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**SEARCHING IDENTITY
IN WAYANG KULIT PERFORMANCE¹**

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Abstract

In this modern era general audiences tend to look at performing arts as entertainment. Nowadays, in many parts of the world, performing art forms have been produced primarily to please and entertain the audience with artistic attraction instead of to deliver socio-religious messages, ethnic and moral issues, to the onlookers. When it is conducted properly, however, performing arts could provide both the spectators and the doers some profound uplifting experiences essential to identity themselves in their own world. By using shadow puppet theatre, *Wayang Kulit*, as an example this paper explores the important contributions of this traditional performing art form in developing self identity. This is to show what performing arts could offer to us, to our society, and to our world.

Key World : *performing arts, identity, Wayang Kulit.*