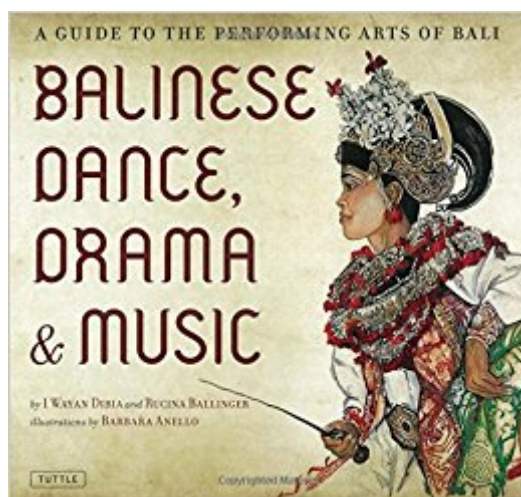


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# Balinese Dance, Drama & Music: A Guide To The Performing Arts Of Bali



## Synopsis

Bali has long been known for its deep spirituality and extraordinary artistic heritage. The dances, dramas, puppetry and music of Bali are more than icons for the island; they are part and parcel of life— as expressions of devotion to the gods, as entertainment, and as a way of instilling cultural values on each generation. *Balinese Dance, Drama & Music* is a lavishly illustrated introduction to Bali's celebrated temple orchestra, the gamelan, to its ancient shadow puppet theater, and to a myriad of traditional and contemporary dances and dance-dramas that continue to enthrall locals and visitors alike. Ideal reading for visitors to the island as well as for anyone interested in Balinese culture, the book presents the history and function of each performance genre, with illustrations and photographs to aid in identification. Introductory sections discuss the way performing arts are learned in Bali and the basic Balinese values which are passed on in these forms, as well as some of the basic religious and cultural tenets that are expressed in the arts and the functions of the forms themselves. Different sections describe particular forms of performing arts, such as Gong Angklung, Legong, the Keraton dance, Wayang Kulit, and the new phenomenon of women's gamelan groups, the evolution of each and the place it has in the culture of Bali. The book is enhanced with a bibliography and discography and over 150 specially prepared watercolors of Balinese performers and performances.

## Book Information

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: Tuttle Publishing (March 10, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0804841837

ISBN-13: 978-0804841832

Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,124,426 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #87 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance > Folk](#) #108 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Dance](#) #123 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Dramas & Plays > Regional & Cultural > Asian](#)

## Customer Reviews

Dr. I Wayan Dibia is a dancer, musician and, more especially, a choreographer. He received his

Ph.D. from the University of California in 1992 and a professorship in choreography from the College of Indonesian Arts in Denpasar in 1999. Rucina Ballinger is an American educator and lecturer on Balinese culture. She is an accomplished dancer and gamelan player and has toured extensively with various Balinese groups. She has lived in Ubud with her Balinese husband and two sons since 1985. Barbara Anello is a self-employed American artist, writer and photographer who divides her time between Manhattan and Bali. She has exhibited her paintings and photographs in the US, Europe and Asia. The paintings shown here were specially prepared for this book.

This is the only recent book on this topic. It is authoritative, beautifully illustrated and a complete bargain for the price. People go to Bali and hang out on the beach and go to cheap tourist performances. This book tells the lay person (and even many experts) about the true ritual life in Bali which is enormous, complex and infinitely fascinating. The authors are two of the most authoritative researchers on Balinese traditional performance. Highly, highly recommended.

Great book! Explains different parts of the culture in detail. Of course, for more depth, you will need to consider additional resources. However, this book is visually beautiful and will make your trip to Bali much more culturally worthwhile! Enjoy

Beautiful book! Chock full of information and gorgeous photographs!

As a graduate student this book gave me a great history of the Balinese Dance Drama and a lot of details of the process, the history, the cultural relevance, with colorful pictures.

This book touches on many aspects of the performing arts in Bali. It is a very good overview and place to start as one delves into the music and dance traditions of Bali. I even appreciate the chapters that cover makeup as well as specific attention to certain dances.

This book is a fabulous resource for attempting to understand Balinese dance, drama, and music. I just love the sound of the multi-toned bells that seem to be unique to that part of the world.

Americans are extremely cultural-centric. They assume that everybody wants to be an American, and tend to ignore other cultures. OK, part of that is the media, which leaves out a lot. This is not useful. Humility is useful. This book is a fairly nice coverage of an alien culture with very interesting

characteristics. It covers Balinese dance, drama, music, and puppetry, and the shadow puppets of this area are very interesting. A performance can last all night, and use more than 15 languages, from Java's history. The puppetmasters memorize all this stuff. I think even a teenager could enjoy this, well a teenager who wasn't into video games, and other such addictions. This one even covers history, how the art forms embody Balinese values, and specific genres, from Gamelan Gong Kibyar, to Wayang shadow puppetry. There is even a listing of useful CDs and books. Nice stuff. The authors clearly love their subject, and it shows. I love a book that reeks of the love of its creator, for the subject, it just satisfies my heart, somehow. *Music Cultures of the Pacific, the Near East, and Asia (3rd Edition)* was my introduction to this fascinating culture, starting with the music.

This excellent book provides an extensive, reader-friendly overview of Balinese dance, music, drama and culture. It's the book we've all been waiting for. Written in an informal and high accessible style with wonderful pictures and illustrations it will no doubt be treasured by academics, Baliophiles or anyone wanting to visit Bali and more deeply experience it's powerful culture. Rucina and Dibia (I know them both) are extraordinary and passionate lovers of all things Bali and have written and taught extensively for decades. If anyone was to write this book, they were the obvious choice. There are dozens of books on this subject - most far too academic and inaccessible - including some of the classics. They got the information right, found the right expressive tone, and the layout is stunning. A wonderful experience throughout! Michael Wiese, filmmaker, publisher and Baliophile

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