

Dr. Chua Soo Pong

Dr. Chua is currently the Senior Consultant of the SIM University in Singapore. He has been actively involved in the research and practice of performing arts in Southeast Asia. As the Founding Director of the Chinese Opera Institute(COI), he has devised, planned, managed and implemented numerous projects to promote Chinese opera in Singapore and overseas, as well as organized international conferences, showcases, and the “Opera in the Park” series. The COI Performing Ensemble had performed overseas at 58 international festivals worldwide.

He is also one of the three co-founders of the ASEAN Puppetry Association (APA) and its Vice President since its inception in 2006. He is also a co-founder of Asia Dance Association (1983) and Asia Pacific Dance Alliance (1984), and the Commonwealth Theatre Lab (1989). He was the President of World Dance Alliance (Singapore) from 2006-2007. He taught at has been a the Nanyang Technological University (2002-2006) ,the National Institute of Education(1999-2000) and was the an as Founding Director of the School of Performing Arts at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts(1999-2000) Dr.Chua was the first Senior Specialist (SEAMEO SPAFA Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (1989-1992, 1994-1995) , Visiting Associate Professor, Aesthetics Department, Seoul National University (1992), Osaka University (1993-1994). Dr. Chua taught at the National University from 1980 to 1988.

During his term as the Senior Specialist, at SEAMEO SPAFA), he was a faculty member of the Dance Department, Chulalongkorn University (1989-1992,1994-1995), and the Performing Arts Department at the Bangkok University and taught there as an adjunct professor. Dr.Chua was senior Lecturer at the Dance Department in 1988 at Nanyang Academy of Fine Art.

Since 2011, Dr. Chua has been invited by the Ministry of Culture of China to produce new works for Chinese traditional theatre companies in Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Henan and Zhejiang provinces and has been directing almost a dozen of original productions that tour Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Indonesia, Italy, Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, Turkey and USA He actively contributes to international exchange programmes and promotes understanding between cultures.

Dr.Chua has been actively serving the arts community in Singapore as an art advocate, critic, and acted as advisor for over a dozen of dance, theatre and literay groups since the early 80s in Singapore. Apart from engaging in research in theatre and dance in Asia, Dr. Chua has written, directed or acted in many plays performed in over thirty countries.

Dr. Chua was awarded a research grant from the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (Singapore) in 1991 and the Korea Foundation in 1992 and an Asean Fellowship in 1993.. Chua was the editor of “Performing Arts”, the first journal on the arts in Singapore, published by the National Theatre Trust, from 1983 to 1989. His “Traditional Theatre in Southeast Asia” published by Unipress, National University of Singapore has been used extensively as a textbook. He is also the editor (Asia Volume) of the World Encyclopaedia of Contemporary Theatre published by Rutledge, London in 1998. His research in performing arts of Asia has been published extensively in international and regional journals.

Dr. Chua obtained his Ph.D. from the Queen’s University in Belfast, U.K. in 1979. He obtained his M.Sc. from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London in 1976 and his B.A. (Hons) from Nanyang University in 1972.