



KALYANASUNDARAM KUPPIAH PILLAI
Akademi Award: Bharatanatyam

Born in 1932 in Thiruvudaimarudur, Tamil Nadu, Sri Kalyanasundaram Kuppiyah Pillai inherited the traditions of the Thanjavur school of Bharatanatyam from his forefathers. He imbibed the art from his father Guru Kuppiyah Pillai, from his brother Mahalingam Pillai, his brother-in-law Govindaraja Pillai and his sister Karunambalam. He learnt Carnatic music from Alathur Panchapakesa Iyer and the Mridangam from Raghunatha Iyer.

The director and principal teacher of the Sri Raja Rajeshwari Natya Kala Mandir in Mumbai, he has been responsible for training an array of prominent dancers. Widely respected as a guru and choreographer, Sri Kalyanasundaram has produced many dance-dramas on traditional themes, as well as compositions based on the works of poets in various languages. His productions are known for their rich tapestry of choreography, music and literature. He has travelled extensively, presenting his productions and conducting workshops and lecture-demonstrations.

Among the awards he has received are the Sarngadeva Fellowship of the Sursingar Samsad in 1988 and the Kalaimamani from the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram in 1994.

Sri Kalyanasundaram Kuppiyah Pillai receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to Bharatanatyam.



Akademi Awards 1999 – 2000