

## Press Release

### **Unfolding Kafka Festival**

12<sup>th</sup> November – 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015



We would like to invite everyone to take part in the “Unfolding Kafka Festival, a cooperation between the Goethe-Institut Thailand, World Performances @ Drama Chula, the Japan Foundation and 18 Monkeys Dance theatre, which runs from November, 12<sup>th</sup> until December, 3<sup>rd</sup>.

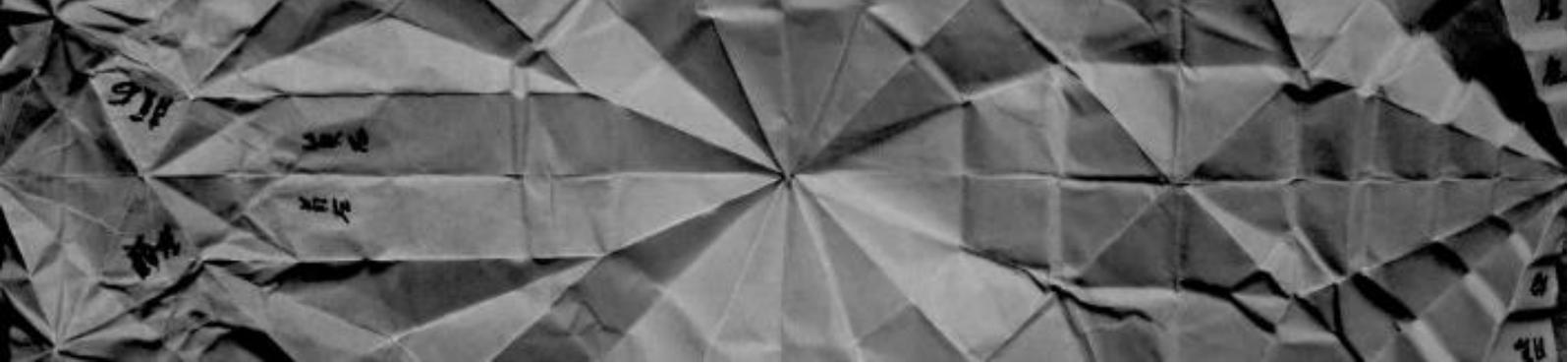
The aim of the festival is to provide a platform for outstanding artistic trends in the field of contemporary performance in Thailand. The persistent fascination with Kafka's style and his mysterious character offers considerable scope for interpretation. In a natural and rational way, Kafka combines obscure and surreal scenarios with the real world; a motif which is used today in a variety of literary and cinematic formats.

Yoko Seyama, Isabelle Schad, Laurent Goldring, Marika Rizzi and Jitti Chompee will give performances that intend to challenge the Thai audience to explore various interpretations of Kafka's works through visual art and choreography, in the form of solo performances and examples of art installation inspired by *Der Bau* (The Burrow), *Die Verwandlung* (The Metamorphosis) and *Brief an den Vater* (Letter to his Father).

The program, which has given birth to important cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary collaboration, will certainly provoke creative exchange between arts communities. Moreover, we would like to offer the local audience, students and artists an exclusive opportunity to participate in the workshops and discussions after the performances.

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## **Festival Program**

- **Performance and Art Installation**

### **The Silence of Insects** by Yoko Seyama

Exhibition: 12 to 17 November (5:00 – 8:00 pm), The Rose Hotel Bangkok, Admission Free

Live performance: 14 to 16 November 2015 (7:00 – 8:00 pm daily), The Rose Hotel Bangkok, THB 400/THB 250 (for students)

Origami is the traditional Japanese art of paper folding, The goal of this art is to transform flat sheet of paper into Kafka's creature, becoming a huge installation, through folding and sculpting techniques, and to pay much attention to "space" where Kafka's protagonist's body is able to move.

Unfolding Kafka's metamorphosis will pose the question of how choreography, physical movement, Origami installation and visual art interact and which processes facilitate a translation from one to the other. Conceived as a performance installation, this new work focuses on the interaction between space and the human body, choreography and dance, sound and visuals, interaction and participation. The audience becomes a part of the work.

One of the many ways of interpreting The Metamorphosis is to see it as being about a person who puts forward flimsy little legs and a useless mouth as the signs of a total incapacity to bear the burden placed upon him. He literally puts up a protective shell around himself as an expression of his refusal to take responsibility any more. In this state he finds some sort of hope for peace. But the marvel of The Metamorphosis is that it has as many meanings as it has viewers.

### **Der Bau** by Isabelle Schad and Laurent Goldring

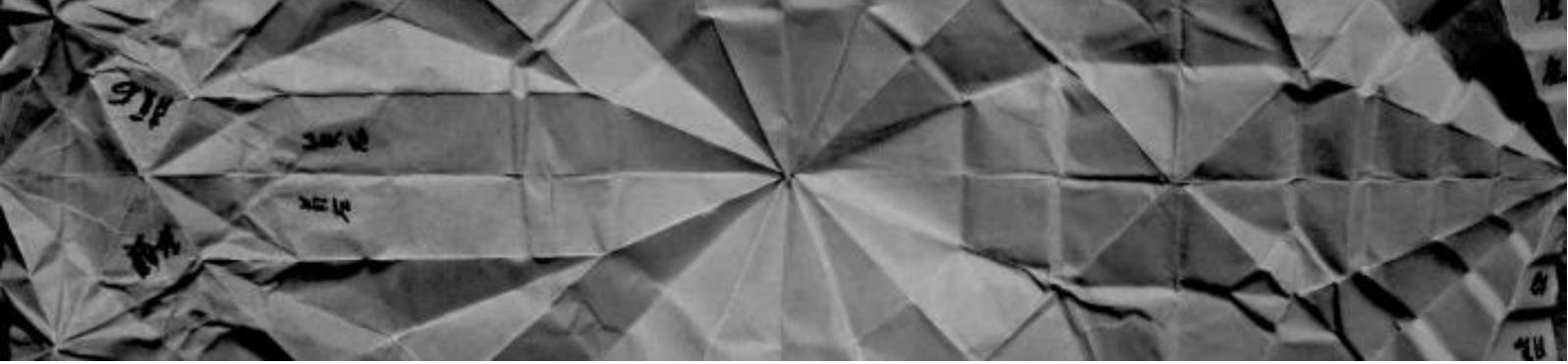
19 November 2015 (7:30 pm), Sodsai Pantomkomol Center for Dramatic Arts, Chulalongkorn University, THB 600/THB 400 (for professional artists or audiences younger than 27) / THB 300 (for students)

Der Bau (The Burrow) is a continuation of a work started in 2008 that manifested itself concretely in Unturtled #1 through #4. In this series of pieces, the costume was considered as a transitional object: at once a prosthesis of the missing last layer of the body, and simultaneously the first encompassing external space. The costume as organ makes possible an exploration of the body and the space around it can generate, as space, as a stage and as a scenography.

Kafka's novella Der Bau, in which the burrow is described as a space deriving from the body itself, yet still belonging to it – bearing the form, traces, odors, wastes and reserves, hope and despair – seemed a good basis for further explorations of conceiving this new relationship between body and space. The creation process revealed that space itself is an organ, and it should be seen as an extension, a prolongation of the body. Rilke's statement, that Rodin does not sculpt the body, but the spaces around them, can serve as the guideline to understand this idea. A two-dimensional, planar, fluid space was built of large sheets of fabric. These external tissues are dealt with like internal tissues and they respond in a surprisingly alive manner, at the same time as part of the body, as a shell, and as a partner.

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### **An Un-Folding Process** by Isabelle Schad

21 November (7:00 pm), MUPA Burapha University Chonburi

In the piece An Unfolding Process (2014) Isabelle Schad shares and shows different excerpts of the pieces Unturtled till Der Bau, trying to reveal some of the process around the series of pieces created together with Laurent Goldring. The solo has been developed and first presented in/for the frame of the Live Legacy Project: Correspondences between German contemporary dance and the Judson Dance Theatre Movement.

“How is the formulation of our sensations, the study of the physical and anatomical systems offering new territories in research to dancers? One possible answer could be found in the piece An Un-Folding Process (excerpts from Unturtled till Der Bau) by Isabelle Schad, in which the enormous fabrics and a costume conceived together with visual artist Laurent Goldring become a new internal space of the body, a gigantic imaginary skin. The body envelopes and incorporates. The dance is born from the integration of the spaces between skin and tissues.

The dances are punctuated with lectures. Isabelle Schad is exposing her notes of work and her thoughts and includes the spectator in this immense matrix. The work is as much visual as knowing; the sensation of making oneself part of a strange organ invites the spectator to see the piece from the inside. And this is where all the beauty of the work operates in the surprising cross-over between Franz Kafka and the american avant-garde of dance.” Stéphanie Auberville

### **Cesser d'être (Stop being)** by Laurent Goldring, Marika Rizzi and Jitti Chompee

2 and 3 December 2015 (7:00 pm), KBank Siam-Pic Ganesha center of performing art, THB 400/THB 250 (for students)

A horizontal rigid frame 4 meters long, 2 meters high and 75cm in depth. This frame is filled with a transparent sculpture made of long white strings that allow two bodies to rest inside, as in cesser d'être un (stop being one). The sculpture stands in balance on a support 40 cm high, it does not touch the floor, except when the movements of the two performers make it loose its balance and hit the ground. The performance is based on the micro-movements of the performers, amplified by the macro-movements of the sculpture.

#### ▪ **Workshops**

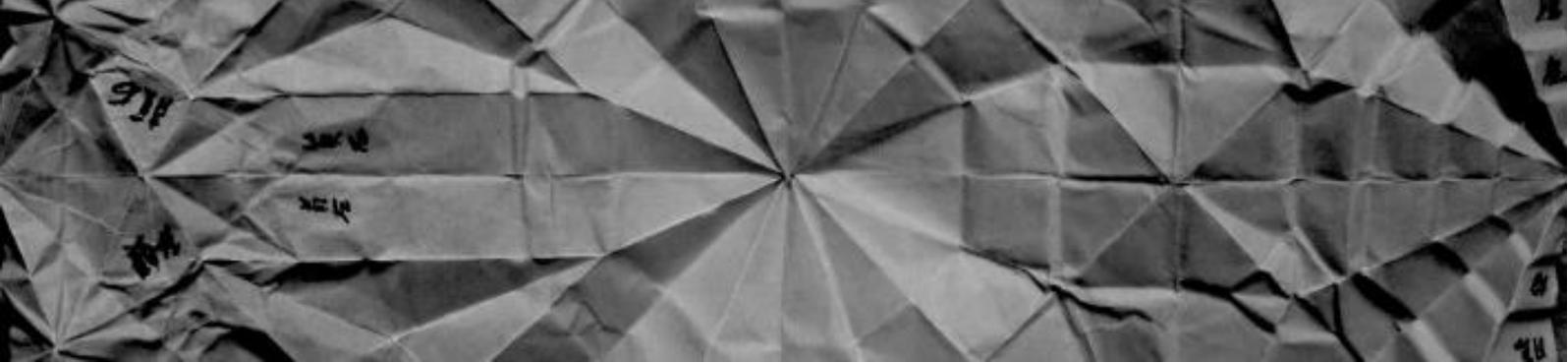
### **Workshop Embryology and Eastern Practices** by Isabelle Schad

16 November (10:00 am - 11:55 am), KBank Siam-Pic Ganesha center of performing art

This workshop will be led as a 'warm-up practice session'. It links knowledge around our embryological development with very archaic principles of movement and energy taught in eastern practices (Aikido, Qi-Gong, Shiatsu). The relationships between how we become who we are (our form, body systems, the person, the unity of mind and body, the inner and outer sea of Qi...) and eastern practices has been fascinating me recently, continuously discovering new ones in the course of my Shiatsu Practitioner Education and my Aikido Training. The practice will be both, a gentle warm-up for being 'together' for the day, with breathe, flow and clarity, and an adventure into movement, group organizations, small choreographic sketches deriving from this starting point.

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## **Ticket**

Tickets can be purchased at the venue given the availability. However, it is recommended that you make a reservation for each event via email at [info@unfoldingkafkafestival.com](mailto:info@unfoldingkafkafestival.com) or purchase the Special Festival Pass that will give you entry to all events at the price of THB 1,200 / THB 700 (for students). The pass also includes the workshop by Isabelle Schad on 16 November (advanced registration required)

### **Further information:**

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/unfoldingkafkafestival>

Website: <http://www.unfoldingkafkafestival.com>

### **For interview requests, please contact:**

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