

# Farewell 2017 & RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR

Years come and years go. It's time to count our blessings and let go of old regrets – opening a clean page to start afresh with new dreams and hopes.

Stevie Emilia THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

RAISA

**RAISA**, an award-winning singer who has released three albums:

"I have been very happy this year! Many meaningful things happened throughout the year for me, both personally and professionally. *Alhamdulillah* [thank God] I am now married [to actor Hamish Daud] and my career is going smoothly this year. My duet with Isyana Sarasvati was well received by music fans both in Indonesia and Asia. Our duet on the single 'Anganku, Anganku' [My Wish, Your Wish] won many awards. I'm also grateful to have been one of the singers on the soundtrack for the movie *Ayat-Ayat Cinta 2* (the Love Verses 2).

My works this year ran smoothly and I was able to keep to my work schedule, thanks to the support of my family and management team [...] Next year, I am working on a project but I cannot give any details. I also want to travel to places around Indonesia with mountain views and beaches.



INTAN PARAMADITHA

**INTAN PARAMADITHA**, an author who just published her latest work, *Gentayangan: Pilih Sendiri Petualangan Sepatu Merahmu* (The Wandering: Choose Your Own Red Shoes Adventure):

"In 2017, my novel, *Gentayangan: Pilih Sendiri Petualangan Sepatu Merahmu* was finally published. I started working on it 9 years ago, but it was interrupted, if not sabotaged, by so many things, including my own act of wandering – moving to different cities and countries. When you write a novel about travel and displacement amidst a series of packing and unpacking, you tend to repeat the question: 'How did I get here?'"

2018 could be an intense year with my translated collection of short stories coming out and *Gentayangan* in the process of being translated into English. At the same time I also need to return to an academic project that I have put aside for a while.

Personally, 2017 was challenging for me as there were new paths to take, and bad decisions could lead to frustration, unthinkable places or dreadful endings (in a choose-your-own-adventure sense).

Politically, this year we witnessed the continuation of heightened conservatism, ultra-nationalism and sectarianism that marked Indonesian and global politics in 2016. But we also witnessed various forms of resistance, including interventions from feminist groups. This keeps us hopeful as the road could be bumpier in 2018."

FX HARSONO

**FX HARSONO**, a seminal figure in the Indonesian contemporary art scene whose works have been exhibited here and abroad or found homes in collections in renowned museums:

"I took part in four big international exhibitions organized by independent institutions in 2017: A group exhibition entitled 'Rosa's Wound' at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Taipei; 'Sunshower: Art from Southeast Asia 1980s Now' at the National Art Center Tokyo and Mori Art Museum; 'After Darkness: Southeast Asian Art in the Wake of History' by Asia Society, New York; and 'Power & Other Things: Indonesia & Art 1835-Now' at the Europalia Arts Festival in Brussels.

These international events were happy moments for me. I feel they were good accomplishments. There were also several informal or alternative [art] education projects for young artists that have proven to be very successful in helping the emergence of accomplished young artists.

However, I also made plans to take part in several activities which did not materialize this year, hopefully next year. Besides, the uncondusive market situation certainly has had an impact, slowing down funding, such as for several research projects and documentary film projects.

Next year I plan to conduct research for a new work, with a new theme and dealing with a new issue. I haven't decided what the new project will be, but the research will involve taking trips to several regions in Indonesia. [Next year] I will create a new work for my solo exhibition in 2019 and start writing a book on the journey of my creative process all this year."



ARIO BAYU

**ARIO BAYU**, an actor whose latest film was *5 Cowok Jagoan* (Five Mighty Guys):

"I don't know [about my accomplishments], there has to be more. This film is part of the fun, part of the journey. But if you're talking about achievements, I don't think I'm there yet. The year 2017 was a good year for me. The previous year wasn't so good. Next year, I hope the fun will be doubled.

No, I don't really [have plans for next year]. Except maybe to stay happy, stay spirited, don't think too much about politics, since politics isn't so helpful to you. As long as we can help ourselves, that is enough.

All the polemics that have been stirred left and right don't really stimulate us Indonesian youth. We should read more books and ingest more progressive ideas."

EDWIN

**EDWIN**, a filmmaker who has directed indie films such as *Babi Buta Ingin Terbang* (Blind Pigs Want to Fly) and *Kebun Binatang* (Zoo) as well as award-winning hit *Posesif* (Possessive):

"The most significant and fun moments of this year? Those are definitely related to [my film] *Posesif*. *Posesif*'s significant mainly because of the process, during which I worked with a crew that I was mostly unfamiliar with. And from there we collaborated to find new methods of shooting that focused on exploring the different styles of acting by each actor in the film. That's the most fun part of the whole process.

My upcoming project is an adaptation of Eka Kurniawan's book, *Seperti Dendam Rindu Harus Dibayar Tuntas* (Vengeance is Mine, All Others Pay Cash). Right now it is in the scriptwriting and location scouting phase. I haven't decided on casting yet."



TEX SAVERIO

**TEX SAVERIO**, an Indonesian renowned designer who had dressed up pop icons from Jennifer Lawrence and Kim Kardashian to Lady Gaga:

"Professionally, we have had many successful deliveries to our clients, not only in Indonesia but across the globe. We consider this step as part of getting ready for the global market. We believe that getting recognized by working with international public figures is the first step, and getting actual business from that international market is another step, that's the next challenge for us. Therefore, we are happy now that in 2017 we can see progress.

Yes, there are always good and bad times in a year. However I'd rather see the 'bad' as a lesson to learn from and improve. We wish we could do another White Collection in 2017 but unfortunately our schedules are so full now that we have to put that on hold.

Next year, [we are planning] the second Couture collection, as well as some new exciting projects that are now being discussed. Hopefully it goes as planned."

EKA KURNIAWAN

**EKA KURNIAWAN**, an award-winning author whose books have been translated into more than 30 languages:

"The most important thing this year for me was having the English translation of my third novel published. Considering that my first and second novels were published around the same time, the third served as a test for me: Will publishers and readers still be willing to read my next book? [...]"

I always see each year as a happy one, and this year, while I have been busy with various trips, which is of course very tiring, and although I have not published new work [in Indonesian], at least I have had time to reflect, to think of different ideas for new works, and this process often makes me feel as happy as seeing the final result.

This year I planned to republish two of my short story compilations from 2005, but because of my own fussiness, the plan did not happen. One will be published early next year, as long as nothing gets in the way. There is no specific plan for when the other one will be published. My experiences in 2017 have made me a bit more relaxed about setting such a target.

The funny thing is, my only plan for next year is not to have any plan, I just want to hang around. There are several trips that I am going to take [including to attend a literary festival in Lyon, France], but I want to spend most of my time relaxing. I have no plan to publish a new book, apart from republishing my short story collection. I think that taking a break and giving yourself space are as important for a writer as getting a new book out.

I'm happy I managed to exercise again this year, despite my busy schedule. I find it hard to be disciplined about this, but in the last few weeks of the year, I bought a bicycle and went cycling with my neighbors. Hopefully, next year I can be much more disciplined, not just about cycling but also jogging and swimming, to stay healthy."



ANANDA SUKARLAN

**ANANDA SUKARLAN**, a renowned musician and composer:

"John Lennon said 'life is what happens to you when you're busy making other plans' [This year] I was commissioned by several institutions. I rejected some due to time constraints and/or my disinterest with the subject, and accepted others. I was quite happy with the work I wrote for those commissions. I feel I have contributed my grain of sand to the repertoire of classical music [...]. Personally? My daughter started university, studying her long-time passion: mathematics. So she's happy, and I'm happy.

And of course there was that notorious event in November when I walked out during the Jakarta governor's speech, and then my own speech afterwards. That wasn't the worst moment; it was the days following it, when it was politicized and twisted. I spent the next four days trying to protect my alma mater from being attacked [...] I still wish now that things had calmed down, so I could give a 'tell all' interview of what really happened.

Having said that, I would like to reiterate that I don't feel sorry, nor regret what I did. I did what I thought, and still think, is correct. I regret what happened afterwards and what some people did to satisfy their needs. The good I can take from this is that, thanks to this incident, I discovered who my real friends are, and who stabbed me in the back. It was painful, but necessary.

I have long wished to write an opera that would describe the way an Aspie [someone with Asperger's Syndrome] thinks and feels. It doesn't have to be about an Aspie, but I would like it to have multilayered, juxtaposed emotions. It's difficult to describe it in words, of course. For now, I am looking for materials or stories [...]. Basically the idea is to reveal to the listeners that we have hidden emotions we never experience, if not triggered by music. And I think only an Aspie can produce that kind of music. I am giving myself until the end of next year, because without the [self-imposed] deadline, I wouldn't finish it.

As for my own 2018 goal, I want to accomplish the goals of 2017 that I should've done in 2016 because I promised in 2015 to fulfil my resolution of 2014!"

—Dylan Amirio and Stanley Widiyanto contributed to the story