

SoftMachine is a dance research project exploring the epistemology of contemporary dance in Asia, driven by a personal desire to study the choreographic process of contemporary dance developed over the last decade.

Since 2012, Choy Ka Fai has travelled to 13 cities to meet and interview Asian dance makers. Through this multi-cultural experience, he has collected an independent archive of video interview with 84 choreographers, dancers and curators from Singapore, Jakarta, Solo, Yogyakarta, Kyoto, Osaka, Kobe, Bangalore, Chennai, Manipur, Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong.

Soft Machine investigates the contemporary nature of dance, and the research across the various Asian cities has inspired a new series of choreographic experiments and creations.

This work-in-progress will present performances by 3 choreographers from Singapore, Manipur/India and Banyumas/Indonesia who Ka Fai personally observed and studied. There is also an accompanying exhibition of the research process, interview archive and mini documentaries.

Essentially, the performance is an intimate collaboration with the individual choreographer, where from our individual point of views, interprets and speculates about the choreographic minds of the present future.

Choy Ka Fai is an artist, performance maker and speculative designer. He is inspired by the histories and theorisations that together contain the uncertainties of the future. His research springs from a desire to understand the conditioning of the human body, its intangible memories and the forces shaping its expressions. These factors converge into complex articulations at the intersection of art, design and technology.

Ka Fai graduated in Design Interaction from the Royal College Of Art London, under a National Arts Council (Singapore) Overseas Scholarship, and was conferred the Singapore Young Artist Award in 2010. His work has been presented internationally, notably at Festival Tokyo (2011), Singapore Arts Festival (2012) and the Museum Of Modern Art, New York (2013).

Ka Fai is the first Singaporean artist to be presented at the prestigious dance festival, Tanz Im August (2013) in Berlin.

www.ka5.info

A Work-In-Progress Presentation

72-13 / TheatreWorks
72-13 Mohamed Sultan Road
Singapore

Performance
1 - 2 Nov 2013, 8pm

Research Exhibition
1 Nov 2013, 7pm-10pm
2 Nov 2013, 2pm-10pm

SoftMachine

A full production of SoftMachine will be produced by TheatreWorks in November 2014.

Presenting SoftMachine is part of TheatreWorks' aim to encourage creative thinking in contemporary dance making and to encourage Singapore's emerging dance makers to think outside the box of what constitutes dance.

Over the years, TheatreWorks has presented a series of programmes featuring dance artists such as Joavien Ng working with German dance dramaturg, Jochen Roller to expand the boundaries of dance making and to encourage new approaches to dance-making. TheatreWorks was also the first in Singapore to present renowned dance artists such as Jerome Bel, Boris Charmatz, Musee de la Danse, Eszter Salamon and The Nacera Belaza Company.

TheatreWorks is currently developing a new wave for 2014 by working with dance-maker Xavier Le Roy (France / Germany) who will create a new work with Singapore dance makers in 2014. In addition, Thai dance-maker, Pichet Klunchun will be presenting a new work, commissioned by TheatreWorks in 2014.

TheatreWorks (S) Ltd is a recipient of the National Arts Council Major Grant for the period from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2016.

www.theatreworks.org.sg
www.72-13.com

CONCEPT, DIRECTION AND MULTIMEDIA
Choy Ka Fai

PERFORMANCE
Norisham Osman, Surjit Nongmeikapam and Rianto

MUSIC
Zulkiffe Mahmod

DRAMATURGIC SUPPORT
Tang Fukuen

LIGHTING, PRODUCTION AND TECHNICAL DIRECTION
Yap Seok Hui

POSTER DESIGN
Felix Ng (Anonymous)

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The Arts Creation Fund - National Arts Council Singapore
TheatreWorks / 72-13

WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM
danceBox Kobe (Japan)
Kyoto Experiment (Japan)
Attakkalari Centre for Movement Arts (Bangalore, India)
Living Dance Studio (Beijing, China)

SoftMachine documentary series is a collection of fragmented encounters, conversational choreography and discussions about contemporary dance in specific Asian cultures.

SoftMachine:
Surjit Nongmeikapam (IND)
The Persistence of Exoticism

Surjit Nongmeikapam is a young contemporary dancer from Manipur, India. He has learned the multiple forms of classical India dance and martial art forms. Surjit is also one of the first few dancers in Manipur to engage with contemporary dance forms and seek to promote its development beyond the traditional conservatives of Manipuri cultures.

The documentary performance will present the process of creating a new dance performance for the consumption of the European audience, revealing the artistic strategies, marketing ideologies and the precarious attempt at exoticising oneself.

SoftMachine:
Norisham Osman (SG)
The Archeology of Influences

Norisham Osman is a former disciple of a pioneering Malay dance master in Singapore. After 10 years of learning under the mentorship, he desires to start on his own, to research and experiment on the possibilities of Malay dance form with a contemporary inclination.

The documentary performance will investigate the possible variations and influences of Malay dance form in Singapore.

SoftMachine:
Rianto (INA)
The Rasa of Sexuality

Rianto is a dancer from Banyumas Indonesia, who specialises in the traditional erotic dance of Lenggger. He mastered the cross-gender dance repertoire at a very young age, and continues to enchant male viewers with his seductive female impersonation.

At the same time, Rianto performs and collaborates with many contemporary choreographers. Since moving to Tokyo in 2006, he has developed different ways of choreographic practices, deriving and departing from his traditional beginning.

The documentary performance will explore the tension between the choreographic practices of the traditional vs contemporary, the masculine vs feminine and the urbanist vs ruralist.



THEATREWORKS

72-13



Yukichi Matsumoto



Takayuki Fujimoto



Setsuko Usui



Sanae Kuroko



Wataru Kikuchi



Mari Takeda



Kosei Sakamoto



Takeshi Yazaki



Shigemi Kitamura



Maho Sumiji



Tenko Ima



Tadasu Takamine



Yuya Tsukahara



Chisato Nakanishi



Naoko Kogo



Osamu Jareo



Gen Kori



Kitamari



Masami Yurabe



Sadumu Ikeura



Jaychandran Palazhy



Santhosh VS



Deepak Kurki Shivaswamy



Joshua Muiyiwa



Anita Cherian



Pavitra Bhat



Shiva Pathak



Preethi Aythreya



Anoushka Kurien



Abhilash Ningappa



Manju Elangbam



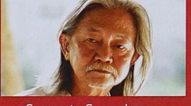
Sujata Goel



Hemabarathy Palani



Surjit Nongmeikapam



Suprpto Suryodarmo



Melati Suryadarmo



Bobby Ari Setiawan



Retno Sulistyorini



Rianto



Agus Mbendol Maryanto



Danang Pamungkas



Eko Supriyanto



Miroto



Citra Pratiwi



Fitri Setyaningsih



Jeannie Park



Didik Nini Thowok



Jecko Siompo



Ajeng Fatimah Soelaeman



Helly Minarti



Yola Yulfianti



Rizki Suhartini Putri



Nur Sekreningsih



Indra Zubir



Andara F. Moeis



Jefri Andl Usman



Maria Darmaningsih



Maria Bernadeth



Wen Hui



Tian Gebing



Tao Ye



Wong Hao



Zhao Xi



Zhang Meng Qi



Zhu Su Jie



Guo Rui



Lui Zheng



NuNu



Zhang Xian



Xiao Ke



Xing Liang



Victor Ma



Yuenjie Maru



Daniel Yeung



Low Kee Hong



Daniel Kok



Joavien Ng



Norisham Osman



Rizman Putra



Lim How Ngean



Patricia Toh



Elysa Wendi



Scarlet Yu



Zhou ZiHao