

## TNUA President Prof. Ju and Tadashi Suzuki on globalization



Renowned Japanese theatre director, writer and philosopher Mr. Tadashi Suzuki offered a glimpse into his creativity and unique views about art in a dialogue with TNUA President Prof. Ju, Tzong-Ching concerning globalization during his visit to the school on Nov. 10.

Extending welcome to one of the most influential figures in Japanese theatre, Prof. Ju noted that Mr. Suzuki not only is an outstanding director, but also has been deeply involved in the making of Japanese cultural policies and arts environment. The director has for several times put forth insightful ideas for reforming Japan's theatre systems and environment.

He has been art director for a number of institutions and events, including the Shizuoka Performing Arts Center and the Toga Festival, said Prof. Ju in a forum titled, "The mission of artists in the face of globalization."

Prof. Ju pointed out that the world economy has entered the age of globalization and large amounts of information and knowledge can be spread to every corner of the world in an extremely short time. Globalization is threatening the existence of traditional cultures in their respective areas. He raised a number of ques-

tions and issues concerning globalization, asking how artists should face the trend, what position they will occupy in society, and what changes to their creativity will see.

Mr. Suzuki, citing former French Minister of Cultural Affairs Andre Malraux, said the existence of art is to link the past to the future, and the self to the other. Therefore, the history of art is a history emphasizing the commonality of human beings. What artists have always been doing is an attempt to achieve this goal. In other words, a great artist uses art to touch the heart of different cultural groups, breaking down all national, racial and class barriers, the Japanese director said.

He remarked that human beings are bound to experience many mishaps living in this world, but art can give them comfort. Through this common language, people – wherever they are from – can take comfort and find consolation, and the healing power is the same for anyone.

He said actually globalization has broken down national barriers, made communication easier, and shortened the distance, helping artists achieve their dream of a boundary-free world. ◆

Caption: Japanese theatre director Tadashi Suzuki, left, and TNUA President Prof. Ju Tzong-Ching, right, discuss the implications of globalization for art.

## Prof. Glavan's armor workshop ends with delightful show



The 2010 Armor Workshop hosted by Prof. James Glavan from the University of Texas at Austin concluded with a show on December 21 presenting the battle gear created by TNUA students under the guidance of the visiting scholar.

Five models from the Department of Dance and the Department of Theatre Arts were dressed in the armor suits created by the workshop participants in a staged performance with special visual and sound effects at the TNUA Dance Theatre, with invitations extended to administrators and faculty members.

Prof. Glavan's two-week workshop starting on November 18 was part of an international exchange course of the Department of Theatrical Design and Technology. Prof. Chin Ping-Ping said that in April this year teachers and students from the department received a warm welcome from Prof. Glavan during their visit to UT Austin. Prof. Chin said the department's students must have learnt a lot from Prof. Glavan in the just concluded workshop.

Prof. Glavan came to TNUA along with two of his graduate students, Rebecca Miller and Carl Booker, who helped 17 undergraduate and graduate students from the department learn the tricks of armor making.

According to Prof. Glavan, the design and characteristics of armor reflect the social background of a particular period in history. Armor is not just for men, as there were armor suits for Joan of Arc in medieval Europe and Queen Elizabeth I in the 16th century, and even for battle horses.

Under the guidance of the UT Austin professor, the 17 students were divided into groups of two to four, each making an armor piece of a particular period or theme – from the Trojan War, ancient Roman, medieval Europe, operatic style, to China's Song Dynasty.

Within those two short weeks, the excited students often worked overtime till late in the night picking the right materials and fabrics, cutting, dyeing, sculpting and doing various other necessary work. The workshop was almost always crowded with these hardworking students, even during the weekends.

Prof. Glavan lauded the students for their creativity and diligence, saying that they have shown their brilliance as individual artists, as well as their team spirit. ◆

Caption: Armor suits created by TNUA students under the guidance of Prof. James Glavan, second row, fifth from left.