



DEEPTI OMCHERY BHALLA
Akademi Award: Mohiniattam

Born in Delhi in 1957, Shrimati Deepti Omchery Bhalla trained in Mohiniattam under Kalamnadalm Kalyani Kutty Amma at Tripunithura in Kerala and in Kathakali under several teachers including Punnathur Madhava Panicker, Gopinath, Sadanam Nandakumar, Neliyodi Vasudevan Nampoothiri, and Sadanam Balakrishnan. She studied Carnatic music under her mother Dr. Leela Omchery and Shri T. S. Raghavan and was instructed in Hindustani music under Dagar brothers, Yunus Hussain Khan, teachers of the Faculty of Music and Fine Arts, University of Delhi, where she obtained her Master's degree and PhD in Carnatic music.

An outstanding exponent of Mohiniattam, she has performed in various prestigious national and international dance events. Simultaneously, she has consistently researched on music and dance with a special emphasis on traditions of performance obscured by the passage of time. Publications that have taken shape from her researches include Gleanings in Indian Music, Vanishing Temple Arts, Keralatelle Laasya Rachnakal. Shrimati Bhalla has served as Assistant Secretary (Performing Arts) in the Sahitya Kala Parishad, Delhi from 1982 to 1985. Since 1985, she has been teaching Carnatic music at the Faculty of Music and Fine Arts, Delhi University, where she now holds the rank of Professor. Further, she has trained dancers and musicians at the Trikala Gurukulam in Delhi started by her mother Shrimati Leela Omchery.

She has been honoured for her work in music and dance by the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy with its Award (2007).

Shrimati Deepti Omchery Bhalla receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to Mohiniattam.