

Biography  
Curriculum Vitae  
WeiZen Ho

**Biography**

WeiZen is a transdisciplinary Performance Artist who works primarily in sound and movement arts. Her performances aim to transform and extend mundane postures and everyday objects into the sublime. She excavates language and the process of becoming through language to problematize the question of identity. Her work draws upon her lineage of Chinese immigrants who have lived for several generations in Melaka (Malaysia) and Java and extends it to her status as an Asian immigrant in Australia. She is fascinated by ritual, in particular the animistic Taoist rituals still practised by Chinese clans in her hometown and throughout South-East Asia. For her, ritual, distilled into performance locates her animal body.

Trained as a classical pianist from age three, she later rediscovered music through the voice. WeiZen co-founded *Tufa* (1999-2004) a significant South-East Asian fusion music group which was championed by Carnivale. It amalgamated music with her unique songs and Iqbal Barkat's visuals through theatrical elements. From 2005-6 she began exploring a solo practice, touring Indonesia under the curation of legendary Indonesian musician Sawung Jabo.

Despite two extended breaks from performance activities to give birth to a son in 2007 and daughter in 2011, she developed new works through residencies with Casula Powerhouse and Blacktown Arts Centre. *The Borrowed Language* (2009) is a performance in movement, text and projection inspired by migration trails and family history in Melaka. The team included digital mapping artist Kobie Pongpassakorn, (Bangkok), choreographic dramaturg Tess de Quincey and co-composer/instrumentalist Vic McEwan.

It was subsequently presented at Melaka Arts and Performance Festival 2010 (supported by the Australia-Malaysia Institute) and she has returned to her hometown's festival to present new solo, duet and group works (2012-2014), including Cheryl Stock's *Naik-Naik* promenade performance project.

Other career highlights have included performing as composer and vocalist for big hART's *Junk Theory* at Sydney, Adelaide and Ten Days on the Island, Festivals (2006-9). Development of *Am I?* with Shaun Parker Co. (2009, 2010) and performer in *Inner Garden* with de Quincey Co. (2014).

With continued focus on SE Asia, she has also performed in Indonesia at The Arts Island Festival 2013&2014, Bedog Arts Festival 2014 and Undisclosed Territory#8 Performance Art Festival.

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**Curriculum Vitae**

Date of Birth: 20<sup>th</sup> September 1972

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Born in Melaka, Malaysia

Lives in The Blue Mountains, NSW, Australia

**Selected Projects:**

- 2015 May** Curated and performed in *Sound Bites #20-Sound Bites Body 2*, WEST Project Space, Hazelbrook featuring Ash Baker, Mayu Kanamori, Linda Luke, Terumi Narushima, Zeb Olsen, Alan Schacher and Gary Warner.
- 2015 Feb** *Impro Exchange 2015-1*, De Quincey Co, University of Sydney.  
Curated and performed in *Sound Bites #19-Sound Bites Body 1*, WEST Project Space, Hazelbrook featuring Margaret Bradley, Ryuichi Fujimura, Sawung Jabo, Phillip Mills, Alan Schacher and Clayton Thomas.
- 2015 Jan** Co-devised and performed with Alan Schacher on-site, *Palimpsest #1*, Woodford Academy, Blue Mountains. Curated by Sarah Breen-Lovett.
- 2014 Nov** Performed solo, *Stories from the Body #2* and site-performance duet version of *Unappeased*, *Melaka Arts and Performance (MAP) Festival*
- 2014 Oct** Creative Development Residency, workshop and showcase with co-initiator Alan Schacher, *Unappeased*, penangpac, Malaysia, with funding from Australia Council Creative Asia Partnership. Invited collaborators: Aida Redza (dancer/choreographer, Penang), Kobie Pongpassakorn (video artist, Bangkok), Robbie Avenaim (percussionist/robotics, Melbourne) and Victoria Hunt (dancer/choreographer, Sydney).
- 2014 Aug** Performed solo and trio version of *Stories from the Body #1*, *Arts Island Festival*, *Undisclosed Territory #8* (Solo) and *Bedog Arts Festival* (Yogyakarta), with funding from Australia-Indonesia Institute. Co-devised and performed duet with Tony Yap, *Bedog Arts Festival*.
- 2014 July** Curated and performed in *Sound Bites #18*, Living Room Series, Katoomba featuring Forenzics, Stephen Adams, Brkn Chip, Jerel Mani, Rex Mundi and Jo Truman.
- 2014 June** Curated and performed in *Sound Bites #17*, Living Room Series, Katoomba featuring The Splinter Orchestra, David Sudmalis and Bortan.
- 2014 May** Curated and performed in *Sound Bites #16*, Living Room Series, Faulconbridge featuring WOW Signal, Alan Schacher & Ash Baker.
- 2014 March** Co-Deviser, performer & workshop co-leader with Alan Schacher, *Cowra Internment Arts Project* produced by Nikkei Australia and Mayu Kanamori; Cowra War Cemetery.
- 2014 Feb** Self-devising dancer and vocalist for De Quincey Co's site-generated work *Inner Garden*
- 2013** Choreographic Space Residency grant by Critical Path *contemplating mortality*
- 2013 Dec** Site-specific improvisational performances *MAPPING Melbourne*, Multicultural Arts Victoria
- 2013 Nov** *Melaka Arts & Performance (MAP) Festival*: Collaborating dancer & vocalist, *Naik-Naik*, Cheryl Stock's site-created performance; performed *The Unappeased* site-specific duet with Alan Schacher; led voice/body workshop & choreographed for *Eulogy for the Living*
- 2013 Aug** Artist Residency *Rimbun Dahan*, with Alan Schacher "Hungry Ghost" festival, Penang, Malaysia

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- 2013 July** Performed solo, *De-Incarnate* at *Arts Island Festival*, Indonesia
- 2012 Nov** Duet *Hungry Ghost, Dybbuk* with Alan Schacher, night & daytime sites, *MAP Festival*
- Since 2012** Ongoing curation of *Sound Bites*, improvisational performance event, Blue Mountains
- 2011 Oct** Research + Performance Showing on *Hungry Ghost and Golem* for *One-Day Collaborations*, Alan Schacher's Articulate Project Space Residency
- 2011 May** *Impro Exchange '11, Lab 1* with De Quincey Co, Critical Path
- 2011** Artist Residency, Blacktown Arts Centre: *Performance Diary of Blacktown*
- 2010 Nov** Performed *The Borrowed Language* as part of *MAP Festival's Cerita Pendek*, funded by Australia-Malaysia Institute
- 2010 July** Vocalist/composer for Binh Ta's *Yellow is not Yellow* under CityMoon Productions.
- 2010 May** *Impro Exchange '10*, De Quincey Co, Critical Path
- 2009** Initiator, writer and performer of *The Borrowed Language*, an intra-lingual/cultural performance based on the theme *unbelonging*, was developed and showcased at Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre with funding support from Arts NSW. Teamed with video artist Kobie Pongpassakorn, dramaturg Tess De Quincey and Co-composer/Production Manager Vic McEwan
- 2009 Mar** Vocalist & composer for *Junk Theory*, big hART productions, *10 Days on the Island Festival*
- 2008** Composer for *Junk Theory*, big hART productions, *Adelaide Festival*
- 2007 Dec** Artist Residency at Bundanon, Arthur Boyd's Property
- 2007 Jan** Vocalist, composer & workshop facilitator *Junk Theory*, big hART productions, *Sydney Festival*
- 2006 Dec** Actor in *Fragments of Hong Kong*, written by Katherine Thompson for ABC RN *Airplay*
- 2006 Oct** *Touch, Listen* song & movement concert, South Gate Theatre, 798 Art District, Beijing, China
- 2006 Jan** Dancer, *Dis-Ease* with Alfira O'Sullivan & Jade Dewi Tyas Tunggal, *Indonesian Festival*, Sydney
- 2005 Jan** Concert Series *21 Levels of Grieving* for Boxing Day Tsunami victims, Bandung, Indonesia
- 2005 Jan** Performed song concert, *Braga Festival*, Bandung, Indonesia
- 2005 May** Song & Dance Solo Concert *Kenangan* at The Actors Studio in KL, Malaysia
- 2004 June** Performed concert tour of Indonesia: Surabaya, Solo, Yogyakarta, Bandung; led workshops
- 2004 Feb** *Femalia* (Tufa) 3-day performance at *Mardi Gras Festival*; Documentary by ABC TV Asia-Pacific
- 2004 Jan** *Sydney magazine (The SMH)* interview published for *People to watch in 2004*
- 2003 Sept** *The Prophecy* (Tufa) at Sound Mix, Government House and *MusiCairns Festival*, Cairns
- 2003 May** Album launch *Femalia* (Tufa), Visual & Stage Director Iqbal Barkat, bassist Adrian Legg, keyboardist Didi Mudigdo, guitarist & flautist Justo Diaz at Bangarra Dance Theatre, Australia Council Music grant; ABC Radio National live-to-air concert *Sound Quality* programme produced by Cathy Peters
- 2002 Oct** *Phoenix Love* (Tufa) 2-day performance at The Studio, Sydney Opera House, in collaboration with visual/lighting projection by Iqbal Barkat, bassist George Xenikis and keyboardist Didi Mudigdo.
- 2002 Sept** Live-to-air concert, SBS Alchemy Radio
- 2001 Sept** Independent launch of song/spoken word album, self-titled *Tufa*, Paddington Uniting Church
- 2000** Song and visual performance, *Primevera* Exhibition Opening, Museum of Contemporary Arts
- 1999** Co-founder of *Tufa*, a South-East Asian fusion visual, music theatrical group; debut performance with samplist/turn-tablist David Stayte, bassist George Xenikis and visual artist Del Kathryn Barton, The Studio, Sydney Opera House