

Sinta's discovery: Watugunung is shown lying on his couch while his wife, who is also his mother, combs his hair, and, upon discovering the scar made by the ladle, awakens to her fate as an incestuous mother.

Illuminating

THE ENIGMA OF TIME

Time, Rites and Festivals in Bali is a densely layered book about a densely layered topic.

Ron Jenkins
CONTRIBUTOR/BALI

Like time itself, the volume reveals information bit by bit in increments that unfolds unexpectedly.

The reader can get lost for several pages in the flow of its prose recounting a mythical fable, or stop to savor an enigmatic reference to a “web of meaning according to which the distinction between people and rice is blurred”.

One could also spend hours puzzling over abundant charts and illustrations that visualize the logic behind Bali's multiple overlapping calendars, or simply choose to flip through the pages to enjoy the extraordinary drawings of I Gusti Nyoman Darta that document Balinese rituals in a visual sequence from birth to death and back again.

The illuminating captions beneath these exquisitely detailed line drawings are worthy of a book on their own, but the imagery tells stories that transcend language.

As an example, consider the drawing of Sinta combing the hair of her husband Watugunung while he reclines on their bed. This mundane task is framed by the presence of the god Siwa above her head and the demon Durga at the foot of the bed. The artist Darta has chosen to depict the moment when Sinta first sees the scar on

Watugunung's scalp that identifies him as her long-lost son.

The discovery of her unintentional incest will lead to a series of supernatural events culminating in the establishment of the Balinese calendar, which mandates appropriate times for a wide range of human behaviors.

According to Balinese cosmology, this is seminal to the birth of consciousness and the establishment of civilization.

The authors of the book present this myth with persuasive intellectual analysis, but the drawing has a vivid emotional impact that cannot be expressed in words.

The benign and malevolent deities on opposite sides of the drawing show the couple caught in a moral dilemma that exemplifies the Balinese concept of *ruabineda* in which good and evil coexist in a state of dynamic equilibrium.

The decorative wheel on the edge of the bed-spread beneath them resembles the pattern of the *pengider bhuana* or wheel of life radiating out of a sacred lotus blossom.

Its presence suggests that Sinta and Watugunung are experiencing an event that links the microcosm of human life to the macrocosm of the divine universe as embodied by Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge. Time, morality and the birth of civilization intersect in the startling intensity of this single black and white drawing.

Darta is credited as one of the three authors of this valuable book.

The other two are the French scholar Jean Couteau and the Swiss scientist Georges Breguet. This international team has produced a volume that should be read by anyone with a serious interest in Balinese culture.

The authors' most notable accomplishment is to call attention to the importance of the story of Sinta and Watugunung.

Each week of the calendar at the heart of Bali's complex ritual life is named after a character from their saga and its significance deserves the thoughtful explication provided by Darta, Couteau and Breguet.

By presenting the lontar manuscript that tells the story of Sinta and Watugunung with all its fascinating twists, the authors invite readers to reinterpret its multiple meanings for themselves.

This book presents time as a concept that links the Balinese to their gods on a daily basis, even as modern times threaten the survival of their island's timeless cultural identity.

Time, Rites and Festivals in Bali
I Gusti Nyoman Darta, Jean Couteau, Georges Breguet
Editor: Sherry Kasman Entus
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BOOKWORM

MUHAMMAD “KIMO” STAMBOEL

More pictures, less words

Horror movie director Muhammad “Kimo” Stamboel, who is one half of director duo The Mo Brothers, prefers to read books with more pictures than regular ones.

Since he was a kid, Kimo has enjoyed reading comic books and following manga serials, with only a few pieces of literature here and there.

The 34-year-old has just released his latest project, the psychological thriller *Killers*, starring Oka Antara and Kazuki Kitamura, which premiered at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival in January.

Kimo, who studied film production at the School of Visual Arts in Sydney, said he had always loved reading comic books with light and entertaining stories — the exact opposite of his gory, bloody movies.

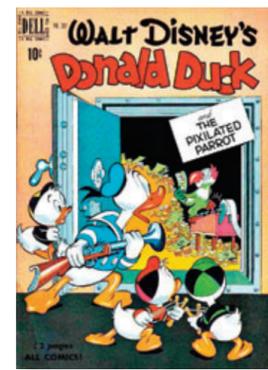
“I get inspiration for my movies from watching other horror or other genres of movies. I read comic books for fun,” he said.

While preparing for his next project — a movie about a zombie outbreak in Jakarta — Kimo said he had been researching Indonesian comic books.

“I am looking for a book that I can adapt into a movie. I haven't found it yet, but I believe it is waiting to be found,” he said.



Courtesy of The Mo Brothers



Donald Duck
by Walt Disney

Donal Bebek (Donald Duck) was one of the first comic books I read. When I was reading the antics and adventures of Donald, his triplet nephews and his stingy uncle, I was yet to know about or look for manga or other types of comics.

I love the Donald books' light and entertaining stories.

Walt Disney's Donald Duck comic books have been published in the form of a weekly magazine in Indonesia since 1976.

Tekken Chinmi
by Takeshi Maekawa

Tekken Chinmi (Ironfist Chinmi) is known in Indonesia as *Kung Fu Boy*. I followed the manga series closely when it was periodically published in the 1990s

Kung Fu Boy was very interesting to me. Chinmi's character was very engaging and he went through an interesting journey from the beginning until the end of the story. It was very attention-grabbing manga.

Written by manga artist Takeshi Maekawa, *Kung Fu Boy* centers on the main character Chinmi who learns Kung Fu through the staple manga method of progressively fighting more challenging foes.



The Adventures of Tintin
by Hergé

I read the Indonesian versions of *The Adventures of Tintin* as a kid. I really love his adventures and the imagination in the stories.

After I watched Steven Spielberg's 3-D film *The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn* in 2011, I revisited the comic books and I realized even more how inspiring the book was.

The Indonesian version of *The Adventures of Tintin* has been published since 1975 by three different publishing companies.

— JP/ANDREAS D. ARDITYA



Guess what?

Nicki Minaj entangled in \$30 million wig dispute



ATLANTA: A celebrity hair stylist has accused rapper and former *American Idol* judge Nicki Minaj of stealing his designs for the colorful wigs that helped boost her career, according to a federal lawsuit filed on Friday seeking US\$30 million in compensation.

Terrence Davidson, whose celebrity clients include singers Patti LaBelle and Jennifer Hudson, began working for Minaj in 2010 and designed her wigs for high-profile events worldwide, the suit filed in Atlanta said. The rapper also wore Davidson-designed wigs in a music video for the song “Super Bass”, according to the lawsuit. One of Minaj's best-known wigs is called the “Pink Upper Bun”.

Davidson, 41, said he and Minaj's staff discussed a joint business venture that would include selling wigs and creating a reality television show about a celebrity wig stylist, but later canceled. Davidson stopped working for Minaj more than a year ago.

Minaj “took a number of his popular wig designs, without his consent, and used them to start her own wig line,” said the lawsuit. — Reuters



AP/Kerstin Joensson

Maria von Trapp, 99, dies in Vermont

STOWE: Maria von Trapp, the last surviving member and second-eldest daughter of the musical family whose escape from Nazi-occupied Austria was the basis for *The Sound of Music*, has died. She was 99.

Von Trapp died at her home in Vermont on Tuesday, according to her brother Johannes von Trapp.

“She was a lovely woman who was one of the few truly good people,” he said. “There wasn't a mean or miserable bone in her body. I think everyone who knew her

would agree with that.”

Von Trapp was the last surviving member of the seven original Trapp Family Singers made famous in *The Sound of Music*, a story of an Austrian woman who married a widower with seven children and teaches them music. It was turned into a Broadway musical in 1959 and a 1965 film, which won the Oscar for best picture. Trapp was portrayed as Louisa in the film and musical.

She was the third child and second-eldest daughter of Austrian Naval Capt. Georg von Trapp and his first wife, Agathe Whitehead von Trapp. Their seven children were the basis for the singing family in the musical and film.

Von Trapp wrote in a biography posted on the Trapp Family's website that she was born in the Austrian Alps after her family fled fighting from World War I.

Her biography on the website also said that she worked as a lay missionary in Papua New Guinea. — AP

Garneta Haruni wants to dance in a movie

JAKARTA: Actress Garneta Haruni has set her sights on a role as a dancer in a motion picture.

Despite starring in movies, TV series and soap operas, Garneta said she had yet to be cast as a dancer.

“I used to be dancer. And although I may not be a serious dancer anymore, I still remember the moves,” said Garneta as quoted by *kompas.com*.

The Surabaya-born actress has starred in films, such as *Pulau Hantu 2* (Ghost Island 2) as well as *Menanti Surga* (Waiting for Paradise) and *Karena Cinta* (Because of Love) soap operas. —



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