A kiss, when all is said, what is it?

one of the seminal figures of modern Japanese theater, it is fitting that Tadashi Suzuki's production of *Cyrano de* Bergerac should open the National CKS Cultural Foundation's (國立中正文化中心) Window on Japan (世界之窗日本系列) program next Friday.

The series of performances provides a sampling of Japan's varied artistic developments, including representative dance, multimedia, musical and dramatic works, that is designed to provide a deeper insight into some of country's cultural currents.

Japan has proved remarkably successful in creating a dialogue between its traditional culture and the avant-garde, and Suzuki played a key role in that process.

Drawing heavily on Noh and Kabuki techniques, Suzuki developed a training program that places great emphasis on actors' physical discipline.

In an article titled Culture and the Body, published in 2002, Suzuki summarized his approach as consisting "of training ... to speak powerfully and with clear articulation, and also ... learn[ing] to make the whole body speak, even when one keeps silent."

The Suzuki method is famed for requiring a level of control more akin to that of a dancer than a stage actor.

Lin Yu-beng (林于竝), an assistant professor of drama at the Taipei National University of the Arts (國立臺北藝術大學), says Suzuki's achievement

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

WHAT: Tadashi Suzuki's Cyrano de Bergerac WHEN: Oct. 9 and Oct. 10 at 7:30pm, Oct. 11 at 4:30pm

WHERE: National Theater, Taipei City LANGUAGE: In Japanese with Chinese

ADMISSION: NT\$500 to NT\$2,500, available through NTCH ticket outlets or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

OTHER EVENTS ON THE PROGRAM: Oct. 9 to Oct. 11 HIROAKI UMEDA: WHILE GOING TO A CONDITION

Oct. 10 to Oct. 11 KABUKI LECTURE DEMONSTRATION Oct. 16 to Oct. 18 **NOISM NINA**

Oct. 25 **BEST OF YOSHIDA BROTHERS: TSUGARU** SHAMISEN Oct. 22 to Oct. 25

BY NOAH BUCHAN

RYOICHI KUROKAWA: Celeritas Nov. 5 to Nov. 6 MUSICAL JOURNEY OF JAPAN

was to distill physical movements from Asian theatrical traditions.

"Similar in some respects to the forms used in Beijing opera and other Chinese opera styles, it is a physical expression that does not require words," Lin said. "The presence of each actor is sufficient to command the audience's attention."

While inspired by traditional Japanese performance styles, Suzuki ranges freely through the cannons of drama to find his material. In 2007 he brought his production of Dionysus to Taiwan, a work based on Euripides' play The Bacchae.

His reworking of Edmond Rostand's Cyrano de Bergerac, written in 1897, has seen many successful modern versions, and was popularized in the 1990 French movie adaptation starring Gerard Depardieu.

Suzuki's *Cyrano* bears little resemblance to those redactions. Not only do the actors don traditional Japanese dress, but Suzuki has also incorporated whole sections of Verdi's La*Traviata* into the score.

Suzuki also frames Cyrano's story within another story whose central figure is an author, and compares the latter's position, hidden behind his words, with the former's, who is forced by circumstance to declare his love by proxy.

Suzuki's Cyrano, with its strange, even absurd hybridity, transcends specific styles and is universally expressive, Lin says.

Theater

Legitimate Crimes (合法犯罪), the

latest production by Ping-Fong Acting Troupe (屏風表演班), is a detective comedy that involves a murder in a amusement park. The stellar cast includes troupe founder Hugh Lee (李國修) and actor and comedian Gu Pao-min (顧寶明) ■ Metropolitan Hall (城市舞台), 25,

- Bade Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市八德 路三段25號) ■ Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at
- 2:30pm, Sunday at 2:30pm and 7:30pm, Tuesday to Thursday at 7:30pm ■ Tickets are NT\$600 to NT\$3,000,

available through NTCH ticketing or

online at www.artsticket.com.tw Contemporary Jazz Dance Theater (爵士 舞蹈劇場), which mixes jazz and modern dance with other forms of performing arts, celebrates its fifth birthday with

different choreographers ■ Crown Art Center Theater (皇冠小劇 場), B1, 50, Ln 120, Dunhua N Rd, Taipei

Fives', five pieces created by five

- City (台北市敦化北路120巷50號B1) I omorrow at 7:30pm, tomorrow and
- Sunday at 2:30pm and 7:30pm ■ Tickets are NT\$500, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

A rendition of the Oscar-winning Alan Ball play of the same title, **Five Women Wearing the Same Dress** by Ren Shin Theatre (仁信合作社) is a comedy set at a wedding in the countryside near Tainan where five

- bridesmaids must confront their own desires and attitudes toward life. ■ Tainan Human Theater Factory (台南人 戲工場), 3F, Baida Education and Cultural Center (百達文教中心3樓), 85 Shengli Rd,
- Tainan City (台南市勝利路85號) ■ Tonight at 7:30pm, tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$360, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Known as Taiwan's first original musical, Greenray Theater's (緑光劇團) Neckties & High-heeled Shoes — A Musical (領帶與高跟鞋) returns with a nationwide tour 15 years after it premiered. The musical tells a story of workplace intrigue and lampoons

- Taiwanese office culture. ■ Kaohsiung's Chih-Teh Hall (高雄市文 化中心至德堂), 67 Wufu 1st Rd,
- Kaohsiung City (高雄市五福一路67號) ■ Tonight at 7:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

UPCOMING

Japanese jazz artist Julee Karan

makes her debut appearance in Taiwan on Oct. 11 at the Taipei

International Convention Center

standards in contemporary pop

Jazz, which includes renditions of

Karan is a lounge singer who delivers

ballad style. Her debut album, Lover's

Culture Club's Do You Really Want to

Hurt Me and The Police's Every Breath

iTunes charts in Italy, the Netherlands

promoted as a diva in the making by

EMI, which is betting her smooth charm will win over fans in Taiwan.

and Switzerland. Karan is being

You Take, made a splash in Europe, where it reached the Top 10 on the

(台北國際會議中心大會堂)

BY **DAVID CHEN**

Classical music

2009 NTSO International Music Festival Series VII — Szymanowski Quartet (2009NTSO國際音樂節系列VII — 齊 瑪諾夫斯基弦樂四重奏) sees the quartet performing a program that includes Szymanowski's Nocturne and Tarantella, Op.28, Haydn's String

"Emperor," and Mendelssohn's String Quartet in D Major, Op. 44, No. 1. ■ Today at 7:30pm ■ National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra Music Hall (國立台灣交響樂團演奏廳), 738-2 Chungcheng Rd, Wufeng

Township, Taichung County (台中縣霧

Quartet in C Major, Op. 76, No. 3

■ Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$1,000, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

峰鄉中正路738之2號)

NSO Theme Park — Music King of the Ocean (NSO 主題樂園 — 音 樂航海王) is a children's concert that brings together the musical talents of the National Symphony Orchestra (國 家父響樂) under Chang Yin-tang (張尹 芳) and the dramatic skills of Ifkids Theater (如果兒童劇團) in a production for the whole family. The program includes sections from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker and Swan Lake, Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition, Rimsky-Korsakov's Flight of the Bumblebee and Capriccio Espagnol,

- Tomorrow at 11am and 2:30pm
- National Concert Hall, Taipei City ■ Tickets are NT\$400, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Striking Vision (擊樂異象) sees percussion group Music Forum (十方樂 集) present a program of newly commissioned works, including Five Scenes (五景—擊樂五重奏) by Lee Taihsiang (李泰祥), Lead-in With Storm and Thunder (風雷引 — 鋼琴與擊樂團) by Chen Shu-si (陳樹熙), and For Five Percussion Players and Two Voices (給五 位擊樂者與兩部人聲) by Ying Kwang-i (應廣儀), which will be receiving their world premiere. Wu Yan — Sextet for Percussion (烏燄 — 擊樂六重奏) by Chong Kee-yong (鍾啓榮) and Percussion Quartet by Charles Wuorinen, also included in the program, will be

- performed in Taiwan for the first time. ■ Tomorrow at 7:30pm ■ Novel Hall (新舞台), 3-1 Songshou Rd,
- Taipei City (台北市松壽路3-1號) ■ Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$900, available through NTCH ticketing or online at www.artsticket.com.tw

Julee Karan is a potential jazz diva in the

Convention Center (台北國際會議中

- 心大會堂), 1, Xinyi Rd Sec 5, Taipei City (台北市信義路五段1號) Oct. 11 at 7:30pm
- ► Tickets are NT\$700 to NT\$2,500, available through ERA ticket outlets ▶ Julee Karan at Taipei International or online at www.ticket.com.tw

Contemporary

Sodagreen (蘇打綠), named best band at this year's Golden Melody Awards, appears tonight and tomorrow at The Wall (這牆) to promote its album, Fever (夏/狂熱), which was released last month. American heavy metal band Skid Row, which broke into the scene in the 1980s as a glam metal band, takes to the stage on Sunday. On Wednesday it's another round of Challenging the Fire (火焰大挑 戰), a battle of young or otherwise unknown bands, while on Thursday the venue hosts drum 'n' bass-influenced group Chi Chi and Di Di (奇奇與蒂蒂), emo punk band **Lucy Overdrive** (超速 露西) and nu-rock band Beright. ■ B1, 200, Roosevelt Rd Sec 4, Taipei

- City (台北市羅斯福路四段200號B1). Tel: (02) 2930-0162. On the Net: www.thewall.com.tw
- Music shows start at 8pm tomorrow. Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday ■ Entrance fee is NT\$800 tonight and tomorrow, NT\$2,000 at the door or NT\$1,800 in advance on Sunday. NT\$250 on Wednesday and NT\$300 on Thursday. Lickets can be purchased online by visiting www.thewall.com.tw or tickets.books.com.tw

Three singers and a guitarist make up Anniedora (安妮朶拉), an acoustic pop group that performs at Witch House (女 巫店) tonight. Tomorrow it's acoustic indie rockers **Silverbus** (銀巴士). On Thursday, singer and guitarist **Marine** (馬林) takes the stage, accompanied by a pianist and

- followed by Melon and Friends. ■ 7. Ln 56, Xinsheng S Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市新生南路三段56巷7號). Tel: (02) 2362-5494. On the Net: www.witchhouse.org
- Performances start at 9:30pm. Restaurant/bar with queer/feminist bookstore and large collection of board games open 11am to midnight Sundays through Wednesdays; 11am to 1am Thursdays through Saturdays
- Entrance fee for music shows is NT\$300

Yellow Funky Stuff plays a fusion of jazz, funk and rock tonight at Riverside Cafe (河岸留言). Tomorrow it's **Red Flower** (紅花) and indie-rock

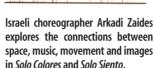
veterans La Petite Nurse (小護士樂團) On Sunday, **Amanda Wu Jazz Trio** (**Amanda** 爵士三重奏) plays modern jazz standards plus a few originals sung in Mandarin. The venue's weekly open am is on Monday.

- B1, 2, Ln 244, Roosevelt Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路三段244巷 2號B1), next to Taipower Building (台電 大樓). Tel: (02) 2368-7310. On the Net: www.riverside.com.tw
- Shows start at 9:30pm tonight and 9pm tomorrow, Sunday and Monday. Open jam starts at 9pm. For a list of standard songs and ground rules, visit the venue's Web site
- Entrance fee is NT\$400 tonight and tomorrow, NT\$350 on Sunday and NT\$150 on Monday

Pop singer **Victor Wong** (品冠) performs tonight at Riverside Live House (西門 紅樓展演館). Tomorrow Christian rock band **Mojo and Friends** takes the stage to celebrate the release of its first album. On Thursday, indie-folk duo katncandix2 (棉花糖) shares the bill with happy-golucky rock band Sunny4.

- 177 Xining S Rd, Taipei City (台北市西 寧南路177號). Tel: (02) 2370-8805. On the Net: www.riverside.com.tw ■ Shows start at 8:30pm tonight,
- tomorrow and Thursday ■ Entrance fee is NT\$500 tonight and tomorrow and NT\$400 on Thursday. Tickets can purchased online through www.riverside.com.tw/

HIGHLIGH.



in Solo Colores and Solo Siento.

The 2009 Kuandu Arts Festival (關渡藝 術節) kicks off tomorrow night with a free theater performance by Taiwanbased Golden Bough Theater of Happiness (浮浪貢開花), a lighthearted comedy about a young bohemian's quest for eternal bliss. On Oct. 10. Israeli actress Gila Almagor reprises her role of the demented Holocaust survivor Henya in the much-anticipated The Summer of Avia, which is based on a novel by Almagor. In the medium of dance, Israeli choreographer Arkadi Zaides explores the connections between space, music, movement and image in Solo Colores and Solo Siento, beginning on Oct. 16. And on Oct. 9, Hong Kong-based dance troupe Mcmuimui Dansemble's (雙妹嘜舞蹈劇 場) Boot-leg Butter-fly (與山伯同床) takes a humorous look at the lives of two young women in a performance inspired by the Chinese tale The

The Kuandu Arts Festival runs until Oct. 25 and includes art exhibits and lectures in addition to a wide range of performances. A PDF version of the festival's program, which contains useful information such as show times, ticket prices and links to artists' Web sites, can be downloaded from kdarts.tnua.edu.tw/festival/file/0910 small.pdf. A review of the festival's art exhibits will run on Page 15 of this coming Wednesday's Taipei Times. ▶ Performances will be held at the Taipei National University of the Arts Dance Theater (國立台北藝術大學舞蹈 廳), 1, Xueyuan Rd, Taipei City (台北市 學園路1號), and at the National

- Experimental Theater, Taipei City. Art exhibits will be on display at the Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts (關渡美 術館), 1 Xueyuan Rd, Taipei City (台北 市學園路1號)
- ► Tomorrow until Oct. 25 On the Net:

Butterfly Lovers (梁山伯與祝英台). kdarts.tnua.edu.tw/festival

Tonight **Underworld** (地下社會) hosts indie rockers **Sunset Rollercoaster** (落 日飛車) and Macbeth (馬克白). Appearing tomorrow are expressly un-PC expat band Homo Jews and alternative hard rock band **Doublewide**. On Wednesday, indie-electronica band

livehouse or tickets.books.com.tw

- Heartones (心電樂) opens for emopunks **Lucy Overdrive** (超速露西). ■ B1, 45 Shida Rd, Taipei City (台北市師 大路45號B1). Tel: (02) 2369-0103. On the Net: www.upsaid.com/underworld ■ Music shows run from 9:30pm to 11:30pm on Fridays and Saturdays and 9pm to 11pm on Wednesdays. Underworld is open daily from 9pm, closed on Mondays. Happy Hour on
- Tuesdays and Thursdays before midnight ■ Entrance is NT\$300 tonight and tomorrow and includes one drink, NT\$100 on Wednesday

Saxophonist Joseph Marchione's **Jo Jo** Ma Quintet plays tonight at Sappho de Base. Tomorrow Black Sheep plays Texas style blues. On Tuesday, house band **Jazz Friends** holds an open jam session, and on Wednesday the venue hosts ShantaaL (香塔樂團), a trio that performs Indian and Central Asian music. On Thursday, it's funk, acid disco and hard rock with **Double J**.

- B1, 1, Ln 102, Anhe Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市安和路一段102巷1號B1). Tel: (02) 2700-5411. On the Net: www.sappho102.biz
- Music shows begin at 10:30pm on weekends, 10pm on weekdays. Sappho is closed on Sundays and Mondays ■ No entrance fee

EZ5 Live House hosts Mando-pop singers backed by a live band every night. Highlights this week include Julia Peng (彭佳慧), a major draw who appears every Tuesday. Paiwan singer **Matzka**, who plays reggae and rock with a strong Taiwanese flavor, has recently taken residence at the venue.



- 211, Anhe Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北 市安和路二段211號). Tel: (02) 2738-3995. On the Net- visit www ez5 com tw
- Music shows run from 9:45pm to
- 12:30am ■ Entrance fee (includes two drinks) ranges from NT\$600 to NT\$850.

depending on the performer Taichung's 89k hosts jazzy pop-rock

- outfit **Dawid Vorster Trio** tomorrow.
- 21 Daguan Rd, Nantun Dist, Taichung
- City (台中市南屯區大觀路21號) ■ Shows start at 10pm
- Entrance is NT\$300

Roxy Roots, a bar and restaurant dedicated to reggae and blues fans, hosts one-man Delta blues band Jack

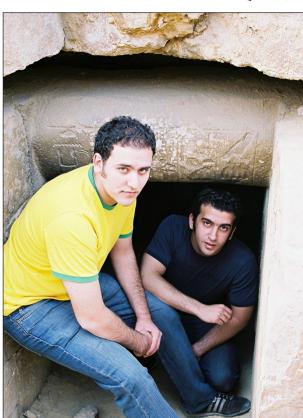
- Conqueroo tomorrow night. ■ 90 Songren Rd, Taipei City (台北市松 仁路90號). Tel: (02) 2725-3932. On the Net: www.roxy.com.tw
- Show starts at 10pm tomorrow Entrance is free

Roxy nightclub **The Other Side** now only opens on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. The club is a "party-until-thesun-comes-up" spot like its predecessor, Roxy Vibe, but The Other Side promises a classier atmosphere befitting of its locale in Taipei's East District. Wednesday night is "Indie Rock Ladies night." DJs spin rock 'n' roll, hip-hop and some electronica on Fridays and Saturdays.

- B1, 20, Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北 市松壽路20號B1). Tel: (02) 2723-3257.
- On the Net: www.roxy.com.tw Open on Wednesdays from 10pm until 4am, and on Fridays and Saturdays
- from 10pm until 7:30am ■ Cover charge for women is NT\$300, except Wednesdays, when women get in free. Cover charge for men is NT\$400 on Wednesdays and on Fridays and Saturdays before 1am. After 1am on weekends cover charge for men is NT\$500. Entrance fee includes a drink



BY QUEEN BEE



Dance like an Egyptian with Aly, right, and Fila.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SPUNITE

very autumn, southern Taiwan's dance music fans gather at Tainan's Masago Beach (馬沙溝) for one of the biggest nights of the year. But this year there have been two last-minute changes of venue. Organizer Spunite announced a week ago that this Mid-Autumn Festival weekend's event would take place up north at Taipei County Exhibition Hall (台北縣工商展覽中心), and then we were told on Wednesday that it will be held at Luxy. The Vinyl Word sat down with Spunite's director, Brian Tsai (蔡 家緯), to find out what's going on.

Vinyl Word: Why did you move the party to Taipei? **Brian Tsai:** Bad press about the party last week was the main reason. Three articles in the China Daily News [Tainan's major local paper] bashed our party last Thursday. And when we called the paper to protest, they told us that someone very powerful instigated the coverage, and then we were informed that we weren't allowed to use the venue. That's why we had to relocate at such short notice.

VW: What's the lowdown on Masago?

BT: The first Masago was in 2002. I stumbled across the venue and decided to do a party there. Since then we've been doing it every year. The size of the party went from 400 attendees the first year to some 4,000 in 2005. We had Armin van Buuren in 2004. We had a hip-hop stage in 2005, but it didn't quite work, so after that we decided to solely stick to electronic music. Besides Spring Scream in Kenting, Masago has been the only big outdoor party in the south, but I'm quite worried that the chance to party has been taken away.

VW: For the past few years, speculation has it that you were going to quit organizing the party.

made me want to give up. But I always found a solution. The other thing that's keeping the party going is the help and support I receive from my friends. I'm very grateful VW: How do you select the DJs? Is there a theme?

BT: Every year there was something frustrating that

BT: The majority of our supporters are into trance, so we always have a big trance act. Also, we try to find someone who other promoters are unlikely to book. This year we are hosting Egyptian DJ duo Aly & Fila [Aly Amr Fathalah and Fadi Wassef Naguib], young luminaries on DJmag's Top 100 DJs chart. It wasn't easy for them to come to Taiwan because the visa application process was very difficult, but we managed to take care of it. The other headliner is **Shinichi Osawa** [aka Mondo Grosso] from Japan. He's famous for both disco house and indie dance. I

want the music to be diverse, so Osawa is perfect. In addition, there will be a string of local acts. Each specializes in different kinds of music, from house, breakbeat and drum 'n' bass to techno, indie dance and trance. It'll be like a musical trip.

(This interview has been edited and condensed.) M9 (Masago 2009) is tomorrow from 10pm to 5am at Luxy, 5F, 201, Zhongxiao E Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市 忠孝東路四段201號5樓). Tickets are NT\$1,000 at the door and NT\$800 in advance (available today only). Admission includes two drinks. For a list of ticket outlets and the full lineup visit spunite.com/m9.

