

ITI Community Brief

March 2011

Events & Speaking Engagements

Lasalle College of the Arts

Mar/Apr 2011

ITI Director T. Sasitharan conducted two lectures for the new semester of Lasalle's MA in Arts & Cultural Management. The lectures are part of a module entitled "Global Management of the Arts and Culture".

"A View of Total Theatre: Remembering William Teo"

12 Feb 2011

This memorial held at The Substation to commemorate the 10th anniversary of theatre pioneer William Teo's passing featured video screenings of his productions and a forum on Teo's notion of total theatre. Sasi was among the featured speakers of the forum, that also included Jeremiah Choy, Elizabeth de Roza and Sonny Lim.

Attakkalari India Biennial 2011 – International Contemporary Dance Festival

28 Jan – 6 Feb 2011

This major festival in Bangalore is organised by the Attakkarali Centre for Movement Arts, whose aim is to "facilitate the development of contemporary cultural expressions in India". Sasi participated in the festival on several fronts. As an artist, he provided the live voice accompaniment to Raka Maitra's performance of In Mira, presented at the Young Choreographers Platform. As Director of ITI, he spoke about the institute at the festival conference as well as to a private gathering of people and artists from the theatre community in Bangalore. During this trip to India, Sasi also went to Natanakairali Research and Performing Centre for Traditional Arts in Kerala and gave a talk about ITI.





Singapore Perspectives 2011 – “Our Inclusive Society: Going Forward”

17 Jan 2011

At this annual conference organised by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Sasi was part of a 12-member panel from various industries who shared their views on three major topics – a “Global City”, a “Caring Community” and the “Singapore Spirit”. Singapore Perspectives is a major IPS event that “seeks to engage thinking Singaporeans in a lively debate about the public policy challenges the country faces”. The event was widely covered in the media.

The Straits Times reported that Sasi “dwelt on the point that Singapore has the infrastructure of a global city, but not the freedom of political and social discourse to match. He recalled an encounter with noted South African civil rights activist Albie Sachs in 2009 who remarked, when Mr Sasitharan introduced himself as coming from Singapore: ‘Ah, you have everything except a soul.’ Mr Sasitharan said it was a ‘devastating remark’, but one that made him realise how deeply he felt for Singapore”.

Another report about the conference may be seen here:
<http://sg.yfittopostblog.com/2011/01/17/singapore-a-nation-of-paradoxes/>

Graey Festival 2010: Vivisection

22 – 28 Nov 2010

Presented by the Graey Festival and The Substation, this event saw local and international dance and theatre practitioners present works and share ideas at performances, workshops and open rehearsals. The festival focused on interrogating “Asian-ness” in contemporary dance, movement and performance. Sasi gave an introductory briefing to the festival when it began, and moderated the forum that closed the festival.



Traditional Southeast Asian Theatre & Dance: Ruptures & Continuities

18 – 20 Nov 2010

Sasi attended this conference organised by ASWARA or Akademi Seni Budaya & Warisan Kebangsaan (National Academy of Arts, Culture & Heritage) held at University of

Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. It was an excellent opportunity for the exchange of views and ideas on Southeast Asian performing art forms with artists, arts practitioners and academics from Malaysia and the region.



Fourth World Summit on Arts & Culture, Johannesburg
22 – 25 Sep 2010

Sasi was a keynote speaker and panellist at this international event, organised by the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA) and hosted by the National Arts Council of South Africa. It was attended by over 300 delegates from more than 60 countries.

Today Online Blog “The Substation! Old photos! Small talk with the artistic directors!”

14 Sep 2010

In this blog by Mayo Martin, Sasi, Audrey Wong and Lee Weng Choy – all past artistic directors of The Substation – together with current artistic director Noor Effendy Ibrahim were interviewed in commemoration of the arts centre’s 16th anniversary. They shared their early memories of the venue and their views on its significance in the development of Singapore’s arts scene, its role and identity and its future challenges. On The Substation deciding to be on the fringe and developing that fringe, Sasi felt that “for creativity to happen, there had to be a tension between the fringe and the centre. ...We could bring in small acts and began to consciously develop the aesthetics of smallness. We made a virtue of disadvantage.”

For the complete blog, please go to:

<http://blogs.todayonline.com/forartssake/2010/09/14/the-substation-old-photos-small-talk-with-the-artistic-directors/>

SMU Lunchtalk “Censorship: What Does It Mean For You?”

8 Sep 2010

The speakers at this talk organised by Singapore Management University were Sasi and curator/writer June Yap. They discussed the nature of censorship and how it affects not only the arts but also its public. The talk addressed questions such as how an individual may be affected, whether people should be bothered, and what the implications and applications of the censorship process are in Singapore.



HPAIR 2010 Asia Conference

20 – 24 Aug 2010

This event is part of a series of annual conferences launched in 1991 by the Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations (HPAIR) to facilitate dialogue on economic, political and social issues relevant to the Asia-Pacific region. Held in Singapore, the 2010 Asia Conference had the theme, “Sustaining Momentum: Ten years into the Asian Century”. At one of the seminar sessions in the five-day programme, Sasi spoke on the topic, “Asia Unbound: re-imagining Tradition”.



Celebrate Drama! 2010

20 – 21 Aug 2010

Organised by the Singapore Drama Educators Association, this event aimed to show how drama may be used for problem-solving in the family, community and workplace. During the two-day programme, ITI introduced its community outreach programme, Singapore School Project, that brings creative learning into the school curriculum. The project's Co-Director Airan Berg spoke on what it entailed while Sasi, also Co-Director and ITI Director, fielded questions from the audience, which included school teachers and principals.

Forum “Work-Life: The Making of Community”

5 – 6 Mar 2010



ITI and the British Council co-presented this event, which is part of the council's ongoing regional Creative Cities programme looking at questions of inclusivity, communities and the city. The forum comprised various sessions, in which participants shared their experiences of community making, as well as breakout discussion groups, workshops and a tour of the Tiong Bahru neighbourhood. More than 100 people participated and they included individuals from the academia, research, community work, education, policymaking, the creative sector and the arts.

Roundtable Discussion on “Openness in the Media and the Arts in Singapore”

25 Jan 2010

Sasi was invited to participate in this roundtable discussion organised by the US Embassy.

Consultancy

Ngee Ann Polytechnic

ITI was engaged to develop part of the curriculum for the new Diploma in Arts Business Management at Ngee Ann Polytechnic, which began in April 2010. The scope of work also included teaching of the first-year modules in Art History and Development of Theatre & Drama. The appointment was facilitated by Emily Hill, of which ITI is one of the co-founders.

Workforce Development Agency (WDA)

Since 2008, ITI General Manager Goh Su Lin has been consulted by WDA in the development of competency standards in the arts and culture sector. This is part of WDA's Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) system, a "national credentialing system" applied to competency-based training of the workforce. From 2008, Su Lin was appointed a member of the Arts & Culture Manpower Skills & Training Council to validate competency standards for arts and culture. In 2008 and 2009, she was a member of the work group developing competency standards for entrepreneurs in the creative industries. In 2010, she was invited to chair the work group for the development of competency standards for arts management, which WDA is developing in partnership with National Arts Council. In January 2011, she was invited to be part of the focus group on legal and governance competencies.

Other News



A Juggler's Tale by Traditions & Editions Theatre Circus 5 – 7 May 2011

TETC presents its second play since its formation in 2009. *A Juggler's Tale* is being presented as part of Esplanade's The Studios series. TETC is a theatre collective set up by graduates of the Theatre Training & Research Programme (now ITI) from all cohorts and originating from 12 countries. They aim to stimulate cultural exchange to cultivate cultural sensitivity, keeping alive Kuo Pao Kun's vision and legacy of intercultural theatre. For more information about the play, go to <http://the-jugglers-tale.blogspot.com/>