

20 December 2000 (Wednesday) 7 pm
TheatreWorks' FCP @ the Asian Civilisations Museum

FCP:00
NAXI CULTURAL
SHOWCASE

Our Guest of Honour
His Excellency, Mr Delfin Colome
Executive Director, ASEF

<u>VENUE</u>	<u>Asian Civilisations Museum</u>
6.45pm	Arrival of Guests
6.50pm	Arrival of Guest of Honour
7.00pm	Dance performance
8.00pm	Reception
<u>VENUE</u>	<u>Fort Canning Park, Fort Gate</u>
8.30pm	Ritual Performance
10.30pm	Q & A (Gallery)

HE GUO WEI

HE JI GUI

HE WEN ZHEN

LI JING SHENG

ZHAO SHI HONG

The Naxi are a Tibeto-Burman speaking people who live in China's Yunnan province. Besides possessing a rich culture, the Naxi have developed a unique indigenous writing system that has served as a visual aid for priests in their verbal passing on of myths.

He Wen Zhen is one of the few old men who can still perform the active ritual dances, which are heavily influenced by indigenous Tibetan worship "bon" before Tibetan Buddhism. These exorcism dances are now being revived by Wen Zhen, who teaches them to young men in the village. This takes place as part of a movement to understand and preserve the Naxi culture for the young. Presently there is an informal school that the Ford programme helped to establish with very small funds. He teaches dancing today as a secular cultural element rather than as a religious ritual performance.

He Ji Gui is an old Dong Ba Master from China. Dong Ba is an almost extinct shaman form, which is prevalent around Lijiang. It is basically a shamanic dance based on pictograms.

He Guo Wei, a drummer also in his late 70s, provides the essential rhythmic accompaniment to the rituals.

Together, they will be performing as well as explaining two Dong Ba dances at the ACM, followed by a traditional ritual known as the "Ji Feng" ceremony on Fort Canning Hill.

Such rituals take place to appease the demons of suicide, such as lovers who have died unnatural deaths as a result of a suicide pact. Such rituals usually take four days to perform.

Apart from the performance, Li Jing Sheng and Zhao Shi Hong, both academics from a Dong Ba research institute, will provide an academic perspective to this presentation.

THE FLYING CIRCUS PROJECT 2000

Our partners:

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