

Established in 1994 by Ong Keng Sen, Artistic Director of TheatreWorks Singapore, The Flying Circus Project (FCP) is a major program exploring Asian expression in the 21st Century. This multi-disciplinary, long-term research and development program in theatre, dance, music, visual arts, film and ritual has continued for six years, with laboratories consisting of classes, improvisation workshops and seminars. The focal points are on cultural negotiation and process in the arts practice. It looks at the different creative strategies of individual artists, both traditional and contemporary, through the recognition of differences between the many Asian cultures. The development of artists in external form, internal landscape, intellectual muscularity and politicisation are major pillars of the FCP.

THE FLYING CIRCUS PROJECT:00

PRESENT

PAST

FUTURE

PHASE ONE
LAB THREE (2000)

This Lab involves 20 lamas including a Living Buddha from Tibetan Buddhism, and ritualists from Naxi Exorcism Ceremonies (Dongba Shamans) in Yunnan. The artists come from China, Taiwan, Philippines, Japan, Korea, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia; Malaysia, Singapore.

The theme for this lab is the interface of Asian religious rituals and the urban artist from contemporary Asia. Another theme is the indigenous peoples' struggles with the participation of ethnic minority artists. There is also the Indochina Project which introduces artists from that developing region to the rest of Asia.

Overall, the laboratory becomes more varied in tone and contrasting amongst the genres. Contemporary Asia is the focus, with the proposition that religious rituals and traditional arts are contemporaneous within their contexts. This contextualisation balances the continued exoticisation of Asia.

LAB TWO (1998)

This second laboratory involved artists from South Asia and their counterparts from East Asia and South East Asia. The inclusion of visual artists allowed for an expanded dialogue vis-a-vis the traditional performing arts. The focus was the interplay between tradition and contemporary with a very strong push from the contemporary artists.

LAB ONE (1996)

The focus was the learning of traditional performing arts even though there were equal participants from both spheres of traditional and contemporary practice.

PHASE TWO

There are plans for a second phase which will involve the establishment of artistic links with Central and Western Asia.



ASIAN PARTICIPANTS IN FCP:00

CHINA - Zhang Pei Li • Song Dong • Wu Er Shan • Wu Wen Guang • Wen Hui • Cao Lu Sheng • Zeng Jing Ping • Chen Ji Ming • Ke Li • He Ji Gui • He Wen Zhen • He Guo Wei • Li Jing Sheng • Zhao Shi Hong • 20 TIBETAN lamas from Deqing at the border of China and Tibet • INDONESIA - Restu Imansari Kusumaningrum • Boi Sakti • JAPAN - Min Tanaka • Tsuyoshi Ozawa • Toru Yamamoto • Yutaka Fukuoka (Yen) • Yoshio Otomo • KOREA - Jang Jae Hyo • MALAYSIA - Krishen Jit • Mohammad Anwaran • Jemias Lai • PHILIPPINES - Popong Landero • Geejay Arnola • Maria Todi Wanani • Ricky Todi • Benny Sokong • Nestor Hortilla • TAIWAN - Wang Rong Yu • Wu Shi Wen • THAILAND - Pichet Klunchen • CAMBODIA - Kim Bun Thom, court dancer • Mann Kosai, shadow puppeteer • Keo Snguon, musician • Ly Daravuth, gallery curator • MYANMAR - Myo Myint Myint San, marionette dancer • Ma Ma Naing, marionettist • LAOS - Boukhong Khuttao, children theatre director • Khamsoonee, musician • Malawan Duangphuom, folk opera singer • VIETNAM - Ea Sola, choreographer • Tran Luong, visual artist.

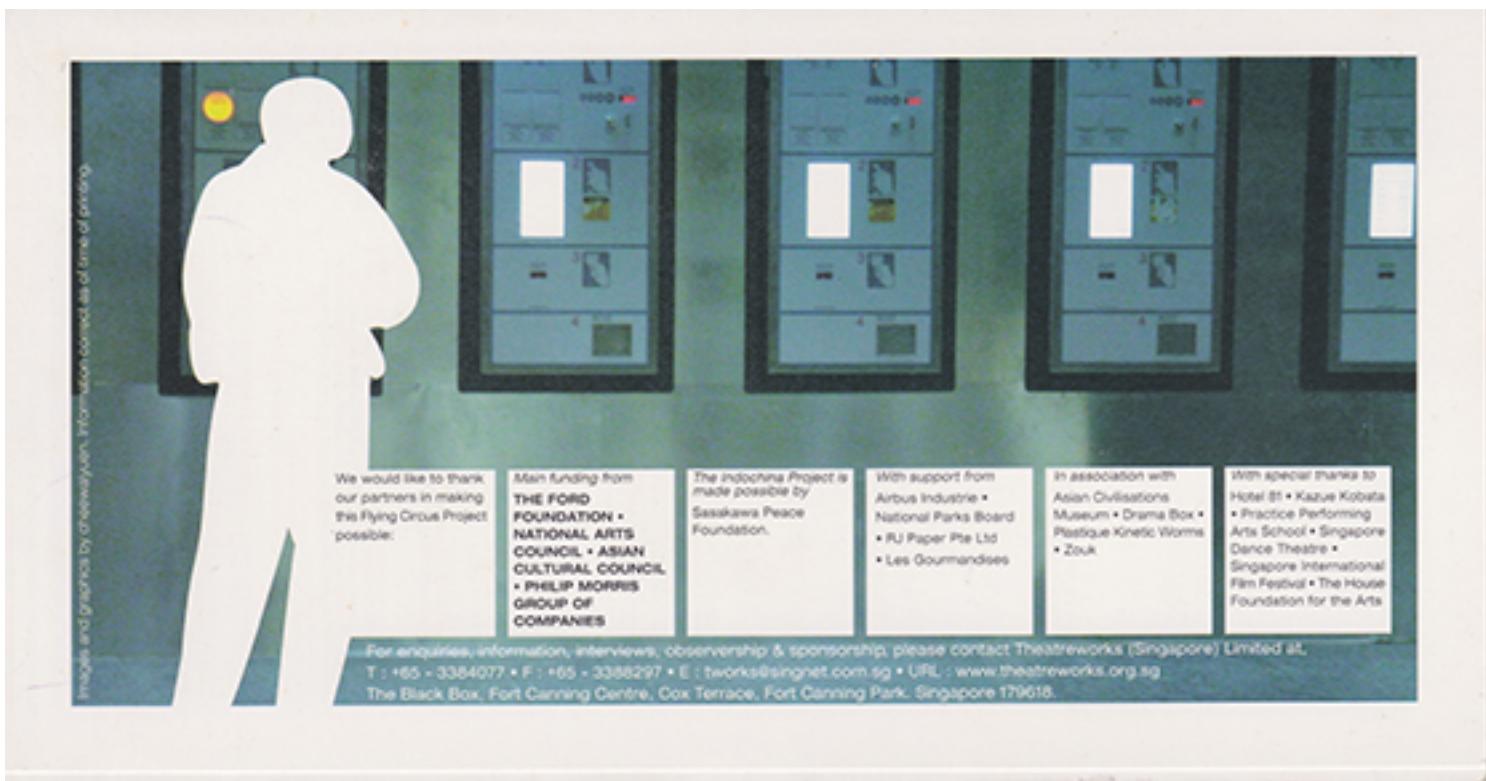


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our partners in making
this Flying Circus Project
possible:

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FOUNDATION •
NATIONAL ARTS
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Foundation for the Arts

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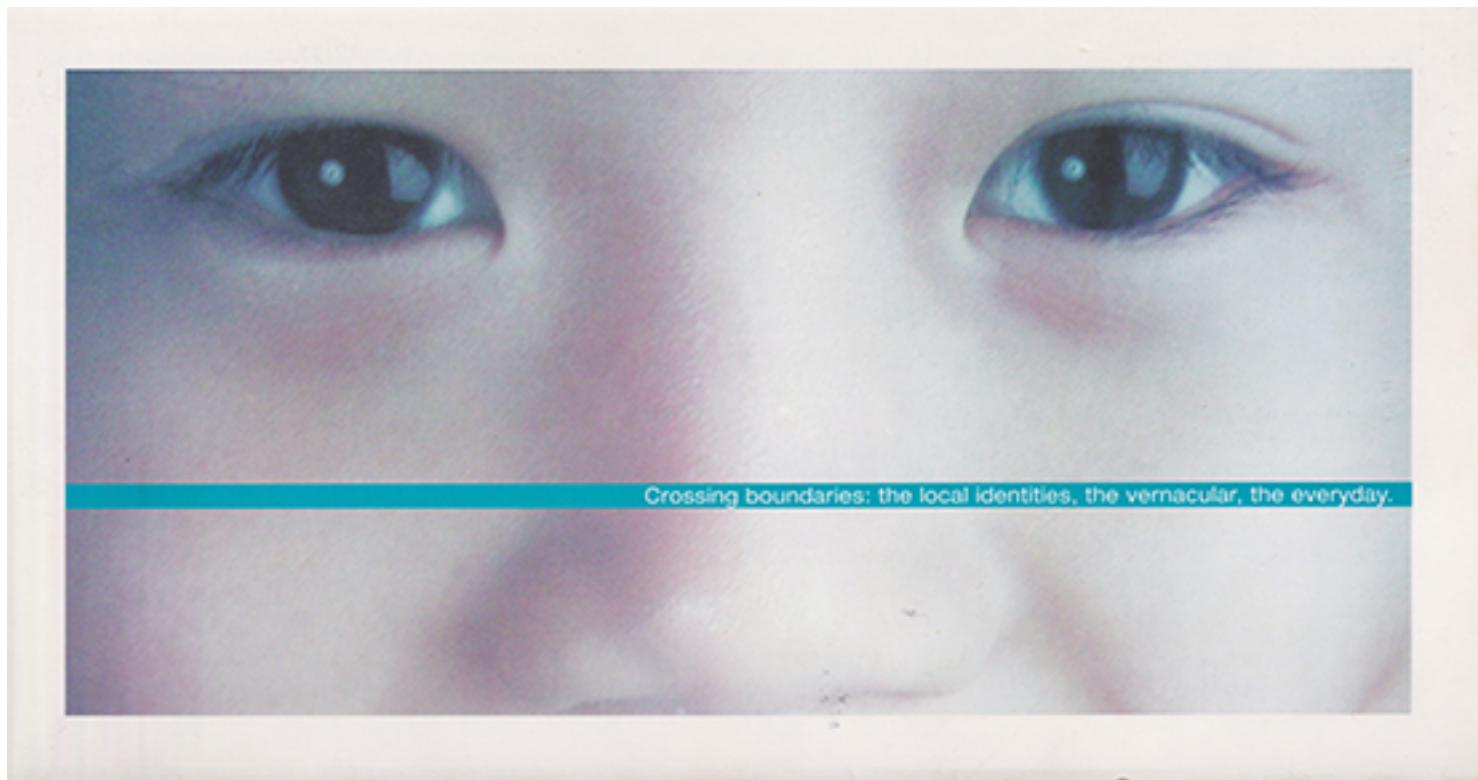


A vertical photograph showing a close-up of a person's hand holding a single incense stick. The incense is lit at the top, with a small amount of smoke visible. The hand is positioned in front of a solid blue background. The lighting creates soft shadows and highlights on the skin and the texture of the incense stick.

Asian ritual as a contemporaneous expression.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
PUBLIC OUTREACH PROGRAMME

2 Dec 8pm	Opening night of FOP, with showings by vocalist Yutaka Fukuoka (Japan), Zeng Jing Ping (Lyuan [Pear Garden] Opera, China) & Maria Todí (T'boli tribe of Mindanao, Philippines).	Fort Canning Park - By invitation only.
8 Dec 7pm	Opening of Visual Arts/Video Art Exhibition, showcasing video installations by Chinese artists: Zhang Peili, Song Dong, Wu Er Shan & Wu Wenguang and Japanese conceptual/installation artist Tsuyoshi Ochiai.	Robertson Quay - Unveiling of TheatreWorks' new space. By invitation only.
9 - 10 Dec		Free Admission.
9 Dec 2.30pm	Presentation of Taiwan Theatre: A talk cum presentation by Wang Rongyu and a solo presentation by Wu Shi Wen.	Drama Box, Free Admission.
9 - 11 Dec	Mask Ritual Dance and Sacred Music by 20 Tibetan Lamas.	Fort Canning Park, Free Admission.
15 Dec 8pm	Concert Demonstration by Meredith Monk.	Robertson Quay - By invitation only.
16 Dec 2.30pm	Talk by Nestor Horilla on the struggle for indigenous landrights in the Philippines. Performances by Maria Todí, a dancer/choreographer from the T'boli tribe, Benny Sokong of the Kalinga tribe in North Philippines and Ke Li of Hani minority in Yunnan, China.	Asian Civilisations Museum, Free Admission.
16 Dec 8pm	Demonstration by Butoh master Min Tanaka.	Robertson Quay - By invitation only.
17 Dec 3pm	Talk on the decade of Asia Pacific Triennial of Visual Artists in Queensland by Rhana Davenport.	Plastique Kinetic Worms, Free Admission.
20 Dec 4pm	Talk by Richard Schechner on Ritual & Performance featuring The Ramallah of India.	The Black Box, Free Admission.
20 Dec 7pm	Presentation of Nazi culture, rituals, ritual altars, music and dance by He Wen Zhen, He Ji Gui and others, with academic perspective from Li Jing Sheng.	Asian Civilisations Museum, Free Admission.
21 Dec 11am	Talk by Carol Martin on Contemporary Japanese Performance.	The Black Box, Free Admission.
21 Dec 8pm	Club night of Japanese contemporary music by turntablist musician Otomo and computer musicians Toru & Yen.	Zouk - Closing Night Party, Free Admission.
	Correct at time of printing. Please call Theatreworks for updates/time & tickets to free admission events.	



Crossing boundaries: the local identities, the vernacular, the everyday.