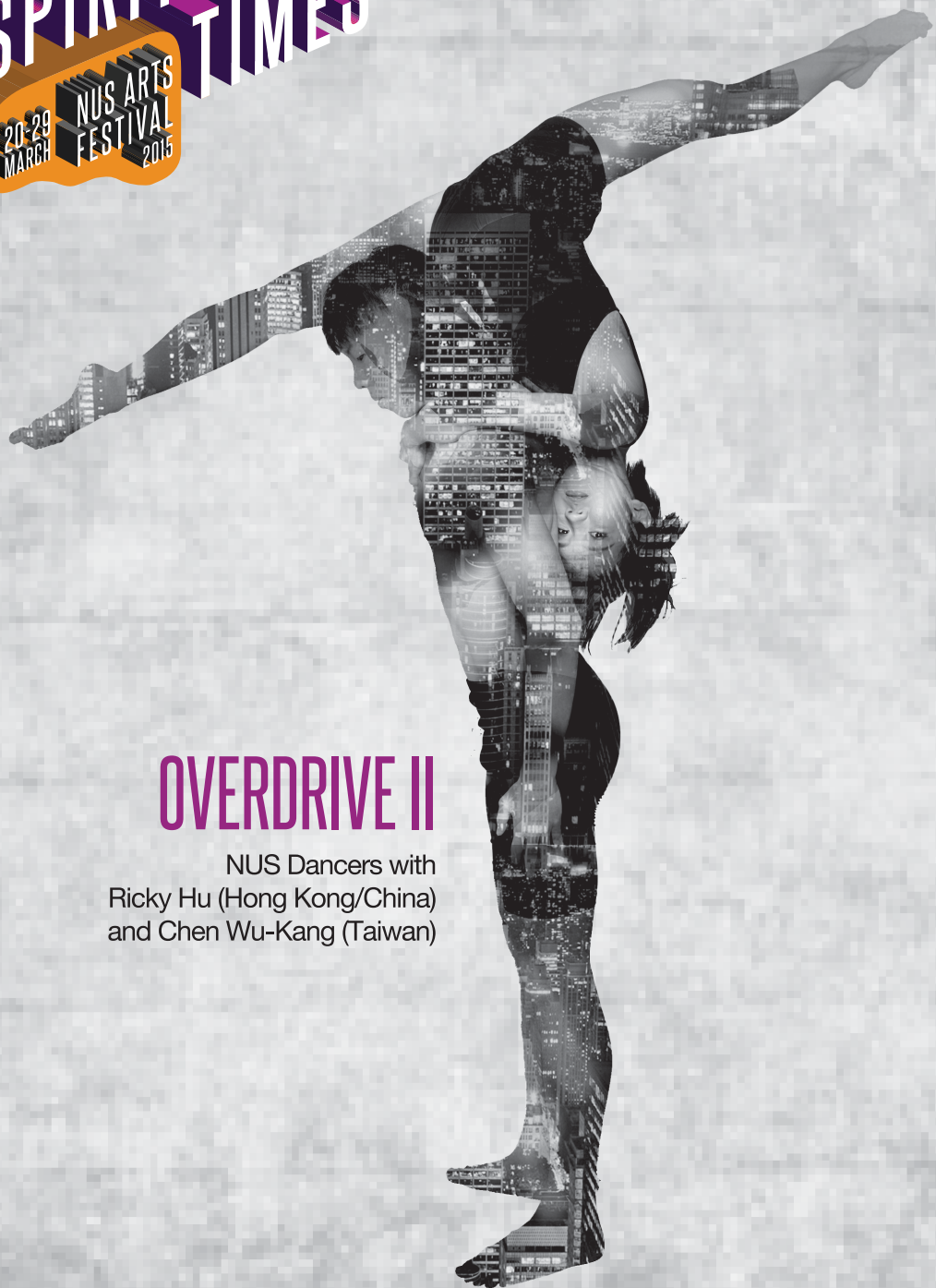


**SPiRiT of the
TiMES**

**20-29
MARCH**
**NUS ARTS
FESTIVAL
2015**



OVERDRIVE II

NUS Dancers with
Ricky Hu (Hong Kong/China)
and Chen Wu-Kang (Taiwan)



Elephant In The Room
Photo by Kinetic Expressions

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the 10th NUS Arts Festival: *Spirit of the Times*.

As our flagship performance platform, the Festival embodies our vision of becoming a vibrant centre for the appreciation of the arts and nurturing of the creative and inquiring spirit of the NUS students. The annual Festival celebrates the best of our 22 Student Arts groups. Through the Festival's innovative programming and partnerships, we aim to grow an active arts community where students, artists, scholars and audience can converge and create.

NUS Centre For the Arts encompasses NUS Museum, NUS Baba House and a Talent & Development arm that oversees the Student Arts groups. Through our programmes, practices, exhibitions, workshops and outreach, we augment the university experience and contribute to the building of knowledge and transformation of the students. We strongly believe that students who engage deeply with the arts enhance their creativity, broaden their perspective and enrich their lives.

On behalf of the Centre, I thank the Festival's professional artists and NUS alums who are inspiring role models for the next generation of arts audiences and talents in NUS. We are grateful to our donors and supporters who share our goal to enrich the intellectual and cultural life of the campus.

Enjoy the Festival!

SHARON TAN

Director

NUS Centre For the Arts

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



In 2015, we celebrate Singapore's 50 years of nation building and National University of Singapore's 110th anniversary. At our 10th NUS Arts Festival (NAF) from 20 – 29 March, we recall the achievements of our pioneers who have transformed society today.

NAF 2015 opens with *Words And Music*, a jazz concert helmed by Singapore's best jazz talent Jeremy Monteiro with text from Wang Liansheng. Enjoy the youthful energy of NUS's talented young musicians as they present classical works as well as contemporary compositions by Singaporean composers, the late Cultural Medallion recipient Leong Yoon Pin, Zechariah Goh and Kelly Tang. We are proud to present a new commissioned work by Young Artist Award winner Chen Zhangyi and the Asian Contemporary Ensemble led by Wong Kah Chun.

Look forward to *Overdrive II* by NUS dance talents with two established Asian choreographers Ricky Hu and Chen Wu-Kang. Fringed by live gigs and screenings of films from Israel and Japan, NAF 2015 climaxes with *Dance Reflections* featuring all 6 dance companies under NUS Centre For the Arts.

This year, we welcome an unprecedented level of participation from NUS' arts talents, including outstanding alums who return to share their creativity in the arts. We thank them for their dedication and support.

Through the theme "Spirit of the Times", NAF 2015 looks back at the past as fuel to push forward to the future. The insights into the lives, achievement and spirit of those who have gone before serve to encourage us to also make a difference in the world.

Come explore the spirit of the times with us!

CHRISTINE KHOR

Festival Director

NUS Centre For the Arts

ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

We always believe the more we say about the dance, the less fun you will have when you watch. So we will try to provide a description of this dance without saying anything. We were inspired by Kuo Pao Kun's *The Coffin is too Big for the Hole* before we began the rehearsal.

Today is one week after we've created the first draft of this dance, eight weeks before it premieres. You may find the list of dance scenes below useful. We look forward to returning this March to refine the work. Enjoy!

CHEN WU-KANG & YEH MING-HWA

Choreographers

Written on 23 January 2015

PROGRAMME

IN SYNC
FEMALE SOLO + SOME LOCAL GESTURES
A FAILED UNISON DANCE
TRANSITION
TWO GROUPS OF DANCE
TRIO
DUET, GROUP DANCE AND AN OBSERVER
MALE SOLO AND A LINE

Music originally by

Ain't Misbehavin' (1929), *Confessin'* (1939), *West End Blues* (1928) by Louis Armstrong

Sound Design

Yannick Dauby

Dancers

Alvin Wong, Chen Jie Xiao, Cheong Yee Yin, Cherubim Yee, Debbie Ong, Joan Lee, Korycinska Joanna Karolina, Low Wei Zheng, Michaela Yang, Ng Miao Yu, Wan Shi Ting, Wiing Liu

LOOK UP

这次很开心能为新加坡国大艺术节创作作品。创作 *Look Up* 这个作品主题的时候，我时常反省自己，从自己的角度出发，不断的自我发问。这个（低头族）主题可以算是当今社会的一种现象，它对人类来说有好有坏，但是我只想利用这个作品来给观众一个小小的提示。低头现象的兴起，反衬出的是社会对于现实的某种逃避与冷漠。人们越来越喜欢在真实世界里伪装自己，却又选择在虚拟世界里表达真实的自我。

现在流行一句话，“世界上最远的距离不是天涯海角，而是我站在你面前，你却在玩手机。”

It is a great pleasure to choreograph this work for NUS Arts Festival. While working on *Look Up*, I've constantly reflected and raised questions to myself about the theme of social media. It is a social phenomenon, which is a double-edged sword to humanity, but I feel the need to create this work to give the audience a gentle reminder. The growing habit of looking down at your smart phones reflects the community's escapism and indifference from reality. People increasingly prefer to camouflage themselves in the real world, but choose to express their true thoughts in the virtual world.

To quote a trending phrase, “The greatest distance in the world is not between the ends of the world; but when I stand before you, and you are staring at your mobile phone.”

RICKY HU

Choreographer



LOOK UP

低头你错过了什么？
错过了如影随形。

因为你并非本意的冷落，对爱你关心你的人画地为牢，
因此错过了亲情、友情、爱情。

因为你的专心致志心无旁骛，使得你对身边的世界无动于衷。
你的视域和听域受到了影响受到了限制，这一无心之举让你错过了许多...

人与人之间的心的距离，不是你和我；
而是手机与你近在咫尺，你却熟视无睹。

所以，
你若抬头，那便是晴天...

What have you missed when you are looking down?
You have missed out on the people closest to you.

Your unintentional neglect has set up a wall between you and your loved ones
And kinship, friendship, love is lost.

Your undivided attention makes you oblivious to the world around you.
Your sights and sounds are restricted
Unintentional it is, but you have missed out a lot...

The distance between people is not what stands between you and me.
You are just next to the mobile phone, but yet you pretend not to see

And so,
You will see the sunshine, if you look up.

Music Editor

Li Jia Bo

Dancers

Alvin Wong, Cici Chen, Johan Wijaya, Lee Si Lei, Liang Bin, Lua Jie Ling,
Nah Jie Min, Pamela Ng

DANCERS' REFLECTIONS



ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

“We're all just fragments wandering around, looking for and trying to fit into pictures that likely aren't meant for us. But a wanderer who wanders is not lost.”

– Ng Miao Yu



“Doing Wu-Kang's piece is sort of piecing a puzzle with no borders. Pictures form, but little is known how they are interrelated. There's where the fun of exploration comes in.”

– Cheong Yee Yin

“I felt like I was learning dance all over again. It was great.”

– Wan Shi Ting

“Wu-Kang has taught me many fundamentals of dance which I have neglected.”

– Cherubim Yee



“Dance as an authentic and organic movement instead of an artifice - this freedom to be genuine is what I take away from the piece.”

– Korycinska Joanna Karolina

DANCERS' REFLECTIONS



LOOK UP

“The dance has made me more aware of the amount of time I spend on social media and how it is impacting my actions and thoughts.”

– Nah Jie Min

“I feel that this item made me grow not only technically, but also emotionally. It got me thinking that dance should be an extension and sublimation of our daily lives and not a separate world on its own.”

– Lee Si Lei



“It is a very interesting concept to explore; it is an ambiguous presence in urban societies, yet being one of the afflicted, we may not have noticed the subtleties of this phenomenon.”

– Lua Jie Ling

“Ricky's choreography is a Social Commentary through Performing Arts.”

– Liang Bin

“We got to explore actions and interactions with one another, which made the piece less dance and more like... an ongoing conversation.”

– Pamela Ng



BIOGRAPHIES



CHEN WU-KANG

Choreographer, *Elephant In The Room*

Chen Wu-Kang was born in Kaohsiung, Taiwan and started dancing at the age of 12. When he was 16, he was offered a place at the National Taiwan College of Arts and won the Gold Medal at Creative Dance Competition, organized by Taiwan's Council of Cultural Affairs in 1999. After graduating, he received an award from Taiwan's National Culture and Arts Foundation to study in New York. Wu-Kang joined Eliot Feld's Ballet Tech Company in 2001 where he became a soloist the following year.

In 2005, he co-founded HORSE and created *Who & Memories* for the company. In 2007, he choreographed and performed in *Velocity*, which was awarded the Taishin Arts Award for 2007, and was invited to perform at the Joyce Theater in New York the following year. HORSE has toured Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Singapore and Dusseldorf, Germany. Wu-Kang continues to perform with Eliot Feld's MANDANCE PROJECT in New York and serve as the artistic director for HORSE in Taiwan.



YEH MING-HWA

Choreographer, *Elephant In The Room*

Yeh Ming-hwa was born and raised in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts (Dance) from Taipei National University of Arts after a rigorous 7-year program. From 1997 to 2007, she danced with Kaohsiung City Ballet (KCB) and Chamber Ballet Taipei. Notably, in 2006, she ventured to New York to study with Igal Perry, the director of Peridance Ensemble, and danced with Thomas Ortiz Dance Company. Upon returning to Taiwan, she became a freelancer and started choreographing.

In 2008, she collaborated with Chen Wu-Kang and presented her first work, *Dimmer* at the National Theater of Taiwan. Subsequently, KCB presented her ballet works *Tightrope Walker*, *Ponytail* and *Small Potato* at the National Experimental Theater of Taiwan. In 2009, her work *Seize* was presented by Taiwan's National Culture and Arts Foundation in the production *Young Stars, New Vision*. *Seize* was invited by La Biennale di Venezia, the 7th International Festival of Contemporary Dance in 2010.



RICKY HU

Choreographer, *Look Up*

Born in Jiangxi, China, Ricky Hu graduated from the Shanghai Dance School (Major in Chinese Dance) in 2004 before going to study at LASALLE College of the Arts in Singapore. Subsequently, he received a full scholarship to study at The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and later an Asian Cultural Council Dance Fellowship to further his study at the Ailey School in New York.

Since joining The Hong Kong Ballet in 2008, he has created many choreographic works including *Twins* (2010), *Voicing* (2011) and *Play with Abandon* (commissioned by Hong Kong Arts Festival 2012) and *White Lies* (2012), in collaboration with Yuh Egami, also a dancer from The Hong Kong Ballet. Ricky, Yuh Egami and Yuri Ng subsequently choreographed a full-length work for The Hong Kong Ballet, *The Frog Prince – A Ballet Chinois* (2013). Most recently, he created *Rush* (commissioned by Hong Kong Arts Festival 2013) as well as *Blank* for Re:Dance Theatre in Singapore.

In 2012, Ricky was a recipient of Young Artist (Dance) at the Hong Kong Arts Development Awards and continues his craft as a dancer and a choreographer in Hong Kong and beyond.



MAI JINGWEN

Assistant Choreographer, *Look Up*

Mai Jingwen was born in Hainan, China and started dancing at the tender age of 7. In 2001, she achieved an excellent 4th ranking in a nationwide grading examination, and was admitted into the College of Dance of Minzu University of China to pursue dance and dance education professionally. Upon graduation, she received a full scholarship to further her studies at Joongbu University, obtaining a Master in Performance & the Arts. In 2011, she participated in the 13th Korean Folk Dance Competition held in South Korea and was awarded the prestigious Gold Award.

She is currently teaching at the dance programme of Shen Zhen Senior High School and has led its dance troupe to various national dance competitions, achieving many top awards since 2009.

BIOGRAPHIES



ADRIAN TAN

Lighting Designer

Adrian Tan started his journey as a lighting designer in 2006 and is honored to be designing over 30 productions annually now. He feels privileged to have worked with many dance and theatre companies, creating countless magical moments for The Dream Academy, Wild Rice, The Necessary Stage, The Lyric Opera, Singapore Dance Theatre, T.H.E Dance Company and Re:Dance Theatre.

A firm believer in supporting youth artists, Adrian also worked fondly with School of The Arts, T.H.E Second Company, RDT2 and not forgetting his alma mater LASALLE College of the Arts.

Adrian has been working with NUS Arts Festival since 2011.



ALBERT TIONG

Rehearsal Master, *Elephant In The Room*

Albert Tiong graduated from Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts on scholarship in 1996 and became a professional dancer with Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan (1996 – 1999), Hong Kong Dance Company (2000) and Odyssey Dance Theatre (2000 – 2003).

As an educator, Albert teaches contemporary dance extensively in Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong. He is currently a lecturer at LASALLE College of the Arts, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and also trains NUS Dance Synergy. In 2012, Albert founded Re: Dance Theatre which commits to develop and increase appreciation of contemporary dance. He hopes to continue to appreciate, create and inspire.

This is the third time Albert is involved in NUS Arts Festival.



LIM MING ZHI

Rehearsal Mistress, *Look Up*

Lim Ming Zhi's early training was in Chinese Dance and Ballet. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Dance) at LASALLE College of the Arts on scholarship and was awarded the LASALLE Award for Academic Excellence. Ming Zhi obtained her Diploma in Business Administration in 2011 and Beijing Classical Chinese Dance Teaching Certificate in 2010. She is also an affiliated member of Commonwealth Society of Teachers of Dancing (CSTD). Mingzhi joined Re:Dance Theatre in 2012 and has since performed actively with the company.

This is the second time Ming Zhi is involved in NUS Arts Festival.



EDITH PODESTA

Voice & Acting Consultant, *Look Up*

Edith is a graduate of National Institute of Dramatic Art's (NIDA) Acting and Movement Studies courses, who has worked extensively across Australia as an actor, director, choreographer, and teacher.

Currently a lecturer at LASALLE College of the Arts, Edith has also lectured at the Theatre Training and Research Programme, NIDA, Conservatorium of Music and University of Technology Sydney. Edith attended the La MaMa International Symposium for Directors (Spoleto, Italy), SITi SummerTheater Workshop (Saratoga Springs, NY) and has a Masters of Fine Arts: Performance Art (LASALLE).

Edith has also written, directed and/or helmed the devising process of a number of original theatrical works including; *Underbelly*, *Seventyeightsixty*, *Icarus On The Floor of Heaven* with NIDA; *List*, *MEMORABILIA*, or *the Magic Number Seven*, *Plus or Minus Two* with LASALLE; and *A Cage Goes In Search Of A Bird* with A GROUP OF PEOPLE, which won Production of the Year at the 11th Life Theatre Awards.

This is the second time Edith is involved in NUS Arts Festival.

DANCERS - ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM



Alvin Wong

Alvin joined NUS Dance Synergy in 2009, and has ventured into Ballet, Modern and Chinese Dance. He is the only dancer who dances in both *Elephant In the Room* and *Look Up*.



Chen Jie Xiao

Jie Xiao learnt Hip Hop in NUS and ventured into Contemporary dance in 2010. He performed with T.H.E Second Company from 2011 to 2015 and is currently the co-director of Paraglyph Dance Company.



Cheong Yee Yin

Yee Yin picked up Hip Hop in 2011 under O School and travelled to Japan to further her Hip Hop passion. She is currently with NUS Dance Ensemble, learning contemporary dance and ballet.



Cherubim Yee

Cherubim started learning Chinese Dance with Dance Ensemble Singapore and ventured into Contemporary dance in Anderson Junior College. She picked up Bollywood in NUS.



Debbie Ong

Debbie began Ballet and contemporary dance in 2008 as she enrolled into School of The Arts. She continues to engage her interest through dancing and choreographing for Eusoff Hall, NUS.



Joan Lee

Joan only started dancing when she joined NUS Dance Synergy in 2013. She is now also a member of NUS Dance Blast!



Korycinska Joanna Karolina

Joanna started her Ballet training since she was six and subsequently explored Jazz dance, Hip Hop and Chinese Dance in her youth. This is her first contemporary dance piece.



Low Wei Zheng

Wei Zheng graduated from NUS in 2005 and only started contemporary dance training in 2011 and ballet two years later. Since then, he is an associate member of NUS Dance Synergy.



Michaela Yang

Michaela participated in many years of Singapore Youth Festivals (Chinese Dance). She learnt contemporary dance in Anderson Junior College and NUS Dance Synergy. Currently, she is Head of Temasek Hall Dance Team.



Ng Miao Yu

Miao Yu started dancing at the age of thirteen, joining Chinese Dance in Clementi Town Secondary School. She is currently taking classes at Dancepointe Academy Pte Ltd.



Wan Shi Ting

Shi Ting graduated with Outstanding Award for the Certificate in Chinese Dance from Beijing Dance Academy. She began Contemporary Dance in Anderson Junior College, and performs regularly with NUS Dance Synergy.



Wiing Liu

Wiing graduated from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts in Dance (Choreography) in 2013. Recently, she was funded by National Arts Council for gaga intensive with Batsheva Dance Company (Italy).

DANCERS - LOOK UP



Cici Chen

Cici is trained in Ballet, contemporary dance and Jazz since young. She has danced with NUS Dance Ensemble since 2002, and her choreographic works were featured in Singapore Dance Theatre's Passages (2013).



Johan Wijaya

Johan started dancing with NUS Dance Synergy in 2009 and participated in almost every annual performance. He danced in Chingay parade, NUS Arts Festival, T.H.E Contact Festival and People's Association *Soundwave*.



Lee Si Lei

Si Lei's passion in dance started in Chinese Dance with Nanyang Girls' High School and Hwa Chong Institution. In NUS, she performs actively with both NUS Dance Ensemble and NUS Chinese Dance.



Liang Bin

Liang Bin began his performing arts education at age eight with Practice Performing Arts School. He joined the People's Association Talents Modern Dance, Theatre Arts Troupe and NUS Chinese Dance. Currently, he teaches "Play in Arts" at The Theatre Practice.



Lua Jie Ling

Jie Ling began her dance training in Classical Ballet, and subsequently trained in Contemporary dance in Anderson Junior College. She has choreographed and danced for RAW Moves (2012 – 2013).



Nah Jie Min

Jie Min started her training in Chinese dance and ballet in Dance Ensemble Singapore, and continued her training in contemporary dance. She performs actively with NUS Chinese Dance since 2011.



Pamela Ng

Pamela began her training in Ballet with Royal Academy of Dance graded and vocational examination syllabus. She joined NUS Dance Synergy in 2006 and remains an active alumni member of the group.

STAGE MANAGEMENT

TEO WEI HONG

Stage Manager

Wei Hong has collaborated with several local dance groups in stage managing and producing theatre and black box productions. A Beijing Dance Academy certified instructor, he also won the Tan Ean Kiam Student of the Year Arts Award.

AARON WANG

Assistant Stage Manager

Aaron has been involved in productions from 2010 and started stage managing for CFA since 2012 for various dance groups, including NUS Dance Ensemble's *The Next Wave* series, and most recently NUS Dance Synergy's ExxonMobil Campus Concert: *The Steps*.

CREDITS

Overdrive II 20 & 21 March 2015

Commissioned by NUS Centre For the Arts
Associate Producer & Production Manager Iris Cheung
Programme Assistants Adrienna Keon
Ng Yen Ngee
Lighting Designer Adrian Tan
Student Stage Manager Teo Wei Hong
Student Assistant Stage Manager Aaron Wang
Photographers Back Alley Creations
Kinetic Expressions
Publicity Trailer Back Alley Creations
Videography He Tian Film Productions

Elephant In The Room

Choreographers Chen Wu-Kang
Yeh Ming-Hwa
Sound Designer Yannick Dauby
Dancers Alvin Wong Korycinska Joanna Karolina
Chen Jie Xiao Low Wei Zheng
Cheong Yee Yin Michaela Yang
Cherubim Yee Ng Miao Yu
Debbie Ong Wan Shi Ting
Joan Lee Wiing Liu
Rehearsal Master Albert Tiong
HORSE Tour Manager Yang Shu-Han

HORSE is supported by 
Department of Cultural Affairs
Taipei City Government

Look Up

Choreographer Ricky Hu
Assistant Choreographer Mai Jingwen
Music Editor Li Jia Bo
Dancers Alvin Wong Liang Bin
Cici Chen Lua Jie Ling
Johan Wijaya Nah Jie Min
Lee Si Lei Pamela Ng
Sets On Stage Studio
Voice & Acting Consultant Edith Podesta

SPiRiT of the TiMES

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FESTIVAL
2015

DANCE REFLECTIONS: STILL I RISE

Sun 29 Mar | 8pm | UCC Hall \$22 & \$19

Taking inspiration from Maya Angelou's poem *Still I Rise*, artistic directors of 6 dance groups under NUS Centre For the Arts celebrate the triumph of the human spirit in the face of great challenges in the final performance of the festival. American-born Angelou whose passing in 2014 was universally mourned was a notable poet, actress, dancer and activist whose views on poverty, feminism and racism were catalytic in motivating change for good. Showcasing our multicultural heritage through modern and traditional dance interpretations, CFA artistic directors and the dance groups express their response to Angelou's poem through movement with live music in a fusion of contemporary dance styles and ethnic dance influences in NUS' biggest dance extravaganza on campus.

Get your tickets from SISTIC now!

www.sistic.com.sg , SISTIC Hotline 6348 5555

Visit www.nusartsfestival.com for details



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