

SMALL ISLAND BIG SONG Residency Proposal *(draft only, revised May-2019, subject to change)*



PANEL PRESENTATIONS

1. Our shared seafaring heritage

Spanning the distance from Taiwan to New Zealand, Easter Island to Madagascar, the two great oceans share a little-known heritage. 5,000 years ago, people of the Pacific designed ocean-going canoes and from a beach in Taiwan they crossed the horizons. Settling islands across the Pacific and Indian oceans. Those few brave seafarers are now 400 million people. This unique residency program brings together the descendants of this heritage to impart their still shared common language, culture and songs.

2. Climate Change: our response as Artists

This region and diaspora are on the front line of climate change. The tragic irony is that these cultures, who have sustained communities on fragile environments with limited resources for countless generations, will be the first to lose their homelands, through the unsustainable lifestyles of the greater global community. Now that we have entered the Anthropocene epoch we must treat our planet as an Island, this is the subtext and guiding theme of our residency.

We will explore this theme through the music, culture and lived experience of these artists representing the First Nations people of the region.

TALKS

1. The last generation of our traditional instruments

- What will the world lose along with this musical lineage?
- By First Nation artists from Madagascar and Taiwan

2. History from an indigenous perspective

- As the saying goes "history is written by the victors", there is another ancient narrative to these regions of colonization, surviving within the indigenous cultures.
- Revealed by first nation artists from Rapa Nui/Easter Island and Aotearoa/New Zealand.

3. The Effect of Climate Change on our islands

- In a country with an average height of 2 metres above sea level, climate change and sea level rise are very real on islands across this region.
- Confronting personal stories first nation artists from the Solomon Islands and Borneo

4. The role Songs play in activism

- Before the written word, songs transferred the vital knowledge and history across this region. Songs have power.
- Led by first nation song people from Hawai'i and Australia.

5. Artists' social responsibilities

- Culture is the spiritual expression of community, which defines our relationship to our social and natural environment. As storytellers what is the artists responsibility?
- An insight into the motivation and creation of the Small Island Big Song project – by producers Tim Cole & BaoBao Chen

WORKSHOPS

1. When Asia Pacific meets Africa

- Dance workshop by artists from Madagascar, Taiwan & Easter Island

2. Pacific drumming workshop

- by artists from Papua New Guinea & New Zealand

3. Sape, Valiha & Ukulele - A string instruments' jam across the oceans

- by artists from Borneo, Hawai'i, Easter Island & Madagascar

FILM SCREENING

Small Island Big Song 90 mins - A non-narrative musical documentary

CONCERT

Multimedia concert performance featuring eight musicians and vocalists from the nations of New Zealand, Malaysia, Taiwan, Australia, Madagascar, Easter Island, Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea. Integrated with on-location visual and audio content of the musicians' homelands, traditions, and nature-connected cultures.