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Preserving The Dying Arts



Jikey is a type of traditional theater dance that was once popular in Kedah and Perlis, especially in the 60s. Unfortunately, it went off the radar for quite sometimes that most young generation nowadays are not aware of the existence of this unique theatre dance. Thus, this is an effort to give awareness and information and well as preserve this cultural entity that our next generation knows and appreciates it. This concept idea is meant to re-introduce the arts into the mainstream arts and made it known to the people. The Jikey performance has a strong influence from other Malay performing arts like Mak Yong, Hadrah, Bangsawan and Mek Mulung. The main elements of Jikey are improvised dialogue, music and dance, and local legends formed the main repertoire with considerable emphasis placed on slapstick comedy. The Jikey music consists of both instrumental and singing. The main characters are comedians, king and warriors. A complete theatrical orchestra for Jikey includes rebana (with no jingles) in large, medium and small sizes; one tambourine; one hanging, knobbed gong, five or more pairs of cerek, one pair of kesi, an oboe (serunai for Malay or pi for Thai). However, typical ensembles consist only of a violin, 3 rebana and 2 cerek or bamboo stampers.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Based on the current trend, it seems that the young generation especially the Kedahans are not aware of the existence of this cultural performance that used to be a favourite show during the weekends. The old generation also seems forget to share with the young generation about Jikey, especially in the northern parts of Malaysia.

The problems are; the young generation are not aware of the existence of Jikey, they also do not know about how it was being played and what are involved in the performance.

UNIQUENESS

There is a scarce of sources written for this dying art. This concept idea is re-introducing the art of Jikey through the academic platform.

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OBJECTIVE

Thus, this concept idea will re-introduce the traditional theatre dance of Jikey

The development of this concept idea is meant to engage the young generation especially the young generation in the northern parts of Malaysia about this unique performance and gain some information about Jikey.

RESULT & DISCUSSION

Jikey: Preserving the Dying Arts can help the young generation especially the students in understanding and appreciating their own culture.

By understanding their own culture, the young generation will have more pride over their own traditions and culture.

The presentation of this concept idea will improve one's knowledge about the almost extinct Malay's culture.

