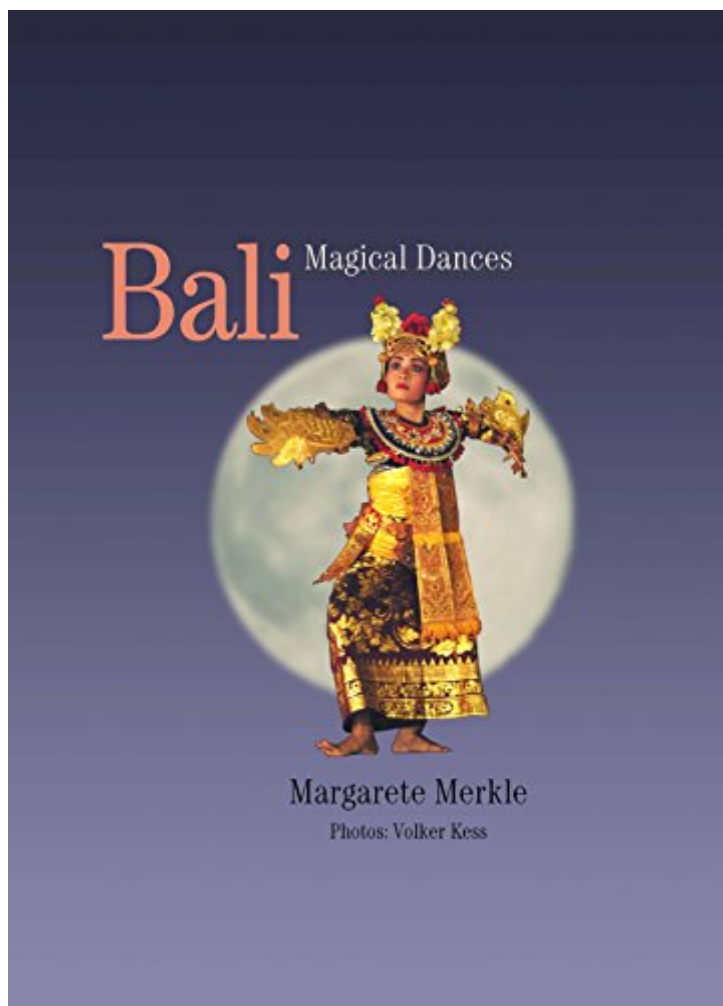


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# Bali - Magical Dances



## Synopsis

Bali - Magical Dances by Margarete Merkle The book deals with the forms, contents and societal meaning of Balinese dance. It shows the aesthetics of Balinese dance while highlighting the role of dance in Balinese society. It is of interest for all Bali enthusiasts - ethnologists, dramatists or theater visitors, dancers, actors and, in particular, travelers to Bali. The book accounts for the attraction that Balinese dance has on nearly every person who comes into contact with it. The reader gets to know a few dancers personally. They are presented in short portraits; one learns about their development, relationship to their art and their typical work day. The author: Margarete Merkle studied ethnology, dramatic arts and journalism in Berlin. In many trips to Bali she deepened her knowledge about Balinese dance, primarily through interviews and research. Professionally, she is working in the field of public relations and as a freelance journalist in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. The photographer: Volker Kess is a photographer and graphic designer. For years, he has worked as a nature and wildlife photographer in Indonesia and published his photos in numerous journals. Moreover, he exhibited them a. o. in the Goethe Institute of Jakarta, Aquarium in Berlin and in Balinese galleries. Contents: Introduction Cultural Background Summary of Bali's History Introduction to Dance in Bali Temples - Focus of the Arts Dancing - Both Religious Sacrifice and Entertainment Communicating Societal Ideals through Dance Dance Performances Promote Prestige Religion and Commerce - No Contradiction Training of Dancing Wayan Sulasmi, female dancer, Singapadu Preparation for the Dance Rituals and Sacrifice The Makeup Wayan Jayamerta, male dancer, Singapadu Dances Baris Gambuh Jauk Kebyar Duduk Legong Pendet Rejang Sanghyang Topeng Wayang Wong Nyoman Suastini, female dancer, Peliatan Movements and Body Language Mirror of a Worldview The Stage is Everywhere The Formal Language of Balinese Dance Specific Characters Appear in Each Piece A particular Language for Every Character Existing Sounds - The Gamelan Orchestra Instruments Every Gamelan has its own Sound The Structure of Balinese Music Appendix Themes in Balinese Dance Dramas Glossary References Introduction: I promised the dancer Wayan to come to an evening children's Performance at the ARMA Museum in Ubud. The monsoon had been beating down for days almost continuously, and so I headed a little reluctantly towards the Museum, arriving soaked through and very late. Because of the rain I am absolutely the only visitor on that evening, but the children and the orchestra are there. They are standing in the entrance hall of the Museum waiting for me, all dressed up in their opulent costumes and carefully applied makeup. They will dance for me alone this evening because I am a friend of their dance instructor. I am speechless and very moved. the most beautiful gift of my life, and at the same time an expression of the Balinese

people's great passion for dancing. Where does this Devotion to dance come from? Why does it have such great significance in Balinese Society? This book will explore such questions and, along with Pictures and oral histories, will try to convey the same fascination that the traveler to Bali can hardly avoid. Yet, most of all it should also be a personal encounter with the dancers. Margaret Merkle Introduction to Dance in Bali Bali's dance tradition is closely related to the tightly knit network of temples Many thanks to all my Balinese friends who helped with this book and without them it would never have been possible. No part of this book may be reproduced without the permission of the author. Photos: Volker Kess. Translation from German: Laura Bruce. Copyright: Margaret Merkle 2012 © 2nd revised version published by Margaret Merkle Publications, Frankfurt am Main 2017 © ISBN: 978-3-00-055612-8

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