

CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING AND CINEMATIC ARTS
Boyer College of Music and Dance

Temple Dance Ensemble

Featuring choreography by guest artist Fairul Zahid and Temple Assistant Professor Xiang Xu

January 26, 2024
[Youtube.com/boyercollege](https://www.youtube.com/boyercollege)

Friday
7:30 PM

*Dance performances are sponsored in part by Temple University's General Activities Fund
and the Rose Vernick Fund*

Program

Nocturne in Between (in progress)

Choreographer: Xiang Xu

Temple Dance Ensemble Dancers: Jazlyn Tan, Nadia Urena

Music: Frederic Chopin, Armand Amar, Matt Haimovitz

Costumes: Xiang Xu

Contrary to the commonly held notion that we are all composed of stardust, this piece delves into a more nuanced perspective. Even as stardust particles intermingle, their essence retains individual separateness, emphasizing the existence of two distinct phenomena existing in isolation.

Anthropoidal

Choreographer: Fairul Zahid (LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore)

Temple Dance Ensemble Dancers: Akino Lessey, Dyn Garcia, Esmeralda Luciano, Jena Barton, Jamie Chen, Lily Santana, Longxuan Lian, Nadia Urena, Olivia Mohsen Al Samadi, Rosy Estrella, Michaela Delaney Guthrie, Mackenzie Barnett-Mcnab, Jazlyn Tan, Venrick James, Alicia Mears

Music: Undergrowth by Ka Baird & Bernadac – Abarukas, ORI - Black Book, Edited by Fairul Zahid

Costumes: Fairul Zahid

“At times, the essence of being human appears to transcend the expected boundaries of individual or collective actions. This contemplation stems from observing human behaviors, where some individuals exhibit extraordinary selflessness, transcending the ordinary, while others demonstrate acts of profound depravity that question the very essence of humanity. It’s a nuanced exploration of the spectrum between exceptional altruism and the stark absence of humanity, unveiling the multifaceted nature of human existence.”

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

XIANG XU holds the position of esteemed Assistant Professor of Dance at Temple University's Department of Dance in the USA. Rooted in Philadelphia and New York City, he has earned international acclaim for his contributions as a choreographer, dancer, and educator. Xu's journey includes the attainment of a Master of Fine Arts degree in Dance from the renowned Tisch School of the Arts at New York University, solidifying his commitment to the art form at its highest levels.

Originally from Ningbo, China, Xu's exceptional talent blossomed at an early age. He honed his skills at the renowned Beijing Dance Academy, where he earned his bachelor's degree. Xu's artistic prowess has garnered numerous accolades, including the coveted "Gold Lion" top prize at the Singapore World Music & Dance Competition and a national grant to choreograph the premiere of the grand opus "The Soul of Water," performed at Beijing's prestigious Great Hall of the People.

Known for his groundbreaking choreography, Xu has redefined contemporary dance through his exploration of new Asian bodily aesthetics. His collaborations span across prominent dance companies worldwide, including the Boris Eifman Dance Academy (Russia), Aakash Odedra Dance Company (UK), Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, Merce Cunningham Trust, Palestinian Diyar Theater, The Joffrey Academy of Dance, and the Cambodian National Arts Center. In 2015, Xu founded Xiang Xu Dance, and his scholarly work "Exploration of the Foot-Binding in Chinese Classical Dance" was published in bilingual editions.

Selected by The Joffrey Academy of Dance, Xu premiered his latest work at the esteemed Winning Works Choreographic Competition in March 2019. He was also appointed as a Next Generation Leader (NGL) for the 2022 cohort in the Committee of 100, an esteemed organization in New York City and Washington DC.

Xu's extraordinary talent as a soloist and featured dancer has graced renowned venues such as UCLA Royce Hall, The Broad Stage in Santa Monica, the Jewish Community Center Manhattan, and the Jamaica Performing Arts Center in Queens, New York. His repertoire encompasses contemporary and traditional Chinese dance styles, and he has also studied and performed Thai, Indian, and West African dances. As a Chinese American choreographer and professor, Xu has dedicated years to researching and comparing traditional and contemporary dances. His artistic vision seamlessly integrates traditional Asian kinetic aesthetics with Western contemporary dance techniques, Chinese classical dance, martial arts, and folk dance, resulting in a profound reflection of Chinese body aesthetics.

Xu has developed Sino-Contemporary, a groundbreaking dance training system that draws upon Chinese Han and Tang classical dance, martial arts, and other Asian dance aesthetics. This system seamlessly combines techniques from Western traditional modern dance and contemporary dance, incorporating the latest animal flow movement patterns. Sino-Contemporary emphasizes the three curves of the body, a low center of gravity, and the cultivation of internal energy, Qi. Dancers learn to utilize inner breathing to control their bodies and project their movements into space. Xiang's ultimate aspiration is to elevate Chinese traditional body aesthetics to the forefront of the globalized world in the 21st century.

FAIRUL ZAHID is an accomplished artist pursuing a dual Ph.D. at the University of Education Indonesia and University Technology MARA (UiTM), enhancing his MFA from New York University, Tisch School of the Arts. As a former principal dancer/choreographer for esteemed companies like ASK Dance Company and The Nutcracker New York City Ballet, Zahid has evolved into an esteemed dance lecturer at LASALLE College of the Arts, School of Dance and Theatre in Singapore.

His extensive career includes lectureships at prominent Malaysian institutions, including the National Academy of Arts, Culture and Heritage (ASWARA) and University Technology MARA (UITM). Zahid's influence extends globally, having been invited as a guest lecturer and choreographer by institutions like Minzu University, Capital Normal School (Beijing), University of the Philippines, and Education University of Indonesia.

Zahid's choreographic prowess spans multiple disciplines, from contemporary ballet to Malay, Chinese, and Indian classical dances, as well as jazz. He's showcased his versatility through collaborations with a myriad of local and international artists, including luminaries like Akram Khan, Crystal Pite, and Sean Curran.

A Top 20 finalist of So You Think You Can Dance 2008 (Malaysia), Zahid has achieved significant recognition. In 2020, he clinched the Best Group Performance at the Cameronian Arts Award for Oedipus, a FiTA Theatre Assemble production, and earned a Best Choreographer nomination for TRANSCENDENCE.

His 2018 work, CanSur, received the Best Group Performance at the Cameronian Arts Awards and a nomination for Best Choreography. Additionally, Zahid secured the Dance Escalator Project for Choreography under the Goethe Institute of Germany and, most recently, the Yokohama Dance Collection Choreography Award in 2023. His artistic journey embodies a rich tapestry of achievements, collaborations, and contributions to the global dance landscape.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Dance Production & Lighting: Laurie Benoit

TPAC General Manager: Sean Roche

TPAC Event Manager: Dustin Krautter

TPAC Production Manager: Ian Schiela

TPAC Associate Production Manager: Evelyn Swift Shuker