

Phenomenon

CONTACT

CONTEMPORARY DANCE FESTIVAL

15—17 June 2023, 8PM

18 June 2023, 4PM



Message from Festival Director

KUIK SWEE BOON

This year, contact Contemporary Dance Festival returns to the body as a starting point, examining facets of our relationships with our society, culture, environment and nation through the embodied lens of dance. Amidst a heady mix of power, taboos, and chaos, our Festival artists take on the bold challenge of reimagining the possibilities of dance, and the multitudinous self.

This Festival edition features a lineup that is more streamlined in comparison to previous years, but with a greater focus on the precision demanded from the body as a vehicle of expression. In turn, there are also more classes and workshops on offer, packed with a rich breadth of movement approaches, perspectives, and ideas from all over the world.

We hope that this edition offers a reminder on the importance of honing and tuning the instrument that is the body, and the irreplaceable nature of physicality and presence in dance and in performance.

We look forward to your support and participation; we'll see you at the Festival!



Synopsis

Look out, look carefully; what do you see?

PheNoumenon is a work by founding artistic director Kuik Swee Boon that examines the relationship between Man and the natural phenomena that surrounds it.

The free spirit tears away from hegemonic thinking—habits, cultures and systems which hide under the illusory cover of a prosperous modern society. Look around, what lessons can be learnt from the socio-political, technological and climate chaos threatening to upend our entire lives?

Look in, look closely; what have we become?

PheNoumenon was choreographed by Kuik Swee Boon in collaboration with the 2019 cast: Anthea Seah, Brandon Khoo, Ng Zu You, Nah Jieying, Klievert Jon Mendoza and Fiona Thng



Original photo by Bernie Ng

Kuik Swee Boon (Singapore/Malaysia)

Choreographer

Founding Artistic Director and Main Choreographer of T.H.E Dance Company (est. 2008) and its annual contact Contemporary Dance Festival (est. 2010), Kuik Swee Boon danced in Compañía Nacional de Danza (CND) from 2002–2007, performing in works by renowned choreographers such as Nacho Duato, Jiri Kylian, and Ohad Naharin. Prior to CND, he danced in Singapore People's Association Dance Company and Singapore Dance Theatre. A 2007 Young Artist Award recipient, he was nominated for the Beno s De La Danse Award in 2003, and selected for the 2021–2023 Fellowship Programme with the International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA).

Under Swee Boon's direction, T.H.E has become a seminal dance company that trains in his HollowBody methodology, with a repertoire of works that has toured many international festivals. Even when the pandemic hit, his 360° virtual reality adaptation of *PheNoumenon* (2019), amongst other digital projects, made its rounds to Italy and Israel in 2021. Most recently, he was commissioned by Esplanade's da:ns festival 2022 to create *Infinitely Closer* (2022), which also marked the opening of the new Singtel Waterfront Theatre.



Collaborators



Adrian Tan (Singapore)

Lighting Designer

Since graduating from LASALLE College of the Arts in 2006, Adrian has been designing shows for the local and international arts scene. His work spans a wide spectrum, including the performing arts and outdoor light installations. He has worked with most major theatre and dance companies in Singapore, creating design and spaces for operas, dance, and experimental works produced by companies like Singapore Lyric Opera, Singapore Ballet (previously known as Singapore Dance Theatre), T.H.E Dance Company, W!ld Rice, The Necessary Stage, and Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay. Several of his works have received theatre awards, including shows like *Monkey Goes West* and *Another Country* by W!ld Rice, *A Cage Goes In Search Of A Bird* by A Group of People, *BITCH* for M1 Fringe Festival, and *Dark Room*, which was commissioned by the Esplanade as part of The Studios 2016.



Loo An Ni (Singapore)

Costume & Body Art Designer

Loo An Ni is fascinated with the tactility of objects and spaces. This brought her into theatre where possibilities are limitless. She has taken various roles in costuming, from design and construction to wardrobe management. Her costume design credits include *Nine Songs* (Siong Leng Musical Association), *Returning* (assistant design, SIFA 2015 commission), *The Mazu Chronicle* (assistant design, The Arts Fission Company), Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts 2018 commission *Cut Kafka!*, and *Windward Side of the Mountain* (T.H.E Dance Company and Nine Years Theatre).



Kent Lee (Malaysia)

Sound Artist & Composer

Kent Lee is a self-taught multi-disciplinary artist currently based in Malaysia. Having started out with his indie-pop band Fast Food Generation, it was through his frequent sessions with ambient artist, flicā (aka Euseng Seto) that he found himself gravitating towards the experimental side of music. For the past few years, Kent has composed, recorded and performed for various dance and musical theatre productions in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, including award-winning Seni Tiga's multi-disciplinary performance, *Impermanence*; and Singaporean ground-breaking contemporary dance company, T.H.E Dance Company's *PheNoumenon*, *Everyone* and *A Beautiful Day*. Besides his musical outputs, Kent constantly pushes boundaries with other mediums, including a series of performance art under his latest multi-disciplinary collaboration, Shaman Tearoom.

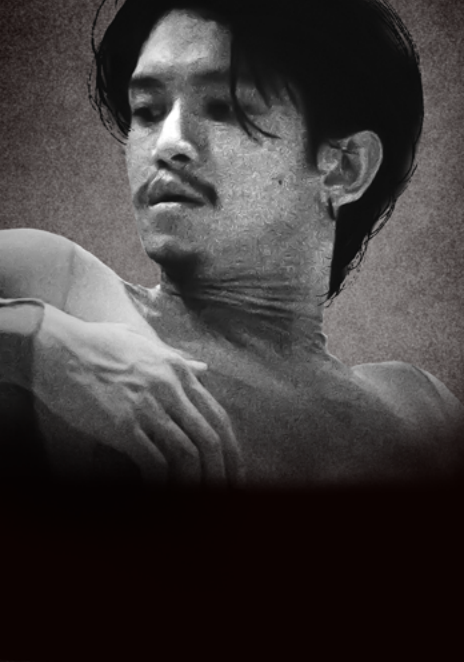
Guo Ningru (Singapore)

Spatial Sound Designer

Guo Ningru was a recipient of the National Arts Scholarship by the Singapore National Arts Council in 2016 and recently returned to Singapore after graduating with an MFA in Sound Design from the University of California Irvine (UCI). Over the past decade, Ning has designed sound for numerous plays and musicals in Singapore and the region. She particularly enjoys exploring immersive spatial audio for theatrical performances. Her Masters thesis, *Going Immersive – Spatial Audio for Theatre*, details the current technologies and methods in Spatial Audio for sound designers to utilise in theatrical performances. Recent sound design and composition credits include *Between You and Me* (Nine Years Theatre), *Miss Julie* (Singapore Repertory Theatre), and *Lungs* (Singapore Repertory Theatre).



Performers



Klievert Jon Mendoza

(Philippines/Singapore)

Dance Artist

Klievert Jon Mendoza graduated from the Philippines High School for the Arts where he received the Outstanding Student Artist Award in 2015. He went on to study at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) in 2018 where he graduated with a Diploma in Dance (Distinction), was named 'Best Graduate', and received the 'NAFA President Award'. Klievert was the first Filipino to compete in the Youth America Grand Prix 2018, and was awarded the Gold Medal in the pre-professional category of the 2014 Concours International De Danse Classique De Grasse in Paris, France. He has also choreographed for the 2020–2021 editions of liTHE. Klievert joined T.H.E Dance Company in 2018.

Fiona Thng (Singapore)

Dance Artist

Born in 1995, Fiona Thng is a dancer, instructor and choreographer who has been exposed to various styles such as locking, hip hop, street jazz, contemporary and jazz. Over the years, she has worked with choreographers such as Ryan Tan, Jeffrey Tan, Zaki Ahmad, and Lisa Keegan. She loves exploring movements and infusing different styles and genres into her work. She joined T.H.E Dance Company in August 2019.



Top: Original photo by Crispian Chan
Bottom: Original photo by Bernie Ng

Haruka Leilani Chan

(Singapore)

Dance Artist

Trained in ballet and Chinese dance from a young age, Haruka's formal introduction to contemporary dance began at her time in School of the Arts. In 2017, she was accepted into the New Zealand School of Dance majoring in Contemporary Dance where she got to train with a prestigious faculty that included Victoria Colombus, Paula Steeds Huston, James O'Hara, Balázs Busa, Daniel Jaber and other guest artists.

In 2021, Haruka joined T.H.E Dance Company as a full-time dance artist, and she has been a part of repertoires and original choreographies by artistic director Kuik Swee Boon and resident choreographer Kim Jae Duk.



Chang En (Singapore)

Dance Artist

Chang En first started dancing classical ballet at the age of 4 and has since worked with established choreographers such as Jeffrey Tan, Albert Tiong and Zaki Ahmad. From 2017 to 2021, Chang En was a part of T.H.E Second Company, allowing her to further build upon her contemporary training. She had the opportunity to perform with T.H.E Dance Company in February 2021, where she trained alongside the company's dance artists under the guidance of artistic director, Kuik Swee Boon. Chang En formally joined T.H.E Dance Company in January 2022.





Franky Drousioti (Australia/Singapore)

Dance Artist

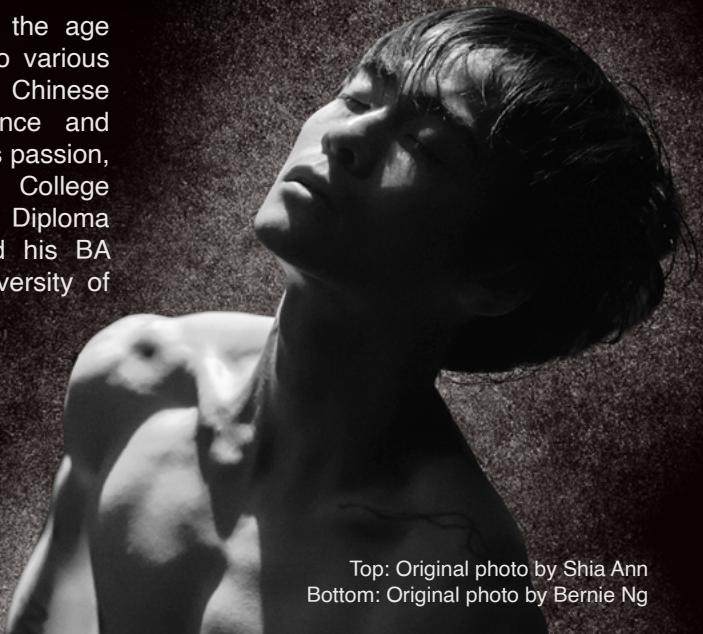
Franky Drousioti is a multifaceted contemporary artist born in Naarm (Melbourne) Australia, and derived from Cyprus, Italy and Ireland. He is interested in the way art and culture can be utilised to build connections. Love, respect and compassion inspire Franky to create spaces that activate and weave human presences and senses.

Franky continues to ignite his crafts by furthering research into the wealth of wisdom behind the body while acknowledging founding artistic creators. He is currently exploring his heritage and what it means to be in today's world. Franky joined T.H.E Dance Company as a Dance Artist in May 2023.

Ng Zu You (Singapore)

Guest Performer

Zu You started dance at the age of 13, gaining exposure to various genres of dance such as Chinese dance, contemporary dance and ballet. To further pursue his passion, he enrolled in LASALLE College of Arts, graduating with a Diploma in Dance, and completed his BA in Dance from Taipei University of Arts. Upon graduation, Zu You was a dance artist with T.H.E Dance Company till 2022.



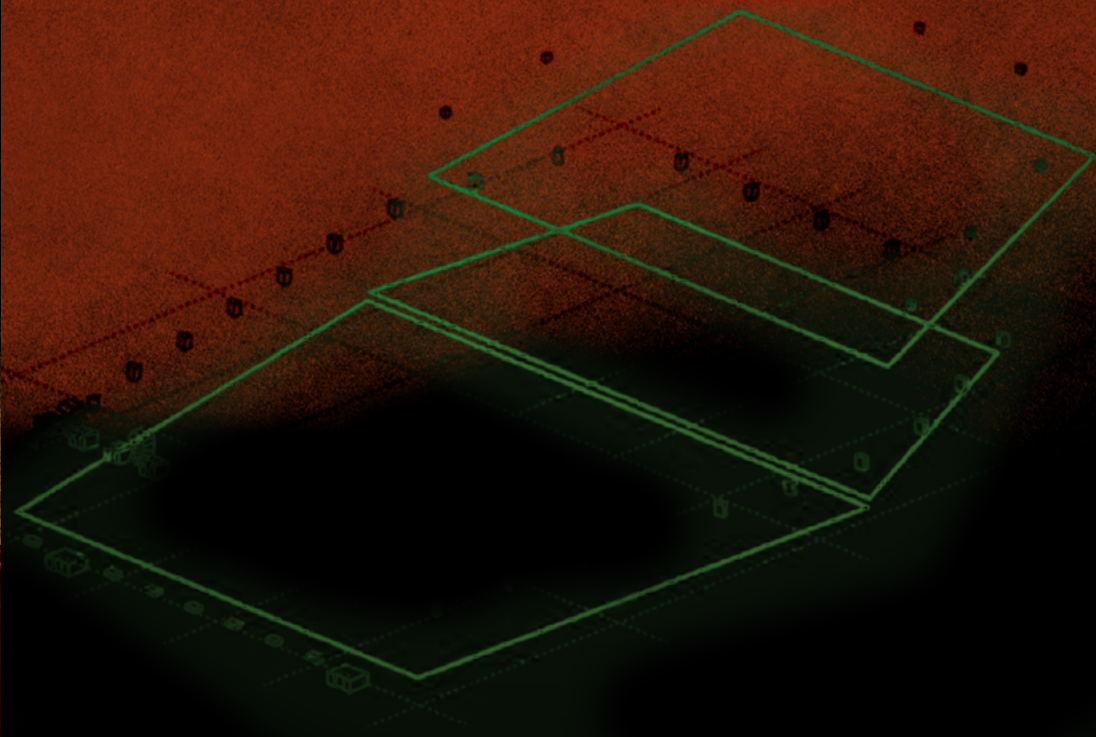


Look out,
look
carefully

Immersive Audio Solutions Partner



PheNoumenon uses d&b audiotechnik's Soundscape to create an unparalleled immersive listening experience. Consisting of a holistic amalgamation of software and hardware, including speakers and an audio processor, the d&b audiotechnik's Soundscape is a comprehensive immersive audio toolkit. The artist and sound designer can accurately express their artistic inspiration aurally by moving the various elements of sound content with multi-layered precision. By doing so, audiences are fully immersed in the sound experience that remains consistent even as they freely walk around the space during the performance, and form an even stronger emotional connection with the work.



Upcoming Shows

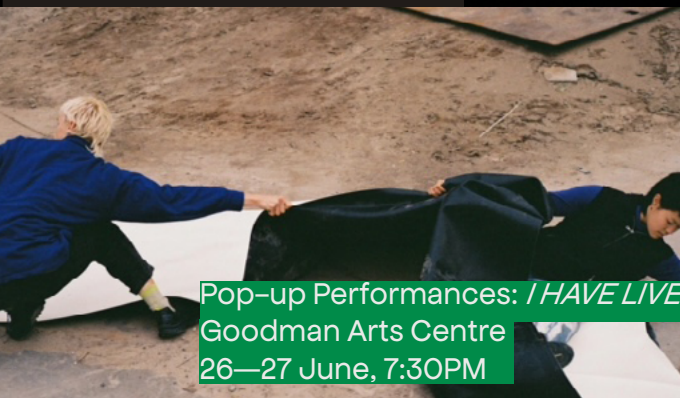
Open Stage

Esplanade Annexe Studio

Programme A: 23 June, 8PM; 24 June, 3PM

Programme B: 24 June, 8PM; 25 June, 3PM

7 works, spread over 2 programmes, present a snapshot of the wide, wide world of contemporary dance. Join these exciting, eclectic artists from Southeast Asia and beyond in tender, playful conversations on our world at large.



Pop-up Performances: *I HAVE LIVED EVERYWHERE BUT HERE*
Goodman Arts Centre
26—27 June, 7:30PM

An improvisatory, site-specific response by Ashley Ho (Singapore/Netherlands) & Domenik Naue (Germany/Netherlands)

Off Stage

T.H.E Dance Studio

26—27 June, 8PM

A familiarly intimate works-in-progress showcase by 2 dance practitioners and emerging artists.



Upcoming Classes

Playing Together by Ashley Ho (Singapore/Netherlands), Domenik Naue (Germany/Netherlands)

All Levels | T.H.E Dance Studio | 20 June, 7:30—9PM

Sharing movement practices based on childhood games, explore the material that construct the performance work *songs for friends: a vinyl*. Through playing with partnering tools, imagination, and improvisation, we will push and pull between care, closeness, and tension.

Awareness, Control and Play by Ng Zu You (Singapore)

Intermediate | T.H.E Dance Studio | 24 June, 10—11:30AM

Having freedom of motion is key to unlocking the potential of our bodies' capabilities. This class will guide us to become more sensitive to and aware of the joints and muscles of the body, as well as develop strength and clarity in executing dynamic and explosive movements. Quadrupedal and simple acrobatic movement will also be introduced as a way to play, explore and train.

Sense Shift by Franky Drousioti (Australia/Singapore)

Advanced | T.H.E Dance Studio | 25 June, 4—5:30PM

Building on and connecting to our kinaesthetic awareness, let us explore the spaces in and around us together, and gain greater understanding of our bodies' instincts, habits and latencies.



[Sign up for classes](#)
and [get your tickets here!](#)

Acknowledgements

Board of Directors

Lee Chor Lin
Foo Yuet Min
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Kuik Swee Boon
Jason Chia
Belina Tan

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Kuik Swee Boon *Founding Artistic Director, T.H.E Dance Company;
Festival Director, contact Contemporary Dance Festival*

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Cover photo by Crispian Chan

Donate

Help us to continue making waves, nurturing artists, and inspiring generations.



Ways to Donate

1. *PayLah! or PayNow:*
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2. *Cheque:*
Please ensure that your cheque is
payable to “T.H.E Dance Company
Ltd.”

Mail to: contact Contemporary
Dance Festival 2023
T.H.E Dance Company Ltd.
90 Goodman Road, Goodman Arts
Centre Block M, #01-51, Singapore
439053

Alternatively, hand your cheque
to us at our front-of-house desk
during any of our festival’s events
from 8—27 June 2023

3. *Cash:*
Visit our front-of-house desk at
any of our festival’s events and let
us know that you’d like to make a
cash donation.

4. *Giving.sg/the-dance-company-ltd*
This is an online platform by the
National Volunteer & Philanthropy
Centre (NVPC), backed by the
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Youth (MCCY). Choose to make
either a one-time or a monthly
donation, or champion our cause
by creating a new fundraising
campaign for us!

By making a donation, you are helping
us to develop an annual contemporary
dance festival in Singapore that:

- inspires our festival-goers, and
the wider community and public
- exposes both the amateur
and professional dancer to a
range of classes, workshops, and
approaches to movement
- responds to the realities of
today’s world through programming
unique, diverse and pertinent artistic
voices and expressions of the body

Thank you for your interest in supporting
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T.H.E Dance Company relies on your
generous support to sustain and grow
our festival programmes. All donations
till 31 December 2026 are entitled to
250% tax deduction because of our
charity’s IPC status.



Please write to us at festival@the-dancecompany.com if:

- you would like a tax-deductable
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- you would like your donation to
be channelled directly to the Festival,
or a specific platform or cost.

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Want to Dance Festival
by Shinehouse Theatre

We hope you've enjoyed your time at *PheNoumenon*.

Tell us your feedback through our form, accessible through the QR code below.



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T.H.E Dance Company is supported by the National Arts Council under the Major Company Scheme for the period of 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2026.

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