



## **KALAMANDALAM PADMANABHAN NAIR**

AKADEMI AWARD: KATHAKALI

Born in 1925 in Thirunarayanapuram, Kerala, Shri Kalamandalam Padmanabhan Nair is the son and disciple of the great Kathakali master Pattikkamthodi Ravunni Menon. He was initiated in the art by his father at Kerala Kalamandalam, and for a few years also attended the P.S.V. Natyasangham, Kottakkal. He joined Kerala Kalamandalam in 1951 and retired as Principal of the institution in 1989.

Shri Padmanabhan Nair has made a distinct contribution to Kathakali as a teacher and performer. The foremost representative of the Kalluvazhi school of northern Kerala, he is particularly known for his mastery of the grammar and technique of the art. A highly respected guru, he has trained a number of Kathakali actors including Kalamandalam Gopi, his first disciple.

Shri Padmanabhan Nair has enacted all the major Pacha and Kathi roles in Kathakali, excelling in those which are technically the most demanding. As a member of the Kalamandalam troupe he has performed all over the world. He has also written textbooks on Kathakali Vesham and performance manuals—Attaprakarams—for sixteen plays. Among other honours, he received the first Kerala Kalamandalam Award in 1979 and the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi Award in 1992.

Shri Kalamandalam Padmanabhan Nair receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to Kathakali.

# **Akademi Awards 1993**

