

© 李建霖



Jan MÖLLMER

A Dancer's Odyssey

11.29 Fri. 20:00

11.30 Sat. 20:00

Weiwuying Crown Hall 3F (East Terrace)

Duration is 45 minutes without intermission.



National Kaohsiung
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

WEI WUYING

衛武營 國家藝術文化中心
國家表演藝術中心 National Performing Arts Center

Synopsis

A Dancer's Odyssey talks about the body as a space of history, marked by concepts of family, society, necessity and desire. It puts into question if a body could become a portraiture of its own story and where its story starts. Inspired by finishing the sentence "*I became a dancer because...*" German choreographer Jan MÖLLMER and six dancers from the South of Taiwan invite spectators to explore their roots and stories on why they dance.

Anchored in the center of an audience which sits in a circle the dancers move, talk and chat with them. They search to shorten the distance between performer and spectator trying to lay open their personal dance story. Using performance material created from visits to places of their own memory such as family homes, their first dance studios or birth places, they attempt to establish a space in which a true telling of their story is possible.

The performers ask:

What if my body could be a portraiture of my own history? And where does this history start? And how do I tell YOU about it? Jan MÖLLMER dedicates this work to challenges of communication in the social context of society. Times of political distress, wars and global pandemics make it important for us to put our histories out there and to put them to discussion. "The more we are governed by political leaders and have no control over our destinies, the more we need to tell stories to each other about who we are, why we are, where we come from, and what might be possible". – Alan Rickman

Article

In Crown Hall East, two performances create a striking dialogue: *Papak* explores our personal histories through movement, while *A Dancer's Odyssey* examines dance through cultural memory.

A Dancer's Odyssey, created by Jan MÖLLMER, begins with a simple yet profound question: "I became a dancer because..." Working with six dancers from Kaohsiung, MÖLLMER traces their origins - from birthplaces to their first encounters with dance - weaving together a tapestry of personal journeys. True to its title's epic implications, the piece extends beyond individual narratives. In an era of political complexity, MÖLLMER suggests these personal stories carry particular resonance, offering powerful connections across divides.

Papak, a TAI Body Theatre production choreographed by Watan Tusi, introduces the innovative concept of "foot notation." Similar to musical scores that guide musicians, foot notation maps the dancers' paths across the stage. This unique training method, developed by TAI Body Theatre, transcends individual indigenous traditions. The word "Papak" itself carries multiple meanings - human feet, animal feet, or the sound of footsteps. Breaking from the conventional conservatory dance styles, the piece reveals Watan Tusi's years of artistic research. As a scholar-choreographer known for his thoughtful approach, Tusi sees dance as more than movement - it's a lens through which communities understand their experiences. The piece weaves in the history of the Truku people, from their forced migrations to their weaving traditions. Each step in *Papak* resonates with cultural meaning.

About the Artists



Jan MÖLLMER

Jan MÖLLMER, born and raised in Wuppertal, Germany, began dancing after being part in the production of *Kontakthof-with teenagers* by Pina BAUSCH. He studied dance at the Folkwang University of the Arts in Essen. Jan MÖLLMER joined the Folkwang Tanzstudio Company and is a guest dancer at Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch since 2013.

He then collaborated with theater director Dimitris PAPAIOANNOU and performed his work *Transverse Orientation* from 2020 to 2022, touring over 30 cities worldwide. Together with Taiwanese choreographer TIEN Tsai-wei, he founded the dance company Peculiar Man which produces and spreads their choreographic work in Germany and abroad. Since nearly 10 years Jan MÖLLMER has deepened his artistic research between Germany and Taiwan, including collaborations with Taiwanese dance and circus companies, art institutions and universities.

Creative and Production Team

Choreographer | Jan MÖLLMER

Lighting Designer | Faye HUANG

Rehearsal Assistant | CHEN Ying-chi

Dancers | WANG Yu-jie, LIN Man-ting, KE Gui-ting,
KO Kai-feng, CHEN Pin-ni, HUANG Cheng-wei

Special Thanks: Goethe-Institut Taipei



臺灣舞蹈平台
TAIWAN DANCE
PLATFORM

Weiwuying Online Questionnaire

