

SOUTHEAST ASIAN CHOREOLAB 2014

1-9 May 2014 in Malaysia



Emerging contemporary dance choreographers from Southeast Asia are invited to apply to attend an international facilitated choreographic laboratory at Rimbun Dahan, outside Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 1 to 9 May 2014.

Project Format

15 chosen choreographers will live, work and play together in the arts community of Rimbun Dahan for 9 days, with thoughtful and supportive guidance from our (proposed) international facilitator, British/Australian choreographer, dancer and teacher Janis Claxton.

The program will consist of 7 work days with 2 days of study-tour. Work days will start with a physical warm-up in a different dance style every day, both traditional and contemporary, led by a Malaysian dancer or choreographer. The main morning session, led by Janis Claxton, will guide you through new choreographic tools and task-based research. After lunch, there will be two sessions led by the participants of the choreolab themselves, to share a favourite choreographic method, explore a theme of interest, introduce a dance technique or tradition, or address questions raised in the morning session. During the evening, there will be a chance for relaxation and socializing, as well as live performance viewing, dance film screenings and discussions.

The first study tour day will explore the main dance and performance institutions in and around Kuala Lumpur, with shows and workshops with the host institutions. The second study tour day will give your bodies and minds a break, with a trip to the coastal town of Kuala Selangor, its nature park, monkey-feeding at a historic site, seafood dinner and a river trip to see fireflies.



Project Aims

To support and enable emerging Southeast Asian contemporary dance choreographers to

1. Develop regional networks among their peers and with regional dance institutions, for knowledge sharing, future artistic collaboration and touring;
2. Experience works of art, cultures, places and histories beyond their home, to increase international understanding and to help contextualize their artistic practice;
3. Adopt new choreographic tools and physical, thematic and conceptual approaches to enrich their artistic practice.

We hope you will have a positive enjoyable experience at the SEA Choreolab, which will reenergize you and help you reaffirm your commitment to your artistic practice. We would like the Choreolab and the networks you establish here to be an ongoing resource to which you may return for inspiration, refreshment, respite and a sense of continual community.

Who we're looking for

- Emerging choreographers aged 35 or under, or who began choreographing contemporary work within the last five years. You should have established a professional or semi-professional practice, and have created at least 3 short works or 1 full-length work.
- Citizen of and resident in an ASEAN country (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam) or Papua New Guinea or East Timor.
- Able to communicate functionally in English.
- Excited to increase your knowledge base, share your practice and establish networks with your international peers.

What the project will provide

- Twin-share accommodation at Rimbun Dahan.
- Entry to all the project activities, including classes, study trips, facilitated sessions, performances.
- 3 meals per day during the project.
- Transfer from airport or bus terminal (subject to conditions).



What you need to provide

- Return airfare to Kuala Lumpur (the city is well-connected by low-cost carriers).
- Travel insurance and any necessary visas (for Myanmar, East Timor & PNG only)
- One 90-minute session during the project, leading the other participants through a choreographic method, thematic exploration, dance technique or artistic question of your choice.

To apply

Applicants from Malaysia, Singapore, Cambodia, Thailand, the Philippines, East Timor and Papua New Guinea should contact the World Dance Alliance Asia-Pacific chapters/representatives in your country (for contact details, see http://mydancealliance.org/images/2014/wdaap_contact.doc).

Applicants from other countries should fill out the application form available here http://mydancealliance.org/images/2014/seachoreo_lab_applic.doc and return it to contact@mydancealliance.org by **7 March 2014**.

For questions or more information

Contact Bilqis Hijjas, MyDance Alliance, Malaysia contact@mydancealliance.org, +6017 310 3769

About Rimbun Dahan

Rimbun Dahan, the home of renowned Malaysian architect Hijjas Kasturi and his wife Angela, is set on fourteen acres of land outside Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The compound is a centre for developing traditional and contemporary art forms. It features buildings designed by Hijjas Kasturi, including a dance studio, underground gallery, visual arts studios and artists' accommodation, as well as two Malaysian heritage houses, in a Southeast Asian indigenous garden environment.

Since 1994, Rimbun Dahan has hosted over 150 artists in various disciplines, including contemporary dance, visual arts, multimedia, poetry and fiction and arts management, for periods between two weeks and 12 months. The aim of the residency program at Rimbun Dahan is to give international artists an opportunity to experience Malaysian culture and to make connections with the Malaysian arts community. It also aims to help Malaysian artists engage with the global arts market and artists from overseas. For more information, see <http://www.rimbundahan.org/>.



About Janis Claxton, proposed facilitator

Choreographer, producer, dancer and teacher Janis Claxton was born in Australia and is now based in Edinburgh, Scotland, where she is artistic director and co-producer of the award winning contemporary dance company Janis Claxton Dance. With more than 25 years of international experience she has worked both independently and with companies and organisations in several countries. She has performed with The One Extra Company (Australia 1984-86), Michael Parmenters' Commotion Company (NZ, 1990) and her work is strongly influenced by Erick Hawkins who invited her to join his company in New York (1992).



Janis has choreographed solo and company works, community projects and children's theatre including for Janis Claxton Dance, BeijingDance/LDTX, National Dance Company of Wales, Beijing Dance Academy, Lung Has, Grid Iron and Travelling Light.



With a passion and commitment for movement research Janis' reputation as a teacher traverses the globe. She has taught extensively in professional, community and educational dance settings including Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Beijing Dance Academy, Dance Academy Arnhem, London Contemporary Dance School and Scottish School of Contemporary Dance. She has run 3 month full time professional dance training programs with a staff of 8 teachers and musicians.



Since 2009 Janis has had an on-going artistic relationship with China and has worked with major organizations and independent Chinese artists. She has choreographed for BeijingDance LDTX, Beijing Song and Dance Company and Beijing Dance Academy and her works have been presented at the DaDao Live Art Festival, Guangdong Modern Dance Festival, Beijing Dance Academy and Shanghai Expo. In 2012 Janis Claxton Dance collaborated with BeijingDance/ LDTX to open Beijing Dance Festival which was presented as part of the UK NOW Festival. Janis has a passion for continuing explorations, collaborations and networking with dance communities in China and elsewhere in Asia. For more information, see <http://www.janisclaxton.com/>.

The Southeast Asian Choreolab 2014 is a joint project by

Rimbun Dahan



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