

Performing Arts in Asia

“The Performing Arts” are usually defined as drama, music, or dance performed in front of an audience. We will expand this definition to include film, television, and radio as well as Performance Art. We hope to study both traditional performing arts – such as Kathakali, Wayang Kulit, Chinese Opera and Kabuki – as well as more modern ones – such as Historical K-dramas, Bollywood films, or Cantopop. Performance artists, such as Yayoi Kusama, Zhang Huan or Yoko Ono also fit within the scope of this study group. Join us as we study a wide variety of Performing Arts in Asia.

Suggested topics (but feel free to develop your own topic):

Theatre

- Kuo Pao Kun: Singapore playwright jailed for his politics
- Singaporean playwrights
- Traditional Japanese Theatre
 - Noh & Kyogen
 - Kabuki
- Folk Theatre in India
- Indigenous Theatre of Australia
- Dance dramas of Bali
- Wayang Topeng & Wayang Orang – masked and unmasked Javanese dance drama

Puppetry

- Vietnamese Water Puppets
- Puppetry in India
- Chinese Puppet Theatre in Singapore
- Bunraku – Japanese puppet theatre
- Wayang Kulit - Indonesian Shadow Puppetry
- Shadow puppetry in Asia

Dance

- Classical Dances of India
 - Odissi – ritual temple dance from Orissa
 - Kuchipudi – dance and song from Andhra Pradesh
 - Manipuri – religious dance from Manipur
 - Kathak – mythological and moral tales from Northern India

- Kathakali – dance drama from Kerala
- Bharatanatyam – Hindu temple dance from Tamil Nadu
- Shatriya – classical dance from Assam
- Folk dances of Thailand
- Classical / court dances of Thailand

Music

- Cantopop
 - Kay Tse: Hong Kong Cantopop singer for social justice & democracy
- Southeast Asian musical instruments and the music they produce
- Music of India
 - Folk music – Bhangra, etc.
 - Classical music – Carnatic & Hudustani
- K-pop

Chinese Opera - *in a class of its own as it combines acting, music, dance, martial arts, acrobatics, costume, and make-up*

- Peking Opera
- Regional Operas & Dialect Opera

Film & TV & Radio

- The Shaw Brothers – Asian film production company
- The rise of K-dramas
- Bollywood – and its offshoots
- Cinema of Japan
- Hayao Miyazaki and animation

Storytelling and Spoken Word Theatre in Asia

- Roles, structure, and styles, Japanese, Chinese & Korean

Performance Art

- Yoko Ono
- Yayoi Kusama
- Zhang Huan