

## **MajelisDramaturgi**

MajelisDramaturgi (Dramaturgy Assembly) is an open platform for collective works that focuses on cultivating the dramaturgy practices and studies between interdisciplinary performing artists.

Within a year of working collectively, the Majelis has been working in various stages of either developing, maintaining, improving and/or archiving 11 performing arts works created by artists from Jakarta, Bandung, Yogyakarta, and Madura. The first working periods (2017 – 2020) is set to produce a collective archive document that will be published in the first half of 2020.

MajelisDramaturgi grew out of a workshop series initiated by TeaterGarasi. The series represents an attempt to sharpen, expand, and strengthen the work of creating and developing performance as a process of knowledge production. Working within the network of theatre practitioners in Indonesia, this workshop is designed to be open, equal, and based on each participants' work. The workshop's meetings occurred as an intensive meeting where all participants actively involved in developing each other's ideas and dramaturgy. The workshop produces and develops follow-ups agendas and research questions, as well as continuous collective/collaborative dramaturgy work.

The crucial and actual questions in the workshop, which is broader and not limited to the parameter above, has expanded this forum further. The existing working curriculum is founded by applying these expanded questions in the concrete situation of participants' project. Each participant is directly involved in the process of exploring each other's work, taking a multiple and shifting roles, either as a close-audience, critic, actor, scenographer, dramaturg, comparator, examiner and/or archivist. Rather than hastily matches and fits a particular idea and form with aesthetic ideals outside of the work, the active process of the workshop initially begins with the need to articulate ideas and forms as faithfully and thoroughly to their potential. In this forum, the primary principles of the curriculum are: (1) The belief that there is no such thing as a completely good or bad idea for an artistic project; (2) If a participant finds that someone in the room has a bad idea, it becomes that participant's responsibility to change and push the idea into a good one; if a participant finds someone has seemingly a good idea, it is also that participant's responsibility to be in doubt and ask questions. (3) The collective development process begins from locating each main idea as a complex universe. Detailed mapping of its complication is a process that should take place continuously in the course of the making of a performance to the final performance event; (4) At the same time, the improvisatory and explorative nature to glean new, incidental, and intersectional findings from the workshop becomes as important as the measured, calculated, and theoretically informed thinking process. Archival material from each project, in the form of writing, images, audio, and visual recordings, serve as the primary source of the Majelis workshop. Before the workshop, each participant was required to know each other and study the archives of every one projects in the room.

The MajelisDramaturgi has evolved into a kind of forum that expects other possibilities of developing and reflecting the participants' works, be it in its stage of initiation, development or completion, envisioning performance work as something that continuously being open and grows. These possibilities should be explored through cross-disciplinary practices and mediums as informed by participants' various backgrounds.

Representative member:

**Akbar Yumni**, studied at STF Driyarkara (Driyarkara School of Philosophy). He initiates and writing for [www.jurnalfootage.net](http://www.jurnalfootage.net). He is a member of Forum Lenteng, where he works as the selector and curator for Arkipel (Jakarta International Experimental and Documentary Film Festival). His recent activity includes working on performance projects that is related to the corpus of missing film archives.

**Yustiansyah Lesmana,**

is a theatre director who lives and works in Jakarta. He has been involved in theatre since 2003 and began directing a theatre work in 2007. Since then, he has been working as a theatre director until now. He is awarded as the Best Director in several theatre festivals, including the National Student Theatre Festival in 2009, Jakarta Theatre Festival in 2011-2012 and 2013-2014. In 2014, he participated in a theatre work at the International Anti-Racist Festival (Imagine Festival) in Switzerland. From 2015 until 2017, Lesmana involved in various interdisciplinary collaborative works with artists from various regions in Indonesia. In the last November to December, he was invited by Asia Performing Arts Forum to collaborate in directing several actors from Asian countries. Lesmana is currently working with Teater Ghanta, where they are preparing two collaborative works including a (re-enactment) project that based on the audio archive of Sutan Takdir Alisjahbana's lecture in 1970 and a project with APAF 2018 at Tokyo Festival which will take place in October-November 2018.