

BHARATANATYAM ARTISTES



SURENDRA & MALA



MALA

BORN IN KARNATAKA AND GRADUATED IN HYDERABAD, A.P., MALA, FROM HER EARLY AGE IS INTERESTED IN CLASSICAL DANCE.

SHE LEARNT KUCHIPUDI FROM THE LATE SRI BHAGAVATHULA RAMAKOTIAH AND PLAYED ROLES IN SEVERAL KUCHIPUDI DANCE DRAMAS, CHOREOGRAPHED BY THE LATE MAESTRO.

MALA HAS BEEN LEARNING BHARATANATYAM, ABHINAYA AND THE TEMPLE DANCES OF ANDHRA FROM DR. NATARAJA RAMAKRISHNA.

Mala

EXECUTING TEMPLE DANCE FOR WHICH ANDHRA IS SO WELL KNOWN THAT THIS DANCE FORM CAME TO BE KNOWN AS 'ANDHRA NATYA'.

PERINI SIVA TANDAVAM

The Fastest School of Classical Dance
of India of the 10th Century A.D.

'Perini' was a popular dance form in Andhra Country, nearly a thousand years ago and flourished greatly during the rule of emperors Ganapathi Deva, Rudrama Devi and Pratapa Rudra of Kakateeya Dynasty who ruled the Telugu Country from 10th to 13th Centuries A.D.

Many worshippers of Siva viz. PASUPATIS, MAHESHUS, MAILARA DEVAS and VIRAS used to perform this dance on the 'BALIPEETAM' which was specially erected opposite the main deity.

As Perini was performed to invoke Siva (in Prerana), it was called Prerana or Perini Siva Tandavam in Majestic Tandavam style, known for quickest tempo and speed depicting 'Veera Rasa, the Heroic Mood.

Sri Nataraja Ramakrishna recreated Perini, after 700 years, studying the treatise Nritta Ratnavali', written by Jayapa Senani, (the Commander-in-Chief of the Kakateeyas and a scholar himself), and the sculptures on the panels of doors and walls of the famous Ramappa Temple near Warangal in Andhra Pradesh, built during that period.

Andhra Natya:

Andhra Natya is the dance form practised and performed by dedicated female artistes of Andhra. They used to perform ritual Dances for the Gods during worship in the Temple Kelika Nritya at the Kalyana Mandap (Temple Courtyard) for the scholars and Bhagavatam Yakshaganas (dance relating stories about the Gods) for the common people outside the Temple compound. The Dance tradition performed at the Kalyan Mandap evolved into the Durbar tradition performed at the Royal courts by Raj Nartakies which is at present, called Bharata Natyam.

Respected Guru 'Bharata Kala Prapoorna' Natraja Ramakrishna revived these old traditional temple dances and popularised them again.

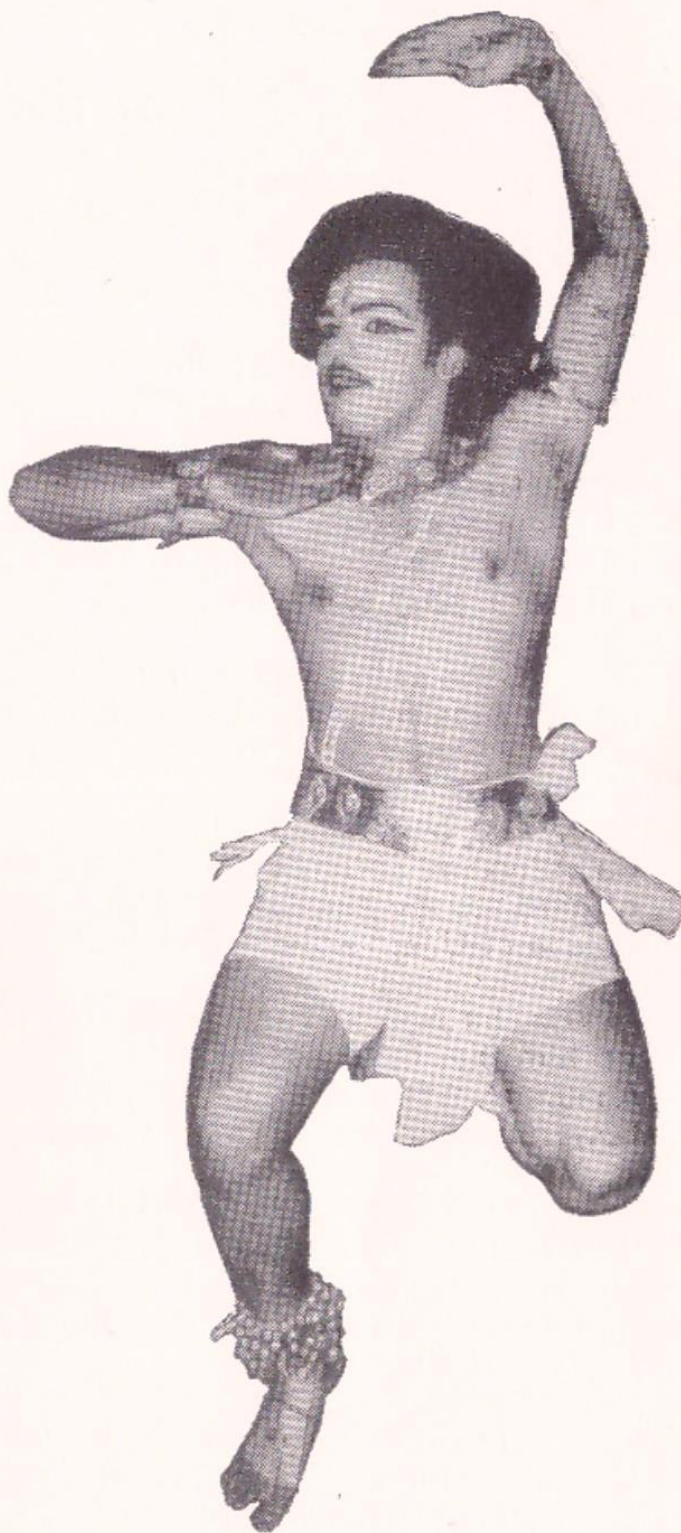
SURENDRA

Born in Karnataka and educated in Hyderabad. Surendra is initiated into Kuchipudi at his early age by Late Sri Bhagavathula Rama Kotiah. He passed the exam in Kuchipudi dance conducted by the Technical education Dept of A.P., and also took part in several Kuchipudi Ballets.

Surendra learnt the virile Perini Sivatandavam under the able guidance of Dr. Nataraja Ramakrishna, who revived the ancient dance and is popularising it.

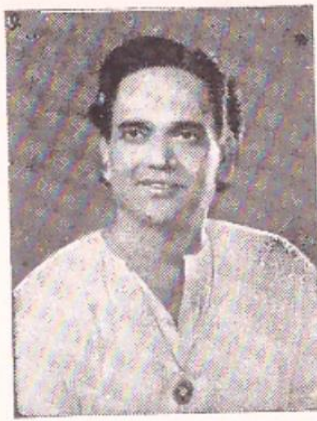
Surendra gave his first solo performance of Perini in 1978

Since then he has given a number of performances all over the state and in South India. Surendra is one of the prized artistes of the school of Dr. Nataraja Ramakrishna.



Surendra

IN A POSTURE FROM THE
FAMOUS AND HISTORICAL
PERINI SIVA TANDAVAM



OUR GURU

Bharatakalaprapoorna

Dr. NATARAJA RAMAKRISHNA

Director, Perini International

Andhra Pradesh Asthana Natyacharya

President, A.P. Nritya Akademi

Nataraja Ramakrishna was born in Romantic Island of Bali. He hails from Andhra Pradesh.

Nataraja is a multi-faceted genius and acquired for himself a place of honour in the country as performing artiste, preceptor of the classical dance art, as a scholar and author, as a choreographer and musicologist, singer and composer.

Scholar in five languages he has written 32 books on the art of dance in Telugu. Six of his books including 'Dancing-Bells' in English have won national awards.

His ballets 'Sri Venkateswara Kalyanam', 'Balaji', 'Kumara Sambhavam', and 'Megha Sandesam' have been acclaimed items of high artistic standards. 'Kumara Sambhavam' won Swarna Kalasa at Ujjain Kalidasa Natya Samaroh.

The Andhra Pradesh Sageet Nataka Academy conferred on him the title of Bharatakalaprapoorna, highest award of Academy in Dance. The Andhra University conferred on him the honorary Doctorate, Kalaprapoorna, on him.

He visited France and U.S.S.R. as one man delegation under the scheme of exchange of scholars sponsored by the Government of India. The people of Andhra Pradesh presented him a golden Crown, a rare honour for his valuable service to the Art of Dance.

He is the present Asthana Natyacharya of the Srisailem Devasthanam. He is also the present Asthana Natyacharya of Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.

Surendra & Pata

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**SURENDRA AND MALA DEPICTING AN EPISODE
FEATURING MAHAVISHNU AND HIS
CONSORT LAKSHMI**

What the Press Says

THE HINDU NOV. 24 1978:

.....Surendra displayed flair for nritta which is the Principal requisite for this dance. His footwork, both in subtle and vigorous movements, was precise.

In presenting Tahanam and Siva Kaivarams, Surendra was quite at home. The Sranga Nartana also brought him applause.....

DECCAN CHRONICLE: NOV. 20, 1978

.....A student of Nataraja Ramakrishna, Surendra achieved a commendable mastery over the fast paced dance style and presented a flawless performance.....

ANDHRA JYOTHI: DEC. 11, 1978

.....Surendra brilliantly Performed "Pushpanjali", "Tahana Nartana", 'Yati Nartana', 'Vinayaka Stotra' and 'Siva Kaivaram' on the evening in his Perini that reflected the five 'Roopas' of hord Siva. The 'Panchama Sabdas' thrilled the audience.....

ANDHRA PRABHA

.....Surendra Could excellently Portray the virile moods of Perini dance particularly the 'Roudra' and 'Bhayanaka' accompanied by a thrilling rythm.....