

----- about dancebox -----

MyDance Alliance has been producing the Dancebox series in partnership with The Actors Studio going back to 2001.

It remains a popular platform for new or experimental dance works from emerging and established choreographers, presented in a professional theatre but an informal setting, and affordable and accessible to all.

Huge thanks to the staff and crew of The Actors Studio and Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre for this continuing opportunity.

----- want more info? -----

To find out about dance events in Malaysia, check out our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/mydancealliance> or our Instagram account @mydancealliance\_malaysia  
To get involved in other MyDance Alliance events, email [contact@mydancealliance.org](mailto:contact@mydancealliance.org).

----- production team -----

Producer & MC – Bilqis Hijjas  
Stage Manager – Rithaudin Abdul Kadir  
Crew -- Khairul Ramdani Suparman  
Front of House – Harsvini Loganathan,  
Fu Xinpei, Goh Yen Hoang & Jennifer Lai  
klpac Technical Crew – Shukri, Iqbal & Boy  
klpac Managerial Team – Mike Thomas, Lawrence Selvaraj  
& Mathanakumar Murthi  
Ticketing – Vaidegy Vijayasagaran & Jennifer Patsy  
Promotional Image Design – Joel Wong  
Videography – JS Wong, Tay Hwan Haw  
Photography – Mohd Nor Azmil, Huneid Tyeb & Nazir Azhari



29-30 December 2022  
Pentas 2,  
Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre



## ----- programme sequence -----

### 1. FauveDance

Choreographer, Music Composer & Performer: Tai Chun Wai  
Music Recorder: JJ Tan

*I've always thought of turning into a Fauve  
abandon thinking and ideology  
Just keep moving, keep dancing, keep drumming  
Till dance to nothingness do sink*

TAI CHUN WAI dived into the arts through playing the 24 Festive Drums. Currently a full-time performer with Orang Orang Drum Theatre, he is a djembe player as well as a street drummer under his stage name WaaiwaiiDrum. He also engages in arts education.

Chun Wai is fascinated by how to perform with the 'body', as the focus of learning, creation and performance are all centralised on the element of the 'body'. Keen to explore further on physical movement, he has learnt tai chi, capoeira, butoh, yoga, contemporary dance, and the list goes on. Since the MCO two years ago, his focus has shifted to dance improvisation.

### 2. Sat

Choreography by Murni Omar of MOFA Dance  
Performed by Low Xin Ping, Siti Nadhziehah Mohd Sukarno, Ethel Deidre Daniel & Murni Omar  
Music by Boban Markovic, edited by Murni Omar

*Sat is a work-in-progress. The choreographer explores the dancers' movements using several tasks such as playing with the meaning of words, interpreting movements with several types of emotions, and playing with rhythm and tempo.*

MURNI OMAR did her diploma and degree in dance at Akademi Seni Budaya dan Warisan Kebangsaan (ASWARA) and her M.A in Contemporary Dance Performance at the University of Limerick, Ireland. She has performed as the main character in traditional theatre such as Mek Mulong dan randai. She was a full-time dancer in ASWARA Dance

Company (2011-2013). In Ireland, she was chosen to participate in the Step Up program under Fabulous Beast Dance Theater. In 2016, she was also part of the collaborative team which presented the dance and theatre work *Langkau*. She was also chosen to be part of *Where Two Seas Meet*, a cross-cultural collaboration with Katja Grässli from the Netherlands.

Murni has created several contemporary dances works such as 'Salam', 'Obligation', 'Jomheboh', 'Semengat', 'Lost', 'It', 'Igai', 'Pasuk', and 'Rasa'. Murni acknowledges the support of the Faculty of Dance ASWARA in this dance production.

### 3. Antharatma

Choreographed by Shrimathi Guruvayur Usha Dorai  
Performed by Zhen-Zhu Chandrasekaran & Krithika Ramachandran  
Music by Dr. M Bala Tharumalingam & Shri Achyuthan Sashidaran Nair  
Voice-over by S.J Lahvanya Raoov A/L Subramaniam

*Shiva is the absolute reality, or absolute consciousness that makes up our cosmos. He is the transcendent aspect of cosmic consciousness, or the source of everything and all that is, while Shakti is exquisitely beautiful with a flowing and shape-shifting quality to her embracing reality as a dance. She is fluid, flowing and powerfully flexible.*

*Shakti's energy can be seen in everything that lives as the manifest, while Shiva's energy is formless.*

*Shiva is the soul while Parvati is the body. He is the very energy on which the entire creation rests. This energy pervades the entire universe and is present within every living being. Shakti is the nature. She creates life within herself. She is the bearer of the potential creative seed.*

*Shakti (energy) when united with Shiva (cosmic consciousness) is called Parabrahman, the absolute. Energy can be nurtured and guided by consciousness but consciousness itself can't express itself without energy.*

*Together, they represent the manifest and unmanifest.*

GURUVAYUR USHA DORAI is founder and principal of Laasya Arts Academy, a renowned Indian classical dance and music school in Malaysia. As the only daughter of veteran mridangam maestro Guruvayur Dorai, she is blessed to have a strong heritage of culture, tradition and knowledge of the performing arts. Her training in traditional Carnatic music began under Guruvayur Ponnamal, and was furthered by Maestro Neyveli Santhana Gopalan. She has had the honor of being mentored by such musicians like Srimathi Suguna Varadhachari, Sri Rajendran Narayanan Achari and Sri Suresh Ramachandran.

In nattuvangam, the titlating vibrations that accompany dance, she was trained by Shrimathi Indra Rajan and guided by Shri Pandanallur Srinivasa Pillai. In dance, she has been awarded a Diploma in Bharatanatyam by Vadhini Natyalaya, a school of Bharatanatyam headed by Mahaguru Shrimathi Indra Rajan, and took up dance as a career and was conferred the title of Madura Natya Mamani. She has also earned a BA Degree from Madras University in Sociology with music as an ancillary subject.

With her own institution established in 2003, her vision for Laasya Arts Academy has and always will be to create awareness in the dance and music of South India by promoting and exposing students to the many faces of the ancient fine arts.

#### 4. 藏。心

Choreography by Christine Chew

Performed by Wong Jia Ying

Music excerpts from 北京舞蹈学院藏族独舞

《莲花》，北京舞蹈学院藏族独舞《觅光》

*Sometimes to hide or to conceal yourself is to find your inner peace in your heart.*

Born and raised in Seremban, Negeri Sembilan, CHRISTINE CHEW started dance at the age of 13 in Chinese classical dance and ballet. A graduate from ASWARA, with a Diploma in Dance 2008-2011 and Bachelor of Dance 2011-2014 with a major in choreography, Christine also completed her Bharatanatyam arangetram, a solo debut in the classical Indian dance form, in 2014.

In 2013, Christine joined full length classical Indian dance drama *Panchali Sabatham*, choreographed by Sri Shankar Kandasamy, and also performed in *Crossing Borders* in 2017, a Bharatanatyam production with ASK Dance Company. Recently she received a Create Now grant from CENDANA to produce and perform alongside Kimberly Yap and Mamad Samsudin, in dance film *Trip To Adda* which aired in July 2022. She recently founded a project-based company called Nine Performing Arts Company, based in Seremban.

#### 5. Korpus

Choreographed by Faillul Adam & Murni Omar of MOFA Dance  
Performed by Mohd Nuriqam, Muhammad Nur Hilmi Rosli, Ethel Deidre Daniel, Salahuddin Arman, Mohd Nazrul Munir & Murni Omar

Music by Renè Aubry, edited by Murni Omar

*This choreography is the result of exploration from research that has been carried out on the methods of creating traditional elements in contemporary choreography. In the field of writing, a corpus is a collection of written texts or a body of writing on a particular subject. In this case, the choreography is a work-in-progress where a collection of ideas and methods was used to create a contemporary work with traditional elements. The dancers not only play a role as dancers but as material in the study and creative process of choreography.*

FAILLUL ADAM did a diploma and degree in dance under the Faculty of Dance ASWARA and pursued his M.A. at the University of Limerick, Ireland. In 2014, he was selected for the Step up Dance Project in Ireland with Fabulous Beast Dance Theatre. He received a BOH Cameronian Arts Award in 2015 in a mixed-bill category for collaboration 'Nasi Ekonomi' with Suhaili Micheline. In 2016, he also performed a full-length work *Langkau* with Shahrul Mizad, Iefiz Alaudin, Murni Omar, and Fasyali Fadzly. In 2018, he worked with Kee Thuan Chye as a choreographer in the theatre production *Swordfish+Concubine*. In 2020, he presented a mixed-bill showcase of his own choreography under The Faculty of Dance ASWARA entitled *In Transit: An Evening of Contemporary Dance Performance*.

The development of this work was supported by the Research, Conference and Publication Center, and by the Faculty of Dance, ASWARA. For bio of Murni Omar, see #2 above.

## 6. Grab the Shadow of Yourself

Choreographed by Gwen Ng

Performed by Jarelyn Cheong

*Hey you, can you please hold on for a while and talk to yourself? Sit down and answer yourself.*

GWEN NG graduated from the University of Malaya with a Bachelor's Degree in Performing Arts in Dance, where she was exposed to contemporary and traditional dances. She has participated in many dance performances, festivals, and competitions. Gwen has been a passionate educator and choreographer at a local international school since 2018.

Her first contemporary dance piece 'Don't you like you?' earned the Champion in the Junior Category of "Malaysia, Let's Dance!" Malaysian International Dance Organization's (MIDO) Dance Championship 2019. Her second contemporary dance piece 'The Bond', earned the Festival Director's Award at Short+Sweet Malaysia 2019 Junior Dance (KL). In the same year, she restaged 'Don't you like you?' and earned 4th place (CK) in Star of Canaan Dance International Ballet Competition Malaysia. Her newest contemporary dance piece 'Grab the Shadow of Yourself' first appeared in Short+Sweet Malaysia 2022 Dance (KL).

## 7. Immortal of freedom. Abandon 醉花間。斷情

Choreographed by Low Chong Kiat

Performed by Foong Yu Huey, Ng Po Qin, Fong Kar Yan, Ng Yu Jun, Eng Hung Ling, Lee Ke Ying, Chai Yoke Man & Low Kah Mun of Han Fong Dance Ensemble

Music by Ng Teck Hing

*The blossoming of a flower is a blessing, the fading of it is a curse. Being betrayed in a romance has made her overwhelmed with grief; she wishes to forget everything related to it. The owner of the peach blossom ("the immortal of freedom") hands her a love forgetting potion. "Drink it, if you want to forget!"*

LOW CHONG KIAT (Lu Zhongjieck) is a postgraduate student of dance choreography at Nanjing Arts College. He is passionate about creating

traditional dance works as well as choreographic possibilities based on tradition, inspired by Chinese culture, social phenomena and environmental protection. His works include 'Bamboo', 'Bamboo Song', 'High Mountain and Flowing Water', 'Feng Wan Yu' and 'Painting Lotus'. He is currently a freelance dancer, choreographer and director of Chinese dance.

HAN FONG DANCE ENSEMBLE aims to promote Chinese dance in Malaysia. Encompassing traditional, classical and contemporary Chinese dances, it also provides opportunities for dancers to perform. The ensemble was formed on 18 May 2002 when Kuen Cheng Girls' High School Chinese Cultural dance club and its alumni collectively produced the inaugural performance *Ancient Inspiration*. Under the initiative of dance instructor Wong Cheong Chee and several alumni members, Han Fong Dance Ensemble was officially registered in 2005 as a not-for-profit organization under the Societies Registration Board.

## 8. Seekor Manusia (a work in progress)

Choreography by Mohd Nuriqram

Performed by Syeik Putra bin Halim, Wan Muhammad Iman bin Wan Tarmeze, Nik Nur Amalin binti Nik Musaaddin, Ong Jia Shyen, Ahmad Syakir bin Mohd Hassan, Syamil bin Norzalahuddin, Ng Yu Jun, Chai Xin Yi, Aoura Rachal a/p Tom Chai & Mohd Nuriqram

Music by Jovita Aurel

*Apa yang membezakan manusia dan binatang adalah akalnyanya. Jika hilang akalnyanya maka hilanglah kemanusiaannya.*

Iqram Company was founded by MOHD NURIQRAM BIN AZHAR, a graduate of the Bachelors of Arts with a concentration on Choreography, from the Faculty of Dance ASWARA. He has represented Malaysia under the Faculty to the ASEAN-CHINA Joint Cultural Performance in Siem Reap, Cambodia. He has also created a number of dance works which have been presented at Gelombang Baru, Dancebox, Short+Sweet, Dancing Alone, KonTra at klpac, and Dancing Duo. Iqram won the Best Newcomer Award at Short+Sweet 2018 for his work 'BODOH'. The inspiration for his works always come from unusual sources, thinking out of most people's boxes. He likes to create choreography conceptualised with its own identity. Iqram acknowledges the support of the Faculty of Dance ASWARA in this dance production.