

# Asia-Pacific CHANNELS



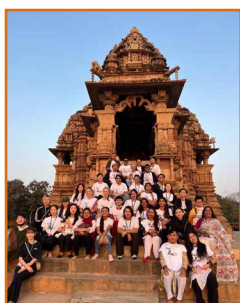


**DanceHub 2023  
Workshop III "Soul Free".**  
Photo provided by Hong  
Kong Dance Alliance.



**World Dance Alliance  
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**The WDA contingent at  
daybreak at the UNESCO  
World Heritage Site  
Khajuraho temples,  
during the Khajuraho  
Dance Festival 2023,  
India.** Photo: Dance  
Alliance India

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## Singapore report

by Lauren Blair Smith

**“Veiled”, performed by Singapore Chinese Dance Theatre (SCDT), choreographed by Neo Jenny, at the 19th Busan International Dance Festival on 3 June 2023, at Haeundae Beach, Busan, South Korea.**

Photo: 양현철



The Singapore dance scene is rising from the pandemic in full force, with many companies, programs, and artists hungry to create and share work locally and abroad. As the new WDA Singapore Executive Committee steps into their roles and gears up for an exciting year ahead, the little red dot is bustling with dance opportunities. Companies and individuals are venturing into stage, festival, educational, and VR explorations.

The Human Expression (T.H.E) Dance Company celebrated its 15th anniversary by beginning the process of securing Intellectual Property rights for its signature movement methodology, HollowBody. This homegrown methodology is a first for Singaporean contemporary dance companies, and the IP securement heralds an advancement of contemporary dance in Singapore. Come June, T.H.E will also present its 13th edition of cont-act Contemporary Dance Festival, inviting audiences to reconnect with their bodies as the basis for dance, as it is for life, through a smorgasbord of performances, masterclasses and workshops by fifty-two dance artists and collaborators from all over the world.

The Presence Project, started in 2019 by dance choreographer and educator Peter Gn, performs deeply personal yet

experimental choreography. In collaboration with artists in music, film and visual art, The Presence Project dancers have so far performed in London, Melbourne, Hong Kong, Gateway Theatre, Esplanade Library, NAFA Campus 3 Studio Theatre and JCube. *Fluid Entities*, performed in February, marked the first time that The Presence Project held its own interdisciplinary concert at the Gateway Theatre Black Box.

In March and April, LASALLE College of the Arts presented the 2023 Diploma in Dance graduating class in the eclectic performance *iSalúd!*, featuring “Normal Life” by choreographer Liu I-Ling and “Allocentric” by lecturer Fairul Zahid. Zahid won the Masdanza Prize for choreography at the 28th Yokohama Dance Collection (YDC) in December 2022 for his piece “Sopan”, performed by students Jocelyn Tay and Natasha Koo. The jury commended the dancers for their maturity, stating that it enhanced the quality of the work.

In May 2023, Singapore Chinese Dance Theatre (SCDT) brought Chinese dance to the community through its annual outreach event, Chinese Dance Fiesta (CDF). With a meticulously curated program including dance performances at community venues and a dance masterclass and talk and demonstration facilitated by Wu Jing from the Yunnan Arts University Affiliated Art

School, China, CDF 2023 reached an estimated number of 15,000 people. The event also gave other local dance groups and primary, secondary and tertiary school dance groups performance opportunities. SCDT is also humbled to have represented Singapore at the 19th Busan International Dance Festival in June in South Korea, where it showcased Artistic Director Neo Jenny's "Veiled" and "Phases Within Our Control."

The relatively new BA (Hons) Performance Making (BAPM) course at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) provides students with opportunities to enhance their performance proficiency in Dance or Theatre. Year 2 students collaborated on *Less Than Half* (January 2023), directed by Adib Kosnan, choreographed by Yarra lleto, and written by Aswani Aswath; this premiered at the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival. NAFA students collaborated in a *Creative Response to Liu Kuo- Sung: Experimentation as Method* at the National Gallery Singapore in April. Year 2 students intervened and filled the space in between dance, theatre and other disciplines in INterSPACE. *KEIa:S* saw the pioneer graduating BAPM cohort interrupt discipline-specific performance through the processes of interdisciplinarity in May.

Singapore-based choreographer and director Zoe Jumabhoy graduated from Boston Conservatory in May. She recently premiered "VERDICT," created on five incredible talents, at the renowned Gibney Theater in New York City.

Emerging choreographer Lauren Blair Smith is quickly gaining recognition on the international dance scene. Lauren Blair Smith Dance Company, established in Singapore in 2020, revolutionizes and



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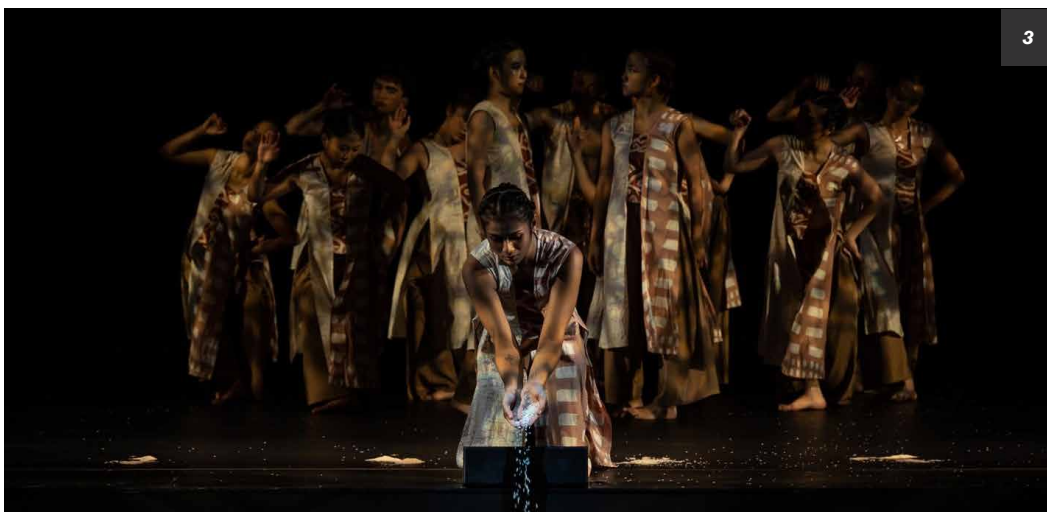
destabilizes typical approaches towards the conventional modern dance industry. The company premiered audience favorite "Intruder" at the Palm Desert Choreography Festival in November 2022. The company's pre-professional dancers will premiere "Ablaze" in The Young Choreographer's Festival in New York City in June. "Intruder" will be performed by the company in the 2023 Washington D.C. International Dance Festival & Choreography Award. Singapore Dance Intensive in August will nurture the next generation of local young artists.

1. "Intruder", choreographed by Lauren Blair Smith, performed by Lauren Blair Smith Dance Company Pre-Professional Dancers at Palm Desert Choreography Festival 2022 in November 2022.

Photo: Lam Photography

2. *KEIa:S*, directed, choreographed and performed by BAPM year 3 students from NAFA, performed 5 to 7 May 2023 at Nafa Studio Theatre.

3. "Kenang", choreographed by Gianti Giadi for *iSalúd!* by LASALLE College of the Arts, performed by the Diploma in Dance students at Singapore Airlines Theatre from 31 March to 1 April. Photo: Bernie Ng



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