



ALARMEL VALLI

Akademi Award: Bharatanatyam

Born in 1956 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, Shrimati Alarmel Valli was trained in Bharatanatyam under the renowned gurus Pandanallur Chokkalingam Pillai and Subbaraya Pillai. She also received detailed training in Odissi dance from Gurus Kelucharan Mohapatra and Ramani Ranjan Jena. She studied Carnatic music under T. N. Thyagarajan and Kalyanakrishna Bhagavata, and learned Padams and Javalis under T. Mukta.

A leading Bharatanatyam dancer, Shrimati Alarmel Valli is acclaimed not only for the virtuosity of her nritta, but as a creative artist whose work has both depth and intensity. While respecting the Pandanallur tradition in which she was groomed, she has evolved her own precise and fluid style.

She has performed at most of India's prestigious dance festivals. She has also participated in important arts events abroad including the Avignon Theatre Festival in France, the New York International Festival of Arts, the Vienna International Dance Festival, the Wuppertal Dance Theatre, and the Festivals of India in various countries.

Through lecture-demonstrations, workshops, and seminars, Shrimati Alarmel Valli has striven to make the art of Bharatanatyam better understood at home and abroad. She has established her own institution, Dipashikha, in Chennai to impart training to young students.

A recipient of many honours, Shrimati Alarmel Valli has been conferred the Kalaimamani title by the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram (1979), the Nrithya Choodamani title by the Sri Krishna Gana Sabha (1991), and the Padma Sri (1997).

Shrimati Alarmel Valli receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to Bharatanatyam.

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