



CHANDRA SEKHAR BHANJ

AKADEMI AWARD: CHHAU/MAYURBHANJ

Born in 1912 in Baripada, Orissa, Shri Chandra Sekhar Bhanj received his training in the Chhau dance of Mayurbhanj from his father Shri Bisweswara Bhanj. His other teachers were Shri Bhabani Shankarjit, Shri Jogendra Kunwar, and Shri Raghunath Singh Chauhan.

One of the outstanding dancers of his time, Shri Chandra Sekhar Bhanj is among the few living artistes of the Mayurbhanj *durbar* and hence represents a vital link with the older generation of Chhau dancers. Early in life he attracted notice as a talented dancer and soon joined the royal Chhau troupe of Mayurbhanj. He gained wide fame as a leading dancer of the Dakshinsahi group and over the years received several awards from the Mayurbhanj princes. Later, upon an invitation from the Orissa Sangeet Natak Akademi, he has also imparted training to young students at the Chhau Training Centre, Baripada. Among other honours, Shri Chandra Sekhar Bhanj received the Orissa Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1972.

Shri Chandra Sekhar Bhanj receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to the Chhau dance of Mayurbhanj.

Akademi Awards 1991

