

Kuandu Arts Festival kicks off



"Voyage," the 2016 edition of the Kuandu Arts Festival, kicks off on September 28, featuring more than 40 performances by almost 30 groups of local and foreign artists, such as the Paul Taylor Dance Company from the United States.

TNUA President Prof. Yang Chyi Wen noted at a press conference on September 14 that the annual Kuandu Arts Festival is not only a showcase of the creativity of the university's students and teachers, but also a unique event of Taiwan's arts education.

Through this unique presentation of arts, Taiwan's international links have been growing stronger and stronger every year, Prof. Yang said.

This year's festival – which runs until October 30 – will feature outstanding international groups from the United States, France, Japan, Singapore and Hong Kong, as well as TNUA alumni and performers from the university's sister schools in other countries.

The Paul Taylor Dance Company, which is finally coming to the event after years of attempts to bring it to

the festival, will perform six classic dances.

Adrien M/Claire B from France will perform "Hakanai," while Japan's SMPLE will present "Takeoff."

Singapore's T.H.E. Dance Company will stage "Organized Chaos," while Alice Theatre Laboratory from Hong Kong will present "Seven Boxes Possessed of Kafka."

Programs featuring TNUA alumni include: Huang Yi Studio's presentation of the backstage; BodyEDT and Sun-Shier Dance Theatre's "Finally, We Can Think Differently"; and Anarchy Dance Theatre's "Those Who Remember/Into the City."

Accompanying the Kuandu Arts Festival are: Slaying Monsters: 2016 Kuandu Biennale; the inaugural edition of the KuanDu Light Art Festival; the 2016 KuanDu International Animation Festival; and the Fun Guandu.

Caption: Performers from the Department of Traditional Music and Department of Dance are featured at the opening ceremony of the Kuandu Arts Festival on October 1.



Caption: World-renowned Hungarian pianist Tamas Vasary (right) teaches a student during a master class at TNUA.

Vasary gives piano master class

World-renowned Hungarian pianist Tamas Vasary, who was awarded the UNESCO Mozart Medal in 2012, gave a master class at TNUA on September 19.

Mr. Vasary last gave a master class at the Department of Music in 2007. During the second master class in September, the 83-year-old pianist gave one-on-one instructions to three students playing Mendelssohn's "Phantasie Op.28," Schumann's "Fantasiestücke Op. 12 No.5-8," and Liszt's "Legend No.2 / St. Francois de Paule marchant sur le flots," respectively.

The maestro noted that a musician not only performs the piece of music as he or she knows it, but also has to let the audience feel the message that the performer wants to convey.

He said the performer has to work on details in the interpretation of a piece of music, and he or she must not be "too shy" in its overall presentation.

Vasary made his stage debut at the age of 8, performing Mozart's "Piano Concerto in D major, K.107." Shortly afterwards he gave a solo recital and then held concerts regularly as a child prodigy.

At the age of 14 he won first prize in the Franz Liszt competition at the Academy of Music in Budapest.

Throughout his career, he has performed with many of the world's top orchestras and conductors, such as Ernest Ansermet, André Cluytens and Paul Kletzki. He also has often performed in major music festivals of the world.

Apart from the UNESCO Mozart Medal, the pianist has also won other honors, including ones conferred by the Hungarian and French governments.