

TNUA continues efforts towards becoming international art exchange center

TNUA, the leading arts university in Taiwan, continues to work towards expanding its ties with local and foreign institutions, with an aim to turn itself into an international platform for art exchange.

TNUA President Prof. Ju, Tzong-Ching points out that the world has changed the way it sees things: in the past it was in terms of international economic competition, but now it is overall cultural competition.

As a pioneer in Taiwan's arts education, TNUA, which already has 22 sister schools in 14 countries, is aspiring to become one of the world's top-100 arts universities, Prof. Ju stresses. TNUA will seek to widen its international visibility and influence and to expand its connections in the world of arts, so as to become an international art exchange center, he adds.

TNUA is working towards that goal through various

measures: enhancing exhibitions and productions by students and teachers; increasing academic exchange; enlisting the help of international maestros; establishing sisterhoods with foreign institutions; arranging international arts festivals, symposiums, exhibitions and performance productions.

Prof. Ju notes that over the years TNUA has won wide acclaim for its international exchange work. Its students and teachers have won numerous awards and recognitions, attesting to the fact that TNUA's hard work towards establishing a strong foothold in the world of arts has already paid off.

TNUA will step up its efforts to promote exchange programs. It will continue to enroll international students and encourage its teachers and students to go overseas for teaching or study trips at TNUA's sister schools.

Extending its overseas study sponsorship program implemented in Academic Year 2007, TNUA will again offer sponsor students' their overseas study trips during summer vacation this year. The United States and Australia are the top destinations for TNUA's overseas study trips.

Each semester TNUA also sees students from its international sister schools. For Academic Year 2008, students from the School of Arts, Purchase College of the State University of New York form the largest group of international students, followed by their counterparts from France, Australia, Korea, and the Czech Republic.

The International Exchange Center this year plans to invite administrators from Le Conservatoire de Paris and École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts to visit TNUA. The center will also seek to expand TNUA's sisterhood ties with schools in Europe and Asia.

Odin Teatret founder Barba gives lectures



Mr. Eugenio Barba, the renowned director who created Odin Teatret, was at TNUA on January 19 and 20 giving a two-day lecture series, called "The Finger and the Moon," in which he talked about the founding of his theatre and the art of his mentor, Jerzy Grotowski.

Mr. Barba demonstrated his insights with talks that touched on major influences on modern theatre, from Isadora Duncan, Antonin Artaud to Bertolt Brecht.

Accompanying Mr. Barba was Ms. Julia Varley, a veteran Odin actress who displayed her art with brief performances during the lectures, made possible by the TNUA Department of Theatre Arts.

Mr. Barba said he had tried other trades before meeting Grotowski. He joked that he decided to become a director who could simply "direct" others to do things after finding it difficult to learn the skills needed to become a musician or a painter. He stayed with Grotowski for three years, a

period that has proved to have profound influence on his art and Odin.

Mr. Barba started his own theatre by gathering a group of young people who had not passed their admission test to Oslo's State Theatre School, and the Odin Teatret was born in October 1, 1964.

The renowned director said people choose theatre as their form of expression because they need it, not because people tell them to. Society will not press you into taking part in the world of theatre, but rather theatre people feel the constant need and urge to pursue their art.

The maestro named two forms of oriental performing arts as having tremendous influence on his theatre: India's Kathakali and Japan's Noh, both of which rely heavily on facial expressions and body languages.

Mr. Barba said since the early 20th century, performers have had very different understanding of body languages from the past, and Odin gives strong emphasis to training of the body and voice.

At Odin, language and cultural barriers are broken down, as communication takes the form of voice and body. Right from its inception, Odin has required its members not to communicate with each with verbal languages. Some of the training is quite like gymnastic class. Such training has sent many giving up early, but those who are still with Odin have been around for at least 20 years.

Currently only five of its members are on Odin's regular payroll, while the rest are volunteers who would not mind doing anything, including collecting garbage.

Mr. Barba likens life to the Titanic: you either sink like the ship, or you find your own way. While 80% of your work is determined by the environment, the rest depends on one's understanding of his or her own dream, and on the hard work needed to pursue it.

Asked how the older generations could bridge the gap with the younger ones, and what legacy Odin intended to leave behind, Mr. Barba replied that one should not be worrying too much about what they could give to the younger generations, who would be able to find their own ways and solutions to their problems.

Under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Education, 11 teachers and students from the Department of Theatre Arts will be traveling to Denmark in March to take part in Odin's annual workshop, which runs from March 25 to April 2.

Performance schedule March 12-April 11

Music Tel : 02-2893-8245 TNUA Concert Hall

Mar 07 2:30 pm	Piano recital by Prof. Jane Coop	Ticket: NT\$100
Mar 14 2:30 pm	Voice of Spring	Ticket: NT\$100
Mar 21 2:30 pm	Beautiful Intermezzo	Ticket: NT\$100

* For further details, please visit: <http://music.tnua.edu.tw/music/m1-1.html>

Center for Art and Technology Tel : 02-2893-8841

Apr 10-12	2009 TranSonic	Digital Art Center, Taipei
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Theatre Tel : 02-2893-8772 TNUA Experimental Theatre

Mar 20, 21, 27, 28 7:30 pm	School of Theatre Arts Spring Production:
Mar 21, 22, 28, 29 2:30 pm	"Fools"

Ticket: NT\$350 (ArtsTicket)
20% discount for group tickets
For further details: Contract Department of
Theatre Arts 02-2893-8772

Dance Tel : 02-2893-8778 TNUA Dance Hall

Mar 20-21 7:30 pm	Focus Dance Company 2009 Production:
Mar 21-22 2:30 pm	Focus [.]

20% discount for purchase of 10 tickets or more

KdMoFA Tel : 02-2894-7200 (closed on Monday)
Open: Tuesday- Sunday, 10 am-5 pm

Feb 20- Mar 29	EASY PLASTICS 101 、 104 KdMoFA Rooms
Mar 3-29	2009 Outstanding Art Prize 201 、 301 、 401 、 402 、 501 KdMoFA Rooms

"AIR (Artist-In-Residency) "
KdMoFA Artist in Residency

Apr 1-May 31	Seth Lower In Search of Lee Ming US Artist Seth Lower looks for someone who knows his past.
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* For further details, please visit: <http://kdmofa.tnua.edu.tw/>

Fang-Yi Sheu directs 'Steps in the Street'

The School of Dance in May will put on Martha Graham's "Steps in the Street," a production directed by distinguished TNUA alumna Miss Fang-Yi Sheu, who has been principal dancer of the Martha Graham Dance Company.

Intensive training and practice started during the winter break under the guidance of Miss Sheu, who has since then constantly reminded the participating students of the need to feel and understand the work that the modern

dance legend created in 1936.

The piece, which features women dancers only, demonstrates Graham's concern over the rise of fascism and people's suffering at the time.

The School of Dance staged Graham's "Diversion of Angels" in 2005. Other major productions by the school in recent years include Vaslav Nijinsky's "The Afternoon of a Faun" and George Balanchine's "Serenade."

Exhibits probe 'plastic' and 'Taiwan-Israel' themes



Two exhibitions – one probing the use of plastic in art, and another showcasing works by Taiwan and Israel artists – are being held at the Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts (KdMoFA).

"Easy Plastic" shows how plastic, often labeled as vulgar, cheap and disposable, is now used everywhere in contemporary art.

The "Taiwan-Israel Young Artists Interchanging Exhibition" brings together works from two regions with similar latitudes on the eastern and the western borders of the Asian continent.