



ANITA R RATNAM

Akademi Award: Contemporary Dance

Born on 21 May 1954 at Ambala in Haryana, Shrimati Anita Raajyalaxmi Ratnam learnt Bharatanatyam under Smt. Rajee Narayan and Shri Adyar K Lakshman. Later obtained a Post Graduate Diploma from the Kalakshetra Academy of Arts, Chennai. She was trained in Mohiniattam under Smt. Chinna Ammu Ammal and Kathakali under Shri Balasubramaniam Warier. Shrimati Anita Ratnam has further studied physical theatre at Koothupattarai, Chennai, American Theatre at the University of New Orleans, U.S.A. and Television production, writing and hosting at the Bombay Broadcasting, New York, U.S. & A. She is a recipient of the Senior Fellowship from the Department of Culture, Government of India.

Shrimati Anita Ratnam is an accomplished Contemporary dance-actor, whose career spans four decades and performances in thirty countries. Using tools of Bharatanatyam, theatre and other vocabularies of the Indian performing tradition, she has crystallized choreographic and theatrical works like *Prism*, *Avani*, *A Million Sitas*, *Maalie*, *Ma3ka*, *Vaitharani*, and *Seven Graces*; and presented them at the prestigious festivals within the country and abroad including the events organized by the Sangeet Natak Akademi. As a cultural entrepreneur, Shrimati Ratnam has founded www.narthaki.com, the celebrated Indian dance portal and curated numerous festivals.

She has received several awards from prestigious cultural institutions for her work in India and Abroad. These include among the awards, she has received the Nritya Choodamani (1996) conferred by the Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, the Kalaimamani (1998) conferred by the Tamil Nadu Government, the Guru Deba Prasad Award (2013), the Viswa Kala Bharati (2013) conferred by the Bharat Kalachar and the Vishwa Kala Ratna (2017) conferred by the Milap Fest, U.K.

Shrimati Anita Raajyalaxmi Ratnam receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to Contemporary dance.