



PRATHIBHA PRAHLAD
Akademi Award: Bharatanatyam

Born in 1963 in Mysore, Shrimati Prathibha Prahlad received her initial training in Bharatanatyam under Sunanda Devi, Sunder Kumar, and Professor U.S. Krishna Rao and Chandrabhaga Devi. Later, she studied the dance under Guru V. S. Muthuswamy Pillai and learned abhinaya from Shrimati Kalanidhi Narayanan. She also studied Kuchipudi dance under Guru Vempati Chinna Satyam.

Shrimati Prathibha Prahlad is one of the foremost Bharatanatyam dancers in the country. Her dance reflects the distinctive features of Muthuswamy Pillai's style, marked by geometrical patterns of movement, as much as her own creative sensibility. Apart from excelling in solo performances, she has experimented with choreography for groups, and combined with dancers of other styles to contribute new and meaningful presentations. Her performances have taken her to many important events abroad such as the Edinburgh Festival in Britain and the Okayama International Dance Festival in Japan. In India she has been featured in all the major dance festivals.

Shrimati Prathibha Prahlad combines with her dance a keen interest in writing on dance and women's issues. Through her well-known institution in Bangalore, Prasiddha Foundation, she has been organizing notable festivals, workshops, and symposiums to promote greater interaction and awareness in the field of dance.

For her service to dance, Shrimati Prathibha Prahlad has won the Karnataka Rajyotsava Award presented by the Government of Karnataka (2001), the Karnataka Sangeet Nritya Academy Award (1997), and the Mabila Shiromani Award (1995).

Shrimati Prathibha Prahlad receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to Bharatanatyam.