



**Akademi
Awards 1988**



MANIPURI DANCE Shri Ibopishak Sharma



Born 1917 in Imphal, Manipur, Shri Ibopishak Sharma initially learnt Manipuri Ras from his illustrious father Guru Iboton Sharma. Gurus Higoksana Singh and Atou Singh taught him Pung. As a child he was honoured by Maharaja Churachandra Singh of Manipur for his dance in the role of Krishna in Ras. Shri Ibopishak Sharma was a student of Gurus Gourachandra Sharma and Amudon Sharma after his father's demise. Guru Amudon had a major influence on his development as a *rasdhari* of profound learning.

Shri Ibopishak Sharma has carried forward in his work

the illustrious tradition of his mentors. Principal of Shri Shri Govindaji Nartanalaya for some time and Guru at Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy, he is now the venerable Head Rasdhari of Shri Shri Govindaji Temple, Imphal. He has a large following and numerous students, several of them eminent teachers and artistes today.

Shri Ibopishak Sharma received the Manipur State Kala Akademi award and the Nritya Ratna title conferred by the Manipur Sahitya Parishad in 1980. The Shri Shri Govindaji Temple Board conferred on him its highest honour of Nrityacharya Shiromani in 1984.

Shri Ibopishak Sharma receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to Manipuri dance.