

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA, HINOO, RANCHI

PERSONALITIES OF THE WEEK

ALARMEL VALLI

Bharatanatyam Dancer



Alarmel Valli is a foremost exponent of the Pandanallur tradition in BharataNatyam. She is hailed as a creative artist who brings depth, intensity and naturalness to her work. She has won laurels several times in the major festivals in India and in almost all the cultural capitals of the world.

Born in 1957, Valli at the age of 16 was invited to perform at the International Dance Festival, of the Sarah Bernhardt Theatre De La Ville in Paris. From then on she has toured widely and received acclaim for her performances in leading theatres almost all over the world. Along with the performances she has also given lecture demonstrations, classes, workshops and seminars and has helped to create an international awareness of Bharatanatyam.

Alarmel Valli was trained by renowned gurus, Shri Chokkalingam Pillai and his son Shri Subbaraya Pillai. Valli has studied ' Padams' and ' Javalis' for many years under the eminent musician Smt.T.Muktha, of the renowned Veena Dhanammal style of music.

She has also learned Odissi under renowned Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra and his disciple Guru Ramani Ranjan Jena. Valli has done research for around 12 years on classical Tamil anthologies of Sangam poetry (2000 years old) and she has worked to give the richness of the poems a visual and melodic dimension. Valli has evolved her own distinct style and extended her tradition within the broad framework of classical Bharatanatyam.

Alarmel Valli has many honours and awards to her credit. She is the recipient of numerous State and National awards. Alarmel Valli received the 'State award of **Kalaimamani**' in 1979 and was made the 'State Artist of Tamilnadu' between 1981 & 84. She was awarded the prestigious title of 'Nrithya Choodamani' in 1985 and was the youngest dancer to be conferred the President's award of '**Padmasri**' in 1991. In 1997, she was honoured by the City of Paris, with the 'Grande Medaille de la Ville de Paris' and in 2001, receives the Award of the Sangeet Natak Academy. In 1984, Alarmel Valli founded 'Dipashikha' a Centre for Performing Arts which impart training for budding talents. Alarmel married to Bhaskar Ghosh, former I&B secretary and former director general of Doordarshan.

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