



KIDANGOOR RAMA CHAKYAR
Akademi Award: Kutiyattam (Kerala)

Born in 1927 in Kottayam, Kerala, Shri Kidangoor Rama Chakyar was trained in Kutiyattam under his father Shri Painkulam Narayana Chakyar and Kidangoor Narayana Chakyar. In addition to the prabandhas for Koothu and Kutiyattam as they are usually performed, he also studied Anguliankam, Mattavilasam and Manthrankam in Sanskrit in the gurukula system.

Shri Rama Chakyar is particularly well known for his performances of Manthrankam Koothu in the Annamanada temple; he has performed in the temple for 52 years. He has also taught Kutiyattam for a number of years at Kerala Kalamandalam. Besides the Annamanada temple, Shri Chakyar has performed Kutiyattam in the shrines at Vellur, Thirunakkara, Kidangoor, Vaikom, Udayanapuram, Ayankudi, Puliyanloor, Punjar, Tripunithura, and Kaduthuruthy. His work has been documented by the Sanskrit University, Kalady.

For his outstanding work as a teacher and performer, Shri Rama Chakyar has been honoured by Kerala Kalamandalam and the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi.

Shri Kidangoor Rama Chakyar receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to Kutiyattam.