

# Dancebox

The Actors Studio @ Lot 10 | 22 Sep 2012 @ 8.30pm



8.30pm 22 September 2012  
The Actors Studio @ Lot 10



Theatre Management – Suresh Kumar  
Lighting Technician – Dub Lau  
Sound Technician – Pat Omar  
Front of House Management – Miraz Yusuf  
Producer – Bilqis Hijjas  
Front of House Assistance – An Nur Azhar

Alla Azura Abal Abas has been an independent artist for the last 20 years. From 1996 to 2000 she worked with Aida Redza and Judimar Hernandez in Shakti Dances, a contemporary dance group interested in women's issues and human rights. From 1991 to 1994 she was a full time professional dancer with Petronas Performing Arts. Since then Alla has been involved with commercial TV shows (RTM, TV3, ASTRO/*Sehati Berdansa & Mari Menari*), dinner shows and commercial events as dancer, choreographer and project director for her own dance company Triple A Entertainment. Alla holds a diploma in dance from ASK (now ASWARA), a degree in dance from University of Malaya (2011), and is now pursuing her Masters in dance while working part-time as a lecturer at UM. Her contemporary works *Munajat Betari* and *Qudus* were both performed at Dancebox at The Actors Studio, and *Munajat Betari* was also selected for the MyDance Festival in 2011.

## #Hold

Choreographed by Alistair Chew  
Performed by Jacklynn Benfield, Joy Chan, Lorraine, De Velez, Carrie Dwyer, Rachel Issenberg, Alex Koncki, Rachel Liem, Ryan Martawibawa Olivia Nguyen, Stephanie Peralta and Melodie Suzuki of Singapore American School.

*Losing someone is not hard. It's inevitable. The thing that's hard is what comes next.*

Singapore American School is very supportive of the arts and it has dance as part of their curriculum in both the Middle School and High School. It also supports a large after-school dance program, a chapter in the National Dance Association Honors Society and offers community dance programs. The group you will see performing during this show range from grade 11 students to alumni and faculty. Both pieces were choreographed by SAS alumni.

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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](mailto:contact@mydancealliance.org) | Telephone 017 310 3769

Website [www.facebook.com/mydancealliance](http://www.facebook.com/mydancealliance) | [www.mydancealliance.org](http://www.mydancealliance.org)

**September** is always a busy month for the arts in Kuala Lumpur. We know there are lots of other shows going on this weekend, so thank you for choosing to spend your Saturday night with us! Tonight's performance brings us a whole new box of tricks, from choreographers emerging and established, local and international.

Crossing the causeway is the group from Singapore American School, who have performed at Dancebox twice before. We are always happy to welcome their energetic moves. This year SAS faculty and alumni performers will join the high school students and hopefully give them a run for their money!

Another international guest artist is South African dancer and choreographer Mcebisi Bhayi, last seen in Malaysia on a residency at Rimbun Dahan in 2008. Now he's an established member of South Africa's contemporary dance community with his own company. If you like Mcebisi's style, check out his workshop next week, open to all with and without dance experience. For details, see the MyDance Alliance Facebook page.

We also welcome back two Malay contemporary choreographers – Khairulazhar Mohtar and Alla Azura Abal Abas, who are also Dancebox alumni – with their powerful and dramatic dance works. Emerging Malaysian choreographer Lau Beh Chin, currently pursuing her dance studies in Ireland, submits a dance film by distance. And expat choreographer Sea Heike leads a group of local dancers in a new butoh-based dance theatre work.

We love to see how Dancebox provides an ongoing platform for the works of independent Malaysian choreographers like these who passionately want to perform but lack the resources to stage their own shows. I hope you will agree that their work illustrates the diversity and dynamism of the Malaysian contemporary dance scene at the moment, which is well worth supporting!

Enjoy the show!



Bilqis Hijjas  
President, MyDance Alliance.

## Excerpts from 'Chameleon, the Experiences of Global Citizens'

Choreographed by Alaine Handa  
Performed by Alaine Handa, Heather Rodocker, Tracy Nagesh, Carrie Dwyer, Olivia Nguyen, Rachel Liem and Alistair Chew of Singapore American School.

*Chameleon is a multi-disciplinary presentation about global citizens who have been exposed to several cultures. Exploring the notions of home, cultural identity and relationships through dance with film, spoken word, music, photography and jewelry design, Chameleon draws on the insight and experience of Third Culture Kids: those who have spent a significant period of time in a culture other than their own.*

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## Ter... Lepas

Choreographed by Khairulazhar Mohtar  
Performed by Syafizal-Syazlee Salehud-din, Ayu Azril Ali, Muzamil Hashim, Mohd Faisal Mohd Azhar, Mohd Rafiq Yunos and. Umar Ali Jening

*Ter is an affix in the Malay language which refers to that which is accidental or unplanned. Lepas means freedom without restrictions. Humans often call for the freedom to speak about their rights or give their opinions, as well as the freedom to communicate, connect, worship and socialise, without limits or restrictions. What they want is to be free, everything free and unconstrained. If it is only to observe and share, what is the point of rules?*

Khairulazhar Mohtar was born in Johor. He graduated from UiTM with a Diploma in Theatre of Arts (Acting) and Degree in Performing Arts (Dance) from University of Malaya. He is currently continuing his Master Degree (Dance) at UM and working as a dance and movement lecturer in the Film, Theatre & Animation Faculty at UiTM. From 2005 to 2007 he was a cultural

artist with Petronas Performing Arts. His began choreographing for Malay film *Pontianak Harum Sundal Malam II* and the musical *Uda dan Dara* at Istana Budaya. He also choreographed physical theatre, dance drama and for the ASEAN Youth Culture Forum, ASEAN Traditional Music Forum, FESENI UM, MAKUM, Malaysian Symphony Orchestra 2009 and ASTRO dance reality show *Mari Menari*. His contemporary choreographies include *Direction*, *Iqra*, *Az-Zaitun*, *Jalin* and *Laki-Lucky* (overall winner and best choreography in Short+Sweet Dance Malaysia 2010).

### **i love u (like water)**

Choreographed by Sea Heike

Performed by Sea Heike, Sasha Peiwen Leong, Nikki Law and Fidelia

*Thirst. Drought. Sweat.*

*This ocean roaring within my flesh.*

*You me we are part of the hydrosphere.*

*Dinosaur piss runs through our veins.*

Sea Heike is a performance artist with a BFA from California College of the Arts in San Francisco, and has been living in Southeast Asia for the past 5 years. Her work draws on her experience with butoh, Body Weather Laboratory, modern dance, yoga, martial arts, and choreographic studies, as well as both modern and ancient forms of movement in the theatre of daily life, ritual, and performance. This year she produced the presentation by Japanese butoh dancer Katsura Kan at MAP Publika and also participated in the Myanmar-Malaysia Performance Art Exchange in Kuala Lumpur and Mandalay.

### **Uhambo Lwam (My Journey)**

Choreographed and performed by Mcebisi Bhayi

Music by Abotrica

Costume design by Tumie Frico

Thanks to the National Arts Council South Africa

*The relationship between hearing and seeing is challenged when two brothers are torn between their abilities. A young dancer is faced with a milestone of showing his blind older brother why he is called the best dancer in town. This leads him to wish he could not hear, so to avoid his brother's daily complaints. What is consumed through the eye has now to go through the ear.*

Mcebisi Bhayi was born in the Mdanstane Township of South Africa and now lives in Johannesburg. He trained at Moving into Dance Mophatong and Vuyani Dance Theatre. His awards include Most Promising Male Dancer in Contemporary Dance (2001), Pick of the Stepping Stone Award at FNB Dance Umbrella (2002) and a Phillip Stein Grant (2010). He has taught African dance in Malaysia, Norway and Singapore, as well as for Field Band Foundation, Fuba School of Drama and Walter Sisulu University. A residency at Rimbun Dahan with Singaporean choreographer Joey Chua in 2008 resulted in the work *Tracing*, performed in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and South Africa. Mcebisi's other choreographic works include *Free Us Now* (2007), *Muntu* (2008), *Fruitless Tree* (2010) and *Lost Souls*. This year he formed his own dance company, Sinokhanyo Dance Theatre. *How Can I Show You* was a trio created in 2011 and performed at Dance Umbrella, later developed into a group work for Vuyani Week and Dance Manyano.

### **Dance Film (Untitled)**

Choreographed by Lau Beh Chin

Performed by Hii Ing Fung, Leo Yap, Matt Tan and Yeow Lai Chee

Directed by Jye Lee

Photography directed by Steve Long

Edited by Hinz Lum

Many thanks to Odd Pictures and Soubi Sha

Lau Beh Chin grew up in Penang, Malaysia. She graduated from University Putra Malaysia with a Bachelor of Chemical Engineering. She trained at Ellie Zhou Ballet Studio in Chinese classical and folk dance. She has performed in Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, and Indonesia. Beh Chin is now studying for her Masters of Contemporary Dance Performance at the University of Limerick, Ireland. She spent one year at the However, before that, she had one year with Fontys Hogeschool voor de Kunsten Tilburg, Netherlands, or her Masters of Choreography. This dance film was one of the projects she created for Fontys.

### **Satu Roh Satu Jasad (One Body One Soul)**

Choreographed by Alla Azura Abal Abas

Performed by Dayang Dayana and Nurulakmal Abdul Wahid

*Death is full of mysteries. .... Satu Roh Satu Jasad will portray the beauty of representing the body and soul as one, together through the journey of death. This piece is a special tribute to my beloved mother Salasih @ Zabedah bt Ahmad who passed away on 4 October 2011. Al-Fatihah. It is inspired by the poem Tetamu Senja by A Samad Said.*