



V.P. DHANANJAYAN
& SHANTA DHANANJAYAN

Akademi Award: Bharatanatyam

Shri V.P. Dhananjayan was born on 30 April 1939 in Payyannur and Shrimati Shanta Dhananjayan on 12 August 1943 in Chittur in Kerala.

They were trained in Bharatanatyam at Kalakshetra, Madras, by Sarvasbri Rukmini Devi Arundale, Sarada Hoffman, S. Sarada and N.S. Jayalakshmi. They also learnt Kathakali and Carnatic music. They were married in 1966.

Among the foremost exponents of Bharatanatyam, the Dhananjayans have performed and lectured extensively; created new choreographic works and taught a large number of students. Till 1968 they taught and performed at Kalakshetra and in that year founded Bharata Kalanjali, where they have trained several outstanding young dancers. The Dhananjayans' large repertoire includes a number of dance-dramas which have received acclaim in the country and abroad. The couple have participated in various university programmes and written and published on dance.

They were honoured with the Unesco Medallion de Merit in 1984, the Kalaimamani in 1990, and the Fellowship of the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi in 1995.

Shri V.P. Dhananjayan and Shrimati Shanta Dhananjayan receive the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for their contribution to Bharatanatyam.



Akademi Awards 1994