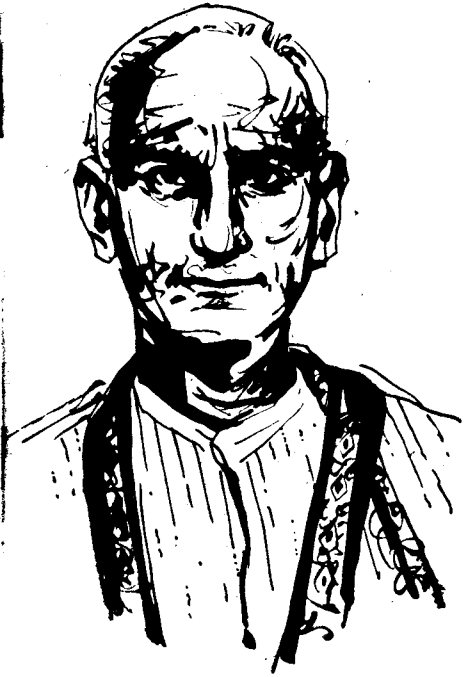


AKADEMI AWARDS [1969]



Swaminatha Pillai

I present to you, Sir, Sri Thiruvallapputhur Kalyani Swaminatha Pillai

Sri Swaminatha Pillai was born in 1893 in Thiruvallapputhur village of Tanjore district. His mother was the famous Bharata Natyam dancer, Smt. Kalyani Amma, and his sisters were the renowned dancers, Rajalakshmi and Jeevarathnam

Sri Swaminatha Pillai received training in Bharata Natyam under Vidwan Pandanallur Meenakshi Sundaram Pillai and from his uncle Vidwan Ponnuswami Pillai. His work has won him many citations and titles. In 1968 the Tamil Nadu Sangeetha Natak Sangam conferred on him the title of "Kala Sikhamani". He has conducted classes in Bharata Natyam at Chidambaram, Cudalore, Pondicherry and Madras. He has scores of pupils to his credit, some of whom are today leading artistes in Bharata Natyam

For his eminence in the field of dance and his contribution to its development, Sri Swaminatha Pillai receives the Sangeeth Natak Akademi Award for Bharata Natyam Guru