

GAMELAN GALAKTIKA

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Gamelan Galak Tika presents Balinese dance master at MIT's Broad Institute

Cambridge, MA (November 5 2007) – Gamelan Galak Tika - Boston's first Balinese gamelan - opens its 15th season in collaboration with legendary Balinese dancer and scholar **I Made Bandem**. Mr. Bandem, former head of Bali's prestigious ISI Arts Academy and author of "Balinese Dance in Transition," will perform traditional Balinese dance solos and duos while accompanied by Galak Tika's 25-member ensemble of gongs, metallophones, drums and flutes. The vast expressive and technical range of Balinese dance will be in full flower, mesmerizing to Western audiences of all ages. The program will also include Galak Tika's first performance of Bali's most famous female dance, "Legong Kraton." The whole family can experience the beauty and elegance of this ancient art in the intimate setting of MIT's **Broad Institute Auditorium**, 7 Cambridge Center, Cambridge. The performance will take place on Sunday, December 9, 2007, at 3 pm. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 students and seniors, \$5 children under 12 and MIT & Harvard students. \$2 off each ticket with advanced reservations - please call 617-452-2302 or email info@galaktika.org. For more information, please visit www.galaktika.org.

The performance continues Galak Tika's tradition of bringing the full expanse of Balinese performing arts to the Boston area. In addition to Dr. Bandem and other Balinese dancers, the program will include different genres of Balinese instrumental music, ancient and modern, as performed on a variety of sets of hand-forged and intricately carved instruments, including the chamber Gamelan Gender Wayang (music of the shadow play) and explosive Gamelan Beleganjur (temple marching music) in works by the late **I Wayan Loceng** and by Bali's most acclaimed young composer, **Dewa Ketut Alit**, the artistic director of Bali's Sanggar Cudamani.

Dr. I Made Bandem will both perform and give a short lecture-demonstration. He is widely regarded as the foremost living expert on traditional Balinese dance and drama; his groundbreaking book, "Balinese Dance in Transition," was the first extensive study of the art form to be published in the west. Descended from a long line of *arja* (Balinese opera) dancers in Singapadu Village, Dr. Bandem was a well-known "Baris" dancer in Bali by the age of 10 (he will perform and speak about "Baris" at this performance). Turning to scholarship, in 1980 he became the first Balinese artist to receive a PhD in ethnomusicology, from Wesleyan University. He then spent 16 years as director of ISI Arts Academy in Denpasar, during which he championed the resuscitation of many near-lost classical forms. He is currently Professor of Balinese Dance at Holy Cross. This will be his first Boston appearance as a solo artist.

Gamelan Galak Tika is the Boston area's first Balinese gamelan. A community ensemble in residence at MIT, GGT was founded in September 1993 by Artistic Director **Evan Ziporyn** for the purpose of studying and performing both traditional and modern Balinese music and dance. In the 14 years since its inception, GGT has performed at dozens of venues throughout the East Coast, including Zankel Hall, Alice Tully Hall, BAM Next Wave, Bang On A Can, Boston First Night, Mass MOCA, and numerous universities and museums. In the summer of 2005 they staged a triumphant tour of Bali, bringing new American works to the Bali International Arts Festival as well as to villages throughout the island. They have collaborated with leading Balinese choreographers and dancers, as well as with theatrical groups, other Asian performing artists, electronic musicians and composers,

choreographers and directors. GGT continues to bring this sophisticated and living art form to the attention of American audiences.