



RIANTO AND GARIN NUGROHO: HIJRAH

FEBRUARY 18 - 20, 2021

8pm

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California Institute of the Arts

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We gratefully acknowledge that we operate on the traditional lands of the Tongva, Tataviam, and Chumash peoples—including the Gabrieleño, Fernandeño, and Ventureño; members of the Takic and Chumashan language families; and other Indigenous peoples who made their homes in and around the area we now call Los Angeles.

RIANTO AND GARIN NUGROHO: HIJRAH

Choreographer

Rianto

Film Director / Indonesian Dramaturgy

Garin Nugroho

Lighting Designer / Scenographer

Iskandar Loedin

Vocalist / Composition Collaborator

Cahwati

Research Collaborator / Advisor

Karlien Meganck

Producer

Jala Adolphus

ABOUT THE WORK

In *Hijrah*, Indonesian choreographer and dancer Rianto dives deep into the history and culture of Sulawesi to uncover the diverse and complex approaches to gender that exist in the traditional cultural and dance forms of this island. Exploring the migration of gender, memory, and the body, Rianto collaborates with Garin Nugroho, one of Indonesia's most prominent filmmakers today to create *Hijrah* documentary film portraits.

At the center of these film portraits is the figure of Dayeng Manda, a dance maestro who has notated his entire movement vocabulary in both male and female form into thousands of miniature woven dolls. In dialogue with Rianto, Dayeng Manda shares his connection to traditional vocabularies, their role in carrying our bodies towards the future and the interplay of gender against a backdrop of religious social politics.

Living between Tokyo and Indonesia, born and raised in the small Javanese village of Banyumas - the home of the Lengger cross gender dance - Rianto embodies as no-one else a space for the in-between, the coming together of traditional and contemporary culture, and of male and female. *Hijrah* is the continuation of his plea to value and give space for the in-between, to resist reducing the complexity of human beings and our society and culture into binary opposites. As always, he starts from his own body and biography to fight universally for more awareness around these pressing topics. In his work the personal becomes political.

In a world that consists of constant flux and movement, how much migration do we still allow in our own bodies? How much space do we allow ourselves to navigate between male and female? Could we embrace another way of looking at gender, as something which is not set, but rather fluid and alive?

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in 1981 Kaliori village, Banyumas, Rianto trained in classical Javanese dance and Central Javanese folk dance from a young age, specialising in the cross gender form of Lengger. Rianto has been based between Indonesia and Tokyo, Japan since 2003 where he founded the Classical Javanese dance company, Dewandaru Dance Company to introduce Javanese performing arts to Japan. He has worked with a spectrum of

international choreographers, performance makers and companies whilst remaining dedicated to his training and own voice for contemporary Javanese performing arts.

At the beginning of 2017 Rianto joined Akram Khan company to take on Akram's role in the feminist re-working of the Mahabharata *Until The Lion* and he toured with them from 2017 onwards. Rianto's acclaimed solo work *SoftMachine: Rianto* under the direction of Choy Ka Fai continues to be performed extensively across Europe and the Asia Pacific. Additional projects include co-productions with Korean choreographer Sen Hea Ha, performing in Seoul, Singapore, Belgium, Netherlands and Austria; the Chen Shi Zheng opera at Schubert Theatre, Boston and the English National Opera at the London Coliseum; guest artist for *Gulliver & Swift* and *Garibaba's Strange World* by Japanese dance company Pappa TARAHUMARA; the durational 24 hour dance work at Solo International Dance Day; collaborations with Keiko Nakano on *Yumme* for Tokyo metropolitan theatre; the dance opera *Gandari* by Tony Prabowo and *To Belong* choreographed by Akiko Kitamura. Artist residencies include Nettle Theatre Company, Korea, Attakkalari Biennial, India, Nanyang Academy Fine Arts, Singapore and, most recently, Staatstheater Darmstadt, Germany, Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Arts, Honolulu, deSingel, Antwerp and Weiwuying Kaohsiung.

His first full length solo work under his own direction, *Medium*, premiered in 2016 and has been presented in over 18 cities throughout Europe and the Asia Pacific with a further 11 seasons cancelled/postponed due to COVID-19.

Rianto is dedicated to supporting the from of Lengger and greater artistic communities of Banyumas, he has established an annual village festival with the regional government to support the community and next generation. Rianto's long term research into cross gender performative traditions has led him into his current work in progress *Hijra*, exploring body migration and the migration of gender against shifting social and political climates. Asia TOPA, RISING (Melbourne), deSingel (Belgium) and Staatstheater Darmstadt (Germany) are confirmed co-producers of the project.

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