

Spinning Antipodes Gunung Padang

Performance, Music and Film by Peter Chin

Production Assistant: Rasy Hul

Interviewer: Susiawan

Gunung Padang is a mysterious and controversial megalithic site in West Java Indonesia. It is believed by some, to be the remnants of a giant mountain pyramid, larger, taller and older than those of ancient Egypt, potentially re-writing history - hence the controversy. Beyond this contentiousness about its nature, it is an energetically powerful and distinctly alluring place, high in the West Java highlands, with views from the top that are exquisite. Its relative remoteness makes it an exceptional place of natural beauty and life. The stones are literally resonant (they can be struck to produce beautiful tones) vibrating with innate power.

In *Spinning Antipodes Gunung Padang*, Peter Chin connects with the site, and communes with the power of the place, in a transcendent private ritual of spinning and spontaneous vocalizing.

PETER CHIN is a multidisciplinary artist born in Jamaica and based in Toronto and Cambodia. He has been part of the cultural life of Toronto for almost 50 years, starting with singing in Massey Hall in 1972. Peter Chin is the founder and artistic director of dance-driven trans-disciplinary company Tribal Crackling Wind, and co-founder and director of the NKK International Dance Centre in Siem Reap Cambodia. Chin has been described as a renaissance man of the dance world, and is recognized as a composer / musician, choreographer / dancer, designer, writer and filmmaker. His works have received 5 Dora Mavor Moore awards, and many nominations. Chin has also received a Gemini award for his performance in the film 'Streetcar' by Nick de Pencier. He was also an inaugural winner of the K.M. Hunter Artist Awards - Interdisciplinary Arts category, and has been recognized with the Muriel Sherrin Award, among others. Chin is the inaugural laureate of the Eldred Family Dance Award. Chin's works have been presented across Canada, United States, Mexico, Jamaica, Columbia, Amsterdam, UK, Cambodia, India, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Japan, and Taiwan.

SUSIAWAN is an artist and children's arts educator in both Indonesia and Canada with over 30 years experience using the arts as a tool in learning. He pioneered alternative education using the arts for children in Indonesia - "Yayasan Anak Merdeka" / Institute for Children's Freedom of Expression (Bandung, West Java, 1981). Susiawan holds a B.F.A. in Graphic Arts from the Faculty of Art and Design - Bandung Institute of Technology in Indonesia. He received the prestigious ASHOKA Fellowship for Social Entrepreneurs in pioneering and developing children's activities using the arts in environmental education (1986). Susiawan developed an environmental education through the arts program in 8 public schools as a pilot project of the Cirebon Urban Development Project (CUDP, 1990 - 1995) where he trained teachers and students in community participation approach to develop a curriculum on environmental awareness (together with Susan). He worked as the main art teacher for early years to high school at Green School Bali and pioneered lessons on natural dye batik painting, mask creation, arts for sustainability and Balinese ritual arts (2009 - 2011). He co-created and co-facilitates (with Susan) the Holistic Arts Foundational Training and subsequent arts-focussed specializations to engage, stimulate and support creativity and well-being in teachers and students. Susiawan is also a painter and has shown his work in Indonesia, Canada, Japan and Europe.