

Time Machine

Choreographed & performed by Katsura Kan

I stood still as if in a benighted forest. Everything is so obscure here and every effort to grasp myself fails. The subject is unclear. Never mind. I seem happy because my negative part, a mix of love and hate, resists the pleasant sensation of dancing into the brighter world from the darkness. One day, going into the tropical rain forest taught me to walk slowly. Until then I had always run.

To my surprise, walking slowly, talking with the wind, I knew I could freely call this forest anything I wanted. I felt the direction of the wind and wet my lips. Among my many encounters, Emptiness is the most precious which alone touches me, since I am a part of E's dream. I have been going deep into the tropical rain forest, deeper into the thick and spicy darkness, following its footsteps, in the place where no Time is. I must drive into Time, with my body as the Machine.

Katsura Kan, a native of Kyoto, is a master butoh artist from among the ranks of Japan's senior generation of butoh. He performed with the seminal butoh troupe Byakkosha 1979-1981 and then conducted research in Indonesia and Thailand for 20 years. In 2001, Kan started work in the Balkan region. He is a celebrated solo and collaborative performer as well as a choreographer. Kan has worked with what he calls 'minority dancers' all over the world, in remote locations throughout Africa, Europe and South East Asia for the past 30 years, in addition to his creative works in cosmopolitan culture. Currently, he is researching Beckett Butoh Notation in France, and 'Oracle & Enigma' as a Dance Oratorio project in San Francisco in 2012.

Thanks to the staff and crew of The Actors Studio for this continuing opportunity.

For more information about the local dance scene, or to take part in future Dancebox productions, make sure you're signed up to the MyDance Alliance fortnightly newsletter!
Email contact@mydancealliance.org or call 017 310 3769.

Dancebox



8.30pm 6 April 2012

FUSED Series

The Actors Studio @ Lot 10



Theatre Tech – Mohd Fairul & Mohd Yazri
Front of house & general management – Suresh
Theatre management – Naomi Lim

April is the month when arts and the environment come together. Last Saturday was Earth Hour, April the 22nd is Earth Day, and April the 29th is International Dance Day!

This connection between nature and dance can be seen in our Dancebox program this April. Tonight, dancers will evoke the tempestuous seas and the trembling earth, the delicate metamorphosis of a butterfly and the mysterious darkness of the tropical rainforest.

We open with a very unusual offering: a group of young performers in a gymnastura demonstration, merging the eye-popping flexibility and acrobatics of rhythmic gymnastics with the storytelling character of dance.

This is followed by four solos by performers young and old, emerging and established. Jess Liew, emerging dancer with local butoh company Nyoba Kan, brings us a taster of their upcoming production. Rithaudin Abdul Kadir from University of Malaya merges contemporary dance with an aesthetic from Borneo ethnic dances. Jack Kek, newly returned from his stint with Cloud Gate 2, reprises his celebrated role as a butterfly dreaming of being a man... or is it a man dreaming of being a butterfly?

Finally, we are honoured to welcome Japanese butoh artist Katsura Kan to our stage, with his solo *Time Machine*. If you get bitten by the butoh bug, Katsura-san will host a butoh workshop this weekend, and a performance with local dancers in the following week.

When you've seen this show, maybe you'll feel inspired to go outside and do your own solo dance in the rain! But before you leave the room, turn off the lights, and remember that every day is Earth Day.

Enjoy the show!



Bilqis Hijjas
President, MyDance Alliance.

Pirates & Mermaids

Performed by Lee Shu Wen , Khairani Supyan, Jane Yap, Batrisyia Nazri, Edelyn Nazri , Anis Fatimah Balqis, Sandrine Tan Li Wen, Shernice Chui, Althea, Lizzyiana Falyn, Ng See Wei, Dhanya and Anastasia for Kickstart Gymnastics
Choreographed by Rusnadia Kassim
Coached by Rusnadia Kassim & Wan Dina Norazrin

Adventure beyond the seven seas! Alice and her pirates travel to a mystical land where mermaids live. Will Alice and the crew still be safe when they leave their ship or are they doomed? Be captivated and mesmerized with their movements and submerge yourself in their story.

Founded in 2006 by principal Wan Dina Norazrin, Kickstart Gymnastics is a rhythmic gymnastics school for girls age 3 and above. Kickstart is committed to preparing children to thrive and lead in an increasingly complex and competitive world through the pursuit of athletic excellence and personal integrity, in a fun and encouraging environment.

Rusnadia Kassim, 24 years old, fell in love with gymnastics when she was 4 after watching a movie about Olympic champion Nadia Comaneci. Thanks to this early passion, she was recruited to join the rhythmic gymnastics team at Convent Bukit Nanas 1 at the age of 7 and following years of training made it to the Pelapis squad for the national team in 2001. Due to injuries her stint in the squad ended in 2003, and Rusnadia is now a coach under Kickstart Gymnastics.

Mask Dance

Performed by Jess Liew Chui Ting
Choreographed by Lee Swee Keong
Live music by Gideon Alubakhan

A character from Nyoba Kan's upcoming full length production Catan Kulit, coming soon to The Actors Studio on 25 and 26 May 2012.

In 2009, Jess Liew joined Nyoba Kan's butoh workshop and presented her first butoh performance *Butoh Brides*. She joined Nyoba Kan as a butoh practitioner in 2010 and took part in *The Lost Testimony of Rashomon* at Nyoba Kan International Butoh Fest, Kuala Lumpur. She was a guest performer in the Macau Fringe Fest 2010. In 2011, Jess presented her first solo dance and her own creation *Beast Thought* in *Butoh 3*. In Nyoba Kan International Butoh Fest 2011, she performed her solo piece in *White Snake & Phoenix*. Jess says, "Butoh has opened a path to find my spiritual balance and discover my new self."

When the Earth Dances

Choreographed & performed by Rithaudin bin Abdul Kadir
Music by Goh Lee Kwang from his album *Live @ Five Arts Centre*.

Does the earth dance? We have seen it, experienced it and sometimes we are even the cause of it. The earth shows us its many movements, but what, why and how? You be the judge.

Originally from Sabah, Rithaudin is now a Masters student in the Dance Department at the University of Malaya, pursuing an ethnochoreology thesis on Cocos Islander community dances in Sabah. He started his dance training as an undergraduate at University of Malaya, and has since performed in shows by KESUMA and on television. He was the assistant choreographer for Citrawarna in 2003, and choreographed the opening ceremony of the Malaysian Paralympics in 2004. Currently a contemporary dance instructor at Asthana Arts, Din specialises in Asian contemporary dance, ethnic dances from Borneo and Malay traditional dances.

Dream'n Butterfly

Choreographed & performed by Jack Kek

The flow of the water sleeves in Chinese dance is poetry. Every movement transforms the dancer's state of mind, emotion, and body-readiness. It is about transformation. Chinese philosopher Zhuang Zi said it all: "To dream of becoming a butterfly, or a butterfly becoming a man, is a difference that transcends characterization." Former Taiwanese dance company Cloudgate 2 dancer Jack Kek attempts to make the transcendental leap, hopefully to become the butterfly in order to escape the distractions of human life.

Prior to his return to his native Malaysia this year, Jack was a professional dancer with Cloud Gate 2 (Taiwan). Under the direction of renowned choreographer Lin Huai Min, he has been cast in seminal contemporary dance pieces such as *Oculus* by late Taiwanese choreographer Wu Guo-Chu, and *Song of the Bird* by Lin Huai Min.

Armed with a BFA (Hons) in Dance, majoring in Chinese Dance, from the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts (HKAPA), Jack has toured Prague and Beijing performing a Xinjiang folk dance named *Wedding Marshirapu*, and was chosen to attend the dance exchange programme in Le Conservatoire de Paris, with the performance *Pulse*, choreographed by famous Hong Kong choreographer Mui Cheok Yin.

Jack's openness to new ideas and forms of performance is rooted in his diverse dance background. His indulgence is watching how people move in real life, for geographical and climatic differences give birth to different body forms, not to mention differences in emotional states giving rise to different body gestures. These movements are inter-related; they form human collective memory. With this, according to Jack, theatre embraces universality and humanity.