The Performing Arts in Balinese Culture

J-Term 2014-2015
(December 27, 2014 - January 17, 2015)

Location: The island of Bali in Indonesia

Program Dates - This is a 3-week program running from December 27, 2014 - January 17, 2015.

Application Deadline - Friday, November 1, 2013, at 5:00pm. Note that the application requires your advisor’s signature.

Faculty Director - The program will be led by Professor Chris Hatch from the HWS Theatre Department. Professor Hatch, a professional actor and member of Actors’ Equity Association, has performed for twenty years and still maintains an active professional artistic life. One of his specialties is masked, movement-based theatre which is what initially drew him to Balinese performance traditions. He will return to Bali in January of 2014 for more exploration into the performing arts of the island and to prepare for this J-Term program.

Course Title - The Performing Arts in Balinese Culture

Course Description
This course will be a three-week intensive exploration into the rich performing arts tradition of Bali, Indonesia. Students will immerse themselves in various aspects of Balinese performing arts including dance, masked performance, traditional instrument performance (gamelan), shadow puppetry, and mask carving. Courses will be taught alongside master artists at the Mekar Bhuana Conservatory in Depansar, Bali. This conservatory will serve us particularly well due to its mission to uphold the ways of traditional Balinese performing arts, as opposed to the more tourist-oriented performances seen elsewhere. Studio work will be supplemented with attendance at no less than five professional productions of different Balinese performing arts, allowing students to see what they are studying at a professional level and allowing students to learn and experience how
ingrained the performing arts are in other aspects of Balinese culture. Planned excursions will take us to visit various craftspeople throughout the region allowing us to see how Balinese instruments, masks, and puppets are made.

When we talk of study-abroad programs we often talk about immersion into various aspects of a culture. This program’s focus looks to immerse students into the artistic culture of the island first and foremost through active training and performance in a sampling of the artistic traditions of Bali. Bali is also very different from the United States in how the performing arts are ingrained into the overall culture of the island. In the United States, the performing arts are very compartmentalized, while in Bali, the performing arts - and arts in general - play a much more essential day-to-day role in the lives of the people. Through this program, students will see different ways in which a society deals with their various art forms within the greater context of their overall culture.

Themes and Focuses of the Course
1) To participate as actively as possible in a variety of performing arts traditions in Bali in a studio setting.
2) To explore, experience, and analyze additional performances as an audience member through the viewing of a variety of live professional performances.
3) To observe similarities and differences between the U.S. and Bali in the extent to which the arts are ingrained in the culture.
4) To develop powers of observation, inquiry, and journal writing.

Expectations for the course
1) Read and respond to texts on Balinese performing arts.
2) Participate actively as a performing artist in the daily studio work regardless of inherent skill level.
3) Immerse yourself into the artistic culture of Bali with an aggressive curiosity.
4) Complete a final performance both at the studio in Bali and at HWS during the first two weeks of the spring semester based on our work.

Pre-Requisites
All accepted students will be required to attend a handful of mandatory group meetings during the fall semester of 2014. Students will read and discuss Balinese Dance, Drama and Music: A Guide to the Performing Arts of Bali by I Wayan Dibia and Rucina Ballinger. We will also discuss basic information about traveling to Bali and do some introductory artistic explorations together. I’d like our group to not only have a base of knowledge regarding Bali and the arts in Bali but also a base of knowledge on what it is to create with each other. We will take the first steps in becoming an ensemble before we leave for our work in Bali. It is also highly recommended that, before this trip begins, students take at least one introductory studio course on campus in a performing art - such as a beginning acting class or dance class or a class where you are making music. If this is not a possibility, particular courses in Religious Studies or Asian Studies could be helpful. See Professor Hatch if you would like him to suggest a relevant course.
Required Readings
- Balinese Dance, Drama and Music: A Guide to the Performing Arts of Bali by I Wayan Dibia and Rucina Ballinger
- Additional readings will be provided at the conservatory.

Itinerary
Once in Bali, our “classroom” will be an actual professionally-operating artistic conservatory where students will be working with, performing with, and surrounded by professional artists of Bali. The conservatory is also home to numerous antique Balinese instruments including antique gamelan sets. Students will train on some of these antique instruments. There are very few places in the world where a group of students can learn gamelan on antique gamelan sets. It will be an incredible experience. It also can’t be stressed enough just how much students will be interact with Balinese artists. When we study dance, it will be under the instruction of an award-winning Balinese dancer who has taught workshops all over the world. In fact, two of our teachers will be in residence at the University of Toronto during three months of the fall 2014 semester. These are highly respected artists. The music for our dance classes will be played live by the Balinese musicians of the conservatory. The dancer-musician artistic relationship is such a wonderful, strong, and storied relationship, and our students, during the first day of class, will already be experiencing and creating that relationship with Balinese artists. This conservatory operates in an almost family-like, ensemble manner. We will be invited into that ensemble during our time there and during our final day of study, the students will share their own newly-learned artistry at the conservatory in a final performance. This performance will include fully-realized traditional costumes and make-up. Our students will start off their studies by reading about Balinese performing arts in a book. By the end of the course, they will be creating full-scale productions of some of those forms that they have read about. It will be an exciting journey.
• Thirteen days of five hours of coursework (with lunch consisting of traditional Balinese fare) including a minimum of:
  o 25 hours of various dance styles\(^1\)
  o 14 hours of gamelan
  o 5 hours of mask carving
  o 5 hours of puppetry
  o 6 hours of language lessons
  o A fully-realized final production including traditional costumes and make-up.

• Two excursions led by the Faculty Director Chris Hatch and ethnomusicologist and gamelan expert Vaughn Hatch including visits to:
  o Bronze and iron gong smiths
  o Flute and rebab makers
  o Kendang makers
  o The gamelan museum
  o A professional puppeteer
  o The Balinese mask museum
  o Various important Balinese temples

• Four professional performances (including traditional Balinese dinners):
  o A Selongding performance
  o Semara Pagulingan performance with court dances and masked dances
  o A Balinese puppet show conducted in English
  o A Gender Wayang performance

With these numbers in mind, a very general schedule could look something like this:

December 27 – Depart for Bali
December 28 – Arrive in Bali
December 29 – First day of class
December 30 – Second day of class
December 31 – Third day of class
January 1 – Free day to explore/rest
January 2 – Fourth day of class
January 3 – Fifth day of class with dinner performance
January 4 – First conservatory guided excursion
January 5 – Sixth day of class (Puppetry workshop)
January 6 – Seventh day of class with dinner performance
January 7 – Eighth day of class
January 8 – Ninth day of class with dinner performance

\(^1\) It is worth noting that Balinese “dance” is a blending of what western traditions would call “dance” and “theatre” and is usually accompanied by music. These Balinese dances often involve narratives, dialogue, masks, elaborate costumes, chants, songs, etc. Some describe it as movement-heavy theatre, while others see it more as dance. Either way, it will be great for both theatre and dance students to explore new boundaries as to what their artistic mediums can be.
January 9 – Second conservatory guided excursion  
January 10 – Free day to explore/rest  
January 11 – Tenth day of class (Mask carving workshop)  
January 12 – Eleventh day of class with dinner performance  
January 13 – Twelfth day of class  
January 14 – Last day of class including the class final performance  
January 15 – Excursion to Kecak and Fire Dance and Dinner at Jimbaran  
January 16 – Free day – Depart in the evening  
January 17 – Arrive home  

A typical day of class might look something like this:  

- 9:30 meet in hotel lobby to head over to the conservatory as a group.  
- 9:40 -10:00 - Warm-up led by Chris Hatch  
- 10:00 - 10:30 – Language/Culture lessons  
- 10:30 - 12:00 – Dance/Theatre work  
- 12:00 - 1:00 – Lunch  
- 1:00 - 2:30 – Gamelan/Music work  
- 2:30 - 3:30 – Dance/Theatre work  
- 3:30 - 4:30 – Guest speakers, lectures or group discussions  
- 4:30 - return to hotel as a group. Perhaps clean up, should we be returning to the conservatory at night for dinner and a performance.  

The puppet and mask-carving workshops will be single-day workshops that would “trump” this schedule as appropriate.  

Once back at HWS during the first week of classes we will do a performance based on our work to share with the campus community.  

Housing and Meals
We will be housed in a small boutique hotel near the conservatory, with two students per room. The hotel is equipped with wi-fi and offers free breakfast and a free shuttle to the nearby town of Sanur, home to restaurants, markets, and an excellent stretch of beach. The majority of lunches, as well as a handful of dinners, will be provided by the conservatory. During the 21-day trip, over forty meals will be provided. In addition, the conservatory will have wi-fi available and a swimming pool that will be open to students.  

Beach in Sanur  

Eligibility
Qualified first-years, sophomores, juniors and graduating seniors may apply. First-years, sophomores and juniors will have priority and seniors will be admitted on a space-available basis.
GPA Requirement
Students applying for this program should have a minimum of a 2.5 cumulative GPA. In the case of first-year students, we will have to wait until your fall grades are in before we can formally admit you. Provided that there is space on the program, first years with successful applications will normally be given a conditional offer based on achieving at least a 2.5 GPA in the fall 2013 semester.

Credits
This course will be worth one HWS course credit and has been approved by the following departments to receive major/minor credit: Education, Arts and Education, Music, Dance, International Relations and European Studies. Students will also receive a ½ credit for the Reader's College. Advisors in other departments may allow you to satisfy Goal 5 (Fine and Performing Arts) and/or Goal 7 (Multiplicity of world cultures) with the course but students should discuss this with their advisors.

Opportunities for Follow-Up Study
Upon returning, interested students will be encouraged to continue their studies by enrolling in courses offered in the departments of Theatre, Dance, Music, Asian Studies, and Religious Studies.

Medical Insurance
Students will be required to have medical insurance while abroad, including evacuation and repatriation coverage*. You may have coverage abroad through your parents' policy but you will need to check to see if this is the case and if you and your parents are happy with what their policy covers. Sometimes these policies are for emergencies only or reimburse you at an out of network rate. You will also need to check to see if their policy includes evacuation and repatriation coverage.

If you plan to purchase the year-long 2014-15 HWS policy through Gallagher Koster, this will cover you abroad but be aware that while the year-long policy is fine if you will be in the U.S., we strongly recommend that you purchase another policy for your time abroad. The reason for this is that with the year-long policy, providers abroad are considered “out of network” and the policy only covers 60% of the charges for out of network providers. If you need any kind of extended hospital care abroad, the cost could be prohibitive if you have to pay 40% of the costs.

If you need to purchase insurance or want to supplement the insurance you have, we recommend HTH Worldwide. The Travel Gap Voyager program from HTH Worldwide is a good option: http://www.hthtravelinsurance.com/1_benefits_vaca.cfm The plan costs between $25 - $45 for this 3-week trip, depending on the plan you choose. This is a good all-around plan and it includes coverage for emergency evacuation and repatriation. If you find a suitable plan through another company, that's fine, too.

*If your policy does not cover evacuation and repatriation, you can purchase the International Student I.D. card (ISIC) card for $25 that includes this coverage. You can purchase this online at www.myisic.com.

Costs
Program fees will be approximately $2250-$2500* for the 3-week program, which will cover tuition, accommodation, breakfast daily, most lunches, some dinners, entrance fees, day trips and excursions. Students will need to budget an extra $200 (20 meals at approximately $10 per meal) above and beyond the program costs for the lunches and dinners not included. Students will also need to budget for roundtrip airfare at approximately $1600 - $2000, books at $25, medical insurance (see estimates above) if you don't already have it, optional immunizations at approximately $150 (see section on immunizations below) and a non-refundable administrative fee of $100 charged for all faculty-led short-term programs.

*Costs are subject to change based on currency fluctuations, changes in costs of services provided and the number of students confirmed on the trip.
Flights
Group flights will be arranged by the CGE and accepted students will be notified of the cost and booking info for the flight once it’s available.

Passports and Visas
All students will need a passport valid until at least July 18th, 2015 to participate in this program. Visas are required and will be purchased at the airport upon arrival. Visa costs are included in the program fee.

Immunizations
The CDC strongly recommends that all travelers to Bali get Hepatitis A and typhoid immunizations. Hepatitis B is also recommended, although many students will have had this when they came to college but you should check on this. In addition, students may wish to get immunized for Japanese Encephalitis. We will be at low risk for malaria and rabies, however students are advised to wear bug spray and avoid interacting with animals, particularly dogs, cats, and the tempting but temperamental monkeys. Please check the CDC website http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/indonesia to read more about the recommendations. If you choose to get immunizations, you can do this at a local medical clinic near your home (use this link to find travel medicine clinics: http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/contentTravelClinics.aspx), possibly with your home doctor or you can contact one of the Passport Health offices in Canandaigua, Rochester or Syracuse who provide travel immunizations. Their contact number is: (585) 275-8884.

Funding
In an effort to assist students in financial hardship wishing to participate in a short-term program, there is a limited pool of HWS funding available. If you are accepted to this program, we will invite you to submit a funding application. Funding will be allocated on a need basis and we will contact the financial aid office to verify your need status. We will also contact the Student Affairs office and the Dean’s office to access your social/disciplinary records as part of determining your eligibility for funding. We will let you know whether you have been awarded funding before the deadline by which you are required to put down a deposit for your place on the program.

Questions? - If you have questions about this program, please contact Sharon Walsh in the Center for Global Education at 315 781-3663 or walsh@hws.edu.