

Asian Arts & Culture

Master Dancers of Bali

This fall, the Asian Arts & Culture Center offers a unique opportunity to witness the sights and sounds of Balinese culture. Experience spirited rhythms, brilliant costumes and fluid movements as the **Master Dancers of Bali** perform a variety of classical dances to the enchanting refrain of a *gamelan* orchestra. For the first time, eight of the most accomplished and highly regarded dance masters and musicians perform together outside of Bali on **Saturday, October 5, at 8 p.m. in Stephens Hall Theatre** on the Towson campus.

In Balinese culture, music, dance and drama are an integral part of daily life. Dancers perform rites at temple festivals and at a great variety of community occasions, both happy and sad. Dance is seen as an offering to the gods and ancestors. It is a physical expression of the virtues of the human spirit – creativity, internal beauty, power and wisdom.

Balinese dancers begin their training as early as four years old and continue performing and teaching well into old age.

What: Master Dancers of Bali
Where: Stephens Hall Theatre
When: Saturday, October 5
 8 p.m.
Tickets: \$15; \$12; \$10; \$5
Call: 410-704-2787

In Balinese society, age is equated with experience and spiritual maturity, and is therefore revered. It is believed that to cease to be active simply because of advanced years is detrimental to

physical and spiritual health. For the Balinese audience, the appearance of the older master dancers is highly anticipated and much appreciated. In this performance, we welcome 80-year-old **Ms. Ni Ketut Cenik**, the most experienced and oldest dancer performing in Bali today.

Accompanied by live music, the dancers will perform solo, duet and small-group works showcasing temple dances, interpretations of allegorical themes, courtship dances and scenes from the Balinese opera.

Dancers change costumes frequently. For women, the costume consists of layers of rich textiles in bright colors wrapped around the chest and down to the ankles. They also wear head dresses, often adorned with fresh flowers. For men the costume is simpler, but they may wear masks to portray certain characters. Both male and female dancers paint their eyes to enhance drama. Facial expressions are significant, helping to convey the mood of the story. Deliberate and complex movements make use of the entire body, from fingertips to toes. The combination of these elements becomes a sublime expression of the synchronicity of body and spirit.

One show only. To order tickets in advance, call the Center for the Arts Box Office, **410-704-ARTS**.



Ni Wayan Sekarriani

From the Director

Suewhei Shieh

Hello and welcome back to another season overflowing with the vibrant arts of Asia! I have much good news to report.

First, our recently concluded **30th Anniversary Celebration** was a great success. The **Blue Moon Auction and Benefit Dinner**, the Center's most important fundraiser to date, turned out to be a triumph well beyond our expectations.

To add to the excitement, the Center has received the first part of a major gift from local collectors, **Howard and Deborah Chasanow**. In all my years as director, I have not seen another gift of this magnitude. The Chasanow collection has the potential to greatly impact education and arts appreciation at Towson. The students, faculty and community at large will all benefit from this delightful couple's generosity. (See article inside.)

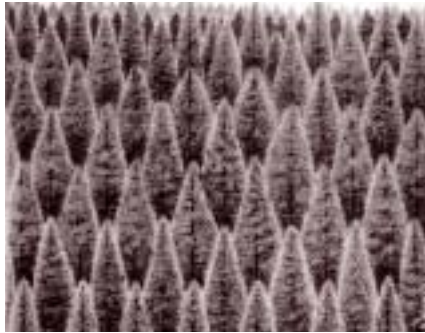
This fall, we present a group exhibition exploring the splendor of the rain forest as well as a rare opportunity to experience the **Master Dancers of Bali** in their only area performance. In November, we turn the focus to Tibet with a show of four contemporary Tibetan painters. We are also pleased to bring back the monks of the Drepung Loseling Monastery in an encore performance of **Sacred Music, Sacred Dance for World Healing**. Enjoy!



Calendar of Events

Rain Forest

September 15-October 25
Opening Reception: Sunday,
September 15, 3-5 p.m.
Asian Arts Gallery
Center for the Arts



Sparkling Sunlight Forest, Kun Ho Lui, Taiwan

Contemporary artists from Taiwan, Japan, Germany, England and the United States unite to encourage global concern about the ongoing demise of the rain forest. The large-scale paintings, ranging in style from realism to abstraction, depict many facets of this treasured resource, exploring the beauty of its plants and animals and the significance of its plight. *Curated by featured artist Marlene Tseng Yu and organized in cooperation with the Rain Forest Art Foundation, the Taipei Cultural Center, New York and with support from the Overseas Taiwanese Cultural Center, Washington, D.C. Free.*

Master Dancers of Bali

Saturday, October 5, 8 p.m.
Stephens Hall Theatre

Be sure not to miss this rare opportunity to experience the beauty, drama and power of traditional Indonesian music and dance. Eight of the most accomplished and highly regarded dance masters perform together for the first time outside of Bali in this premiere North American tour. With live musical accompaniment.

Ticket prices: \$15 general; \$12 senior citizens and students; \$10 AA&CC members; \$5 TU students with valid ID

This programming is made possible through the support of Asian Arts & Culture Center members, McCormick & Co., Inc; the Overseas Taiwanese Cultural Center, Washington, D.C.; the TU International Education Office, and by program grants from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency funded by the state of Maryland and the National Endowment for the Arts; and the Baltimore County Commission on Arts & Sciences.

Visions of Tibet: Paintings by Four Artists from Lhasa

November 1-December 13
Opening Reception:
Friday, November 1, 7-9 p.m.
Asian Arts Gallery,
Center for the Arts

Tibetan painters, Ga De, Bianba Qionгда, Tsering Dorje and Tserang Dhundrup offer a rare glimpse into the contemporary art scene of Tibet. With a nod to tradition and a leap toward modernity, these four artists explore societal changes within Tibet. Through the study of international artistic movements and exposure to Western culture, the artists seek to reconcile the divide between traditional and contemporary ideals. *Organized in cooperation with Snug Harbor Cultural Center, New York.*



Group photo, Ga De, 2001

Gallery Hours:
Monday-Friday 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
and Saturday 1-4 p.m.
(during special exhibitions only)

For information:
Asian Arts & Culture Center
410-704-2807
www.towson.edu/asianarts

For tickets:
Center for the Arts Box Office
410-704-2787
centerforthearts@towson.edu

Sacred Music Sacred Dance for World Healing

A performance by the monks of the Drepung Loseling Monastery
Saturday, November 2, 8 p.m.
Stephens Hall Theatre



Black Hat Master

The Tibetan monks of the Drepung Loseling Monastery return by popular demand for their second appearance on the stage of Stephens Hall Theatre. Experience for the first (or second) time the message of peace and hope, the enduring ritual dances and the otherworldly multi-phonetic chants (also known as overtone singing) delivered by these talented holy men in an effort to promote world healing.

Ticket prices: \$15 general; \$12 senior citizens and students; \$10 AA&CC members; \$7 TU students with valid ID.

Mandala Sand Painting

The Office of Student Activities will sponsor the monks of the Drepung Loseling Monastery. The monks will create a colorful and cosmic mandala sand painting in the University Union from **October 29 to November 2**. This weeklong ritual will culminate in the performance at Stephens Hall. For details call 410-704-3307.

Donor Spotlight: Howard and Deborah Chasanow

The Asian Arts & Culture Center was founded in 1971 to house the collection of local businessman Frank Roberts, who bequeathed some 300 works of Asian art to Towson University. Now, 30 years later, a pair of very special donors are well on their way to becoming the esteemed counterparts of Mr. Roberts. Director Suewhei Shieh says, "The Chasanow collection has the potential to further the Center's development in much the same way as the Roberts gift, and because of its quality, diversity and educational value, will possibly exceed it."

Howard and Deborah Chasanow, lifelong collectors of Asian art and artifacts, were introduced to Director Shieh through a series of coincidences. The daughter of Stan Pollack, an active member of the Center's Advisory Board (also former Chair of Towson's Department of Art) lives across the street from the Chasanow's College Park, Md., home. Visiting one day, she inquired about their plans for their vast collection. Upon learning that they were interested in sharing it, she passed the information on to her father, who facilitated the introduction between Suewhei Shieh and the Chasanows.



Deborah and Howard Chasanow

Retired Court of Appeals Judge Howard Chasanow, and his wife, U.S. District Court Judge Deborah Chasanow, have built their impressive collection with a focus on Chinese scholar's objects, including ornamental rocks, table screens, brush holders, jades and ivories. "Scholars' implements are highly artistic, and they're a personal interest of mine," says Howard Chasanow.

He always thought he would become an Asian art dealer in retirement, but a twist of fate introduced him to a new career track as a mediator, someone who assists in the resolution of cases both

in court and privately. This newfound love caused him to reconsider his original plans and he began thinking of ways to share his collection and give others the opportunity to enjoy it. The Asian Arts & Culture Center has proved a worthy recipient and the Chasanows will donate a substantial portion of their collection over a period of four or five years. Howard Chasanow says of this decision, "It's difficult to part with these objects, but my wife and I want to do something to spark interest in the field of Asian art. We're just delighted to know that they'll be admired and appreciated at Towson University."

With the aid of Dr. Gilbert Brungardt, the Center's Advisory Board president (and former dean of COFAC), and Vesna Gjaja, associate vice president for Development, the Center has already received the first installment of the gift, which includes 76 Chinese scholar's objects valued at approximately \$100,000. An exhibition is planned to introduce the collection to the public. We are proud to have been chosen to care for and present this remarkable collection for the benefit of students, faculty and the public alike – for the next 30 years and beyond.

Grants and Support

The **Maryland State Arts Council** has awarded the Center an unprecedented \$9,320 in support of its 2002-2003 programs. Among our other co-sponsors are **McCormick & Co., Inc.** with a \$2,000 contribution and the **Overseas Taiwanese Cultural Center**, Washington, D.C., with \$1,000 in support of the exhibition, *Rain Forest*.

Financial Summary

July 1, 2001-June 30, 2002

| Income | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Parent Org. Support* | \$68,054 |
| Membership & Donations | 32,426 |
| Sales (tickets, fees, fundraising) | 11,741 |
| Blue Moon Auction | 33,464 |
| Grants | 13,100 |
| Federal Work Study | 1,500 |
| Total | \$160,285 |
| Expenses | |
| Administration | \$82,954 |
| Programs | 23,000 |
| Printing | 5,960 |
| Mailing | 2,985 |
| Materials, Supplies, Services | 3,575 |
| Marketing and Development | 4,345 |
| Art Shipping and Insurance | 2,756 |
| Total | \$125,575 |
| Balance | \$ 34,710 |

*In-kind salaries, services and facilities

Board Notes: Bud and Lu Beth Cornell

Originally recruited by former board president, **Dr. James M. Furukawa**, to co-chair the Membership committee, **Lu Beth Bivens Cornell '57** and her husband, **Bud Cornell '53** have given the Center eight years of dedicated volunteer service. Currently, Bud serves as the Advisory Board's recording secretary.

Lu Beth and Bud enjoy memories of the many events in which they participated, such as aiding in the annual membership drive, connecting with supporters during the telethon (1997 and 1998), and volunteering at Center programs. Recently, as volunteers at the Many Moons Festival (2001) they were delighted to see that although closing time had arrived, children could not be persuaded to leave the craft stations. The Center's focus on education is one of the many reasons they cite for their involvement.

Having both worked on the planning committee for **Blue Moon 2002**, Lu Beth and Bud observe that the results of this fund raiser were nothing



Bud and Lu Beth Cornell accepting a gift from director, Suewhei Shieh.

short of breathtaking as a result of the board and Center's efforts. They say they are blessed to have worked with the director, **Suewhei Shieh**, and the president, **Gil Brungardt**, along with every member of the Advisory Board, in helping others to better appreciate Asian culture. Look for Lu Beth and Bud at the next event and congratulate them on their success.

Contributors (February-July, 2002)

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Overseas
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Nguyet Vuong

Blue Moon 2002

We are pleased to announce that the culmination of our 30th Anniversary Celebration, the Blue Moon Auction and Benefit Dinner (March 23) was a monumental success. This event received an overwhelming public response and brought many friends, both old and new, out to support the Center. The auction also garnered the support of more than 50 companies, organizations and individuals who generously contributed items and services. Ninety percent of the items for sale found new homes, raising \$30,600 in support of the Center's programming.

Amidst festive chatter, the whole affair went off according to plan. Maravene

Loeschke, former Dean of COFAC, gave a memorable performance as master of ceremonies and auctioneer. The exquisite works of art, festive decorations, multi-cultural buffet and the soothing murmur of the sitar and tabla were just the right ingredients for a fun-filled evening.

We recognize that the success of this event was largely due to the devotion and hard work of our Advisory Board, both in planning and execution, as well as the labors of the many volunteers who helped the auction to run smoothly. We could not have done it without your help. Thank you for everything.

AA&CC Advisory Board

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And the Award Goes to...

The Many Moons Festival (October 6, 2001) received the "Outstanding Program Award" from the Office of Student Affairs Leadership Awards Program in May 2002. Our program was recognized for its enrichment of the academic and co-curricular lives of Towson University students in 2001.

For more information, call 410-704-2807 or visit our web site at www.towson.edu/asianarts.

Asian Arts & Culture Center

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