



DURLLAV CHANDRA SINGH
Akademi Award: Odissi Dance

Born in 1917 in Puri, Orissa, Shri Durlav Chandra Singh was groomed as a dancer, actor, and musician under the guidance of Kabichandra Kalicharan Pattnaik. From 1928 to 1946, he performed with the Radha Raman Raas Utsav Odissi Theatre, and rose to be the leading artist of the company. He joined the Annapurna Theatre in 1953, and at the height of his career as an artist, created outstanding productions such as the dance-dramas Meghdoot and Bakasur Vadha. The Dasavatara dance of the Odissi repertoire was presented for the first time under his direction and choreography, and was performed by Kelucharan Mohapatra and his wife Lakshmi Priya.

During his years with Annapurna Theatre and in a later period, Shri Durlav Chandra Singh has taught dance to a host of new dancers in the field. Some of the most eminent Odissi dancers and teachers since the 1950s have been his students, including Shri Kelucharan Mohapatra, Sanjukta Panigrahi, Mayadhar Rout, Ragbunath Dutta, and Minati Mishra. Shri Durlav Chandra Singh has authored a history of the Oriya stage titled E Satabdiro Odia Rangamancha o Mor Bhumika.

For his dedicated work in the field of Odissi dance, he has received a number of honours including the Kavisamrat Upendra Bhanja Puraskar conferred by the Orissa Sangeet Natak Akademi, the Orissa Film Development Corporation Award, and the Akashvani Puraskar bestowed by Akashvani Cuttack.

Shri Durlav Chandra Singh receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to Odissi dance.