



SADANAM KRISHNANKUTTY
Akademi Fellow

Born on 2 October 1943 to Pilassery Ravunni Nair and Kizhakkeppattu Janaki Amma, Shri Sadanam Krishnankutty received his training in Kathakali at Gandhi Seva Sadan, Palakkad, under several eminent gurus including Thekkinkattil Ravunny Nair, Kottakkal Sankaranarayanan Embranthiry and Mani Madhava Chakyar. Later he was instructed in the manner of Kalluvazhi sampradaya of Kathakali under Keezhpadam Kumaran Nair on a scholarship from the Government of India (1962-65). He has also received training in Bharatanatyam.

An outstanding Kathakali artist, Shri Sadanam Krishnakutty has gained renown for his Pachha and Kathi Vesham. He has given numerous lecture- demonstrations in seminars and conferences and has performed extensively in India and abroad. He has received critical acclaim for his performances in the roles of Ravana and Keechaka. He has earned extensive praise for portraying vivid characters in productions like Dasamukha Ravana, Eklavya Charitham and Panchali Mahathmyam. Shri Krishnakutty has simultaneously trained several Kathakali artists including Kalaniyalam Gopalakrishnan, Kalamandalam Ramachandran Unnithan, Kalanilayam Balakrishnan, Kalamandalam Haridas and Sadanam Bhasi.

He enacted the character of Kelu in the well acclaimed film *Maaraattam* directed by G. Aravindam. The story was written by Kavalam Narayana Panikkar and cinematographed by Shaji N. Karun.

He has been conferred with several honours for his work including the Kerala Kalamandalam Award, Award of the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy, the Kalaratna Award in 1997, and the Keerti Phalakam in 2002, Natya Kalanidhi by Bhaskar's Arts Akademi, Singapore, 2019; Kathakali Ratnam by the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham, Chennai, 2010. In 2007 he was conferred with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.

Shri Sadanam Krishnankutty is elected Fellow of Sangeet Natak Akademi for his contribution to Indian dance-theatre.