

I present to you, Madam, Sri Parvati Kumar.

Born in 1921, Sri Parvati Kumar received training in Bharatanatyam from Chandrasekhar Pillai, Mahalingam Pillai and Mylapore Gowri Amma. He studied Kathak with Ratikant Arya and Pandit Sunder Prasad. He also learnt Kathakali from Karunakar Panikkar.

In 1968 Sri Parvati Kumar founded his own institution, Tanjavur Nrityashala for training students in Bharatanatyam. He joined Indian National Theatre, Bombay in 1947 as choreographer and worked there up to 1965. Some of his dance-dramas choreographed especially for children are : 'Sona Sat Bone', 'Billi Mauski Fajihat', 'Suhridbhed' and 'Apna Haath Jagannath'. He has also choreographed dances for children films 'Kaale Gore' and 'Sudiguntala'.

Sri Parvati Kumar received Maharashtra State Award for distinguished services in the cultural field and also the Award of FIE Foundation of Ichalkaranji. He is also a gifted teacher and has trained many dancers who are now recognised dancers.

For his eminence in the field of dance and his contribution to its enrichment, Sri Parvati Kumar receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Choreography for 1981.