

THE FUN  
STAGE



# Initiation International!

23-25 nov 2007



about between  
initiation international 2007

Performance is all about spaces : temporal, physical and metaphysical. Where is "between" as a performance space, and what is it? What does this simple preposition evoke as a word and a concept, a story and a character ? As a displacement in time, a trace from history or a fragment of memory ? As a body or an object, a word or a voice ? Within a body in movement or recited lines punctuated by sounds or music ? What happens when a scenography becomes a painting in motion ?

To be on the margins may be an aesthetic or a social choice. Yet, to be "between" is also both a deliberate and compelled situation. For some, it is merely a paradox, one that begs the question, "To be or not to be ?" Existing as a form of "in-betweenness" is thus an act of interrogating, always subtle, indirect and representative: the map, not the destination.

*Fiona Sze-Lorrain,  
Artistic Director of Initiation International 2007*



performances...  
...day one ♡

### House/Boy

Performed by Nicky Paraiso  
(La MaMa, New York, USA)

*House/Boy* is a cabaret drama whose only set piece is a piano. Drawn from autographical material, the performance interweaves Paraiso's family memories and his search for the quintessential Filipino houseboy played by Zorro David in John Huston's 1967 film, *Reflections in a Golden Eye*.



### Scratching: Through the Memory Lines

Created by Kanta Kochhar-Lindgren  
(University of Washington-Bothell, USA)

An experimental performance art of dance, text, media, and storytelling, *Scratching : Through the Memory Lines* is framed by a "noise-scratch" soundscape.

Partly story-telling and acting, this work draws on autobiography, tales of travel, literature and history of hearing trumpets as well as sound amplification. A biracial (South Asian and white) actress, Kochhar-Lindgren also addresses themes like racial identity, personal history, the 1947 Partition between India and Pakistan, and the garble of languages in a multi-national household during this performance.



23rd November, 8pm

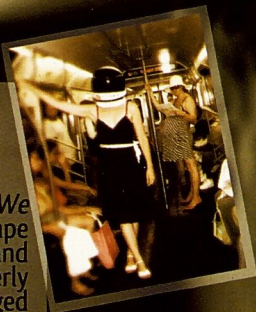
The Necessary Stage Blackbox  
\$20 (105 minutes with intermission)

performances...  
day two...

### Are We There Yet?

Created by Christine Witmer & Nora Woolley  
(Force Theory, New York, USA)

Performed in several fluid sections, *Are We There Yet?* layers an original soundscape with monologue, dialogue, gestures and movement. Through the eyes of an elderly man who longs to visit space, a middle-aged woman, and two subway performers attempting to make art a way of life, Witmer and Woolley demonstrate how humans in a modern society long for : transformation, a respite from being between.



### Space of Our Minds

Created by Wei Chin Ng  
(The Very Quiet Studio, Singapore)

Following the mindmaps of the masters of the mind, *Space of Our Minds* narrates the story of a man looking for his breath while clinging to space, time, senses or happiness, only to reveal how his analytical modernized mind may trick and trap. He becomes just a roadmap, but never reaching his own destination.



### The Double

Created by Zuriel Zi-Hao Fu  
(Van Body Theatre, Taiwan)

This dance piece draws its inspiration from Antonin Artaud's *The Theatre and Its Double*. A dance of "two" : two people, two pillows, two curtains, etc. *The Double* paints the movement of a dream. She/he meets her/himself in the dream and begins talking to each other. Conversing about time and existence, age and death, shadow and light, future and past, each attempts to contact the soul within the other "body."

24th November, 8pm

The Necessary Stage Blackbox  
\$20 (110 minutes with intermission)



# promotions

Great discounts are available as part of the festival promotion package.

Simply cut out the coupons below to enjoy discounts to our performances during the festival.

## initiation international

performance day one (23rd November 2007)

**\$15 / ticket** up. \$19

with a minimum purchase of 2 tickets

(available at ticketing outlets only; ticket price excludes \$1 service fee)

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## initiation international

performance day two (24th November 2007)

**\$15 / ticket** up. \$19

with a minimum purchase of 2 tickets

(available at ticketing outlets only; ticket price excludes \$1 service fee)

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## initiation international

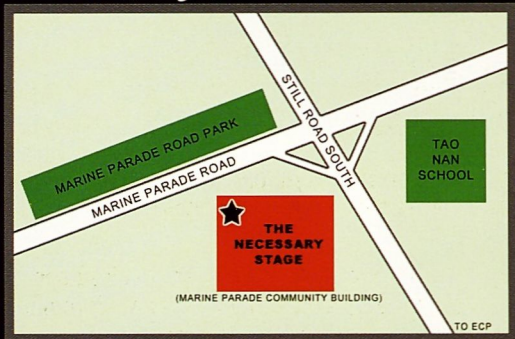
for two days' performances (23rd & 24th November 2007)

**\$10 OFF** up. \$38

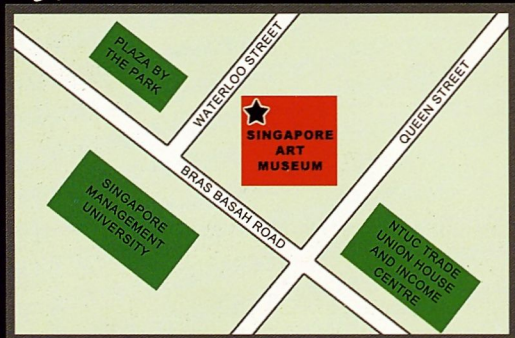
(available at ticketing outlets only; ticket price excludes \$1 service fee)

THE **FUN**  
STAGE

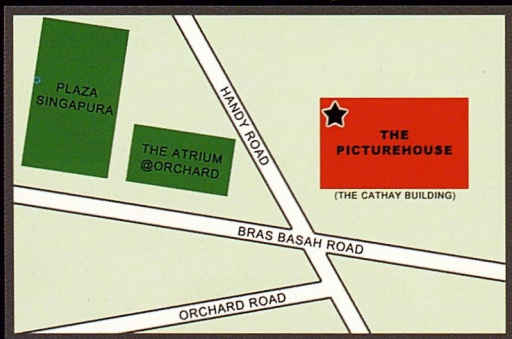
**The Necessary Stage (Marine Parade Community Building)**



**Singapore Art Museum**



**The PictureHouse (The Cathay Building)**







## dialogue & film screening ∞

### Dialogue with Gao Xingjian

Moderated by Fiona Sze-Lorrain (Artistic Director of Initiation International 2007) and co-organised by the Singapore Art Museum.

Join renowned Nobel Prize Laureate Gao Xingjian up close and personal in this rare dialogue session and gain insights into his visual art and theatre practices as well as literary writings.

Conducted in Mandarin, English & French (with translation)

### Silhouette/Shadow (2006)

Directed by Gao Xingjian  
(with Alain Melka and Jean-Louis Darmyn)

Produced by Triangle Méditerranée  
(Marseille, France)  
In French (Subtitles in English)

A man walks in the city. In no time, memories and imagination emerge. He enters into a pure state of creativity, conjuring glimpses of an unfinished life. Situated between life and death, it unravels scenes of human relations - man and woman, an individual and the mass - as well as childhood nostalgia and war memories ... A solitary artist who is always in quest of emptiness and an indefinite space, thus leads one into an immeasurably subtle and poetic film.

*Translation from the French by Fiona Lorrain © 2007*

Photo of Gao Xingjian - © Céline Yang

Dialogue: 24th November, 2.30pm, Singapore Art Museum (Free)

Film Screening: 25th November, 10am, The PictureHouse, \$15  
(Including a meet-up session with Gao Xingjian)

## ticketing details

### Performance

\$20 per night

Tickets are available from 1st September 2007 at all Tickets.com outlets and all 450 AXS Stations island-wide. You may also purchase tickets at Tickets.com or by calling Booking Hotline at 6296-2929.

Tickets.com outlets: Centrepoint, Tanglin Mall, Great World City, NTUC Downtown East, Century Square, West Mall, Union Square, CHIJMES, NTUC Centre, Ang Mo Kio Hub.

### Film

\$15 (for 25th November 2007 at 10am - inclusive of a meet up session with Gao Xingjian)  
Prevailing movie rates at other show times.

Tickets are available at The Cathay Ticketing counters. Book online at [www.thepicturehouse.com.sg](http://www.thepicturehouse.com.sg) or call booking hotline at 6235 1155

Festival Artistic Director:  
Fiona Sze-Lorrain (Paris, France)

Managing Director:  
Benny Lim

Stage Manager:  
Chew Keng Kiat

Front-of-House Manager:  
Bendini Ong

Art and Website Designer:  
Roy Chang

Artists' Liaison Manager:  
Prahbu Silvam

for more information, visit [www.initiationinternational.com](http://www.initiationinternational.com) or email [i2@thefunstage.org](mailto:i2@thefunstage.org)

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Contours  
Paris



co-organiser (dialogue session)

partner (film screening)

venue supporter





# Dialogue & Forum (24/11)

## DIALOGUE WITH GAO XINGJIAN

Moderated by Fiona Lorrain and the Singapore Art Museum

Jointly presented by the Singapore Art Museum and the Initiation International, this dialogue with Gao Xingjian explores his inner artistic visions and journey in the visual arts, theatre practices and literary writings. Conducted in English, Chinese and French (with translation), the forum will present screenings of Gao's theatre productions little known to the Asian public. The forum is co-moderated by the avant-garde cross-disciplinary and transcultural artist Fiona Sze-Lorrain (Paris IV-Sorbonne), Festival Curator of Initiation International and speaker(s) from the Singapore Art Museum.

## Film Screening (25/11)

### SILHOUETTE/SHADOW

Directed by Gao Xingjian  
(with Alain Melka and Jean-Louis Darmyn)

Produced by Triangle Méditerranée  
(Marseille, France)

In French (Subtitles in English)

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Translation from the French by Fiona Lorrain © 2007

# Special Artists

## FIONA SZE-LORRAIN

Festival Artistic Curator

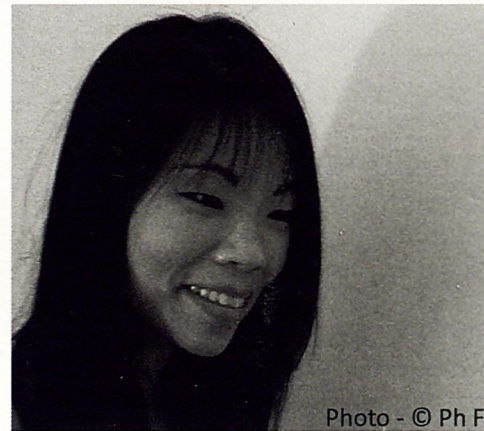


Photo - © Ph F

*Fiona Lorrain, née Fiona Siang Yun Sze, is an interdisciplinary transcultural artist whose works range from literary creation to music, theatre, dramaturgy and curating. Other than prose, poetry and plays, she also writes frequently on contemporary and avant-garde art, from performance, cinema to architecture, photography and painting. As a trilingual translator, she has translated works by Samuel Beckett, André Breton, Maurice Maeterlinck, Susan Sontag, Gertrude Stein and Gao Xingjian. An international award-winning pianist and zheng concertist, she has held concerts at the Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, Maison des cultures du monde, Rasa Wereldculturen centrum, etc. In theatre and films, she has acted and directed in over 30 productions worldwide since 1990. Currently a Ph.D Associate at Université Paris IV-Sorbonne, she earned her B.A. (Drama/Theatre Arts, French and East Asian Studies) from Columbia University, M.A. (Performance Studies) from New York University and M.Phil (French) as an American scholar. Recent books include Silhouette/Shadow : The Cinematic Art of Gao Xingjian, Interculturalism : Exploring Critical Issues etc. She now lives in Paris, France.*

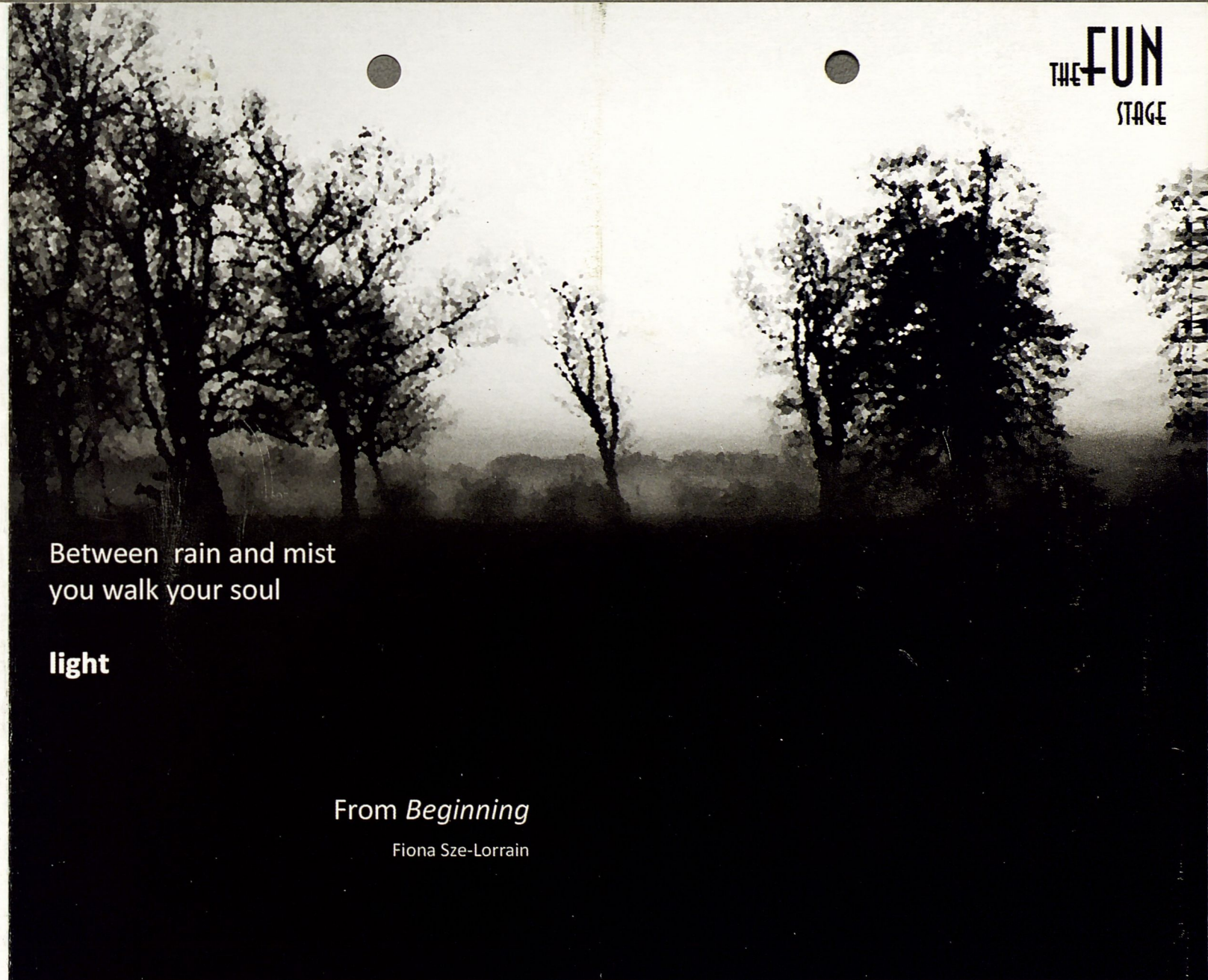
## GAO XINGJIAN

Writer, Theatre and Film Director, Painter



Photo - © Céline Yang-Gao

*Gao Xingjian, born in China in 1940 and a French citizen since 1998, is a playwright, novelist, poet, essayist, theatre director, film director and painter who has been conferred numerous state awards in Europe and North America for his works in different artistic medium (Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, Premio Letterario Ferionia, the American Academy of Achievement Golden Plate Award, etc.). A writer in both French and Chinese, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2000, notably for his novels Soul Mountain and One Man's Bible. His plays include Signal Alarm, Bus Stop, Wild Man, Escape, Nocturnal Wanderer, The Other Shore, Snow in August, Weekend Quartet, Between Life and Death, etc. Other works include the essays, A Preliminary Discussion on the Art of Modern Fiction and In Search of a Modern Form of Dramatic Representation, a collection of short stories, Buying a Fishing Rod for my Grandfather as well as a book on his aesthetics, Return to Painting, etc. In 2005, he directed his first film, Silhouette/Shadow. Till today, his works are translated into several languages and his plays are performed throughout the world. He has held over thirty international exhibitions in all continents for his bold, stunning yet contemplative ink paintings. He now lives in Paris, France.*



Between rain and mist  
you walk your soul

light

From *Beginning*

Fiona Sze-Lorrain

23 - 25  
NOVEMBER  
initiation  
international  
2007

“BETWEEN”



# Initiation International '07

## BETWEEN

Festival Theme 2007

Performance is all about spaces : temporal, physical and metaphysical. Where is "between" as a performance space, and what is it? What does this simple preposition evoke as a word and a concept, a story and a character? As a displacement in time, a trace from history or a fragment of memory? As a body or an object, a word or a voice? Within a body in movement or recited lines punctuated by sounds or music? What happens when a scenography becomes a painting in motion?

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Fiona Lorrain

## PEOPLE INVOLVED

Festival Core Team

Managing Director **Benny Lim**

Stage Manager **Chew Keng Kiat**

Designer and Webmaster **Roy Chang**

Administrative Manager **Bendini Ong**

Artists' Liaison Manager **Prahbu Silvam**

Production Crew  
**Muhammad Sulaiman**  
**Muhammad Hanis**  
**Mohamed Shaikin**

Special Invited Festival Artists 2007  
**Fiona Sze-Lorrain** and **Gao Xingjian**

# Performances Day One (23/11)

## HOUSE / BOY

Performed by Nicky Paraiso  
(La MaMa, New York, USA)

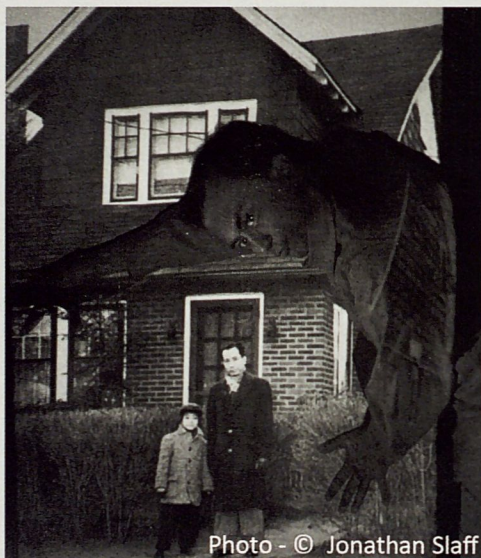


Photo - © Jonathan Slaff

*House/Boy* is a cabaret drama whose only set piece is a piano. Drawn from autographical material, the performance interweaves Paraiso's family memories and his search for the quintessential Filipino houseboy played by Zorro David in John Huston's 1967 film, *Reflections in a Golden Eye*.

Actor, musician, performance artist and writer, **Nicky Paraiso** is presently the Performance Curator of *The Club*, La MaMa Experimental Theater in East Village, New York City. Since 1979, he has been a prolific actor at La MaMa, as well as the New York downtown theatre and performance scene. Paraiso has been a member of Meredith Monk's *The House* as well as Meredith Monk and Vocal Ensemble (1981-1990), touring extensively throughout the States, Europe and Japan. A graduate of Oberlin College and Conservatory, Paraiso holds an M.F.A. (Acting) from New York University.

## SCRATCHING: THROUGH THE MEMORY LINES

Created by Kanta Kochhar-Lindgren  
(University of Washington-Bothell, USA)



An experimental performance art of dance, text, media, and storytelling, *Scratching : Through the Memory Lines* is framed by a "noise-scratch" soundscape.

Partly story-telling and acting, this work draws on autobiography, tales of travel, literature and history of hearing trumpets as well as sound amplication. A bi-racial (South Asian and white) actress, Kochhar-Lindgren also addresses themes like racial identity, personal history, the 1947 Partition between India and Pakistan, and the garble of languages in a multi-national household during this performance.

**Kanta Kochhar-Lindgren**, a performance artist, scholar, and certified Laban Movement analyst, is now an Associate Professor in Performance Studies at the Department of Interdisciplinary Arts in the University of Washington-Bothell, USA. Currently, she is developing a series of performance projects that involve the use of digital arts: *The Theatre of Garbage: Scratching from the Other Side*, *Digital Theatre*, and *Seattle: Walking the City*. She earned a PhD in Performance Studies from New York University and a M.F.A in Dance from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro.

# Performances Day Two (24/11)

## THE DOUBLE

Created by Zuriel Fu Tzu-Hao  
(Van Body Theatre, Taiwan)



This dance piece draws its inspiration from Antonin Artaud's *The Theatre and Its Double*. A dance of "two" : two people, two pillows, two curtains, etc., *The Double* paints the movement of a dream. She/he meets her/himself in the dream and begins talking to each other. Conversing about time and existence, age and death, shadow and light, future and past, each attempts to contact the soul within the other "body."

Director & Choreographer : **Zuriel Fu Tzu-Hao**  
Performers : **Wu Wen Cui & Feng Li Chuan**  
Puppet Creation & Operator : **Chen Yu Chi**  
Lighting Designer : **Helmi Fita**

Performer, choreographer and actor, **Zuriel Fu Tzu Hao** is currently the Executive Director and Producer of Van Body Theatre in Taiwan. Fu received training in traditional yoga, Tai-chi, Grotowski's techniques of body and voice, Japanese Butoh, as well as Contact Improvisation. He also sings Nan-Kuan or Nanguan with sanxian, a three-stringed snakeskin Chinese banjo. Fu earned a M.A. in Sociology from the National Taipei University.

## ARE WE THERE YET

(Christine Witmer and Nora Woolley,  
Brooklyn, USA)



Performed in several fluid sections, *Are We There Yet?* layers an original soundscape with monologue, dialogue, gestures and movement. Through the eyes of an elderly man who longs to visit space, a middle-aged woman, and two subway performers attempting to make art a way of life, Witmer and Woolley demonstrate how humans in a modern society long for : transformation, a respite from being between.

**Christine Witmer** is an actress whose recent performing credits include a series of solo performances presented at P.S.1 and New Directions Program (hosted by Richard Schechner's East Coast Artists), as well as original performance art staged at festivals and galleries around New York. Graduating from the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University in 2004, she received a M.A. in Performance Studies. Since 2005, she has been collaborating with Nora Woolley.

As an actress, **Nora Woolley** has performed extensively in regional theatre throughout the US. She is a founding member of the Brooklyn-based music and performance production group, Force Theory. Woolley holds a B.F.A. in Acting from the Tisch School of the Arts (New York University), where she received the Studio Award for Sustained Excellence in Acting and a certificate in Shakespeare Performance from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

will like to thank the following individuals and organisations for their support for this festival.

Mr. Philippe Lorrain  
Mr. Olivier Schwartz  
Ms. Céline Yang-Gao  
Mr. Thierry Bayle  
Mr. Olivier Vaysset  
Ms. Charlotte Fradet  
Ms. Mathilde Herisse  
Mr. Kwok Kian Chow  
Ms. Suenne Megan Tan  
Ms. Marsha Nathan  
Ms. Dorothy Ding  
Ms. Melissa Lim

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National Culture and Arts Foundation

co-organiser (dialogue session)

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