

Politics and Canon of Audience: Tourists and Local Cultural Performances

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Tourists become important audience of traditional performing arts in Ubud. Crossing through several boundaries created by agents of tourism, from tour leader to local guide, hotel crew to hawker, not only the tourists, the audience but even the performers themselves finally arrive at the venue for the performance. In this process of becoming an audience, a tourist becomes a 'meta-tourist', Urry calls him or her a 'post-tourist' (Urry 2002: 91), someone who is conscious of being a tourist in a certain point of time and place in his or her life, and the one who is always on the process of becoming a tourist. Since local performers also know that they are performing it for the tourists, by the same token it is believed that they also become 'meta-performers' for the tourists, someone who are conscious of doing it for some kinds of audience. And, thus performance in such context itself gets 'meta-local' and 'meta-touristic' quality since it tries its best to remain local.