

**GENDER AS THEATRE: IN AND OUT OF
THEATRICAL SPACE**

I Nyoman Sudana

Abstract

Using examples from the stylistic and realistic acting technique this article compares and contrasts theories and ideas about similarities and differences between performance gender in theatre and non-theatrical space. Balinese theatre gives multiple ways to further assess the gender issues: the relationship to Judith Butler's gender theory, the connection to psychoanalytic states of self, the problem of culture versus nature, and the important of Balinese theatre in illustrating how and why gender is performance. Balinese acting, which is highly stylistic and learned consciously, makes audience aware of life/gender as style/performance, whereas gender in the non-theatrical space is perceived by most people as natural and is learned unconsciously. Stylistic gestures, voice, pose, speaking patterns, and costumes associated with male versus female character is more valuable for understanding gender as performance than the seeming-realistic style, just as language in literature is more superior than daily language.

Key Words : *Gender, Balinese Theatre, Realistic acting technique, Stylistic, Performance, Cultural, and natural.*