

Festival Accès Asie and the MAI (Montréal, arts interculturels) invite you to



Photo credit : Julio HONG

Yemayo by Julio HONG

from Thursday, May 3rd to Saturday, May 5th
at 8 pm
& Sunday, May 6th 2012
at 3 pm

MAI (Montréal, arts interculturels)
3680, Jeanne-Mance street
(Subway Place-des-Arts station)

Entrance costs : \$20
Reduced costs : \$15 (students), \$18 (professional artists, elders)

Montreal, March 1st, 2012 – In promoting the arts, **Festival Accès Asie** is proud to present once again with the **MAI (Montréal, arts interculturels)**, *Yemayo*, by the Sino-Cuban choreographer and contemporary dancer, Julio HONG. In this new work, HONG will be performing with three dancers from Cuba : Josué Exposito Sanchez, Reynaldo Guibert Sotolongo and Geosmany Perez Pulido.

According to Afro-Cuban beliefs, 'Yemaya' is known to be the goddess and mother of the oceans and is still worshipped in several Havana districts. For this new work, Julio HONG explores his femininity and questions the masculine traits connected to the Hispano-Canadian culture through dance, music, religion and life's daily routine. The opposite genders within Julio HONG's performance, converges and develops a mutual understanding. A new perspective emerges through the metaphorical projection of a male identity within a female deity : *Yemayo* – suggestive of a new equilibrium to the intercultural and intergenerational duality. Through a refined and simple process, Julio HONG mixes different styles of dance – classical ballet, Afro-Cuban dances, contemporary dance – to create new and original movements.

Born as a Sino-Haitian in Havana, Julio HONG currently resides in Montreal. His first training in dance took place in Cuba, where he graduated from the National School of Arts, in addition to a number of appearances with the famous Moscow's Bolshoi Ballet. He worked with the Cuban televised Ballet, and became the 'first dancer'. Soon after, he sought to deepen his dance practice in Mexico. He arrived in Montreal in 1999 to dance with the company of Marie Chouinard and with whom he collaborated for seven years. Julio HONG made his dancing talents know when performing with Rubberbandance Group and his choreographing talents have been particularly shown on *Sherazade*, the musical show of Félix Gray. His works have been produced in Canada as well as at a number of international festivals. In 2005, he created the Afro-Cuban Association of Montreal as artistic director. Recently, many may have noticed him on the televised French version of *Dancing with the Stars*. He is also artistic director of Northern Lights School of Dance in Yukon.

Come and live a unique dance experience in the company of this passionate artist who can merge with brio ethnicity and artistic expression while enticing the audience with a medley of cultural rhythms.

mai

Since 1998, the MAI (Montréal, arts interculturels) presents lively, engaging and resolutely of-the-moment works. This cultural organization is a true incubator and a pluri-disciplinary presenter of professional contemporary art (dance, theatre, music, interdisciplinary, visual and media arts) mandated to promote intercultural artists (emerging and established) and their intercultural artistic practices. The mandate of the MAI is to present original works with cultural bonds throughout the globe and to support the creation, production and dissemination of intercultural arts for a diversified audience. To do so, it provides to the artists and companies art residencies, numerous collaboration projects and public meetings.

www.m-a-i.qc.ca

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www.accesasie.com

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