



## YAMINI KRISHNAMURTI

Akademi Fellow

Born in Madanapalli village in Andhra Pradesh into a family of well-known scholars, Shrimati Yamini Krishnamurti is among the illustrious performers of Indian dance. She mastered the art of Bharatanatyam initially at Kalakshetra under Shrimati Rukmini Devi Arundale, and subsequently under Sarvashri Tanjore Ellappa Pillai, Kittappa Pillai, and Mylapore Gouramma. She also studied Kuchipudi under Vedantam Lakshminarayana Shastri and Odissi from Guru Pankaj Charan Das.

A dancer of exceptional capabilities, Shrimati Yamini Krishnamurti led the field of dance as a performer since early 1960s. Her brilliance as an exponent of Bharatanatyam gave a new dimension to the art. She travelled extensively to present Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi recitals across the world, participating in prestigious national and international festivals and conferences. She was appointed Asthana Nartaki at Lord Venkateshwara Devasthanam, Tirupati. She has made a significant contribution in the development of the dance by resurrecting the old Devadasi repertoire and enriching its content drawing upon Sanskrit poetry in her performances. She was honoured with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1977.

Shrimati Yamini Krishnamurti established her institution Nritya Kaustubh in Delhi to train young artists, who include several prominent dancers of the younger generation practising today. She has authored two books *Natya* and *Passion for Dance*. The Films Division, Government of India, has produced two films on her, titled *Yamini Krishnamurti*, directed by Balwant Gargi, and *Yamini Biographical* by R. Babu. A teleserial titled *Natyamurti* has also been aired on television.

The honours bestowed on her for her excellence in dance include an honorary doctorate from Sri Venkateswara University, the Kalidas Samman, the Padma Shri, and the Padma Bhushan.

For her contribution to Indian dance, Shrimati Yamini Krishnamurti is elected Fellow of Sangeet Natak Akademi.