

A TIME FOR REFRACTIONS

ONCE AFFECTIONATELY CALLED THE "LIANG LIANG DOUBLEBILL" BECAUSE OF THE SIMILARITY IN THE TWO CHOREOGRAPHERS' PHONETIC NAMES, THIS LATEST SHOWCASE OF SDT IS PRIMED TO MIMIC THE WORKING TITLE'S "BLING" FACTOR AND SHINE ON THE INTERNATIONAL DANCE SCENE

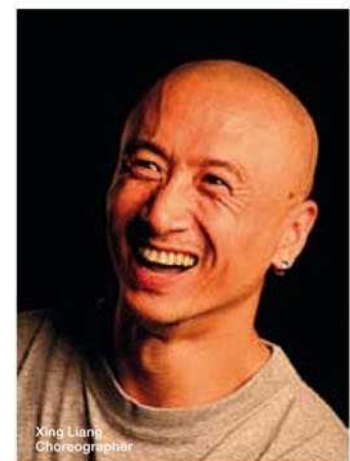


Forging ahead with the vision of becoming a pre-eminent Asia-based dance company that is internationally recognized for its world-class performances, Singapore Dance Theatre invited choreographers Edwaard Liang and Xing Liang to create new works for its showcase as part of the Shift programme at the Esplanade's da:ns festival 2010.

Edwaard Liang's *As Above, So Below* intricately balances the profundity of the Buddhist notion of 'bardot' – the in-between realm where spirits await their final destination – with the simplicity of an unfettered and relaxed dance vocabulary.

Says Liang, "I would like to keep the story loose and just retain the essence so the audience can find and create their own plot or feelings. The style of movement I am looking to make is smooth and seamless, with a classical ballet base that's tinged with a contemporary edge. I think the fluid to sharp contemporary movements will give a nice contrast to the baroque classical music that I have chosen for this work, including works by Tomaso Albinoni, Bach, and Vivaldi."

Sounding off to a very different "audio-sphere" (comprising experimental musical works by Alexander Knaifel, Ryoji Ikeda, Pan Sonic, and more) is Xing Liang, whose choreography, *Nameless*, is inspired by the Way of Tao, a philosophical tome by Lao Tzu. Creative deconstruction is the name of the game, as Xing breaks down the language of ballet to force the Singapore Dance Theatre



"I would like to keep the story loose and just retain the essence so the audience can find and create their own plot or feelings. The style of movement I am looking to make is smooth and seamless, with a classical ballet base that's tinged with a contemporary edge."

—Edwaard Liang, Choreographer of *As Above, So Below*

performers, each and every one trained in classical ballet, to realize new and exciting movements that challenge the eyes and the minds of its audience.

Both choreographers began their careers as dancers, and have gained repute in the international dance scene with their varied and versatile performances with companies such as New York City Ballet, Nederlands Dans Theatre, and Morphoses/The Wheelodon Project, for Edwaard Liang; and for Xing

Liang, Guangdong Modern Dance Company, and City Contemporary Dance Theatre.

Their works for the Singapore Dance Theatre, collectively called the *Refractions* doublebill, will be a significant step in the company's development of a repertoire that is uniquely Asian and yet universally accessible. SDT will aim to tour this doublebill extensively after its world premiere at the da:ns festival, so do make sure you catch this show before it travels the international circuit! ♦

Presented by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, in collaboration with Singapore Dance Theatre as part of da:ns festival 2010, Refractions – A Double Bill will be staged at the Esplanade Theatre Studio on 16 & 17 October 2010, 8pm, with a 3pm matinee on 16 October. Tickets are available at \$30 from SISTIC at +65 6348 5555 or www.sistic.com.sg.

Edwaard Liang will also be conducting a dance masterclass on 12 October. For registrations, please visit www.dansfestival.com.