
PROFILE

Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam was born in Madras, the center of musical culture in South India. Her father was a film director and her mother was a composer and lyricist. Dr. Padma grew up in artistic surroundings. In her childhood, Dr. Padma started learning Bharata Natyam, the classical dance of India. As early as her teenage years, besides dancing, she also began choreography and her creativity and power of expression were spotlighted from the beginning. In 1965, she received a Master's degree in Music from the University of Madras. Composing music pieces for dance she choreographed, Dr. Padma has had a great influence upon music and dance of India.

Dr. Padma's achievements are in both the theory and practice of dance. By exploring correlations between what is described in Sage Bharata's *Natya Sastra*, the earliest extant literature on dramaturgy, and temple sculptures, Dr. Padma succeeded in reviving an obsolete dance technique and translating it into modern practice. For this contribution, she was awarded her Doctorate (Ph.D.) from Annamalai University. Her energetic research activities have produced many accomplishments in publishing numerous books and research papers and designing temple dance sculptures. In addition, Nrithyodaya, the dance school she directs, produced a documentary TV series. She also choreographs new dance pieces and produces dance dramas. In her works, the ancient traditional dance reincarnated by her research exists in beautiful harmony with modern techniques. Dr. Padma is also a devoted teacher and actively tours to perform in various places including the United States, European nations and Japan.

Dr. Padma has held many important positions such as Consultant-Choreographer for the International Singapore Arts Festival, Board Member of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, or the National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama, and General Council Member of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) of the Government of India. She continues to make great contributions not only to the world of dance, but also to the enhancement of arts and culture in India.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

- 1943 Born in Madras, India
1948 Started learning classical dance
1957 Started teaching dance at Nrithyodaya, the institution founded by her father
1963 Choreographed for the first time the dance drama "Meenakshi Kalyanam"
1963 Graduated from the University of Madras
1964- Director of Nrithyodaya
1965 Obtained a Master of Arts in Music (Ethnomusicology) from the University of Madras
1975 Received the Kalaimamani Award from the Government of Tamilnadu
1979 Obtained the Doctor of Philosophy from Annamalai University
1981 Conferred Padmasri Award
1982-88 Member of the Executive Board of the Central Sangeet Natak Akademi
1982-85 General Council Member of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)
1982 Consultant-Choreographer for the Indian programmes for the Singapore International Arts Festival
1983 Received Sangeet Natak Akademi Award
1984 Awarded State Artist Award from the Government of Tamilnadu
1984-94 Designed 108 Karanas sculptures for a temple of Nataraja in Maharashtra
1991 Received Kalidas Samman Prize from the Government of Madhya Pradesh
1994 Conferred Rajiv Gandhi National Integration Award

MAJOR WORKS

Bharata's Arts - Then & Now, Bombay, 1979

Theory of Bharata's Arts, Madras, 1985

Introduction to Natya Sastra, Pennsylvania, 1988

Produced Documentary TV Serial, *Bharatiya Natya Sastra*, 1989-91

Composed music for a dance program, *Ritu Mahatmiyam (Seasons)*, 1992