

SINGAPOREARTSFESTIVAL

1 – 25 June 06 | www.singaporeartsfest.com



One
Season.
Many Faces.


singaporeartsfestival

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GEISHA

TheatreWorks (Singapore) **ASIAN PREMIERE**

Sea of remembrance:
 "How cruel the floating world
 Its solaces how few -
 And soon my unmourning life
 Will vanish with the dew"

The Geisha is perhaps one of the biggest symbols of Japoniserie, it is an empty screen on which all our fantasies of Japan can be projected, even for many contemporary Japanese individuals today who do not come into contact easily with this old world. However it is not just exotic but it is a powerful arena to discuss the water world or a dream world, a floating world. It seems to encapsulate many notions of Japanese identity, gender relationships but more universally it is a space to discuss life, dream and reality for the world.

Conceived and directed by Ong Keng Sen, *Geisha* involves New York-based performer Karen Kandel (winner of several Obies), who weaves together stories from geishas, maikos (apprentice geishas), clients, their wives, okamisans (mama-sans), offspring of geishas, and anthropologists. Joining her onstage will be kabuki dancer Gojo Masanosuke in the female onnagata role drawing from the age-old repertory of kabuki and nihon buyoh (classical Japanese dance).

From the famed traditional school of shamisen, Kineya Katsumatsu joins forces with electronic wizard Toru Yamanaka who created the contemporary soundscapes for the seminal shows of Dumb Type and fashion designer Mitsushi Yanaihara who juxtaposed distilled clothes with a visual treat of kabuki ornate costumes. As the geisha spins her world through the art of stories, dance and music in the ochaya (tea house), the enriching dialogue between the traditional and contemporary continues in *Geisha*...

9 & 10 June, 8pm
 Victoria Theatre
 \$50, \$40, \$30, \$15
 75 mins (no intermission)
www.theatreworks.org.sg

NTUC members discount, see page 66

Commissioned by the Singapore Arts Festival, in association with Spoleto Festival (Charleston) and the Lincoln Center Festival (New York)

Post-show dialogue with Ong Keng Sen and collaborators on 10 June



Organised by



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SINGAPORE