

CONTRIBUTORS

Pornrat Damrhung is an Associate Professor in the Department of Dramatic Arts at Chulalongkorn University's Faculty of Arts. For a quarter century, her research and stage work has sought to make traditional Southeast Asian performers, stories, dance and music part of contemporary performances that move today's audiences. She has received many grants and fellowships in Thailand and abroad, and in the last decade, has staged or collaborated in staging many productions in Thailand and other countries. Her work and teaching are in areas of Contemporary Puppetry, Theatre for Young People, Applied theatre, and Intangible Cultural performances for UNESCO Thailand. Email: dpornrat@hotmail.com

Natalie Jo–Anne Diengdoh received her PhD in Folkloristics from the North Eastern Hill University in Shillong, Assam, India in 2015. Her research focus was on the media representation of the *Ka Niam Khasi* tradition of the Khasi tribe in Assam, India. She previously received her MA in Journalism & Mass Communication from Sikkim Manipal University of Health, Medical & Technical Science in 2008 and BA in Mass Communication & Video Production from North Eastern Hill University in 1998. Her professional experiences include teaching, writing, documentary filmmaking and radio productions. Email: nataliejoanne@rediffmail.com and natalie.diengdoh@gmail.com

Chinthaka Prageeth Meddegoda is a Lecturer in North Indian music at the University of Visual and Performing Arts in Colombo. He completed his PhD thesis at Universiti Putra Malaysia under supervision of Prof. Dr. Gisa Jähnichen. His expertise is in Hindustani vocal music, which was acquired at the Bhatkhande Music College and the Banaras Hindu University in India. He is also a member of the International Council for Traditional Music since 2013 and editorial board member of the book series, *Studia Instrumentorum Musicae Popularis*. Email: chinthakameddegoda@yahoo.co.in

I Wayan Dibia is an artist and scholar specializing in Balinese performing arts. He has studied various forms of classical Balinese dances from different masters on the island. His formal education and training includes Conservatory of Balinese Performing Arts (Kokar), Indonesia Dance Academy (ASTI) Denpasar. He received an MA in Dance and a Ph.D in Southeast Asian Performing Arts, both from the University of California, Los Angeles. He has written a number of books and articles, both in English and Bahasa Indonesia. As a performing artist he has toured to Asia, Europe, Australia, and the United States of America. While teaching in the Indonesian Institute of the Arts (ISI) in Denpasar, he has opened a house for performing art creativity, GEOKS, in his

home village. Since February 2016, he is a visiting professor at Taipei National University of the Arts in Taiwan.

Email: w_dibia@yahoo.com

Saba Aslian is currently pursuing a second MA on drama therapy for children in Maynooth University, Ireland. She completed her first MA in Performing Arts (Drama) from the University of Malaya, Malaysia in 2015. While obtaining her BA in Drama from Sooreh University, Iran, she gained experience in theater production as an assistant director, stage secretary, puppet maker, puppeteer and director of puppet shows. Her key interest remains in developing children's puppet theater shows using the traditional Iranian marionette puppetry called Kheymeh Shab Bazi.

Email: sabaaslian@gmail.com

Ali Fallahzadeh is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The author currently has undertaken his thesis pertinent to realm of comparative textual analysis between Piet Mondrian's Neo-Plasticism ideology and Japanese philosophy of Zen. He obtained his Bachelor Degree from Curtin University of Australia majoring in Arts & Design. Then He pursued his Master Degree in "Visual Arts and Visual Communication Design" in Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) in North Cyprus.

Email: alfall2001@yahoo.com

Ghulam-Sarwar Yousof holds a degree in English from the University of Malaya and a Doctorate in Asian Theatre from the University of Hawaii. He is a specialist of traditional Southeast Asian theatre, and has written extensively on various Indonesian and Malaysian genres. Additionally, he has worked on South Asian epics, Singapore-Malaysia literature as well as Islamic literature, particularly the Urdu ghazal. As a creative writer Ghulam has published several volumes of poetry, drama as well as short stories all written in English. Ghulam-Sarwar Yousof is currently Adjunct Professor at the Cultural Centre, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur.

Email: gsyousof@um.edu.my

Sumathi Maniam Raj is currently teaching in the National School of Brickfields 2, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She has a Masters and PhD in Performing Arts (University of Malaya), B.Ed (Hons) in TESL/ Literature (Universiti Putra Malaysia), Diploma in Teaching and certificates in music theory and practice. She has written several academic articles and continues writing and research in Southeast Asian folklore, traditional theatre, mythology, religion and aesthetics.

Email: sumathiraj14@gmail.com

Raja Morgan Veerappan is an English Language lecturer with Institute of Teacher Education Malaysia International Languages Campus. He holds a Masters and PhD in Performing Arts (University of Malaya), B.Ed (Hons) in TESL/ Literature (Universiti Putra Malaysia), Graduate Diplomas in Public Relations, Tamil Language and Literature. He has been involved as a choreographer in Malaysian Airlines and local television drama.

Email: rajmorgan14@hotmail.com

Geneviève Gamache is currently a Visiting Senior Lecturer in the Visual Art Department of the Cultural Centre at UM. She received her Bachelor and Master degrees from McGill University, where she studied in the Department of Art History and Communication Studies. She then completed a PhD at the University of Victoria, Canada, with a specialty in Visual Art, where she explored issues of Localism, Nationalism and Globalisation in an Asian context. She then taught in Canada, the USA and South Asia. Before joining the UM research team in Visual Art, she taught at Asian University for Women, where she quickly became Chair of Asian Studies, then Associate Dean of Faculty. Her current research centres on issues of traditions, or rather the transformation of traditions at the interstice of local and global powers.

Email: genevieve@um.edu.my and ggamac@gmail.com

Ethnomusicologist **Patricia Matusky** has taught many years at universities in the Malaysia, Singapore and the USA. Her publications include articles on Malaysian folk and classical music in international journals and encyclopedias, and the books *Malaysian Shadow Puppet Theatre and Music: Continuity of an Oral Tradition* (1993, 1997), *Muzik Malaysia: Tradisi Klasik, Rakyat dan Sinkretik* (with Tan Sooi Beng, 1997, 2012) and English translation (Ashgate, 2004). She researches traditional Malay and Dayak music in Malaysia. She was previously an Adjunct Professor at the Cultural Centre, University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, and is currently an Adjunct Professor at the Malaysian National Academy of Arts, Culture and Heritage (ASWARA). She currently serves as Chairperson of the ICTM [International Council for Traditional Music] Study Group on Performing Arts of Southeast Asia (PASEA).

Email: pmatusky@gmail.com

Salmyyah Raheem is currently pursuing her PhD in Theatre/Drama criticism at the Cultural Centre, University of Malaya, Malaysia. She received her Master in English Literary Studies from the International Islamic University Malaysia in 2015 and also received her Bachelor in English Language and Literature (Honours) from the same university in 2011. Her current research interests include philosophy, Sufi literature and Marxism in literature. Her current research is on a critical reinterpretation of Aristotle's *Poetics*.

Email: salmyyah_raheem@hotmail.com

Yau Sim Mei is a lecturer of English at the Department of English and Literature, International Islamic University Malaysia, and is currently pursuing her doctorate degree at the Cultural Center, Universiti Malaya. She has taught both English proficiency and literature at the tertiary level. Her interests include drama and theatre, 19th century American Literature and Renaissance Literature. Her current research focuses on the history of Malaysian drama in English.

Email: yausimmei@gmail.com