

enjoys modern dance too. Since the age of 7 she has performed on stage and in commercial shows. Currently she wants to explore the combination between kathak and contemporary dance in terms of movement vocabulary and technique.

Portrait of Court Ladies

Choreographed by Wong Cheong Chee
Performed by Han Fong Dance Troupe

A dash of lipstick, a shade of rouge, traverse the trials of time. After a thousand years, has the glory faded, or does the splendor still remain?

'Portrait of Court Ladies' is a dance inspired by the Tang Dynasty. The piece won the Golden Flower Prize at the 2010 National Chinese Dance Competition and was chosen to participate in the 2010 Hong Kong Bauhinia Cup International Dance Championships where the lead dancer, Kok Su Chin, won the Best Female Dancer Award.

Wong Cheong Chee, born in 1959 in Tronoh, Perak, was a member of Kheng Lin Dramatic Arts Association in 1979. Initially trained in ballet, he came across Chinese dance in 1983 under pioneer Ke Rong Tian, and later trained under Lee Lian Yew. Wong's choreographic debut came in 1990 when the dance piece 'Summer' for Kuen Cheng Girls' High School won first prize at the Malaya Arts Institute dance competition. In 1994, he undertook the teachers' training course in Guangzhou, China, organized by United Chinese School Committees Association of Malaysia (USCAM). He studied Chinese ethnic folk dances in Guangdong School of Dance and is presently a dance instructor in many schools and institutions. Wong's dance works, including 'Dust', 'Autumn', 'River Village Dreams', 'Court Ladies', and 'Inner Struggle', are highly acclaimed and have won many awards in national dance competitions. In 2006, Wong and alumni from Kuen Cheng Girls' High School formed the Han Fong Dance Troupe.

----- thanks -----

Huge thanks to the staff and crew of TAS for this continuing opportunity.



8.30pm 21 September 2013
The Actors Studio @ KuAsh Theatre



House technicians – Pat & David
Theatre manager – Suresh Kumar
Assistant producer – Stephanie Ho

When we had our last Dancebox event at The Actors Studio Lot 10 in November last year, little did we know it would be our last appearance in that venue. We are so pleased to be back again, renewing our partnership with The Actors Studio at this brand new theatre in Taman Tun Dr Ismail.

Dancebox has always been an opportunity for young choreographers to put their works on a professional stage, in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. With this edition of Dancebox I'm happy to see many young faces new to this platform, who have come from diverse but equally rigorous local institutions of dance training: Maria Devonne Escobia from ASWARA, Syaffiq Hambali from the University of Malaya, and Maniyarasi Gowindasamy from Temple of Fine Arts.

We often like to feature a few international artists at Dancebox, to take advantage of talented foreigners who are passing through our shores. We welcome Australian dancer-choreographers Gabriel Comerford and Caitlin MacKenzie, who are currently undertaking a 3-month residency in Malaysia. If you are a performing artist and are interested in their work, please introduce yourselves to the dancers after the show – they're looking for collaborators for the further development of this work!

We also like to include established artists, and so we are very proud to welcome Wong Cheong Chee and the award-winning Han Fong Dance Troupe to close tonight's edition with their refined and impressive performance.

If you would like to find out more about dance events in the Klang Valley and beyond, sign up for the MyDance Alliance free fortnightly e-newsletter at www.mydancealliance.org. Or you can like our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/mydancealliance, where you can also check out our new calendar of upcoming dance events. If you would like to get involved in other MyDance Alliance events, email contact@mydancealliance.org.

Enjoy the show!

Bilqis Hijjas
President, MyDance Alliance.

Maria Devonne Escobia is in the final year of her Diploma in Dance at Akademi Seni Budaya Dan Warisan Kebangsaan (ASWARA). Originally from Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, she has a deep interest in music and took up the classical guitar at an early age. She only became seriously interested in dance at age 16, participating in hip hop battles in Sabah. At ASWARA, she became interested in choreography during her second year composition class, and was chosen as the youngest choreographer participating in Gelombang Baru 2013, the annual showcase for student choreography, with her work 'Malar'. She explores choreography through the capabilities of her dancers, and her movement style focuses on tension, rotation and bouncing.

Contemporary Kathak

Choreographed & performed by Maniyarasi Gowindasamy

Kathak is a classical Indian dance form with a set technique and a codified movement vocabulary. It is characterized by rhythmic footwork linked to the percussive music, multiple turns on the heel, detailed use of hand gesture, eye movements, and facial expressions, and a limited use of jumping and rising.

Contemporary dance, by contrast, is characterized by its versatility: contemporary can be danced to almost any style of music, or united with other forms to create new styles of movement. Contemporary seeks to work with the natural alignment of the body and allows the dancer to experience the movement of the body focusing in space, rhythm and articulation.

This dance explores new forms in combining kathak with contemporary dance, and demonstrates the happiness of a young woman able to explore new ideas without forgetting the beauty of her traditions.

Maniyarasi Gowindasamy is an MBA graduate who currently works as a senior lecturer at Stamford College. She is also a professional Indian classical dancer whom completed her degree (arengetram) in bharatanatyam and kathak at the Temple of Fine Arts (TOFA) in 1999. Her main interest is Indian folk dance (karagatham) but she

steps, and provides an opportunity for ballet students to dabble in dance genres other than ballet. Chemical X's trademark characteristic (in the animated show The Powerpuff Girls) is its ability to produce strength, and this dance represents it perfectly; it has strong beats and strong steps incorporated into the usually delicate ballet steps.

Dancingtime Academy was founded in 2002 by classical ballet dancer and choreographer Amy Kong. As a founder and artistic director of Dancingtime Academy, Amy specializes in several dance genres such as classical ballet, modern, jazz and contemporary. The studio believes that with the right foundation, your child will be able to soar to greater heights. Classes at Dancingtime are conducted by teachers certified by the Royal Academy of Dancing (RAD) and The Imperial Society Teachers of Dancing (Modern & Ballet), UK.

Honey

Choreographed by Muhammad Syaffiq Hambali
Performed by Leong Pek Yeng, Chew Kai Min & Queency Manjalip

Exploring the feelings of a wife who shares her husband with another woman who also calls him her husband. This dance looks at the meaning of polygamy in Islam and the common things that are only understood by the society that practices it. Is it "jodoh" or desire?

Sshhh.....

Choreographed by Maria Devonne Escobia
Performed by Mohd Amirul Fahmi, Mohd Haziq, Syamsudin Bin Noh, Dalila Binti Abdul Samad & Chi Ying.

Silence is present in everything; it displays more than it hides. It could be a sign, a gesture, of disagreement, or something else unspoken. It is hard to interpret the meaning of a person who is silent. What you say may jeopardize you.

Uncommon Ground

Choreographed and performed by Caitlin MacKenzie & Gabriel Comerford

Uncommon Ground is a cross-cultural, interdisciplinary work that depicts a story of two identities coming together in one place, transitioning through friction, destruction, compromise and progression, concluding with something that extends beyond the sum of its parts. This concept speaks to an internal and external landscape; a personal struggle to discover and understand oneself and the realities of living in a diverse and ever-changing society.

Gabriel and Caitlin studied together at Queensland University of Technology. During their time at university they were featured as a duo by various choreographers including Csaba Buday, Vanessa Mafé and Alice Hinde. Since university they have established a professional partnership and work together on several platforms. They are founding members of emerging dance collective MakeShift which has performed works for the Ausdance Queensland Bell Tower II Series, the Judith Wright Centre for Contemporary Arts' Freshground program and Brisbane Festival.

Caitlin and Gabriel are currently undertaking a 3-month residency at Rimbun Dahan, sponsored by Asialink, and will perform their full-length work developed from *Uncommon Ground* at the Melaka Art + Performance Festival, 22-24 November 2013, in Malacca.

Chemical X

Choreographed by Amy Kong
Performed by students of Dancingtime Academy of Ballet & Music

Sugar, spice and everything nice are the ingredients for a perfect little girl. But Professor Utonium accidentally added an extra ingredient: Chemical X! This routine, performed by intermediate-level ballet students, features a ballet routine performed in hip-hop style. It combines modern / hip-hop steps with ballet