



CHANDRALEKHA

AKADEMI AWARD: CREATIVE DANCE

Chandralekha was initially trained in Bharatanatyam by Guru Kanchipuram Ellappa Pillai. She drew notice as a promising dancer but soon gave up her career in classical dance to return to the field twelve years later as a choreographer of exceptional merit.

Over the years, Chandralekha has made an important contribution to contemporary dance as a choreographer. Utilizing the resources of Bharatanatyam, Kalaripayattu and yoga, she has attempted to create a dance language informed with contemporary sensibility and vitality. Chandralekha initially made a mark with her well known work *Navagraha* — a dance to the nine planets — which was considered an important step towards the development of contemporary dance based on traditional idiom. Later, particularly during the '80s, she produced a series of notable works which have won her wide acclaim. *Angika*, *Lilavati*, *Prana*, and her most recent production *Sri* are some of her best-known creations.

Chandralekha has performed widely with her group in India and abroad and has conducted a number of dance workshops and lecture-demonstrations. She has also worked with modern dancers and actors from the West in experimental productions. She has made films on dance and written on the subject. Among her films are *The Myth of Woman* (1976) and *Hasta* (1984).

Chandralekha receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to contemporary dance as a choreographer.

Akademi Awards 1991

