



TNUA's 'Four Arts' program

Excellence and Achievements

Since joining the Teaching Excellence Program in 2005, TNUA has succeeded in elevating the university's competitiveness, teaching quality and students' achievements. Not only did TNUA become the only university to receive subsidies for four consecutive years in the first phase of the Teaching Excellence Program, it also has received recognition for its outstanding performance in the second phase, which has awarded TNUA the highest amount of subsidies of all national universities.

Building on its achievements, TNUA is devising its plan for the second-phase Teaching Excellence Program by enlisting the concept of "flagship plan" to maximize its efficiency, which will be built on a backbone of four dimensions – international, inter-school, inter-technological, and inter-human – to promote its "Four Arts" program. The program will focus on building a TNUA arts education brand to match that of any other international first-rate counterparts. It will pursue four educational styles – tolerant, native, unique and active.

The annual Kuandu Arts Festival is meant to international showcase of the integration of arts, culture, education and local colors. It gathers together excellent theatre groups, artists and alumni in various activities. It offers exhibitions and forums, as well as other activities that encourage community participation.

To expand its international ties for pedagogical purposes, TNUA has arranged many exchange programs with world-renowned arts institutions and universities. Its teachers and students have traveled to the US, Europe, Asia and Australia in various programs, and it has invited many international artists and scholars to participate in almost 800 forums, lectures and workshops.

TNUA's mission is to create new values of art. Apart from honing the students' skills and advancing their academic achievements, TNUA is helping nurture a generation of modern citizens with multiple cultures and senses, as well as creating a cross-disciplinary arts education. In line with its cross-disciplinary education, TNUA and the Quanta Arts Foundation, after almost a year of planning, launched the "Transfuture" exhibition to showcase a marriage of art and technology.

TNUA is a liberal university aiming to give students a multifarious arts education combining the traditional and the modern, the local and the West, the empirical and the theoretical, creative and research work. TNUA is looking to become one of the world's most important institutions for the arts. ◆

Caption: "Cry out Doer" is the School of Theatre Arts' reinterpretation of a classic play. Photo by Hsu Huai-ming



'Elizabeth Dalman stresses man-nature harmony in 'Bride in the Desert'

Renowned Australian dancer Ms. Elizabeth Dalman, during her November 1 lecture at TNUA, pointed out that her recent work "Bride in the Desert" sends out a message about harmony between the earth and human beings.

She said many of her works have been inspired by the land of Australia, 70% of which is desert. In 2003, she said, her dance company was invited to a visit to an indigenous tribe in the desert in central Australia.

During the day, they listened to the tribal leaders telling their stories passing down from ancient times, and learned their songs and dances.

In the evening, the dancers were allowed to take part in the tribe's rituals, one of which started with painting their bodies with red earth. That was the inspiration of her "Red Earth," said the Australian guest of honor.

She cited the Australian indigenous tribal elders as telling her that human beings do not own the land, but instead are nurtured by it and must treasure it.

During the TNUA talk, Ms. Dalman also showed some

video clips to let the audience understand how she created her dances in the wilderness, and how she further developed them in the classroom.

For her as a choreographer, she said, the biggest challenge is how she can blend natural elements with contemporary elements and thinking. Therefore her dancers need to get close to nature to get inspirations, she added.

She recounted how she saw one of her dancers dancing around a dying tree, a scene that filled her with a profound sense of sadness. For her, it was like a bride who had been eagerly expecting her wedding, but in the end was greeted by only a dead tree trunk.

The scene inspired "Bride in the Desert," she said, as the relationship between human beings and the land should be similar to the one promised in wedding vows.

Ms. Dalman received an award for lifetime achievement at the inaugural Australian Dance Awards in 1997.

Caption: Renowned Australian dancer Elizabeth Dalman(middle) explains "Bride in the Desert" at TNUA.