



## REBA VIDYARTHI

AKADEMI AWARD: KATHAK

Born in 1929 in Ajmer, Rajasthan, Shrimati Reba Vidyarthi received her initial training in Kathak from Pandit Achchan Maharaj, the doyen of the Lucknow *gharana*. She was later a student of Pandit Shambhu Maharaj at Bharatiya Kala Kendra, Delhi. While studying for a teacher's training diploma from Nritya Bharati, Calcutta, she also learnt other forms of classical dance besides Kathak. Further, she learnt dance from Shri Rabi Roy and from Shri Rajendra Shankar. She was also trained in Hindustani music.

Shrimati Reba Vidyarthi is acknowledged as a leading guru of Kathak today. She has devoted her whole career to the training of young students at Kathak Kendra, Delhi, where she served for over three decades before retiring in 1990. By thorough training and painstaking effort she has prepared the careers of a number of dancers who have subsequently attracted wide acclaim.

Popular and respected among Kathak dancers, Shrimati Reba Vidyarthi has made a vital contribution in developing a systematic course of training in Kathak and thus in the preservation of the art. Apart from training a large number of dancers, she has also experimented successfully with a methodology for imparting dance training to physically handicapped children. Shrimati Reba Vidyarthi has received several honours including the Award of the Sahitya Kala Parishad, Delhi.

Shrimati Reba Vidyarthi receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to Kathak.

# Akademi Awards 1991

