

NUS DANCE ENSEMBLE

A member of NUS Centre For the Arts

In Collaboration with

INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION &
REPUBLIC POLYTECHNIC

INTROSPECT

9 April 2017 | Esplanade Outdoor Theatre



EVOCATION 2017

*This programme is presented under In Youthful Company,
an Esplanade Presents programme.*

NUS CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

Established in 1993, NUS Centre For the Arts (CFA) is a vibrant space for the appreciation of the arts and nurturing of the creative and inquiring spirit. We support student engagement with the arts and integration of the arts into the life of the University.

We comprise the NUS Museum, NUS Baba House and a Talent and Development arm that oversees 22 student arts excellence groups. Through our myriad of programmes, practices, exhibitions, workshops and outreach, such as NUS Arts Festival and the ExxonMobil Campus Concerts, we enrich the university experience and contribute to the building of knowledge and transformation of students.

We also manage facilities such as the University Cultural Centre, with its 1600-seat Hall and 450-seat Theatre, and rehearsal spaces in Runme Shaw CFA Studios and University Town.

For more information, visit cfa.nus.edu.sg

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NUS DANCE ENSEMBLE

NUS Dance Ensemble (NUS DE), a member of NUS Centre For the Arts, has earned wide recognition for its unconventional and unique repertoire. NUS DE's style of dance seamlessly incorporates Asian ethnic elements with multiple genres such as contemporary dance, ballet and jazz. This distinctive blend puts NUS DE at the forefront of Asian contemporary dance.

Since its inception in 1992, NUS DE has grown remarkably, expanding its reach beyond its highly successful annual concert *The Next Wave* to expanding its reach locally and internationally. To date, the group's international appearances include performances in Jogjakarta, Phnom Penh and Macau. In 2012, in collaboration with De La Salle University and College of San Benilde, NUS DE presented its works at *ObservAsian* in Manila, Philippines. NUS DE aims to be a platform for collaborative work between companies and institutions in South East Asia.

EVOCATION 2017 – INTROSPECT

Evocation 2017 – Introspect is a collaboration among its dancers from the National University of Singapore (NUS) Dance Ensemble, the Institute of Technical Education and Republic Polytechnic, performing works that span dance styles from traditional-inspired, to b-boy, to contemporary and to hip-hop, embodying the common theme of *Introspect*.

PROGRAMME

SHOW I SHOW II
7.00pm 8.15pm

Catch *Catch*

Evolution *Evolution*

At Ease *At Ease*

Best Thing I Never Had *Freedom*

Flicker to Flame *The Edge*

A Small Measure of Peace *A Small Measure of Peace*

thus far *thus far*

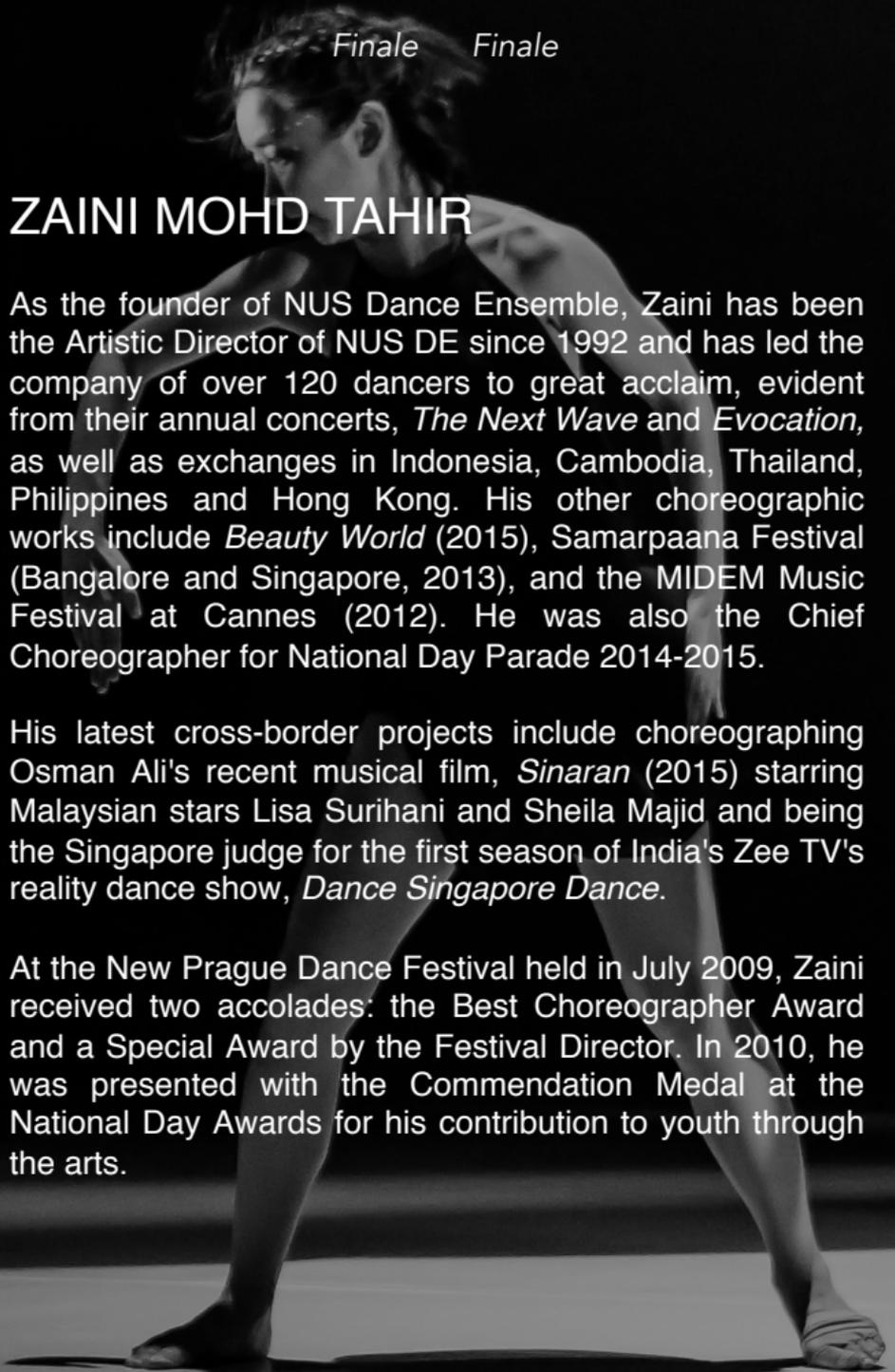
Finale *Finale*

ZAINI MOHD TAHIR

As the founder of NUS Dance Ensemble, Zaini has been the Artistic Director of NUS DE since 1992 and has led the company of over 120 dancers to great acclaim, evident from their annual concerts, *The Next Wave* and *Evocation*, as well as exchanges in Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand, Philippines and Hong Kong. His other choreographic works include *Beauty World* (2015), Samarpaana Festival (Bangalore and Singapore, 2013), and the MIDEM Music Festival at Cannes (2012). He was also the Chief Choreographer for National Day Parade 2014-2015.

His latest cross-border projects include choreographing Osman Ali's recent musical film, *Sinaran* (2015) starring Malaysian stars Lisa Surihani and Sheila Majid and being the Singapore judge for the first season of India's Zee TV's reality dance show, *Dance Singapore Dance*.

At the New Prague Dance Festival held in July 2009, Zaini received two accolades: the Best Choreographer Award and a Special Award by the Festival Director. In 2010, he was presented with the Commendation Medal at the National Day Awards for his contribution to youth through the arts.



INTROSPECT: SYNOPSES

A Small Measure of Peace

by Muhammad Syafiq bin Mohd Karim

"I like to think he/she may have at last found some small measure of peace, that we all seek, and few of us ever find."

— Simon Graham, *The Last Samurai*

Dance brings individuals peace beyond language barriers, surpassing their various disturbances. But many have disregarded tranquillity, failing to realise that peace is their ultimate aim.

At Ease

by Norisham Osman

We need to keep ourselves at ease in the midst of all the chaos.

Best Thing I Never Had

by Muhammad Zamri bin Zainuddin

An exploration of how people are constantly yearning for more, and looking for the very "best". Their greed consumes them, and they often forget how blessed they already are.

Catch

by Arias Lim Jie & Jolene Tan

"Anyway, I keep picturing all these little kids playing some game in this big field of rye and all. Thousands of little kids, and nobody's around - nobody big, I mean - except me. And I'm standing on the edge of some crazy cliff. What I have to do, I have to catch everybody if they start to go over the cliff - I mean if they're running and they don't look where they're going I have to come out from somewhere and catch them. That's all I do all day. I'd just be the catcher in the rye and all. I know it's crazy, but that's the only thing I'd really like to be."

— J.D. Salinger, *The Catcher in the Rye*

Evolution

by Muhammad Lutfil Hadi bin Mohammad

Failure is the key to Success.

Flicker to Flame

by Mirabel Jiang

When you are left in darkness, who will ignite your hope? Hope is just a word until someone comes and gives it meaning.

Freedom

by Haris bin Abbas

This is a story of a mistreated boy, locked up in the cage of his mind, unable to speak his thoughts. He turned to bad company, and gave in to the monster within him. He has lost his way, and has no one to turn to. He seeks dance to pull himself together and start anew.

The Edge

by Koustav Basu Mallick

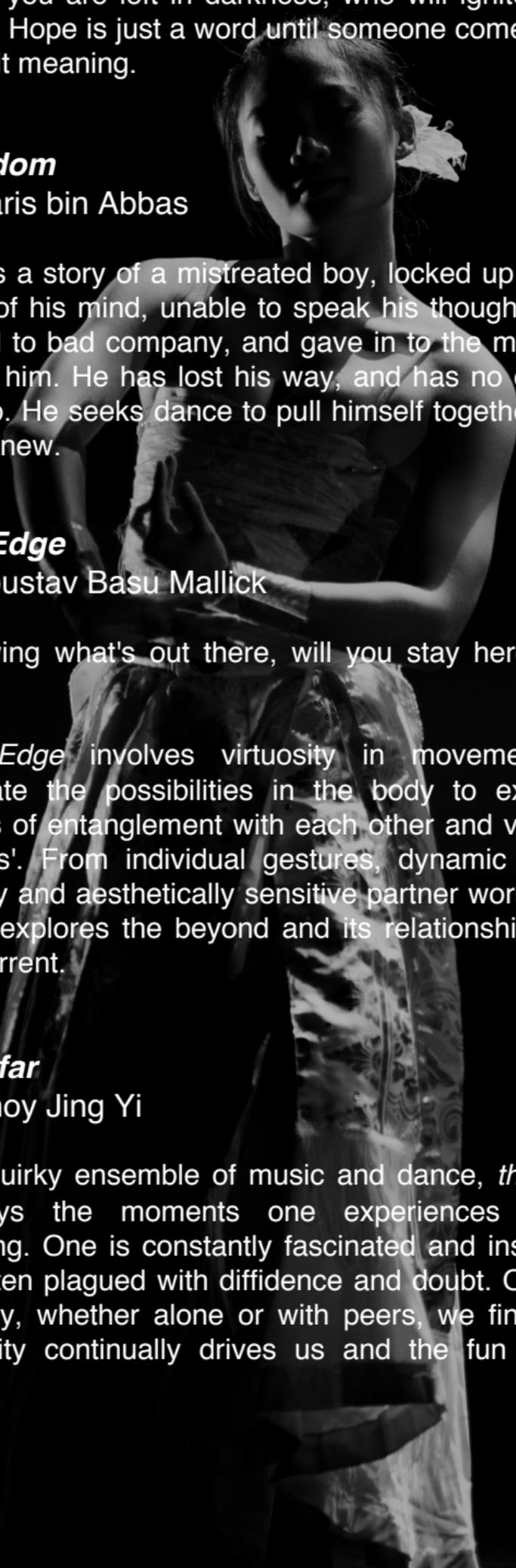
“Knowing what's out there, will you stay here with me?”

The Edge involves virtuosity in movement to illustrate the possibilities in the body to express issues of entanglement with each other and various 'stages'. From individual gestures, dynamic group energy and aesthetically sensitive partner work, *The Edge* explores the beyond and its relationship with the current.

thus far

by Choy Jing Yi

In a quirky ensemble of music and dance, *thus far* portrays the moments one experiences when learning. One is constantly fascinated and inspired, yet often plagued with diffidence and doubt. On this journey, whether alone or with peers, we find that curiosity continually drives us and the fun never stops.



GUEST CHOREOGRAPHERS

Haris Bin Abbas

Haris started dancing when he was 13, and has been actively involved with his crew, Urban Central Statements, for which he served as Vice-President. He has been involved in productions such as ITE's *Emblazon*, and also challenged himself to choreograph for the first time for LEAPS 2016.

Muhammad Syafiq bin Mohd Karim

Syafiq, otherwise known as Spyro, has represented crews such as Luminiq Crew, Soo Spastic Crew, East Kingz and Style Groovaz Crew, and has won many competitions in Singapore. He has also represented the country in the *Battle of the Year* (2011). Having experimented with a fusion of b-boy, breakdance and contemporary dance genres, Syafiq has choreographed pieces for *Emblazon* (2013), Republic Polytechnic's *Momentum* and *Muse*, and a guest item for the Lion City Throwdown Pre-Party.

Muhammad Lutfil Hadi Bin Mohammad Taufik

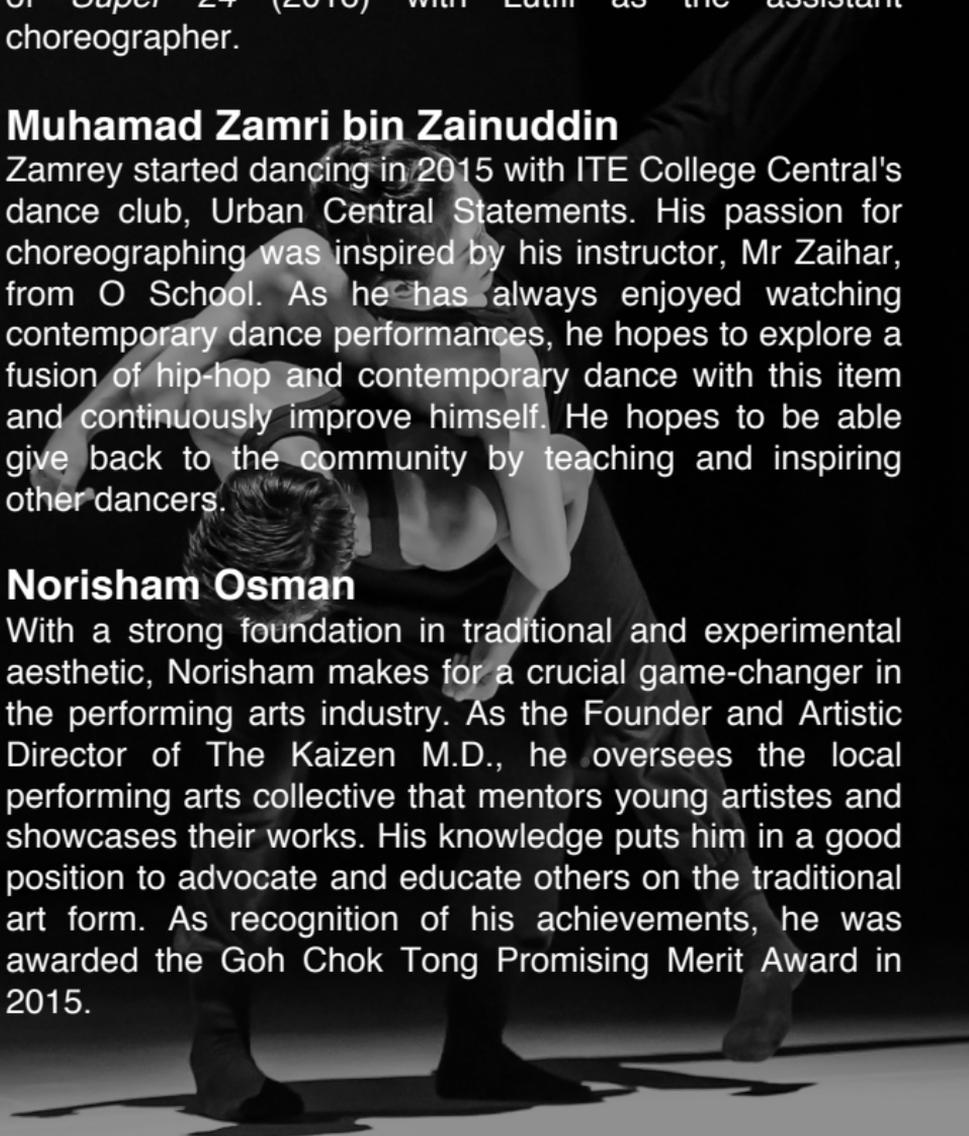
Lutfil started out as a hip-hop dancer in secondary school and performed at various school events despite not having any professional training. Lutfil ventured into his first crew, Style Groovaz Crew, when he enrolled in Republic Polytechnic. At *LEAPS* (2015), Lutfil was given the opportunity to choreograph his first item. The Style Groovaz Crew clinched 3rd place in the tertiary category of *Super 24* (2016) with Lutfil as the assistant choreographer.

Muhamad Zamri bin Zainuddin

Zamrey started dancing in 2015 with ITE College Central's dance club, Urban Central Statements. His passion for choreographing was inspired by his instructor, Mr Zaihar, from O School. As he has always enjoyed watching contemporary dance performances, he hopes to explore a fusion of hip-hop and contemporary dance with this item and continuously improve himself. He hopes to be able give back to the community by teaching and inspiring other dancers.

Norisham Osman

With a strong foundation in traditional and experimental aesthetic, Norisham makes for a crucial game-changer in the performing arts industry. As the Founder and Artistic Director of The Kaizen M.D., he oversees the local performing arts collective that mentors young artistes and showcases their works. His knowledge puts him in a good position to advocate and educate others on the traditional art form. As recognition of his achievements, he was awarded the Goh Chok Tong Promising Merit Award in 2015.



ALUMNI & STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHERS

Arias Lim Jie

Arias joined NUS DE in 2011 and has enjoyed many adventures (both onstage and offstage) with her fellow members since. Creative pursuits being the panacea to her restless nature, Arias enjoys discovering new ways to move the body, particularly when doing so presents innovative methods to tell a story. Arias made her debut as a choreographer at last year's *Evocation* with *At the Blue Dawn*. This is Arias' second choreographic attempt, which she is honoured to be sharing with Jolene.

Choy Jing Yi

Jing Yi began training with NUS DE and for the opportunities to perform in various productions. She has been part of major projects with NUS DE including the IYDF Macau trip in 2015. She is grateful for being able to train with NUS DE and for all the opportunities to perform in various shows. Jing Yi will be premiering her first choreography in *Evocation 2017*.

Jolene Tan

A former national Rhythmic Gymnast, Jolene has had a passion for dance and the performing arts since her formative years. Since 2011, she has been pursuing her passion as a gymnastics coach and as a member of NUS DE. As a coach and a physiotherapist, she enjoys analyzing movements and teaching effective ways of executing dance moves. Having performed in many of NUS DE's productions, Jolene hopes to give back by trying her hand at choreography.

Koustav Basu Mallick

Koustav started dancing at the age of 21 when he joined NUS DE. Now as an active alumni member, he has choreographed items for NUS DE's annual concerts, as well as several external platforms including *Passages* for Singapore Dance Theatre, NUS Arts Festival 2012 and Cake Theatrical Productions amongst others. *The Edge* will be his 8th piece for NUS DE and he would like to thank all his dancers for their hard work.

Mirabel Jiang

Mirabel started dancing when she was 4, and is trained in Chinese dance, hip-hop, street jazz and lyrical contemporary dance. She joined NUS DE in 2013 and served as the Vice-President in 2014. She participated in IYDF with NUS DE in Macau last year. Her recent works include *Human Instincts (Evocation 2016)* and a competition piece for Peirce Secondary School that was performed in the 2010 International Dance Festival. Mirabel is thankful for the exposure NUS DE has given to young choreographers like herself.

CREDITS

*This programme is presented under
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Artistic Director & Resident Choreographer	Zaini Mohd Tahir
Guest Choreographers	Haris Bin Abbas Muhammad Syafiq bin Mohd Karim Muhammad Lutfil Hadi Bin Mohammad Taufik Muhamad Zamri bin Zainuddin Norisham Osman
Student & Alumni Choreographers	Arias Lim Jie Choy Jing Yi Jolene Tan Koustav Basu Mallick Mirabel Jiang
CFA Group Manager	Eunice Yap
Stage Manager	Song Cheng Jun
Photography	TET Photography

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2016/2017

President	Lau Jia Min
Vice-President (Productions)	Tiffany Ena Chin
Vice-President (Marketing)	Kaelynn Soh Hwee Sin
Secretary & Treasurer	Joey Seah
Production Manager	Bernard Chng
Marketing & Publicity Heads	Sheryl Han Yin Jun Hao
Welfare & Logistics Heads	Charlotte Yu Fong Si Hwee
Dance Captain	Serene Chee

NUS DE 25TH ANNIVERSARY

NUS DE celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, and it promises to be an exciting affair with many events lined up. Everything within this 25th anniversary season ties in with the Ensemble's cyclical approach to growth, which begins by reflecting on past events and personal motivations, and grounding the group firmly in its roots, followed by working towards more outreach and collaborations, and finally, celebrating and looking towards the future.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2017 – Republic Polytechnic's *Momentum*
October 2017 – *The Next Wave 2017*