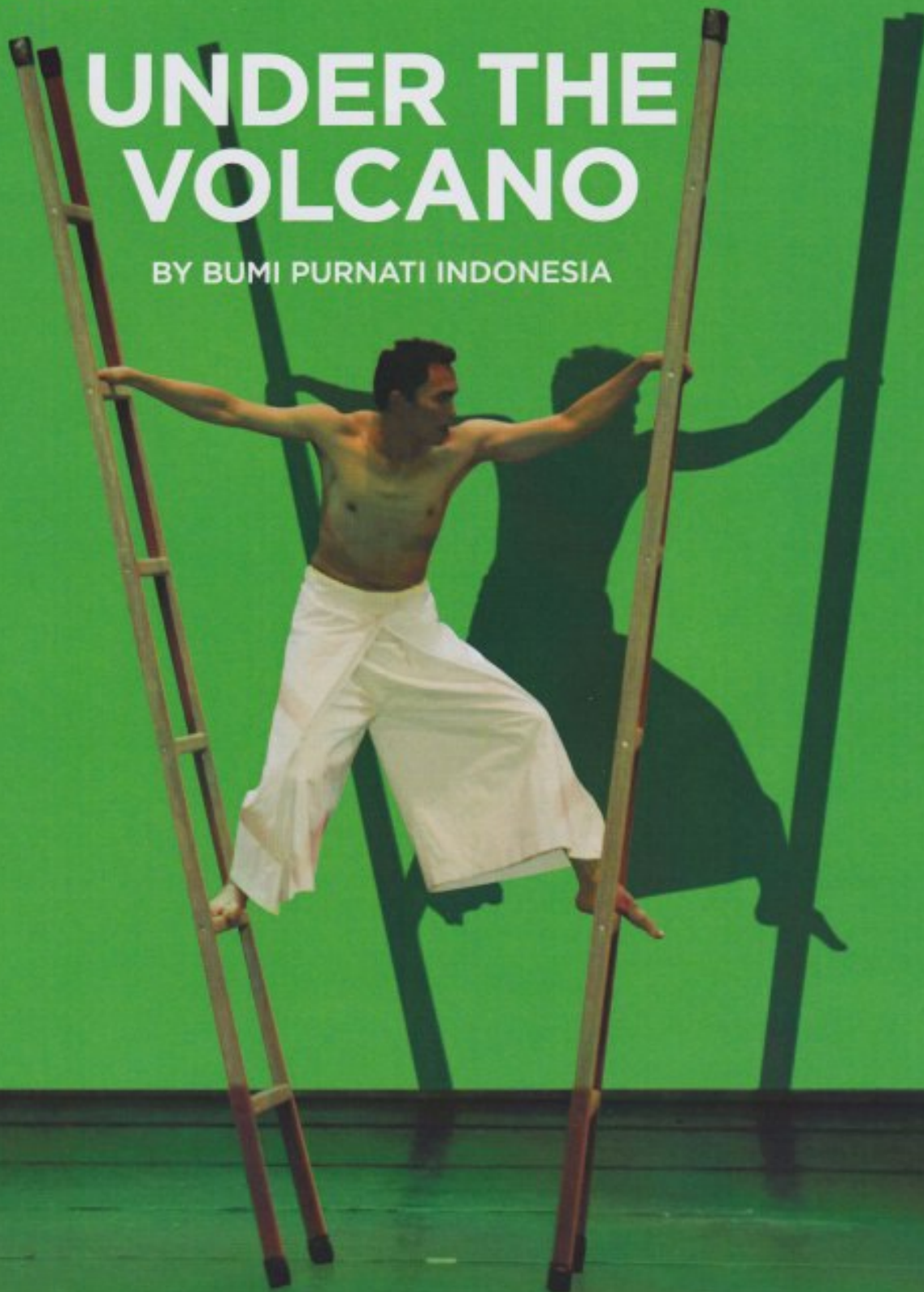


THEATREWORKS
PRESENTS

UNDER THE VOLCANO

BY BUMI PURNATI INDONESIA



Directed by Yusril with Dramaturgy by Rhoda Grauer
Composed by Elizar Koto. Multimedia and photography by Gembong Hardian

21 - 23 APRIL 2016 . 8PM

72-13

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The creation of *Under the Volcano* has been inspired by the richness of the Minangkabau culture as seen in the silat martial arts, Minangkabau dance, and the feel of Minangkabau music. These sources of inspiration were transformed through the distortion of space, movement and sound. Vertical space was employed along with horizontal. Thematically, the emphasis of this piece is on the terror experienced by the people living on the slopes of the volcano when it erupts. Before disaster struck, life was harmonious, people interacted peacefully. Suddenly the earthquake came, followed by the explosion of Mount Merapi and then a tsunami. The slope dwellers panicked and attempted to save themselves. When the eruptions subsided, they returned to disaster, trauma and impoverishment. Little by little they rebuilt, certainly with the assistance of others, their homes and their villages. Life returns to the peaceful routine of the time before disaster hit.

Under the Volcano is spoken in Indonesian; told through text, dance, music, and stunning visual effects. The music and dance are based on traditional Malay forms, sometimes altered to reflect changes made with the passage of time side by side with contemporary music and dance. The message of *Under the Volcano* is as true today as it was in 1883: To survive in this world one must depend on the help of others.

Yusril

The presentation of *Under The Volcano* is TheatreWorks' continuing aim to present innovative contemporary performances, artistic expressions that offer Singapore audiences uncommon alternatives. TheatreWorks is a performance company that believes in working across disciplines and cultures and is the bridge between alternative artistic expressions and Singapore audiences.

SYNOPSIS

Based on one of nature's deadliest disaster that killed over 30,000 people, this piece explores the lives of the people most affected - those who lived at the heart of disaster. Using dance, martial arts and music of the Minangkabau culture, this gripping dance-drama relives the devastation and rehabilitation following the disaster.

Under the Volcano was inspired by the poem, *Lampung Karam*, written in syair (Traditional Malay Poetry) by Muhammad Saleh, a Sumatran poet and religious scholar. It captures first-hand and in-depth, the horror and destruction that befell the people of Padang, West Sumatra during the disaster over 130 years ago.



SCENE BREAKDOWN

Act I: "The Early Life"

Act II: "At the Market"

Scene 1:

"Attention please, and I will tell you a tale from the slopes of a volcano."

"Two roads meet and cross, stairs lead up from one and down from the other, within a framework of times and seasons; since long past days the people have hummed and sang along the banks of rivers and lake and along the seaside; greeting the day with 'Here is the sun! The sun has come!'"

"Who has nurtured our culture?

Who has grown our story into a legend; white lines leading us along a path of power to reminiscences, until only faded memories remain?"

Act III: The Coming Storm, Burning & The Wave"

Act IV: "New Life"

Scene 1:

"Even in shadow; this land has never been forgotten; this space born of a journey -- the land, the sea, the wind; never fading away, never waning. This place that is always present in our hearts; a ray of light cutting through the darkness."

"Those trees were planted Centuries ago

In the valleys

And on the hillsides"

"The drummers beat a restless rhythm, The adventurer presses ever forward He had cast his fate upon the land
From the first oath taken Meanwhile, the spiral has unfurled The people each following their own dreams
Yet the drums continue sounding
Always alert"

Scene 2:

"Though the stairs may splinter, I retain my home in my heart. Even if though seasons of sorrow sweep away our past, engulfing us in the silence of aloneness; our life's breath that rises on the winds of the valleys and carries us along like a river flowing endlessly."

"The sun will rise in the East to exile the storms that shattered our lives, the tremors that shook the very pillars of our land; our shores, our cliffs, our valleys, leaving only broken branches for our birds to perch upon, beneath a sky slashed, sheltered only by the umbrella shapes of clouds; encompassing our homes where the birds perch upon the trees in the wake of the storm and tremors."

"Who still remembers our peaceful past, when we walked along our shores in safety, when we wandered separately to once again come together; to heal our wounds with a kiss of compassion, chants and prayers, as the celebration of life continues, while others dig wells for their own blood as harbingers of their own deaths."

"Oh wanderers, the sun will rise in the East, as you continue your journey, seeking its light."

"When the sky weeps over the debris of our homes, our markets, and the desolation of our fields, the raindrops dance in the wind, consolidating our souls. The shape of things shifts and transforms with time. The restless sun seeks a way to banish the debris. Our spirits dance in the wake of the storm. Our chants bathe our land with tears, like the raindrops cleansing our home, our villages, and our land."

Visit our blog at <https://underthevolcano2016.wordpress.com> to find out more about our creatives involved in *Under The Volcano*

CREDITS

Director: **Yusril**

Assistant Director: **Afrizal Harun**

Artistic Director: **Restu I. Kusumaningrum**

Dramaturg: **Rhoda Grauer**

Composer: **Elizar Koto**

Co-Composer: **Susandra Jaya**

Lighting Designer: **Ramadoni**

Video Designer: **Gembong Hardian**

Costume Designer: **Julie Putri**

Performers: **Dedi Darmadi, Deri Saputra, Hadi Yusra, Hendriko Putra, Intania Ananda Jhonissa, Muhammad Iqbal Abas, Syafriandi Afridil, Venny Rosalina**

Producer: **Restu I. Kusumaningrum**

Production Manager: **Grace Low**

Technical Director: **Giovanni Tomodok**

Technical Manager: **Greg Swyny**

Production Coordinator: **Ganesh Jayabal**

Lighting Operator: **Carey Chua**

Video & Sound Operator: **Mohammad Adisatrya Bin Johari**

Technical Team: **Celestine Wong, Muhammad Aidil Bin Togiman, Cheong Chin Wan, Abdullah Nur Ihsan Mohd Jumaat, Suen Kok Khuen**

Company Manager: **Tulus Wichaksono**

Wardrobe Mistress: **Elysabeth Kauntul Tresna Eka Narulita**

Ticketing: **Ong Soo Mei**

Publicity: **Mervyn Quek**

Engagement: **Ahmad Ezzat Alkaff, Cheo Zi Yan**

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Sharon Lim (Chairperson)

Stephane Benoist

Tay Tong

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Project Manager: **Mervyn Quek**

Engagement Executive: **Ahmad Ezzat Alkaff**

Production Coordinator: **Ganesh Jayabal**

Finance & Accounts: **Rosalyn Zaldua**

Engagement Intern: **Cheo Zi Yan**

Open Rehearsal
by **Eng Kai Er and Faye Lim**
29 & 30 Apr 2016, 8pm

Join Kai and Faye in rehearsal and conversation as they develop *She Ain't Heavy, She's Reaching Into Space*, their duet performance in July. *She Ain't Heavy, She's Reaching Into Space* follows Faye and Kai as they act on the combined curiosities, unfulfilled desires and discontent arising from their practice of Contact Improvisation (CI). Take a peek into their creation process, which draws them further away from CI, but closer towards a shared understanding of their dancing, performing and resting bodies.

Email ezzatt@theatreworks.org.sg or call us at 67377213 to request for an invitation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

With support from



New Media Partner



TheatreWorks would like to thank the following:




Bumi Purnati Indonesia and Hitam Putih Art Community (Padang Panjang, Indonesia)
for their assistance in making this presentation possible

Members of the press and media

All ambassadors and those who have made Under The Volcano possible



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