



SARADA HOFFMAN

Akademi Award: Bharatanatyam

Born in 1929 in Madras, Shrimati Sarada Hoffman was trained in Bharatanatyam at Kalakshetra under Rukmini Devi Arundale, Pandanallur Chokkalingam Pillai and Gouri Amma. From Gurus Ambu Panicker and Chandu Panicker she received training in Kathakali. She completed her studies in 1947 and was appointed a teacher and lead dancer in Kalakshetra.

During the last fifty years, Sarada Hoffman has rendered yeoman service to dance. Initially, she performed extensively with the Kalakshetra troupe and later concentrated on teaching and composing in Bharatanatyam style. She has been the main strength behind Kalakshetra's training activity and is credited with maintaining the distinct quality of its technique and style. A number of eminent dancers and teachers including Yamini Krishnamurthy, Adyar Lakshmanan, C.V. Chandrasekhar, Shanta and V.P. Dhananjayan, among others, have had the benefit of training under her guidance. After her retirement as head of the dance department in 1989, she continued to serve Kalakshetra as an emeritus member of the faculty until 1996.

She has been honoured by various organizations for her work as a guru.

Shrimati Sarada Hoffman receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to Bharatanatyam.



Akademi Awards 1996