



PRITI PATEL

Akademi Award: Manipuri Dance

Born on 28 February 1960 in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, Shrimati Priti Patel was initiated into Manipuri dance by Guru Bipin Singh, Darshana Jhaveri, and Kalavati Devi. She also received training in the art under Guru Thingbaijam Babu Singh, and studied aspects of Lai-haraoba and the martial arts of Manipur under Ojha Kumar Maibi, Ojha Gaurkishore Sharma, and Ojha Khelchandra Singh. She studied the aesthetics of Manipuri dance under the guidance of Maharajkumari Binodini Devi. Further, she studied stage lighting with Tapas Sen and took training in movement therapy at the Lesley College in Boston, U.S.A.

With such comprehensive training and a performing experience of almost thirty years, Shrimati Priti Patel has emerged as an accomplished and committed artist in the Manipuri dance idiom. By incorporating elements of traditional Manipuri arts – the Thang-ta, Lai-haraoba, Sankirtana, and Rasleela – in her choreography, she has given a new look to her dance. Her noted choreographic works include *Malem – A Homage to Mother Earth*, *Khuman – The Black Sun*, *Agni – The Sacred Fire*, and *Surya Gati*. She has presented her dance widely at festivals in India and abroad. She has established the Anjika Centre for Manipuri Dance and Movement Therapy in Kolkata and Imphal, where she imparts training to young dancers and conducts research and documentation on dance.

Shrimati Priti Patel has received several honours in appreciation of her work including the Mrinalini Sarabhai Award for excellence in classical dance conferred by Darpana Academy of the Performing Arts, Ahmedabad (2000), the Uday Shankar Dance Award (2000), and a Certificate of Excellence from the Manipur State Kala Akademi.

Shrimati Priti Patel receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to Manipuri dance.