



Arts and Culture Prize

ONG Keng Sen

Singapore

Theatre Director (Artistic Director of TheatreWorks)

Born November 20, 1963 (age 46)

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

- 1963 Born in Singapore
- 1988 LLB (Hons), Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore
Appointed Artistic Director of TheatreWorks, Singapore
- 1992 Received Singapore Young Artist Award (Theatre)
- 1993 Fulbright Scholarship, Tisch School of Arts, New York University
Asian Cultural Council Fellowship, New York
- 1995 M.A (Performance Studies), Tisch School of Arts, New York University
- 1996- Launched *The Flying Circus Project* (FCP), an ongoing lab process in Asia looking at interactions between traditional and contemporary artists held in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Singapore
- 1999 Japan Foundation Fellowship
- 1999- Initiated and founded the Arts Network Asia (ANA), a network giving microgrants to support arts and cultural dialogues and collaborations across borders in Asia
- 2001-03 Artistic Director and Curator of *In-Transit* (an international arts festival), the House of World Cultures, Berlin
- 2002-03 *Continuum Asia Project* (CAP), a capacity building programme with revival of local *Ramayana* (cultural heritage performance) and building an alternative arts education programme for young people in Luang Prabang, Laos
- 2003 Received the International Society of Performing Arts (ISPA) Distinguished Artist Award
Received Cultural Medallion Award (Theatre), the highest award for arts and culture in Singapore
- 2004 Block Mentor, Dasarts (the experimental graduate performance school), Amsterdam
- 2005 *The Flying Circus Project* (Special Edition 2005), Yokohama Triennale
Artistic Director of *the Insomnia season* for the Institute of Contemporary Art, London
Curator of *Spaces and Shadows*, an exhibition of contemporary South East Asian artists, the House of World Cultures, Berlin
- 2008 Artistic Director of *I AM HERE, THE TIME IS NOW*, Rotterdam (presented by European Cultural Foundation)
- 2009 Appointed onto the Asia Society Global Council, New York

MAJOR WORKS

ONG Keng Sen

Beauty World, Tokyo, Osaka, Hiroshima, Fukuoka, 1992

Lear, Tokyo, Osaka, Fukuoka, Hong Kong, Singapore, Jakarta, Perth, Berlin, Copenhagen, 1997-99

Desdemona, the Adelaide Festival, the Singapore Arts Festival, 2000, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, 2001

The Continuum: Beyond the Killing Fields, 2001-10 (commissioned and premiered at the International Festival of Arts and Ideas in New Haven, USA, having been played all over the world including Istanbul, Lyon, Melbourne and Phnom Penh)

Dreamtime in Morishita Studio, Tokyo, 2001

Search:Hamlet, Kronborg Castle, Elsinore, Denmark, 2002

The Global Soul - the Buddha project, the House of World Cultures, Berlin, 2003

Sandakan Threnody, Singapore Arts Festival, Melbourne Festival, 2004

Geisha, Lincoln Center, New York, 2006

Diaspora, Edinburgh International Festival, 2009

The Good Person of Szechwan, European Cultural Capital 09, Linz, Austria, 2009