



University of Michigan

International Institute

# Center for World Performance Studies

## From the Director

**T**his issue of the CWPS newsletter looks back at the fall and forward to the future.

**New Location and Staff:** CWPS is housed in the International Institute, School of Social Work Bldg. — Suite 3616.

**Cheryl Israel** has been a vibrant addition to the Center. She previously worked in Kinesiology and the Department of Dance. Last year she celebrated her ten-year anniversary with U-M.

**New Initiatives:** We are looking at new ways to heighten awareness and stimulate discussion about performance within different cultures, which provides a better understanding of our world.

We plan to enhance our collaborative activities, add to the richness of cultural events, and increase our community outreach activities.

**New Graduate Student Residents:** We are pleased to introduce the 2007 CWPS graduate student residents. (see page 3)

**New Season:** We hope you will join us for our 2007 event season. (see page 4)

**Happy New Year**  
*Glenda Dickerson*

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## Costa Rican Group to Perform



### The Woman Who Fell From the Sky

**February 22, 2007**

**8:00 p.m.**

**Power Center for the Performing Arts**

**Public Invited**

**No tickets required**

We are pleased to present the Teatro National Company from the University of Costa Rica.

The company will perform "The Woman Who Fell From the Sky," by famed Mexican playwright **Victor Hugo Rascón Banda**. It will be directed by **Maria Bonilla**.

"La Mujer Que Cayo Del Cielo" is based on the real life story of a Tarahumara Indian woman who ended up in the psychiatric ward of a hospital for twelve years in Kansas City because of a language barrier. This powerful trilingual play has been performed internationally to great acclaim.

The play features actors **Maria Bonilla, José Montero, Manuel Ruiz, and Abelardo Vladich**. **Ana Muñoz** is the lighting and sound designer.

### Roundtable

Please mark your calendar for the roundtable discussion with the Teatro Company on *Tuesday, February 20, at 5:00 p.m.* in room 2609 of the International Institute, School of Social Work Building. The public is invited.

Refreshments will be provided. RSVPs helpful, but not required.

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## Looking Back at Fall 2006

### Artists-in-Residence

**C**WPS welcomed artist-in-residence **Jun Wakabayashi**, acclaimed dancer from the Dairkudakan Butoh Troupe of Tokyo, in November. Jun has performed extensively throughout Asia, Europe and the United States.



During his residency Jun taught classes in the Composition Department and the Dance Department. He gave a culminating performance, "Chrysalis," at the Duderstadt Center Video Studio with faculty sponsor **Erik Santos**. Santos is a composition professor in the School of Music.

Photo provided by the Center for Japanese Studies

CWPS co-sponsored a visit by writer and author **Sandra Cisneros** during Hispanic Heritage Month in October.



Ruth Behar and Sandra Cisneros  
Photo by Lara Stein Pardo

Cisneros is a well-known author of several books and poems. Her keynote address, titled "Why I am not Hispanic," was held in Rackham Auditorium.



The audience was standing-room only during Cisneros' joint presentation with faculty sponsor **Ruth Behar** titled "Talking in our Pajamas." Behar is a faculty member in the Anthropology Department and Women's Studies.

Photo by Lara Stein Pardo



CWPS co-sponsored artist-in-residence **Kristina Wong**, solo performer, writer, actor, educator, activist, and film-

maker. She was in residence last November. She spoke to students in the American Culture Department, and

**Please see page 4 for a list of our 2007 artists-in-residence and other CWPS events**

### Ethnography and Performance Roundtable Series

**Many thanks to our faculty affiliates who were roundtable presenters last fall.**

**Christi-Ann Castro**  
Ethnomusicology

**Alaina Lemon**  
Anthropology

**Mbala Nkanga**  
Theatre and Drama

**Peter Sparling**  
Dance

**E.J. Westlake**  
Theatre and Drama

If you would like us to add you to the CWPS email and mail distribution list for future roundtable presentations, please contact us:

Center for  
World Performance Studies  
3616 SSWB 1106

cwps@umich.edu  
(734) 936-2777

## Graduate Student Residency Program

Following are notes from several CWPS graduate student residents. We invite all student residents to share their comments about the residency and photographs of their activities.

### **Kudos...**

**Yona Stamatis** entered the video of her performance at the 2005 CWPS residency symposium, "Fixed and Fluid," in the Greek Department Platsis Prize competition for creative work in Modern Greek. She won first place in the graduate category. *"Perhaps the academy is truly opening up to the idea of performance art,"* said Yona.

Yona conducted field research in Greece.

*"The highlight was the music festival that I attended on Crete in which musicians from all around the world collaborated in the performance of Turkish classical and Greek folk music,"* Yona said.

### **From Danna Agnon...**

*"I appreciated the sense of familiarity and support (during my residency). This project was an empowering experience."*

**Dana Levin** visited Israel in the summer of 2005 to conduct field research. She attended theatre and dance performances, and she met with faculty at Tel Aviv University. She developed a survey to compare how messages are received in the United States versus Israel.



A local Tel Aviv market  
Photo by Dana Levin

### **From Kristina Pietrosanti...**

*"Our cohort exchanged ideas, analyzed texts and performances, and supported each other. It was powerful to see how we used our training for the final project."*

### **2006 Cohort**



Pictured above, l to r: Talia Dajes, Ozgen Felek, Tayana Hardin and Carrie Morris



Above, an Indonesian shadow puppetry performance in Brebes.  
Photo by Carrie Morris.

## Welcome...

CWPS is proud to introduce the following graduate students who began their residency this semester. We look forward to hearing from them as they refine their research proposals.

**Alexander Cannon** is a second-year doctoral student in Ethnomusicology.

**Marta Cruz-Sojo** is a master's student in the School of Art and Design.

**Bretton Dimick** is a doctoral student in Ethnomusicology.

**Juliet Guzetta** is a doctoral student in Romance Languages and Literatures.

**Nicole Marroquin** is a master's student in the School of Art and Design.

**Neeraj Mehta** is a second year master's student in the School of Music, Theatre and Dance.

**Latika Neelakantan** is a doctoral student in Anthropology.

**Jennifer Solheim** is a doctoral student in Romance Languages & Literatures.

**Stephanie Teves** is a doctoral student in American Culture.

## New Season: Artists-in-Residence

**C**WPS offers artist residencies that range from two weeks to a full semester. One of the priorities of the selection process is to pair artists and scholars working within the same genre or tradition. Following are brief biographical sketches of the winter, 2007 artists-in-residence.

**Pornrat Damrhung** is a faculty member of the Chulalongkorn University Theater Department in Thailand. She is teaching a course on Contemporary Thai Theater and Dance this semester. She will re-cast "Stories of Sita," from the Ramayana to reflect women's lives today. She uses music, dance and shadow puppetry to create modern theater. **Linda Lim**, Ross School of Business, and Director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, is her faculty sponsor.

**Mohammad Ghaffari** is originally from Neyshapoor, Iran. He has directed numerous plays, worked as a professional actor, and toured European festivals. He received his theatre training at the School for Dramatic Arts in Tehran, and continued his education at Michigan State University. **Gottfried Hagen**, Department of Near Eastern Studies, and Director of the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies, is his faculty sponsor.

**Xoliswa Sithole** is a prominent filmmaker from South Africa. She has produced a variety of films on the South African experience. They range from award-winning feature films to educational television programs and documentaries. Her upcoming film, "Bullets and Girls," is a documentary of how young women are being used and abused in contemporary African wars. **Frieda Ekotto**, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, and the Center for Afro and Afro-American Studies, is her faculty sponsor.

**Winter, 2007 Schedule:** The artists-in-residence public presentation and performance schedules are in the process of being developed and will be available soon.

**Nomination Call:** Faculty members are invited to submit proposals for our 2007-2008 artist-in-residence program. Proposals are due by March 15. Please contact us at the address below for more detail.

## Upcoming Events

**February 8-11, 2007 4:30 p.m.**  
"In the Garden," a dance performance set in the indoor conservatory of the Matthai Botanical Gardens.  
Choreography by Jessica Fogel  
For reservations and ticket prices:  
(734) 647-7600  
Co-sponsored by CWPS

**February 20, 2007 5:00 p.m.**  
Roundtable Discussion with the Teatro Nacional Company  
2609 School of Social Work Building  
(see page 1)

**February 22, 2007 8:00 p.m.**  
"The Woman Who Fell from the Sky"  
Power Center for the Performing Arts  
Tickets are not required  
Open to the public (see page 1)

### March, 2007

The 2006 graduate student residents **Talia Dajes, Ozgen Felek, Tayana Hardin,** and **Carrie Morris** (picture, page 3) will present their research findings in a culminating symposium. The exact date will be announced soon.

### September, 2007

**Glenda Dickerson** will premiere "What's Cookin' in the Kitchen? a planetary portrait 9/11/01-9/11/04" at the Duderstadt Center and the International Institute Gallery.

**Please join us**



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