



VEDANTAM RAMALINGA SASTRY

Akademi Award: Kuchipudi

Born on 3 June 1963 in Kuchipudi village in Andhra Pradesh, Shri Vedantam Ramalinga Sastry received his training in Kuchipudi dance under well-known artists and teachers including Vedantam Radheshyam, Vedantam Parvateesam, Vempati Pedasatyam, Vempati Chinna Satyam, and Vedantam Satyanarayana Sarma. He was introduced to the literature of Kuchipudi dance-drama by his father, Vedantam Suryanarayana Sarma.

Shri Vedantam Ramalinga Sastry is today among the reputed performers and teachers of Kuchipudi dance. He has imparted training in the art at a number of institutions, chief among these being the Vedantam Kuchipudi Kala Parishad at Vijayawada, the Tyagaraja Gana Sabha at Hyderabad, and the Siddhendra Yogi Kuchipudi Kalapeetham of the Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University, Kuchipudi. Currently Principal of the Kalapeetham, he has taught several batches of students at the institution preparing for the Master's degree in Kuchipudi dance and the University's PhD programme. He holds a PhD from Osmania University, Hyderabad, for his study of the development of Kuchipudi dance-drama. Besides performing at prestigious dance events at home and abroad,

he has conducted lecture-demonstrations and workshops on Kuchipudi dance under the aegis of several institutions. He has travelled to Syria (1998), Britain (2003) and the United States (2008) on performance tours.

Shri Ramalinga Sastry has also choreographed a number of dance productions and written scripts for dance-dramas. His books on Kuchipudi dance in Telugu are titled *Kuchipudi Vyasa Manjari*, *Gajananeeyam*, and *Etadu Satyabhama*.

For his work in the field of dance, Shri Vedantam Ramalinga Sastry has been bestowed several honours including the Guru Satkaaram Award of Andhra University, Vishakhapatnam (2006), the Ugadi Puraskar conferred by Shivananda Trust (2012), and the Nritya Vidwan title conferred by the Government of Odisha (2012).

Shri Vedantam Ramalinga Sastry receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to Kuchipudi dance.