



HARE KRISHNA BEHERA
Akademi Award: Odissi Dance

Born in 1938 in Buanl village in Balasore district of Orissa, Shri Hare Krishna Behera received his initial training in dance from Shri Ramahari Behera and Shri Ramachandra Dey. Subsequently he was trained by eminent master Shri Kelucharan Mohapatra at the Kala Vikas Kendra, Cuttack. He received early training in music from Shri Ramachandra Mohapatra. Moving to Delhi in 1964, he learnt Kathak dance from Shri Birju Maharaj at the Kathak Kendra, where he also took lessons in Pakhawaj and in Thumri from Shri Purushottam Das and Shrimati Siddheswari Devi respectively.

Among the seniormost teachers of Odissi dance today, Shri Hare Krishna Behera is known for his contribution in expanding training in the dance outside Orissa. In the 1960s, he started teaching in Delhi and initiated several talented students in the Odissi style, who subsequently gained wide fame. Initially teaching at different prominent institutions in Delhi, he established his own training centre Odissi Kendra in 1977 where he has groomed large number of students. Shri Behera has travelled to different parts of the country and also travelled abroad conducting workshops and imparting training in Odissi dance.

Shri Behera has been honoured with several awards for his work including the Orissa Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, which he received in 1983, and the Sahitya Kala Parishad Samman conferred in 1990.

Shri Hare Krishna Behera receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to Odissi dance.