

The image shows four male dancers in traditional Aceh attire performing a dance on a stage. They are wearing black short-sleeved shirts with intricate gold and red patterns on the sleeves and chest, and matching patterned sarongs. They are also wearing red neckerchiefs and yellow and green wristbands. The background is a dark red wall with a large, ornate, light-colored geometric pattern. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

Esplanade's da:ns Festival

Rasas 2022: Dances from Aceh

SANGGAR WAREH BUDAYA (INDONESIA)

21-23 OCTOBER 2022

ESPLANADE - THEATRES ON THE BAY
UPPER CONCOURSE

ACEH TRADISIONAL & UNIQUE ART

Aceh is a region that is rich with arts and culture. For hundreds of years, arts and culture has developed within the lives of the people within this region hailed as “Veranda of Mecca”. Although wars and conflict has torn the region, also with the Tsunami of 2004, art activities still live on and flourished. The artists often create moral messages, values of virtue, and social issues as the theme of their work.

Saman Dance, Rapai Geleng Dancce, and Likok Pulo Dance are forms of traditional dances that is energic and unique marked by dynamic movements that is full of vigot. Dance movements as music to accompany poetry, is performed live by the dancers. The attractive drums of Rapai have become the appeal from Aceh traditional dances.

The presence of Aceh in this Esplanade Singapore is also to promote the brand of “the light of Aceh” that reflected the willingness of the people to welcome tourists. Aceh’s honor as “World’s Best Halal Cultural Destination” is an acknowledgement that Aceh welcomes the people of the world. Please come and see for youself of Aceh’s beautiful nature and unique cultural arts.

SAMAN GAYO DANCE

Saman Dance is a traditional dance that is the pride of Aceh people and is lauded as non-material world's heritage since 2011. There are more than thousands of ethnic group that is scattered throughout Indonesia. It is not a surprise that Indonesia has many varieties of dance that originated from various ethnic groups, one of them is Saman Dance. Saman Dance originated from the high lands of Gayo tribe that resides in one of the provinces in Aceh. This strengthens the evidence that almost in all villages, notably Gayo Lues regency has at least a number of Saman Dance group.

Saman Dance was created by an Aceh cleric name Syekh Saman around 14th century. Saman dance was developed as a medium to spread Islam, that is also used to convey messages. This dance also reflects education, religion, etiquette, heroism, cohesiveness, and togetherness. The uniqueness of Saman dance has made this art to be Indonesia's heritage acknowledged by UNESCO on 24 November 2011 Particularly for Saman Dance, the floor pattern is shaped into a shaf (row). Every dancer would sit tightly side to side like in a shaf in an Islamic prayer.

Saman dance is done without particular musical instruments aside from using hand clappings in body movements that is made to be attributes of clapping both hands, starting from medium tempo to fast.

RAPA'I GELENG DANCE

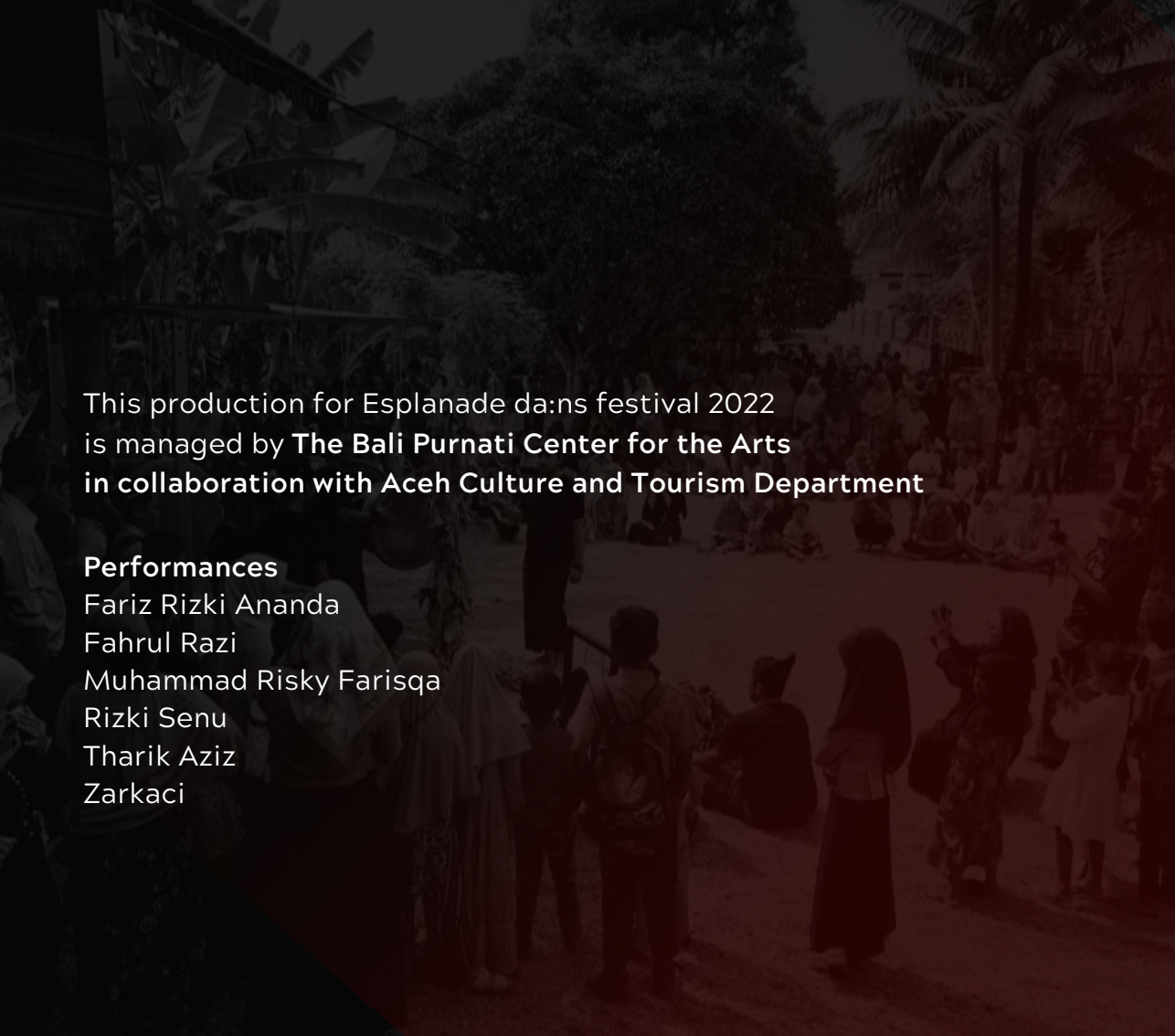
Rapai geleng dance is one of Aceh ethnical dance that originated from Aceh's southern region, Manggeng. This dance was first developed in 1965 on the shores of the southern beaches. Back then the rapai geleng dance was performed to fill the emptiness when santri was bored after studying, this dance was made to become a mean to da'wah because it attracts many people.

Rapai Geleng dance has three sectioned movements, that is : Saleum (Greetings), Kisah (stories of prophets and religious teachings), and Lani (closing). The Rapai Geleng dance uses Rapai combined by unique dance movements that matches the rapai's rhythm. This dance also has rhythm that is single, slow, long, and then changing to fast accompanied by bodies that is still kneeling, waving to left and right. The poems that is chanted, combined by movements as means to da'wah through art. This Rapai is a form of gratitude for success in life. This dance is a form of tribute as an expression of happiness that is brimming with praises to God.

LIKOK PULO DANCE

Likok Pulo dance is one of Aceh's traditional dance that is developed in its society. This dance is the only traditional dance that belongs to Aceh. Likok Pulo dance originated from Pulo Aceh, more precisely in Beras Island, Aceh Besar Regency. Likok Pulo dance is introduced by an old Arabic cleric that is stranded in pulo Aceh. This dance is born around 1849. Seeing the skill and willingness of the people in Rapai games, the cleric makes use of the condition to da'wah. After observing how Rapai games was filled with likok (a movement during a sitting position) there for it is called Likok dance, and because it originated from Pulo Aceh thus the name becomes Likok Pulo Aceh.

Likok Pulo dance is performed by sitting on knees, in rows, or shoulders to shoulders. This dance is usually performed after planting rice or prior to harvesting. The main performer in the centre of the Likok Pulo dacen is called ceh. Whereas the others are assigned to drum the rapai. This dance is focused on the art of skillful movements that is full of harmonic rhythm that dazzles. The combination of the movements is as if creating rows of spinning wheels and is beautiful in the eyes, making this dance popular internationally.



This production for Esplanade da:ns festival 2022
is managed by **The Bali Purnati Center for the Arts**
in collaboration with **Aceh Culture and Tourism Department**

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