



KALAMANDALAM BALASUBRAMANIAN

Akademi Award: Kathakali

Born on 26 May 1955 in Kothachira, Kerala, Shri Kalamandalam Balasubramanian received his training in Kathakali from Kalamandalam Ramankutty Nair and Kalamandalam Gopi.

Shri Kalamandalam Balasubramanian, a distinguished Kathakali exponent, holds the prestigious position of being empanelled in the outstanding category of the ICCR. Renowned for his expertise in portraying 'Pacha' characters like Bheema, Arjuna, Krishna, and Nala, as well as 'Kathi' characters such as Kichaka, Narakasura, Duryodhana, and Ravana, and 'Vellathadi' characters like Hanuman. His acclaimed Veshams (roles) include Nalan, Krishna, Roudra Bheeman, Balabhadran, Parasuraman, Kattalan, and Hanuman. Shri Kalamandalam Balasubramanian's performances have graced stages across India and abroad, captivating audiences with the depth of Kathakali's tradition and artistry. In addition to his performances, he has conducted workshops and lecture demonstrations at various prestigious universities worldwide. Some notable venues include Elkins University in 1981, and Warsaw University in Poland in 2004.

Shri Kalamandalam Balasubramanian has been honoured with prestigious awards including the 1974 David Boland Gold Medal Award, Kerala Kalamandalam Award in the year 2013, Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy Award from the Kerala Government in the year 2019, and the Amaravati Lifetime Achievement Award from the Amaravati Nrityotsava Festival in Vijayawada in 2020.

Kalamandalam Balasubramanian receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2022 for his contribution to Kathakali.