

Champakulam Pachu Pillai



I present to you, Madam, Shri Champakulam Pachu Pillai.

Born in October 1907 at Champakulam, Shri Pachu Pillai started his studies in Kathakali from the age of 14 under Shri Paramu Pillai. After completing a rigorous course he joined the Mathoor and Thakazhi Kathakali Yogam. The legendary Kathakali guru, Vechoor Ramu Pillai inspired him to specialise in 'Thadi' types of characters. Thereafter, Shri Pillai won recognition as a brilliant artiste in the Thadi roles.

In 1938 he was invited to join the Travancore Palace troupe. Later on he joined the Kottaram Kathakali Yogam and performed throughout Kerala and other parts of the country winning appreciation for his art.

He has received honours and awards including the award and fellowship from the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi. He was also honoured by the Kerala Kalamandalam for his services in the field of Kathakali in 1981.

For his eminence in the field of dance and his contribution to its enrichment, Shri Champakulam Pachu Pillai receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Kathakali for 1983.