

Media Kit and Production Pack



SK!N

TerryandTheCuz (Malaysia) &
The Rubix Cube (Australia)

Introduction

SK!N

[Malaysia/Australia]

“Bold and electrifying choreography that conveys a sense of urgent desperation and frustration [...] SK!N did an achingly beautiful job portraying the physical and mental torture refugees are often subjected to”

The Penang Monthly (Malaysia) September 2015

SK!N by TerryandTheCuz

After being registered, processed and stripped off their belongings, the audience are squashed into a 40-foot custom configured shipping container and watch three dancers poetically embody the traumatic cycle of forced migration, detention, deportation and human trafficking. Then the container moves and the audience, startled, are shipped off and dumped at a previously unknown location around the city.

Inspired by actual events, TerryandTheCuz in collaboration with lead artist Ashley Dyer, pen a compelling script that brings audiences into the world of human trafficking through an experiential journey that is both engaging and insightful. 'SK!N' aims to raise awareness and educate the audience about the malignant practises of this trade.

Listed as the 'Highlight of the Festival', our Australian Premiere of 'SK!N' enabled us to successfully trial, test and showcase all aspects of the show; including the safe moving of a live audience inside a custom configured shipping container. From all the glowing responses, reviews and feedback from industry professionals, local media, festival-goers, human rights advocates and migrant community partners; we were thrilled to see that the work had successfully evoked a visceral and empathic response from our audiences. The unique performance concept, bold design and stunning choreography, effectively managed to uncover questions about human dignity and the commodification of people whilst reminding the audience of their attitudes and responsibilities towards human rights.

Our overarching aim is to infuse real stories, technology and movement to create a new, fresh and bold appreciation for contemporary performance whilst engaging the global audience on the serious issues surrounding this pandemic. General Information

Duration: The show runs for approximately 90 minutes, with no interval.

Language: 'SK!N' will be performed in English

Company Profile

TerryandTheCuz [Malaysia]

Formed in 2004 with the intention of providing artistic solutions for the Performing Arts, TerryandTheCuz has since established itself as a company with a truly global appeal. We have designed, written, directed and created work for theatre, dance, puppetry and art installations for companies, governments and festivals across Asia, America, Europe and Australia.

In Malaysia, TerryandTheCuz have written, designed and produced 'My Lingam Speaks', 'Klue,Doh!', "The Bee Project", 'Flatland; An Adaptation in Dance' and 'Welcome2Flatland' an Interactive Public Art Installation inspired by the work in dance. We are currently working on the American premiere of 'The Bee Project', a contemporary Malaysian adaptation of Hamlet, a graphic novel/augmented reality project titled 'UnderKL' and 'SKIN' a new work in contemporary dance, which recently premiered in Kuala Lumpur and at the 2016 Oz Asia Festival in Adelaide, South Australia.

TerryandTheCuz strives to write, create and design intelligent, humorous, passionate, visceral performance art that reflects and engages with our changing society, and to attract newer and more diverse audiences to the arts. We seek to constantly develop and extend our collaborative performance-making practice with artists both local and abroad, to find new forms, voices and narratives in all our endeavours.

The Rubix Cube [Australia]

The Rubix Cube, is a company designed to foster collaboration, and increase the professional development of Artists in Australia.

Based out of Melbourne, the company provides design, technical, logistics and safety solutions on a wide range of projects and has excess to a key pool of talent who have worked all over Australia and around the world on works ranging from large-scale government sponsored events to experimental fringe theatre. Our collaborators have created and worked on projects such as 'Avast and Avast II The Welshman Commeth', 'And They Called Him Mr Glamour' and 'Doku-Rai' projects in theatre by The Black Lung Theatre. 'Thyestes' by The Hayloft Project, 'My Lingam Speaks', 'Klue,Doh!', 'The Bee Project', 'Flatland; an Adaptation in Dance' and 'Welcome2Flatland' cross-collaborative performance projects with TerryandTheCuz in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. 'Welcome To Thonnet' a book launch by Martin Blum for the Melbourne International Comedy Festival 2012 and The Brisbane International Festival 2013. 'Tidefolk Fiction' a contemporary dance performance by James Welsby in conjunction with The City of Melbourne and Melbourne Aquarium. 'Goodbye CSIRAC' and 'Physical Fractals' contemporary works in performance art as part of the 2012 Next Wave Festival, 'Come Away' and 'SONG' experiential works in performance by Ranters Theatre and 'In Two Minds' and 'Rainbow Vomit' for Dance North.

The Rubix Cube most recently collaborated with TerryandTheCuz on 'SKIN', a contemporary dance work based around the true stories about Human Trafficking and Smuggling. The work recently premiered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and at the 2016 Oz Asia Festival in Adelaide.

Key Artist Profile

Creative Team

Govin Ruben *(Director/Designer)*

Govin Ruben is a Malaysian/Australian performance maker and designer. Since graduating from the Victorian Collage of the Arts in 2005, Govin has collaborated and created highly successful artworks in dance, theatre, puppetry and installation art in; and with, leading artists from Asia, America, Europe and Australia. In recent years, Govin have initiated and steered 5 new international collaborations. These include; 'My Lingam Speaks', 'Klue,Doh!', 'The Bee Project', 'Flatland' an adaptation in dance and 'W2F', an interactive public art installation. As a designer, He has worked on critically acclaimed projects such as: 'Colours of Malaysia 2007 – 2009' for Tourism Malaysia, 'Black Box' for the 2007 Prague Quadrennial, 'Room 222' for the Australian Pavilion at the 2010 World Expo. 'Vs Macbeth' for Sydney Theatre Company, 'Bali Agung' for Taman Safari Indonesia, 'Thyestes' for Belvoir', 'Doku Rai' for The Black Lung and 'Song' for Ranters Theatre.

Govin has been nominated for 4 Greenroom Awards, a New York Innovative Theatre Award, a Royal Welsh Theatre Award and is a 3-time winner of the BOH Cameronian Arts Award in Malaysia.

Ashley Dyer *(Lead Artist)*

Ashley Dyer is a choreographer/performance maker based in Melbourne. His work most often merges a political enquiry with the dancing body and custom created spaces/objects. These include but are not limited to, 'No More Public Space Only Public Order (Water Cannon)', for Salamanca Arts Centre 2016, The Chat for La Boite Theatre 2015, 'Nothing To See Here...(Dispersal)' for FOLA 2014, 'Life Support' for Dance Massive 2013, 'Close Encounters' for Splendour in the Grass 2011 and Federation Square 2012, 'And then something fell on my head...' for Next Wave Festival 2010.

In 2013, he was awarded a two year Creative Australia, emerging artist Fellowship by the Australia Council for the Arts.

David Franzke *(Sound Designer)*

Multiple Helpman and Greenroom award nominated composer and sound designer J. David Franzke lives and works in Melbourne. His work spans film, theatre and visual art installations as well as the production of numerous albums, both as solo works and in collaboration with other composers and sound artists. He has worked with many of Australia's preeminent theatre directors, visual artists and composers; and has collaborated with Cologne-based composer Bernd Friedmann since 1996 on various album projects. David's credits for sound design and composition in theatre include 'SONG', 'Intimacy' and 'Holiday' for Ranters Theatre, 'The Odyssey' and 'Pompeii L.A.' for Malthouse, 'The Beast...' 'Australia Day', 'The Joy of Text', 'The Grenade', 'August: Osage County', 'Don Juan in Soho', 'Birthrights' and 'The Recruit' for The Melbourne Theatre Company, 'The Wonderful World of Dissocia' for Sydney Theatre Company, 'Aviary' for BalletLab, 'Venus and Adonis' for Bell Shakespeare, 'The Dictionary of Imaginary Places' for Melbourne Festival and Anna Tregloan's 'Skin Flick', for which he received a 2000 Green Room Award for outstanding contribution to design and technology in theatre.

Andrew Bellchambers *(Design Consultant)*

Andrew is a 2006 design graduate from the Victorian College of the Arts and currently works as the Technical Director (Design) for the Melbourne Theatre Company. Recent Set and/or Costume designs include 'Midnight Son' and 'The Play of Daniel' for Victorian Opera, 'Carmen' for Melbourne Opera, 'Kismet' for The Production Company, 'Hamlet' for Sydney Theatre Company, 'Ninety', 'Bombshells' and 'The Pillowman' for Melbourne Theatre Company. 'The Clean House' and 'Ninety' for Queensland Theatre Company. 'The Clean House' for Blackswan State Theatre Company. 'The Winter's Tale' for Eleventh Hour Theatre. 'Grace' for Deckchair Theatre & Perth Festival. 'Rabbit Hole' for Redstitch Theatre. 'The Merry Widow', 'Cav & Pag', 'Tosca', and 'I Puritani' for Melbourne Opera. 'Starting Here Starting Now' and 'Another Opening Another Show' for Manilla Street productions. Other work includes 'Joining the Chorus School Spectacular Barnum' 2009 and design consultant for 'Top Acts' Concert 2007, 2008, 2009 for Education Victoria.

Key Artist Profile

Cast

Suhaili Micheline (*Performer*)

A trained dancer and performer, Suhaili holds a Bachelors Degree in Dance (Hons) from The Victorian College of the Arts (VCA), Melbourne. Her work and determination at the VCA college earned her numerous awards including 'Outstanding Dancer for the class of 2005'. She returned to Malaysia in 2007 and was a top 4 finalist in the 8TV Reality Dance Show 'So You Think You Can Dance' Season 1. In the Show's second season she returned as choreographer. Suhaili was awarded 'Best Featured Performer' in her new work '2=1' and 'Most Promising Artist of the Year' at the 2009 Boh Cameronian Arts Awards. In 2010, She represented Malaysia in Hollywood at The World Performing Arts Championship and won two 'Grand Championship of The World' Titles in dance. Over the years, Suhaili has toured extensively, being invited to perform in dance festivals and art residencies in countries such as USA, Australia, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Philippines and Korea. Recently, She was invited as one of the featured artist at the 4th Marketplace of Creative Arts (WIEF), Bandung 2012 and most recently worked on Lina Limosani's 'A Delicate Situation' which was presented by the Adelaide Festival Centre.

Suhaili was awarded the Best Choreographer award at the 11th BOH Cameronian Arts Awards for her work on 'Flatland; an Adaptation in Dance'.

Wong Jyh Shyong (*Performer*)

Wong Jyh Shyong Received his M.F.A. from Graduate Institute of Choreography, Taipei National University of the Arts (TNUA) in 2013 and his B.F.A. from The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts with First Class Honors in 2005. Wong was previously a dancer with Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan from 2005-2009, where he toured with the company around Asia, United States and Europe. Since leaving Cloud Gate in 2009, Wong has worked locally and internationally as a contemporary dancer, choreographer, rehearsal assistant, dance teacher and design artist. Wong is the founder of the JS Dance Theatre Company and is also the Artistic Director of the Damansara Performing Arts Center in Kuala Lumpur.

Wong has most recently received the Best Featured Performer awards for 'Fragile' and 'Double Punctum' at the 9th and the 11th BOH Cameronian Arts Awards in Malaysia.

Lee Ren Xin (*Performer*)

Lee Ren Xin holds a BFA (in Dance) from the Purchase College, State University of New York and upon graduation, danced with the LeeSaar Company in NYC. Returning to Malaysia in 2013, she has since established herself as an Independent Dance Artist. She was a recipient of the KakiSeni Mentor-Mentee Grant 2013 (through the National Department of Arts and Culture) and the Krishen Jit Astro Fund 2014. Dubbed as Malaysia's most exciting new talent, Ren Xin has been invited to perform solo alongside accomplished local musician Ng Chor Guan in 'MUSIC=DANCE' and presented her own Two Minute Solo curated by Marion D'Cruz in the DPAC Arts Festival and also does performance projects with the DPAC Dance Company. Ren Xin has presented her own choreography 'Some Days' in MyDance Festival 2013 and 'She' in TARI 2014. Outside of Malaysia, her works have been presented in the National University of Singapore Arts Festival (2010, 2011), International Young Choreographers Project 2010 in Taiwan, liTHE (2013, 2014), and The Esplanade da:ns festival 2013, amongst others.

Ren Xin is a recipient of the 2013 Kakiseni Emerging Artist Mentor-Mentee Grant as well as the 2014 Krishen Jit ASTRO Research Fund.

Original Production Gallery



Teaser Video can be found on: <https://vimeo.com/175990652>

Trailer Video can be found on: <https://vimeo.com/186110217>

Full Technical Folder: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/cj8x5rhtwzit5em/AAAXIZw-qkyjeG6DgInvo5maa?dl=0>

Online Media and Reviews

The Star Daily (Malaysia)

"Theatre's raw answer to Human Trafficking issues"

Qishin Tariq

<http://www.star2.com/culture/arts/2016/08/20/theatres-raw-answer-to-human-trafficking-issues/>

GLAM-Adelaide (Australia)

"There are many ways to judge art's success, but a vital one is that it moves the audience. By this measure and many others, SK!N is a highlight not just of OzAsia but of the entire year."

Alexis Buxton-Collins

<http://www.glamadelaide.com.au/main/ozasia-festival-review-skn/>

Kryztoff.com (Australia)

"Brave, highly rewarding, SK!N embraces what it means to reach the boundary of our existence. Surely, the highlight of this year's OzAsia."

Peter Maddern

<http://www.kryztoff.com/RAW/?p=9587>

Scenestr.com (Australia)

"There is no greater tragedy than the unexamined life; 'SK!N' exposed all my fictions, flashing a spotlight on the darker reaches of my soul." 5 STARS

James Murphy

<http://scenestr.com.au/arts/sk-n-ozasia-review>

The Clothesline (Australia)

"The choreography is haunting, and the dancers evoke the slow, steady breakdown of self that refugees and the dispossessed suffer in captivity." 5 STARS

Matt Saunders

<http://theclothesline.com.au/skin-ozasia-festival-review/>

The AUReview (Australia)

"SK!N is an experience unlike any other and a powerful and confronting event that leaves the audience thinking long after it is over."

John Goodridge

<http://arts.theareview.com/reviews/oz-asia-festival-review-skn-by-terryandthecuz-is-an-experience-unlike-any-other-the-maj-gallery-adelaide/>

Original Show Copy and Credits

Show Copy

"This provocative and interactive show asks the Audience to step inside the 'Skin' of a refugee. Only in this way, can we truly empathise with the suffering, indignity and powerlessness of their journey. It challenges us to do more to help"

Richard Towle, UNHCR Representative to Malaysia

SK!N is the boundary of our bodies. It is the membrane that helps us distinguish what is us from what is not us. It is the un-crossable border between our bodies and the other's alien body. Paradoxically, in the moment of contact between two bodies, when we attempt to go beyond our borders we are affronted by a stronger affirmation of our own identity.

SK!N is about migration and how, when and why we are allowed to freely cross borders whilst others have their movements restricted. It is about the lengths that people go to in order to survive or better their lives. It is about the dehumanizing trade of people: it's winners and losers. It is about how we, the privileged, actively and passively, consciously and subconsciously, benefit from and then distance ourselves from the plight of others.

By coming into contact with the other, by coming face-to-face with the other, our identities are forged and given meaning. With this work, we try to bring the audience into contact with the other so that they better confront themselves. This has been our process as much as we hope it is the audiences'. We do this in order for us to better understand what we share and what we don't share, and ultimately whether those differences are justified

Show Credits

Concept Direction Design: TerryandTheCuz

Project Management: The Rubix Cube

Lead Artist: Ashley Dyer

Sound Designer: James David Franzke

Design Consultant: Andrew Bellchambers

Community Partner: TENAGANITA (Malaysia)

Performer: Wong Jyh Shyong

Performer: Suhaili Micheline

Performer: Lee Ren Xin

Production Manager: Melissa Teoh

Technical Director: Geordie Barker

Stage Manager: Joyce Tay

Mechanist: Bharani Rajaselvam

Sound Design Associate: Brendan Lim

Research Assistant: Rosheen Fatima Binti Abdul Mutalip

Production Associates: Sharifah Aleysha & Cheryl Tan