Joged Bumbung; tradition or transgression?

Eka Ari Suhendra

ABSTRACT

Balinese dance, mystically terrific yet stunningly captivating at the same time. Balinese divides the art of dance into three types namely The Wali (Sacred Dance), The Bebali, and The Balih Balihan (Performing Dance). Joged Bumbung, one of Balih balihan dance, acts as social dance as well as entertainment. However, Recent occasion took place in November 2017 sparked netizen’s critic about erotic joged performance video on Les Village, Singaraja. Culturalists feared it would ignite the reaction of many parties, for instance, the UNESCO. In addition, erotic joged violates ethics and is a form of cultural defamation thus it is essential to establish pararem to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Keyword: Balinese Dance, Joged Bumbung, Erotic, Video

Cite This Article: Eka Ari Suhendra, Joged Bumbung; tradition or transgression?. Bali Tourism Journal (BTJ)2018, 2 (1): 10-15

BACKGROUND

Balinese dance, mystically terrific yet stunningly captivating at the same time. The movements, the costume, and the music are a total devotion for the sake of art. Balinese divides the art of dance into three types namely The Wali (Sacred Dance), The Bebali, and The Balih Balihan (Performing Dance).1 Locals perform the wali and bebali every time a ceremony is being held on the temple. The dances are not open to the public since it contains a sacred and mystical value. Unlike the other two, The Balih Balihan may be easily found in hotel, communities’ anniversary, wedding ceremony or any celebrations. It more adaptable to change the world brings to Balinese life every day.

Joged Bumbung, one of Balih balihan dance, acts as social dance as well as entertainment. Communities are familiar to invite Joged Bumbung to enliven their activity. If society who live around hear about Joged performance, they are surely going to flock the Kalangan to watch the performance; ranging from children to elder, both men, and women. It is a delight to watch the dancer, commonly teenage girl, invites the bystander to become pengibing who accompany her dancing. Laughter sparks every time the dancer teases the pengibing, or when the pengibing who does not know dancing start to make a silly move. Sometimes, the joged dance needs extra energy to chase the bystander who refuses to dance together. It surely a fun yet thrilling experience for the bystander to enjoy the performance and be ready to run before the dancer catch them.

DEVELOPMENT OF JOGED BUMBUNG

Time is changing. Nowadays, the dancer modifies some of the moves by adding slightly sensual touch which results in spectator’s reaction. People occasionally run when the dancer ask them to dance. Mostly, the bystander will voluntarily enter the stage without permission and join the dance. The inconsiderable change, however, makes it recently being discussed by Government, observer as well as a scholar, since they believe the dance slowly experiences deviation. It turns out Joged Bumbung in people mindset is no longer dance for social interaction but slowly transform into a symbol of erotic and sexual performances as results of the dancer and the pengibing’s behavior.

Head of Doctoral Program of ISI Denpasar, Prof.I Wayan Dibia believes the sensual dynamism in Joged dance firstly adopted in the 80’s. Since it is a social dance, modification on its movement may implement according to the dancer’s or choreographer’s creativity. Nevertheless, the sensuality in joged dance at that time is relatively acceptable. In addition, the artists at that time held the initial guidance of the dance firmly. The dance which strongly rooted in legong dance continues to develop until finally enter the year of 1990’s.3

Winyana, in one of his writing, acknowledges that element of movement is essential in the art of dance, especially on Balinese dance. Balinese dance has a distinctive dance pattern. Motion in Joged dance is substantial due to it is closely related to the beauty of the resulting movement. Beauty becomes a necessity; the artist of Joged Bumbung offers it to the community as a selling point. The
better performance Dance troupe able to provide, the more it will be demanded by the market. Based on the concept, it results in the pattern of Joged Dance experiences commodification. Creators compose dance with the taste that market request. Modification in movement considers as a process to understand each other. Then, it has begun to be regarded as agitation in the aesthetic of Bali’s Joged art.  

THE CONTROVERSY

The recent occasion took place in November 2017 sparked netizen’s critic. A short clip about joged bumbung has become viral in social media. The video shows a performance of joged bumbung dance along with the pengibing. The fuss is about the behavior of the pengibing which is considered excessive. They hugged the dancer from front and back, then moved their bodies like they were doing sexual intercourse. The dancer on the video seems unable to respond due to she is in the middle of the performance, as well as her body seemed tightly embraced by the men. In addition, some children were also seen watching the controversial performance while some adult men busy recording the action with their cell phones.

After being traced, it is known that the event is a charity in the Les Village, Singaraja. Trail Adventure Community, is the name of the community that held the event, with the appearance of the Joged dance. This charity event was a fundraising for the refugees of the Mount Agung. The event committee chairman, Gede Adi Wistara, said the occassion involves up to 700 trackers from all over Bali. Some trackers were also seen watching the controversy performance while some adult men busy recording the action with their cell phones.

In October-November 2017, a research Team of STIKOM Bali has been investigated about erotic joged performance video on Youtube. As a result, by using the keyword ‘Joged Jaruh’ there were 319 videos available. Then, 8040 results for the keyword “Joged Porno” and 24,000 results for the keyword “Joged hot.” Academics from STIKOM Bali, Made Marlowe Bandem said that in the year 2017, there are some channels continue to promote and show erotic joged clips on Youtube. Many channels blocked their comment section thus it is difficult to send a direct protest message to the uploaders to delete their video.

According to Marlowe, several strategies may be implemented to prevent further repeatable incident via offline and online. Officially, the Culture Department needs to identify and counsel...
to the Joged Troupes who are famous for their erotic dance. Meeting with Google as the owner of Youtube is substantial, to explain about the dance widely. Whereas via Online, the public may cast protest to the channel owners to stop promoting a video about the dance on Youtube. It may also be done by Establishing task force and volunteer from various universities to do reporting and flagging the inappropriate content about Joged bumbung.

An erotic Joged bumbung dance is feared might be igniting the reaction of many parties. The subject was raised by the culturalist Professor Dr. Wayan Dibia, responding to the circulation of the viral video. Dibia worried about the reputation of joged dance, which is now as one of the Nine Balinese dances recognized by UNESCO as Unicode Cultural Heritage, might be deprived of its status due to its erotic appearance. He also appealed to the artists to promote the traditional one. Moreover, Gianyar regency is known as the arts area thus he wished Traditional dance should be prominently developed there.

Chairman of Bali province higher committee of pakraman village (Majelis Utama Desa Pakraman Provinsi Bali) Jero Gede Putus Suwena Upadesha said to stop erotic Joged required direct action. Suwena proposes to village leaders of pakraman or desa adat to coordinate with police officers as well as TNI, to act seriously supervising this dance. He also mentioned, erotic joged violates ethics and is a form of cultural defamation thus it urgently needed to constitute pararem (custom rules) and sanctions therefore that similar events would not exist in the future.

Meanwhile, Dewa Megawasa from Bali Police added, to end the erotic dance, it needs law socialization. In his opinion, erotic Joged is violating the limits of decency. Thus it must have to deal with the law formally. Regulated laws in the Criminal Code, the ITE and even the Culture Law with the threat of imprisonment up to billions Rupiah fine, may be used to prosecute the perpetrators who commit it. A similar statement was also delivered by the representative of Puskor Hindunesia, Suparta Jelantik. Suparta said Bali is on crisis to urgently ban the erotic joged. Furthermore, doing the erotic joged or any activities involved may be categorized as a general crime. Thus the police may immediately take action based on the article in the Penal Code and article about pornography without need to wait for public complaints.

Figure 2. performance of joged bumbung dance along with the pengibing. The fuss is about the behavior of the pengibing which is considered excessive. They hugged the dancer from front and back, then moved their bodies like they were doing sexual intercourse.

Figure 3. the public may cast protest to the channel owners to stop promoting a video about the dance on Youtube. It may also be done by Establishing task force and volunteer from various universities to do reporting and flagging the inappropriate content about Joged bumbung.
CONCLUSION

As one of Balihali dance, it is commonly presented on social gathering. Joged Bumbung acts as entertainment, the beauty of the motions become its selling point for the dance troupe to earn some money. In order to become a famous dance troupe, however, it affects how the choreographer composes the dance. The dance evolves into something that based on what market's need. It has begun to be regarded as agitation in the aesthetic of Bali’s Joged art. Moreover, nowadays, the dancer modifies some of the moves by adding slightly sensual touch. As one of the result, the dance being viewed as an atrocity and raised controversy in public. A recent occasion in November 2017, a short clip about Joged shows a performance of joged bumbung Along with its pengibing in exaggeratedly erotic performance. Culturalists feared it would ignite the reaction of many parties, for instance, the UNESCO. In addition, suggestive joged violates ethics and is a form of cultural defamation thus it is essential to establish pararem to prevent similar incidents in the future.

REFERENCES