



## KALAMANDALAM RAJAN

Akademi Award: Kathakali

Born in 1931 in Ezhikkara village in Ernakulam district of Kerala, Shri Kalamandalam Rajan received training in Kathakali under Kalamandalam Padmanabhan Nair, Keezhpadam Kumaran Nair, Kalamandalam Ramankutty Nair, and Vazhenkada Kunju Nair at the Kerala Kalamandalam, Cheruthuruthy. He obtained a diploma in Vesham from the institution specializing in the Kalluvazhi sampradaya.

An outstanding Kathakali performer, Shri Kalamandalam Rajan has won renown for his Pachha and Kathi Vesham. He has received critical acclaim for his performances in the role of Bahuka, Nala and Dharmaputra. He started teaching at the R.L.V. College of Music and Institute of Fine Arts, Tripunithura, in 1963 as Assistant Dance Master of Kathakali; in 1972, he was promoted as head of the Fine Arts Section. In 1985 he became a visiting Professor in the same institution.

He has performed extensively within the State and other countries, including England, Germany and Tunisia.

He has received several awards and honours including the Kerala Kalamandalam Award (1993), the Kalamandalam Krishnan Nair Memorial Award (2001), the Kalamandalam Karunakaran Smaraka Award (2007), the Pattikkamthodi Ravunni Menon Memorial Kathakali Award bestowed by Kerala Kalamandalam (2008), and the Gurupooja Award given by the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi (2006).

Shri Kalamandalam Rajan receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to Kathakali.