



**NELLYYODU VASUDEVAN NAMBOODIRI**  
**Akademi Award: Kathakali**

*Born in 1940 in Ernakulam district of Kerala, Shri Nellyyodu Vishnu Vasudevan Namboodiri is a disciple of the renowned Kathakali Asan Vazhenkada Kunchu Nair. He was trained at P.S.V. Natyasangam, Kottakal, and later at Kerala Kalamandalam.*

*Vasudevan Namboodiri is among the most popular actors of Kathakali, specializing in Thadi vesham. He particularly excels in portraying the red-beard characters of Kathakali. He has performed widely, and has also trained young artists as a teacher in a government school in Thiruvananthapuram. He is a recipient of the Senior Fellowship of Department of Culture, and has authored a research text on Kathakali.*

*For his dedicated service to dance, Vasudevan Namboodiri received the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi Award in 2000 and the Kerala Kalamandalam Award in 1996 in addition to other honours.*

*Shri Nellyyodu Vasudevan Namboodiri receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to Kathakali.*



Akademi Awards 1999 – 2000