

Photo Gallery

First Best of ASEAN Performing Arts

Jakarta, 6-7 May 2008

The Best of ASEAN Performing Arts is a series of cultural events that showcases the richness and diversity of performing arts in the region. The purpose of the series is to promote ASEAN awareness through the region's rich and diverse cultures as well as to acknowledge the important role that Jakarta has played over the last 32 years as the host city of the ASEAN Secretariat.

To launch the series, the ASEAN Secretariat has jointly organised with the ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Indonesia a visual treat of traditional dances and puppetry from the various regions of Indonesia. The inaugural event is titled "The Mosaic Archipelago".



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Gedung Kesenian Jakarta



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***Nyai Langgeng* Dance from DKI Jakarta**

This is known as the Betawi dance. It originated from present-day Jakarta. *Lenggeng Nyai* dance is a new creation dance that originated from *Gambang Kromong* folk art. The story is about a woman (*Nyai*) expressing her happiness and freedom in making choices in her life. This dance is commonly used to welcome guests to an event.



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Marpangir Dance from North Sumatra

The *Tortor* dance is from the Batak ethnic group. It is a religious dance to praise God after every successful endeavor, such as after a good harvest or a wedding.



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Tifa Dance from East Nusa Tenggara

This is a new dance creation from East Nusa Tenggara symbolizing joy and happiness of cooperation and brother-hood. It is performed by nine youths playing the *tifa* (traditional drum) under the moonlight.



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Hudoq Dance from East Kalimantan

This is a ritual dance by the Dayaks. It is to chase away the devil that may disturb their harvest in the rice field. The dance is performed by wearing a wooden mask resembling a beast and having two pieces of banana leaves or coconut leaves wrapped around the dancer's body.



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Rapai Saman Dance from Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam

This dance originated from the highlands of Gavo-Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam. The Saman song is recited in Arabic while the Saman dance is performed to celebrate important occasions such as weddings, grand openings or the celebration of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad.



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Japin Dance from Riau

This dance has a lot of Islamic influence because Riau, where the dance originated, has a Muslim majority population. This is a friendship dance but is also a welcoming dance. The dominant principal movement is in the foot, while the hands move only to maintain equilibrium.



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***Ngremo* Dance from East Java**

This dance, with its dynamic and strong movements, represents the spirit of a warrior. The music is equally energetic and dynamic.



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Legong Kraton Dance from Bali

This dance represents the conflict between the Prince of *Kahuripan* Kingdom and the King of *Lasem* who kidnapped *Rangkasari*, the Prince's sister. The Prince threatens war unless his sister is freed. On this way to battle, the King meets a giant bird which predicts his death. In the battle that ensues, the King is killed.



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Mambri Dance from Papua

This dance tells the story about a tribe that chooses an ambassador or an envoy of the tribe in order to settle their differences with another tribe in order to stop in the war and bring peace between those two tribes.



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Wayang Ajen from West Java

This is a Sundanese Puppet show on the Ramayana story: *Shinta Obong*. It is a story of how *Dewi Shinta* tries to prove to her husband and to his people of Ayodyapala that she is still pure and had not been touched by the evil King *Rahwana*.



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Interactive Angklung

The *Angklung* is a musical instrument made of bamboo. In this interactive session, several Indonesian songs and the ASEAN Song of Unity are performed.



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Performers

