



**10<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

For Immediate Release

**Fiona Lorrain resumes the role of Associate Artistic Director  
of The Fun Stage w.e.f. from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007  
(and other company movements)**

The Fun Stage is pleased to announce that Fiona Siang Yun Sze-Lorrain, currently a doctorate research associate in the field of avant-garde theatre at Centre de Recherche sur l'histoire du théâtre (Research Center in History of Theatre) at Paris IV-Sorbonne, will take on the position of Associate Artistic Director of The Fun Stage w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007.

Born in Singapore, the Asian-American/French Sze-Lorrain is an international award-winning artist who establishes her reputation as an all-rounded artist: a trilingual avant-garde experimentalist theatre artist, writer, pianist, *zheng* concertist and art curator. Since 1988, she has directed and acted in over 30 productions in New York, London and Paris. As a musician, she has held concerts worldwide since 1991 at performing venues that included Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Wesleyan World Music Hall, Maison des cultures du monde etc. Awarded the Asian Heritage Award in 2004, she had also curated about 20 installation and contemporary art exhibitions in Paris, New York, Texas, and Mexico. Her detailed biography can be found below in Annex A.

Lorrain's immediate task is to take over the baton as Festival Director for the international performance festival, **Initiation International**, this year in November. Under her direction, the theme for this year's festival is 'Between.' Lorrain will commission and invite artists from different countries to showcase works in response to the theme. Other ongoing plans also include theatre collaborations with her friend, Nobel Laureate (Literature) 2000, Gao Xingjian, in which she focuses on showcasing his works on stage in Asia.

The Fun Stage Limited  
14 Robinson Rd #13-00  
Far East Finance Building  
Singapore 048545  
Fax 6280 4676  
<http://www.thefunstage.org>

Besides helming the artistic direction of the festival, Lorrain will also look into boosting The Fun Stage's international profile – in response to the company's direction of Initiating International Collaboration. She continues to base in Paris while undertaking her role as Associate Artistic Director of the company, making trips to Singapore when necessary.

There will also be some shifts within the company. Benny Lim, current Artistic Director of The Fun Stage, will resume role of Artistic Director and Managing Director of the company. After passing on the baton as Festival Director of Initiation International to Lorrain, Lim will assume the role of Festival Managing Director, taking on duties related to funding, marketing and other administrative responsibilities. More information of The Fun Stage can be obtained from Annex B.

For media enquiries,

Name – Mr Benny Lim

Designation – Artistic Director & Managing Director

Email – [benny@thefunstage.org](mailto:benny@thefunstage.org)

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## Annex A – Biography

### **Fiona Siang Yun Sze-LORRAIN**

Musician, dramatist, curator, writer and literary translator, the interdisciplinary and intercultural French-Asian artist, Fiona Siang Yun Sze-Lorraine was born in Singapore.

Writer and dramatist, Sze-Lorraine's articles, poems, short stories and plays have appeared in *Journal of Asian Cinema*, *Times Arts Supplement*, *Barnard Theater Journal*, *Columbia Review*, *Lianhe Zaobao*, *The Straits Times*, *Asiaweek*, *Contemporary Arts*, *Lifestyle*, *Yanhuang Chinese Culture*, *TODAY*, etc. As a trilingual literary translator, she has also translated selected plays, essays and poems by Samuel Beckett, Maurice Maeterlinck, Gertrude Stein and Gao Xingjian.

In theatre, she had directed and acted in over 30 productions since 1992. Some of whom she worked with included Dina Amin, Pamela Howard, Deloss Brown and Richard Schechner. Film/TV acting credits include: *Dreams*, *Dream of Red Chamber*, *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*. Theatre credits include *On ne badine pas avec l'amour*, *Memory Mist*, *Celestina*, *The Blood Wedding*, *Inferno* etc. Awarded the Asian Heritage Award in 2004, she had also curated about 20 installation and contemporary art exhibitions in New York, Texas, Mexico and Paris.

As musician, she made her performance debut at age 9 in Singapore's Victoria Concert Hall. During her musical career, she has since played at Lincoln Center, Alice Tully Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Merkins Concert Hall, Carnegie Hall, World Music Hall of Wesleyan University, Maison des cultures du monde, Maison des racines du monde, Zuiderspershuis Wereldculturen centrum, Rasa Wereldculturen centrum etc. A *guzheng* solo concertist since 1990, she had held concerts in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Washington, Budapest, Venice, Milan, London, Paris, Toulouse, Utrecht, Brussels, Geneva, Amsterdam, Cologne, Munich, Leipzig, Montreal, Calgary, etc. Her skills, artistic interpretation and passion revealed during her performances, which won her audiences including Presidents François Mitterrand and Bill Clinton, Prime Ministers Margaret Thatcher and Goh Chok Tong, as well as Emperor Hirohito. Her repertoire builds upon the firm foundation of Chinese traditional and folk music, and at the same time distinguishes itself as a bold attempt to display contemporary and avant-garde works. Since 1998, she has premiered and played works written by contemporary composers such as John Cage, Il-Ryun Chung, Tan Dun, Stefan Hakenberg, Lei Liang, Zhou Long, etc. Recordings of her music have also been released on France Culture (Paris) and Times Warner Cable (New York).

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Laureate of Asian Cup, she studied mainly with world renowned *zheng* masters, Zhang Yan and Wang Changyuan. As a pianist, she combines Russian aesthetics with French techniques and studies under the mentorship of Marie-Antoinette Pictet and Tadic Dusan. In addition to her solo *zheng* performances, she has had taken residencies with ensembles such as New York Chinese Music Ensemble, IIZ+ Ensemble, East Coast Zheng Ensemble, etc.

In January 2004, Sheng Productions (*The Asian New Yorker*, Time Warner Cable) in New York filmed and released a feature-length documentary that showcases her artistic career, *Fiona Sze: Between two cultures*.

Graduating from Columbia University as a scholar with a major in Drama/Theatre Arts, East Asian Studies & French, she also earned a M.A. (Performance Studies) from New York University and a M.Phil (French Literature) from Université Paris IV-Sorbonne. Her PhD in French Literature focuses on Beckett's theatre.

Lorrain resides permanently in Paris, France.

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### Annex B – Company Profile: The Fun Stage

The Fun Stage is a non-profit theatre company that aims to provide a platform for young artists to collaborate and generate new synergies in theatre, creating multi-disciplinary and multi layered performances. In the long run, we hope to be the leading theatre company in Singapore that initiates such collaborations, pushing young artists from different artistic arenas to new boundaries.

Our company direction is 'Initiating International Collaboration'. We believe in working with artists from different countries to generate artistic exchanges, hence learning, sharing and exposing to different ideas and creativities. Upon which, we will apply the new ideas in local projects, collaborating with local artists so as to experiment, innovate and generate new, original works. The cycle continues as we renew and reconstruct our new creations via constant exchanges with foreign artists. In this spirit, we believe in a theatre-making process that questions conventional forms of theatre, improves the quality of theatre productions and centers on a strong awareness of humanity and cultures.

Currently, the company has one annual project that initiates international collaboration and at least one project that generates local creations among different artists.

#### Our core divisions

*Local Projects* – We present at least one annual project that involves the collaboration of local artists in the spirit of creating new synergies as well as experimenting and developing original, thought-provoking performances. To date, we have collaborated with local and international artists on multi-disciplinary theatre projects.

*Performance Festival* - In December 2005, The Fun Stage presented *Initiation International 05*, an annual performance festival featuring 4 international experimental theatre projects. The 2nd *Initiation International* was held in November 2006 at The Arts House, featuring 6 international theatre projects.

*Education and Outreach* – As we believe in working with young artists, we do our part in creating an environment in which we expose the younger generation to performing arts, primarily theatre. Aiming to outreach to the younger Singaporean generation, The Fun Stage also provides creative and innovative programs in Speech and Drama to schools and educational institutions, including a Diploma programme. The Fun Stage also tours educational theatre works amongst different schools, thus initiating art exposure to local students.

*Touring Projects* - The Fun Stage is also a touring company whose works have insofar travelled to Malaysia, Hong Kong, China and the United States. Future tour schedules include India, United Kingdom and Australia.

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