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Performing Portuguese, Becoming Betawi

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ABSTRACT

The *Keroncong Tugu* of Indonesia traced its origin to the Tugu "Portuguese" Village in North Jakarta. Based on ethnographic fieldwork, this article examines the interplay of the Tugu people's identification with the Portuguese as well as with the Betawis - the indigenous population of Jakarta, by focusing on their material culture and entertainments, as well as the recent development of Portugal-Indonesia relations. Taking into account the concept of "cultural performance", this article demonstrates that paying attention to the apparel used by the Keroncong Tugu musicians and the interactions among Tugu people during their festivals can reveal to us that Keroncong Tugu is not only a marker of Tugu identity but it also challenges us to redefine the Tugu people as well as the Betawis in the multi-ethnic context of Jakarta. This provides a broader perspective for understanding the interaction between identity and intercultural relations in postcolonial societies.

Keywords: *Keroncong Tugu*, Portuguese, Betawi, identity, performance