



## PRESS RELEASE

**WHAT:** The Strangers

**WHEN:** July 08-09, 2019 | 6PM

**WHERE:** Black box Theatre, School of Design and Arts, De La Salle College of Saint Benilde, Malate, Manila

### **“The Strangers and the question of who we really are”**

Four performers from Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Malaysia, in collaboration with Dramaturg Julia Hesse from Germany and Director Leandro Kees from Argentina, will perform a creative and contemporary take about empathy and antipathy facing cultural differences through a theatre and dance performance, entitled “The Strangers”, this coming July in Manila.

“The Strangers” is an honest and courageous look at the human condition. Overcoming cultural differences and prejudices and asking: Where do I find myself in you? An optimistic call for understanding and trust in an age of profound changes in society all over the world. In this piece, the audience is challenged to reconsider their own opinion and judgements, to rethink their empathy and antipathy for “the others”. Stories about identity, about belonging to a certain group, about trust and alienation, altogether build this modern non-verbal play.

Prior to the performance in Manila, The Strangers has already been staged in Asia on several occasions – at ricca ricca\*festa Okinawa, ASSITEJ Korea and Taiwan Dot Go Children’s Art Festival – last summer of 2018 and will be on tour to South East Asia this year.

“The Strangers” will be shown twice on July 08 and 09, 2019 at the Black Box Theatre of the De La Salle College of Saint Benilde School of Arts and Design. Admission is free on a first-come, first-served basis.

This dance production is a German-Asian collaboration initiated by the Goethe-Institut Osaka and the [ricca ricca\\*festa Okinawa](#) and presented by the Goethe-Institut and Japan Foundation in Manila. For more information, visit [goethe.de/manila](http://goethe.de/manila).

**ABOUT THE GOETHE-INSTITUT PHILIPPINEN** – The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany’s cultural institute, promoting the study of the German language abroad, and encouraging international cultural exchange.

#### **DOWNLOADABLES:**

[The Strangers Poster](#)  
[The Strangers Flyer](#)

#### **RELATED LINKS:**

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#### **CONTACT**

E: [info-manila@goethe.de](mailto:info-manila@goethe.de)  
T: +63 2 817 0978

Goethe-Institut Philippinen  
5/F Adamson Centre  
121 L. P. Leviste St., Salcedo  
Village, Makati City 1227  
Philippines

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## ABOUT THE STRANGERS

*I look in the mirror and I see myself. My eyes, my nose, my mouth. Typical. That's me! Reflecting what I know, what I want, what I am capable of. But also: typical German, typical Japanese, typical Nigerian, typical Chinese... Typical man, typical woman, typical, typical, typical!*

*We believe to know who the others are. And, of course, who we are ourselves. But how do we actually know? And what makes us members of a certain group?*

*Four performers from four different Asian countries meet a South American director and a dramaturg from Europe -half the world gathers on one small stage. They seem to have nothing in common; they don't share their tastes in food, they don't speak the same language, and they grew up with different tales and lullabies. But what would happen if you didn't know that? If everybody on stage looked the same and didn't speak a word, how could you tell what was 'typical' about them? Typical human, maybe?*

*Stories about identity, about belonging to a certain group, about trust and alienation build this non-verbal, poetical play. Expressing emotions, convictions and beliefs through the body as well as creating scenes with drawings and symbols used in different cultures, this production encourages youngsters to look beyond the surface and search for the missing link connecting all of us as human beings. Beyond religions, borders and languages.*

*THE STRANGERS is an honest and courageous look at the human condition. Overcoming cultural differences and prejudices and asking: Where do I find myself in you? An optimistic call for understanding and trust in an age of profound changes in society all over the world.*

(Text: Julia Dina Heße/Dramaturg)



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