



## RAMLI IBRAHIM

Akademi Award: Odissi

Born on 20 May 1953 in Kajang in Malaysia, Shri Ramli Ibrahim received his training in Odissi dance under Guru Debaprasad Das and in Bharatanatyam under Guru Adyar K. Lakshman. He has also studied ballet and modern dance at the Australian Ballet School in Melbourne.

An outstanding exponent of Odissi dance, Shri Ramli Ibrahim has won wide acclaim for his distinctive style of presentation. He has single-handedly established Odissi dance in Malaysia and has been instrumental in transforming the dance scenario in that country. Besides performing at major international festivals and conferences, he has conducted workshops and seminars on dance both in Malaysia and India. At the Sutra Dance Theatre, which he established in Kuala Lumpur in 2007, Shri Ramli Ibrahim has choreographed dance productions imbued with a unique syncretic artistic sensibility. In this institution, he has nurtured some of the brightest dance talents in Malaysia. He has conducted many successful festivals under its banner including String Odissi 2008, an international festival of Odissi dance. He has produced several DVDs of his dance. A documentary film has been produced on his work – *Ramli: Heart of Sutra*.

Shri Ramli Ibrahim has received several honours for his work in India and other countries. These include the Fulbright Distinguished Artist Award (1999), the Angarag Lifetime Achievement Award (2006), the Purush Award (2009), the Ram Gopal Best Male Dancer Award (2011), and the Distinguished International Artist Award (2011) conferred by the University of Western Australia. He has been accorded recognition as 'Living Heritage' by the Government of Malaysia.

Shri Ramli Ibrahim receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to Odissi dance.