAHASSEE

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INDIA DAY 2010

*Saturday, August 21, 2010, 2:00 - 5:00 PM*

*FSU Moore Auditorium*

*Actors: Thayumanasamy & Vivek Somasundaram*

[AUTHOR: THAYUMANASAMY SOMASUNDRAM

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MONDAY, JULY 19, 2010]

[*Tanjore to Tallahassee* is a stand-up comedy routine written by Thayumanasamy Somasundaram. It parodies the behavior of Indian-born adults living and visiting with American-born youngsters. The Indian-born adults want to fit in with the American-born youngsters, however, their inherent Indian behaviors, habits, and accents are hard to relinquish. So we witness the typical clash between being true to one-self while wanting to be accepted as part of the crowd.

Success of any socio-ethnic group in a foreign land is often measured by its wealth, health, status, and the connections. But I feel that an ethnic group can be truly successful only if it can make fun of itself and enjoy it. So here I present this short comedy routine, titled to mimic, "*Chandini Chowk to China*", "**Tanjore to Tallahassee**". Enjoy! Thanks.

- T. Somasundaram, July 19, 2010]

**[SCENE 1] [ACT 1]**

**START**

*[UNCLE SUNDARAM IS VISITING THE US FROM INDIA. VIKRAM, HIS NEPHEW AN AMERICAN BORN CHILD HAS GONE TO THE AIRPORT TO RECEIVE HIM. THE CONVERSATION BEGINS AS THEY MEET EACH OTHER]*

**[SUNDARAM]**: Vikram, Vikram, How are you?

**[VIKARAM]**: Uncle, I am fine. Thank you. How was your flight?

**[SUNDARAM]**: The aeroplane ride was long ...

**[VIKARAM]**: You mean the flight?

**[SUNDARAM]**: There was a big queue for the bathroom ...

**[VIKARAM]**: You mean a long line for the rest room?

... ..

**[SUNDARAM]**: All right! Let us go home. I hope your mother has made me *Idli* and *Sambar*!

**[VIKARAM]**: Yeah! Yeah! Mom has made a pot full of sambar and a bucket full of idli for you. You can dunk the idli in sambar and literally drink it.

**[SUNDARAM]**: [Not noticing the sarcasm] I am already hungry! [He sits in the car and promptly goes to sleep].

*[UNCLE SUNDARAM AND VIKRAM LEAVE THE AIRPORT TO GO HOME]*

**[SCENE 2] [ACT 1]**

**FADE IN:**

*[UNCLE SUNDARAM HAS RESTED FOR THE NIGHT AND WAKES UP VERY EARLY AND LEARNS THAT VIKRAM IS TAKING SOME SPECIAL CLASSES. BUT HE DOES NOT WHAT THEY ARE. CONVERSATION BEGINS AS THEY SEE EACH OTHER]*

[SUNDARAM]: Vikram, Vikram, Your mother tells me your learning something correct [with emphasis on the word "correct"] for the first time. Usually you learn all wrong [with emphasis on the word "wrong"] things!

[VIKARAM]: Uncle, What I am learning is neither correct nor wrong it is called "Karate".

... ..

[SUNDARAM]: [Laughs] Vikram, you are a joker just like your father!

[SCENE 3] [ACT 1]

FADE IN:

[UNCLE SUNDARAM AND VIKRAM ARE NOW TALKING ABOUT HIS EDUCATION AND FUTURE GOALS. CONVERSATION BEGINS AS THEY SEE EACH OTHER]

[SUNDARAM]: Vikram, How are your studies?

[VIKARAM]: Uncle, I am doing okay.

[VIKRAM CUTS HIM OFF]

[VIKARAM]: No. Uncle, I want to be just tax-collector, a person who collects taxes.

[SUNDARAM]: Tax collector, bill collector, debt-collector! Any collector is good! Good! I will tell everyone in India that my sister's son is a collector.

[VIKARAM]: Whatever. Mom is calling you for coffee. Let us go.

[UNCLE SUNDARAM AND VIKRAM LEAVE FOR THE KITCHEN]

END: