

further her studies at Expanded Contemporary Dance (ECD) in Amsterdam, Netherlands, for her Bachelor Degree (BA) from 2019 until the present.

Mich Elle was recommended by Aida Redza, founder of Euphoria Penang Modern Dance Ensemble.

6. RED & BLUE

Choreographed by Amellia Feroz

Performed by Adia Sofia, Jannel Soh, Casey Se, Freda Tan, Cheryl Soh & Amellia Feroz

Music by The Martinis and Dave Brubeck Quartet

Just like two sides of a coin, will we ever be on the same page?

Amellia Feroz, 28, was born and raised in Subang Jaya, Selangor. A dancer, choreographer and dance teacher, she started dancing at the age of 5, and is professionally trained in ballet, modern, contemporary, hip hop, jazz and Latin ballroom. She has been a part of many performances, projects and competitions locally and internationally. A winner of Best Female Dancer at Short+Sweet 2012, and 1st Place in The Dance Society Solo Ballet Competition in 2010, she won a full scholarship to study at Peridance Capezio Center in New York City in 2019-2020.

Amellia was recommended by Suhaili Micheline, director of Aurora School of Dance.

----- about MyDance Alliance -----

Registered in 2001, MyDance Alliance is non-profit membership association run by a 10-person volunteer committee. Our mission is to bring together a community of dance practitioners and dance enthusiasts that supports and promotes dance in Malaysia.

We are grateful to PJ Performing Arts Centre and 1 Utama for the opportunity to present Protégées, and for supporting the ongoing series of dance projects MyDance @ PJPAC.

more info: www.mydancealliance.org



MyDance@PJPAC

Presented by



In partnership with



Producer & MC – Bilqis Hijjas
Stage Manager – Rithaudin Abdul Kadir
Assistant Stage Manager – Joyce Chan
Front of House – Lau Beh Chin
Lighting Designer – Tan Eng Heng
Photographers – Nazir Azhari bin Mohd Anis & Mohd Nor Azmil bin Abdul Rahman

Theatre Manager – Brian Kwan
Arts Prog. & Events Coordinator – Kanchana Mala
Technical Manager – Mark Felix
PJPAC Technical Team - Syazwan Suhaimi, Muhammad Sidiq, Keith Liow, Pui Cheng, Muhammad Fakhru, Muhammad Faritz, Faris Aizuddin, Cheryl Ng & Cham Ai Qi.
Program Development – Wyn Hee

Welcome to PROTÉGÉES: New Dances by Women Choreographers

In conjunction with International Women's Day on 8 March, MyDance Alliance celebrates the creativity, determination and passion of women choreographers.

Although women may form the majority of students, performers and teachers within the field of dance, in many places they are not the majority of choreographers or artistic directors. In our society, women and girls may benefit from a more targeted approach, to provide them with opportunities and to enhance their confidence, in order to take up their rightful places as artists of dance.

With *Protégées*, we hope to empower emerging women choreographers to see themselves as potential leaders in their field, to have the courage to step up and lean in, and to remember to give other women and girls under their care the tools to thrive.

For this project, we have invited women leaders from the Malaysian dance community to nominate emerging women choreographers to participate.

Many thanks to Aida Redza, Amy Len, Malar Gunaratnam, Suhaili Micheline, Kathryn Tan and Joelle Jacinto for recommending emerging choreographers under their wings whom they felt had talent and potential. Thanks also to Marion D'Cruz for her support and advice.

Protégées is also MyDance Alliance's first in-theatre project in association with Petaling Jaya Performing Arts Centre, following the first MyDance@PJPAC event, *Dancing in Place*, at 1 Utama Shopping Centre in February 2022. We are excited to have a new platform for supporting dance in Malaysia, and we thank PJPAC and 1 Utama for the opportunity.

Look out for more MyDance@PJPAC events coming up in 2022, at mydancealliance.org.

Thanks to the support of Christine Chew, Matt Tan, Art Room Studio & Leng Poh Gee

After a baby is born, an inexperienced mother immediately needs to deal with all kinds of real-life affairs; she is busy and desperate to give the best to her child and her family. There are many moments of frustration, and the mother needs to be calm and motivated, in other words, to 'be selfish'. This dance expresses the inner struggles of a mother, from the standpoint of the choreographer that a mother should be 'selfish' for her own good.

Shioa Por holds a Masters of Dance and Bachelor of Performing Arts (Dance) from Universiti Malaya. She is currently the principal of Behrang Dance House and also a freelance dance instructor and choreographer. Trained in various genres of dance, she has performed in several local dance performances and musical productions with LAPAR Lab and Asia Musical Productions, and frequently worked as a choreographer for Festival Seni Universiti Malaya. She recently appeared in the Dua Space Dance Theatre online production *Love from Home*. She has two children.

Shioa Por was recommended by Kathryn Tan Chai Chen, lecturer in the Dance Department at Universiti Malaya.

5. YES BUT MAYBE NOT

Choreographed & performed by Michelle Cheah
Music by Shigeru Umebayashi and FormantX
Thanks to the support of Joie Koo

Unheard, to be heard; unseen, to be seen.

From the external view, we may look fine. However, there's a thunderstorm within us and sometimes we choose to be hidden. There are moments when we choose to be exposed but is there actually any difference? We are yet to be satisfied. What do we truly want?

Mich Elle 米雪 has trained for almost 10 years in classical ballet at Priscilla Ballet Academy and 5 years of contemporary dance at Euphoria Penang Modern Dance Ensemble. She obtained a Distinction in every grade of exams of the Royal Academy of Dance in ballet and currently is at Advanced 1. She continues to

----- programme sequence -----

1. THE ONLY HOPE

Choreographed by Tan Peh Kuan (Kym Tan)
Performed by Seah Xin Yi, Lee Wen Chee, Alicia Kor, Choui Yee,
Esther Ong, Amanda Chua, Lim Xin Hui & Millia Tham
Music: 'Norupo' by Heilung

This dance work was deeply inspired by this difficult time everyone is facing – the pandemic. Living through this pandemic, knowing that it is a life-or-death situation, we can only rely on our faith in God. Unsure about our next step but completely sure that God is in control. Only to depend solely on an act of prayer and worship that brings forth peace in our hearts – our only hope.

Kym is a registered ballet teacher with the Royal Academy of Dance and the National Association of Teachers of Dancing (NATD). She founded Viedanza Academy in 2018. Actively teaching in pre-schools and primary schools, aside from her own dance studio, she is also a member of Kwang Tung Dance Company. She recently made a work for Short+Sweet Dance 2020 at klpac, and completed her RAD Dance Repertoire level 3 with Distinction the same year.

Kym was recommended by Amy Len, artistic director of Kwang Tung Dance Company.

2. NOT SO KECHIL

Choreographed & performed by Winnie Tay Yi Xuan
Music: 'Woods From The Sea' by Yoshiaki Ochi, and 'Weak Spot' by FKA Twigs

Kechil was first performed as a duet with Syamil Norzalahuddin in Dancebox May 2021. The piece was dedicated to memories made over waters and sea. And just like the unpredictable waters, it is today revamped into a solo that depicts the uncertainty of life, just like the highs and lows of seawater.

Winnie Xuan started dancing under Dua Space Dance Theatre Academy where she completed her RAD Advanced 2 and CSTD Grade 8 in Modern Jazz. She had the privilege to work with choreographer Leng Poh Gee for most of her

dance experience. She holds a Bachelors in Dance from ASWARA and has been involved in faculty productions JAMU, Gelombang Baru and Tari'19. Her recent achievement was 5th place in the Korea International Contemporary Dance Competition. She now freelances as a performer and teacher, and is open to exploring new art forms.

[*Not So Kechil* was a last-minute addition to *Protegees*, after choreographer Gwen Ng unfortunately needed to remove her piece, due to a Covid-19 close contact among her dancers. We appreciate Winnie's flexibility in being able to jump in, and regret that Gwen's piece was not able to be performed.]

3. REFLECTION OF PATHWAYS

Choreographed & performed by Harshini Sukumaran
Music: Original voiceover, Aditya Prakash Ensemble, The Clan, & Air

The remembrance of a cold winter night during my time in Milan, as a graduate of fashion design torn in the body of a dancer.

Many different pathways. Challenges faced and choices made. Reflection of pathways. Insecurities and loneliness. Ambition and solitude. Facing my reality and dreaming the unreal.

Harshini Sukumaran is a fashion retail designer by profession and also a professionally trained Indian classical dancer for the past 22 years by The Temple of Fine Arts Kuala Lumpur. As a versatile dancer and performing artist, she has travelled to many countries to be a part of prestigious events. She is also a certified bridal, fashion and glamour make-up artist from Napoleon Perdis, Western Australia. She is now the founder of Hadhi, a one-of-a-kind brand which offers high fashion apparel and accessories, make-up and dance services.

Harshini was recommended by Malar Gunaratnam, The Temple of Fine Arts, Kuala Lumpur.

4. MOTHERHOPE

Choreographed by Tan Shioa Por
Performed by Wong Chi Ying
Music: 'Blood Orange' by Arden Forest, 'Out of Nowhere' by Jay Varton, 'The Last Meal' by Lin Sheng Xiang, and material from TED Talks by Liz Carlile and Alexandra Sacks