

SYMPOSIUM ON TRADITIONAL PERFORMANCE: PERSPECTIVES FROM JAPAN AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

20 October 2017
ARI Seminar Room (AS8-04-04)

Traditional performance, loosely defined, refers to any performance genre that can be traced back in time, and incorporates a large corpus of genres ranging from theater, music and dance, to ritual and sports. Although not always obvious, traditional performance plays important roles in the cultural, social and political identities of people and countries in present time. "Traditional Performance: Perspectives from Japan and Southeast Asia," is a half-day symposium where scholars and practitioners get together to discuss present day traditional performance genre in Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore.

The symposium starts with an introduction by Dr Lim Beng Choo from the Department of Japanese Studies, NUS. The introduction provides the background and highlights key questions of the symposium. This will follow by two dialogue sessions: Shigeyama Doji, a professional Kyōgen performer and Lim Beng Choo will discuss the characteristics of Kyōgen performance style and approaches, as well as Shigeyama's personal journey of performance within and outside of Japan. The second dialogue session between Dr Helly Minarti from the Jakarta Arts Council and Dr Miguel Varela from the Theater Studies Programme at English Language and Literature department will discuss issues confronted by practitioners and scholars in the pedagogy and politics of performing tradition in Indonesia.

The three paper presentations after the coffee break focuses on specific areas pertaining to each presenter's specialization. Dr Ghulam-Sawar Yousof from Malaya University will share with us his research findings on Malaysian traditional theater performance. The presentation by Dr Amparo Umali from University of Philippines Diliman will be on her experience in producing Filipino plays incorporating Japanese Noh style. Miguel Varela will highlight the use of digital technology, an important development in the study of traditional performance, in some of the pioneering projects he has done.

This symposium is organized by the Department of Japanese Studies with collaboration from Theater Studies Programme of the Department of English Language and Literature. It is supported by the Mitsui NUS Japanese Studies in Southeast Asia Fund, and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry Singapore Foundation.

To register, please go to <https://mysurvey.nus.edu.sg/EFM/se/543BE5C2210A8826>.



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12:30pm – 1:30pm	Introduction
1:00pm	<p>Traditional Performance Today: Perspectives from Japan and Southeast Asia Lim Beng Choo Department of Japanese Studies, NUS</p> <p>Dialogue Sessions</p>
1:30pm	<p>Kyōgen – Within and Outside of Japan Shigeyama Doji Shigeyama Kyōgen School Lim Beng Choo Department of Japanese Studies, NUS</p>
2:30pm	<p>The Pedagogy and Politics of Performing Tradition in Indonesia Helly Minarti Jakarta Arts Council Miguel Escobar Varela Theatre Studies Programme of the Department of English Language and Literature, NUS</p>
3:30 – 3:45pm	Coffee Break
3:45pm – 6:00pm	Paper Presentations
3:45pm	<p>Innovation and Development of New Genres in Traditional Malay Theatre: A Historical and Cultural Perspective Ghulam-Sarwar Yousof Cultural Centre, University of Malaya</p>
4:30pm	<p>Staging FilipiNOH Plays: A Decade of Collaborations with Japanese Noh Masters Amparo Umali University of the Philippines Diliman</p>
5:15pm	<p>Digital Tools for Contemporary Traditions in Contemporary Times Miguel Escobar Varela Theatre Studies Programme of the Department of English Language and Literature, NUS</p>
6:00pm – 6:15pm	Concluding Remarks