

Chameleon Theatrix

presents the

BALI-JAVA DANCE THEATRE

Program of Traditional and Experimental Indonesian Dance.

Part 1: Traditional

- 1) Pendet- A Balinese welcome dance, usually the first dance to be performed in the Balinese temple for a performance or ritual.
Dancers: Desak Nyoman Suarti & Desak Ketut Suarni
Music: Traditional
- 2) Golek Ayun-ayun- A Classical dance from the court of Yogyakarta in Central Java. It depicts a young girl beautifying herself and preparing herself, inwardly as well as outwardly, to present herself to the world.
Dancer: Urip Sri Maeny
Music: Traditional
- 3) Kandagan- A dance from Bandung, the capital of West Java (also called Sunda). Anjasmara is a beautiful princess whose lover, the hero Damarwulan, is reported to have been killed in battle. She assumes a male disguise in order to travel and find her lover, who in fact turns out to be alive.
Dancer: Ety Salya
Music: Traditional
- 4) Hanuman- This immortal white monkey is a hero of the Hindu-Buddhist epic, The Ramayana. In this brief sequence, he is scouting out the enemy territory of the kingdom of Alanka. This dance is in Yogyanese style, from Central Java.
Dancer: Deena Burton
Music: Traditional
- 5) Legong- The most refined form of Balinese female style dance, it developed from the ancient Sang Hyang ritual, and assumed dramatic form based on the Javanese Panji stories. This episode tells the story of King Lasem, about to go off to war, and Queen Langkesari, who has dreamed he will be killed. She attempts to prevent his departure, but he does not heed her. She leaves angrily and transforms herself into a Garuda bird. The Garuda bird follows the King as he proceeds toward battle, but even after a struggle, is unable to keep him from meeting his death.
Dancers: Ling Ong, Desak Ketut Suarni, Desak Nyoman Suarti.
Music: Traditional
- 6) Bambang-Tjakil- This dance from the court of Surakarta in Central Java shows a young prince whose meditation has been interrupted by the demon Tjakil. In the ensuing battle, Tjakil is defeated, illustrating the high regard the Javanese have for inner spiritual power as opposed to physical force.
Dancers: Urip Sri Maeny & Deena Burton
Music: Traditional

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Part 11: Experimental

1) Putri- Inspired by female style Javanese dance, it represents a young woman who finds herself in an unknown place.

Choreographed and danced by Deena Burton

Music: Braid- composed by Barbara Benary, performed by David Simons and members of the Son Of Lion Gamelan: Barbara Benary, Phillip Corner, Daniel Goode, & Rosalie Donatelli

2) Bacchanal: A young Balinese woman is walking in the forest picking firewood. She is watched by a demon, who changes himself into the form of a handsome young man. They meet, and she falls in love with him. After spending some time together, he leaves her, and she is with child. Her child is born in the form of a demon, but after vanquishing his evil father, he becomes a handsome young man. This is based on a Balinese folk tale.

Choreographed and danced by Desak Ketut Suarni

Music: Bacchanal- composed by John Cage. Taped performance by Margaret Tan

3) Clowns- A series of Indonesian characters adapt to life in New York. Choreographed and danced by Deena Burton.

Music: Eine Kliene Gamelan- composed by Daniel Goode, performed by David Simons and members of the Son of Lion Gamelan: Barbara Benary, Phillip Corner, Rosalie Donatelli, & Daniel Goode

4) Ratu- Based on the legend of the Javanese Goddess of the South Seas. A young nobleman has dreamed of meeting her, and travels to the seashore. He enters the water, where he is tossed and turned until he comes into her presence. They play together, but she suddenly goes off. He tries to find her, but gets tossed up to the shore again. While he has been in the underwater realm, 1,000 years have passed, and he dies upon reaching land.

Choreographed and danced by Deena Burton & Desak Ketut Suarni

Music: Ratu- composed and performed by David Simons

Administrative Director & Producer: Deena Burton
Lighting Design: Scott Briefer & David Pittman
Stage Manager: Scott Briefer
Sound Engineer: David Simons

The BALI-JAVA DANCE THEATRE expresses its thanks to the following people who helped make this performance possible: Mr. George Berkowitz, Mr. & Mrs. Jay Budin, Mr. & Mrs. Sol Silver, Mr. & Mrs. Martin Sosnoff, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Lewis, Mr. & Mrs. Murray Frank, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Northrup, Mrs. Edith Sperling, & Ms. Islene Pinder. Gamelan instruments courtesy of Son of Lion Gamelan.

The Artists:

Deena Burton studied Asian Theatre at the University of Wisconsin with A.C.Scott. She continued her studies in Java, where she has performed with Javanese dance companies and on national television. Last spring she choreographed Chameleon Theatrix's production of Arabian Nights at the Ohio.

Desak Ketut Suarni and Desak Nyoman Suarti are descended from a long line of accomplished dancers. They come from the village of Pengoeskan, where they studied dance with their grandmother, a renowned dancer of the ancient style of Legong. They have both won all-island Balinese dance competitions, and have performed in Europe, Asia, and in the U.S.

Urip Sri Maeny studied dance at the National Conservatory of Music and Dance in Surakarta. She has toured to Hong Kong, Egypt, and Australia, and currently teaches Javanese dance at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut.

Ety Salya studied dance in Bandung with Irawati, a leading performer of Sundanese dance. She has toured the Middle East, Asia, and the U.S.

Ling Ong was born in Indonesia and grew up in the U.S. She has studied dance in her native Semarang and in Yogyakarta. She has performed for two years with the Balinese-American Dance Theatre, and has studied dance with Desak Nyoman Suarti and Desak Ketut Suarni in New York.

David Simons graduated from the California Institute of the Arts, and has released two cassette tapes of his cheng music (chinese zither). His scores have been published in Soundings and Ear West. In San Francisco he founded the Future Primitives Ensemble. He has performed in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Holland, Germany, and Denmark. Last spring he composed music for Chameleon Theatrix's production of Arabian Nights. He recently composed music for several modern dance concerts, and for an upcoming production at The Open Eye.

Son of Lion Gamelan was founded by Barbara Benary, Phillip Corner, and Daniel Goode. In addition to Indonesian and avant-garde influences, they also draw on resources of other world music, and use the gamelan as a vehicle for their own musical compositions. Rosalie Donatelli joined the group last year.

Scott Briefer is the Assistant Director of Arts for Life, a Festival for Nuclear Disarmament to be held at Theatre for the New City June 5th and 6th. He has directed various Off-Off Broadway productions.

David Pittman is the resident Lighting Designer for the Glines. This season he also directed Spatial Relations.