

## **Indonesian Musical Phenomenon: Emha & Kiai Kanjeng in Leeds**

Venue : The Main Hall, Parkinson Court, University of Leeds, 7.00-9.30p.m.

Date : Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2004

Time : 7 – 9 pm

Admission free ; all welcome

**“KIAI KANJENG”**, a group of musicians from Indonesia will be performing in the Parkinson Court, University of Leeds, on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

With gamelan, traditional Javanese percussion, the group has many times performed at international festivals and does not shut itself from modern Western numbers: pop, blues, jazz (and even invited to perform at the Jak-Jazz Festival). Certainly, their repertoire does not forget the all-popular Indonesian dangdut. The entourage of 15 poets and musicians will be performing songs, poetry and prayers forming a unique spiritualistic expression, as well as presenting an exotic fusion of traditional and contemporary music.

Yet Kiai Kanjeng is not a group similar to other musical outfits. This is largely due to its mission of not primarily for music and the arts, but as a comprehensive social communication and process. This phenomenon is uncommon, and its fame is spread by word of mouth-though it is relatively unspoken about in the Indonesian music constellation especially in its modern music industry.

Kiai Kanjeng is led by Emha Ainun Najib, also known as Cak Nun, a prolific poet, a writer and a columnist. Emha is a Moslem intellectual and in this capacity he is frequently invited to contribute to seminars, open discussions, university meetings and many other events. He is a humanist and a guru who has travelled widely in his home country, Indonesia, especially in the rural areas. He educates people and talks with them about their problems. He holds a regular public forum in seven different cities every month; in which people express their feelings and ideas on anything they want. The man has the credibility and influence to gather people from all components of society and persuade them to sit down and discuss issues together.

Emha’s writing covers a wide range of subjects, including personal contemplation, social comment, criticism of the ruling government and social development. His views on a variety of subjects are based on Islamic teaching. As a writer and a columnist, his writings can be found in various national media in Indonesia and he has become a highly respected commentator on social and cultural matters in his country.

For further information about the Leeds performance, contact:

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