



GAUTAM BHATTACHARYA
Akademi Award: Allied Theatre Arts (Lighting)

Shri Gautam Bhattacharya was born in 1955 in Delhi. He read English literature at Delhi University from 1973 to 1976 and was awarded his college colour for his contribution to dramatics. After a short course in puppetry at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, he attended a course in stage lighting at the Sri Ram Centre for Art and Culture in New Delhi. Subsequently, up to 1998, he worked with the leading lighting designers Sitanshu Mukherjee and Tapas Sen on various prestigious projects in lighting in India and abroad. Besides stage lighting for dance and theatre, these assignments included lighting of pavilions at international trade fairs and lighting design for sound-and-light shows at historical monuments in Gwalior, Agra, and Delhi.

Simultaneously, Shri Bhattacharya had worked independently since the early 1980s, and established a personal reputation as a lighting designer. He has executed stage lighting for many institutions in Delhi such as Kathak Kendra, Triveni Kala Sangam, the Bhoomika Dance Theatre, and Shri Ram Bharatiya Kala Kendra. For Sangeet Natak Akademi, he has handled lights in a number of prestigious festivals both in India and abroad. He has worked for a galaxy of individual dancers including Kelucharan Mohapatra, Birju Maharaj, Durga Lal, C.V. Chandrashekhar, Astad Deboo, Sonal Mansingh, Leela Samson, and Swapnasundari, and designed lights for dance productions by Chandralekha, Manjushri Chaki Sircar, and Singhajit Singh. He has also worked with major theatre directors such as Habib Tanvir, Shiela Bhatia, B.V. Karanth, Satyadev Dubey, Rajinder Nath, and Barry John.

On assignment from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Shri Gautam Bhattacharya has designed and executed lights for Festivals of India held in Czechoslovakia (1989), Hungary (1993), Kazhakistan (1997), and Belgium (2006). In the past few years, he has designed lighting for sound-and-light shows at the Khajuraho temples in Madhya Pradesh, the Chandragiri Fort in Andhra Pradesh, and the Residency in Lucknow.

He was awarded the Chaman Lal Memorial Award in 2006 in association with Rosco Colour Lab of U.K. for his work in the field of stage lighting.

Shri Gautam Bhattacharya receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to Indian theatre as lighting designer.