



THEATREWORKS / 72-13

presents

# SHAPES OF SLEEP

A sculptural and durational installation by Deborah Pollard  
Artist-In-Residence at TheatreWorks/72-13 in partnership with Asialink Residency

Performed by Elizabeth De Roza • Julius Foo Jong Soon • Nur Khairiyah Bte Ramli • Oon Shu An • Xavier Kang Yong Feng

26 July 2008, 1pm to 9pm • Free admission

72-13, Mohamed Sultan Road, Singapore 239007  
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## ARTIST'S STATEMENT

As an artist I am always interested in how I can keep my practice fresh. I consciously search out collaborations with different artists who can challenge my thinking and creative processes.

Since 1996 to 2003 I collaborated on many projects with installation and performance artists based in Indonesia. *Shapes of Sleep* is the last work from this period and is the culmination of much thinking and experimentation into hybrid arts exploration.

The work was borne from a series of creative experiments with artist Regina Bimadona. In an attempt to work outside of our mediums of performance and installation we played with a video camera for two weeks, not to create video art but to see what this medium could suggest.

In one instance we filmed ourselves dozing over three hours. The concept was, of course nothing new, but to our surprise the angle, an above shot, proved very provocative. Using this footage as a starting point Regina and I separated and each created a new work.

## SHAPES OF SLEEP

I began by isolating 40 stills from the video footage and mounted them on miniature pillows. They emphasise the movement of sleep. I then transcribed the movements of the filmed sleepers into words, a choreographic score that could be performed. Each performer lying on a bed follows the choreographic score for eight hours. The duration sometimes causes the performers to fall asleep, blurring the boundaries between fiction and authenticity – choreographed and everyday slumber. If this work is about anything, it is about humanity. Dramaturge Thomas Frank summed it up more eloquently than I am ever able to do.

*The installation emanates a great calmness – tender, pacifying and very contemplative. 'Shapes of Sleep' subtly says a lot about the vulnerability of bodies without having to expose the wounds.*

Thomas Frank Berlin- commissioned essay  
for Performance Space

The work evolves with each new performance. I am keen to have the work presented at 72-13 Theatreworks to see how it reads anew in the space and within a Singapore context. *Shapes of Sleep* has previously been performed at Performance Space in Sydney, *The In Between Time* in Bristol, *Tramway* in Glasgow and *The Green Room* in Manchester.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO:** All at TheatreWorks, Asialink, Performance Space, Regina Bimadona, Victoria Cattori, Alvin Tan, Paul Ras, Elizabeth de Roza, Dennis Tan and the performers.



## BIOGRAPHY

### DEBORAH POLLARD

Deborah Pollard is an artist and director based in Sydney whose work focuses on hybrid collaborations with arts and non-arts practitioners. A recipient of an Australia Council Fellowship from the New Media Arts Board, she has created a number of interdisciplinary performance and installation works in collaboration with emerging and professional artists. She has performed and written a number of solo works including *Mother Tongue Interference*, *To Eat Cake and Fish Out of Water*.

Deborah was the Artistic Director of Salamanca Theatre Company from 1997 to 2000. She studied with Tadashi Suzuki in 1990 and 1991 and is a teacher of the Suzuki Actor Training Method. Since 1993, Deborah has been working in collaboration with Indonesian performance and installation artists to create a number of large-scale performance works such as *Postcard* (1995), *Badai Pasir* (1996), *To Eat Flowers and Walk on Glass* (1999), and *Girt By Sea* (2002).

### Performers:

#### ELIZABETH DE ROZA

Elizabeth de Roza who is an associate artist at The Substation, specialises in movement-based performances and has training in yoga, tai-chi, asian martial arts, and with a foundation in acrobatics. Since 2001, she has been creating and performing solo works which include *Suria* (2001), *Innocence* (2003) and *Still Flight* (2005) which was also presented at the 2005 Magdalena USA International Festival. Over the years, Elizabeth has directed shows for various theatre companies in Singapore and has worked with several directors in Singapore and overseas. Elizabeth is currently pursuing her Masters of Arts (Fine Arts/Performance) at LaSalle College of the Arts and providing lectures part-time at NAFA and LaSalle College of the Arts.

#### JULIUS FOO JONG SOON

Over the years, Julius Foo has acted in numerous productions with various groups and companies in Singapore. Between 1999 and 2002, he worked, trained and toured (Singapore and Europe) with the Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards, based in Italy. Besides acting, he also facilitates Theatre/Drama-in-Education programmes and Speech and Drama workshops from pre-school to secondary schools. He has been helping Creative O Preschoolers' Bay in coordinating their year-end concerts since 2003 and is also one of the Drama Instructors for the Down Syndrome Association (Singapore). He recently co-facilitated a short-term Drama workshop with MINDS (Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore).

## ABOUT ASIALINK AND THEATREWORKS/72-13

Asialink is a non-academic centre of The University of Melbourne and an initiative of the Myer Foundation, which aims to promote public understanding of the countries of Asia. Asialink's mission is to work with business, government, philanthropic and cultural partners to initiate and strengthen Australia Asia engagement. Through high level forums, international collaborations, school programs and cultural exchanges, Asialink engages the corporate, media, arts, education, health and community sectors – reaching from primary school children to prime ministers – in Australia and Asia.

TheatreWorks's creative space, 72-13 at Mohamed Sultan Road was established in September 2005. 72-13's primary purpose is to encourage collaborations, house residences from artists around the world and to encourage hybrid creative expressions from young



### NUR KHAIRIYAH BTE RAMLI

A proud member of the Young Company at Singapore Repertory Theatre, Nur Khairiyah has been in SRT productions such as *Agamemnon*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and a *Story Of A Short Life*. She completed her Diploma in Higher Education in Theatre Arts at LaSalle College of the Arts and has also performed and directed LaSalle-SIA's own graduation show such as self-titled, *Face that Speaks and Viel-idity*. Film credits include her first malay leading lady role in *Tak Dong Cheng* (2008) by Smart Mat Films. She was last seen in *Traces* (2008) in conjunction with the Substation's Grey Festival. A Speech and Drama Assistant teacher at Loma Winston, Nur Khairiyah runs a Bollywood and Hollywood Entertainment News Webpage called Tinsel Gurus.

### OON SHU AN

Oon Shu An is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Arts (Acting) at LaSalle College of the Arts where she has done recent productions such as *The Comedy of Errors*, *The Good Person of Sichuan*, *Who's Afraid of the Working Class* and *LIST*. She has played lead actress in the feature film *Becoming Royston* (2007) and has also done productions with Buds Youth Theatre which include *Tape* (2006) and *Raunchy Asian Women* (2006). She has recently acted in *The King Lear Project: A Trilogy*, which was part of the Singapore Arts Festival 2008 as well as the Kunstenfestivaldesarts in Brussels.

### XAVIER KANG YONG FENG

Xavier Kang is a passionate actor who began acting with the local media in 2001. His early collaborations in many school productions led to an increased exposure in various theatre performances including *If Statues Could Talk* at The Singapore National Museum. He is currently pursuing a Diploma in Theatre at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and made his debut as a director in the recent *Short + Sweet 2008* gala final selection, *Help!* which was held at the Esplanade.

Original cast and voice over performers: Katie Molino, Gail Priest, Kelvin Lim, Martin del Arno and Monica Wulff

Singaporeans. The company also expanded to include the International Centre of Asian Arts (ICAA) and the Singapore Creative Arts Nucleus (SCAN). ICAA is a R&D Centre, a performance centre, a forum and a platform for Asia's expression and its relationship to the rest of the world while SCAN is an incubator for creatives in Singapore.

TheatreWorks/72-13 is currently hosting Deborah Pollard as part of the Asialink Residency. This partnership is an on-going commitment by TheatreWorks/72-13 to foster collaborations between international and Singapore creatives.

[www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au)

[www.theatreworks.org.sg](http://www.theatreworks.org.sg)

[www.72-13.com](http://www.72-13.com)

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