

THEATREWORKS

72-13

TheatreWorks / 72-13 presents
Flying Circus Project Platform 02
Kutlug Ataman

Internationally renown filmmaker and contemporary artist, Kutlug Ataman will be hosted by the Flying Circus Project. Ataman will present his newest film *Journey to the Moon* and a special artist talk on his critically acclaimed works.

Journey to the Moon: 18 November 2009 at 8pm
Artist Talk: 19 November 2009 at 8pm

Kutlug Ataman

Film: *Journey to the Moon* (79 min, with English subtitles)

Fresh from the London Film Festival (Oct 2009) at the British Film Institute, Kutlug Ataman's recent film *Journey to the Moon* will be screened at 72-13.

Often funny and evocative this film, of 4 villagers' quest to travel to the moon, has been shown in the Moscow Film Festival 2009 and under the Official Selection 2009 International Istanbul Film Festival. It was originally part of the Mesopotamian Dramaturgies series of visual works, a major solo exhibition at Linz09, European Cultural Capital this year.

Journey to the Moon explores an urban myth that in 1957 a group of villagers from Turkey's remote Black Sea coast were conned by a local politician into believing he would build a spaceship factory in cooperation with the US, in return for their votes. At that time, Turkish villages were actively encouraged to modernise. Ataman's film examines the idea that these naive villagers were the victims of American-style westernisation in Turkey in the late 50s and perhaps amongst the first unsuspecting victims of the early stages of globalisation.

Artist talk

As a filmmaker and a contemporary artist, Kutlug Ataman will present a special talk on his previous works. His works, examining the ways in which people create and rewrite their identities through self-expression, blurring the line between reality and fiction, will be shared amongst audiences.

Audiences will be able to experience and understand Ataman's work philosophy that circles around strong characterisation and humanity.

A nominee for the prestigious Turner Prize in London during 2004 and winner of Carnegie Award in the US in the same year, Ataman will occupy audiences with his thoughts, ideas, experiences and philosophies.

Event Information

Flying Circus Project Platform 02
Kutlug Ataman

Date: 18 & 19 November 2009
Time: 8pm
Venue: 72-13 Mohamed Sultan Road
Admission: Free

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

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

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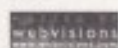
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Kutlug Ataman was born in Istanbul, Turkey in 1961 and graduated with an MFA in film from University of California in 1988. Since then, Ataman has pursued a celebrated career both as filmmaker and contemporary artist, working with single and multiple-channel installations as well as making films documenting the lives of marginalised individuals.

One of Ataman's seminal works was in the 48th Venice Biennale (1999). *Women Who Wear Wigs* featured four women – a revolutionary whose face remained obscured, a well-known journalist and breast cancer survivor Nevval Sevindi, an anonymous devout Muslim student, and an activist transsexual prostitute.

Another popular work is *Never My Soul* where Ceyhan Firat, a breathtakingly gorgeous Turkish transvestite living in Switzerland, tells stories from her private life – a nightmare of abuse, contempt and persecution. But whether the violence, the rape experienced in childhood, or the relationships with men, everything is told in the type of sea-green mood that brings to mind earlier Fassbinder films, and the rawness of Warhol productions. In six locations, the viewer sees different chapters of her life, related while on the telephone, in conversations, or having sex.

In addition, Ataman was commended for his work, *Testimony* – a controversial film that documents Ataman interviewing his Armenian nanny, Kevser, who was brought into the family by his great-grandfather after her family was killed in 1915. It raises one of the most disputable issues in Turkey's history – Armenia says the Ottoman government orchestrated a genocide of the Armenian population during World War I. Turkey denies that what took place was a genocide, arguing that thousands of Turks also died in a brutal conflict.

Ataman is represented by Thomas Dane Gallery, London.

"My art practice has always been a strong part of who I am. Who I am is not something I can give up, even if I wanted to." – Kutlug Ataman

The Flying Circus Project (FCP), conceived and directed by Ong Keng Sen, for 8 years (1996 - 2002/3) had a singular focus on Asian artists of all disciplines: traditional, contemporary, urban, folk, ritual, activists etc. The first three editions were a geographical survey with artists coming from Burma, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, India and China. The FCP started primarily with a group of urban Asian artists who were outside of the traditional arts of their countries/Asia but were interested in reinventing tradition, conceptualising its place in contemporary arts, looking at the parallels between the traditional cosmos and contemporary life. The first edition in 1996 began with much physical training. 1998 saw the moving away from the aesthetics of intercultural performance into the politics of intercultural performance. There was the introduction of visual artists, unconventional artists in traditional arts (such as women practising kathakali, young 'masters', traditional musicians crossing over into pop idols). 2000 was the culmination of the geographical survey with 20 Tibetan monks (from Yunnan, China) joining contemporary artists in exploring rituals of spirituality and rituals of daily contemporary life (including club trance musicians). 2002/3 was the final year of all Asian artists but it was also the first time that FCP moved out of Singapore. It evolved into an 18-month project where one visiting artist a month worked and collaborated with the residents of the royal town, Luang Prabang in Laos. In 2004, Ong began to perceive Asia more as the site where artists would continue their conversations. The process started in 1996 had been achieved in part, i.e. to begin the collaborative processes between Asian artists, who due to the development of contemporary arts were often looking towards Europe and the US. However after 8 years, there was the danger that a 'ghetto' was developing, there was a need to make porous; new borders that were emerging. Hence the FCP in 2004 invited numerous Asian artists and others as well: Jerome Bel, Ia Ribot, Jan Ritsema, Fanny & Alexander, Benoit Lachambre, Otobong Nkanga, Walid Raad, Rabih Mroue, Lina Saneh, Bilal Kbeiz, Tony Chakar, Jumana El Aboud, Raeda Sadeh. This opened a new door. In the 6th lab, artists visited Vietnam under the Flying Circus Project 2007 – Travelogue. This was a contextualised conversation in a specific site to explore the issues of memory, transformation and the local. Megg Stuart, Rachid Ouramdane, David Subal, Michikazu Matsune, Caden Manson, DJ Spooky, Koosil-Ja, Raqs Media Collective, Jun Nguyen Hatsushiba, Melati Suryodarmo, Nibroll, Brian Gothong Tan participated; traveling between Singapore and Vietnam. In January 2010, FCP continues in Cambodia and Singapore.