

# 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*

December 2011

## Events & Speaking Engagements.....



### Asia ICH Performing Arts Forum “In Search of the Future of Intangible Cultural Heritage (Performing Arts)”

25 – 26 Nov 2011

Organised by Hong Kong’s Zuni Icosahedron, the forum was a commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of UNESCO’s recognition of Kun opera and Noh theatre as Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH). ITI Director T. Sasitharan was invited to participate in the forum. He was a speaker at the first session entitled “Preservation and Development of Traditional Performing Arts in Asia: ICH (Performing Arts) Policies and Strategies”. He also participated in discussions at four other sessions, including one on “Asian Perspectives on How the Human Body of ICH Is Mediated by Theatrical Performance Shaped in the Institution of Culture”. Zuni’s founder, Danny Yung, who initiated the forum, saw the exemplary value of ITI with its conception of intercultural actor training using a matrix of traditional theatre systems from different cultures in contemporary theatremaking. He said, “ITI is a mirror for us. It provides a model for ICH.” Held at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, the event sought ideas for the continued preservation and development of two of the oldest performing art forms in Asia. Participants included artists, academics, researchers, presenters, cultural organisations, advocacy groups and UNESCO agencies.

### “Interculturality and the Danger of Trivializing Asian Traditions”

19 and 20 Oct 2011

Paris-based theatre company Pas de Dieux invited Sasi to speak on this topic. The lecture was held at Studio Phillippe Genty for the public, and was followed by one at the University of Paris III: Sorbonne Nouvelle, attended by some 40 students.



## So You Want to Be an Actor – Workshop and Talk

8 Oct 2011

The six-hour workshop presented by ITI enabled young actors to hone their acting skills and gave them an opportunity to experience the training conducted in ITI's full-time acting programme. It was led by Sasi and ITI alumnus Peter Sau. The participants spent the first half working on Movement, Voice, and Acting. The second half was spent on directed explorations of the text or action structure chosen by each participant. The workshop was followed by a talk featuring Peter and another ITI alumnus, Melissa Leung, who spoke about their careers in theatre in Singapore and beyond. Peter is a performer, director and drama teacher, who received the Young Artist Award in 2011 (see [Other News](#)), while Melissa, previously a performer based in Hong Kong, is Director of Education and Outreach of The Theatre Practice in Singapore.

## Other Events.....



ITI participated at events which looked at new social models for sustainability and advocacy. At **ThinkFest 2011**, organised by the Lien Centre for Social Innovation, speakers examined what to leverage on so as to expedite positive social change, what capital or business was missing from the ecosystem and what risks were involved in pushing for change. The Singapore International Foundation's 5th **Ideas for a Better World** forum featured John Elkington, Founding Partner and Executive Chairman of Volans, and a world authority on corporate responsibility and sustainable development. Panelists also included Simon Tay, Chairman, Singapore Institute of International Affairs, and Howard Shaw, Senior VP, Corporate Social Responsibility, Halcyon Group.

ITI was also at **Accelerate@TECHVENTURE**, keeping abreast of technology trends and how to leverage on social media and technology for marketing communications and fundraising. Speakers included Tim Draper and Bijaya Gurung. Tim founded DFJ Global Network, an international network of early-stage venture capital funds with offices in over 30 cities around the globe, and is an advocate for entrepreneurs and free markets. Bijaya Gurung, from Rovio Entertainment, is responsible for the global management of Angry Birds. Their insights were pertinent for entrepreneurs and non-profits like ITI. Many thanks to organiser SingTel for the invitation to ITI Director of Development Josephine Tan.

## Consultancy.....

### Workforce Development Agency (WDA)

WDA extended the tenure of ITI General Manager Goh Su Lin as Chairperson of the CI WSQ (Creative Industries Workforce Skills Qualification) Arts Management Workgroup. The Workgroup provided advice to WDA for the WSQ Diploma in Arts Management as well as in the development, validation and endorsement of the corresponding WSQ competency standards. In the extended phase, the Workgroup was consulted on developing the Curriculum, Training and Assessment Guide for the Diploma. This document will establish the general guidelines and industry standard for potential training providers when designing their training curriculum and assessment plan.

## Other News.....



### Arts Awards 2011

18 Nov 2011

ITI alumnus Peter Sau received the Young Artist Award at this year's Arts Awards. Peter was in the pioneering cohort of students who joined the Theatre Training & Research Programme (TTRP, predecessor of ITI's current Acting Programme) when it was first introduced in 2000. He graduated in 2003 and has since had a successful career in theatre as a performer, director and producer. He co-founded Traditions & Editions Theatre Circus in 2009, a theatre collective comprising graduates of TTRP from 11 countries. He currently serves as its chairperson and was producer for *The Spirits Play* (2009), which also toured India, and *The Juggler's Tale* (2011). In the Award's citation for Peter, he was said to be someone who "comfortably negotiates between cultures and experiments with genres." His "training in varied Asian traditional art forms not only equipped him with strong performance techniques, but also analytical viewpoints and comparative intellect which significantly enhanced his ability to work cross-culturally with local and international artists."