

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Co. Un Yamada Double Bill ONE◆PIECE X THE RITE OF SPRING

KUALA LUMPUR – Back for the fourth time in Malaysia, top Japanese choreographer Un Yamada kicks off 2016 in style with a double bill of her two most celebrated productions on 30 & 31 January at The Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (klpac). 13 members of her renowned dance company Co. Un Yamada will take on Stravinsky opus *The Rite of Spring*, while five local male dancers make up the pioneering international cast of her masterwork *one◆piece*.

The event will be the first time Yamada has presented full-length performances here. She made her first foray in 2012 to participate in feminism-themed dance project *Work It!*. She has returned every year since, having been chosen as part of the artist line-up at ASWARA’s annual dance festival *Tari* in 2013 and reinvited by the national arts academy to deliver a three-week physical theatre course in 2014.

Throughout her trips, she was impressed by the wealth of Malaysian dance talent, especially male dancers who are a rare breed in her country. Eager to showcase what they have to offer, Yamada ran auditions in October 2015. Fauzi Amirudin, James Kan, Lu Wit Chin, Pengiran Khairul Qayyum and Raziman Sarbini emerged as the five brightest homegrown prospects that will bring to life the vivid athleticism and military precision that garnered *one◆piece* much critical acclaim. Yamada’s seminal creation, made for a single-gender ensemble, has for a decade featured some of Japan’s leading dancers.

Malaysian audiences will meanwhile be the first in South East Asia to witness Co. Un Yamada’s version of *The Rite of Spring*. Premiered in Chigasaki, Japan in 2013 to commemorate the centenary of the ballet and orchestral classic, it draws upon the same primitive forces that inspired the Russian composer for a unique display of intense movement and emotional impact.

one◆piece x The Rite of Spring is jointly organised by Co. Un Yamada, The Japan Foundation Asia Center, the National Academy of Arts, Culture and Heritage (ASWARA), and MyDance Alliance.

For more information, visit www.jfkl.org.my or contact the Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur at 03 2284 6228.

EVENT DETAILS

30 JAN 2016 – 8.30PM
 31 JAN 2016 – 5PM

Pentas 1, klpac

TICKET PURCHASE

RM43 (general)
 RM23 (seniors, disabled, TAS Cardholders)

Call klpac Box Office: +603 4047 9000
 Visit klpac Box Office (10.00 a.m.–6.30 p.m. daily)
 Call TicketPro Hotline: +603 7880 7999
 Visit ticketpro.com.my

INTERVIEWS, MEDIA TICKETS & ENQUIRIES

Tristan Toh | *Public Relations Officer*
 Office: 03 2284 6228
 Mobile: 012 719 2021
 Email: press@jfkl.org.my

Jointly organised by:



I. ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHER AND PERFORMERS

Un Yamada (山田うん)



Trained in gymnastics, ballet and butoh, Yamada started her career as a choreographer in 1996. Her works are described as sensitive, energetic and dynamic; drawing inspiration from everyday gestures and actions. She first stamped her mark in the dance world in 2000 when she won the French Embassy Prize for Young Choreographers at the Yokohama Dance Collection. Two years later, she formed her own professional dance troupe Co. Yamada Un.

Yamada has also earned a reputation for artistic excellence as a solo dancer and a pioneer of community dance for various demographics. In 2014, she was designated the Japan Cultural Envoy for East Asia and received the New Face Award at the Minister of Education Awards for Fine Arts.

Co. Un Yamada (Co. 山田うん)

Established in 2002, the company is known for a repertoire combining both sensitive choreography and vivid physicality. Co. Un Yamada has performed in 31 cities across Japan and 23 cities worldwide, at venues as varied as theatres, historical buildings and the outdoors. No two productions are the same, as the troupe regularly auditions new members to join its dozen-strong ranks.

Malaysian Dancers



Fauzi Amirudin

Currently a choreographer and principal dancer at ASWARA Dance Company, Fauzi boasts an impressive list of accomplishments that belies his age. *Stalemate*, his final choreographic project as an undergraduate, was a hit with audiences at the Tari international Dance Festival and regularly features in his alma mater's main repertoire. In 2014, he was named Best Choreographer at the BOH Cameronian Arts Awards for his mixed bill work *2 by 2*. Fauzi also travels extensively within and outside the country for workshops, either in participatory or facilitator roles.



Raziman Sarbini

An ASWARA alumnus, Raziman commands an eclectic skillset ranging from ballet and contemporary dance to the classical forms of Malaysia's three major races. In addition to performing at various student productions and festivals, he has taken his skills to the competitive arena; most successfully at the 2012 World Championship of Performing Arts in Los Angeles where he won several gold medals. The very same year, his choreographic piece made it to the Gala Finals of klpac's Short+Sweet Festival.



James Kan

A former primary school teacher, James only started dancing in 2004 and made it his profession two years later. The decade since has seen a string of choreographic works that have travelled a large stretch of the Asia Pacific. His 2011 piece *Utopia* garnered a Merit Award at the Taiwan Creative Dance Competition, while *Dreams* led him to the top prize on his next attempt. James is now undertaking a Master's programme at the Korea National University of Arts.



Pengiran Khairul Qayyum

Part of the ensemble that won Best Group Performance at the 2014 BOH Cameronian Arts Awards, Pengiran has enjoyed similar highs throughout his student life. A seemingly permanent fixture in ASWARA Dance Company's various productions, he has been involved in several international collaborations and events like the Asian Arts Festival in China, dance play *Bendahara* in Singapore and Festival Zapin Nusantara in Johor. Some of the established names he has worked with include Yunus Ismail, Suhaili Micheline and Jen Jan Loo.



Lu Wit Chin

Hailing from a small town in Kelantan, Wit Chin is a contemporary dance graduate of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, where he studied under a full scholarship. Prior to opening his own studio, he has contributed his expertise as a freelancer for local ballet school productions and as an artiste internationally. His talents have not gone unnoticed; winning him the Sansha Modern Dance Award at the 2008 TDS Solo Ballet Competition and Most Promising Work award at Sprouts 2011, a dance choreography competition in Singapore.

II. ABOUT THE PERFORMANCES

one◆piece



© Naoshi Hatori

Since its debut in 2004, Un Yamada's seminal creation—featuring a single-gender cast—has toured internationally and been performed by Japan's leading women in dance. Following ten years of success, it was revised for the opposite sex in 2014, with new sets, costumes and musical accompaniment introduced to reflect this change.

Now coming to Malaysia for the first time ever, the 2016 show will boast an ensemble entirely composed of homegrown talent.

Performed by

Fauzi Amirudin
 James Kan
 Lu Wit Chin

Music: Satoru Wono

Pengiran Khairul Qayyum
 Raziman Sarbini

The Rite of Spring



© Naoshi Hatori

The premiere of Igor Stravinsky's radical composition in 1913 shocked the dance world with its 'avant-garde' content. Today, it is considered one of the most influential ballet and orchestral works of the 20th century.

Yamada's version draws on the same primitive forces that inspired the Russian conductor more than a century ago. Performed by the full extent of her company, dancers throw themselves into the complex rhythms of the frenetic score with intense movement, harnessing their collective dynamic energy to explosive effect.

Performed by

Yuhei Ara	Kota Kihara
Toru Hasegawa	Masashi Koyama
Chisa Hirotsue	Yoko Mita
Sayuri Iimori	Yuki Nishiyama
Chinami Ito	Naoyuki Sakai
Toshihiko Jo	Ayako Yamashita
Llon Kawai	

Music composed by Igor Stravinsky

Recorded performance by Kirov Orchestra with Valery Gergiev as conductor (1999)

III. TIMELINE OF THE PROJECT IN MALAYSIA

- 2012 : Un Yamada participates in *Work It!*
www.rimbundahan.org/?p=1776
- 2013 : Un Yamada performs at Tari 2013
www.culture360.asef.org/event/kuala-lumpur-8th-international-dance-festival-tari-13
- 2014 : Un Yamada becomes artist-in-residence at ASWARA and delivers three-week physical theatre course
www.jfkl.org.my/events/un-yamada-aswara
- 2015 : Un Yamada holds auditions for Malaysian cast of *one ♦piece*
www.jfkl.org.my/events/auditions-one-piece
- 2016 : Un Yamada presents double bill featuring Co. Un Yamada and the Malaysian cast of *one ♦piece*



Yamada introducing fellow *Work It!* participants to Japanese folk dance



Yamada with participants of her physical theatre course at ASWARA



Yamada with some of the dancers who auditioned for *one ♦piece*

IV. PHOTO + INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

Availability	Interviewee/s
From 11 January (Monday) onwards	All Malaysian dancers
From 23 January (Saturday) onwards	Un Yamada and Llon Kawai
28 January, Press Conference @ klpac	Un Yamada, all Malaysian dancers and all Japanese dancers

To arrange interviews and/or confirm your attendance at the Press Conference, please contact Tristan Toh at press@jfkf.org.my, 012 719 2021, or 03 2284 6228.

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur

The Japan Foundation is a non-profit organisation established in 1972 with the purpose of promoting mutual cultural exchange between Japan and other countries. The Kuala Lumpur office was established in October 1989.

The primary objective of JFKL is to develop mutual understanding between people through culture and language within the region. The office also facilitates and supports the exchange of personnel and experts who work in the fields of Arts, Culture, Humanities and Social Sciences.

<http://www.jfkf.org.my/> | <https://www.facebook.com/theJapanFoundationKL>

ASWARA

The National Academy of Arts, Culture and Heritage or Akademi Seni, Budaya Dan Warisan Kebangsaan (ASWARA) was set up in 1994 with the objective of producing creative performers, nurturing artistic talent and developing leaders in the arts. ASWARA, which comes under the auspices of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, is the only institution of higher learning offering formal training in the performing arts, which is fully supported by the government. It provides teaching, learning, research and consultancy services in the fields of arts, culture and heritage.

<http://www.aswara.edu.my> | <https://www.facebook.com/aswara.edu>

MyDance Alliance

Founded in 2001, MyDance Alliance brings together dance practitioners and dance enthusiasts to support and promote dance in Malaysia. A network organisation with local and international links, MyDance Alliance is a member of the World Dance Alliance. MyDance Alliance aims to support and promote the many forms of dance that exist in Malaysia by focusing on five aspects of dance: Education & Training, Research & Documentation, Creation & Presentation, Management & Promotion, and Welfare & Status.

<http://mydancealliance.org> | <https://www.facebook.com/mydancealliance>