

# AKADEMI AWARDS

## Kurichi Kunjan Panicker



I present to you, Sir, Shri Kurichi Kunjan Panicker.

Shri Kurichi Kunjan Panicker was born in 1887, in a family of hereditary Kathakali artistes, in Neelamperoor, a village in the Allepey district of Kerala. He received his early training in Kathakali from his uncles the Gurus Kochayyappa Panicker and Rama Panicker, and later he worked intensively with Guru Appunni Poduval, of Cochin, and Guru Koottil Kunjan Meron, of Malabar; thus he imbibed the best in the Kathakali traditions of Travancore, Cochin and Malabar, and eventually evolved a style of his own.

At a young age, Shri Panicker served as a senior artist in the Kathakali troupe of the Travancore Royal Family. He has won high acclaim for his depiction of several distinctive roles in Kathakali, but is well known for his rendering of Hamsa in Nalacharitam. He has received high honours for his sustained creative work in Kathakali from cultural bodies in Kerala.

He got the State Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to Kathakali in 1964.

For his eminence in the field of dance and his contribution to its enrichment, Shri Kurichi Kunjan Panicker receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Kathakali.