



## Joged Bumbung; tradition or transgression?

Eka Ari Suhendra<sup>1</sup>

### 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 Bebal*, and *The Balih Bali* (Performing Dance). *Joged Bumbung*, one of Balih bali 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 Bebal*, and *The Balih Bali* (Performing Dance).<sup>1</sup> Locals perform the wali and bebal 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 Bali 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 bali 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.<sup>3</sup>

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

<sup>1</sup>Universitas Udayana  
Email : [ekaas666@gmail.com](mailto:ekaas666@gmail.com)

Editor:  
Ida Bagus Ngurah Tri Pramana

Received: 15 April 2018  
Accepted: 5 May 2018  
Published: 23 May 2018

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.<sup>4</sup>

## 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*.<sup>5</sup> 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 occasion involves up to 700 trackers from all over Bali.

They selected Les village as the event location due to its geographic terrain which is suitable for tracking routes, as well as there are refugees from Karangasem. In fact, Wistara confirmed that the charity event was opened by the Head of Transportation Agency (Kadishub).

After the trackers finished their tour at Les Village, then the organizer continued the event to entertainment session which took place in the former refugee camp, at Pangumbahan, Les Village. Performers who enliven the event Starting from dangdut performance to Joged Bumbung dance. wistara mention at the beginning of the performance, the dance was delicate, and performed according to the standard; no erotic movement involved. However, after late afternoon, it seems that the dancers and the *pengibing* starting to dance uncontrollably.

The committee confirmed that they hired four joged dancers from Sinabun village, with rental rates of IDR 300.000 per dancer. wistara said there was no particular request from the committee to ask the dancers to perform an erotic dance. However, due to it has been viral in social media, the man from Banjar Kangin, Les Village admitted he did not expect it would be gone zealous.<sup>7</sup>

In fact, the Joged Bumbung incident at Les Village is not the only example. There have been countless erotic Joged Bumbung performances take place all over Bali. Some of the performances circulated in the form of video on social media or even traded. Nevertheless, there has not been a strategic decision being strictly implemented by the stakeholders capable of putting a stop on the atrocious image of dance that was firstly believed to be seen in the 1700s.

## THE MOVEMENT

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.

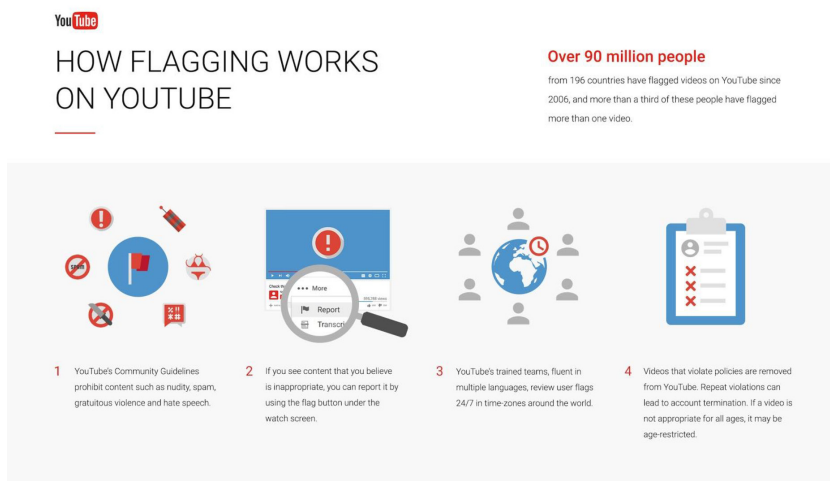
According to Marlowe, several strategies may be implemented to prevent further repeatable incident via offline and online. Officially, the Culture Department needs to identify and counsel



**Figure 1** Joged Bumbung, one of Bali's balihaan dance, acts as social dance as well as entertainment<sup>2</sup>



**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 <sup>6</sup>



**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. <sup>9</sup>

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. Thus they may take preventive action in future when there is any video uploaded to their site. In addition, a campaign "Stop Erotic Joged" may be done to introduce society about the problem 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. <sup>8</sup>

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. <sup>9</sup>

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.



## CONCLUSION

As one of Balih bali 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

1. Bandem IM. Ensiklopedi Tari Bali. Bali : Akademi Seni Tari Indonesia. 2010.
2. Personal Collection of Omang Surya. Nusa Penida Media. Available at URL: <http://www.nusapenidamedia.com/pudarnya-tari-joged-bumbung-di-nusa-penida/>
3. Anonymous. Begini Sejarah Perubahan hingga Munculnya Joged Porno di Bali. JawaPos.com. 2018. Available at URL : <https://www.jawapos.com/baliexpress/read/2017/11/29/30221/begini-sejarah-perubahan-hingga-munculnya-joged-porno-di-bali>
4. Winyana IN. SENI TRADISI JOGED BUMBUNG DIANTARA TONTONAN ESTETIK DAN ETIK. VIDYA SAMHITA. 2015 Jun 6;1(1). Available at URL : <http://ejournal.ihtn.ac.id/index.php/vs/article/download/8/10>
5. Kaimuddin H. Edan! Acara Amal Kok Pakai Joged Porno, Tonton Videonya. Fajar.co.id.2017. Available at URL: <https://fajar.co.id/2017/11/25/edan-acara-amal-kok-pakai-joged-porno-tonton-videonya/>
6. Screenshot of Documentation Joged Bumbung at Les Village.2017. Available at URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-okIcIdL85g>
7. Devita R. Pembiaran Joged Porno Harus Dihentikan, Tindak Tegas!. BaliPost.com. 2017. Available at URL :<http://www.balipost.com/news/2017/11/28/29623/Pembiaran-Joged-Porno-Harus-Dihentikan.html>
8. Youtube Official Blog. Why flagging matters. 2016. Available at URL: <https://youtube.googleblog.com/2016/09/why-flagging-matters.html>
9. Afrisia RS. Aksi Porno Joged Bumbung Dikhawatirkan 'Menggelitik' UNESCO. CNN Indonesia. 2018. Available at URL : <https://www.cnnindonesia.com/hiburan/20180215163120-241-276497/aksi-porno-joged-bumbung-dikhawatirkan-menggelitik-unesco>



This work is licensed under  
a Creative Commons Attribution