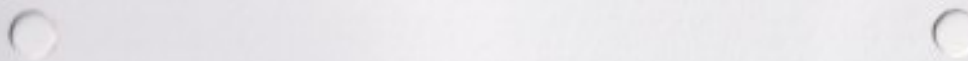
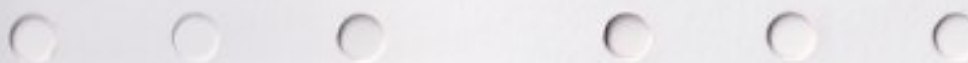
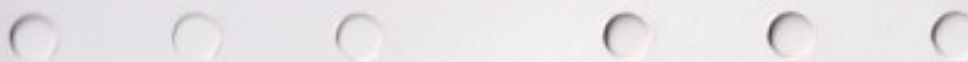


**FRIENDS<sup>®</sup>**  
**SEASON**  
Tenderness for the Future



**THEATREWORKS**  
Celebrating our 25th year with YOU

Evolution is at the heart of TheatreWorks, one of Singapore's longest running theatre companies. For its landmark 25th year, it celebrates the ties that have shaped its journey so far in The Friends' Season – Tenderness For The Future.

From 8th April to 1st May 2010 at 72-13, it kicks off with the Opening Exhibition. A video installation tracing the artistic evolution of this pioneering company to its present position as an incubator and platform for inter-disciplinary artists who negotiate artistic boundaries. Through the season, there will be three photo exhibitions which will evoke the spirit of the company's expansive experience.



The season continues with two international productions – Memory by the Beijing renown artistic pair, choreographer Wen Hui and documentary filmmaker Wu Wen Guang, remembers the Cultural Revolution and Miss Very Wagner by ingenious Swedish performer Charlotte Engelke who lives Wagner heroines – which reflect the threads of connectivity TheatreWorks maintains with the international art world.

It will round off on a note close to home. Artistic Director Ong Keng Sen shares a work-in-progress tentatively titled The Red Ballerina, a documentary performance based on the life of living legend Madam Goh Lay Kuan, a pioneer dance artist, a Cultural Medallion recipient, and the wife of late theatre doyen Kuo Pao Kun.

Since 1985, 2500 friends has collaborated with TheatreWorks in the fields of production, technical, design and performance. This startling discovery prompted the idea of this season, what's left after art, hard work, blood, sweat and tears? Friends and Tenderness.

**ONG KENG SEN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR,  
THEATREWORKS**

"Tenderness for the future. We have to act today to keep our memories for another time. But what do we keep? What are the parameters for remembering and forgetting?"

Who are we tender towards? Lovers, families, friends? This is all the more pertinent in the environment we are in today with its relentless measures of success. These days, it's all about outcomes, key performance indicators, or box office. Our 25th year is about giving value to things that are neglected.

TheatreWorks remains open to constantly re-defining itself. We have completely transformed from when we first began, as a repertory company up till 1999, playing to 20,000 audience members with each popular, Singapore-themed production. But in the first decade of the 21st century, we started carving a niche for ourselves in spaces that have been forgotten.

Abandoning the mainstream, we started to value individuality, subjectivity and minority interests. We evolved into a platform for younger artists and a vessel for people who share similar artistic visions, for those who work in between boundaries and disciplines. We are very directly responding to Singapore all the way. In that we fill the spaces that are underappreciated.

Singapore can be said to be a wonderful country for the majority interest. Everything is framed by public interest as opposed to public interests. What happens when you are not in the majority?

The loss of the artistic process in Singapore theatre as a way of life has been on the cards for a while because of the materialistic value system here. Seeing art mainly as a commodity will break it down. Supporting art primarily for tourism will sound the ultimate death knell. For our 25th year, we rethink the values prioritised today and we propose some sustainable alternatives. What will it mean to the future generations? How will they continue or deconstruct it? That is their story. For now, we articulate the journeys we have made with you, our loyal friends and new friends."

# FRIENDS SEASON

Tenderness for the Future

## EVENT INFORMATION

### Opening Exhibition

Date: 9 April – 11 April 2010  
Time: 12pm – 10pm  
Admission: Free

### Photography Exhibition (changing every week)

Date: 15 April – 17 April 2010 (A New Order)  
Date: 22 April – 24 April 2010 (Time Capsule)  
Date: 29 April – 1 May 2010 (Excavation)  
Time: 12pm – 10pm  
Admission: Free

Memory  
Living Dance Studio  
Beijing

Date: 16 & 17 April 2010  
Time: 8pm  
Admission: \$25

Miss Very Wagner  
Charlotte Engelkes  
Stockholm

Date: 23 & 24 April 2010  
Time: 8pm  
Admission: \$25

The Red Ballerina (working title)  
a Work-in-Progress  
Ong Keng Sen / TheatreWorks  
Singapore

Date: 29 April, 30 April, 1 May 2010  
Time: 8pm  
Admission: Free (please call / email to register as there are limited seats available)

Venue: 72-13 Mohamed Sultan Road Singapore 239007

Please call 6737-7213 or email [tworks@singnet.com.sg](mailto:tworks@singnet.com.sg) to purchase tickets or register your attendance.

For more information: [www.theatreworks.org.sg](http://www.theatreworks.org.sg) [www.72-13.com](http://www.72-13.com) [www.artsnetworkasia.org](http://www.artsnetworkasia.org)

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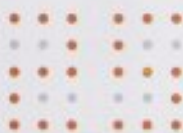


# FRIENDS SEASON

Tenderness for the Future

**TheatreWorks presents**

Opening Exhibition



**THEATREWORKS**

**72-13**

For its 25th year, TheatreWorks is giving its new and long-time audiences an opportunity to encounter some of its landmark productions in the Opening Exhibition held at 72-13 in Mohamed Sultan Road.

Filmed footage of iconic works like *3 Children* (1988), *Lao Jiu* (1993) and *Geisha* (2006), where Eastern and Western cultures met in dialogue, will be displayed on a plethora of flat screen televisions and wall projections. TheatreWorks has entertained Singapore (*Private Parts* 1992), has negotiated local censorship boundaries (*The Lady of Soul* and *the S Machine* 1993) and has challenged accepted social mores (*Mergers and Acquisitions* 1993). The company ambivalently provided a mirror to Singaporeans about castration (*Descendants of the Admiral Eunuch* 1995) and about their attitudes to Indian foreign workers (*Workhorse Afloat* 1997).

Endlessly hungry for fresh experiences, TheatreWorks played with time and space creating 48-hour festivals such as *Insomnia48* at The Arts House in 2004. The company pioneered new sites of performance such as the Suntec City Fountain (audiences wore raincoats to brave the floods of water in *Destinies of Flowers in the Mirror* 1997), a Chinatown shophouse (*The Yang Family* 1998) and an underground bunker used by the besieged British forces in World War 2 (*Longing* 1994). Fort Canning Park has never looked back since *Broken Birds* (1996), a documentary performance about the Japanese ladies of the night or *karayuki-sans*, not only has it become the site for ballets, concerts, screenings, Shakespeare; the *karayuki-sans* were finally acknowledged with a place in the history of Singapore in the National Museum.

## EVENT INFORMATION

### Opening Exhibition

Date: 9 April to 11 April 2010  
Time: 12pm to 10pm  
Admission: Free  
Venue: 72-13 Mohamed Sultan Road  
Singapore 239007

Please call 6737-7213 or email  
tw@singnet.com.sg regarding any enquiries.  
For more information:  
www.theatreworks.org.sg  
www.72-13.com

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# FRIENDS SEASON

Perhaps for this reason alone, it was necessary to perform their narratives, a recognition that Singapore was also the home to these foreign workers who died far away from their birthplaces. Moving beyond local obsessions, this production provided evidence that Singapore was global long before.

However unknown to many, TheatreWorks is probably the most widely studied Singapore theatre company in international universities through its intercultural Asian productions. Productions such as *Lear* (1997) are still actively discussed, critiqued and emulated.

TheatreWorks was the first company to collaborate extensively with Asian artists from 1991 - it started the Asian contemporary wave which revolutionised the presentation of international works in Singapore, making popular 'New Asia' as a branding.

Emphasis for the Opening Exhibition has also been put into the productions that Singapore audiences have never seen before from the home-grown company that put Singapore on the international art map in diverse performance festivals from New York City to Paris to Istanbul. Material such as the company's helming of the *In-Transit* festival created by Ong Keng Sen in Berlin 2002; *Search Hamlet* (2002) created site-specifically for the famous Kronburg castle, the 'original' Hamlet castle in Denmark; the recent *Vivien and the Shadows* (2008) about acts of copying, in this case copying Vivien Leigh in the film *The Streetcar Named Desire*.

The Opening Exhibition draws primarily from the 1990s, being that the 1990s often had inadequate video documentation and that the last ten years are still recent memory. Rather than nostalgia, Ong talks about the necessity of cultivating a sense of history about the company's artistic journey in the last 25 years. There is a sense of urgency, not so much to preserve but to pave the way for future generations of artists.

Ong: "These productions have disappeared as the nature of performance is ephemeral but its 'dust' is recycled in a circular manner into new gestures, new attitudes by generations after; who may not even know where their sources have come from. Recently *Lady of Soul* was given a new dusting by the National University of Singapore. The student performers were about 5 years old when we premiered this work but there were continuities which have subconsciously remained like traces, evoking memories, a sense of déjà vu. We are dusting out the drawers of TheatreWorks. This historicising is only useful for the future, not for the past."

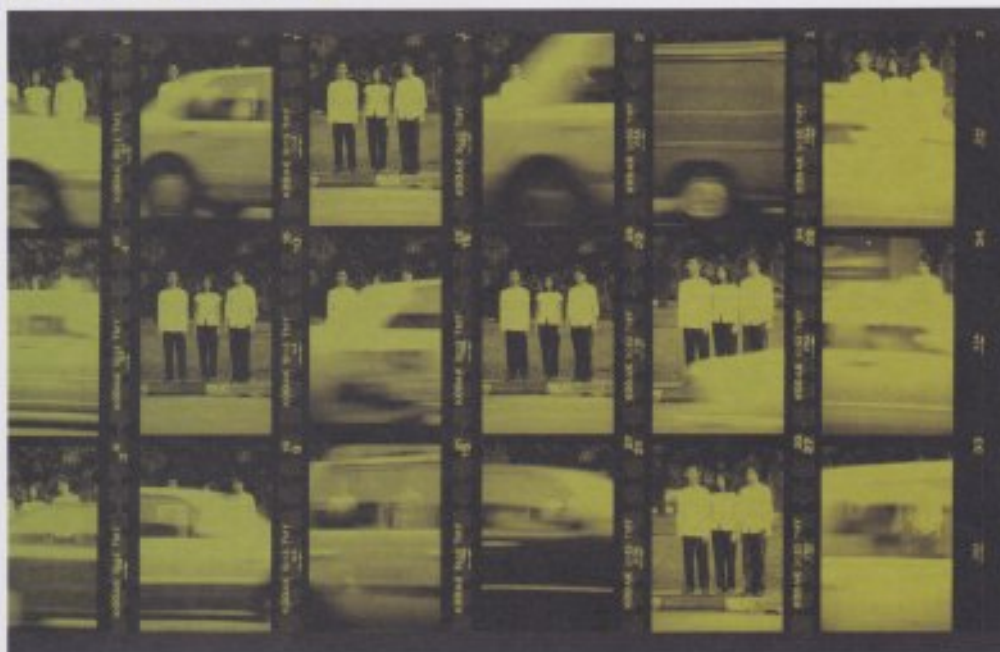
Celebrating our 25th year with YOU

# FRIENDS SEASON

Tenderness for the Future

**TheatreWorks presents**

Photography Exhibition  
*curated by Tania Sng*



**THEATREWORKS**

**72-13**

Showcasing over 36 productions.  
In 3 weeks. From 1 theatre company.

## FRIENDS SEASON

### EVENT INFORMATION

15 – 17 April 2010 (A NEW ORDER)

Fanshen (1985)  
Not Afraid to Remember (1995)  
The Dance and The Railroad (1990)  
Madame Mao Memories (1991)  
Fried Rice Paradise (1991)  
Alter Art (1991)  
Lest the Demons Get to Me (1992)  
Theatre Carnival on the Hill (1992)  
Mergers and Acquisitions (1993)  
PIE (1998)  
Balance (2003)  
Lim Tzyy Chuan (2003)  
Ma: Moment (2004)

22 – 24 April 2010 (TIME CAPSULE to be opened 2035)

To My Heart with Smiles (1993)  
Retrospective of Singapore Playwriting (1990)  
Ozone (1991)  
George (Bigot, Theatre du Soleil Workshop (1992)  
Longing (1994)  
Wills and Successions (1995)  
Got to Go (1998)

29 April – 1 May 2010 (EXCAVATION)

Be My Sushi Tonight! (1985)  
Rashomon (1995)  
The Maids (1988)  
Trojan Women (1991)  
Trip to the South (1991)  
Three Fat Virgins (1992)  
Wayang Kulit (1993)  
Scorpion Orchid (1994)  
Amah Chieh (from Longing 1994)  
Desdemona (2000)  
Cornrade Mayor (2002)  
Pulse (2003)  
The Continuum: Beyond the Killing Fields (2001 - )

Time: 12pm - 10pm

Admission: Free

Venue: 72-13 Mohamed Sultan Road  
Singapore 239007

Please call 6737-7213 or email  
tworks@singnet.com.sg regarding any enquiries.  
For more information:  
www.theatreworks.org.sg  
www.72-13.com

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Re-look, re-imagine and rediscover these threads of memories spun in a photography installation showcasing landmarks from TheatreWorks over the last 25 years.

Each week, for 3 consecutive weeks, there will be a core of different productions exhibited. Each of them marks a significant moment in the theatrical history of one of Singapore's longest running theatre companies.

In the first week - A New Order, seven iconic representations will be portrayed where one only recognises shades of these familiar, and much loved works. Be it through collages, or digitally manipulated multiples of selves, A New Order stages creative portraits of these past productions, evoking emotions and stirring the imagination.

Come the second week, the installation enters a Time Capsule. Seven life-sized pods contain the seeds of visionary projects, whose time belongs in the future. These bold, boundary-pushing works are chosen for their influence on what can become art. Glimpse the future of art in the painted faces of actors; these are the stages of a past time to come.

For the third week - Excavation, 72-13 will be transformed into an archaeological site, where visitors roam seven excavation areas to rediscover photographs belonging to past productions. Between the sites there are visual insights behind the scenes. These hidden gems expose, process and record; come celebrate the beauty of the residue.

The installation is conceived and curated by filmmaker Tania Sng, 36, who has not seen or been part of most of the performances TheatreWorks has staged over the last few decades. A bold decision to encounter the future, the installation was created not on sentimentality, but a determination to cultivate based on the strengths of resonance and imagination.

For details, visit [www.72-13.com](http://www.72-13.com)

# FRIENDS SEASON

Tenderness for the Future

**TheatreWorks presents**

Memory  
*Living Dance Studio*  
*Beijing*



**THEATREWORKS**

**72-13**

A giant mosquito net  
hangs above the stage.  
A shroud for remembering.  
A 1960s pedal-operated  
sewing machine.  
An attempt to string  
together individual  
memories to patchwork  
a piece of history.

#### EVENT INFORMATION

Memory  
Living Dance Studio

Date: 16 & 17 April 2010  
Time: 8pm  
Admission: \$25  
Venue: 72-13 Mohamed Sultan Road  
Singapore 239007

Please call 6737-7213 or email  
tworke@singnet.com.sg to purchase tickets.

For more information:  
www.theatreworks.org.sg  
www.72-13.com

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## FRIENDS SEASON

Three artists - a choreographer, a dancer, a documentary filmmaker - come together to remember the rise of modern China, from the 1960s to the Cultural Revolution.

Negotiating time, memory and subjective realities, the three artists embrace and confront the act of remembering.

Part of TheatreWorks' Friends Season - Tenderness For The Future, Memory reflects the company's interest in the deep engagement artists keep with history, performance and cultural memory. TheatreWorks first collaborated with Wu Wen Guang (documentary film maker) and Wen Hui (choreographer) in 1997, Workhorse Afloat. Since then, the friendship has deepened with The Flying Circus Project and other international workshops/labs from Göteborg, Sweden to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam curated by TheatreWorks.

In 2007, Ong Keng Sen served as mentor in their May dance festival in Caocangdi, Beijing.

Memory premiered in August 2008 at the Biennale de la Danse, Lyon.

Celebrating our 25th year with YOU

# FRIENDS SEASON

Tenderness for the Future

**TheatreWorks presents**

Miss Very Wagner  
*Charlotte Engelkes*  
*Stockholm*



**THEATREWORKS**

**72-13**

A Swedish  
performance artist.  
A dead German  
composer.  
An explosive collision  
between opera and  
performance art.

#### EVENT INFORMATION

Miss Very Wagner  
Charlotte Engelkes

Date: 23 & 24 April 2010  
Time: 8pm  
Admission: \$25  
Venue: 72-13 Mohamed Sultan Road  
Singapore 239007

Please call 6737-7213 or email  
tworks@singnet.com.sg to purchase tickets.

For more information:  
www.theatreworks.org.sg  
www.72-13.com

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## FRIENDS SEASON

In an extravagant one-woman show, Charlotte Engelkes takes on the heroines from the operas of Richard Wagner. A playful experiment with monumental myths, she investigates love, war, heaven and earth in a humorous collage of song, text and dance.

This international production by Charlotte Engelkes, a frequent collaborator with TheatreWorks, is presented as part of the company's 25th year, The Friends' Season - Tenderness For The Future. Miss Very Wagner, an interdisciplinary work, reflects the creative dexterity, epic individuality and fiery independence of contemporary performance which TheatreWorks value.

Engelkes first collaborated with TheatreWorks in 2002, Search Hamlet in Kronburg Castle (Hamlet's Castle), Denmark. In the decade long friendship she collaborated again and again with the company, in 2003 with The Global Soul and in 2008 with Vivien and the Shadows, touring from Budapest to North Carolina USA.

*"Engelkes' reflections on female experiences in the borderland between adaptability and liberation are a mixture of poetic earnest and mischievous ingenuity that takes one's breath away. This performance will become legendary."*

- Svenska dagbladet

*"Immerse love of opera and common sense is an unexpected combination, but is true of Charlotte Engelkes. It hits a serious point and something is told about life, death and love in spite of the hockey helmet on Brunhilde's head. Or because of it."*

- Expressen

*"Charlotte Engelkes gives opera a leap forward. For being a performance about dying women, Miss Very Wagner is an incredibly funny story. Engelkes is clearly in her very best and most exhilarating mood when dealing with The Great Manly Art."*

- Dagens Nyheter

Celebrating our 25th year with YOU

# FRIENDS SEASON

Tenderness for the Future

**TheatreWorks presents**

The Red Ballerina (working title)

*Ong Keng Sen*

Singapore

a Work-in-Progress

inspired by Goh Lay Kuan



**theatreworks**

**72-13**

She is a dancer,  
a lover and a fighter.  
A lynchpin of dance  
education in Singapore.  
An esteemed  
choreographer.  
The wife of late theatre  
doyen Kuo Pao Kun.

#### EVENT INFORMATION

The Red Ballerina (working title)  
a Work-in-Progress  
Ong Keng Sen / TheatreWorks

Date: 29 April, 30 April, 1 May 2010  
Time: 8pm  
Admission: Free (limited seats available)  
Venue: 72-13 Mohamed Sultan Road  
Singapore 239007

Please call 6737-7213 or email  
tw@singnet.com.sg to register your attendance.

For more information:  
www.theatreworks.org.sg  
www.72-13.com

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## FRIENDS SEASON

Director Ong Keng Sen creates a performance portrait of dance pioneer and living icon Madam Goh Lay Kuan in this documentary performance tentatively entitled The Red Ballerina. He collaborates with theatre stalwarts Karen Tan and Lim Kay Tong in this work-in-progress presentation.

In 1985, Ong studied in Practice Performing Arts School started by Madam Goh and Kuo in 1985. Thereafter, he collaborated consistently with Kuo until 2001. Founding Director of TheatreWorks, Lim was directed by Kuo in the first-ever English language production of Practice in 1985. Goh's, Kuo's long treasured friendships have affected Ong deeply and hence can also be seen in the trajectory of TheatreWorks.

Acclaimed for his distinct documentary theatre with works staged in the last two decades such as the internationally renown classic about Cambodia - The Continuum: Beyond the Killing Fields (2001) - which has toured the world for ten years, Red Ballerina is Ong's first foray in staging a portrait of someone from his own culture and artistic history.

Ong says: "This has big meaning for me. I believe an artist can be a lens to perceive a culture and its time. My documentary performances so far have been about stories of people from other cultures. This is the first time it's from our own. She is a living presence who has continued her dialogue with art and society; she is still actively engaged."

Conceived and directed by Ong Keng Sen  
Text by Goh Lay Kuan & Kuo Pao Kun  
Created with Karen Tan & Lim Kay Tong

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