

I present to you, Madam, Sri M.R. Ranga Natha Rao.

Born in 1932 Sri Ranganatha Rao received training in the art of traditional marionette theatre of Karnataka from his grand-father Narasingha Rao who was a professional puppeteer.

Although Sri Ranganatha Rao is presently employed as a school teacher, with strenuous effort and unremitting zeal he revived the old temple based traditional puppetry of Karnataka in which rods are used in manipulating jointed limbs of puppet figures. He also conceived new puppets with indigenous raw material and resurrected plays from traditional repertoire. He has also devised special kits of puppets for using them as education aids especially to be used in schools of rural areas of Karnataka.

For his eminence in traditional puppet theatre and his contribution to its enrichment Sri M.R. Ranganatha Rao receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Puppetry for 1981.