



## NARTHAKI NATARAJ

Akademi Award: Bharatanatyam

Born on 6 July 1964 in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, Shrimati Narthaki Nataraj received her initial training in Bharatanatyam under Namannur Jayaraman, and was later groomed in the art under Guru K. P. Kittappa Pillai. Maturing as a dancer, she assisted Guru Kittappa Pillai in training students in the dance department of Tamil University, Thanjavur.

Over the years, Shrimati Narthaki Nataraj has established her position as one among the leading Bharatanatyam exponents of the country. She has been featured in programmes presented by important sabhas in South India and has performed to acclaim also in other parts of the country. She has participated in several international dance festivals overseas. Well known as a teacher, she has conducted workshops on dance and participated in seminars organized by the Krishna Gana Sabha and Narada Gana Sabha of Chennai, as well as the University of Madras. On foreign shores, she has contributed to the Thyagaraja Aradhana at Cleveland, U.S.A., and events organized by the Tamil Sangam of Connecticut, U.S.A., the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in U.K., and the Oslo Music and Cultural School, Norway. She continues to teach as visiting faculty at the latter institution. In Chennai, she has established her own dance school, Velliambalam, where she trains young dancers in Bharatanatyam.

Shrimati Nataraj has been honoured with several awards for her work in the field including the Kalaimamani (2007) conferred by the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram, and the Nritya Choodamani (2009) conferred by the Krishna Gana Sabha.

Shrimati Narthaki Nataraj receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to Bharatanatyam.