



Pankaj Charan Das

I present to you, Sir, Sri Pankaj Charan Das.

Sri Pankaj Charan Das was born in 1925, in a family of Maharis, or traditional Devadasis attached to temples in Orissa. He received training in dancing first from his aunt Ratnaprava Mahari and later from Ranganath Dev Goswami and Bhikari Charan Dalai, Gurus of leading Rasaleela parties at the time. In between, he worked as a Gotipua, or boy dancer, in one of the leading Akhadras of the day.

For some years Sri Pankaj Charan Das also worked as a dancer and dance-director in Amrapurra Theatres. He later started teaching Orissi dance. For some years now he is Lecturer in Orissi dance at the Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya, in Puri.

Sri Pankaj Charan Das has several pupils to his credit who are today leading dancers in the Orissi style.

For his eminence in the field of dance and his contribution to its enrichment, Sri Pankaj Charan Das receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Orissi Dance.