

Journal Fringe Theatre, Hongkong

Time: 21:00, 19th, May, 2007

Address: Fringe Club, 2 Low Albert Road, central Hongkong

Organized by Loïc Serot

Sponsored by Le Festival du French May ,France Consulate in Hongkong

Participants:

Hong-kong never appeared attractive to me until this first visit. The sea sight on the highway from the airport to the city is just great, walking on Wanchai street, makes me feel like being deep in a valley bottom, The fact I was never here and never really think of visiting here doesn't change the fact that I feel strangely familiar with all of these hongkongese movie scenes, Is there a lost relationship between me and this sub-tropical island? One thing clear is; my old hongkongnese friend Steve; was with me in the past 6 days, he's the best alternative-life travel guide: the incredible tea house he introduced me with beautiful mountain view in Kowloon offered super lunch and desserts for 80 HKD (for 2) is just one of the proof.

The Fringe Theatre is a place I know also for long, according to Steve, it was originally "a club like space for small bourgeois art lovers". It's true that it's not so big, but the stages assistant/ PA staff did impress me with their great efficiency, this could be really rare in southern asia countries.

It took some efforts for my old comrade Loic to convince the little theatre audience, composed of local, foreign guys and participating artists, to leave their seat and put themselves on the stage for the testing session, however his passion is visible and affecting, which brings a good energy for the "Tape Music" even before it was started.

The Tape starts in giggles, then soon turn into hysteric laughs, the audience react to it with enthusialism and great humor, Participants are mostly personal interpreter of the Tape's phonetics, no body really listened to the others (except for the very few who remained silent), soon a traditional market-like ambience is vividly evoked in the theatre ... Some of the very distict noise maker such as Dokaka (the human-beat-box worked with Björk on "Medúlla"), Steve Chan, (freaky vocal of "Zero and Sound Liberation Organization") makes free improvisations which have nothing to do with phonetic implications on the "Tape", Their outstanding performances raise irregular burst of laught among the audience.

I had a strange feeling that this is a real rare chance for many of them (hongkongnese citizen)to do something so illogic (say stupid) in their local culture context, Could it be a release for their highly anxious life?

By the way, Fringe theatre session is one of the shortest sessions; it's only about 10 minutes for the total duration.