



SAROJINI NANGIARAMMA

Akademi Award: Other Major Traditions of Theatre – Kutiyattam

Born on 20 October 1940 in Chovvara village of Edanad town in Kerala, Shrimati Sarojini Nangiaramma is one of the senior-most practising Nangiars of today. She hails from a traditional community of Kutiyattam performers, and was trained in the female roles of Kutiyattam and Nangiarkoothu by her mother Ammukutty Nangiaramma, father Villuvattah Ravunni Nambiar, and aunt Kochukutty Nangiaramma.

Over the years, Shrimati Sarojini Nangiaramma has established herself as a leading performer of Kutiyattam. Her forte is the ritual performance at temples with which she has been associated for over 60 years. She had her debut performance at the age of 10 at Edanad Bhagavathy temple with the purappad of Nangiarkoothu. She had been performing the *talam* for temple-based ritual performances of Kutiyattam, Nangiarkoothu and Chakyarkoothu. She is also associated with several ritual performances including *Anguliamkam*, *Mathavilasam* and *Manthramkam* at various temples across the State. Sarojini Nangiaramma has performed extensively with the late masters such as Painkulam Rama Chakyar, Mani Madhava Chakyar and Ammannur Madhava Chakyar. She has attended several seminars and shared her experience in the field in Kerala.

She has been honoured by several institutions and temples for her work in the art form of Kutiyattam and Nangiarkoothu.

Shrimati Sarojini Nangiaramma receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to Indian theatre as a Kutiyattam artist.