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President of India confers Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship and Awards for 2007 in Delhi

The Hon'ble President of India, Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil conferred the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship (Akademi Ratna) and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for 2007 to thirty-four eminent artists in the field of performing arts, on 26 February 2008 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. The presentation ceremony began with a welcome address by Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, Chairman, Sangeet Natak Akademi, followed by an address by Shrimati Ambika Soni, Union Minister of Tourism & Culture. After presenting the awards, Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh

Patil delivered her address. The ceremony ended with the vote of thanks by Shri Kavalam Narayana Panikkar, Vice-Chairman of the Akademi.

The Akademi Fellowships and Awards are conferred on eminent practitioners, teachers, and scholars of music, dance and theatre for sustained individual achievement in their disciplines. The Fellowship carries a purse of one lakh and Award a purse of fifty thousand rupees, with a Tamrapatra and a shawl.

An eight-day festival followed the investiture, with performances

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Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of India, hands over the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship to eminent scholar and professor of aesthetics Dr S.K. Saxena. On the extreme left is Shrimati Ambika Soni, Union Minister for Tourism & Culture; and on the extreme right is Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, Chairman, Sangeet Natak Akademi.



by the Award-winners at different venues in Delhi.

The recipients of the Fellowship and Akademi Awards for 2007 are:

AKADEMI RATNA (FELLOW)

Dr S.K. Saxena

AKADEMI AWARDS

Music

Vidyadhar Narayanrao Vyas: Hindustani Vocal

Govardhan Mishra: Hindustani Vocal

Nandan Mehta: Hindustani Instrumental – Tabla

Ramoo Prasad Shastri: Hindustani Instrumental – Violin

B. Krishnamoorti: Carnatic Vocal

Vidya Shankar: Carnatic Instrumental – Veena

S.R.D. Vaithyanathan: Carnatic Instrumental – Nagaswaram

Khayyam (Mohammad Zahoor Hashmi): Creative & Experimental Music

Dance

Sucheta Bhide Chapekar: Bharatanatyam

Geetanjali Lal: Kathak

Sadanam Krishnan Kutty: Kathakali

Yeleswarapu Nageswara Sarma: Kuchipudi

Ranjana Gauhar: Odissi

Gunakanta Dutta Borbayan: Sattriya

Deepti Omchery Bhalla: Mohiniattam

Kalamandalam Sivan Nambootiri: Other Major Traditions of Dance – Dance

Theatre: Kutiyattam



Theatre

Reoti Saran Sharma: Playwriting – Hindi

Lalthangfala Sailo: Playwriting – Mizo

Yumnam Rajendra Singh: Playwriting – Manipuri

N.C. Thakur: Direction

Harimadhab Mukherjee: Direction

Ramesh Mehta: Acting

Mahendra Kumar: Allied Theatre Arts – Scenic Design

Kolyur Ramachandra Rao: Major

Traditions of Theatre – Yakshagana

Traditional/Folk/Tribal Music/Dance/Theatre & Puppetry

Thokcham Ningol Brindasabi Devi: Gouranga Leela, Manipur

Prahlad Singh Tipaniya: Folk Music – Nirgun, Madhya Pradesh

Ram Dayal Munda: Tribal Dance & Music, Jharkhand

Gulam Mohammad: Dogri Folk Music, Jammu & Kashmir

Subodh Debbarma: Tribal Dance, Tripura



Top: President of India, Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil with Sangeet Natak Akademi Award winners; middle left to right: Ramoo Prasad Shastri: (Hindustani Instrumental: Violin); Sucheta Bhide Chapekar (Bharatanatyam) and Thokcham Ningol Brindasabi Devi (Gouranga Leela, Manipur); bottom: Sadanam Krishnan Kutty (Kathakali).

Amar Paul: Folk Music, West Bengal
L. Rajappa: Puppetry, Pondicherry
Sharafat Abdul Majid Satarmaker: Musical
Instrument-making, Maharashtra

Overall Contribution

Mukund Lath: Scholarship In Performing
Arts

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards Festival

26 February to 4 March, 2008

26 February, 6.00 p.m., Kamani Auditorium,
Copernicus Marg

Vidyadhar Narayanrao Vyas: Hindustani
Vocal

Nandan Mehta: Tabla Solo

Ramoo Prasad Shastri: Violin

Govardhan Mishra: Hindustani Vocal

27 February, 6.30 p.m., Kamani Auditorium,
Copernicus Marg

B. Krishnamoorti: Carnatic Vocal

Vidya Shankar: Veena (Carnatic)

Sucheta Bhide Chapekar: Bharatanatyam

28 February, 6.30 p.m., Meghdoot Theatre,
Rabindra Bhavan, Copernicus Marg

Deepti Omcherry Bhalla: Mohiniattam

Geetanjali Lal: Kathak

Ranjana Gauhar: Odissi

29 February, 6.30 p.m., Meghdoot Theatre,
Rabindra Bhavan, Copernicus Marg

Kalamandalm Sivan Nambootiri: Kutiyattam
Sadanam Krishnan Kutty: Kathakali

1 March, 6.30 p.m., Meghdoot Theatre,
Rabindra Bhavan, Copernicus Marg

Gunakanta Dutta Barbayan: Sattriya

Kolyur Ramachandra Rao: Yakshagana

2 March, 6.30 p.m., Meghdoot Theatre,
Rabindra Bhavan, Copernicus Marg

Ram Dayal Munda: Tribal Dance & Music
(Jharkhand)

Amar Paul: Folk Music (West Bengal)

Prahlad Singh Tipaniya: Folk Music –
Nirgun (Madhya Pradesh)

Gulam Mohammad: Dogri Folk Music
(Jammu & Kashmir)

3 March, 2008, 6.30 p.m., Meghdoot Theatre,
Rabindra Bhavan, Copernicus Marg

Thokcham Ningol Brindasabi Devi:
Gouranga Leela (Manipur)

Hanglai, play in Manipuri, written by
Yumnam Rajendra Singh

4 March, 6.30 p.m., Meghdoot Theatre,
Rabindra Bhavan, Copernicus Marg

Purani Haveli, play in Hindi, written by
Reoti Saran Sharma

Sangeet Sangam, Indore

Sangeet Natak Akademi organized the Sangeet Sangam festival at Indore between 14 and 18 February 2008. Leading Hindustani musicians, both vocalists and instrumentalists, performed in the event. Besides, the instrumental music of southern India — Talvadya Kachheri, and a recital of Carnatic music on Saraswati-Veena were

presented. The festival also featured senior musicians practising regional musical forms such as Haveli Sangeet of Uttar Pradesh, Natya Sangeet of Maharashtra, and Mand of Rajasthan. The festival was presented in collaboration with the Lok Sanskriti Manch, Indore. The programme follows:

14 February

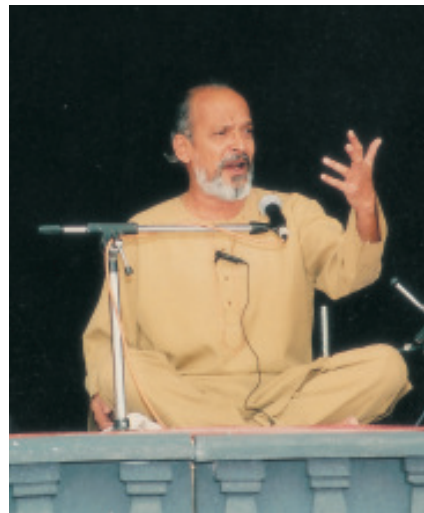
Daya Shankar, Delhi: Shehnai; Ramakant Pathak and group, Lucknow: Pakhawaj; Rajshekhar Mansur, Bangalore: Hindustani Vocal.

15 February

Charumati Ramachandran, Chennai: Carnatic Vocal; Kartik Kumar, Mumbai: Sitar; Vasundhara Komkali, Devas: Hindustani Vocal.

16 February

Ritwik Sanyal, Varanasi and Asit Kumar Banerjee, Kolkata: Hindustani Vocal (Dhrupad) and Rudra Veena; Gopal Chandra Nandi, Lucknow: Hindustani Violin; Murad Bano, Chhapra: Hindustani Vocal Music (Thumri, Dadra, etc.).



Top: Kartik Kumar (Sitar), middle left: Rajshekhar Mansur (Hindustani Vocal), middle right: Niranjana Haldar (Vichitra Veena), bottom: Prema Malikarjunan (Hamsavahini, Carnatic Veena Ensemble).



Top: Murad Bano (Hindustani Vocal),
bottom: Brij Narayan (Sarod).

Octave 2008, Thiruvananthapuram

The festival 'Celebrating the North-east' was first instituted in 2006 and launched in New Delhi by the Ministry of Culture and Sangeet Natak Akademi. An annual event since then, it was held in Thiruvananthapuram in 2008. Sangeet Natak Akademi presented a festival of plays from the North-east in the course of the festival, held at the Tagore Theatre from 17 to 21 February 2008. The Akademi also sponsored the presentation of classical dances of the North-east, namely, Manipuri dance and Sattriya Dance in the festival. The dancers later travelled to Cheruthuruthy and Kochi to present their art during their visit to Kerala. In addition, Akademi provided due advice and support to South Zone Cultural Centre for organizing the entire event.

17 February

Hansavahini, Delhi: Carnatic Veena ensemble; Leelawati Adsule, Indore: Hindustani Vocal; Brij Narayan, Mumbai: Sarod; Chhannulal Mishra, Varanasi: Hindustani Vocal (Thumri, Dadra, etc.).

18 February

Niranjan Halder, Indore: Vichitra Veena; Laya Shakti, Delhi: Talvadya Kachheri; Mani Prasad, Delhi: Hindustani Vocal.

Special Session of Regional Traditions of Music
Satyabhan Sharma, Agra: Haveli Sangeet, Uttar Pradesh; Sunil Masurkar, Indore: Natya Sangeet, Maharashtra; Murari Sharma, Bikaner: Mand, Rajasthan.

Nritya Pratibha, Patna

Nritya Pratibha, a festival of young dancers, was organized in association with Bihar Sangeet Natak Academy and Ninad from 9 to 13 March 2008 at the Sri Krishna Memorial Hall, Gandhi Maidan, Patna. The festival was inaugurated by Shri Janardan Singh Sigriwal, Minister of Culture and Youth Affairs, Bihar on 9 March 2008. The programme follows:

9 March

Debashree Pattnaik and Pankaj Kumar Pradhan, Bhubaneswar: Odissi; Rashmi Uppal, Delhi: Kathak; Sutapa Awon Pradhan, Medinipur: Bharatanatyam; Shubhra Patra and Protim Das, Kolkata: Kathak; Manipuri Nartanalaya, Kolkata & Imphal: Pung Cholom.

10 March

Sharvani Das, Patna: Odissi; Ritushri Choudhary & Suman Saha, Kolkata: Creative & Experimental Dance; Bobby Chakraborty, Khilpara: Kuchipudi; Namrata & Suchitra Mishra, Bokaro: Kathak; Manipuri Nartanalaya, Kolkata & Imphal: Rasleela.

11 March

Bhogpur Sattria, Majuli: Sattriya dance; Seujpriya Borthakur, Guwahati: Kathak; Sohini Debnath, Kolkata: Odissi; Smita Pani and Praveen Mohanty, Rourkela: Odissi; Kalamandalam Vaisakh, Thrissur: Kathakali.

12 March

Rajeev Ranjan, Patna: Kathak; Kalamandalam Veena Warier, Cheruthuruthy: Mohiniattam; T.M. Sridevi, Chennai: Bharatanatyam; Saurav Roy, Siliguri: Kathak; Artists of Mayur Art Centre, Bhubaneswar: Chhau (Mayurbhanj).

13 March

Sudipa Bose, Patna: Bharatanatyam; Trinetra Chhau Dance Centre, Seraikella: Chhau (Seraikella); Swati Sinha, Bihar: Kathak; Manipuri Nartanalaya, Kolkata and Imphal: Dhol Cholom.

Rang Pratibha, Jammu

Under its scheme of Assistance to Young Theatre Directors, Sangeet Natak Akademi has organized festivals in various States in the past to promote talented young directors. Rang Pratibha in Jammu was organized by Sangeet Natak Akademi in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages from 9 to 16 March 2008.

The festival featured plays by seven young directors of Jammu & Kashmir chosen by an expert committee constituted by J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Jammu. Apart from stage performances, there were morning sessions for interactions for the participating directors with theatre experts and observers from within the State and from outside. Smt. B. Jayshree from Bangalore and Shri

Dulal Roy from Guwahati were invited. The programme follows:

9 March

Comedy of Terror, dir. Sanjeev Gupta

10 March

Trunouve, dir. Muzammil Hayat

11 March

Zamaaney Pok Ne Hum Dum Sayed, dir. Aashiq Hussain

12 March

Yatra, dir. Varsha Dogra

13 March

Dil te Diwaar, dir. Riyaz Ahmad

14 March

Shinakhti Card, dir. M.Ashraf Nagoo

15 March

Mind Games, dir. Sumeet Sharma

Nritya Kriti was the first festival of its kind presented by Sangeet Natak Akademi. Second-generation choreographers such as Priti Patel, Madhu Natraj, Sangeeta Sharma, Jhelum Paranjape and Lokendrajit Singh presented their works in the festival. Artists of Nritya Bharati, Pune, also presented the choreographic works of Smt. Rohini Bhate, an eminent choreographer. The programme follows:

24 March

Nahal nong . . . once upon a time: Anjika, Kolkata and Imphal; choreography by Priti Patel

Mandala and Yugma: Stem, Bangalore; choreography by Madhu Nataraj

25 March

Kathak Odyssey, Nritya Bharati, Pune; choreography by Rohini Bhate

Behti Ganga, Sangeeta Sharma and members of Bhoomika, Delhi; choreography by Sangeeta Sharma

26 March

Leelavati, Smitalaya, Mumbai; choreography by Jhelum Paranjape

Wainu Pareng, Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy, Manipur; choreography by Lokendrajit Singh

Theatre Arts, University of Mumbai. The programme follows:

23 March

Tamasha, traditional theatre form of Maharashtra

24 March

Kanupriya (Hindi), dir. Arjun Dev Charan, Jodhpur

25 March

Baghdad Burning (Hindi), dir. Kirti Jain, Delhi

26 March

Jaata Nahi Jat (Marathi), dir. Girish Arvind Patke, Mumbai

Maati (Oriya), dir. Subodh Pattnaik, Bhubaneswar

27 March

Khel (Marathi), dir. Milind Inamdar, Mumbai

28 March

Sojon Badiyar Ghat (Bangla), dir. Gautam Haldar, Kolkata

29 March

Mahaamayi (Kannada), dir. C. Basavalingaiah, Bangalore

Harishchannar ki Ladai (Hindi), dir. Urmil K. Thapliyal, Lucknow

30 March

Kem Makanji Kyan Chalya (Gujarati), dir. P S Chari, Vadodara

Rattdi Ratt (Dogri), dir. Mushtaq Kak, Jammu

31 March

Zulwa (Marathi), dir. Waman Kendre, Mumbai

Nritya Kriti, Ahmedabad

A festival of choreographic works, Nritya Kriti was presented at Ahmedabad from 24 to 26 March 2008. The festival was inaugurated by Smt. Kumudini Lakhia and Shri Varun Maira, Principal Secretary (Culture), Government of Gujarat at Tagore Hall, Ahmedabad.



Top: *Mandala and Yugma*, choreography by Madhu Nataraj; bottom: *Nahal nong . . . once upon a time*, choreography by Priti Patel.

Rang Sangam Theatre Festival, Mumbai

This was a festival of contemporary theatre produced by well-known directors in different languages, representing a confluence of creative ideas, methods, techniques and practices that are constantly evolving in the field of theatre in different parts of the country. The directors chosen to participate brought an eclectic mix of forms, styles and approaches to the event, offering a small, but nonetheless, representative view of theatre created by today's generation.

The first festival of its kind, Rang Sangam was presented at Mumbai from 23 to 31 March 2008 in collaboration with the Academy of

Documentation

Special Documentation, Delhi

11 – 13 February 2008

Ranjana Gauhar – Odissi; Jayarama Rao & Vanashri Rao – Kuchipudi. *Video 2:10 hours. Photographs 100.*

24 – 25 February 2008

Shashadhar Acharya with his disciples 'Demonstration of the technique and teaching methodology of Seraikella Chhau'. *Video 3:25 hours. Photographs 100.*

Sangeet Sangam – Festival of Music

Indore, 15-18 February 2008

Video 17:50 hours. Photographs 200.

SNA Awards Ceremony & Festival 2007

New Delhi, 26 February – 04 March 2008

Video 15:40 hours. Audio 56:40 hours.

Photographs 800.

Nritya Pratibha – A Festival of Young

Dancers, Patna, Bihar 9 – 13 March 2008

Video 14:40 hours. Photographs 200.

IN MEMORIAM

The Sangeet Natak Akademi and its associate bodies deeply mourn the sad demise of Akademi Awardees,

Sheila Bhatia



Shrimati Sheila Bhatia was actively associated with the theatre movement for over 35 years. She was playwright, composer and director and had

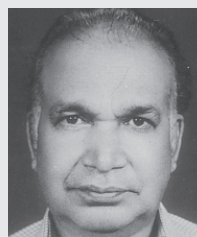
over 60 major productions to her credit. She was known for her innovative and experimental musical plays in three languages: Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu. Since the time of her first musical play *Call of the Valley*, staged in early '60s, hers was a continuous effort to find new and meaningful forms and themes.

She was the recipient of many awards and honours. The Government of India conferred on her the title of Padmashri in 1970.

For her eminence in the field of theatre and her contribution to its enrichment Shrimati Sheila Bhatia received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Direction for 1982.

Shrimati Sheila Bhatia passed away on 17 February 2008.

K.T. Muhammad



Born in 1929 in Malappuram district of Kerala, Shri K.T. Muhammad came into public view with the publication of his short story *The Eyes*, which won the first

prize in India in a contest conducted by the New York Herald Tribune in the early 'fifties.

Shri K.T. Muhammad had over twenty-five plays to his credit, a corpus constituting a significant contribution to Malayalam theatre. His work over the years was thematically various and judiciously experimental in respect of form and structure. Among Shri Muhammad's most successful plays was *Shristi* staged in 1970, later filmed by himself. Recipient of many screenplay awards, Shri K.T. Muhammad was the Chairman of the Kerala State Film Development Corporation. A Fellow of Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi, he was also associated with Kerala Sahitya Akademi for long years.

For his eminence in the field of theatre and his contribution to its enrichment Shri K.T. Muhammad received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Playwriting for 1986.

Shri K.T. Muhammad passed away on 26 March 2008.