



TH. BABU SINGH

AKADEMI AWARD: MANIPURI DANCE

Born in 1936 in the village of Lairensajik, Manipur, Shri Thingbaijam Babu Singh received his initial training in Meitei Pung from Guru Laishram Apabi Singh. He subsequently learnt Manipuri Ras under the tutelage of Maisnam Guru Amubi Singh. Working over long years in close association with Guru Amubi Singh as a disciple and assistant, he gained mastery over different aspects of the Manipuri classical dance tradition. He is today considered a rightful heir to his guru's art.

Shri Babu Singh's own career as a teacher began in 1954 at the then Manipuri Dance College, Imphal, as an assistant to his guru. Subsequently, after brief assignments at various institutions outside Manipur, he served as Director of Manipuri Jagoi Marup, Imphal, from 1970 to 1982. From 1982 he has been Principal and Pradhan Guru at Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy, Imphal.

Shri Babu Singh is one of the most outstanding Pung artistes of Manipuri Nata Sankirtana and a widely respected Ras guru. Over the years he has trained a number of students who are now performing with leading groups. Apart from teaching, preserving, and further extending Guru Amubi Singh's work, he has contributed to the Manipuri repertoire several compositions and dance-dramas of his own. He has also published three books on Meitei Pung and Ras.

Shri Th. Babu Singh receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to Manipuri dance.

Akademi Awards 1990

