



RAJA & RADHA REDDY

AKADEMI AWARD: KUCHIPUDI

Shri Raja Reddy was born in 1944 in Narsapur and Shrimati Radha Reddy in 1952 in Kotalgaon, Andhra Pradesh. They have been dancing together for the past two decades and have come to be regarded among the foremost exponents of Kuchipudi dance.

Both Shri Raja Reddy and Shrimati Radha Reddy are disciples of Guru Vedantam Prahlada Sarma. They were trained at Sri Siddhendra Kalakshetram in Kuchipudi village and at Kalakshetram, Eluru. Briefly, Shrimati Radha Reddy learnt Odissi from Shri Mayadhar Raut and Shri Raja Reddy learnt Kathak at the Music College, Hyderabad. The couple have also studied at the Natya Institute of Choreography, Delhi.

Shri Raja Reddy and Shrimati Radha Reddy have made a distinctive contribution to the enrichment of Kuchipudi dance. They have developed excellent solo presentations based on the traditional technique and repertoire of Kuchipudi dance-dramas. In their duet performances, they have displayed mastery over Kuchipudi technique and the dramatic sensibility proper to the art. They have also been teaching Kuchipudi at their institution, Natya Tarangam, in Delhi. Shri Raja Reddy and Shrimati Radha Reddy were honoured by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in 1983. They received the Padma Shri in 1984 and the Award of Sahitya Kala Parishad, Delhi, in 1988.

Shri Raja Reddy and Shrimati Radha Reddy receive the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for their contribution to Kuchipudi.

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