

# SOUTHEAST ASIAN CHOREOLAB 2016

28 May – 5 June 2016



Emerging contemporary dance choreographers from Southeast Asia are invited to apply to attend an international facilitated choreographic laboratory at Rimbun Dahan, outside Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 28 May to 5 June 2016.

## Project Format

14 chosen choreographers will live, work and explore together in the arts community of Rimbun Dahan for 9 days, with guidance from our international facilitator, Japanese choreographer Akiko Kitamura.

The program will consist of 7 work days with 2 days of study-tour. Work days will take place in the dance studio at Rimbun Dahan and will consist of sessions exploring choreographic methods, analysis and movement techniques led by Akiko Kitamura and the participants themselves.

Other activities include artists talks by invited guest artists, live performance viewing, and informal socialising and discussions.

The first study tour day will explore the main arts institutions in and around Kuala Lumpur. The second study tour day will give your bodies and minds a break, with a trip to the coastal town of Kuala Selangor, its nature park, monkey-feeding at a historic site, seafood dinner and a river trip to see fireflies.

The exact program may evolve during the choreolab, to remain flexible, organic and response to the specific profiles of the participants.





## Project Aims

To support and enable emerging Southeast Asian contemporary dance choreographers to

1. Adopt new choreographic tools and physical, thematic and conceptual approaches to enrich their artistic practice;
2. Develop regional networks among their peers and with regional dance institutions, for knowledge sharing, future artistic collaboration and touring;
3. Experience works of art, cultures, places and histories beyond their home, to increase international understanding and to help contextualize their artistic practice.

We hope you will have a positive and enjoyable experience at the SEA Choreolab, which will reenergize you and help you reaffirm your commitment to your artistic practice. We would like the choreolab and the networks you establish here to be an ongoing resource to which you may return for inspiration, refreshment, respite and a sense of continual community.

## Who we're looking for

- Emerging contemporary dance choreographers, aged 35 or under, or who began creating contemporary work within the last five years. Artists who create performance art or physical theatre works are also eligible.
- You should have established a professional or semi-professional practice, and have created at least 3 short works or 1 full-length work.
- Citizen of and resident in an ASEAN country (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam) or Papua New Guinea or East Timor.
- Able to communicate functionally in English.
- Excited to increase your knowledge base, share your practice and establish networks with your international peers.

## What the project will provide

- Twin-share accommodation at Rimbun Dahan.
- Entry to all the project activities, including classes, study trips, facilitated sessions, and performances.
- 3 meals per day during the project.
- Transfer to/from airport or bus terminal (subject to conditions).



## What you need to provide

- Return airfare to Kuala Lumpur (the city is well-connected by low-cost airlines).
- Travel insurance (and visa for Myanmar, East Timor & PNG only)
- One session during the project (maximum 1 hour) in which you will lead the other participants through a choreographic method, thematic exploration, dance technique or artistic question. This session will be discussed and developed with the choreolab organisers.

## To apply

Download the application form from here

<http://mydancealliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/SEA-Choreolab-2016-Application-Form.doc>

and return it to [contact@mydancealliance.org](mailto:contact@mydancealliance.org) by **15 February 2016**.

## For questions or more information

Contact Bilqis Hijjas, MyDance Alliance, Malaysia  
[contact@mydancealliance.org](mailto:contact@mydancealliance.org), +6017 310 3769



## About Rimbun Dahan

Rimbun Dahan, the home of renowned Malaysian architect Hijjas Kasturi and his wife Angela, is set on fourteen acres of land outside Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The compound is a centre for developing traditional and contemporary art forms. It features buildings designed by Hijjas Kasturi, including a dance studio, underground gallery, visual arts studios and artists' accommodation, as well as two Malaysian heritage houses, in a Southeast Asian indigenous garden environment.

Since 1994, Rimbun Dahan has hosted over 150 artists in various disciplines, including contemporary dance, visual arts, multimedia, poetry and fiction and arts management, for periods between two weeks and 12 months. The aim of the residency program at Rimbun Dahan is to give international artists an opportunity to experience Malaysian culture and to make connections with the Malaysian arts community. It also aims to help Malaysian artists engage with the global arts market and artists from overseas. For more information, see <http://www.rimbundahan.org/>.





## About Akiko Kitamura, facilitator

Akiko Kitamura was born in 1970 in Tokyo. She learned ballet dance and street dance in her youth, studied dance theory at Waseda University and began to build a professional career as a choreographer in show business while still in her teens. She choreographed many pieces for commercial films, fashion shows and plays. In 1994, she founded her own company Leni-Basso. In 1995-1996, she stayed in Germany for a year as a resident artist.

In 2001 she was invited to the Bates Dance Festival and created *Finks*, one of her best known works, performed more than 60 times worldwide. *Ghostly Round* (2005), choreographed for In Transit organised by Haus der Kulturen der Welt (Berlin), is another of her signature works which has toured internationally. Akiko Kitamura has made many works for international companies, commissions and collaborations such as for American Dance Festival, Group Motion Dance Company in Philadelphia, ACE Dance and Music of Birmingham, and avant-garde rock group Art Zoyd in France.



Akiko started to learn pencak silat in 2004 according to a strong interest in the body techniques of South East Asia, and in 2010 she came to Indonesia to research dance, music and martial arts more deeply. In 2011, she started to collaborate with Indonesian artists including choreographer/dancer Martinus Miroto, Yudi Ahmad Tajudin (Teater Garasi), dancer Rianto, musicians Kill the DJ (Jogja Hip Hop Foundation), Slamet Gundono, and Endah Laras, and a team of Japanese artists to create the To Belong Series, such as *To Belong-cyclonicdream* (2013) and *To Belong/Suwung* (2014). The work explores how two cultures meet, and connects the old world to the contemporary using video, music and dance. It also aims to discover the new generation of the Asian Body: the repository of the traditional and the contemporary worlds.



In 2015, Akiko was an Asian Cultural Council Fellow and a Saison Foundation Fellow. Since 2001 Akiko Kitamura has taught at Shinshu University, Nagano, as associate professor of the Faculty of Arts.

<http://www.akikokitamura.com/>

<http://www.akikokitamura.com/tobelong/english/>

The Southeast Asian Choreolab 2016 is a joint project by

Rimbun Dahan



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