

*Dressing Gods and Demons: Costume for Khon* celebrates the auspicious occasion of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit's 7th cycle birthday anniversary on August 12, 2016. The exhibition describes the origins of Khon and its historical presentation. It then highlights the modern Khon costumes created for the revival of this important art form by Her Majesty. The galleries will display old and new Khon costumes, masks and jewelry.

In 2005, when Her Majesty Queen Sirikit set about organizing the revival of Khon, one of Thailand's oldest narrative dance forms, she assembled a scholarly research team to discover what the costumes might have looked like in the past. After the historical evidence had been collected, specialists were selected to design new costumes to fit contemporary adults. This authenticity required re-establishing or expanding the weaving, embroidery, mask- and jewelry-making workshops necessary to produce all aspects of Khon costuming.

Through the SUPPORT Foundation, Her Majesty commissioned a new theatrical interpretation based on what was known about earlier court versions of Khon. The first performance, held in 2007 on the occasion of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and to mark Her Majesty's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, was so well-received that the Queen requested that it become an annual event. The tremendous success of Her Majesty's effort has given new life to the design of Khon costumes, provided training and employment for hundreds of craftspeople, dancers, musicians, and singers as well as introducing Khon to new audiences of all ages.

*Dressing Gods and Demons: Costume for Khon*, will be on view from 4 August 2016 to January 2018 in Galleries 3 and 4 of the Queen Sirikit Museum of Textiles (QSMT). The museum is in the Ratsadakhorn-bhibhathana building in the Grand Palace complex in Bangkok.