



KALAMANDALAM SUGANDHI
Akademi Award: Mohiniattam

Born in 1950 in Kerala, Shrimati Sugandhi Prabhu learned Mohiniattam from Kalamandalam Satyabhama at Kerala Kalamandalam, and from Kalamandalam Kalyanikutty Amma at Kerala Kalalayam. While at Kalamandalam, she also trained in Bharatanatyam under Professor A.B.R. Bhaskhar and Kalamandalam Chandrika, and attended a workshop conducted by Dr Padma Subrahmaniam at Nrityodaya, Chennai. Her training in Kuchipudi has been under Vedantam Prahlada Sarma at the Kuchipudi Kalakshetra, Elooru. After completing her studies at Kerala Kalamandalam, Shrimati Sugandhi taught Mohiniattam in the Fine Arts Wing of Fact School from 1969 to 2002.

A widely respected teacher of Mohiniattam, Shrimati Sugandhi Prabhu has established her own dance school, Kerala Nrityanjali, where she has trained a large number of students. She has also conducted seminars and workshops on dance, and has been featured in several documentaries produced by the Government of Kerala. She has received critical acclaim for her choreographic works in Mohiniattam, for which she has written the lyrics and composed music. Dr Padma Subrahmaniam's book in Tamil, Bharata Kalai Kotupadu, has been translated by her into Malayalam under the title Bharata Kala Lakshanam.

Shrimati Sugandhi Prabhu is a recipient of a number of honours including the Pundareenath Bhuvanendra Award of the Kerala Konkani Sabitya Academy (1971), the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi Award (1985), and the Kerala Kalamandalam Award (1999).

Shrimati Sugandhi Prabhu receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to Mohiniattam.