



DAKSHA SHETH

Akademi Award: Creative and Experimental Dance

Born in 1952 in Ahmedabad, Shrimati Daksha Sheth was initially trained in Kathak dance under Shrimati Kumudini Lakhia, Pandit Birju Maharaj, and Shri Mohan Rao Kalyanpurkar.

She later learnt the Chhau dance of Mayurbhanj from Shri Krishnachandra Nayak, Shri Shrikant Sen, and Shri Lal Mohan Patra. She trained in Kalaripayattu under Shri Govindan Kutty Nair and Satyanarayana Nair. She also studied Braj poetry under Kalyan Prasad Sharma at Vrindavan.

Shrimati Daksha Sheth earned a reputation as a Kathak dancer in the 1980s. Later, she began to explore a range of movements outside Kathak and performed in many styles with excellence. Her choreographic work draws inspiration from Kathak, Chhau and Kalaripayattu, aesthetically combining traditional and contemporary dance. Her group work has received critical acclaim both in India and abroad. In 1993, Shrimati Sheth established the Daksha Sheth Dance Company in Thiruvananthapuram, where she trains performing artists and provides them with a platform to present their skills.

She has been conferred several honours including the Gujarat Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2002. A documentary film on Daksha Sheth, produced by Antara Kak and Siddharth Kak has won a National Award.

Shrimati Daksha Sheth receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to creative and experimental dance.