



SAMBHU BHATTACHARYA
Akademi Award : Creative Dance

Born in 1923 in Calcutta, Shri Sambhu Bhattacharya was trained in dance by Bulbul Choudhury, Anadi Prasad, Pinaki Anjaria, Ghanashyam Das, and Guru Gopinath.

Shri Bhattacharya won recognition as a modern dancer and choreographer in the early 1940s, when he performed extensively in India. He was associated with the Indian People's Theatre Association in Bengal, and in IPTA productions such as Ai re Mora Fasal Kati (1945), he worked with other eminent artists including Tripti Mitra, Hemanga Biswas, and Jyotirindra Maitra. In 1951 he created the solo dance Runner, based on the eponymous poem by Sukanta Bhattacharya, set to music by Salil Chowdhury and sung by Hemanta Mukhopadhyay. Subsequently, Shri Bhattacharya has directed dance-dramas on a variety of social themes such as literacy, health, and the environment, as well as productions based on well-known literary works such as Rabindranath Tagore's Chaturanga. He has developed a training method for dancers modelled on Uday Shankar.

Shri Sambhu Bhattacharya has also contributed to the Bengali theatre and cinema. He was associated with Ajitesh Bandyopadhyay's production of Bhalomanush and Kumar Roy's Nabanna, and worked with Satyajit Ray on the celebrated children's film Goopi Gayen Bagha Bayen.

Shri Bhattacharya was honoured with the West Bengal State Akademi Award in 1988. In 1994, the Government of West Bengal conferred on him the Alauddin Puraskar. He has received an honorary DLitt from the Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, in 2003.

Shri Sambhu Bhattacharya receives the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to creative dance.

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