

Kathakali



Kathakali is a blend of dance, music and acting and dramatizes stories mostly adapted from the Indian epics.

Its origin can be traced back to two forms of dance drama which emerged in the temples of Kerala, namely, Ramanattam and Krishnattam.

The word 'Kathakali' is derived from the words 'Katha' meaning story and 'Kali' meaning drama.

EVOLUTION



It evolved under the patronage of feudal lords in Kerala

Kathakali as an art form started to decline with the breakdown of the feudal set up.

In the 1930s, it was revived by the famous Malayali poet V. N. Menon under the patronage of Mukunda Raja.



IMPORTANT FEATURES

The themes were drawn from the stories narrated in the epics and the puranas.

The dance form represents the eternal conflict between good and evil.

It emphasises on the representation of the rasa through eye and eyebrow movements.

The element of Sky or Ether is represented by Kathakali.

To signify different characters, elaborate facial make up along with a headgear is used.

Different colours are used in facial makeup, which have their own significance. For example:

Green colour is used to indicate nobility, divinity and virtue.



Red colour patches beside the nose are used to indicate royalty.



The black colour is used to indicate evil and wickedness.



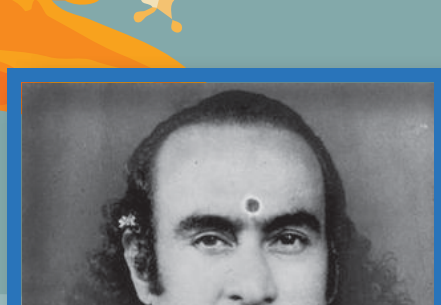
It is performed in open air premises; coarse mats are used as covers and for lighting, brass lamps are used.

A continuous sound of drums, Chhenda and Maddala, performed during dawn, culminates the whole performance.

FAMOUS PROPONENTS



Rita Ganguly



Gopinath



Guru Kunchu Kurup

Awarded Padma Bhushan in 1971

