



ANUPAMA BHATTACHARYYA

Recreating her Identity

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Anupama Bhattacharyya holds the distinction of being the first mobile theatre female artist from Assam as well as an actress of repute in Assamese films. She was born on the 27th August, 82 years ago in Sibsagar to Gopal Bezbaruah and Gunada Bezbaruah. She had three sisters and one brother. Her early forays into acting at school included a role in a scene on a boat singing a song, which she fondly recollects. She loved watching movies, especially Meena Kumari’s acting. Her early schooling was done in the local L.P.School and later on in Phuleswari Higher Secondary School. However, she could study only up to HSLC level.

She was married off to Uday Bhattacharyya at the tender age of 12 years. Her first marriage was unfortunately a short one which lasted only for 8 days when her husband expired. A victim of child marriage, Anupama was actually happy to have her ‘sendur’ removed. She was unaware of the meaning of marriage and was excited to return home to cherish her dreams of acting in different roles. She resumed

her studies at Phuleswari School. Time rolled on, and quite unexpectedly she got a chance to act in the Assamese feature film 'Siraj' in which the producer was Shiva Prasad Bhattacharyya who practised in the Jorhat Law Court. They got married and after three years, the couple was blessed with one child, a girl who was better known as Runumi Thakur, the singer. However, fate struck again and Anupama became a widow for the second time when her husband died a few years later.

Her real struggle began only then. She became a casual announcer in All India Radio. She also joined the mobile theatre as an actress and in the process became the first Assamese woman to emerge in such a role. She was involved with the Nataraj Theatre. She was the recipient of a large number of awards and trophies in her career. Among them, she treasured the Bhabendra Nath Saikia Maan Patra, another award in the name of Aidew Handique, Axom Sahitya Sabha Award (1993) and yet another award in 1987 in the memory of Bishnu Prasad Rabha, a cultural icon of Assam. She also received the Silpi Pension from the Govt. of Assam.

Anupama Bhattacharyya's hobbies include weaving and cooking indigenous food. She wishes to teach acting to the new generation of aspiring actors and actresses and to streamline their creative forces in the right direction. □□