



Born in 1880 in Thakazhi, a famous centre of Kathakali, Guru Kunju Kurup comes of a family known for its love of Kathakali. He received his training in Kathakali from Shri Champakulam Sanku Pillai and Shri Kochappi Raman.

Guru Kunju Kurup has been an outstanding teacher and performer of Kathakali and he worked for many years with the poet Vallathol in the Kerala Kala Mandalam. His portrayal of the principal roles in Kuchela Vritham, Poothana Moksham and Nalacharitam will ever remain fresh in the memories of lovers of Kathakali. Many leading Kathakali dancers today have been his pupils.

He has received many honours and distinctions and was also given the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1956.

For his contribution to the enrichment of the Kathakali dance, Guru Kunju Kurup has been elected Fellow of the Akademi.

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