

Balinese Dances

Baris Dance



This is a warrior dance. It is usually performed by man, either solo or in group of five or more. The dancers try to portray the full range of emotions displayed by warrior-anger, courage, ferocity and passion. This dance requires great skill, with the artist having to display the whole range of inner emotions, mainly through facial expression.

Barong and Rangda Dance



The endless metaphysical battle between good and evil is symbolically re-enacted time and time again by two weird characters, Barong and Rangda. Who by their very performances, reinforce the magic power of the village and restore the balance between good and evil.

Legong Dance



This dance tells the story of princess Rangkesari who is held captive by king Laksmi. Rankesari's brother prince Daha, gathers an army to rescue his sister. Princess Ragkasari tries to persuade Laksmi to let her go to avoid a war, but he denies her freedom. On his way to battle Daha is attacked by a raven, a bad omen and is later killed in the battle. The dance only takes the story up to the point where the king departs for battle. And it is performed by three people, two Legong and their attendant, The Condong. The Legong is a very classical and graceful dance, and its always performed by girls.

Kecak Dance



The most famous of the Balinese dance, The Kecak originated from the shangyang dance, who chant distinctive "kechak-kechak" developed in the 1930's in the village of Bona, where it is still performed regularly. The theme is taken from the Ramayana and tells the story of Rama, who with the help of monkeys army, tries to rescue his wife from the clutches of the evil king of Rahwana . This is a very exciting dance to watch and it is performed by a large group of chanting men sitting in a circle, waving their arms and swaying in time with the chants.