

ENGLISH SUMMARY OF ARJA KATEMU RING TAMPAKSIRING

They met in Tampaksiring is an *Arja Gedé*¹ performed by nine actor-dancers. Of these nine people, four perform the main roles, namely Luh Rai (*Galuh*), Luh Kompyang (*Limbur*), van Steffen (Young Dutchman, *Mantri Manis*), and I Wayan Gablèr (*Mantri Buduh*). There are five supporting roles. These consist of Luh Mongkèg (*Condong*), the family servant to Luh Rai and Luh Kompyang; two acquaintances of the young Dutchman (*Panasar Kelihan* and *Cenikan Manis*), and two servants to I Wayan Gablèr (*Panasar Kelihan* and *Cenikan Buduh*).²

The play *They met in Tampaksiring* is taken from a modern Balinese short story titled *Katemu Ring Tampaksiring* by I Made Sanggra from Sukawati-Gianyar. This *Arja* is the first of four new *Arja* creations produced by Professor I Wayan Dibia at GEOKS Singapadu.

Summary

They met in Tampaksiring is a story set in the region of Gianyar after Indonesian Independence. This story illustrates the emotional meeting or encounter of a Balinese woman from Tampaksiring called Luh Kompyang (with her Dutch husband de Bosch): Ni Luh Rai who lives in Bali with her brother named van Steffen who lives in the Netherlands. By the grace of God they meet in Tampaksiring in their village of birth.

The story tells of Ni Luh Rai, a village girl who sells statues in front of the temple of Pura Tirta Empul (Tampaksiring). She meets a young Dutchman named van Steffen who came to Bali accompanying the Dutch Queen Yuliana on a visit. From the first moment of their meeting, Luh Rai and Steffen's hearts feel mutually attracted; first as love, but later as sibling affection because they are both the children of Ni Luh Kompyang, the wife of the late de Bosch, a member of the Dutch armed forces who served in Bali during the revolutionary period. In a scene of intense emotion, Ni Luh Kompyang embraces van Steffen (whose nickname is de Combosch) witnessed by Ni Luh Rai in tears. The three of them are grateful for God's gift and thank Tampaksiring for bringing them back together. Meanwhile, I Wayan Gablèr, Jéro Bendésa Gedé's son from Manukaya, who was disappointed in his love being rejected by Ni Luh Rai, finally becomes a witness to this happy event.

¹ *Arja* is Balinese Dance Opera. *Arja Gedé* is the version with a full complement of nine characters. For more information, see de Zoete, B. & Spies, W. 1938. *Dance and drama in Bali*. London: Faber; reprinted 1973 Oxford Univ. Press, pp.196-209; Dibia, W. & Ballinger, R. 2004. *Balinese dance, drama and music: a guide to the performing arts of Bali*, Singapore: Periplus, pp 84-5; Hobart, M. & Pujawati, M. 2001. *Arja: theatre where women rule. Seleh notes* 8, 3: 1, 8-10.

² The roles are:

Luh Rai, a stall owner—heroine (*Galuh*);
Luh Kompyang, Mother—elder woman (*Limbur*);
van Steffen, a young Dutchman—hero (*Mantri Manis*);
I Wayan Gablèr, son of a village head—villain (*Mantri Buduh*);
Luh Mongkèg, the family servant to Luh Rai and Luh Kompyang (*Condong*);
Young Dutchman's elder acquaintance (*Panasar Kelihan Manis*);
Young Dutchman's younger acquaintance (*Panasar Cenikan Manis*);
Villain's elder servant (*Panasar Kelihan Buduh*);
Villain's younger servant (*Panasar Cenikan Buduh*).

The names in italics in brackets are the Balinese names for the respective roles, which are conventional.

The hero (*Mantri*) and his servants (*Panasar*), here friends, are *manis*, literally 'sweet', but meaning refined, noble.

The villain and his servants are *buduh*, literally 'mad', usually a combination of bad, mad and dangerous to know.

Storyline

Ni Luh Rai, a village girl from Banjar Dauh Bukit sells statues daily in Jaba Pura Tirta Empul (Tampaksiring). One day a young Dutchman named van Steffen arrives. The young man, whose first name is de Combosch, is accompanying Queen Yuliana on her visit to Bali. From the moment he first meets Luh Rai, van Steffen is fascinated, his heart pounding at the girl's charming smile. Luh Rai feels the same, as she sees something special in van Steffen that she had never experienced with so many foreign guests who shop at her stall. After the first meeting van Steffen often comes to visit the shop where Luh Rai sells statues.

One day, early in the morning before the Queen's departure to the temple of Besakih, van Steffen, who is wearing a suit and bow tie, takes the time to stop by Luh Rai's shop to ask what souvenirs she would like from Besakih. Luh Rai does not immediately answer the young Dutchman, who just smiles shyly and looks down at the floor. Suddenly a bell rings in the guard post of the Palace in Tampaksiring post announcing that it is half past seven in the morning. van Steffen hurriedly excuses himself to return to the palace to join the Queen's entourage to visit Besakih. Because he is in a hurry, he forgets his camera which was lying on top of the statues in Luh Rai stall. Shortly afterwards he returns to ask Luh Rai's help to retrieve the camera. When she rushes out carrying the camera van Steffen requested, Ni Luh Rai slips and falls off in front of her stall. Her long, wavy hair falls down to the floor and her sarong parts to expose her beautiful white calf. Van Steffen wants to help her but pauses stunned by Luh Rai's beauty. From that moment van Steffen's heart is tied to this Balinese girl, who happens to be none other than the only daughter of a widow named Luh Kompyang. After van Steffen leaves and ascends the palace steps, Luh Rai decides to close her shop so that she can take care of her ailing mother. Seeing the change in her daughter's behaviour over the last few days, Luh Kompyang asks Luh Rai what has happened to her. At first Luh Rai refuses to say, but after being urged by her mother, she finally said that she has fallen in love with a Dutch foreigner. Hearing her daughter's confession, Luh Kompyang reminds Luh Rai to be more careful and not to be easily seduced by foreigners. Her mother also warns her daughter to keep her feelings secret so as not to be overheard by I Wayan Gablèr, the son of Jéro Gedé Bendésa Manukaya, who is famously reckless and has long been madly in love with her.

Meanwhile, in the village of Manukaya, I Wayan Gablèr and his servants are preparing to visit the house of Luh Rai. To melt the heart of the girl he idolizes, Wayan Gablèr orders his two servants to prepare treasures and jewels that he plans to give to Luh Rai. When everything is ready, they go to Banjar Dauh Bukit. Arriving at Luh Rai's house, he proudly declares his love for Luh Rai while forcing his gifts of jewelry on her. His arrogance is such that he reminds Luh Rai not to be seen to reject his love, because he will not hesitate to use any means to realize his dream of marrying Luh Rai. Forcing a smile, Luh Rai gently requests that Wayan Gablèr comes back another time because her mother is ill. Also she needs a little time to think about the offer. Feeling optimistic and sure of his success in getting Luh Rai, Wayan Gablèr leaves Luh Rai's house.

After Wayan Gablèr leaves, van Steffen secretly enters Luh Rai's yard. Once again, he is enchanted by Luh Rai's beauty hidden behind her traditional Balinese attire, as she moves gracefully to place incense and offerings around her compound. When Luh Rai finishes carrying out her offerings for Kajeng Keliwon, van Steffen pretends to cough so that Luh Rai hears him. The arrival of this handsome young man surprises Luh Rai and she blushes. She had never imagined that van Steffen would come to her humble home just to bring souvenirs from Besakih in the form of *salaks*, several bunches of *kasna* for offerings, and pine resin as medicinal ingredients. After pouring out his heart to Luh Rai, van Steffen excuses himself. No sooner does he leave than Luh Kompyang comes out of her room asking who the visitor was.

As if it is the will of the Gods, van Steffen, who is trembling slightly, realizes the charisma of Luh Kompyang and introduces himself by his first name, de Combosh. Hearing this name, Luh Kompyang's memory drifts back in the time to Carangsari where she met her husband, de Bosch, a member of the Dutch Army. While still remembering the past, she looks searchingly at van Steffen's face. Sensing that something is hidden, Ni Luh Kompyang asks van Steffen not to lie and to tell her who he really is. After struggling to calm himself, van Steffen explains that he himself does not know for sure who he is and admits that he was raised at an Orphan Foundation in Rotterdam in the Netherlands. On one occasion, the Director of the Foundation told him that his father was said to be a member of the Dutch Army who had served in Bali and then died in battle in Lembang.

Before van Steffen had finished talking about his past, Luh Kompyang hugs him while crying. With tears in her eyes, Luh Kompyang explains that he is her long-lost son. The name de Combosch itself is an abbreviation of Kompyang and de Bosch, and Luh Rai is his own younger sister who was still in the womb when her father left. Sensing van Steffen still hesitating, Luh Kompyang then enters her bedroom and comes out carrying an old photograph. After looking at the photo, van Steffen reaches into his wallet and takes out a small photo that turns out to match the photo Luh Kompyang is holding. Breathless and teary-eyed, van Steffen hugs Luh Kompyang and calls her "Moeder". The three then embrace one other and are swept away by the surprise. Shortly afterwards, a loud barking dog signals that a guest is coming to their house.

Without asking permission, Wayan Gablèr enters Luh Rai's yard to demand an answer. Hands on hips, he loudly calls Luh Rai to come out at once and give an answer to his offer of marriage. Luh Rai calmly comes out to meet Wayan Gablèr and frankly says that, after careful consideration, she has decided to reject Wayan Gablèr's offer of love on the grounds that she feels she is not yet mature enough. And besides she wishes to help her mother who raised her and has been struggling to recover from illness. Hearing this rejection, Wayan Gablèr is overcome with emotion and forces Luh Rai to go away with him. Suddenly Luh Kompyang and van Steffen run onto the scene. Luh Kompyang reminds Wayan Gablèr not to turn to violence so quickly nor to force a woman against her will. Using her motherly voice, she reminds Wayan Gablèr to make good use of his youth to learn and to seek as much knowledge as he can so that, when he is older, he can participate in building up the village of Manukaya as has his father, Jèro Gedé Bendésa Manukaya. She also reminds him that his unreflective behavior is really not commendable and against religious teachings, all of which could damage and tarnish the good name of his father, Jèro Gedé Bendésa, in the eyes of the community. Struck by what Luh Kompyang says Gablèr's slowly calms down and he becomes aware that he has behaved wrongly and dishonourably. He apologizes to Luh Kompyang and Luh Rai and states that for the sake of people in Tampaksiring he will never again do something that could disturb the community and promises to be friends with the family of Mrs. de Bosch.

Character and Role Names

1. *Condong* (Luh Mongkèg): Servant to Luh Rai and Luh Kompyang,
2. *Galuh* (Ni Luh Rai): A village girl, putri Luh Kompyang
3. *Limbur* (Ni Luh Kompyang): A village woman, the Widow deBosch
4. *Panasar kelihan manis* (Gledag): Acquaintance of van Steffen
5. *Panasar cenikan manis* (Gledig): Younger brother of I Gledag
6. Van Steffen: A handsome young Dutchman
7. *Panasar kelihan buduh* (Gelar): Servant to Wayan Gablèr dari Manukaya
8. *Panasar cenikan buduh* (Gelur): Younger brother to I Gelar
9. *Mantri buduh* (I Wayan Gablèr): A youth from Manukaya who is quick-tempered, reckless and somewhat arrogant.

Outline of the Plot

Act One: Luh Rai's Meeting with Her Mother (Luh Kompyang)

Luh Rai, a village girl from Banjar Dauh Bukit, and her loyal servant Luh Mongkèg, are preparing her merchandise of Balinese hand-crafted statues in the area in front of the temple of Tirta Empul (Tampaksiring). While preparing her merchandise, Luh Rai tells her feelings frankly to Mongkèg about a European guest who has come to her stall in recent days. Knowing that Luh Rai is in love, Mongkèg reminds Luh Rai not to let herself get carried away thinking about foreigners who come shopping. Mongkèg also reminds her that Luh Rai is always friendly to every guest who comes shopping. During their conversation, Luh Rai decides to close the shop early so she can go home to look after her mother who is ill. Noticing her arrival at an unusual time and seeing her daughter's change in behavior over the past few days, makes Luh Kompyang wonder. She asks Luh Rai what had happened to her. At first Luh Rai does not want to admit it, but after being urged she finally tells the truth that she has fallen in love with a young Dutchman who is part of Queen Yuliana's entourage. Hearing her daughter's admission, Luh Kompyang reminds Luh Rai to be careful and not easily seduced by foreigners. Luh Kompyang also asks Luh Rai to keep this secret. The reason is that I Wayan Gablèr, Jèro Bendésa Gedé Manukaya's son, who was notoriously reckless, is madly in love with her.

Act Two: van Steffen Meets Luh Rai

One day early in the morning, van Steffen accompanied by two acquaintances, I Gledag and I Gledig, comes to Luh Rai's stall. He has come to let her know that he has to accompany Queen Yuliana on her visit to the temple of Besakih. van Steffen asks Luh Rai if she would like a souvenir from Besakih. Luh Rai does not immediately answer but only smiles shyly while keeping her eyes averted. Suddenly a bell rings out in the police post that guards the palace at Tampaksiring indicating it is half past seven in the morning. Because he is hurrying to the palace, van Steffen forgets to take the camera that he put on the top of the statues in Luh Rai stall. van Steffen then turns back to ask Luh Rai's help in retrieving his camera. Because she is nervous and rushing, Luh Rai slips and her long wavy hair spills onto the ground and sarong rides up to expose her white calves. van Steffen who wants to help her stops, stunned by Luh Rai's beauty. He then hurries to leave, while Luh Rai hurries home to meet his mother.

Act Three: I Wayan Gablèr in Manukaya Village

I Wayan Gablèr, Jèro Gedé Bendésa Manukaya's favorite son, is getting ready to visit Luh Rai's house in Banjar Dauh Bukit. He asks his two servants, I Gelar and I Gelur, to prepare expensive gifts, including jewelry, to present to Luh Rai. Arriving at Luh Kompyang's house, he arrogantly forces the gifts on Luh Rai, at the same time confessing his love and trying to seduce Luh Rai who remains silent. In response, Wayan Gablèr reminds Luh Rai not to try to refuse his love because he will not hesitate to use any means whatever to get her. Deftly, with a sweet smile, Luh Rai asks Wayan Gablèr to come back another time, because her mother is ill and she needs time quietly to think about his offer. Optimistic that he has been successful in winning over Luh Rai, Wayan Gablèr and his two servants leave Luh Rai's house.

Act Four: Luh Kompyang's Meeting with van Steffen.

After Wayan Gablèr departs, unbeknown to without the knowledge of Luh Rai, who was busy organizing offerings for Kajeng Keliwon, van Steffen enters Luh Kompyang's compound. Once more, he is captivated by Luh Rai's beauty and elegance in her traditional Balinese attire. Seeing that Luh Rai has finished carrying out her ritual, van Steffen then pretends to cough to attract Luh Rai's attention. She is really surprised to see van Steffen who has been sitting in the front room of her house, with souvenirs from Besakih in the form of *salaks*, several bundles

of *kasna* for offerings, and pine resin as medicinal ingredients. After a long time pouring out his heart to Luh Rai, van Steffen excused himself. When he stands up to shake hands with Ni Luh Rai, Luh Kompyang suddenly appears from her bedroom and asks who he really is. As if it is the will of the Gods, van Steffen, who is trembling slightly, seeing the charisma of Ni Luh Kompyang, introduces himself by his first name—de Combosch. Hearing this name, Luh Kompyang's memory drifts back to the time in Carangsari where she met de Bosch who later married her. Luh Kompyang looks searchingly into van Steffen's face. Feeling something is hidden, Ni Luh Kompyang asks him not to lie and to tell the truth about who he is. After calming himself, van Steffen explains that he himself does not know for sure who he is as he was raised at a Foundation for Orphans in Rotterdam in the Netherlands. The Director of the Foundation once told him that his father was a member of the Dutch Army serving in Bali but who died in battle in Lembang. Even before van Steffen has finished, Luh Kompyang embraces him in tears. Sobbing, she explains that he is her long-lost son. His first name de Combosch is an abbreviation of Kompyang and de Bosch. Luh Rai is his younger sibling who was left by his father while she was still in the womb. Feeling van Steffen still hesitating, Luh Kompyang goes into her bedroom and emerges carrying an old photograph. After looking at it, van Steffen reaches into his wallet and takes out a small photo that turns out to match the one Luh Kompyang is holding. Breathing deeply and with tears in his eyes, he hugs Luh Kompyang calling her "Mother". The three then embrace each other overcome with deep feelings. Shortly afterwards a dog is heard barking loudly indicating that someone is coming.

Act Five: I Wayan Gablèr Meets Luh Rai's Family

Wayan Gablèr enters arrogantly ordering Luh Rai to come out and give an immediate response to his offer of marriage. He also challenges the young Dutchman who has captured Luh Rai's heart. He reiterates his threat to use any means necessary to get Luh Rai. Luh Rai calmly comes forward to meet I Wayan Gablèr. She explains that, frankly, after careful consideration, she cannot accept Wayan Gablèr offer of love. Apart from feeling that she was still not mature enough, she wishes to look after her mother who has struggled to raise her single handed. Hearing this, Wayan Gablèr becomes very emotional and seizes Luh Rai's hand to take her away by force. Abruptly Luh Kompyang arrives, accompanied by van Steffen who stops Wayan Gablèr. In a motherly voice she reminds Wayan Gablèr to use his youth to acquire as much knowledge as he can so, when he is older, he can participate in building up the village of Manukaya village as has his father, Jèro Gedé Bendésa Manukaya. She also reminds him that his unreflective behavior is really not commendable and against religious teachings, all of which could damage and tarnish the good name of his father, Jèro Gedé Bendésa, in the eyes of the community. Struck by what Luh Kompyang says Gablèr's slowly calms down and he becomes aware that he has behaved wrongly and dishonourably. He apologizes to Luh Kompyang and Luh Rai and states that for the sake of people in Tampaksiring he will never again do something that could disturb the community and promises to be friends with the family of Mrs. de Bosch.

Order of Scenes: Entry and Meeting/Discussions

No.	Scenes	Roles
1	Entry (Papeson) <i>Heroine's Servant, Heroine</i>	<i>Heroine's servant (Luh Mongkèg) Heroine (Luh Rai).</i>
2	Meeting (Patemon) <i>Heroine and Limbur</i>	<i>Heroine's servant, Heroine and Mother (Luh Kompyang)</i>
3	Entry (Papeson) <i>Hero</i>	<i>Hero's elder servant (I Gledag), younger servant (I Gledig), Hero (van Steffen), Heroine and Heroine's servant.</i>
4	Meeting (Patemon) <i>Heroine and Hero</i>	<i>Hero's elder and younger servants, Hero, Heroine and Heroine's servant.</i>
5	Entry (Papeson) <i>Villain</i>	<i>Villain's elder servant (I Gelar), younger servant (I Gelur), Villain (I Wayan Gablèr).</i>
6	Meeting (Patemon) <i>Villain with Heroine</i>	<i>Villain's elder and younger servants, Villain, Heroine's servant, Heroine and Mother.</i>
7	Meeting (Patemon) <i>Hero, Heroine and Mother</i>	<i>Hero's elder and younger servants, Hero, Heroine, Heroine's servant and Mother.</i>
8	Meeting (Patemon) <i>Villain, Heroine, Hero, Mother.</i>	<i>Hero's elder and younger servants, Hero, Heroine, Heroine's servant, Mother, Villain's elder and younger servants, Villain.</i>

Performers

Role	Actor
Inya/Condong (Luh Mongkèg)	Ni Madé Pujawati Hobart
Galuh (Ni Luh Rai)	Kadèk Déwi Aryani
Limbur (Luh Kompyang)	I Madé Suarjana
Panasar Kelihan Manis (I Gelar)	I Gusti Lanang Oka Ardika
Panasar Cenikan Manis (I Gelur)	I Ketut Kodi
Pemuda Belanda (van Steffen)	I Madé Sidia
Panasar Kelihan Buduh (I Geblag)	I Madé Sudira
Panasar Cenikan Buduh (I Geblug)	I Nyoman Sunartha
Mantri Buduh (I Wayan Gablèr)	Ni Nyoman Manik Suryani.

³ *Papeson* and *Patemon* are Balinese theatrical terms respectively for the entry of new characters and for encounters between these characters. The terms are nouns from *pesu*, come out onto the stage and *temu*, meet.