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## **Producing the local: Javanese performance on Indonesian television**

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### **Citation**

Bogaerts, E. M. (2017, December 20). *Producing the local: Javanese performance on Indonesian television*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/58689>

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**Author:** Bogaerts, E.M.

**Title:** Producing the local: Javanese performance on Indonesian television

**Issue Date:** 2017-12-20

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**Els Bogaerts  
2017**

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Omslagontwerp en layout: Amber Bogaerts

Foto's boven en rechts onder: beelden uit TVRI Jogja station identifier 2016

Print: UFB/Grafische Producties

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# **Producing the local Javanese performance on Indonesian television**

Proefschrift

ter verkrijging van  
de graad van Doctor aan de Universiteit Leiden  
op gezag van Rector Magnificus Prof.mr. C.J.J.M. Stolker  
volgens besluit van het College voor Promoties  
te verdedigen op woensdag 20 december 2017  
klokke 11.15 uur

door  
Els Maria Bogaerts  
geboren te Brasschaat in 1955

Promotor: Prof.Dr. B. Arps

Promotiecommissie: Prof.Dr. Matthew Isaac Cohen, Royal Holloway, University of London  
Prof.Dr. Jeroen de Kloet, Universiteit van Amsterdam  
Prof.Dr. Nira Wickramasinghe

Aan mijn moeder en mijn vader  
die me leerden lezen en leven

Untuk Bu Nur (Sri Djoharnurani)  
peneliti sejati, sahabat sejati





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## Credits

A huge detour – geographically, emotionally, intellectually and physically – brought me back to the subject with which I had obtained my first academic degree: performance on television. After my study of Germanic philology and Theatre Science at Antwerp University, I immersed myself completely in Javanese dance and music. This was the beginning of my fascination with Indonesian cultures, a fascination that continued unabated. Above all, my dance and music teachers and fellow students in Indonesia opened my eyes and heart to the local performing arts and to them I am very grateful.

One of the very first days I spent as a student at the Indonesian Institute for the Arts in Yogyakarta, I learned the meaning of the word *belum*. Not only is it the Indonesian equivalent of the English ‘not yet’. It contains a philosophical approach towards life, work and achievement. The correct answer to a question like ‘have you mastered this dance’ was not *tidak* (no), but *belum*. While *tidak* closes off all future developments, *belum* encompasses potential and possibility, progress and hope. The last few years this knowledge has kept me going on with my research and writing, despite the many breaks because of other projects, work and ‘life’. To all the people who continued to believe in the final result of this adventure, offering me support in various forms, I would like to express my sincere gratitude. It is not possible to thank them all personally. Nevertheless, I would like to mention a few persons specifically.

The ideas for my research took shape when I joined the Verbal Art in the Audiovisual Media of Indonesia (VA/AVMI) research programme at Leiden University between 1996 and 2001. The discussions with the VA/AVMI members who became dear colleagues and friends sharpened my mind.

In Indonesia, it was an honour to have been acquainted with the late Sri Djoharnurani, the late Veven Sp Wardhana and the late Heru Kesawa Murti. Sri Djoharnurani, Bu Nur, and her family welcomed me with grand hospitality and generosity whenever I visited Yogyakarta. Her intellectual keenness and creativity, her straightforwardness and her eagerness to live and learn enlivened our discussions on our research, on literature, music, performing arts, electronic media and many other subjects. Over the years I exchanged ideas with Veven Sp Wardhana, Mas Veven, a true friend of long standing. He showed a sincere interest in my research, as he realized the importance of local cultures for Indonesia, and provided me with inside views. Heru Kesawa Murti, actor and script writer of *Mbangun Desa*, very generously and wholeheartedly provided me with data and programme scripts.

Many other people in Indonesia involved in the world of performance and television contributed to my research and writing. Without their hospitality and generosity it would not have been possible to write this dissertation.

I would like to thank the TVRI Yogyakarta producers who, very generously and without any restraint, provided me with loads of information, materials and resources during my short research visits between 1997 and 2012. Akhmad Sofyan, Agus Kismadi, RM Kristiadi and Heruwati never tired of answering my questions and of my presence in the television studio or at other recording locations. I would like to thank the crew and actors of *Mbangun Desa*, *Obrolan Angkring* and *Pangkur Jenggleng*, several kethoprak groups performing at TVRI and all the people who agreed to be interviewed and talk about their experiences as an actor, musician, dancer and/or producer at TVRI Yogyakarta, or as culture specialist. A special

thanks goes to Oka Kusumayudha (Jogja TV), Panca Cahya Utama, Andreas Ambesi and Gufroni Sakaril (Indosiar) and the staff of RBTv and RCTI. Didik Nini Thowok, Bondan Nusantara (with a special thanks for the kethoprak scripts), Marsidah, Habib Bari, Sunardian Wirodono and many unrestrainedly shared their experiences and views with me.

Eko Ompong Santosa transcribed the televised kethoprak Dewi Sawitri and copied Handung Kus Sudyarsana's script *Pangeran Mangkubumi Wisuda*. Peter Keppy sent me references to kethoprak from the early twentieth century. Philip Yampolsky took the time to compile a list with suggestions for reading. I. W. Pantja Sunjata and Michael Asmara recorded and copied TV programmes.

Victoria Clara van Groenendael commented critically on the entire first version of the manuscript; Tineke Hellwig did so for part of the final version. With a perceptive eye Peter Wittoch commented on my approach of the key concept proximity. Tom van den Berge helped me to frame the introduction to my dissertation. Rosemary Robson edited the English, always positive about yet another final paragraph. I. Supriyanto suggested the English translation of several Javanese programme titles. All shortcomings of the dissertation, however, are mine.

The KITLV Library staff provided excellent support and continued doing so after the KITLV library had been closed. José Brittijn at the LIAS office has been very adept at solving practical matters.

The world is a dancing feast, also when writing a dissertation. The long-standing Javanese court dance rehearsals and wonderful get-togethers with Joke Leijfeldt, later joined by Mubarika D.F. Nugraheni, provided balance; the weekly dance with the Leiden NIA group gaiety.

I very much appreciate the continuous support of my dear friends Euis Rosmiati Pram, Liesbeth Dolk, Victoria Clara van Groenendael, Lisette Mertens, Linde Dedrie, Susi Moeimam, Cock Griffioen, Hans Kleijn, Netri Vara Lalita and Rhoma Dwi Aria Yuliantri, and of my brothers and sisters. Gratitude to my friends, relatives and colleagues in Suwâld, Brighton, Antwerp, Leiden, Jakarta, Amsterdam, Sydney, Bandung, London, Surabaya, Nagoya, Leiderdorp, Yogyakarta, Brasschaat, Ann Arbor, Voorschoten, Den Pasar, Den Haag, Tel Aviv, Drongen, Bennekom, Fukuoka, Arnhem, Bangkok, Boijl, Padang, Vancouver, Surabaya, Lemelerveld, Kuala Lumpur, Bantul, Berlin, Gedongkiwo, Melbourne, Garut, Kajang ...

Last but not least, a heartfelt thanks to Kees van der Steege, for diligently informing about my *prioritas nomor satu*, for supporting me in good and less good times, for believing in me.



## **Note on spelling**

Indonesian and Javanese words are spelled according to the Indonesian and Javanese official orthographic guidelines. They have no plural s; in this dissertation plurality will be clear from the context.

Proper names and toponyms are spelled according to the original form.

In Indonesian and Javanese sources, proper names tend to occur in different spellings: Handung Kus Sudyarsana is also spelled Handung Kusudyarsana or Handung Kus Sudyarsono. In such cases I opted for the most frequently occurring form.

Where Javanese script distinguishes between the sounds t/th, d/dh, final k/g and a/o, in contemporary spelling these differences are disregarded. Hence Den Baguse Ngarso instead of Den Baguse Ngarsa, and Gatutkaca instead of Gathutkaca. In quotations I keep to the original.

I opted for the use of kethoprak rather than ketoprak, the latter occurring in quotations and names of troupes and institutions.

