



**Akademi
Awards 1988**



KATHAKALI Shri Keezhpatam Kumaran Nair



Born 1915 in Vellinezhi, Kerala, Shri Keezhpatam Kumaran Nair is among the foremost disciples of Guru P Ravunni Menon, with whom he trained for 14 years. He also received lessons from Gurus Chandu Panikker, Ambu Panikker and Karunakara Menon. Together with intensive training in Kathakali, he familiarized himself with the basics of other classical dances.

As a performer and teacher, Shri Kumaran Nair has made a significant contribution to Kathakali. He has performed widely at home and abroad, playing major roles with mastery. He has carried

forward the tradition of the Kalluvazhi school and contributed new works to the rich corpus of Kathakali. As a guru he has been associated with many leading institutions: International Centre for Kathakali, Gandhi Seva Sadan Kathakali and Classic Arts Academy, Kerala Kalamandalam, and others. Many of his disciples — Kalamandalam Gopi for instance — have gained fame as artistes and teachers.

Among other honours, Shri Kumaran Nair received a gold medal from Mahakavi Vallathol in 1955. He received the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi award in 1976 and the Kerala Kalamandalam award in 1986.

Shri Keezhpatam Kumaran Nair receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to Kathakali.