

Divadlo Archa

**Centre for Contemporary
Performing Arts**

English-friendly
Program in Archa
Theatre / November 2017

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Wen Hui, China / Dance in Social Context / Body and Social Memory

Workshop with Chinese choreographer and dancer Wen Hui
4/11/2017 / Workshop / 10:00–13:00 at Archa Studio

Choreographer, dancer, documentary filmmaker and activist **Wen Hui** will introduce the principles of her work in a practical workshop. The workshop is open to theatre professionals and other creators with an interest in documentary theatre and is conducted in English.

Fee CZK 300 / students CZK 150
Apply at jana.svobodova@archatheatre.cz



An Evening with Living Dance Studio documentary films and authentic food

15/11/2017 / 20:00 / Film Screening and Dinner
Admission for CZK 150 includes dinner. Space is limited.

Films:

Satiated Village

Directed by: Zou Xueping / 88 min / 2011

Zou Xueping took her first documentary *The Hungry Village* (part of Caochangdi Workstation's Folk Memory Project) — made up of first-person testimony about the effects of the Great Famine of 1960 (see Hu Jie's *Spark* in this series for another view) on her home village in Shandong — back home to show her subjects. They unanimously disapproved. Frustrated and full of doubt, Zou then made this second documentary discussing the villagers' reactions to her first. This wonderful, searching, self-reflexive film questions the necessity and usefulness of truth-telling via cinema, when it brings pain and even shame upon neighbours and family. Zou's 9-year-old niece emerges as its star, a girl who can balance competing exigencies of truth and love with a wisdom beyond her years.

Dance with Grandmother

Directed by: Wen Hui / 15 min

Back to Huamulin

Directed: Li Xinmin / 72 min

This film is about a four-year-old boy, Xiaoqiang. His mother, Xiaoqun, is just of my age. I filmed Xiaoqun and her family last year. This year I went back filming her son Xiaoqiang who I found so interesting. We hung out together and picked up garbage in the village, witnessing the real life of old villagers and the damage they did to the environment.



Ordinary People

Jana Svobodová, Wen Hui and co.

21/11/2017 22/11/2017 / 20:00

Tickets CZK 290 / Students 150

Special offer for your students: 1+1 free (limited capacity)

A joint project between the Archa Theatre and the Living Dance Studio, an independent theatre in Beijing

At a time when the leaders of many countries show disdain for basic human rights in the interests of political business, we ask: Who are these ordinary people whom they claim to represent?

The performance combines principles of documentary theatre and dance. Followed by a discussion with the artists.

Vladimír, 73, lives in a small town near Prague. He worked his whole life in a factory as a turner and toolmaker. When he was young he was one of the best rock and roll dancers in Prague. Every Saturday night he was the king of the dance floor, dancing an extravagant "capitalist" dance, until the police would come and escort him out. Saturday after Saturday the same story would be repeated. They could not repress his passion to dance freely.

Wen was born in the 1960s and is a dancer and choreographer. She lives in Beijing. She was trained at the theatre academy to be the prima ballerina of the propaganda ballet company. The time of her youth corresponded with the era of student protests and great hopes, which never came to fruition. Her life had been saved, but she has never forgotten the trauma. In the 90s she founded the first independent dance company in China, the Living Dance Studio.

The Living Dance Studio, Beijing

The Living Dance Studio was founded in 1994 by filmmaker Wu Wenguang and choreographer and dancer Wen Hui as the first independent contemporary company in China. Until recently, they were able to work in the Caochangdi Work Station in Beijing, designed especially for them by artist Ai Weiwei.

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Box Office
Opening Hours: Monday–Friday 10am–6pm and always 2 hours before the start of performances.
phone: (+420) 221 716 333
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Tickets available online via www.goout.cz

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