

mad monk

Letters of support

Here are 4 letters of Support:

- > **Asialink, Australia**
- > **Folkeakademiet Bergen Sentrum, Norway**
- > **Hippo Theatre Co, Greece**
- > **Batu Bantengan Arts Festival, Indonesia**



30 YEARS OF INSIGHTS
CAPABILITIES
& CONNECTIONS

1st March 2023

Australia Council for the Arts
Level 5, 60 Union St
Pyrmont NSW 2009

The Asialink Centre
Level 4 Sidney Myer Asia Centre
The University of Melbourne
Cnr Swanston St & Monash Rd
Parkville 3010 Victoria Australia
Telephone +613 8344 4800
Facsimile +613 9347 1768

www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au

To the panel for Multi-Arts Project:

RE: Letter of Support for Tony Yap and the development of *Mad Monk*

I am writing in my capacity as Director of Asialink Arts at the University of Melbourne in support of Tony Yap's application for the creative development of *Mad Monk*.

I am delighted to write this letter of support for Tony Yap's proposal. *Mad Monk* is a multi-arts approach to expend how audiences can have an immersive and visceral experience of an Asian-inspired concept. The funding will enable Tony to fully conceptualise *Mad Monk*, which draws from ancient Javanese and Malaysian traditions, and will incorporate physical theatre with emerging forms of electro-acoustic sound design and digital media composition design and development. This project is linked to prospective cultural partners in Norway, Greece, Malaysia and Indonesia, and if this proposal is successful, will facilitate Tony's overall vision to extend creative links in Australia and internationally.

At Asialink Arts, we work as a cultural enabler, capacity builder, and conduit for the Asia-Pacific region to engage with Australian artists and institutions. We are dedicated to supporting artists, creatives and producers build their networks and knowledge internationally. Our values and mission strongly align with Tony's vision for *Mad Monk*.

Tony is an Asialink Arts alumnus, and a current member of our Regional // Regional Alliance, which was designed to encourage long-term connections between delegates from regional arts festivals and platforms across Australia and the Asia Pacific. As a respected figure in the industry, he has contributed significantly to this initiative, and brings an important non-Western perspective to the arts in Australia.

I encourage you to support this application and, by extension, make an invaluable contribution to the diversity and vibrancy of the arts sector in Australia.

Yours faithfully

Dr Pippa Dickson
Director, Asialink Arts

The Multi-Arts Panel,
Arts Project section,
Australia Council for the Arts

Bergen, Norway, 01.03.2022

In support of Tony Yap's application, 'Mad Monk'

As the director of Folkeakademiet Bergen Sentrum I write in support of Tony Yap's application for funds for a creative development of his new work, 'Mad Monk'.

This May, 2023, Tony has been invited to co-choreographer with Kristine Nilsen Oma to execute a hybrid performance mixing dance, installation, and vocals in a live performance of Karantena #millionsmissing part 3, at Studio Bergen, Norway. Tony brings his multi-disciplinary experience especially in his long practice of Asian trance into contemporary work. Karantena #millionsmissing part 3 is a co-production between choreographer and dance artist Kristine Nilsen Oma, Carte Blanche –the Norwegian national company of contemporary dance, Bergen Dansesenter – regional centre of competency in dance and Folkeakademiet Bergen Sentrum

Kristine and Tony share a common practice and a history of collaborations that involves the body as a psychophysical entity for transformative performance.

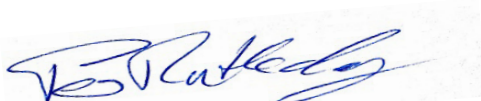
Tony's 'Mad Monk' will be a multi-arts project taking his expertise in trance-focused practice to another level of performance. I look forward to the development of this project and its final state of rare combination of disciplines from ancient trance practice. This is inspirational, and the team of artists in their innovative approaches promises a mix that will be transformative. I look forward to 'Mad Monk' in its finished state to very possibly be presentation as part of our performance program here in Bergen in the future.

I would like to show my wholehearted support for Tony in his application for funds for this project and hope the selection panel will look favorably to this bold and strong experimentation.

A brief introduction to Folkeakademiet

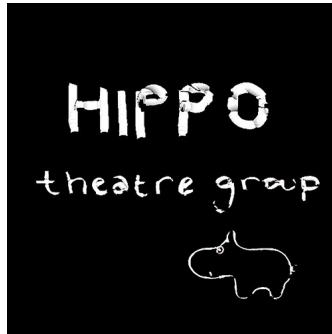
Established in 1885, Folkeakademiet grew out of a need to provide arts, culture and education to a growing working class in Norway. Throughout its history, Folkeakademiet has maintained strong links to the working classes and its political and labour organisations. Today, Folkeakademienes Landsforbund (the union of independent community based Folkeakademiorganisations) is Norway's largest provider of arts- and cultural events. 127 local organisations provide in excess of 20 000 events every year.

Yours sincerely,



Per Rutledal, creative curator and managing director
Folkeakademiet Bergen Sentrum





March 1, 2023

RE: Tony Yap's application for Creative Development – 'Mad Monk'

I am writing as the artistic director of Hippo Theatre Group Company to express my support for Tony Yap's application to develop his new hybrid work incorporating digital technology and experimental music to his unique dance with trance-inspired work.

Tony collaborated with Hippo Theatre Group in a successful and highly visual physical-dance theater performance, 'Silent Speaks' in 2018, which was performed in popular venues in Greece (Porta - Athens and National Theater of Northern Greece -Thessaloniki) with great success. Tony's trance-forms, informed through his research in traditional Asian trance dances and theater has a strong resonance to traditional Greek Theatre, and the multi-disciplinary and multi-arts, especially in new digital media, makes the contemporary mix of Asian and Greek themes very exciting. We hope to continue our collaboration in longer terms with Tony and his company of artists in more exchanges of new training and discourses in new forms of theater.

Hippo will seek to bring 'Mad Monk', possible for the annual International Athens Epidaurus Festival (Athens) and the annual International Forest Festival (Thessaloniki), when it is ready for presentation. In this way we will continue to exchange processes and theater methods.

I look forward to this project being realised and urge you to support Tony in his application for the first stage of the creative development.

Yours sincerely

Alexandros Raptis

HIPPO-ΧΙΠΟ
ΑΣΤΙΚΗ ΜΗ ΚΕΡΔΟΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ
ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΕΣ ΘΕΑΤΡΟΥ
ΚΑΡΑΪΣΚΑΚΗ 38, Τ.Κ. 62124 ΣΕΡΡΕΣ
ΑΦΜ: 998145154 ΔΟΥ Α' ΣΕΡΡΩΝ

Artistic Director

Hippo Theatre Group

<http://hippohippos.wixsite.com/hippo-theatre-group>

hippotheatregroup@gmail.com

Tel (GR): +306976904396

Address: Karaiskaki 38, 62124, Serres, Greece



B a n t e n g a n N u s w a n t a r a

Agus Riyanto

Jalan Nangka RT.02 RW.10,
Dusun Binangun, Kec. Bumiaji,
Kota Batu Jawa Timur,
Indonesia

Agusriyanti23ags@gmail.com

24 / 2 / 2023

RE: Letter of Support for Dr Tony Yap - *Mad Monk*

I am the founding director of the supreme *Bantengan Trance Carnival*, Nuswantara. In 2007 I revived our ancient trance-bull carnival, *Bantengan* of my ancestors. *Bantengan* brings back our energy by the totem of Banteng Bulls of this region to our people. It is a spiritual ritual to energise and bring wellness to the population.

It is very exciting when our ancient practice is mixed with the western and contemporary to make new collaborations and new forms of performance art.

I have known and worked with Dr Tony Yap in many projects for over ten years. We have performed and collaborated in Australia, Malaysia, India, Thailand and Indonesia. Dr Yap's research for his PhD in trance and Bantengan is a big part of our interview. He is also a great dancer and interpret the energy of trance very strongly in his contemporary works.

Our festival will be glad to invite and support ***Mad Monk*** when it is ready to be performed in our festival.

I hope Dr Yap's application will be a success and we can welcome him and his team to Batu and perform in our ancient city and exchange cultures through workshops and forums.

Yours faithfully

Agus Riyanto