

ASIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
Southeast Asia Publications Series

Since 1979 the Southeast Asia Publications Series (SEAPS) has brought some of the best of Australian scholarship on Southeast Asia to an international readership. It seeks to publish leading-edge research by both young and established scholars on the countries and peoples of Southeast Asia across all disciplines of the humanities and social sciences with particular encouragement to interdisciplinary and comparative research.

SEAPS is now published for the Asian Studies Association of Australia by NUS Press, a unit of the National University of Singapore, in alliance with the University of Hawaii Press in North America and the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS) [non-Indonesia titles] and the KITLV Press [Indonesia titles] in Europe.

**Editorial Board**

Professor Howard Dick (University of Melbourne) (Editor)

Professor Barbara Andaya (University of Hawaii and University of Hawaii Press)

Professor Colin Brown (Curtin University of Technology)

Associate Professor John Butcher (Griffith University)

Professor Emeritus David Chandler (Monash University)

Associate Professor Helen Creese (University of Queensland)

Dr Robert Cribb (Australian National University)

Dr Jane Drakard (Monash University)

Dr Greg Fealy (Australian National University)

Professor Robert Elson (University of Queensland)

Professor Barbara Hatley (University of Tasmania)

Professor Kevin Hewison (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Professor Virginia Hooker (Australian National University)

Professor Rey Ileto (National University of Singapore)

Gerald Jackson (NIAS - Nordic Institute of Asian Studies)

Associate Professor Paul Kratoska (NUS Press, National University of Singapore)

Professor Tim Lindsey (University of Melbourne)

Professor Andrew MacIntyre (Australian National University)

Emeritus Professor Campbell Macknight (Australian National University)

Professor Anthony Milner (Australian National University)

Dr Harry Poeze (Director, KITLV Press, Leiden)

Professor Anthony Reid (National University of Singapore)

Associate Professor Craig Reynolds (Australian National University)

Professor Merle Ricklefs (National University of Singapore)

Professor Kathryn Robinson (Australian National University)

Dr Mina Roces (University of New South Wales)

Professor Krishna Sen (Curtin University of Technology)

Associate Professor Maila Stivens (University of Melbourne)

Dr Phillip Taylor (Australian National University)

Professor Carl Thayer (University of New South Wales, ADFA)

Professor Adrian Vickers (University of Sydney)

Website: [http://iceaps.anu.edu.au/asaa\\_publications/southeast\\_asia.html](http://iceaps.anu.edu.au/asaa_publications/southeast_asia.html)

JAVANESE PERFORMANCES ON  
AN INDONESIAN STAGE

Contesting Culture, Embracing Change

*Barbara Hatley*



ASIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

in association with

NUS PRESS

*First published in 2008 by:*

NUS Press  
National University of Singapore  
AS3-01-02, 3 Arts Link  
Singapore 117569

Fax: (65) 6774-0652  
E-mail: nusbooks@nus.edu.sg  
Website: <http://www.nus.edu.sg/npu>


ISBN 978-9971-69-410-4 (Paper)

All rights reserved. This book, or parts thereof, may not be reproduced in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or any information storage and retrieval system now known or to be invented, without written permission from the Publisher.

© 2008 NUS Press

Cover: Bondan Nusantara introducing a community show held in the wake of the devastating 28 May 2006 earthquake in Yogyakarta. Photo supplied by Bondan Nusantara.

Typeset by: Scientifik Graphics  
Printed by: Mainland Press Pte Ltd



*To the performers,  
who made it all possible*

## Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xiii
<i>A Note on Spelling</i>	xix
Introduction	1
Chapter 1 Yogyakarta in the 1970s — Communities, Performances, History	13
Chapter 2 Theatre Conventions and Social Meanings	39
Chapter 3 Stories from History, Politics of Today	80
Chapter 4 Javanese Tradition on the Modern Indonesian Stage	115
Chapter 5 Yogyakarta in the 1990s — Grand Spectacles, Collaborative Alliances	155
Chapter 6 Theatre and Politics after the Fall	189
Chapter 7 Celebrating Yogyakarta Identity	219
Chapter 8 The Final Scene — Women and Gender Imagery in the Spotlight	249
Epilogue	281
<i>Glossary</i>	291
<i>Notes</i>	295
<i>Bibliography</i>	319
<i>Index</i>	331