

Award 1959  
Dance: Bharatanatyam

Mylapore Gouri Amma  
9-16  
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Sir,

I crave your permission to make a reference to Smt. Mylapore Gouri Amma, a foremost exponent of Bharata Natyam style of dancing. I very much regret that owing to her ill health, it has not been possible for her to make the long journey from Madras to be present before you in person.

Smt. Gouri Amma comes from a family of traditional dancers attached to the Kapileswari Temple, Mylapore. She had her training under the renowned Guru Nallur Muniswami Pillay.

Smt. Gouri Amma had won acclaim as an unrivalled dancer 30 years ago. Her contribution to the revival of Bharata Natyam has been universally acknowledged. As a teacher, she has no equal in teaching *Abhinaya*. She has trained a number of eminent dancers like Smt. Balasaraswathi and Smt. Rukmini Devi.

Even at this age of 65, Smt. Gouri Amma continues to teach *Abhinaya* to aspiring students of dancing. The Madras Music Academy also honoured her in 1956. She is the Vice-President of the Bharatnatya Academy which conferred on her the title of Natya Kalanidhi in 1958.

For her pre-eminence in Bharata Natyam and singular devotion and service to its cause, I pray, Sir, that you may be pleased to grant her recognition as Dancer of the Year in the field of Bharata Natyam, and to award to her a brocade *Angavastram*, a gold *Mala* and a *Sanad* in token of that recognition.

See Music Acad Journal.