



GUL BARDHAN
Akademi Award: Creative Dance

Born in 1928 in Mumbai, Shrimati Gul Bardhan received her intitial training in dance from the late Shanti Bardhan, her illustrious husband. She studied Manipuri dance under the guidance of Ojha Amubi Singh, and Mayurbhanj Chhau under Guru Krishna Chandra Naik. She also studied Seraikella Chhau under Ganesh Mohanta and learned the folk dances of Gujarat and Rajasthan from Pratibha Pandit.

Over the years, Shrimati Gul Bardhan has made a significant contribution to contemporary dance in India. In the early years of her career, she was actively associated with the IPTA movement and represented India at the first World Youth Festival in Prague in 1947. Since 1952, she has been the moving spirit behind the Rangasri Little Ballet Troupe, Bhopal, and has been its Secretary and lead dancer. After the untimely demise of Shanti Bardhan in 1954, she has carried on his work with indefatigable zeal, adding to the Troupe's corpus of choreographic works and presenting them in various festivals. Under her stewardship many significant early works of the Troupe, such as Ramayana, are still performed to popular acclaim. She has travelled extensively, performing, conducting workshops, and presenting lecture-demonstrations. Among important international festivals, she has led her Troupe to the first Ramayana festival in Indonesia in 1971.

Shrimati Gul Bardhan has won many honours for her work in India and other countries, among them the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres conferred by the Government of France (1964), the Gaurav Puraskar of Gujarat, and the Madhya Pradesh Government's Shikhar Samman (2001).

Shrimati Gul Bardhan receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to creative dance.

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