

Concert of Javanese "gamelan" music and dance, and shadow play to be presented at UCSD

March 30, 1973

Two performances - a concert of Javanese "gamelan" music and dance on Friday, April 6, and a Javanese shadow play on Saturday, April 7 - will be presented at the University of California, San Diego.

The performances, which will both be held at 8:30 p.m. in the Music Gallery, Bldg. 408 on the Matthews Campus, are presented under the auspices of the UCSD Campus Programming Board and the Music Department. Admission for each performance is \$1 for the general public, and 50 cents for students.

Mr. K. R. T. Wasitodipuro, Java's most outstanding musician and composer, will direct the "gamelan" (orchestra) made up of approximately 30 musicians and dancers. The concert will include traditional "gamelan" music, three new works by Wasitodipuro, as well as the special dance performances.

Two of the dances to be performed are the "Lawung" in which gongs accompany male dancers who perform with long lances, and the "Cambyong," a dance to express appreciation of feminine beauty. A dance version of the classical themes, the triumph of light over dark and of good over evil, will be performed using the two-dimensional movements of shadow puppets.

The shadow play performance to be presented Saturday is an important part of the Javanese culture. In addition to being good entertainment, the plays are used to transmit the wisdom of the culture, particularly the philosophic and mystic principles of the "semadi" discipline, to the Javanese youth.

The plays fall into three main categories which correspond to the stages of life, and therefore, have special meaning for every age group. Performances can last all night, but the audience is expected to wander in and out, heeding only those portions of particular interest.

The performance is under the direction of a "dalang" who is responsible for the stories, character of the puppets, music, and commentary. A good "dalang" can present 100 different all-night performances and is revered in Java as a teacher and spiritual guide.

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