

Guru Gopinath

I present to you, Sir, Guru Gopinath who receives this year's Akademi Award for Kathakali dance.

Born in 1903, Guru Gopinath comes of a family of artistes distinguished for their devotion to the art of Kathakali. He took to Kathakali at a very early age and had his training under the foremost masters of the time. In 1935 he was appointed Palace Dancer in the State of Travancore.

Guru Gopinath has been a pioneer in carrying the Kathakali art from Kerala to other regions of the country. He has long teaching experience and has run institutions of Kathakali at Trivandrum, Madras, Delhi and Ernakulam. The Guru is the author of several books on Indian dance.