



UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I®
MĀNOA

Kennedy Theatre

Media Release • 2009–10 Season

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nocturnal Wanderer **LATE NIGHT SEASON OPENS IN A DREAM!**

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Department of Theatre and Dance opens its Late Night Theatre season with "Nocturnal Wanderer" written by Gao Xingjian. This philosophic work, described by the playwright as "a nightmare in three short acts," is directed by Ronald Gilliam. "Nocturnal Wanderer" runs September 12, 18 and 19 at 11pm and September 13 at 8pm. A post-show discussion with the director and cast will be held Friday, September 18 following the performance.

"Nocturnal Wanderer" was written in 1993 as 夜游神 (Yeyoushen), one of Gao Xingjian's abstract plays that explores human existence and the afterlife. The audience experiences the majority of the play through the subconscious of Sleepwalker, who encounters various individuals that test both his faith and his desire to resist ungodly temptation. The closest resemblance to another work would be *Everyman*, a 15th century morality play that calls attention to human temptation/redemption, but instead of plainly following the main character, *Nocturnal Wanderer* compels the audience to reflect upon Sleepwalker's journey as well. This occurs through a unique convention used in many of Gao's plays where the main character never speaks in first person. In addition, the production incorporates multimedia, an original soundscape, and numerous "magic tricks."

Director Ronald Gilliam is not new to the work of Gao Xingjian. While attending Butler University in 2003, he directed the full-length version of “Between Life and Death,” which also questioned human existence and death. In addition, Gilliam has directed numerous productions in Indianapolis, New York, Washington D.C. and Hong Kong. He collaborated with the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in the production of two Samuel Beckett plays for television, “Quad” and “Nacht und Traume.” And, his most recent production, “A.,” an original work loosely based on the *Antigone* myth, was performed in Indianapolis and New York City. Gilliam is highly passionate about Gao’s work because, “he challenges the director to depart from realism while emphasizing the importance of the written text. Gao’s text not only inspires the director to create striking abstract images, but it also prevents a departure from the eloquent depictions he has written.” Gilliam is currently pursuing his PhD in Asian Theatre at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

Tickets for “Nocturnal Wanderer” go on sale one hour before show time each night of the production at the door of the Earle Ernst Lab Theatre. Ticket prices are \$10 general admission, \$8 UH faculty/staff, students, seniors, and military, and \$4 UHM students with a validated Fall 2009 student ID. Latecomers will not be admitted once the performance has begun. For more information, including disability access, call the Kennedy Theatre Box Office at 956-7655 or visit www.hawaii.edu/kennedy.

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WHAT:	“Nocturnal Wanderer”
PRESENTED BY:	UHM Department of Theatre and Dance
WHEN:	Sep 12, 18*, 19 at 11 p.m. Sep 13 at 8 p.m. * Post-show chat
WHERE:	UHM’s Earle Ernst Lab Theatre
TICKET PRICES:	\$10 general admission, \$8 UH faculty/staff, seniors, and military, students, \$4 UHM students with a current validated student ID
TICKET INFO:	Call 956-7655 for more information or visit www.hawaii.edu/kennedy .