**Abstract**

Research Title : The Method of Grooming for Khon Characters Performing by

The Department of Fine Arts

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The research of The Method of Grooming for Khon Characters Performing by The Department of Fine Arts was aimed to study the background and process of full dress grooming for Khon performing by The Department of Fine Arts.

This study was undertaken by qualitative research using data collection method by field trip study, in-depth interview and participation observation with 5 concerning people.

The study revealed that

1. The history of The Method of Grooming for Khon Characters Performing by The Department of Fine Arts

Khon performance is the show that comprises of several delicate and exquisite arts and it is considered as the motif of other Thai classical dance as Khon has been an inherited original pattern for long time. The dressing was imitated from 'Krueng Ton' or the royal wardrobe which was being used by the royal family at the time, and this costumes were applied to perform in the show of Khon or Lakhon (Thai drama) as well. This costume has been developed since Ayuthaya era, Thonburi era and until the present time, Rattanakosin era. Especially Khon performance by The Department of Fine Arts has been inherited since it was The Department of Theatre, and the format and characteristics were not change. This pattern is divided into 3 parts which are, 'Siraporn' or the head decorations such as headdress, crown and Demon and Monkey head dress; second, 'Thanim Pimpaporn' or the decorations on body such as breast ornaments, a long necklace, belt, bracelet and finally, 'Pattraporn' or the dress made from fabric such cloth, belt, long necklace at front, long necklace at side, necklace. Even though Khon costume of The Department of Fine Arts has been developed according to Thai social situation, this costume pattern is unique and projection Thai national arts.

2. The Methods of Grooming for Khon Characters are involved the preparation process about the completion of dress including the decorations and related equipments such as number 8 thread, gold bottom needles size 2 inches, knife, scissors, sash, unbleached cloth sash width 5 inches and length 1.5 meter and elastic band. There are 2 methods of Phra of male characters which are loincloth with swan tail and loincloth with flat bottom. This is started with put the bracelet to the ankle, wear trousers, put the cloth over them and the decorations. Then the actor will wear the shirt, put on the neck with golden net, belt and all decorations such as breast ornaments, a long necklace, and bracelet. Finally the head dress such as headdress, crown and tiara is put on the head. In the mean time the costume grooming for female actor will start with put the bracelet to the ankle, wear shirt inside, put the breast cloth over it. Then she will wear tube skirt width 1.5 inch pleat. All the decorations such breast ornaments, a long necklace, belt, bracelet, rings and head dress are put on her. It can be concluded that the sewing of cloth for male and female costumes is required the expert skill from the artists in order that the actors can perform comfortably and graciously.

Suggestions

1. There should be the research related to Khon - Lakorn costume and method of creation these dresses in order to preservation the original pattern.

2. Publicizing the process of this costume creating in order to preserve and promote art value.

3. There should be further study about the costume for other Thai classical performances such as classical dancing in order to create that state of knowledge of this art which can be the actual standard for research and practical usage.