

Vedantam Prahlada Sarma



I present to you, Sir, Shri Vedantam Prahlada Sarma.

Born in 1923 at Kuchipudi village, Andhra Pradesh, Shri Vedantam Prahlada Sarma inherited the art of dance as a family tradition. He was trained in Kuchipudi dance by his father Shri Vedantam Rattayya Sarma and other eminent Gurus like Shri Vedantam Lakshminarayana Sastry and Shri Vempati Venkatanarayana. He acquired a deep knowledge of the music and dance of Kuchipudi and mastered both male and female roles as traditionally prescribed, performing to acclaim in the country and abroad.

Over the last four decades Shri Sarma has dedicated himself to the teaching of Kuchipudi, emerging as a father figure for the family of Kuchipudi dancers after the departure of the old masters. He has had a large number of disciples some of whom are notable performers today - among them his younger brother Shri Vedantam Satyanarayan Sarma. Shri Prahlada Sarma now heads the Kalakshetram at Eluru, a premier Kuchipudi institution.

For his eminence in the field of Dance and his contribution to its enrichment, Shri Vedantam Prahlada Sarma receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Kuchipudi for 1985.