



ANANDA SHANKAR JAYANT

Akademi Award: Bharatanatyam

Born in 1961 in Chennai, Shrimati Ananda Shankar Jayant trained in Bharatanatyam under Shrimati Sharada Keshava Rao and Shri K. N. Pakkiriswamy Pillai. She specialized in the art at Kalakshetra, where she took her Post Graduate Diploma in Bharatanatyam. She also learnt Kuchipudi under Pasumarthy Sri Ramalinga Shastry. Ananda Shankar obtained her Master's degree in ancient Indian history, culture and archaeology from Osmania University, and did her M. Phil on the 'Development of Bharatanatyam – the Role of Kalakshetra'. She took her PhD in 2003 on the 'Promotion of Tourism and Culture: Role of Indian Railways'. She has served as an officer of the Indian Railways Traffic Service since 1987.

Over the years, Shrimati Ananda Shankar has established herself as a leading Bharatanatyam dancer, and has performed extensively in major dance festivals both in India and abroad. She has also choreographed many dance-dramas, organized seminars, and convened dance conferences such as the Natya Kala Conference since 2008. She has established her own institution, Shankarananda Kalakshetra, in Hyderabad and trained a number of students. She has contributed articles on dance and produced a number of CDs and DVDs. She has been the subject of several documentaries telecast by Doordarshan.

Ananda Shankar is the recipient of several honours including the Nritya Choodamani title (2006) conferred by Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, and the Padma Shri (2007)

Shrimati Ananda Shankar Jayant receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to Bharatanatyam.