

Award 1956  
Dance: Kathakali

Kunchu Kurup

b 1880 d. 2.4-1973

Fellow 1967

Sir,

I have the honour to present Guru Kunchu Kurup, one of the greatest actors and teachers of the Kathakali style of dancing.

Born at Ambalapuzha, Travancore-Cochin State, in 1881, Guru Kunchu Kurup started his training at the age of 12 under the renowned teacher Champakkulam Sanku Pillai.

He is widely known as a versatile performer with a great mastery over the technique and literature of Kathakali dancing. An able teacher, he has reared up a number of outstanding dancers. He has also been a pioneer in the cause of the revival of Kathakali and was a founder member of the Kerala Kalamandalam.

He was awarded Veerasrinkhala by His Highness the Maharajah of Cochin in 1930. He was also honoured by the Prince of Berar and His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

For his pre-eminence in Kathakali dancing and singular service to its cause, I pray, Sir, that you may be pleased to grant him recognition as dancer of the year, in the field of Kathakali dancing, and to award to him a brocade Angavastram, a gold mala, and a sanad in token of that recognition.