

**EXPRESSION OF URBAN COMMUNITIES THROUGH RITUAL
PERFORMANCES FOR THE INAUGURATION OF RENI'S GRAVE
AS THE CULTURAL SITE IN PALAWIJEN VILLAGE,
MALANG CITY, EAST JAVA**

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ABSTRACT

Performance arts in current days should not be understood with limited words because it always involves complex dimensions. It not only executes the mission of *entertaining* and *guiding*. It also represents “the reality” involving actors and audiences into one integral unity. Performance arts may not be organized anymore with structural nature or by internalizing values. More than that, this review attempts to observe the phenomena expressed by the communities of Palawijen Village. The approach is structural functional prospective, which is aimed to find out the esthetic expression of urban communities. It answers why there is the inauguration as cultural site for the grave of Reni, a famous artist of Wayang Topeng Malang. In the environment of Malang Regency, Reni is popularly named after Tjandra Suwono. The arts strengthen the potential culture of Palawijen Village communities in building their existence as urban communities. Through esthetic ritualism on Reni's grave cultural site, several values could be advocated, such as (a) social immunity, (b) social harmony, and (c) building social identity.

Keywords: Performance, Ritual, Urban Communities.