



Lecture

The Centhini Story

Lecture by Kesty Pringgoharjono
Wednesday 8 November at Asia House
Doors 6.30, lecture 6.45-7.45pm
followed by reception

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The Centhini Story,
Marshall Cavendish, 2006

The Centhini Story, or Serat Centhini as it is known in Java, is one of the oldest surviving manuscripts in Indonesia. Dating back to 1814, it is an encyclopaedic work in 12 volumes encompassing art, music, divination, erotic knowledge, religious speculation and mysticism. It is written in the form of suluk, or mystic poem, and tells the tale of two princes and a princess who flee their palace in the Giri Kingdom when it is attacked by Sultan Agung of the Mataram Kingdom in 1635. In the confusion, they are separated and travel the length and breadth of Java seeking each other. At each stage of their epic journey - which lasts more than a decade - the people they encounter introduce ideas that give the reader a lively insight into the Javanese way of life.

Ketsy Pringgoharjono set up PT Preserve Indonesia in 2003 with the aim of preserving Indonesian culture and promoting the country's unique culture. Based in London, she is also the founding secretary of Indonesia-Singapore Friendship Association. The reception, featuring Indonesian food and dance, is kindly sponsored by the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia.



Asia House Members and Concessions £4, Non-members £7
Tickets available from Asia House

Tel: 020 7307 5454

Asia House, 63 New Cavendish Street, London W1G 7LP
enquiries@asiahouse.co.uk www.asiahouse.org