



**Akademi
Awards 1988**



**CHHAU, MAYURBHANJ
Shri Srihari Nayak**



Born 1934 in Kanakpur, Orissa, Shri Srihari Nayak learnt Chhau from Gurus Kandrababoo, Padmacharan Bhanj and Anant Charan Sai. He was later associated with the Uttarsahi school of Mayurbhanj Chhau at Baripada as a student and dancer.

Both as a dancer and teacher, Shri Srihari Nayak has achieved rare excellence. In his early days he was popular in Orissa dancing various roles in Mayurbhanj Chhau style, excelling particularly as Shiva and Vishnu. He later performed widely, advancing his reputation and propagating his art.

Shri Nayak has trained a number of students over the years, some well known dancers today. He now heads the Chhau department at Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya, Bhubaneswar. Among other honours, Shri Srihari Nayak has received awards from Orissa Sangeet Natak Akademi in 1978 and from Mayurbhanj Chhau Nritya Pratishtan.

Shri Srihari Nayak receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to Chhau of Mayurbhanj.