

The Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur & Istana Budaya Presents

## 21 Dancers + Musicians gathered from 5 Countries to showcase Traditional Dance and Unity of J-ASEAN



To celebrate the 40th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation in 2013, Istana Budaya, the Japan Foundation and Embassy of Japan proudly presents the traditional dance collaboration project which showcases traditional dance & music performers from ASEAN countries and Japan.

By using the theatrical technique and artistic effects of KABUKI, one of the most sophisticated art forms of Japan with over 400 years of history, the project is expected to bring the new aspect of how to stage the traditional performance. The project also aims to create network between young professionals in each countries by connecting new generation of the leading traditional performer.

Should tradition stay as tradition? What is “traditional” and what is not? What should we “preserve” and what should we “change”? Sharing those questions among participants from other countries, while preparing for the same stage together, will surely bring deeper understanding between their own and each other’s culture, and empower the next leaders of the traditional culture in each country.

### MAU: J-ASEAN Dance Collaboration

**Dates** 830pm 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 3pm 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2013

**Venue** Istana Budaya

**Ticket** RM20 for Adults, RM10 for Students and JFKL Members

**Reservation** [www.AirAsiaRedtix.com](http://www.AirAsiaRedtix.com) or Istana Budaya Tel : 018 719 7333

**Inquiry** The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur 03-2284-6228 (Mon-Fri 8.30-4.30) [jfcc@jfkf.org.my](mailto:jfcc@jfkf.org.my)

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In Conjunction With  
40<sup>th</sup> Year of ASEAN-Japan  
Friendship and Cooperation



Official  
Accommodation Partner



## *MAU: J-ASEAN Dance Collaboration*

MAU 舞う weaves a dance fabric with the vibrant colours of Malaysian traditional dance and Filipino stylized Mindanao dance, Balinese court dance, Japanese Kabuki dance, and the Chinese Liyuan opera from Singapore.

Choreographer Director Fujima Kanjuro VIII, the Grandmaster of the 300 year old Fujima School of Kabuki, laces MAU with Kabuki leitmotifs to create a multi-layered dance adventure full of elegance and wit.

Commissioned by the Japan Foundation to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Japan-ASEAN friendship, MAU (meaning ‘dance’ in Japanese) celebrates the rich tapestry of Asian dance traditions in a modern setting.

Please download the pictures of the group from the link below:

<https://plus.google.com/photos/102271516418402985223/albums/5942223868172936513?banner=pwa&authkey=C>

### **Artistic Director**

**Fujima Kanjuro VIII**



Born in 1980, Kabuki choreographer Fujima Kanjuro VIII is currently the head of the Fujima School (Soke Fujima Ryu) of traditional Japanese dance (Nihon buyo). His grandfather, Fujima Kanjuro IV was the highly acclaimed choreographer and dancer who were recognized as “Living National Treasure” by the Japanese government. His mother Fujima Kanso III, is also an active Kabuki dance choreographer. In 2002, at the age of 22, he has officially succeeded the Kanjuro name, to become Fujima Kanjuro VIII. He have received Art Encouragement Prize of New Artist Award of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in 2003. In 2012, he was also awarded by Japan Arts Foundation for his contribution to the traditional arts. <http://www.soke-fujima.com/>

<Artist Interview> [http://www.performingarts.jp/E/art\\_interview/0603/1.html](http://www.performingarts.jp/E/art_interview/0603/1.html)

### **Japan : Soke-Fujima-Ryu + Sawamura Kuniya**



Soke-Fujima-Ryu was founded in 1704 by Fujima Kanbei, and became one of the largest 5 schools of traditional Japanese dance (Nihon Buyou) with 300 years of history. Together with the three dancers from

Soke-Fujima ryu, Kabuki actor Sawamura Kuniya and 2 percussionists will join the Japanese performance team. Sawamura Kuniya became Kabuki Actor after his career as an actor in Children's Theater. After a debut in Kabuki-za in 1988 he became an apprentice of the Kabuki actor Sawamura Tojuro in 1995, and given a current stage name in the same year. He had received the Encouragement Award of Japan Actors Association (Nihon Haiyu Kyokai) in 2012.

### **Malaysia: ASWARA Dance Company (Malaysia)**

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ASWARA Dance Company (ADC) is a professional dance company established in 2011, specializing in traditional and contemporary Malaysian dance performance and choreography. ADC comprises graduates of the Faculty of Dance ASWARA, National Academy of the Arts and Heritage in Malaysia, who are trained in the unique multicultural syllabus striving for excellence in multiple genres of dance that reflect the multiple identities of Malaysia. Musicians who take part in this project are graduates of the Faculty of Music ASWARA.

### **Indonesia: LKB Saraswati (Indonesia)**

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traditional music, they are actively making collaboration with music, such as jazz and contemporary.

LKB Saraswati (Lembaga Kesenian Bali Saraswati, Saraswati Bali Arts Institute) was established in 1968, Jakarta. LKB Saraswati has several branches for teaching Balinese traditional dance and Balinese percussion music, gamelan. Since its establishment, they have performed over 1,500 stages at home and abroad including Japan, China, Australia, North America and Germany. Besides they have collaborated with jazz and contemporary musicians. In addition to the

### **Philippines: Airdance**

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Dancers who were selected to join the MAU projects are highly skilled and experienced with traditional dance among the company members.

Founded in 2001, Airdance is and has been one of the Philippines' pioneering contemporary dance companies. The company had gathered dancers from various backgrounds: classical and modern ballet, jazz, ballroom, hip-hop, martial arts and so on. Airdance continuously perform locally and internationally in festivals, collaborations and own productions, including the performance which represented the Philippines at the World Expo in Japan and at the Asia Arts Festival in China.



## **Siong Leng Musical Association (Singapore)**



Siong Leng Musical Association was established in 1941 in Singapore to preserve, develop, and promote Nan Yin (which literally means “The Music of the South”) which is the traditional music listed by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage as well as Li Yuan Opera, the traditional play

In 1983 Siong Leng participated in the Llangollen Musical Eisteddfod in Wales and won the Third Prize in Folk Song Solo and the Fourth Prize in Ensemble Performance. In

1987, former chairman Teng Mah Seng received the Cultural Medallion, Singapore’s highest honor for artists, for his work in the field of music.



Pictures: Rehearsal in Tokyo in August 2013

### **About The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur**

The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 and the Kuala Lumpur office (The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur) was established in 1989, and has actively carried out its programs and activities to promote Arts and Cultural exchange, Japanese-Language education, and Japanese Studies in Malaysia.

The primary objective of JFKL is to develop mutual understanding between people through culture and language within the region. The office also facilitates and supports the exchange of personnel and experts who works in the field of Arts, Culture, Humanities and Social Sciences. Other objectives include developing a pool of local expertise in the field of Japanese language teaching and developing teaching materials suitable for local needs. Lastly it facilitates the exchange of information between bodies concerned with Japan related cultural issues.

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