

Biographies of Artists

Compagnie KHAM

Compagnie Kham was created in 2011 by Olé Khamchanla after 13 years as the co-choreographer of the A'corps company in Valence. Kham symbolically refers to Olé's first solo of the same name, created between Thailand, Laos and France in 2007. That solo marked the beginning of his exploration of the traditional dances of his country of origin, Laos, and awakened his deep-seated longing to discover the diverse dance forms of Southeast Asia.

Olé Khamchanla

Choreographer / Dancer

Dancer and co-choreographer of A'corps Company from 1997 to 2011, Olé Khamchanla now runs his own company, Compagnie Kham, founded in 2011. Born in Laos, he discovered hip-hop dance in 1990 and studied with Farid Azzout, Gabin Nuissier and Storm in hip-hop, Fred Bendongue and Master Beja Flora for capoeira, as well as Abou Lagraa and Monica Cazadei for contemporary dance. He also explored Butoh.

At A'corps Company, Olé collaborated to create several works that established his own choreographic language, notably his first trio *Nous sommes tous... (We are all...)* created in 2003. In 2006, he received a grant to travel to Laos and Thailand to learn traditional dance forms, and created his first solo *Kham*. Since then, Olé has continued to enrich his dance vocabulary through engagements in Asia and Europe. These multicultural encounters and inputs accumulated in the piece *Fang Lao (Listen)*, performed by Laotian, Thai and French artists in 2010 and in the first international dance festival in Laos, *Fang Mae Khong (Listen to the Mekong)* which has taken place annually since 2010 with the aim to promote and facilitate movement of artists from Southeast Asia abroad, while enabling exchanges between Southeast Asian, European and international artists.

Chan Sze-Wei

Dancer

Sze stepped into a dance class for a university P.E. requirement, and hasn't stopped dancing since. She went on to the Limon Dance School in New York, while dabbling in ballet, hip hop, and a B.A. in Political Science. In 2011, she completed the Diploma in Dance at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (Singapore) as Best Dance Graduate and class valedictorian. As a performer, she has collaborated in the creation of new dance and theatre works on stages in Singapore, Sweden, France, India and Australia. In her own work, she seeks intersections of contemporary dance, improvisation, installation and the classical and traditional forms of Asia. She has presented her creations and collaborations in Singapore, Laos and Indonesia. Because there's nothing like watching dance grow, she is part of the organising team of the [Contact Festival Kuala Lumpur](#) and the [Fang Mae Khong International Dance Festival](#) in Laos. Her current research asks how in a socially conformist society, can individuals actually meet?



Jereh Leong
Dancer

Jereh graduated from the Salzburg Experimental Academy of Dance (SEAD) in 2010. He was active in the school's company Bodhi Project performing *Walking Chakra* by Oleg Soulimenko (Moscow/Vienna) touring Salzburg, Vienna and London. He also performed for Diego Gil (Argentina/Amsterdam) during Szene Salzburg 2010. Before SEAD, Jereh was trained at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (Singapore) and Jitterbugs Singapore. In 2011, he was part of The Substation's Septfest presenting Loop Theory with a local collective, and performed his solo at *Fireball*, a multidisciplinary performance art collective event at The Substation (Singapore). Recently he has performed in Grenoble, France with Olé Khamchanla representing Maison de la danse (Lyon) for (RE)connaissance, the nationwide choreographic competition as well as in Singapore's Voilah! festival with Frontier Danceland.