

## Press release

### Wayang Revolusi. Art in the service of freedom 1948-1949

An exhibition, an educational multimedia presentation, and a series of publications with regard to the project 'Wayang Revolusi. Art in the service of freedom'.

See also: <http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/Pamflet143e.pdf>.

### Cultural competence, social cohesion, multimedia presentation and website

By means of the exhibition and the multimedia presentation, we will be showing examples of how a country's cultural Identity – and that of Indonesia in particular – is designed and disseminated through the wayang-kulit-revolusi form of theatre, so that other cultures can recognise and respect it. This form of education in the field of the arts and cultural heritage could contribute towards cultural competence and, more specifically, also towards social cohesion.

See also: <http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/Revolusidocumentenexpo.pdf>.

### Wayang kulit

Various wayang kulit figures will be exhibited, as well as wayang paraphernalia, ordinary and animation films, and bilingual (Dutch and English), richly illustrated publications. Besides printed publications, a digital version in PDF format is also available on the Puppetry Museum site, as well as films on YouTube and Vimeo. Major components of the exhibition include the encyclopaedic function with regard to the Indonesian fight for independence against the Dutch and information about the various types of wayang. The project also includes an extensive educational programme for children, young people (primary and secondary education level), and adults. Refer to 'Information on the subject of wayang from Indonesia' via <http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/Wayang.aspx>.

### Information

Otto van der Mieden

Poppenspe(e)lmuseum/Puppetry Museum

Opening days and times: Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 12 noon to 5 p.m.

Advance booking is required.

### Address

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Website: <http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/index.html>

See also: <http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/Pamflet01d.pdf>



### Attachment

Text and illustrations 'Wayang Revolusi. Art in the service of freedom 1948-1949'.



Stichting Het Poppenspe(e)lmuseum (ANBI)

Poppenspe(e)lmuseum Musée de Marionnettes et de Guignol Puppentheatermuseum Puppetry Museum

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[www.poppenspelmuseum.nl](http://www.poppenspelmuseum.nl) [www.poppenspel.info](http://www.poppenspel.info) [www.poppenspelmuseum.nl/onderwijs](http://www.poppenspelmuseum.nl/onderwijs)

[www.geheugenvannederland.nl/poppenspel2](http://www.geheugenvannederland.nl/poppenspel2) [www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl](http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl) [info@poppenspelmuseum.nl](mailto:info@poppenspelmuseum.nl)



### **Wayang Revolusi. Art in the service of freedom 1948-1949**

On 27 December 1949 Indonesia obtained sovereign power. The exhibition presents how the Indonesian nationalists used this traditional wayang art form as a means of propaganda in their fight against the Netherlands.

In 1947, Wayang Revolusi originated as a special variant on wayang theatre. In an era that media such as radio and television were not very common, the popular wayang play was the ultimate means for addressing large groups with the message of the revolution. The spectators could easily identify with the recognisable, standard and less standard characters of noble heroes and their evil opponents. Wayang Revolusi's main characters are politicians and servicemen of both parties that were engaged in combat with each other during the fight for independence. Well-known characters include Dutch generals Spoor and Van Mook, the Indonesian President Sukarno and Vice President Mohammed Hatta. See also: <http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/WayangrevolusiII.pdf>.

### **Dutch Jan Klaassen and Katrijn and the Javanese jester Semar**

The exhibition is based on about twenty kulit characters from the Wayang Revolusi and the Dutch Jan Klaassen and Katrijn (Punch and Judy in England) as wayang kulit puppets (shadow puppet theatre). Of course, the punakawan – comical characters from the wayang stories, such as Nala Gareng, Petruk and the wise fool and divine jester Semar – are also represented. All puppets and characters were specially made for the Puppetry Museum by dalang and puppet maker Ki (lord/master) Ledjar Soebroto. He gave Jan Klaassen, the main character from traditional Dutch puppet theatre, a typical Javanese-style moustache.

See also: <http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/Doepak166d.pdf>.

### **Exhibition with turning panels and films**

By means of turning panels the kulit puppets on exhibition can be viewed both in real – in colour – and as shadows. In addition to the figures created by Ledjar Soebroto, a work by visual artist Mella Jaarsma (Yogyakarta) is exhibited, as well as various other kulit characters and forms of wayang theatre (golek, klitik, topeng) and their related artefacts (objects, attributes, photographs, prints, books, batiks, gamelan instruments, and paraphernalia from the museum collection). In addition, video recordings of wayang kulit performances can be seen. In a computer animation film produced by Ananto Wicaksono, wayang puppets can be seen fighting for independence. The film shows how Indonesian people nowadays look at the central figures of the historic events that led to their country's sovereignty. Ananto (Nanang) is Ledjar Soebroto's grandson.

See also: <http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/wayangmultimedia.pdf>.

### **Cooperation**

The following individuals and institutions are cooperating with us with regard to the presentation, the exhibition and the publications: Museum Bronbeek (Hans van den Akker and Marthe Gaspar-Raven, Arnhem, The Netherlands), Joost van der Steen (O.K.Parking, Arnhem), Ki Ledjar Soebroto – dalang and puppeteer (Yogyakarta, Indonesia), Ananto Wicaksono – dalang and graphic artist (Yogyakarta, Indonesia), fotoStad – photographs (Heerde), Birgit Tomesen – costumes (Zwolle), Hedi Hinzler – former senior lecturer specialised in South-east Asia (at the Dutch Leyden University) and author, Elsje Plantema – musicologist, gamelan player and teacher of world music (Conservatorium van Amsterdam, a Dutch academy of music), Baukje Scheppink – graphic artist (Leeuwarden), Elsje Zwart – illustrator (Haarlem, The Netherlands), Gitte Clemens (illustrator, Amsterdam), Hetty Paërl – author and illustrator of folk puppet theatre (Amsterdam), Ad Swier – illustrator ('s-Heerenbroek, The Netherlands), Mella Jaarsma – visual artist (Yogyakarta, Indonesia), AMI computers – hardware and programming (Epe, The Netherlands), café noir – video (Zwolle), University of Amsterdam/UvA/Special Collections – touch screen monitor (Amsterdam), Otto van der Mieden – realization of the exhibition and director/curator Poppenspe(e)lmuseum/Puppetry Museum (Vorchten, The Netherlands), and Fletcher Text and Translation Services (Leersum, The Netherlands).

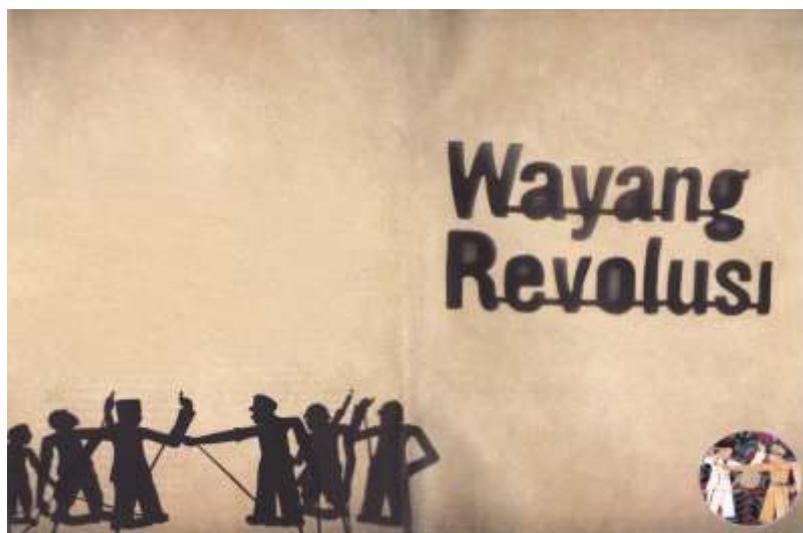
### **Contributions cultural funds**

Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds Gelderland, DutchCulture, Stichting Zabawas, Fonds voor de Geld- en Effectenhandel, Combinatie IJsselweide and 'vrienden van het Poppenspe(e)lmuseum'/Friends of the Puppetry Museum.

### **Pictures: museum logo and Jan Klaassen**

Museum logo: on the left-hand side of the museum logo Jan Klaassen – the main character from traditional Dutch puppet theatre – can be seen wielding a club. On the right of this jolly descendant of the Italian Pulcinella, Semar – the cheerful jester of Indonesian Wayang theatre – is depicted. With a string attached to his hand, he is playfully tugging at the letter 'E' in the museum logo, pretending to be the puppeteer who is 'pulling the strings'. This extra letter 'E' is based on Dutch wordplay. The noun play (*spel*) is combined with the verb playing (*speel*), which means that this is not only a museum where you can look around, but, in particular, a place where visitors are often asked: 'Would you like to try it yourself?' (DIY); Wayang kulit figure: Jan Klaassen, collection Poppenspe(e)lmuseum/Puppetry Museum. Creator of the puppet: Ledjar Soebroto (Yogyakarta).

**Illustrations**



**Pictures**

[1, 2] Still 'Wayang Revolusi 1948-1949 – Agresi Militer Belanda 2' (animation film). Production: Ananto Wicaksono. Figures: Rakyat (figure of the people), guerilla fighter, Soekarno (first president of the Republic of Indonesia), General Spoor (commander of the Royal Netherlands East Indies Army – KNIL), commander Van Langen and Governor-General Van Mook; [3] Door tag depicting President Sukarno; [4] Semar with a dalang during a wayang kulit performance. Illustration: Elsje Zwart ©; [5] DVD: President Sukarno and General Spoor. The red, white and blue circle symbolises the Dutch tricolor, and the colours red and white the Indonesian flag. Creator of the wayang kulit figures: Ledjar Soebroto (Yogyakarta).

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