



LEELA SAMSON

Akademi Award: Bharatanatyam

*Born in 1951 in Coonoor, Tamil Nadu, Shrimati Leela Samson was trained in Bharatanatyam at the Kalakshetra College of Fine Arts, Chennai, under the guidance of Rukmini Devi Arundale.*

*She is widely recognized as one of the finest dancers of Bharatanatyam today. She has also emerged as a leading choreographer and teacher. Her innovative choreography is acclaimed for an intelligent interpretation of the tradition and contemporary aesthetic sensibility. As a teacher, Leela Samson is widely respected for her commitment*

*She has been the subject of two documentaries, and has published a book on dance, Rhythms in Joy. Closely associated with her guru Rukmini Devi Arundale, she served as a member of the Kalakshetra Trust. She has taught at Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra and Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, Delhi, training a number of dancers.*

*She has travelled extensively in India and abroad presenting her solo and group performances.*

*For her dedicated service to dance, Leela Samson has been honoured with the Sanskriti Award in 1982 by the Sanskriti Pratishthan, Delhi, the Padma Shri in 1990 by the Government of India, and the Nritya Choodamani in 1997 by the Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, Chennai.*

*Shrimati Leela Samson receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to Bharatanatyam.*

