

## My Salute to a Great Odissi Dance Guru - Guru Sudhakar Sahu

Guru Sudhakar Sahu was born on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1935 at Bodai Kateni of Dhenkanal District, Odisha. His Father was Late Duryodhan Sahu and mother Late Smt Kanak lata Sahu. His father was a singer and also interest in Culture & literature. Since his childhood, Sudhakar ji has learned music from his Father. When he was studying in 3<sup>rd</sup> Standard, his uncle Gangadhar Mohanty brought him to Cuttack. He learned Odissi dance from Guru Duryodhan Mohanty at Cuttack, then from Jayram Kundu at Jajpur. He joined Annapurna Theater (in B group) at Cuttack in the year 1951 as a dancer and performed in the drama "Pahili raja".



In 1953, he joined "Janta Rangmanch" and performed in the Drama "Parakalama". After that he performed at Delhi and got recognition. In the year 1954, he started learning Odissi dance from Guru Deba Prasad Dash and Odissi Music from Sangeet Sudhakar Balakrushna dash. In 1955, he has also performed at Delhi in the Dance drama "sarat Rasa" which was choreographed by Guru Deba Prasad Das. In 1956, he got the scholarship (monthly Rs 75/-) from Odisha Sangeet Natak Academy and got the training of odissi dance from Gotipua guru Babaji Padmanabha Das and Debadasi Guru Mohan

Mohapatra.

In 1956, he got the Visharad degree in Odissi dance from national music association Cuttack. In 1957, he started teaching Odissi Dance at Kishor club, Puri.



He imparted teaching in:

1. Baripada kala parisada, Baripada
2. Sambalpur Kala parisada, Sambalpur
3. Kala bikash Kendra, Chhatrapur
4. Nrutya sangeet kala mandir, balasore
5. Manmohan Sangeet kala Parisad, Bhadrak
6. Sadhana Dance Academy, Bhubaneswar
7. Nrutya sangeet kala parisad, Bhadrak
8. Kennjhar Kala Kendra, keonjhar
9. Asha Sangeet Kala Academy



### **Choreography:**

He is best in choreographing Abhinaya. He has choreographed Kalyan Pallavi, Gouda, Anand Bhairabi, Saberi, Basant.

(a) **Group Abhinaya:**

(b) Astanayika, Rutu Nayika, Bichitra varna, Sambhabami Yuge Yuge, Nabagrahastaka, Suryastaka, Ashta Binayak

(c) **Solo Abhinaya:**

(d) Odissi chhanda, champu, Janana, Bhajana, Astapadi, Nabarasa, Dasha avatara, Astasambhu, Shibastaka, Shiba pancharatna.

(e) **Dance drama:**

(f) Chandaluni, Konark, Manini, Sarat Rasa, Manika, Shakuntala, Chandrabhaga, Yuge yuge Utkal, Madana bhasma, Puspita(jauban Abhisara), Sagar sangam, Urbashi.

(g) **Folk Dance:** Danda, Paika, Rasarkeli, Nachnia, karama, Jhumar.

(h) **First introduced:** Introduction of "Bandha Nrutya" in the second step of Odissi Dance.

(i) Bijoylakhmi mohanty, Minashree Dutta, Babita Mohanty, Lina Mishra are the disciples of this Bandha Nrutya.

(j) **Examiner:** Appointed as Examiner for M. mus (Alankar) by Akhil Bharatiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya for the last 10 years. Examiner for Odisha Sangeet Natak Academy, Bhubaneswar and Pracheen kalakendra, Chandigarh.

### **Award and Honours:**

1. Junior Fellowship from Govt of India.
2. Kalinga Bharati Sacidananda Award, Cuttack, 1991.
3. Orissa Sangeet Natak Academy Award, 1992
4. Honour from Youth Hostel Association India, Cuttack
5. Darpan Award, Bhubaneswar
6. Deba Prasad award, Brahmapur.
7. Kusambha Sangeet Sabha Award, Balasore.
8. Salandi Sanman Award, Bhadrak.
9. Senior fellowship, Ministry of culture, Govt of India.
10. Kalakar Sanmana at Anugul, 2008
11. Mahima sanman at Dhenkanal mahotsav 2009
12. Chhatrapur Kalavikash Kendra organized 75<sup>th</sup> Guru Sudhakar Sahoo samana at Bhubaneswar on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2010 sponsored by Sangeet Natak Academy, New Delhi
13. Srimayee Nrutyasthan, Bhubaneswar organized 76<sup>th</sup> Guru Sudhakar Sahoo samana at Bhubaneswar on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2011 sponsored by Sangeet Natak Academy, New Delhi
14. Awarded Kala Bibhusana 2011 from Yubaka Kranti Sansthan Madhya Pradesh
15. Nritya Dhara Organised 77<sup>th</sup> Guru Sudhakar Sahoo samana at New Delhi on 13.09.2012 sponsored by Sangeet Natak Academy, New Delhi
16. Awarded Odissi Nritya Sanman organized by mardal Academy, BBSR held on 2013
17. Awarded Odissi Nritya Sanman organized by Sai Sangita MohaVidyalaya Balasore held on 2013
18. Awarded late Guru Gangadhar Pradhan Odissi Nritya Sanman, organized by Joy Kiran Trust, BBSR held on 2013
19. Awarded Odissi Nritya Sanman, organized by Rajiv Bhasha Kendra, BBSR held on 2013
20. Awarded Kala Bhusan Sanman, organized by Pujya puja Samittee, BBSR held on 2013
21. Awarded Guru Debaprasad das award, organized by Tridhara, BBSR held on 2013.
22. Awarded Odissi Nritya Sanman, organized by Odissi nritya sangeet Mahavidyalaya held on 2013
23. Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra award 2014 Organised by Srujan, Bhubaneswar
24. Utkal pathak Sansad award 2015

25. In 2015, awarded Kendra Sangeet Natak Academy award by New Delhi

**His prominent Disciples:**

Suprava Mishra- Received Gujarat Gaurav Puraskar by Gujarat Sangeet Natak Academy and Indira Gandhi Rajbhasha Puraskar by Honble President of India Shri Pranav Mukharjee. She is also a B-Graded Artist of Doordarshan.

Senior scholarship from Govt of India, Department of culture:-

Mahamaya Kar, Ipsita Tripathy, Iteshree Mohanty, Urmila Sahu, Guru Gajendra Panda, Bijoylakhmi Mohanty, Dr Nita Bahidar, Dr Sipra Mandal, Bharati Sinha, Prof Malavika Ray, Prof Bani Dutta, Prof Purnima Barik( National youth award), Sangamitra Singh( National Youth Award), Bani Madhav (National youth Award), Alpana Nayak(newsland), Asima Sahoo , Mary Archulata( USA), Menaka Mahodaya( California), Manjushree Panda(Graded Artist of Doordarshan), Guru Manoj Ku. Behera, Guru Dilip Mohapatra, Guru Sashikant Nayak, Guru Pradeep Behera, Guru Rajesh Kar, Bhagabat Mohanty, Pratap Chandra Biswal, Mala Ghosh( Kolkata), Debiprasad Biswal( Kolkata), Smarika Rout, Debasmita Panda.

I salute to my Guru Saudhakar ji, due to his effort and dedication, Odissi dance reached to the other corners of Odisha beside Cuttack, Puri and Bhubaneswar. Govt of India is now felicitating this great Guru. So for all of us it is a great occasion. My Pranam to Guru ji.

- **Suprava Mishra**  
**Odissi Dancer Writer**

Recipient of Indira Gandhi Rajbhasha Puraskar from Honble President of India Shri Pranav Mukharjee and Gujarat Gaurav Puraskar by Gujarat Sangeet Natak Academy.