

The
Human
Expression
Dance Company



contset
CONTEMPORARY DANCE FESTIVAL

Dance at Dusk

28 June 2024, 6:30PM
29 June 2024, 6:00PM
30 June 2024, 5:30PM

Original photo by Poey YT



FESTIVAL DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

KUIK SWEE BOON

It has been fifteen years since our first edition of cont·act Contemporary Dance Festival. Two years ago, we reaffirmed our unwavering commitment to supporting the development of contemporary dance in Singapore with the refreshed Festival name of cont·act in English, and reverting to the original name in Chinese. This year's edition in June, "On the cusp", signifies a year of transition for the Festival ahead of the celebration of our 15th edition next year with an announcement of our upcoming plans for the Festival ahead. (Due to the pandemic, the 12th edition of the Festival spanned 2 years.)

This year's programme highlights are a dual world premiere in the double bill, *Elusive*, with works by the talented German and Italian duo Panzetti/Ticconi, and South Korean Kim Jae Duk who has not been in Singapore for four years already, along with a series of works-in-progress by artists from home and abroad. This includes Taiwanese artist Chang Chien-Hao with a familiar German artist Jan Möllmer, Hong Kong's Ong Yong Lock, Israel's Ravid Abarbanel, and T.H.E's senior dance artist Klievert Jon Mendoza creating on T.H.E Second Company.

From our audience's enthusiastic responses to last year's Open Stage, I have reason to believe that many may feel disappointed by the absence of this platform this year. However, please be assured that cont·act's current transformation is to ensure that it can run more healthily and sustainably. While we take some time to reimagine the meaning and position of the Festival, one thing is certain: our efforts and determination to promote and explore how contemporary dance can foster mutual understanding remain unchanged. We have big dreams of continually bettering our community, society, and world, and we want to continue preserving space for artistic freedom and imagination. Enjoy this year's edition, and stay tuned for the exciting updates to come!



Hawa by Klievert Jon Mendoza (Singapore/Philippines)
Original photo by Crispian Chan



Water Bloom by Kuik Swee Boon (Singapore/Malaysia)
Original photo by Crispian Chan

HAWLA (excerpt)

by Klievert Jon Mendoza (Singapore/Philippines)

Hawla, meaning cage, connotes a sense of aggressiveness in modern Filipino culture, and is used to refer to the enclosure of a beast or untamed creature. The Filipino phrase “para kang naka wala sa hawla” describes an individual who animates wildly, or gives in to outbursts of overwhelming fury.

Perhaps, everyone has their own personal cage. What happens when we break free - or will we come to realise that we are caged and yet unable to escape?

Performers:

Chen Chi, Cherie Genevieve Wong, Grace Lim, James Wong, Joanna Oh, Kimberly Long, Kwek Yixuan, Ng Pei Yao, Shaun Lim, Stefanie Teo, Sylvia Ng, Thanaporn Varoonchotikul (Beam)

Sound Artist & Composer:

Kent Lee

WATER BLOOM (excerpt)

by Kuik Swee Boon (Singapore/Malaysia)

Using the environment as a starting point, *Water Bloom* explores the intricate relationship between man and nature. With an evocative score by Singaporean sound artist Darren Ng, the work is filled with both gentle lyricism and an underpinning strength, reflecting the delicate balance of existence as it attempts to capture the beauty of those fleeting harmonies.

Performers:

Cherie Genevieve Wong, Eunice Wee, Irwin Tan, Jack Ng, Zeng Yu

Understudy:

Chen Chi

Rehearsal Assistants:

Lynette Lim, Ng Zu You

Sound Designer:

Darren Ng

With thanks to Jackie Ong for his contributions in the rehearsal process.

CHOREOGRAPHERS

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.



Choreographer:
Hawla

Following his graduation from NAFA, Klievert joined T.H.E Dance Company in 2018. Since then, he has graced stages both local and international, captivating audiences with performances at renowned festivals such as Inteatro Festival, Cross Festival, Florence Dance Festival, and OzAsia, among many others.

Beyond being a performer, Klievert has also ventured into choreography, showcasing his creativity and artistic vision. He took the helm in choreographing the 2020–2021 editions of liTHE, demonstrating his versatility and depth as an artist. Currently, Klievert is poised to embark on a new creative endeavour, given the opportunity to create an incubation work with T.H.E Second Company for the 14th edition of cont·act Contemporary Dance Festival.

CHOREOGRAPHERS



Choreographer:
Water Bloom

Founder and Artistic Director of T.H.E Dance Company (est. 2008) and its annual contact Contemporary Dance Festival (est. 2010), Swee Boon rose from performing in Singapore People's Association Dance Company and Singapore Dance Theatre to becoming the principal dancer of Spain's Compañía Nacional de Danza (CND) from 2002—2007, performing in works by then Artistic Director Nacho Duato, as well as renowned guest choreographers such as Jiri Kylian, Mats Ek, Ohad Naharin and Wim Vandekeybus.

Under Swee Boon's direction, T.H.E has become a seminal dance company with a signature voice derived from training in his HollowBody™ methodology, developed from 2016. This methodology informs Swee Boon's repertoire of works for T.H.E that has toured many international festivals, including a 360° virtual reality (VR) adaptation of *PheNoumenon* (2019) created during the pandemic. His numerous commissions include *Infinitely Closer* (2022) for Esplanade's da:ns festival, which also marked the opening of the Singtel Waterfront Theatre.

Swee Boon is a 2007 Young Artist Award recipient, a 2003 Benois De La Danse Award nominee, and a 2021—2023 fellow with the International Society for the Performing Arts.

COLLABORATORS

Kent Lee is a sound artist and musician living and working in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. A self-taught artist who also delves into different disciplines and artistic practices, he is gravitating towards the experimental side of music — blending acoustics sounds with electronic gadgetry, favouring improvisations over rigid compositions.

Kent has composed, recorded, and performed for dance and musical theatre productions, including the award-winning Seni Tiga's multidisciplinary performance *Impermanence* (Malaysia), which won him the Best Music & Sound Design at the 16th BOH Cameronian Arts Awards 2019.

Having been collaborating with Singaporean contemporary dance company The Human Expression (T.H.E) since 2018, Kent was the music composer and sound designer for *Infinitely Closer* by Kuik Swee Boon and T.H.E Dance Company. Commissioned by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay for 2022's da:ns festival, the work also marked the opening of the new Singtel Waterfront Theatre. In 2023, Kent was invited to be a part of Islands Time-Based Art Festival (ITBA) to present a new solo piece during Singapore Art Week.

Kent is also one part of Shaman Tearoom, a multi-disciplinary art collective exploring the subject matter of stillness and fluxes in life by integrating tea ceremonies, sound and music, and contemporary art.



Sound Artist &
Composer:
Hawla

PERFORMERS

EUNICE WEE (SINGAPORE)



Performer:
Water Bloom

Dance Artist,
T.H.E Second Company

Eunice started dancing in Republic Polytechnic's Modern Dance interest group under the guidance of Zaini Tahir and Marcus Foo in 2008, performing in its annual concerts Momentum and Muse. She joined the NUS Dance Ensemble as an associate member in 2010, participating in their concerts Evocation and The Next Wave. She was a performer with Universal Studios Singapore as a Parade Performer for 5 years. Eunice joined T.H.E Second Company in 2011, and has since performed in the Singapore Writers Festival 2012, MyDance Festival in Kuala Lumpur, contact Contemporary Dance Festival, liTHE, and Bedfellows for the company's 5th anniversary.

GRACE LIM (SINGAPORE)



Performer:
Hawla

Dance Artist,
T.H.E Second Company

Grace began her journey with dance at the age of 5. She studied at School of The Arts and completed the International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme in 2016, during which she also attended the Alvin Ailey Professional Division Summer Intensive in New York. In 2021, Grace completed a BFA (Hons) in Dance with First Class Honours at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA).

At HKAPA, Grace received multiple scholarships including the Schools' Outstanding Student Award. She also worked with international choreographers including Anh Ngoc Nguyen, Yuri Ng, Corey Baker and Zoltán Fodor, and has represented the school on tour. Despite being a ballet major, Grace has had numerous opportunities to be exposed to different genres of dance and enjoys exploring movement with no boundaries.

PERFORMERS

IRWIN TAN (SINGAPORE)



Performer:
Water Bloom

Dance Artist,
T.H.E Second Company

Irwin is a passionate artist who started his dance journey in 2014. He performed with Dance Ensemble Singapore in several productions and events, building a foundation in both Chinese and contemporary dance. During his junior college days, Irwin's flair for contemporary dance deepened under the tutelage of Dan Kwoh.

In 2019, Irwin joined T.H.E Second Company to seek new movement qualities and strengthen his contemporary dance vocabulary. Irwin adores contemporary dance for its versatility and boundless modes of expression. He strives to bring his own unique style to the stage.

JACK NG (SINGAPORE)



Performer:
Water Bloom

Dance Artist,
T.H.E Second Company

Jack has been dancing since 2008, training mainly in contemporary dance and Chinese dance. He has performed with semi-professional companies such as Dance Horizon Troupe, Singapore and joined T.H.E Second Company in 2017, participating in multiple productions over the years. Jack actively seeks out new ways to expand his dance vocabulary and has recently branched out into cross-disciplinary work such as dance films and performances involving live music, spoken word, dance, and live media.

PERFORMERS



Performer:
Hawla

Dance Artist,
T.H.E Second Company

Joanna began her dance training in classical ballet with the Royal Academy of Dance syllabus. She went on to pursue a Diploma in Dance at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. She has danced in works choreographed by Larry Clark, Wallie Wolfgruber, Natalie Maria Clark and Ji Kyungmin. As a member of T.H.E Second Company, she has performed at various platforms, including the Asian Festivals Exchange (2018) and Co.Lab.Asians (2019).



Performer:
Hawla

Dance Artist,
T.H.E Second Company

Kimberly started off with ballet at the age of 6. In 2016, she graduated from School of the Arts with an International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma. Kimberly completed her BA(Hons) Dance Degree at LASALLE College of the Arts in 2019.

Her passion to nurture the youth led her to start her journey as an instructor with Jeté Dance Studio. She also became a Dance Artist with T.H.E Second Company to continue developing herself as an artist. Kimberly has a strong desire to develop her dance pedagogy and style that focuses on fluidity in movements. She hopes to continue carving her path as a dance artist through working with various artists in a deeper, multi-layered artistic voice.

PERFORMERS

KWEK YIXUAN (SINGAPORE)



Performer:
Hawla

Dance Artist,
T.H.E Second Company

Yixuan is a creative dabbler - she holds a BA(Hons) with First Class Honours in Dance and Choreography from Falmouth University (United Kingdom), and now finds herself situated in the intersections of movement-making, writing, managing and teaching, amidst other in-betweens. As a movement artist and collaborator, she has been involved with various performances, exhibitions and research nodes in Singapore and abroad, including working with local dance companies, and she joined T.H.E Second Company in 2022. Her practice stems from curiosities and urgencies towards the self and the world around; she enjoys the keen perspectives that emerge through working with, and from, the body.

SHAUN LIM (SINGAPORE)



Performer:
Hawla

Dance Artist,
T.H.E Second Company

Shaun's first contemporary dance performance was with Dance Horizon Troupe, and his interest in the art form grew under the guidance of Marcus Foo at NTU Contemp{minated}.

A graduate of LASALLE College of the Arts' BA(Hons) Dance, Shaun has performed in works by local and international artists, including Christina Chan, Kuik Swee Boon, Barbara Matijević (Croatia), Aymeric Bichon (France) and Martin Schick (Switzerland). He has also performed at the then M1 CONTACT Contemporary Dance Festival in 2017. He joined T.H.E Second Company in 2018, and was an understudy for T.H.E Dance Company's *Invisible Habitudes*. In June 2019, he was invited to perform with Richard Chappell Dance (United Kingdom) for the work *Silence Between Waves*, which premiered at Berry Head in Brixham and toured to Exeter and Lisekeard.

PERFORMERS

STEFANIE TEO (SINGAPORE)



Performer:

Hawla

Dance Artist,
T.H.E Second Company

Stefanie Teo began her dance journey at the age of 4 with the Royal Academy of Dance ballet syllabus. She has since been involved in various youth dance groups, receiving the tutelage of Melissa Ng, Fiona Thng, and Zaini Mohd Tahir.

Stefanie holds a Diploma in Dance from LASALLE College of the Arts, and has had the opportunity to work with renowned choreographers such as Eisa Jocson, Ery Mefri, Rachel Lopez de la Nieta, Kuik Swee Boon, Dapheny Chen, Susan Yeung, Susan Sentler, Bernice Lee and Jenny Neo. She was the recipient of the Wu Peihui Dance Award for the 2019/2020 academic year, and joined T.H.E Dance Company's Training Initiative in 2021. She is currently experimenting with various dance methodologies to further develop her movement articulation and embodiment.

ZENG YU (SINGAPORE)



Performer:

Water Bloom

Dance Artist,
T.H.E Second Company

Zeng Yu first trained in rhythmic gymnastics during her secondary school days and was introduced to contemporary dance when she joined the NUS Dance Ensemble back in 2011. She joined T.H.E Second Company in 2015, and has since worked with choreographers including Sebastien Ledig, Anna Borrás, Albert Tiong, Kim Bora, Ji Kyungmin, Anthea Seah, Marcus Foo, Nah Jieying, Maybelle Lek and Goh Jiayin.

PERFORMERS

CHEN CHI (TAIWAN/SINGAPORE)



Performer: *Hawla*
Understudy: *Water Bloom*

Apprentice,
T.H.E Second Company

Hailing from Taiwan, Chen Chi started her training in classical ballet, contemporary and Chinese dance at the age of 9 through dance classes conducted at her elementary school. Inspired by her experiences in competitions abroad, she strove to pursue a vocational dance education abroad. Chen Chi was a handpicked recipient for the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) Talent Development Programme in 2021. She has also worked with many reputable choreographers, such as Kuik Swee Boon, Albert Tiong, Dr Filomar Cortezano Tariao, Shen Yi-Wen, Yu Chien-Hung, and Chien Hua-Bao. She joined T.H.E Second Company in 2023.

CHERIE WONG (SINGAPORE)



Performer:
Hawla; Water Bloom

Apprentice,
T.H.E Second Company

Cherie began her dance journey with classical ballet at the age of 7, and was introduced to contemporary dance during her time at School of the Arts (SOTA). In May 2023, she graduated from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) with a Diploma in Dance. During her time at NAFA, she worked with various reputable local choreographers including Albert Tiong, Kuik Swee Boon, Jeffrey Tan, Dan Kwoh and Jenny Neo. She is currently with T.H.E Second Company, and teaches at DANSTUDIO.

PERFORMERS

JAMES WONG (SINGAPORE)



Performer:

Hawla

Apprentice,

T.H.E Second Company

James' passion for dance started at Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) where he received training in hip hop, breaking, contemporary, and acro yoga. He has great interest in choreography as well as in inspiring the younger generations, and has choreographed numerous times for NP dance club D3. He has also sent teams to various street and commercial dance competitions.

He finds that being able to dance is a form of freedom, whereas being good at it is a form of commitment. To enhance his skills, he competed in various dance competitions including Super24, The Royal Dance-Off (Duet), and Paradigm Shift (All-Style- Battle). Through these, he had the chance to interact and exchange ideas with like-minded peers, contributing to his belief that dance not only shapes you as a dancer, but also as a person.

NG PEI YAO (SINGAPORE)



Performer:

Hawla

Apprentice,

T.H.E Second Company

Pei Yao began dancing under the guidance of Benedict Soh in 2008. During his time in university, he joined NUS Dance Synergy under the tutelage of Albert Tiong and Yarra lleto, and worked with them as well as other local and international guest choreographers for numerous productions. Most recently, he performed in *The 11th Hour* (2024) with Decadance Co.

Pei Yao joined T.H.E Second Company in 2024.

PERFORMERS

SYLVIA NG (SINGAPORE)



Sylvia's dance journey began at the age of 3 with classical ballet, evolving through exposure to contemporary dance at School of the Arts (SOTA). She has worked with choreographers such as Silvia Yong and Jeffrey Tan. Motivated by her passion for contemporary dance, Sylvia extended her exploration beyond graduation by joining NUS Dance Synergy where she refined her skills under the guidance of Yarra lleto and Albert Tiong. Sylvia has also taken a pivotal step by joining T.H.E Second Company in 2024.

Performer:
Hawla

Apprentice,
T.H.E Second Company

THANAPORN VAROONCHOTIKUL (BEAM)
(THAILAND/SINGAPORE)



Beam hails from Bangkok, Thailand, and has been dancing since she was 4. Beginning with ballet at the pre-primary level, Beam continued with jazz and contemporary dance at Dance Guru Thailand, where she also had the opportunity to participate in various dance competitions both locally and internationally. Her passion and dream led her to the decision to further her dance education and make a career out of dance, and she is now at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) with a tuition grant from the Ministry of Education.

Performer:
Hawla

Apprentice,
T.H.E Second Company

At NAFA, she was selected for the NAFA Talent Development Programme where she received support for extended training at T.H.E's Training Initiative, which led her to joining T.H.E Second Company in 2024. She has performed in works by Dan Kwoh, Kuik Swee Boon, Albert Tiong, Eileih Muir, and Jacky Yu, among others.

Original photo by Crispian Chan (bottom)

T.H.E SECOND COMPANY

T.H.E Second Company was born in 2008 with an interest in identifying and mentoring aspiring dancers to reach a professional standard of contemporary dance. Today, T.H.E Second Company has expanded its reach to members of the public who display a high aptitude for dance, including serious dance hobbyists and aspiring choreographers.

Unique to the company is its stringent technique training programme — one that is rarely available to individuals outside of a professional dance company. Members are taught by T.H.E's core artistic team and guest instructors, grounding them with a sound level of physical aptitude to tackle the demands of contemporary dance. Members also receive critical professional feedback on their performances and choreographic creations.

The rigorous yet open nature of T.H.E Second Company's training empowers individuals to develop their artistic practice alongside their educational, work and personal commitments. Equally significant are the myriad opportunities for exposure and performance, encouraging members to make the most of their training and to aim for higher artistic excellence.

Members of T.H.E Second Company have performed at cont·act Contemporary Dance Festival, high profile commissions such as Singapore:Inside Out and Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre's inaugural Cultural Extravaganza 2017, local and international festivals including NUS Arts Festival, Singapore Writers Festival and Seoul International Dance Festival, as well as overseas tours with T.H.E Dance Company.



UPCOMING FESTIVAL PROGRAMMES

SHOWS

Elusive — a double bill by T.H.E Dance Company
DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade

28 June, 8:30PM

29 June, 8:30PM

30 June, 7:30PM



A chorus of chaos, a dash for power: witness the dual perspective on our world at present in an evening of two world premieres by celebrated international choreographers.

UPCOMING FESTIVAL PROGRAMMES

FESTIVAL WORKSHOP & SHARING

Happy Body workshop with Ravid Abarbanel (Israel/Spain)

29—30 June, 1:30PM—5:30PM

Advanced level

T.H.E Dance Company's Studio

+ Informal workshop sharing & work-in-progress showing

30 June, 5:30PM

T.H.E Dance Company's Studio

FESTIVAL CLASSES

Of Initiations and Pathways class with Lynette Lim (Singapore)

29 June, 9:30AM—11AM

Beginner level

T.H.E Dance Company's Studio

The Jae Duk Method class with Kim Jae Duk (South Korea/Singapore)

29 June, 11:30AM—1PM

Advanced level

T.H.E Dance Company's Studio

Meet The Floor class with Ravid Abarbanel (Israel/Spain)

30 June, 9:30AM—11AM

Intermediate level

T.H.E Dance Company's Studio

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

30 June, 11:30AM—1PM

Advanced level

T.H.E Dance Company's Studio

PERFORMANCES IN SINGAPORE

Searching Blue

16, 17, 23, 24 August 2024, 6:30PM

ArtScience Museum

Invisible Habitudes

8—9 November 2024, 7:30PM

Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre
Auditorium



INTERNATIONAL TOURS

Invisible Habitudes

29 November 2024, 6PM

National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts,
Weiwuying, Taiwan

Invisible Habitudes

10—11 January 2025, 8PM

Damansara Performing Arts Centre,
Malaysia



Original photos by Thum Chia Chieh (top);
by Bernie Ng (bottom)

SUPPORT US

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

With you, we can:

- 01 Bring diverse, high-quality programmes to audiences in Singapore,
- 02 Create better opportunities for emerging artists and arts leaders to learn and work with us, and
- 03 Represent Singapore on the world stage as a homegrown contemporary dance company.

Your support for cont·act Contemporary Dance Festival and T.H.E Dance Company is greatly appreciated. As T.H.E Dance Company is a non-profit charity organisation with IPC status, all donations till 19 February 2026 are entitled to 250% tax deduction.

To donate, or to find out more, head to the-dancecompany.com/14-donations.

You may also support us by joining our **Friend of T.H.E** membership programme. [More information here!](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Kuik Swee Boon	
Jason Chia	
Belina Tan	

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Kuik Swee Boon	<i>Founding Artistic Director, T.H.E Dance Company Festival Director, cont·act Contemporary Dance Festival</i>
Silvia Yong	<i>Associate Artistic Director, T.H.E Second Company</i>

FESTIVAL & OFFICE TEAM

Athelyna Swee	<i>General Manager, T.H.E Dance Company & cont·act Contemporary Dance Festival</i>
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Ashley Ann Ng	<i>Festival Intern (Logistics)</i>
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PRODUCTION TEAM

Cindy Yeong *Festival Production Manager*
 Sammi Chia *Stage Manager*

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We hope you've enjoyed your time at
Dance at Dusk.

Tell us your feedback through our form, accessible
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