



KOTTAKKAL CHANDRA SEKHARAN
Akademi Award: Kathakali

Shri Kottakal Chandrasekharan was born in 1945 in Naduvattam village in Kerala, and was groomed in Kathakali in the traditional Gurukulam system under several eminent gurus. He began his training in 1957 under Chethhalloor Kutta Panicker, and specialized in the art at the P.S.V. Natyasangham of Kottakal as a student of Vazhankata Kunchu Nair and Kottakal Krishnan Kutty Nair from 1960 to 1973. He belongs thus to the Kalluvazhi sampradaya of Kathakali.

Shri Chandrasekharan is known today as an outstanding Vesham artist who excels in almost all the Paccha and Kathi roles. He has gained popularity particularly for his performance in the roles of Nala, Arjuna, Bhima, Karna, and Narakasura. He has represented India at the Golden Jubilee celebration of India's Independence held in Switzerland, and has besides performed in several countries including China, Korea, Britain, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. He has also conducted Kathakali workshops and participated in conferences at national and international levels.

Shri Chandrasekharan has served as Principal, Chief Trainer, and main Vesham artist of the P.S.V. Natyasangham where he has groomed many Kathakali artists. A commemorative volume, Shashtyabdhapurthi Smaranika, was published in 2005 to mark his sixtieth anniversary.

He has been conferred honours for his work including the Vazhenkata Kunchu Nair Award (1990), the V.S. Sharma Endowment Award of Kerala Kalamandalam (2000), and the Veerasinkala award given by the Zamoothiri Raja of Calicut (2005).

Shri Kottakal Chandrasekharan receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to Kathakali.