

Mnouchkine of Théâtre du Soleil discusses her art at TNUA

Ms. Ariane Mnouchkine, world-renowned director of Théâtre du Soleil, visited TNUA on January 2008, and held a discussion with over 300 teachers and students.

Known for staging its performances at unconventional venues, such as factories, Théâtre du Soleil needs the kind of theatre that can stay in direct touch with society, Ms. Mnouchkine said. The theatre does not only describe things, but also inspires people to change things, she added.

She said theatre has something special to it, being neither literature nor movie. It is a poetics of the body, a meeting of two living bodies, that of the audience and of the actors and actresses.

During the discussion, the director explained the style of her latest work, *Les Éphémères*, which was staged in Taipei in December 2007.

Asked why she adopted a realistic approach for *Les Éphémères* that was untypical of Le Théâtre du Soleil's style, she said her troupe lets the subject matter decide the style of a performance. She said the subject matter of *Les Éphémères* can be better expressed through a realistic style.

When asked how she has managed to stay as the best, she humbly replied that she did not know she was the best. After a brief moment of silence, she went on to say that she has always been a curious person.

Her charm and wisdom deeply impressed the audience. She and her troupe members bid farewell to TNUA after watching a performance by the Department of Theatre Arts.



Cloud Gate continues practices at TNUA after fire destroyed studio

Cloud Gate Dance Theatre, whose rehearsal studio was destroyed in a fire in February, was offered a helping hand by TNUA, which quickly made arrangements for the world-renowned troupe to continue their practices and rehearsals at the school's facilities.

Cloud Gate's founder Lin Hwai-min also helped found TNUA's College of Dance. A majority of Cloud Gate's members are graduates of the College.

Meanwhile, a new 2,500-foot dance rehearsal room has been set up on the fourth floor of the Students Activities Center. Now the College of Dance has eight rehearsal rooms.



Prof. Blanning from Miami University holds 3-day

Prof. Howard Blanning from Miami University offered a three-day playwriting workshop at TNUA's Department of Theatre Arts between December 21 to 23, 2007.

On the first day he explained the art of playwriting by analyzing *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Oedipus Rex*,

and also had students write short plays. The next day he individually discussed with them their works. On the last day, all students gathered to read and discuss their own plays.

At the close of the workshop, Prof. Blanning lauded the students for the creativity they had shown.

East meets west: the lives of 5 exchange dance students

By Chia-Wai Wang Shao-Yuan Chen



One must have seen five exchange students dancing around the beautiful campus last semester: Cilli, Amber, Natalie, Christina and Francis.

They were from Australia, the United States and New Zealand. They chose TNUA mainly because they had heard of the strong dance program here and some of them had seen amazing performances by Taiwan dancers. Christina, who considers the Asian culture as part of her life, was here trying to make her life more complete.

During the few months of intensive training, they learnt Tai Chi, Kung Fu and other oriental performing art forms. These skills, which are basic training for eastern dance students, had been strange to them at the beginning, but they seemed to have mastered them before they left TNUA. Cilli even demonstrated a Kung Fu movement to delight us during the interview.

Once of the things they found out during their stay at TNUA was the differences in eastern and western students' attitudes towards learning.

Students here start learn dancing as a profession at high school, which is much earlier than their counterparts in the western dance educational system, they pointed out.

Francis notes that the other difference between eastern and western students, except for the body figures, is that learning is just part of their life for western students, and they need to do part-times jobs for a living. At school, they are free to attend various workshops, and make their own choices. But eastern students do not usually display individualism. They live, study and work together to build a consolidated arts community.

But that kind of consolidation amazed them. Christina and Amber were so impressed by the 500-person aboriginal dance staged for the school's 25th anniversary.

Besides training, they took some time off to explore some other fantastic sides of Taiwan, including its hot springs.

Performance schedule (2008.Mar.12~April.11)

Music Tel:02-2893-8769

03/21
7:30 p.m.
American String Quartet (I)
TNUA Concert Hall
Violin: Peter Winograd, Laurie Carney; Viola: Daniel Avshalomov; Cello: Wolfram Koessel
Ticket: NT\$100

03/28
7:30 p.m.
American String Quartet (II)
TNUA Concert Hall
Violin: Peter Winograd, Laurie Carney; Viola: Daniel Avshalomov; Cello: Wolfram Koessel
Ticket: NT\$100

03/29
2:30 p.m.
William Drabkin: Lecture and Concert
TNUA Concert Hall
William Drabkin; Oboe: Hsieh Wan-chin;
Conductor: Hsu Sung-jen; TNUA Academy Orchestra
Ticket: NT\$100

Traditional music Tel: 02-2896-7294

03/13 14
7:30 p.m.
TNUA Annual Hakka Musical,
"My Daughter's Wedding"
Hsinchu City Bureau of Cultural Affairs Auditorium
(No. 17, Sec. 2, Dongda Rd., Hsinchu City)
wedding.hakka.gov.tw

Theatre Tel:02-2893-8772, 02-2893-8823

03/
21-27-28-29
7:30 p.m.
23-29-30
2:30 p.m.
04/
09-10-11
7:30 p.m.
College of Theatre Spring Production
"Foreplay: The Art of Fugue"; "Come and Go: A Few Short Plays by Samuel Beckett"; "A Memory of Two Mondays" TNUA Experimental Theatre
Ticket: NT\$350

Dance Tel: 02-2893-8778

03/28 29
2:30 p.m.
7:30 p.m.
Focus Dance Company:
Department of Dance graduation production
TNUA Dance Theatre
Ticket: 300
Student ticket: 250
Group ticket: 20% discount for 20 or more tickets

Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts Tel: 02-2894-7200

02/22
05/04
03/14
04/27
Back to the Root: A Retrospective of Lin Hsin-yueh
KdMoFA Rooms 101, 102, 103 and 104
Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts:
Artist in Residence
Artist in Residence: Su-Chen Hung

For further information on the artist in residence's workshop and open day activities, please visit: <http://kdmofa.tnu.edu.tw/>