

Dancing on the street can be more fun than dancing on a theatre's stage. Let's take a close look at site-specific dance.

# Room to manoeuvre

It is always assumed that spaces have a specific, designated function. Stairs are a means to commute between floors, beds are for sleep and dreaming, and churches are a place for worship. But if we choose not to interact with the space through its primary function, how else can we connect with a space? This April, the Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (HKYAF) in collaboration with the renowned New York site-specific dance company Third Rail Projects (TRP) presents "Aedas My Footsteps", a choreographer development project which imbues a site with new meaning and purpose.

Site-specific dance is created specifically for an allocated place. The choreography is generated through research and interpretation of the site's unique cultural matrix of characteristics, whether architectural, historical, social or environmental; it's all about discovering the hidden meaning in a space and developing methods to amplify it.



The BESSIE-award-winning site-specific choreographers will give 20 young choreographers a five-day intensive masterclass workshop, creating a 20-minute original dance performance using Bethanie, a stunningly beautiful heritage site in Pokfulam, as their stimulus. This showcases the talent of emerging choreographers for an intimate audience.

They are excited about reframing contemporary art and performance – often taking it out of theatre or art space – in order to directly engage on a deeper level with audiences. TRP said: "Site-specific performance allows us to do exactly that. By performing in non-traditional and public spaces, we have the opportunity to transform people's perspective of their everyday environments and interactions."

It adds: "Our site-work has proved to be a tremendously rewarding experience for both artists and audience alike. There's something about the immediacy and unexpectedness of site-work that can be profoundly affecting. We hope that these workshops stimulate the

participants to think creatively about other options for movement and how to re-think creating performance in public spaces. Our goal is that they will be inspired to continue working and experimenting in this vein, and will, in turn, share their discoveries with other artists."

HKYAF is now inviting youth dancers, dance practitioners and choreographers to come to on-site performances and participate in a 'meet-the-artists' session to share their thoughts and encourage constructive conversations for developing site-specific productions.

## Aedas My Footsteps Performance and Meet-the-Artists Session

Date: April 24, 2010 (Sat)

Time: 6pm & 7pm

Venue: The Academy's Landmark Heritage Campus  
Bethanie (139 Pokfulam Road)

Registration: kerryL@hkyaf.com

Free admission