

DR AV ANOOP

Entrepreneur, social worker, film producer, **Dr AV Anoop, Managing Director of AVA Group of companies**, wears many hats. He has now set his heart on something he was passionate about early on in life – acting. Anoop’s tryst with acting started during his graduation days at MG College, Thiruvananthapuram, he tells. Where he and his friends used to listen to dramas on All India Radio and rewrite it for the stage, in college and their housing colony.

Anoop recalls his first time on stage: *“My journey as an actor started in Amabalanagar Housing Colony in Thiruvananthapuram, in the early 1980s. I had a group of friends who were equally passionate about stage plays and acting. We used to stage shows in the housing colony and our parents extended enormous support. During that time, Konniyoor Narendranath, then head of All India Radio Thiruvananthapuram, happened to see one of the dramas and told me to pursue acting. That was quite an inspiration and encouragement for the actor in me.”*

After studies, Anoop moved to Chennai for a job. Here he was an active member of the Malayalee associations and part of several plays that were staged as part of the cultural gatherings.

Most recently, Anoop conceived the concept of a dance drama titled *Chandalabhikshuki* – based on the poem written by renowned Malayalam poet Kumaran Asan. The dance drama was staged in Chennai in February 2023.

He also spearheads Team Arts, a collective of people working in different places and backgrounds, but united with an aim to promote stage plays and drama artistes.