

Taiwan Season 2017

In 2017 the Taiwan Season returns to the Edinburgh Fringe for a fourth consecutive year with some of the best live performances being made on the island today. Drawn from an open call to practitioners of all art forms in Taiwan, and carefully curated by the key Fringe venues Dance Base and Summerhall, the season embraces dance, theatre and puppetry via a handful of engaging and uniquely individual shows:

- ◆ **The dynamic all-female dance 038 (Dance Base) asks what home might mean in an increasingly fast and anxious modern world.**
- ◆ **In The Backyard Story (Summerhall) clothes that competitive neighbours have hung out to dry magically come alive.**
- ◆ **Ever Never (Summerhall) charts with sensitivity and wit the parallel journeys of five strangers whose lives are up in the air.**
- ◆ **Heart of Darkness (Summerhall) is a vivid exploration of the complex and secret inner life of a forgotten woman.**
- ◆ **In Together Alone (Dance Base) the tensions and pleasures that pass between two people are laid bare.**

Colourful, vital, playful, dramatic...the Taiwan Season is all this and more. The programme is produced and managed collaboratively by Tai He Arts LTD, Taiwan and Step Out Arts, UK and funded by the Ministry of Culture, Taiwan.



Venue 22: Dance Base
Time: 15.15 (40 mins)
August 4-6: £10 (£8) / August 8-13, 15-20, 22-27: £12 (£10)
Box office: 0131 225 5525

Titled after the area code for Hualien on Taiwan's east coast, home of the indigenous Pangcah people, 038 asks: 'Where is home? What is home?' Is it the ease we feel, seeing pictures on the projector screen and hearing tribal songs on the stereo? Or is it in the seemingly endless march of modernity? Contemporary but underpinned by traditional spirit, this production by Kuo-Shin Chuang's Pangcah Dance Theatre reflects the anxieties and uncertainties of coming home in search of ourselves and our roots.

Artistic director and choreographer Kuo-Shin Chuang
Dancers Yi-Fan Kao, Jing-Ru Wu, Sowburn, NAMOH ICYANG, Ipun Kanasaw, Hana Kacaw, Yu-Lun Liu, Iwal Masan, Sawmah Karoh
Music director Ching-Hui Cheng
Lighting Designer Yung-Hung Sung
Stage Manager Hsiu-I Lu

'Home is the beginning of a power – a power to initiate life. Hualien, my home, is the place my spirit belongs.' (Sowburn)

'Am I a host or a guest? The longer I am away from home, the vaguer it is.'

(Ipun Kanasaw)
[Quotes from members of Kuo-Shin Chuang Pangcah Dance Theatre]

莊國鑫
原住民舞蹈劇場

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Venue 26: Summerhall Red Lecture Theatre
Time: 11.45am (45 mins)
August 2,3: £6. August 4-6,8-13,15-20,22-27: £10.
Box office: 0131 560 1581.

Summerhall favourites Puppet Beings Theatre summon up the innocence of childhood and inject fresh vitality into children's theatre. In The Backyard Story a red balloon breathes life into clothes that have been hung out to dry by competitive neighbours. Let your imagination run free as jackets, shirts, dresses and trousers make friends and form relationships, reflecting those between parents, children and others. Combining contemporary and traditional puppet arts, the company invite audiences of all ages to exert their imaginations. When you get home, can you make your clothes come to life like these?

Director Chen-Chieh Sun
Lighting Wen-Hsien Hsu
Actors Chiu-Ping Hsu, Mei-Yu Tsao, Chen-Chih Liao, Yu-Han Liu, Chieh-Yu Fang.

www.oopt.com

'Sheer magic' The Stage (on The Paper Play)

'So much of childhood play is about pretending, and this show taps squarely into that.' The Scotsman (on The Adventure of Puppets)

偶偶偶劇團
Puppet Beings Theatre

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Venue 26: Summerhall Cairns Lecture Theatre
Time: 16.25 (60 mins)
August 2: £8. / August 4-6,8-13,15-20,22-27: £12 (£10).
Box office: 0131 560 1581.

Ever Never is a semi-autobiographical performance rooted in the personal journey of Co-coism director Chien-Han Hung. Deeply affected by her father's death and living away from home, on her travels she found the aircraft cabin a mysterious space where the past could be intercepted and fragments of forgotten memories were rekindled and brought to life. Also drawing upon the experiences of playwright Chi-Chun Feng and the production's creative team, in Ever Never the airport and aeroplane become places out of time for five strangers. Up in the air past and present collide and coalesce into delicate and heart-felt physical theatre.

Director Chien-Han Hung
Playwright Chi-Chun Feng
Performers Pei-Chen Yu, Tzu-Yang Li, Pei-Ying Lai, Yuan-Ching Liao, Yi Fan
Production Manager Han-Wen Cheng
Technical Organizer Kang-Hua Chang
Stage Manager Wei-Chen Sun
Set Designer Hsuan-Hsun Cheng
Lighting Designer Fang-Ning Wang
Photographer Anderson Hong
Graphic Designer Chia-Wei Chen

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Venue 26: Summerhall Cairns Lecture Theatre
Time: 15.15pm (40 mins)
August 2,3: £6. / August 4-6,11-13,18-20,25-27: £12 (£10). / August 8-10, 15-17, 22-24: £10 (£8).
Box office: 0131 560 1581.

In Heart of Darkness the Taipei-based Sun Son Theatre fuses a variety of theatrical elements – including bold physicality and feelings, evocative instrumentation and vocals – to explore the inner self. The performance was inspired by choreographer Pei-Fen Low's grandmother, and the notion of human existence gradually gnawed by time. The performance features long hair, symbolic objects, dance, music and ritualistic imagery as a means of emotionally examining a woman's journey through life – her hidden aspirations, expectations, ambitions and fears. It asks if the paths we choose are irreversible, and attempts to understand those women who are slowly forgotten...

Director Chong - Leong Ng
Choreographer Pei-Fen Low
Performers Pei-Fen Low with Hui-Yun Chuang, Wei-Loy Chang, Zi-Yin Chen, Wan-Chun Liu
Stage Design Wei-Loy Chang
Costumes Meng-Chit Tan
Lighting Ya-Wen Chou

身聲劇場
SUN SON THEATRE

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Venue 22: Dance Base
Time: 21.45 (45 mins)
August 4-6: £10 (£8) / August 8 & 9, 11-13, 15 & 16, 18-20, 22 & 23, 25-27: £12 (£10)
Box office: 0131 225 5525

How do we live together? Relationships are complicated, and sometimes beyond words. In Together Alone two (naked) dance artists – Chen-Wei Lee and Zoltán Vakulya – combine their different approaches to movement to explore the tensions, pleasures, sorrows and reconciliations of two individuals attempting to discover harmony. This honest, brave and unpretentious duet uses body and mind to reveal a core of intimate feeling.

Choreography Chen-Wei Lee, Zoltán Vakulya
Dancers Chen-Wei Lee, Zoltán Vakulya
Lighting Hsiao-Pei Liao

'Through the simplicity and beauty of their bodies we witness the crystal-clear purity deep in their souls.'
(Xiang-Jun Fan, Performing Arts Review)

李貞蕓

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