



KALANIDHI NARAYANAN

AKADEMI AWARD: BHARATANATYAM

Born in 1928 in Bangalore, Shrimati Kalanidhi Narayanan received her training in Bharatanatyam from Shri Kanchipuram Kannappa Pillai. Under Shrimati Mylapore Gouri Amma and Shri Chinnaiah Naidu she received specialized training in *abhinaya*. She also learnt Carnatic music under Shri Manakkal Sivarajan and Shrimati Kamakshi Ammal, daughter of Shrimati Veena Dhanammal, who specially taught her *padams* and *javalis*.

Though Shrimati Kalanidhi Narayanan's own career as a dancer was brief, she has come to acquire an eminent status as a teacher of the art. Her special contribution lies in the teaching of *abhinaya*, an integral aspect not only of Bharatanatyam but the entire tradition of classical Indian dance. Over the last two decades a number of leading dancers have benefited by her lessons and guidance in *abhinaya*.

Apart from teaching at her institution Abhinayasudha, founded in 1980 in Madras, Shrimati Kalanidhi Narayanan has been conducting special courses at the M.S. University, Baroda, and the National Centre for the Performing Arts, Bombay. She has also choreographed and presented several dance programmes focusing on *abhinaya*: 'Ashta Nayika', 'Contrasts and Parallels', 'Women of Ramayana', 'Nayika Bhava in Alwar Hymns', etc. Among other honours, Shrimati Kalanidhi Narayanan received the Padma Bhushan in 1985 and the Emeritus Fellowship of the Department of Culture, Government of India, for 1990-92.

Shrimati Kalanidhi Narayanan receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to Bharatanatyam.

Akademi Awards 1990

