



Rasika Ranjani Sabha®

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30/1 SUNDARESWARAR STREET, MYLAPORE, CHENNAI - 600004

CITATION

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – 2023

to

Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam

Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam is acclaimed as a rare combination of a dancer, research scholar, choreographer, singer, music composer, teacher, author and Indologist. She is the daughter of Director K.Subrahmanyam, an internationally reputed. She is the disciple of Vazhuvoor Ramaiah Pillai and other eminent masters in the field of dance and a disciple of B.V.Lakshman and Salil Chaudhry for music. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Music, a Master's Degree in Ethno Musicology and her Ph.D Thesis is on "Karanas in Indian Dance & Sculpture". Dr. Padma is the President of Nrithyodaya, the dance school founded by her father in 1942. She is also the Managing Trustee of Bharata-Illango Foundation for Asian Culture (BIFAC) which is a Pan-Asian research center on performing arts.

She is the first to bridge the gap between theory and practice and has revived an obsolete dance technique, translating theoretical concepts into practice. She discovered the "108 Karanas" (basic units of Dance) as movements and not just static poses. She also reconstructed these movements in their entirety through a correlated study of literature, sculptures and inscriptions coupled with her own self experience as a dancer. She is the first to discover the long forgotten grammatical artistic base in "Marga" i.e., the path shown by Sage Bharata, common to all "Desi" forms.

Dr. Padma was ordained by the great Centenarian Sage of this century, Pujyasri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati Swamigal, Jagadguru (68th) Sankaracharya of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham, to design a new set of 108 Karana Sculptures of Lord Siva & Goddess Parvati in black granite for a temple of Lord Nataraja built recently at Satara in Maharashtra. His holiness asked her to freeze those movements of the karanas which are not sculpted in the older temples of Tanjavur, Kumbakonam and Chidambaram. Twelve years after completing her design of these 108 Karana figures, she discovered by the grace of the Sage of Kanchi, about fifty Karana sculptures in the world-renowned monument-temple complex at Prambanan in Central Java, Indonesia, belonging to the 9th Century AD. The remarkable historic feature of these figures is that they totally tally with Dr. Padma's practical reconstruction of the Karana movements and also have a great similarity with her own designs for the temple in Satara.

She has authored several books like Bharata's Art – Then & Now, Bhagavat Gita for Dance, Karana to Adavu, Natya Sastra & National Unity, Kanchi Mahaswami's Vision of Asian Culture, Bharatakkalai Kotpadu, to name a few.

She has toured extensively in Europe, USA, Canada, UK, Mongolia the Midleat, South Africa, Mauritius, Nepal, Srilanka, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia, Japan, Australia and Fiji Islands.

She has created innumerable dance productions (both solo and group) like Krishnaya Tubhyam Namaha, Ramaya Tubhyam Namaha, Jaya Jaya Sankara, Valli Kalyanam, Krishna Tulabharam, Meenakshi Kalyanam, Ardhanariswarar Kuravanji, Pannum Bharatamum, Natya Sastram Viswa Margam, Gangaiyin Kathai to mention a few.

She has received more than 140 awards (national & international) which Padma Bhushan and the Akademi Ratna (Fellow) from the President of India, the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Kalidas Samman from the Government of Madhya Pradesh and Kalaimamani and State Artiste Awards from the Government of Tamil Nadu. The prestigious Fukuoka Asian Cultural Prize from Japan. She was conferred the Honorary Fellowship by Asiatic Society of Mumbai founded in 1804. She is also the first recipient to receive the title of Natya Kala Acharya from the Music Academy, Chennai.

The Award Committee of Rasika Ranjani Sabha takes great pleasure in conferring the

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – 2023

for EXCELLENCE IN BHARATHANATYAM to Dr. PADMA SUBRAHMANYAM

on this 18th day of August 2023.

A.R.Santhanakrishnan
President

**R.Nagarajan &
R.Vaithiyanathan**
Secretaries