

Korean Mask Dance Drama Workshop

Kim Tae-Hoon

Member of the Korean Gugak Center Dance Troupe

Heir of the Dance of Cheoyong, designated as UNESCO Masterpiece of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity (2009)



Thursday, November 5, 2015

2:30pm —4:00pm

Performance Space, Baker Hall West

129 West 12th Avenue

Abstract: Talchum, “mask dance,” is a satiric amalgam of music, dance, and dialog illustrating the seriousness of social injustice through the hilarity of caricature. Evolving through several dynasties of strict social hierarchy, Korean mask dance theatre developed as a channel of subversion for the oppressed. Talchum entertains while hearkening its audience to the social injustice occurring within the community. It addresses the absurdity of class hierarchal system and patriarchal gender inequality in premodern Korean society. The main characters delineated with specific masks and costumes include half-baked nobility, disgraced Buddhist monk, saucy servant, the lecherous man-wife-concubine trio, and fickle shamaness/prostitute. Rooted in the indigenous Korean spiritualism, it was performed as part of well-wishing or exorcism for the community. The performance would begin in the evening by a bonfire and continue until early next morning. In the case of Pongsan T'alch'um, the masks worn during the play would be burnt at the end, symbolizing all the troublesome spirits are extinguished. Outside the venues for traditional performance, t'alch'um's liminal boundary-breaking, dynamic movements, satiric prowess, and incendiary verbiage are a source of inspiration for many postmodern and radical theatrical productions in Korea.

Bio: Kim Tae-Hoon is a graduate of Sungkyungwan University with a major in Korean Dance, and is currently a member of the Korean National Gugak (Korean traditional music) Center. Kim is also an heir of Cheoyongmu, masked dance of Cheoyong, legendary spirit of healing of the Silla Kingdom. Kim will introduce the dramatic art of Korean mask dance with a demonstration. English interpretation will be provided. All are welcome.



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Free and open to the public