



Elephant House Project Collaborators' Biographies

Ramli Ibrahim
Choreographer/Artistic Director/Dancer
Sutra Dance Theatre, Malaysia



Described by international dance connoisseurs as one of the finest artistes of his generation, Ramli Ibrahim has set stages ablaze from Sydney to Khajuraho and Paris for more than three decades. His rigorous training in ballet, modern and Indian classical dance reflects not only his diverse technical accomplishments, but also his multifaceted approach to the arts. He has been instrumental in transforming the dance scene in Malaysia and is known for single-handedly establishing Odissi as a recognisable and widely appreciated dance form in the country.

As artistic director and principal choreographer of the Sutra Dance Theatre, he has conceived stunning works with a personal signature and distinctive Malaysian identity.

www.sutradancetheatre.com

Anandavalli
Choreographer/Artistic Director
Lingalayam Dance Company, Sydney

Anandavalli is one of those privileged few who have had that rare opportunity to be taught and nurtured by the foremost Gurus in the field of Bharatha Natyam and Kuchipudi (two of the seven classical dance forms of India). Anandavalli migrated to Australia in 1984 and founded the Lingalayam Dance Academy in 1987. In 1996 she established the Lingalayam Dance Company as a permanent base for the graduates of the academy whose aim was to become proficient and professional in this ancient art form. www.lingalayam.com



Alex Dea
Composer/Musician
Indonesia



American-born Chinese composer Alex Dea is trained in Western classical music and received a Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology from Wesleyan University, with a specialty in Javanese gamelan music. As an ethnographer-composer he travels extensively maintaining artistic contacts and observing different music systems. He is involved in new dance collaborations with Indonesia's contemporary and classical artists. Recent work focuses on multi-media performances combining sacred bedhoyo dance video from his ethnographic research.



PROJECT OUTLINE

Elephant House Project An international collaborative initiative

The Elephant House Project places the dance and music of ancient South Asian worlds, at the centre of exploration into the making of new performance artworks that derive from ancient essences of dance and music making. The collaboration aims to build the artistic development of the artists involved, whilst creating interfaces with artists working in other genre, individuals working in other research disciplines, and new audiences.

Four linked streams:

A first stage **creative development** of new work – “*Drowning in Rasa*” as a *Lingalayam/Sutra/Dea* collaboration. *Rasas*, or emotive states, are fundamental to the Indian Classical arts – happiness, anger, disgust, fear, sorrow, courage, compassion, wonder and serenity. Ramli, Valli and Alex will work with dancers from Lingalayam and Sutra, segueing across styles and between ancient knowledge and modern interpretation. To be premiered early 2009.

The *Casula Powerhouse* will present a **viewing** of the material to emerge from the creative development, short performances by the artists, an opportunity to discuss the project and a glimpse behind the scenes.
Sunday 9 March 2008 (at Critical Path, Rushcutters Bay, Sydney).

Critical Path - three day **choreographic and music laboratory** involving Ramli, Valli and Alex working with professional independent artists from a diversity of creative backgrounds .
Mon-Wed, 10 to 12 March 2008

Open symposium hosted by the *Department of Anthropology* and the *Asia Network* at *Macquarie University* involving artists, arts workers, and academics. Taking the theme of the *Guru Shishya Parampara* (teacher student discipleship) participants will share experiences and knowledge regarding the transmission and practice of South Asian dance and music in a contemporary context.
Saturday 1 March 2008.

For further information, images or interviews please contact

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