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原创音乐戏剧 AN ORIGINAL MUSIC THEATRICAL PRODUCTION

14
MAY
2023



PRESENT
PAST



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SINGAPORE CHINESE CULTURAL CENTRE CEO'S MESSAGE



Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre's signature festival Cultural Extravaganza returns for its sixth edition this year.

Over the years, Cultural Extravaganza has endeavoured to present the best showcase of our local Chinese culture. By working with our local arts groups to present cross-cultural, cross-disciplinary and cross-generational programmes, we believe these can break boundaries and create the most unexpected experiences for our audiences.

This year, we have lined up 11 programmes over 6 weeks to highlight the passing on of our culture to the next generation. This is reflected in the tagline “(Re)presenting culture across generations”. We hope to harness the possibilities of different art forms and mediums to showcase how our traditions and practices of the past can be adapted into modern, contemporary ways.

While keeping our connections with the past, it is also crucial to keep abreast of change, especially new technologies. As such, we have used artificial intelligence for the first time to create our cross-cultural character for Cultural Extravaganza this year. We hope you will enjoy what we have prepared, and may you discover something new about our Chinese Singaporean culture!

Low Sze Wee

Chief Executive Officer
Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre

新加坡华族文化中心总裁献词

新加坡华族文化中心年度文化盛会《华彩》今年步入第六届。

《华彩》旨在与本地出色的艺术团体携手呈献跨文化、跨形式和跨时代的节目。通过这些“跨界”的合作，我们坚信突破极限与想象空间能为出席《华彩》的观众带来不一样的体验。

今年，为期6周的《华彩》将呈献11项精彩绝伦的节目，充分凸显“传承”的主题与意义。艺术以各种形式出现在我们的日常生活中，其中也包含了本土华族文化的特色。我们以不同的艺术方式与现代人的视角诠释华族传统与习俗，希望带给大家全新的惊喜。

既保留传统又与时俱进，中心也首次利用人工智能创造《华彩2023》跨文化主题的人物，象征中心跟现代科技的接轨。

我们希望您会喜欢本届《华彩2023》的精彩节目，也希望您会从中对新加坡华族文化有新的认识！

刘思伟

新加坡华族文化中心总裁



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

In a fast-paced and stressful society, a horrible mishap could bring us to our knees. Strangely, at a certain point in time, things take a turn for the better. I can't help but wonder, are these mishaps predetermined by fate? Or fate as we know it, forms in tandem with our thoughts?

The past lays the foundation for the present, and the present manifests into the future. As we look back on the past, we should reconnect with the self and open our hearts to the purest of our original intentions. This way, we will have the courage to imagine and the bravery to act, and the future shall belong to us. Spring is not a season; it is a state of mind. Pay attention to the mind, for when the mind changes, everything changes along with it.

We are deeply honoured and blessed to receive help and support from the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre and our friends from all walks of life. Without their support, *Present Past* would not have been possible. The difficulties and challenges of the epidemic compel us to cherish the present. In the same manner, I hope *Present Past* will inspire you to choose peace and mindfulness in your everyday life.

Neil Chua

Artistic Director of RuanAtWorkz Musical (R.A.W.)

艺术总监献词

生活在高压的环境中，每当糟糕事故发生后都会令人一蹶不振。奇怪的是，这些事故总在某个点后，忽然都好转了。我不禁想问，这些事故是宿命早已定下？还是宿命随着意念在变动？

过去是现今的根基，未来是现今的缩影。在回首过去时我也去寻回初心吧，毕竟那是把开启心路的钥匙。以初心为出发点，勇于想象和执行，那未来就一定是属于自己的。春天，不是季节，而是内心。关注内心，往往心念一转，万事皆转。

我们很庆幸获得新加坡华族文化中心及各界友人的支持与祝福，得以让《今后》如期地与观众见面。在疫情间所面临的困难和挑战都让大家格外珍惜当下。但愿《今后》能给你带来不一样的启发，从容地面对每一天。

与君共勉。

蔡为仲
黯樂房艺术总监



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Many are fascinated with what the futures holds.

But for many in the traditional arts, it has been a struggle, trying to find new audiences today. How do we make today count?

What makes *Present Past* special is the multi-cultural conversations and explorations of the Chinese *ruan* music, Indian *bharatanatyam* Dance and the Cantonese opera. How can three different cultures speak to each other?

It has been great pleasure working organically with RuanatWorkz. Over the last three years, I have had the pleasure of working closely with Neil and witness his transition from musician to artistic creator, *Night Walker*, *Immersive Sound Garden* and now *Present Past*.

With each production, Neil never fails to push himself and the creative team to go beyond what we are familiar with. This spirit of innovation is very much needed for a clearer step into the future of traditional arts.

Expect the unexpected in this immersive music production at the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre's Cultural Extravaganza. Thank you for helping to continue the legacy of passing these innovative artistic ideas to the next generations.

Thank you for being a part of our journey and we hope you find something meaningful in *Present Past*.

Jeffrey Tan
Director

导演献词

许多人对未来都充满好奇。

但对传统艺术从业者来说,如何吸引今时今日的观众才是最大的难题。我们应该怎么做,才能充分把握今天?

《今后》将阮与印度婆罗多舞和粤剧结合在一起,展开一场多元文化的对话与探索。三种不同文化的交流,会擦出什么样的火花?

与音樂房的合作可谓水到渠成,也是一件令人愉快的事。过去的三年里,我有幸与蔡为仲密切合作。从《夜行者》到 IMMERSIVE SOUND GARDEN 以及如今的《今后》,我见证了他从音乐家到艺术创作者的转变。

蔡为仲认真对待每一部作品,与创作团队更是尽心竭力,只为给大家带来与众不同的体验。这种敢于创新的精神,对传统艺术的未来发展是非常重要的。

作为新加坡华族文化中心的旗舰文化节《华彩》的活动亮点之一,《今后》这个沉浸式音乐体验将给您带来不一样的惊喜。

您的观看让创新的理念得以延续、让艺术得以传承。

感谢这趟旅程有您相伴。我们衷心希望《今后》能让您有所启发。

陈财龙
导演



PRESENT
PAST



PRESENT PAST

今后

Present Past brings together the characters from different timelines and awakens them in this interdimensional space. Will the future be altered by the past or is the present simply a reflection of the future?

Present Past explores the values from the past, the present and finding the meaning of the future through self-discovery. By visiting these parallel timelines of past and present, the music theatrical production *Present Past* creates an imaginative space for you to redefine your future.

Featuring local ruan musician Neil Chua as Muso, *bharatanatyam* dancer Sarenniya Ramathas as Nymph and up-and-coming Cantonese opera star Gary Ong as Scribe in a unique conversation as they unravel their stories in this erratic dimension.

Present Past is an original production directed by experienced theatre director, Jeffrey Tan and produced by RuanAtWorkz Musical Arts with Neil Chua as the Artistic Director.

《今后》把人物想象在多维度空间里相遇后觉醒。过去是否会改变未来？抑或现今就是未来的模样？

探求我们对过去与现今所珍视的观念，透过对自我内心的省视去寻找未来的意义。穿梭在过去和现今之间，《今后》也为观众制造了一个展望未来的想象空间。

由本地阮演奏家蔡为仲饰演乐人 (Musos)、婆罗多舞舞者 Sarenniya Ramathas 饰演宁芙 (Nymph) 和新晋粤剧演员王俊明饰演采风郎 (Scribe) 将在这个不稳定的维度中揭开他们的故事与对话。而此次原创音乐剧《今后》由本地戏剧鬼才陈财龙执导，并由韵樂房制作，蔡为仲担任艺术总监。

GARY ONG as SCRIBE

王俊明 饰 采风郎



采风郎

SCRIBE

Righteous and knowledgeable.

Modest and honest.

正直, 博学。不虚美、不隐恶。

The past is the foundation of the present. 过去是当下的根基。

Gary Ong is an up-and-coming opera artiste and has great passion for this traditional art form. A teacher by day and an opera artiste by night, Gary has spent most of his free time on learning and perfecting his skills. A young man whose childhood dream was to perform opera on stage, he was very actively watching operas whenever he had a chance to do so. He was exposed to opera from the age of 5 when his grandmother brought him to street opera shows regularly and was deeply fascinated by it.

He is currently taking up opera classes with a few different teachers, and has received guidance from famous opera artists from China and Hong Kong. To date, Gary has staged a significant number of performances and aspires to perform in front of international audiences in years to come.

王俊明是戏曲界的后起之秀,对于戏曲这门传统艺术充满了热忱。他白天忙于教师的工作,晚上则是摇身成为粤剧演员;闲暇时也会苦练基本功,以求精益求精。王俊明从小就梦想在舞台上表演粤剧,一有机会就会仔细观摩台上的表演。小时候,祖母总会带着他看街戏,所以他5岁便开始接触戏曲,从此着迷其中。

王俊明目前在不同老师的指导下学习戏曲表演,其中不乏来自中国和香港的知名戏曲演员。如今,王俊明已有丰富的表演经验,他希望能在未来的几年里登上国际舞台,为更多的观众表演。

NEIL CHUA as MUSO

蔡为仲 饰 乐人



乐人 MUSO

Kind and talented. Sentimental
and lack of self-confidence.
善良, 多才。多愁善感, 迟疑, 缺乏自信。

The present is the architect of the future. 未来是当下的延续。

Neil is the first musician from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music to receive a Master's Degree in Music - ruan. His fluidity in melding different cultures led to an invitation to participate in the highly acclaimed international music exchange programme, OneBeat 2014, organised by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to educate and promote ruan to students and musicians from around the world. Through his passion and involvement in cultural music, he earned a place in cello maestro Mr. Yoyo Ma's Silkroad's Global Musicians Workshop where international musicians learnt from one another's traditions and incorporated them into their own artistic voices.

His dedication to the traditional arts led him to be the first artist-in-residency for the inaugural National Arts Council Stamford Arts Centre Traditional Arts Residency Programme. Neil also founded RuanAtWorkz Musical Arts (R.A.W.), a charity that promotes traditional culture, music, art and other forms of traditional values.

蔡为仲以卓越的成绩毕业于上海音乐学院并授予文学(音乐)硕士学位, 是该院首位阮演奏硕士。他带有着鲜明的演奏风格, 常与不同领域的艺术家们进行着实验与合作, 又擅将不同文化元素融合到自己的作品中, 也为其作品树立了独特之处。他曾受邀参与美国国务院教育与文化事务局所发起的国际音乐交流计划“OneBeat 2014”和大提琴家马友友先生所号召的“丝绸之路全球音乐家工作坊”等国际交流, 并把阮带到了国际舞台与外国民众、学生乃至来自世界各地的艺术家们分享了阮的艺术魅力。

此外, 他为新加坡艺术理事会遴选入驻史丹福艺术中心传统艺术驻馆计划的首位艺术工作者, 也是音乐房(R.A.W.) 的创始人。

SARENNIYA RAMATHAS as NYMPH
SARENNIYA RAMATHAS 饰 宁美



宁芙

NYMPH

Extrovert, optimistic. Pure-hearted and romantic.

外向, 乐观。纯真浪漫。

The future belongs to those who have the courage to imagine.

未来是属于勇于想象的人们。

An agile and flexible dancer, Sarenniya has been learning *bharatanatyam* since she was 10 and is one of the Bhaskar's Arts Academy's rising stars. She successfully completed her Dance Diploma (Maargam) in 2010 under the tutelage of Mr Neewin Hershall and has been a notable dancer to watch ever since.

In addition to participating in several of the Academy's local productions such as *Manohra*, *Thirukutrala Kuravanji*, *XPressions* and *I, Cyclops*, she was also part of the Academy's tours to Canada and New Zealand. With her impeccable executions and perfect *anga saushtaava*, Sarenniya is a joy to watch on stage.

Sarenniya 是一名杰出的舞者, 她的舞蹈柔韧而灵活。她从10岁开始学习婆罗多舞, 是巴斯卡尔艺术学院的后起之秀。2010年, 她在导师 Neewin Hershall 的指导下成功获得舞蹈文凭 (Maargam), 由此展开她绚丽多彩的舞蹈生涯。

除了参与该学院的几部本地制作, 如《*Manohra*》、《*Thirukutrala Kuravanji*》、《*XPressions*》和《*I, Cyclops*》, 她还参加了该学院在加拿大和新西兰的巡回演出。Sarenniya 在台上的优美舞姿与完美的 *anga saushtaava* 都能让观众陶醉其中。

Prologue: The Memories

序幕: 回忆

As Scribe evokes Muso's memories, Muso sinks deep in his own sense of loss till he touches his beloved instrument - *ruan*, and from that moment, he comes around.

当采风郎唤起乐人的记忆,后者陷入了深深的失落感中,直到他触摸到最心爱的乐器——阮。这一刻,他开始苏醒。

Reminiscing | 江畔招魂:

朝朝暮暮唤魂兮

魂兮归来

来看看我迷蒙泪眼昏花

哀哉心中一句话

相守六年我未告她

忍心屈折了情芽

叹人亡物化

我还要高声讲出心里话

我共你虽不婚嫁

但郎心早已认你是我妻也

妻啊你在黄泉

可知

我招你芳魂

夜夜临江

把红绡高挂

哎妻啊你魂兮归来吧

一认郎声暗哑

一认我表记手中拿

Interpretation: Disheartened that the beloved craft is yet again facing obsolescence. More can be done and hope that passion can be reignited.

Scene 1: Inner Dimension

第一幕: 意识里的幻境

Muso bears the pressure of balancing his artistic views with the reality of life. His works are underappreciated and is constantly facing rejections and often ridiculed as such, he is depressed as he enters an unknown inner dimensional space.

乐人承受着艺术理念与现实生活所造成的压力,身心俱疲。他的创作乏人问津,还要时时面对别人的拒绝与嘲讽。沮丧的他,进入了一个未知的内在维度空间。

Music | 曲目:

Breezes in The Pine Wood | 松风寒*

Scene 2: Music from my Heart

第二幕: 真挚时的内心琴声

Muso meets Nymph and Scribe thus turning this unknown inner dimensional space into a paradise. It was surreal.

在这个未知的内在维度空间里,乐人遇到了宁芙和采风郎,使空间变成了天堂。这是一个梦幻般的经历。

Goddess Match | 天仙配:

步向槐荫无怠慢
相隔地与天不胜悲
天天牵挂心未淡
望有轻舟飞向云海泛
觅我仙侣岂畏艰

青鸟代送书绕梁间
一封喜报仙姬下凡
为送子相约槐树下
令我惊喜不禁泪斑斑

Interpretation: A glimpse of hope awakens and rekindles the diminishing flame of passion.

Music | 曲目:

Old Six | 老六⁺
Drunk under the Flowers | 花下醉*
Power and Grandeur | 山河⁺

Scene 3: Galaxy of Dreams

第三幕: 念念皆星河

As they admire the serenity of the galaxy, shooting stars streak across the sky. All is silent and peaceful, just like the final sparkle from the shooting stars at the end of its epic voyage through the universe.

他们感受着银河的宁静。流星划过天空，万物归于平静。一切就像流星在它史诗般的宇宙之旅结束时，所发出的最后一道光芒。

Music | 曲目:

Touring Tai Mountain | 游泰山*
When Wind Blows | 当风起时⁺

Scene 4: What is Joy?

第四幕: 享乐?

Muso asks, "If I can't find happiness, does that mean my life will be meaningless, my life will have no value?"

乐人问：“如果我一直找不到幸福，是否说明我的人生毫无意义、毫无价值？”

Words | 念白:

行路难，行路难，今朝方知行路难，前程广大何足虑，勉力今朝渡此滩。

Interpretation: The road ahead may be tough, but the prospect of the future is bright. Stand up to the challenges and cross the hurdles progressively.

Music | 曲目:

Jathi (Traditional Vocal Rhythm) by Nelluvai Ragesh
人声节奏 Nelluvai Ragesh 演绎

Scene 5: Past and Value

第五幕: 过往与价值

Scribe sees that Nymph's attempt to console Muso is failing, so he decides to share his vast experience from what he has seen and heard from the past. He proclaims, "Life is hard, let time prove everything about you."

宁安试图安慰乐人,但却起不了任何作用。采风郎见此,决定分享他历尽沧桑后的独特见解:“人生皆苦,就让时间证明有关你的一切。”

Lewdness is the Worst of all Sins | 万恶淫为首:

唉,冷得我騰騰震
真係震到入心
唉,心酸我重發緊冷,
乜好似腳軟難行
乜點解行行又似覺,
好似身不穩
點搵得到各位善長人翁,
希望你做一點好心

唉,正係人逢絕境都一定多哀感,
我自己感懷身世都本想佢自輕生
一個人生生死死都本係無足恨,
恨我心頭仍掛我有位老父未歸臨
我記得佢臨行佢對住我諄諄訓,
訓示話攞過床頭都算得父母恩,
恩恩怨怨不敢把我娘記恨

心中嗟怨,
都算係逢左個絕運
係我運蹇時乖,
都不幸作了盲人

Interpretation: Abandoned by society and the only path leads into the abyss. Hanging only by a thread of hope, the sparks continue to wane.

Music | 曲目:

Dance of the Elf | 精灵之舞*

Epilogue: The New-born Sun

结语: 初阳时的顿悟

As the sun slowly rises, its soft and gentle rays touch their skins, warming them with hopes and emotions. Looking back on everything that happened, the new-born sun rejuvenates them with endless bursts of enlightened energies.

这时一颗太阳却缓缓诞生,柔和的阳光洒在众人身上,这番光景让他们都所有都感慨。回想刚才发生的一切,初生的阳光像是一股开悟的能量。

Music | 曲目:

New-born Sun | 初阳*

Dawn Mist | 晓雾*

Touring Tai Mountain | 游泰山*

Note | 注:

* Original ruan solo piece composed by Neil Chua 蔡为仲阮原创独奏作品

* Includes excerpt from ruan solo piece by maestro Lin Ji Liang 林吉良阮独奏作品选段



PRODUCTION CREW 制作团队

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	Nancy Ong 王美蓉
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	Gary Ong (Cantonese Opera) 王俊明 (粤剧)
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Co-presented by 联合呈献:



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Bhaskar's Arts Academy

The media, supporters and all who have helped in one way or another to realize 'Present Past'.

借此衷心感谢所有对《今后》给予爱戴与支持广大同仁们。

#PRESENTPAST

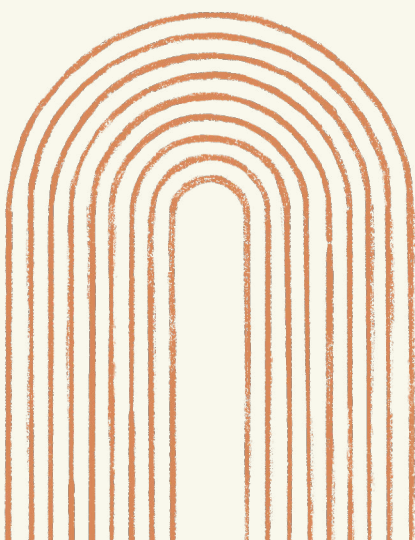
RuanAtWorkz Musical Arts was incorporated in 2015 and is a registered charity. Our programmes are curated to showcase the importance of cultural diversity and to use music as the bridge to connect people from all walks of life. To donate please scan the QR Code or visit:

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