

# **Sakshi Excellence Awards-2015**

## **Lifetime Achievement Award**

### **Mr.Kasinathuni Viswanath**

**Kasinadhuni Viswanath** was born on 19 Feb 1930 to Kasinadhuni Subrahmanyam and Kasinadhuni Saraswatamma. His ancestral roots come from Pedapulivarru, a small village on the banks of River Krishna.

Mr.Viswanath is married to Jaya Lakshmi and they have three children: Padmavati, Nagendranath and Ravindranath. He speaks fluent Telugu, Tamil, and English. He has six grand children.

Mr.Viswanath began his career as a technician in a studio at Chennai and later assisted Adurthi Subba Rao in direction. He also worked as an assistant to director Ramnoth. He wished to work as an assistant to K. Balachander and Bapu. He debuted as a director with Aatma Gowravam, which starred Akkineni Nageswara Rao and won the Nandi Award for Best Feature Film of the year. These were followed by Chelleli Kapuram, Sarada, O Seeta Katha and Jeevana Jyoti which are powerful films centered around women.

It was in Siri Siri Muvva that the famed artistic touch of Mr.K. Viswanath first became visible to the people. This was followed by a series of films based on the themes of art, music and dance. Some of his later films discussed issues of social concern while others presented simple morals and facts of life to the common man in a palatable form.

His one of the career best (hard to pick as he is a perfectionist) 'Sankarabharanam shows the negligence of traditional Indian music with influence of western music, bringing out the best of efficacy in the traditional music towards the end.

Mr.Viswanath has made many films dealing with a wide range of human and social issues: Saptapadi, Sirivennela, Sutradharulu', Subhalekha, Shrutilayalu, Subhasankalpam, Aapadbandhavudu, Swayam krushi, and Swarnakamalam have lead characters representing different strata of society, meticulously etched to suit the larger picture.

Poornodaya Creations contributed to Mr.K. Viswanath's dreams of making meaningful films. Sri. E NageswaraRao firmly stood behind and encouraged Mr.K. Viswanath to make films with Telugu nativity that have real characters with whom audiences can associate with.

Poornodaya produced some of not just the commercial hits but milestone films of Mr.Viswanath's directional ventures thereby richly contributing to Tollywood like Sankarabharanam, Swatimutyam, Saagarasangamam, Sutradharulu, Aapadbandhavudu. So we fondly remember Telugu films not just for formula ones with typical stereotype song-dance-fight.

In 1995, Mr.Viswanath ventured into mainstream acting. His first film as an actor was Subha Sankalpam. Later on he did many movies such as Swarabhishekam which he himself directed and acted and other movies like Pandurangadu, Narasimha Naidu, Lakshmi Narasimha, Seemasimham, Santosham, Tagore, Aadavari Matalaku Arthale Verule and Tamil films like Kuruthipunal, Kakkai Siraginilae, Mugavaree, Bagavathi, Pudhiya Geethai, Yaaradi Nee Mohini and Rajapattai,Uthama Villain. He is playing a role in Siva Narayna Teertha in TTD's Sri Venkateswara Bhakthi Channel (SVBC). He also plays in serials like Chellamey which is the owner of an orphanage.

## **Awards**

### **Civilian honor**

- Padmashri (1992), Government of India

### **Honorary doctorate**

- Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University

### **International honor**

- Prize of the Public at the Besancon Film Festival of France – 1981 for Sankarabharanam
- 2014 GAMA Life Time Achievement Award

### **National Film Awards**

- 1980 – National Film Award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment for Sankarabharanam
- 1982 – Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration for Saptapadi
- 1987 – National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Telugu for Swati Mutyam
- 1990 – National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Telugu for Sutradharulu
- 2005 – National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Telugu for Swarabhishekam

### **Filmfare Awards**

- 1974: Filmfare Best Director Award (Telugu) for O Seeta Katha
- 1975: Filmfare Best Director Award (Telugu) for Jeevana Jyoti
- 1982: Filmfare Best Director Award (Telugu) for Subhalekha
- 1983: Filmfare Best Director Award (Telugu) for Saagara Sangamam
- 1986: Filmfare Best Director Award (Telugu) for Swati Mutyam
- 1987: Filmfare Best Director Award (Telugu) for Swayamkrushi
- 1989: Filmfare Best Story Award for Eeshwar Hindi film
- 1992: Filmfare Best Director Award (Telugu) for Aapadbandhavudu
- 1994: Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award (South)
- 1995: Filmfare Best Director Award (Telugu) for Subha Sankalpam

### **Nandi Awards**

- 1986: Nandi Award for Best Director - Swati Mutyam
- 1987: Nandi Award for Best Director - Shruti Layalu
- 1992: Raghupathi Venkaiah Award – Lifetime achievement
- 1995: Nandi Award for Best Character Actor - Subha Sankalpam
- 2000: Nandi Award for Best Supporting Actor - Kalisundam Raa

### **Other honors**

- Viswa Vikhyata Darsaka Sarvabhowma
- Chittor V. Nagaiah Puraskaram

