# Table of Contents

**Preface**  
7

**Introduction: The World as a Stage**  
9

## I. Cosmic Space and Sacred Time  
15 – 38

1. An approach to the cosmic theatre  
2. Cosmic space: the village as *mandala*  
3. The divine assignment  
4. The cycle of times  
5. Voices from the past  

## II. The Society of the Chosen Ones  
41 – 71

1. The law of purity  
   Origin and birth  
   The responsibility of the Sanghyang  
   The village endogamy  
2. The drama of life and death  
   Purification rituals in the cycle of life  
   Family and family connections  
   The compound as a stage  
   Purification rituals at birth and in early childhood  
   Rituals of parting: dealing with the dead and their souls  
3. The growing into society  
   The consecration ritual *mulukayu*  
   The youth associations *daha* and *teruna*  
   The Teruna Nyoman – school of life  
   Marriage: entering the village council (Kerama Désa)
III. The Theatre of the Universe

1. The actors of the Kerama Désa  
2. The ritual’s economic and ecologic requirements  
3. Sambodana: textual basics of ritual communication  
4. Casting and Production  
   Patiparten: distribution of roles and tasks  
   Producers of the ritual community

IV. Ritual Performances

1. Pemuja: worship with sacrificial offerings  
2. The holy meal  
3. Rituals of remembering  
4. The universe in motion  
   The big celebration of cosmic renewal  
   Cycles in time and space  
   The swinging rituals  
   The sacred paths  
   Nyangjangan: death cult and cosmic crisis
5. Dramatised conflicts and conflict solutions  
   Karé-karé: playing deadly

V. Ritual music – The Voice of Bhatara Bagus Selonding

VI. Geringsing – Miracle of Textile Art

VII. Change and Continuity

Glossary
Bibliography
Dedication and Acknowledgements
Photo Credits