

ghungroo kathak academy

Life History

Achchan Maharaj -(acchan maharaj)

Achchan Maharaj was born in 1893 in Sultanpur district. He was the eldest of the three sons of Kalika Prasad. His full name was Jagannath Prasad. The name given in childhood, Achhe Bhaiya and became Achchan Maharaj. He received his dance lessons from his uncle Bindadin Maharaj. He lived in the court of Nawab Rampur for a long time. Then he returned and settled in Lucknow. He died in Lucknow around 1946.

Achchan Maharaj was a very successful dancer. He was considered the dance emperor of the twentieth century. He had full authority on both the expressions and rhythm of Kathak dance. He used to say very subtle things through Body movements or anga sanchalan, which could not be expressed by words. He could easily show the difficult lyrical with expression. It was his specialty to tell his feelings by singing thumri. They also used to compose new pieces, paran immediately. The execution of his Aanchal or Ghongat Gat was famous. he used to dance skillfully in Dhamar, Sultal, Brahmatal, etc., His specialty was to show his emotion by singing thumri.

He composed many dances related to Krishna Leela.

His nature was very simple and without anger and pride. On his death, the music world was deeply saddened. His worthy son Birju Maharaj is the representative dancer of Kathak dance in present times.

Shambhu Maharaj

Shambhu Maharaj was the son of Maharaj Kalika Prasad and brother of Achchan Maharaj. He was born in Lucknow in 1908. He received dance lessons from Bindadin Maharaj and Achhan Maharaj. He learned Thumri from Ustad Rahimuddin Khan Sahib.

Shambhu Maharaj used to give more importance to Bhava in dance. His idea was that dance without emotion looks lifeless. He used to skillfully perform all the Raas and Bhavas of Kathak. He used to sing thumri while sitting and then used to explain it with emotion. He believed in traditional dance and did not lay much emphasis on experimental dance. His singing of Ghunghat is quite famous.

He has received many awards and titles for his dancing skills. He has been given titles like Padma Shri, President Award, Nritya Samrat, Abhinay Chakraborty. In 1955, he was appointed Professor of the Indian Center for the Arts in Delhi, where he taught Kathak dance to countless disciples. He died in 1970. He was an exceptionally popular artist of the Lucknow Gharana.

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Lachhu Maharaj

Lachhu Maharaj was the son of Kalika Prasad. His real name was Baijnath Prasad Mishra, which deteriorated and read Lachhu Maharaj. He was born in Lucknow and was very playful in his childhood. From a young age, he demonstrated his dancing skills. His dance education was completed by Maharaj Bindadin, Kalika Prasad and Achhan Maharaj. For some time he performed dance with his brother in the princely states of Rampur and Raigad and after that he went to Bombay. In Bombay, he worked as a choreographer in many films. Here he also opened an organization named Nutan Nritya Niket, where he continued to give dance training independently. In 1972, he was appointed as the director of Kathak Kendra Lucknow. He was awarded the President's Medal in 1957.

Lachhu Maharaj did many experiments in Kathak dance. He presented many dance dramas in a modern way, in which the immortal story of the Indian farmer, Gandhi is famous. It was very popular for him to show the spirit of Krishna teasing while dancing the influx of Dhatka Thunga. For these important contributions, he was awarded the National Medal in 1957.

He died in 1977. He is considered a gem of Lucknow Gharana.

