



Theater & Martial Arts In West Sumatra: Randai & Silek of the Minangkabau (Ohio RIS Southeast Asia Series)

Kirstin Pauka

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Randai, the popular folk theater tradition of the Minangkabau ethnic group in West Sumatra, has evolved to include influences of martial arts, storytelling, and folk songs. *Theater and Martial Arts in West Sumatra* describes the origin, development, and cultural background of randai and highlights two recent developments: the emergence of female performers and modern staging techniques.

This book also explores the indigenous martial arts form *silek*, a vital part of *randai* today. The strong presence of *silek* is illustrated in the martial focus of the stories that are told through *randai*, in its movement repertoire, and even in its costumes and musical accompaniment. As Kirstin Pauka shows, *randai*, firmly rooted in *silek* and Minangkabau tradition, is an intriguing mirror of the Minangkabau culture.

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