

SOUTHEAST ASIAN CHOREOLAB 2024

16 to 27 July 2024 at George Town Festival, Penang, Malaysia

Emerging contemporary dance choreographers from Southeast Asia are invited to apply to attend an international facilitated choreographic laboratory embedded in the George Town Festival, in George Town, Penang, Malaysia, from 16 to 27 July 2024.

Due date for applications: **Sunday, 7 April 2024**



Project Format

14 chosen choreographers will live, work and explore together, with guidance from our international facilitator, Taiwanese choreographer Hsiao-Mei Ho.

The program will consist of 10 work days with 2 days of excursions to arts spaces in George Town. Work days will take place in Hin Bus Depot, a contemporary arts space in George Town, and will consist of sessions exploring choreographic methods, analysis and movement techniques led by Hsiao-Mei Ho and the participants themselves. Other activities include live performance viewing, informal socialising and discussions, and networking events.

The program will conclude on 27 July with 2 studio showings of works developed during the Choreolab, sharing the creative process and artistic development with the audience. These studio showings will be part of the performance program of George Town Festival.

A project of

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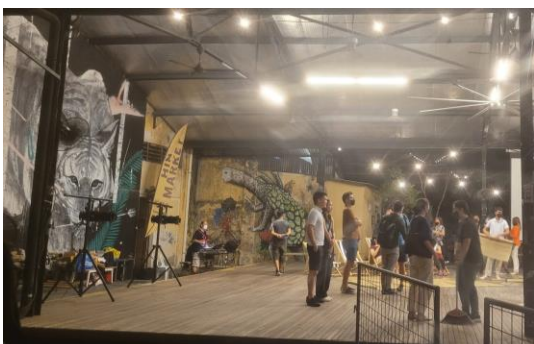
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Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Malaysia



Rimbun Dahan



Project Aims

To support and enable emerging Southeast Asian contemporary dance choreographers to

1. Adopt new choreographic tools and physical, thematic and conceptual approaches to enrich their artistic practice;
2. Develop regional networks among their peers and with regional dance institutions, for knowledge sharing, future artistic collaboration and touring;
3. Experience works of art, cultures, places and histories beyond their home, to increase international understanding and to help contextualize their artistic practice.
4. Work closely with an established choreographer (Hsiao-Mei Ho), to participate in her particular artistic approach, and to benefit from her insights, advice and experience.

We hope you will have a positive and enjoyable experience at the SEA Choreolab, which will reenergize you and help you reaffirm your commitment to your artistic practice. We would like the SEA Choreolab and the networks you establish here to be an ongoing resource to which you may return for inspiration, refreshment, respite and a sense of continual community.

Who we're looking for

- Emerging contemporary dance choreographers, aged 35 or under, or who began creating contemporary work within the last five years. Artists who create performance art or physical theatre works are also eligible.
- You should have established a professional or semi-professional practice, and have created at least 3 short works or 1 full-length work.
- Citizen of AND resident in an ASEAN country (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam) or Papua New Guinea or East Timor.
- Able to communicate functionally in English.
- Excited to increase your knowledge base, share your practice and establish networks with your international peers.



What the project will provide

- Twin-share accommodation in a hostel in George Town, within walking distance of Choreolab working site Hin Bus Depot.
- Entry to all Choreolab activities, including participant-led sessions, facilitated sessions, excursions and performances.
- 3 meals per day during the project (breakfast is self-catered in the hostel).
- Transfer to/from Penang airport or bus terminal (subject to conditions).



What you need to provide

- Return airfare to Penang (airport code PEN), with arrival on 15 July and departure on 28 July 2024.
- Travel insurance (and visa, for Myanmar, East Timor & PNG only)
- One session during the project (maximum 90 minutes) in which you will lead the other participants through a choreographic method, thematic exploration, dance technique or artistic question. This session will be discussed and developed with the choreolab organisers.
- Commitment to participate in the entirety of the SEA Choreolab 2024 project.



To apply

Download the application form here:

<https://mydancealliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/SEA-Choreolab-2024-Application-Form.pdf>

Return the completed form to:

contact@mydancealliance.org
by the end of **Sunday 7 April 2024.**



If you have questions

Contact Bilqis Hijjas, MyDance Alliance, Malaysia
contact@mydancealliance.org, +6017 310 3769



About Hsiao-Mei Ho, facilitator

Artistic director of MeimageDance, Hsiao-Mei Ho is a winner of the 19th National Award for Arts in Taiwan, and is Professor of the Dance Department, Taipei National University of the Arts. She is also a curriculum consultant at Cloud Gate Dance Theatre's studio.

Ho's work "Camouflage," commissioned by The National Theater and Concert Hall of Taiwan in 2015, was also performed at the Beijing Dance Festival; in the same year, UCLA invited her along with the company to perform a shorter version of "Camouflage" and to promote performing arts at a workshop for the Department of World Arts and Cultures. In 2014, she choreographed for "Above Taiwan Concert." Her choreography "My Dear" (2013) won the Taishin Arts Award, and "Beyond the Pale" (2011), and "Woo! Barbie" (2010) were nominated for the pioneering award supporting Taiwanese artists. In 2009, "Middle" was invited to perform at the International Organization of Stenographers Theatre Architects and Technicians (OISTAT) in Seoul, Korea. In 2006, the Hong Kong Dance Festival invited her to present "My Freud." Her work "The Covered Picture" was invited to Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival in 2001. In 2000, she served as the rehearsal director for Cloud Gate 2; she was also a dancer as well as a visiting choreographer for Cloud Gate. In 1995, Ho was the commissioned choreographer at the American Dance Festival.

Hsiao-Mei Ho's early works were inspired by Taiwanese folk culture, exploring the cultural image of the Taiwanese and reflecting on the current social situation, using art as social commentary. Her works were often thought-provoking, reflecting Taiwan's turbulence and diversity, with its underlying silence and intensity. Currently, she is famous for using strong and unique visual effects on stage to present human inner thoughts in modern society.



Wong Jyh Shyong (MyDance Alliance President)

received his Master of Fine Arts from the Graduate Institute of Choreography, Taipei National University of the Arts in 2013 and Bachelor of Fine Arts from The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts with First Class Honors in 2005. He was previously a dancer with Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan from 2005 to 2009, and artistic director of Damansara Performing Arts Centre & DPAC Dance Company from 2013 to 2016.

In the 9th and 11th BOH Cameronian Arts Awards in Malaysia, he received the Best Featured Performer award. For his choreography, he has staged his own works and commissioned pieces in various festivals and venues in Australia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, Korea, Indonesia and India.

Currently a full-time lecturer in the Faculty of Creative Arts, Universiti Malaya, JS recently completed his PhD at Universiti Malaya. He has been a member of MyDance Alliance since 2018, and President of the organisation since 2020. In addition to helping many other projects for the organisation, last year he produced and directed MyDance Festival 2023.



Bilqis Hijjas (MyDance Secretary, Choreolab Producer) has been writing about dance, producing and organising dance community events since 2007. As President of MyDance Alliance for 10 years, she produced the popular Dancebox performance series, and organized MyDance Festival 2011 and 2013, Tepak Tari in 2015, and Dancebox Festival in 2019.

Bilqis currently manages the cultural programme and arts residency at private arts centre Rimbun Dahan, where she originated the format of the site-specific dance series Dancing in Place. Bilqis is also Southeast Asia vice president of World Dance Alliance Asia-Pacific and was a core members of Asia Network for Dance (2018-2023). She initiated the annual Southeast Asia Choreolab for emerging contemporary dance choreographers from the region in 2014.

Bilqis holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies from Harvard University, and post-graduate degrees in choreography, anthropology and arts politics from Victorian College of the Arts, Australian National University and New York University.