

KØBENHAVNS INTERNATIONALE TEATER

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Press Information from Copenhagen international Theatre, 20th July '03

THE IMAGES OF ASIA, the biggest cultural event in Denmark 2003

The 8th August sees the launch of Images of Asia, the biggest cultural event in Denmark this year. A wide range of organizations headed by the Danish Centre for Culture and Development (DCCD), collaborate on the nationwide programme. Copenhagen International Theatre is in charge of co-ordinating the programme in Copenhagen. Theatre- and dance-performances, exhibitions and concerts will focus on people in the Asian city and media: the stage is set for a tour de force through modern Asia!

OPENING EVENT

An elaborately staged concert on 8th August (9.15 PM) in the middle of the harbour entrance will commemorate the official opening of the festival. On a floating stage with bamboo sculptures from Bangladesh, some of the big stars of world music will perform, e.g. Trilok Gurtu heading the Korean percussion ensemble SamulNori, the equilibristic throat singers Huun-Huur-Tu from Tuva and of course Gurtu's own band. All three groups may subsequently be enjoyed separately at concerts in Copenhagen. In September the big percussion phenomenon Yamato, from Japan, visits MusikTeatret Albertslund, while the uncrowned queen of Sufi, Abida Parveen, visits Denmark for the very first time, for a concert at Vega.

ASIA IN THE HABOUR

Copenhagen harbour provides space for the large-scale project Asian Waterfront Copenhagen, where Asian artists and culture personalities, resident in Denmark, have created a market, restaurants, concerts, children's activities and a multitude of other things. A canal tour with a difference, Asian Dreams, takes the audience on a tour of one of the festival's more unique events. Here you can meet a number of fabulous performers, injecting new life into the harbour in between the spire of Børsen and the Little Mermaid.

EXHIBITIONS

A number of the exhibitions centre on modern Asia, when Kunstforeningen Gl. Strand, shows "everyday – contemporary art from Japan, China and Thailand", featuring for example one of today's biggest photo artists, Araki. But they will also immerse themselves into proper people's relations to life and religion in an Asian city, when Nationalmuseet shows "Shakti – God is a Woman", about Calcutta's religious festival for the Hindu Goddesses Durga and Kali.

PERFORMERS AND CONCERTS

The festival presents one of today's' most celebrated dancers, Akram Khan, the Chinese avant-gardes in Living Dance Studio, who are compared with Pina Bausch, and the progressive Japanese company Leni-Basso. Especially one performance with overwhelming costumes and tense symbolism will display Asian self-conception, when the hyper aesthetic City Contemporary Dance Company performs "365 Ways of Doing & Undoing Orientalism", our consciousness is confronted with humour and shrewdness alike.

Finally a number of open-air activities and open-air pictures will feature in Copenhagen under Images of Asia.

The festival runs in Copenhagen from the 8th August until 6th September 2003.

Programme and website:

The programme can be found on www.kit.dk or may be ordered free on +45 33 15 15 64 or on info@kit.dk

For further information and press photos please contact:

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