

Smt. Urmila Sathyanarayanan

Nritya Kalanidhi 2025



Born on January 8, 1966, at Madras to Jayalakshmi and Dr. B. Narasimhulu, Urmila had her training in dance from Vidushi Lalitha and had her arangetram in 1976 under the training of Vidwan K.N. Dandhayudhapani Pillai. She was then trained by guru K.J. Sarasa.

She has emerged as a complete artist who embodies tradition while embracing innovation. Her contribution extends far beyond solo performances through numerous acclaimed thematic presentations and dance dramas that showcase her artistic vision and storytelling ability. As founder of Natya Sankalpaa (established 1996), Urmila has built an institution of excellence renowned for its holistic approach to dance education.

Urmila has performed widely both nationally and internationally. Her contribution to the art has been recognized through honours including the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award and the Kalaimamani from the Government of Tamil Nadu. Urmila served on the Governing Board of the Kalakshetra Foundation for over two terms and continues to serve on the Governing Body of the South Zone Cultural Centre. She is an 'A Top' grade artist of Doordarshan Kendra and is empanelled in the 'outstanding' category by the I.C.C.R., New Delhi.

The Music Academy, Madras takes pleasure in conferring on her the Nritya Kalanidhi.