

HAYATI: Panji Searching for the Essence of Love
A Javanese musical performance of Indonesian folklore stories
Created and presented for the Qatar-Indonesia 2023 Year of Culture

To celebrate the Qatar-Indonesia 2023 Year of Culture, Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa Bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia invited Indonesian director Rama Soeprapto and his theater company to create a musical inspired by Indonesian folklore stories, featuring traditional crafts, musical instruments, masks and dance. The stories of Panji and Sekartaji, some of the most beloved of Indonesia's rich cultural heritage and folklore, formed the basis for "Hayati: Panji Searching for the Essence of Love."

Originating from the island of Java, the tale of Panji and Sekartaji is known all over Indonesia and Southeast Asia. First told in the East Javanese courts of the Kediri and Janggala Kingdoms during the 12th century, the stories were later adapted and re-told in other parts of Indonesia.

These stories were traditionally performed as wayang (shadow puppet) plays, which were accompanied by traditional Javanese gamelan music (traditional ensemble music made up predominantly of percussive instruments). Today, they continue to be an important part of Indonesia's cultural heritage, with various adaptations and interpretations across the country.

The stories of Panji and Sekartaji are also considered part of the world's intangible heritage by UNESCO and was included in the UNESCO Memory of the World Program in 2017.

Two performances of "Hayati: Panji Searching for the Essence of Love" will be held at the Katara Opera House on 23rd and 24th May 2023.

RAMA SOEPRAPTO, Director (b. 1966, Jakarta, Indonesia)

Rama Soeprapto is a celebrated artistic director for art and entertainment events in Indonesia. He has been involved in numerous artistic projects in Indonesia and internationally and is currently a judge on *Good Design Indonesia* organized by the Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia.

In 2022, Soeprapto directed the musical "Hai Pemuda," featuring a nostalgic musical composition from Guruh Soekarno Putra. Prior to that, he was involved in the Spice Path Program organized by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology to foster appreciation for various native spices throughout Indonesia.

Soeprapto majored in marketing and performing arts at Towson State University in Maryland, USA. While there, he was selected for a performing arts scholarship program and was active in the Towson State University Dance Company and the Leningrad State Conservatory student exchange program. Soeprapto pursued further studies in film and video production at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA).

His overseas projects include being the Assistant Director for Robert Wilson's epic musical "I La Galigo," which has been performed globally, as well as the music performance of "Temptation of Saint Anthony." In 2012, Soeprapto presented the Majestic Mask dance performance at ArtScience Museum in Singapore in collaboration with Rahayu Supanggah, an Indonesian composer and ethnomusicologist. In 2013, Soeprapto collaborated with dance maestro Tom Ilnur on "Padusi" in Jakarta. Later the same year, Soeprapto created a musical drama show inspired by one of the folktales from Central Java titled "Timun Mas," which was a dream come true for the director after previously working on the musical drama "Bawang Merah Bawang Putih" in 2003.

TITIEN WATTIMENA, Assistant Director and Script Writer (b. 1976, Ujung Pandang, Indonesia)

Prihatini Indah Sari, also known as Titien Wattimena, began her career as an assistant director for music videos and television commercials. Her first foray into screen writing was while working as an assistant director for Rudi Soedjarwo on the movie "Mengejar Matahari" for which she was nominated for a 2002 Indonesian Film Festival award. She then chose "Laskar Pelangi" to be her last film as assistant director. Titien now works full-time as a screenwriter.

Since 2013, Titien has also ventured into songwriting and screenwriting for the stage. In early 2018, Titien wrote a series of songs that became part of Indonesian musician Tohpati's album "Bias."

In April 2018, Titien's video "Wonderful Riau Island" received an Honorary Award at The XIV International Tourism Film Festival in Bulgaria. 2018 also saw Titien become the screenwriter and songwriter for "Opera Ainun," along with the release of "Aruna and Lidahnya," which she adapted from the novel of the same name. This won her the Citra Cup for Best Adapted Screen Play at the 2018 Indonesian Film Festival.

Since mid-2019, Titien has been running a screenplay story development team, called: writers room.

ISKANDAR K. LOEDIN, Artistic Director

Iskandar K. Loedin has been actively involved in the Indonesian performing arts scene since 1995 and has worked with various leading Indonesian dance stylists and directors.

Graduating from Bogor Agricultural University, Loedin developed his interest in stage lighting by studying with (late) Roejito and at the Department of Dramatic Arts, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA. He further studied stage and lighting design under the guidance of Jennifer Tipton and Ming Choo Lee at the Design Department, Yale School of Drama, Yale University, USA.

Performances undertaken in recent years include scenography for Inggit Ganarsih Musical (May 2022) directed by Wawan Sofwan and starring Happy Salma; dance scenography for Rianto's "Hijrah" performed at Rising Festival, Melbourne (June 2022) and De Singel, Antwerp (February 2022); lighting design for "The Planet: A Lament" by Garin Nugroho,

which premiered at the Melbourne Arts Center (February 2020) and toured the Netherlands and Germany (June 2021); Artistic Director of the Musical Series "Nurbaya" which aired on Galeri Indonesia Kaya's YouTube channel (2021); musical "Payung Fantasi" (2022); scenography of monologue "Nusa Yang Hilang" by director Kamila Andini played by Chelsea Islan (May 2021); and the monologue "Amir, Akhir Sebuah Puisi" by director Iswadi Pratama played by Chico Jericho (June 2021).

Loedin is also active in interdisciplinary work. Interdisciplinary collaborations with artists and architects include: the lighting of Monument at Labuan Bajo Pier by artist Sunaryo (2022); collaboration with architect Barry Beagen for the lighting of ROH Projects fine art gallery in Jakarta (2022); Cauldron Asian Games 2018 Bilah Nusantara by artist Sunaryo and architect Supie G. Yolodi (August 2018); lighting installation Lawangkala by Sunaryo (September 2018).

Bayu Pontiagust, Producer

Bayu Pontiagust is a theatre and film producer with 15 years of experience in all aspects of story building and business operations. Since 2013, Pontiagust has worked closely with many theaters and film directors to produce a variety of musical shows, theatrical performances, and movie series.

Pontiagust is passionate about introducing Indonesian folklore to global audiences through theatrical and cinematic productions.

One of Pontiagust's most recent projects was a large-scale production based on popular Indonesian folktales. Produced using both theatrical and cinematic treatments, the musical film series was well received by millions of viewers when it aired in 2020. He later took the same approach to producing two further series based on the tales of Nurbaya and Payung.

GUNARTO, Music Director (b. 1974, Ngawi, East Java, Indonesia)

"Gondrong," Gunarto's nickname, is a musician and composer who was born and raised in a small village at the foot of Mount Lawu to a family with an appreciation for traditional arts – he is the son of a *Dalang* (traditional puppeteer). He completed his formal musical education at SMKI Surakarta before continuing his undergraduate and postgraduate studies at the Institute of Indonesian Arts Surakarta.

His passion for and curiosity about music encouraged him to study many genres of music outside of traditional Javanese music (such as combo band, keroncong, cross culture music, etc.). Gondrong has performed at numerous events and festivals around the world, releasing several albums.

He has also collaborated with Sam Mills and Susheela Raman on a gamelan version recording of "Tomorrow Never Knows" by John Lennon - The Beatles, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the *Revolver* album. Collaborations with Sushela Raman continued to produce albums and finally a Susheela Raman and Ghost Gamelan Orchestra concert at

London's Rounhouse, the first time gamelan music was included in the prestigious venue, which is a barometer of "popular" music.

ERA SOEKAMTO, Costume Designer (b. 1976, Lombok, Indonesia)

Era Soekamto is known as a batik and kebaya fashion designer who used textiles to preserve Indonesia's cultural heritage, especially Javanese culture. For her, batik and kebaya are not just commodities, but also symbols of struggle.

Soekamto studied at LaSalle College of the Arts, which is a public post-secondary art and design institution in Singapore. After graduating, she had the opportunity to teach at LaSalle College Jakarta, as a fashion design teacher for nine years. Shortly after, she became the program director and lecturer at Indonesia International Fashion institute from 2006-2008.

In addition to her academic career, Soekamto became a fashion designer and creative director at PT Urban Crew Indonesia in 1997. In 2012 she was appointed as the Creative Director of Iwan Tirta Private Collection.

In 2022, Era Soekamto collaborated with Apurva Kempinski Bali to revive the richness and wisdom of Javanese culture with Rama Soeprpto as show director, while also launching her own batik brand.

CAST

ACHMAD DIPOYONO, "Panji" Cast and Dancer (b. 1982, Mataram, West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia)

Achmad Dipoyono studied dance at the Indonesian Institute of Arts Surakarta, later earning a master's degree in dance.

Besides being very actively involved with several choreographers as a dancer in Indonesia, he also has experience as director of the Javanese Language Theater Lakon "SAMADI" Teater 9 Group in the context of the Javanese Language Theater Festival (2014), director in the collaborative dance opera of Temanggung and Wonosobo Regency entitled "Mapageh Sang Watukulumpang on the Border of Mount Sumbing and Sindoro" (2019), and others.

Dipoyono is also involved in many international cultural missions, such as the Indonesian art mission delegation to Port Moresby Papua New Guenea (2006), Indonesian cultural mission representing SENAWANGI Jakarta to Madras, Cenai, India (2007), Indonesian art mission delegation to the Asian Wayang Congress in Malaysia (2010), filming of music composer Franco Battiattutti's concert at Teatro Rendano, Cosenza, Italy (2011), Indonesian art mission representing Pura Mangkunegaran "Bedaya Dirada Meta" at the Singapore Art Festival (2011), cultural mission delegation representing UNIMA to China (2012), and the Indonesian-Japanese Theater Collaboration Process at SCOT (Suzuki Company Of Toga), Toyama (2017).

KADEK DEWI ARYANI, "Sekartaji" Cast and Dancer, (b. 1977, Bali, Indonesia)

Kadek Dewi Aryani holds a bachelor's degree in Performing Arts from STSI Denpasar. She successfully introduced Indonesian arts and contemporary dance to over 15 countries, including Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Taiwan, China, India, Canada, USA, and various countries in Europe. She currently performs, teaches and chairs the Sanggar Maha Tjandra.

With her extensive experience and expertise in the performing arts, Aryani has become a respected figure in the world of Balinese dance and culture. Her passion for preserving and promoting traditional Balinese arts has inspired many, and her accomplishments as a performer and teacher have made a significant impact in Indonesia and abroad.

Experienced as a dancer and choreographer, Aryani is also a talented Balinese singer and vocalist. She collaborated with Even Frangfrut (USA) for the soundtrack of Hollywood movie "Bare Knuckle," performing her pieces at prestigious venues such as Hollywood Bowl, BAM New York, July Dance Festival Amsterdam, and several regional arts festivals in Indonesia and around the world.

FAJAR SATRIADI, Lead Dancer (b. 1968, Jakarta, Indonesia)

Fajar Satriadi learned to dance in the fifth grade of elementary school. His father, a military man, passed on his love of Javanese culture to his children. "Art makes one's life move dynamically," Satriadi quoted his father as saying.

Satriadi, who completed his postgraduate program at the Institut Seni Indonesia (ISI) Surakarta, has been performing in major dance shows for the past twenty years. In 1990, he became the lead dancer in the dance drama "Suropati" by Ratno Maruti and Sewntot S. Four years later, Satriadi was entrusted by Indonesian dance maestro Sardono W. Kusumo to play the character Diponegoro in "Opera Diponegoro" (1994), and later played RM Said in the colossal drama "Matah Ati" directed by Atilah Soeryadjaya.

Most recently, Satriadi performed a captivating dance drama titled "Romansa Ariah" in Taman Monas, Jakarta and took part in the Solo International Performing Arts event held at Solo's Vastenburg Fort.

I KETUT RINA, "Forest Guardian" Cast and Dancer (b. 1966, Banjar Teges Kanginan Peliatan Ubud, Bali, Indonesia)

I Ketut Rina started dancing at the age of 8 under the guidance of Sardono Wk., I Made Sidja (Bona), Pasek Made Tempo (Tampak Siring), and Made Kakul (Batuan) in Bali. His formal education was at the Indonesian College of Arts Denpasar, completed in 1992.

Throughout his career as a dancer, Rina participated in several performances by Sardono Wk. With "Tales from Dirah" (1974), Rina traveled to France, Switzerland, Italy, and Germany. Two years later in 1976, Rina's dances took him to the Shiraz Festival in Iran. In 1978, he participated in workshops in India, and with "Mahabhuta," he travelled to the Cervantinodi Mexico festival (1992). In 1986, he participated in the Expo Vancouver art

mission in Canada. He later participated in the Singapore Festival of Arts (1988) with the Temps Fort Theater group from France and worked on "I Laga Ligo" directed by Robert Wilson.