



KALAMANDALAM RAMANKUTTY NAIR
Akademi Fellow

Born in 1925 in Kerala, Shri Kalamandalam Ramankutty Nair received his training in Kathakali Vesham from the renowned Kathakali guru Pattikamtody Ravunni Menon at Kerala Kalamandalam, Cheruthuruthy. Shri Nair later joined the Kalamandalam faculty and was eventually Principal of the institution. As the leading performer of the Kalamandalam's Kathakali troupe, he has performed extensively around the world and has won high appreciation for his art.

Among the great masters of Kathakali today, Shri Ramankutty Nair excels in the roles of Hanumana, Parasurama, Ravana, Keechaka, Duryodbana, and a range of Thadi characters. His unfailing sense of rhythm, the depth and power of his dance, and the restraint in his enactment of various roles mark him out as a standard-bearer of the Kathakali tradition, where subtlety has been prized in an actor. Apart from his work in traditional Kathakali theatre, Shri Ramankutty Nair has won acclaim for his choreographic creations on new themes in Kathakali idiom. His autobiography, Thiranottam, is included as a text in the Malayalam curriculum of the University of Calicut.

For his outstanding work as a performer and teacher, Shri Nair has been honoured by institutions within and outside Kerala. These honours include the Kalidas Samman bestowed by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi Award, and the Award of Sangeet Natak Akademi, Delhi.

Shri Kalamandalam Ramankutty Nair is elected Fellow of Sangeet Natak Akademi for his contribution to Indian dance-theatre.