



LAIMAYUM THAMBALNGOUBI DEVI

Akademi Award: Manipuri Dance

Born on 17 July 1930 in Imphal, Manipur, Shrimati Laimayum Thambalngoubi Devi was initiated in dance in her childhood by her father Shri L. Narahari Sharma. Later, she received training in Natasankeertana and Manipuri Ras Leela from several eminent gurus including Sarvasbri Maisnam Amubi Singh, Haobam Atomba Singh, R.K. Akesana Singh, R.K. Surjabora and R.K. Priyagopalsana.

She started teaching dance at the Manipur Dance College — later renamed Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy — and served the institution for many years till her retirement as a senior guru. She trained a large number of dancers at the Academy and performed widely in India and abroad as a member of the Academy's dance troupe. Shrimati Thambalngoubi Devi also won acclaim as an actress in Manipuri theatre and is among the first actresses in Manipuri cinema.

In 1983, she was honoured with the Manipur State Kala Academy Award and the title Nritya Bhushan, conferred by the Manipuri Sahitya Parishad.

Shrimati L. Thambalngoubi Devi receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to the dance traditions of Manipur.



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