



ARAYAMBATH JANARDHANAN

Akademi Award: Bharatanatyam

Born on 25 April 1942 in Kunhimangalam village in Kerala, Shri Arayambath Janardhanan received his training in Kathakali under his father, T. K. Chandu Panikkar and in Bharatanatyam under Rukmini Devi Arundale at the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai. He obtained his Diploma and Post Diploma with distinction in dance from there. He has also studied Kathakali under Kalamandalam Krishnan Nair.

Shri Janardhanan has distinguished himself both as a performer and a teacher over the past five decades. He has performed widely in India and abroad, individually as well as a member of the Kalakshetra troupe, at the International Ballet Competition in Moscow in 1981 assisting Shrimati Rukmini Devi. He has received critical acclaim for his role in the Kalakshetra dance productions such as Shri Rama in the *Ramayana* series, Buddha in *Buddha Avataram*, Jayadeva in *Bhakta Jayadeva*, and Vajrasen in Tagore's *Shyama*, and has travelled extensively performing in these productions in foreign shores such as Europe, South America, Australia and various Asian countries. He has also choreographed dance-dramas for the Kalakshetra Foundation such as *Karna Sapatham* and *Sri Purandara*. He has also conducted lecture-demonstrations and workshops at various universities and institutions in Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Australia, etc. Shri Janardhanan joined the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai as a teacher in 1966, and became Principal in 2001 and is presently serving there as Professor Emeritus.

Shri Janardhanan has been honoured with the Kala Pratitha Puraskar (2006) and the Pravasi Kalasree Award (2012) conferred by the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi, and the Acharya Choodamani conferred by the Sri Krishna Gana Sabha (2014).

Shri Arayambath Janardhanan receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for 2014 for his contribution to Bharatanatyam.