

## ‘Burning the House’: Eugenio Barba on passion of founding Odin

Mr. Eugenio Barba, the famous director who founded the Odin Teatret, was back at TNUA giving a Maestro Lecture on March 18, sharing his passion for theatre as depicted in his book “Burning the House.”

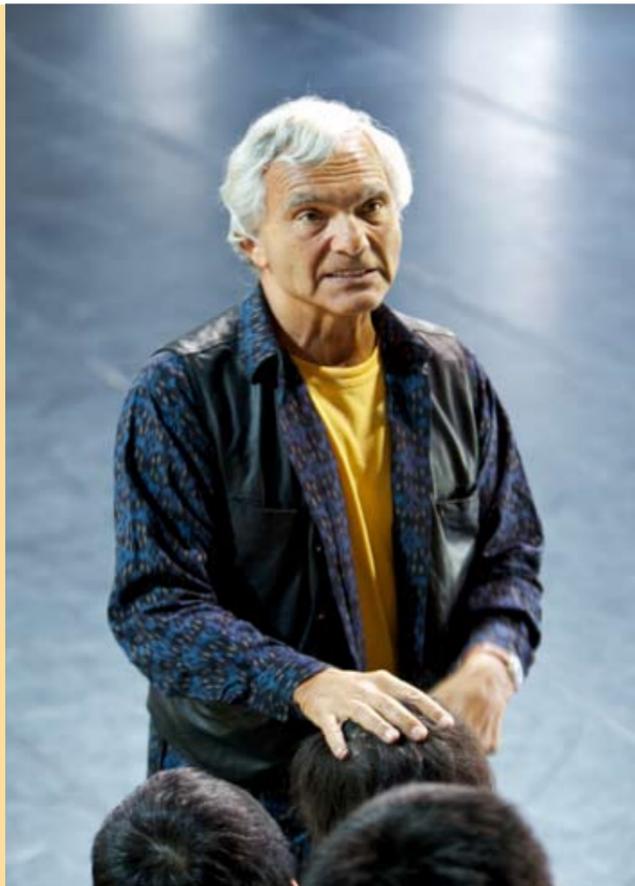
Mr. Barba, who had last visited TNUA a year ago, told the audience that he felt like he was back home strolling down TNUA’s Arts Way again. His lecture, “Burning the House” – a namesake of the book he published last year – does not mean to have people literally burn their houses, he said. Instead he is asking them reignite their passion and start from the very basics again.

He said he founded Odin in 1964 when the world of theatre was complacent with the way the profession was run. He said the major difference between amateur and professional theatre companies was that amateurs expressed what they wanted to express, while professionals gave priority to satisfying the audiences. The famous director said he clearly knew the kind of theatre that he wanted when founding Odin, and after almost five decades since Odin’s establishment, his idea has not changed.

He said when a person really wants to do something, what he or she needs most is not money, but a strong motivation and determination from the bottom of the heart. Mr. Barba recalled how he, as director, told his actors to take off their shoes and leave them outside of a small classroom in a school where Odin had their first rehearsal.

According to Mr. Barba, the group then moved the furniture away and started rehearsing. Nobody was talking, allowing body language to replace verbal language – which has now become an Odin tradition. These very first actors and actresses had been rejected by other theatre groups, but they were determined to have their own company and their own way, he said. ◆

Top: Odin Teatret founder Barba gives lectures.  
Below: Accompanying Mr. Barba to the TNUA lecture was Odin veteran actress, Ms. Julia Varley, who gave improvised demonstration of her art.



## TNUA dance students take part in KWU graduation performances in Japan

Prof. Cheng Shu Gi and eight students from TNUA’s Department of Dance made a five-week exchange visit to Kobe Women’s University (KWU), which climaxed in their participation in the Japan school’s graduation performances on March 11 and 12.

The eight TNUA students – seven males and one female – danced with 19 of their local counterparts in “The Naked Truth” and “Patch Work” choreographed by KWU Prof. Toru Shimazaki. Their performances at the Hyogo Performing Arts Center won wild applause from the audiences, which they deserved for their five-week hard work that started in early February.

TNUA and KWU have conducted exchange activities since late 2008. In 2009, Prof. Cheng, chairperson of the Department of Dance, and other teachers gave lectures through video-conferencing with the KWU side. In October 2009, Prof. Shimazaki, chairperson of KWU’s department of dance, came to TNUA to select dancers to take part in this year’s graduation performances.

Prof. Ping Heng, dean of TNUA’s School of Dance, said that KWU, without male students of its own, used to employ professional male dancers from outside of the

school to partner with its own students. This year, the seven male students from TNUA provided KWU students with a new experience in their learning.

Prof. Ping said the two universities will also present the results of their collaboration by staging performances at TNUA.

Prof. Cheng said Prof. Shimazaki – hailed as the representative of modern Japanese dance – took good care of the eight students during the trip.

KWU did take good care of the TNUA students. Members of its Cooking Club even prepared lunch for them at the dorm every day. Apart from the Monday-through-Saturday rehearsals and practice, the TNUA students were also taken to Sunday tours to understand the Japanese culture.

One of the TNUA students, Chien Lin-yi, said he had participated in other international dance events before, but he learned a lot from his trip to KWU, which also inspired his creativity. It was hard work practicing the whole day, but it was a delightful and rewarding experience, he said. ◆