



SACHIN SHANKER

AKADEMI AWARD: CREATIVE DANCE

Born in 1924 in Varanasi, Shri Sachin Shanker is a disciple and cousin of the legendary dancer Shri Uday Shankar. He was trained at the Culture Centre founded by Shri Uday Shankar at Almora, where he also learnt Kathakali from Shri Shankaran Namboodiri and Manipuri from Guru Amubi Singh. He received lessons in music from Shri Vishnudass Shirali.

After working briefly with Shri Haren Ghosh in Calcutta, Shri Sachin Shanker joined the Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA), Bombay, in 1944 as a dancer and teacher. He founded his own group, Ballet Unit, in Bombay in 1953.

In a career of about five decades as a dancer and choreographer, Shri Sachin Shanker has developed a unique dance idiom. He has endowed Indian dance with modern sensitivity and contemporary relevance. Beginning with *The Discovery of India*, which he co-composed under the banner of Indian National Theatre, Bombay, in 1947, he has created over 50 short works and over 30 full-length dance-dramas. *Jay Parajay*, *Utsav*, *Train*, *Cricket*, *Waiting*, etc. are some of his representative productions. A notable feature of Shri Sachin Shanker's work has been the involvement of eminent poets and music composers.

Shri Sachin Shanker receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to contemporary dance and choreography.

Akademi Awards 1992

