

Theatre Troup TAIHEN's URL: "www.nejp/asahi/imaju/taihen/"

'OMATSURI PIHYARADON' BY KAZENOKO THEATRE COMPANY

The Actors Studio Bangsar with the support of The Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur will present theatre performances by Kazenoko Theatre Company in Japan titled 'OMATSURI PIHYARADON'.

Kazenoko Theatre Company was founded in 1950 to produce shows for children in the belief that children are builders for the future. The company's headquarter is in Tokyo. In order to present the shows for children all over Japan, the company decided to establish local Kazenoko offices. Today, local Kazenoko Theatre Companies are active in producing programs to inspire children's creativity and to adopt culture and traditions.

The 'Omatsuri Pihyaradon' will be held as follows:

Date: 15 February 2005
Time: 5.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.
Venue: The Actors Studio Bangsar
Bangsar Shopping Centre

Please call The Actors Studio Bangsar Box Office at Tel: 20940400 / 1400 or log-on to their website at www.theactorsstudio.com.my for information.

THEATRE STAFF WORKSHOP

The Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur together with the Malaysian Association of Technical Theatre (MATT) will organize a workshop for theatre technicians in the middle of March.

2 Japanese theatre specialists in sound and set designing building will conduct the workshop.

Those interested to join can do so by registering their names to Mr. Teoh Ming Jin of The Actors Studio Bangsar at Tel: 20940400 / 1400. Please be informed that the workshop is conducted for technicians with experience.

DANCE PERFORMANCE BY LENI BASSO

The Japan Foundation will organize dance performances "Finks" by Dance Company Leni-Basso. Ms. Akiko Kitamura choreographs "Finks" and she has been the choreographer for the company since the establishment in 1994.

Each of their productions is called "Multimedia Theater" and it has systematized in theory but yet presents a spectacle in respect. It features artistic stage lighting, computer graphics, profound sound effects, and

spatial design freely intertwining then evolving. With their speedy, wild, swinging dance performance; it will stimulate and entertain the audiences.

The company has performed in Japan and many places in Asia (Taiwan, Hong Kong and China), US (New York, Philadelphia and San Francisco), EU (Amsterdam, Warsaw, Bern, etc), South America (Santiago).

Profile of Ms. Akiko Kitamura

She was born in Tokyo in 1970. She learned ballet, jazz dance and street dance during her youth. She studied dance theory at Waseda University and began a professional career as a choreographer in show business while still in her teens. She has choreographed many pieces for commercial films, fashion shows and plays. In 1994, she formed her own company Leni-Basso. It presented Japan in the Bagnolet Competition and leaped to fame by evaluation there. She stayed in Germany as a resident artist sent by the Agency of Cultural Affairs of Japan in the following year.

In 2001, she was invited to Bates Dance Festival (US) to create solo work, "Face-Mix", in a short piece of collaboration with Bates Dancers for the festival. Two years later, she created a short piece "Orchesis", for the dance company of Penn State University (US). She was also invited by the oldest dance festival of US, ADF (American Dance Festival) where she created a new short piece with ADF dancers for a main program of the festival, "International Choreographers Commission Program". Now she is also works for Shinshu-University of Japan, as a lecturer.

Their performances in Kuala Lumpur will be held as follows:

Date: Friday, 25 and Saturday, 26 March 2005
Venue: The Actors Studio Bangsar
Level 3, Bangsar Shopping Center
Jalan Maarof, Kuala Lumpur
Time: 8.30 p.m.

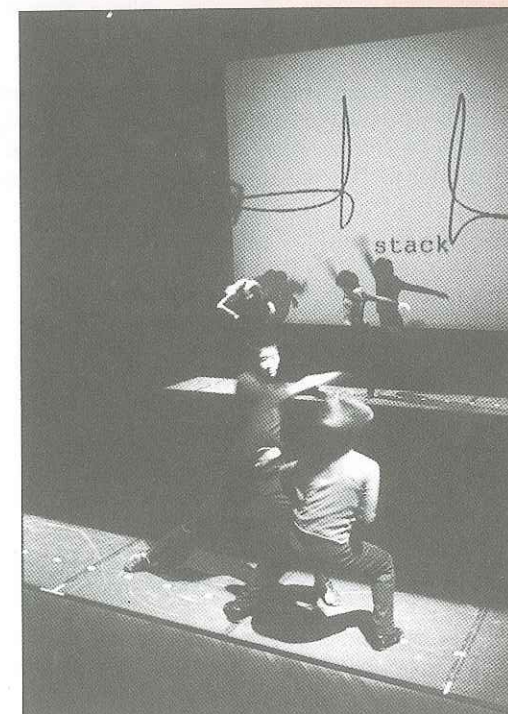
Please call Mr. Shimada at JFKL for further details.

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TEMAN BARU



A scene from a dance performance by Leni Basso - see inside for details.



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THE 8th ASIAN CARTOON EXHIBITION IN IPOH

The Japan Foundation and Perak State Library Corporation with the support of the Embassy of Japan jointly organize Cartoon Exhibition with the theme "The Meaning of Life" in Perak State Library Corporation.

A total of 88 works produced by 13 leading cartoonists from 11 countries namely China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, The Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam will be exhibited.

Haji Zainal Buang Hussein, who is the former editorial and marketing director of the popular cartoon magazine 'Gila-Gila' and currently the president of PEKARTUN, represents Malaysia with 10 of his works. The Cartoon Exhibition was also held in Kuala Lumpur and Kota Kinabalu.

The on-going exhibition will be as follows:

Venue: Perak State Library Corporation
No. 17, Jalan Raja Dihilir
30300 Ipoh, Perak
Tel: 05-2491888

Date: 17 January – 14 February 2005
Time: Tue-Sat. 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Mon. 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Sun. Closed

THE WEEKEND FILM SHOW

Four films are schedule to be screened in February and March at MTC. The films are in Japanese with English subtitles. Admission is free. The dates, times and titles are as follows:

Saturday, 5 February 2005 starting 4.30 p.m.
The Passage to Japan – Fukuzawa Yukichi
Directed by SAWAI Shin'ichiro, 1991 / 123 min. / color

Fukuzawa Yukichi is one of the first experts on the West in modern Japan and played an important role in the modernization of late 19th century.

He has also founded Keio University in 1858, one of the most established private universities in Japan.

This film is about the life history of Fukuzawa Yukichi, one of the greatest figures of Japan.

People always complain about Yukichi of his insufficiencies during his boyhood and adolescence period. In every case, Yukichi works hard to overcome all obstacles.

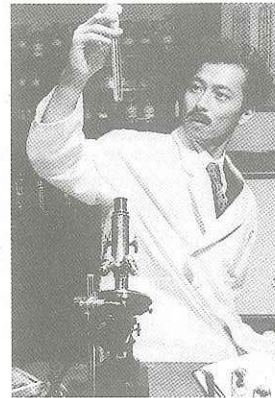


After studying Dutch in Nagasaki, Yukichi is hired as a principal in a school operated by Okudaira. Later, he leaves for America to continue his study, knowing that U.S. and the West are more advanced.

Saturday, 19 February 2005 starting 4.30 p.m.
Faraway Sunset – Tooki Rakujitsu
Directed by KOYAMA Seijiro, 1992 / 119 min. / color

This is a film on Noguchi Hideyo, who contributed medical activities in Africa and now his portrait is appears in the new note of Japanese money of 1,000 Yen.

This story, which begins in the late 19th century, concerns the life of Noguchi Hideyo (Seisaku) who accidentally burns his hand and caused his fingers fuse together; and he becomes the butt of ridicule by others in the village. His mother, Shika still sends him to school. With her encouragement he grows up to be a smart boy. Instead of becoming a shrimp-picker like the other men in his village, he is motivated to study medicine.



He then became a famous bacteriologist who isolated the cause of syphilis and worked hard to find a vaccine for yellow fever.

Saturday, 5 March 2005 starting 4.30 p.m.
The Pale Hand – Shiroy te
Directed by KOYAMA Seijiro, 1990 / 100 min. / color



A fifth grade class in a school at a small seaside town, headed by a female teacher has five "bad boys". One day, a new student called Matsui Takakiyo from Tokyo joins the class. He suffers from a sphincter problem,

which causes him to dirty his pants whenever he becomes nervous and this incident happens on the first day at the new school. He then managed to be friend with Masaru who joins the "bad boys" in taunting

him, after Takakiyo's mother confronts Masaru.

One day, they saw a small pale hand protrudes from the first floor of a western house; and it would open and close as if trying to grasp something. Masaru thinks it's a bit creepy, but Takakiyo shows great interest. Soon, Masaru learns that the hand belongs to a bed-ridden young girl. Later, the feelings of the two boys have for this pale hand girl slowly begins to intertwine...

Saturday, 19 March 2005 starting at 4.30 p.m.
Takeshi Childhood Days – Shonen Jidai
Directed by SHINODA Masahiro, 1990/117 min./ color

This is a portrait of a friendship between a young village boy, Ohara Takeshi and a city boy, Kazama Shinji. During the World War II, as war conditions worsen with the Allied bombing of Japanese cities, Shinji have fled to his relative's home in Toyama from the city.



Takeshi, the local leader of kids his age, first approaches him. Although Shinji is uncomfortable with the life in a farmhouse, he feels Takeshi's friendship. However, once they are at school Takeshi ignores and treats him like a stranger. In fact, everyone has a hostile attitude. Shinji can't understand Takeshi's contradictory attitude, and refuses to act like Takeshi's servant in front of the others.

"THEATRE FOR HANDICAPPED PEOPLE" PROJECT

This is a 3-years project. Ms. Manri Kim, the artistic director of the Performance Troup TAIHEN will make a visit and survey to several schools and institutions for handicapped in Malaysia from 4th until 7th of February 2005. The purpose of her visit is to set up the project for a performance by Malaysian handicapped people.

TAIHEN, the first performance art group in the world by physically disabled people, has been actively performed professionally since 1983 in Japan. Ms. Manri Kim has found that the disabled body has an expression that no one else can create. Their twisted and distorted bodies, which normally considered as ungainly, will be transformed into peculiar beauty.

This project is co-organised by The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur and The Actors Studio.