



LAKSHMI VISWANTHAN
Akademi Award: Bharatanatyam

Born in 1944 in Madras, Shrimati Lakshmi Viswanathan was trained as a Bharatanatyam artist by Guru Kanjivaram Ellappa Pillai. She received training in Carnatic music from her mother Shrimati Alamelu Viswanathan.

Shrimati Lakshmi Viswanathan is a leading exponent of the Thanjavur tradition of Bharatanatyam. She has been acclaimed for her distinctive presentation of the art marked by evocative abhinaya. Her studies in the temple-dance traditions of the Devadasis and in abhinaya have enriched her dance style. She is also known for her writings and lectures on the subject.

Shrimati Lakshmi Viswanathan has travelled extensively in India and abroad, presenting performances and participating in seminars. Her dance-dramas and choreographic works have also been well received.

She has to her credit a book on the Tamil heritage of Bharatanatyam and a documentary film on Bharatanatyam and its repertoire. She has received several honours for her work including the title Nritya Choodamani from Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, and the Kalaimamani from the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram.

Shrimati Lakshmi Viswanathan receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to Bharatanatyam.



Akademi Awards 1998