

Community Brief

An occasional bulletin of projects, events and engagements that underscore ITI's commitment to and involvement with the wider community in and outside Singapore

March 2012

Events & Speaking Engagements.....

Movement Workshop for Actors

31 Mar 2012



This four-hour workshop presented by ITI was a sampler of the Movement module taught in the Professional Diploma in Intercultural Theatre (Acting) programme. The workshop was led by Sirlei Terezinha Alaniz (a.k.a. Leela Alaniz), who teaches the module at ITI. Originally from Brazil, Leela is an actor, Corporeal Mime artist and theatre director. The session aimed to impart an understanding of the physical body and its physiology in the context of performance. The better the understanding, the better is the actor at commanding her space. The 13 participants were shown how to prepare their bodies to interpret, explore and express dramatic and theatrical meaning on the stage and had the chance to get an insight of the institute as well as of the module Kutiyattam lead by instructor Ranjith on that day.

Asia Journalism Fellowship

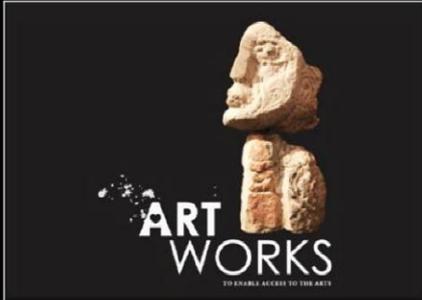
8 Mar 2012



ITI hosted visiting journalists from the Asia Journalism Fellowship programme 2012, organised by Temasek Foundation and NTU's Wee Kim Wee School of Communication & Information. The 16 journalists came from Southeast Asia and Asian countries such as Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and China. They observed students in action at a Kutiyattam class and had a dialogue with ITI Director, T. Sasitharan, on theatre, journalism and interculturalism. This was followed by a tour of Emily Hill, where they had a chance to meet other creatives and examine the business model underlying Emily Hill.

Art Works

9 – 14 Feb 2012



ITI, Singapore Lyric Opera and the Business Times Budding Artists Fund collaborated to present Art Works, a fundraising exhibition of art pieces, donated by an individual who wished to remain anonymous. The sale proceeds benefited ITI's student loan fund (Mobius Fund), the children's choir and youth outreach efforts of SLO, and the BT Budding Artists Fund. The opening of the exhibition was graced by Guest-of-Honour, Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim. In his opening speech, ITI Chairman Philip Jeyaretnam said: "This collaboration between arts charities is exciting, as it shares resources, networks and effort for the sake of a common cause, namely the future of the arts in Singapore." Sales to date have exceeded \$100,000. Private viewings were scheduled even after the exhibition closed thanks to enthusiastic art lovers and supporters. Joanna Lee from Sapere Arts provided curatorial support while Tony Khoo, Executive Chef of Marina Mandarin Singapore, provided his culinary expertise for the reception.

Other Events.....

ITI attended events that looked at philanthropy and social enterprise. In the first of the Impact Chat series for the year, Alex Friedman, Chief Investment Officer for UBS Wealth Management and formerly Chief Financial Officer with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, shared his insights from his career in finance and philanthropic work, and discussed the role major banks can play in promoting new perspectives on impact investing. The event was organised by Impact Investment Exchange Asia (IIX) and Impact Investment Shujog (Shujog), in collaboration with UBS's Value-Based Investing team.



At Singapore International Foundation's Ideas for a Better World forum, "Nurturing Generations of Social Entrepreneurs", keynote speaker Mechai Viravaidya spoke about engaging youth in social entrepreneurship. Viravaidya has been a social activist for over 40 years, first gaining fame in the 1970s for his unconventional approach to promoting family planning and contraceptives. He is today highly respected for championing social causes and social enterprises. In his view, charities cannot just rely on donors. He believes that alongside a charity must be a social enterprise that does business to generate profits for the charity.

Consultancy.....

WSQ Diploma in Arts Management

ITI, together with General Manager Goh Su Lin, was appointed by the National Arts Council to develop and design the Workforce Skills Qualification (WSQ) Diploma in Arts Management programme, to be conducted by Emily Hill Institute for Creative Enterprise. The 12-month programme is open to all who are interested in sharpening their skills in arts management. Singaporeans and Permanent Residents are eligible for subsidies from the Workforce Development Agency of up to 70%.

Media.....

Channel NewsAsia, series “Beautiful Minds”

18 Mar 2012

Sasi was featured in the March episode of Channel NewsAsia series “Beautiful Minds”.

“Beautiful Minds” is focusing on the twenty-first century, when Asia achieved a phenomenal rise in political and economic dominance and was setting the stage for the cultivation of extraordinary people and extraordinary work.

This series seeks to examine the production of geniuses and how that production seems to coincide with the rise of an important growth region.

It explores whether nature or nurture is the working force behind this growing culture of geniuses and how luck, culture and experience shapes talent and behaviour, laying both the foundations for achievements as well as failures.

The Straits Times: “Writing scripts even at home”

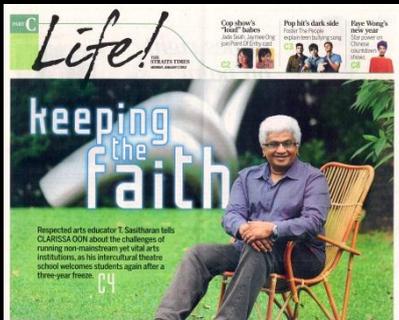
8 Mar 2012

In a report on how the arts are featured in the school curriculum, one of the schools highlighted was Elias Park Primary School. Among their arts-related programmes was one that was conducted in collaboration with ITI. Drama was used in English lessons for two Primary 4 classes over a 10-week period. This was part of ITI’s Singapore School Project, of which Elias Park was one of the three participating schools in the pilot run in 2011. The Project is designed to bring the art of theatre making right into the learning heart of the school-going child as part of the school curriculum, and not just as an enrichment course or a co-curricular activity. From interaction between students, artists and teachers mediated by art, students learn creative skills and discover new awareness of themselves.

The Straits Times: “Keeping the faith”/“Coming out of the cold”

2 Jan 2012

In “the Monday Interview” by Clarissa Oon, Sasi recounted the start of his friendship with Kuo Pao Kun, which later led to the founding of the Theatre Training & Research Programme (TTRP, the former name of ITI). Oon wrote, “A close friendship blossomed between the two dynamic visionaries, both deep thinkers as well as doers totally committed to the arts.” Sasi also talked about the challenges TTRP faced over the years and what kept his spirits up. One was that he would always remember Pao Kun’s words: “Keep the spark alive so that when the conditions improve, the spark would become a flame.” The other was seeing TTRP graduates “making a difference in an unobtrusive sort of way in their own arts communities.” Oon observed that it was “difficult – if not impossible – to separate Sasitharan’s life from his work in the arts”. She noted that Sasi, called “a wise man of the scene” by playwright Tan Tarn How, was regarded by many as an unofficial leader of the arts community.



Kuo Pao Kun Festival 2012

The Theatre Practice commemorates Kuo Pao Kun's artistic achievements with a year-long festival to mark the 10th anniversary of his death. The festival began with the company's Poor Theatre series in March, which featured two shows, *11 – Kuo Pao Kun Devised* and *The Mother Hen Next Door – A Tribute*. The latter was created and performed by ITI alumni Hung Chit Wah and Hung Pei Ching. Productions from Kuo's oeuvre that will be staged by The Theatre Practice include *Lao Jiu: The Musical*, *Day I Met the Prince*, *The Silly Little Girl & The Funny Old Tree* and *Spirits Play*. Also participating in the festival are other ITI alumni and theatre companies with their own productions, taking place in Singapore, UK, India, Hong Kong and Taiwan. They include Peter Sau's *Tell Me When to Laugh and When to Cry* in Singapore and *Transformation*, inspired by Kuo's intercultural vision, by Traditions & Editions Theatre Circus in Hyderabad.

In addition to theatre productions, the festival will present community outreach events, an exhibition and the Kuo Pao Kun International Conference. ITI Director, T. Sasitharan, will be speaking at the conference. For more information on the festival, please visit <http://en.practice.org.sg/kuo-pao-kun-festival-2012/>.

