

**AKADEMIC  
AWARDS**  
[1969]



8.2.11.1972

## Vazhenkata Kunchu Nair

I present to you, Sir, Sri Chenampuram Krishnan Nair

Born in 1909 in Vazhenkata, Sri Krishnan Nair is popularly known as Sri Vazhenkata Kunchu Nair. He received training in Kathakali at a young age from great masters like Sri Koppan Nair, Sri Govinda Pisharoty and Sri Pattikamthodi Ravunni Menon. Sri Kunchu Nair won numerous medals and awards in recognition of his outstanding work as a Kathakali dancer and teacher. For the past 10 years now he has been working as the Principal of the Kerala Kalamandalam at Cheruthuruthi

Sri Kunchu Nair has performed in several parts of Western Europe, where he took a troupe of Kathakali artistes in 1959. He has written a number of articles on Kathakali for Malayalam publications. He has also produced new plays in Kathakali, such as "Chitrangada", "Budhacharitam" and "Sakuntalam". Some of his important roles are Bahuka in "Nalacharitam", Ravana in "Bali Vijayam", Bhima in "Kalyana Saugandhika" and King Rukamangada in "Rukmangada Charitam"

For his eminence in the field of dance and his contribution to its enrichment, Sri Vazhenkata Kunchu Nair receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Kathakali

