



Houseal offers insights into dance

Prof. Joseph Houseal, executive director of Core of Cultural Dance Preservation, presented a series of seven lectures where he gave an in-depth analysis of the history of Eastern and Western dances during his two-week stay at TNUA the invitation of the Department of Dance.

Prof. Houseal's lectures covered a wide range of topics: "The Untold History of Dance from the Dawn of Time Until Now"; "Ajanta Dambullah, Dunhuang Dance in Buddhist Cave Art"; "A Dancer's Journey to Remote Bhutan"; "Dance in Museums: An Emerging Dance Museology"; "Dance Writing as a Way to Learn to See"; "Dance as a Technology of Consciousness"; and "Case Studies in Asian Dance History: The Iranian National Ballet; and Designing an Exhibition for the Beijing Ballet Invitational."

Prof. Houseal emphasizes dance as a technology of consciousness. Technology is a form of system tool that can produce and create.

Dance can be seen as a form of technology where people can, through the body movements, organize,

present and even change one's mind.

He illustrated his point with the Japanese "Gagaku," which has its origin in the ancient Chinese court dance during the Tang Dynasty. Such a form of dance is a ritual by which gods' messages are conveyed.

It means that dance is connected to the consciousness, allowing the imperial leaders to understand towards which direction they should lead their nation.

It was Prof. Houseal's second visit to TNUA. He last visited in 2005 to take part in a symposium on Prof. Lin Hwai-min's art, presenting a paper analyzing Cloud Gate's work "Cursive."

Caption: Prof. Joseph Houseal offers insights into the history of Eastern and Western dance.



'Will cinema disappear?' asks Prof. Gaudreault

Prof. André Gaudreault from Université de Montréal discussed the impact of technology on the film industry in a talk at TNUA on May 4.

Prof. Gaudreault noted that fast changes in digital media technology have revolutionized many things, including film.

Before 1950, cinemas were the only places where people could see films. But in 1953, a famous journal predicted that films would disappear because of the arrival of television. This was the first crisis that the film industry faced, the professor said.

The famous British director Peter Greenaway proclaimed that film would be dead on "September 31, 1983" because of the invention and wide penetration of the TV remote control.

At that time, film had been conceived as something seen by an audience sitting passively in front of the screen. When people started changing channels with their remote controls, the relationship between film and audience was completely subverted.

Greenaway's message, according to Gaudreault, carries both bad and good news. The good news is the day "September 31" does not exist on the calendar, and therefore the death of film will never come.

The bad news is since 1983, the remote control has become a basic gadget of every home, and the relationship between the audience and film has indeed changed.

Over the past two decades or so, many film directors have introduced innovative styles, accompanied by the birth of many new platforms where films are available, such as DVD rental shops, online video-on-demand services, and downloads from the Internet.

He noted that the digitalization of the media is creating tremendous impact on the film industry, but this is actually benefiting the audience, giving them more choices.

Caption: Prof. Gaudreault discusses the impact of technology on the film industry.