

ARTISTIC TEAM

In 2012, Katia Engel started to build up an artistic team with choreographers and dancers Benny Krisnawardi, Davit Fitriik and the composer/musician Syahril Tando. The three artists originate from Minangkabau culture in West Sumatra and have been members of Gumarang Sakti Company, known for its unique dance style based on Minangkabau Pencak Silat (a martial art form from West Sumatra).

After the production of TANAH AIR in 2012, Katia Engel now extended the team with two young Pencak Silat practitioners Nanda Lesmana and Fitriio Artha as well from Minangkabau, West Sumatra, for the new stage work IN BETWEEN.

BIOS

Benny Krisnawardi, born in Batusangkar/West Sumatra, studied Pencak-Silat Minangkabau *lintau* style before dancing. He was among the early members of Gumarang Sakti Dance Company, joining it in the 1980s when it was still in Batusangkar.

Together with Gumarang Sakti Company, Benny moved to Jakarta in the late 80s, graduated from Jakarta Arts Institute (dance) and continued to perform with Gumarang Sakti in Indonesia and abroad. He later worked as assistant choreographer for both Gusmiati Suid and Boi Sakti – the Company's choreographers. As a senior dancer of the first generation, he was not only trainer within the company but as well introducing the methodology of Gumarang Sakti through workshops.

Besides being part of Gumarang Sakti Company, Benny worked with many other renowned choreographers: Tom Ibnur, Deddy Luthan, Farida Faisol, Hartati and Netherland Director Gerard Mosterd – to name a few. Benny himself founded SIGMA Dance Indonesia, training his own dancers for his choreographies.

Davit Fitriik was first introduced to dance during his teenage years in Padang. Realizing his own talent, he spent his time outside school hours receiving intensive dance training under the guidance of Vivery Yusdianto, a senior student of choreographer Gusmiati Suid. In 1994, he was recruited by Gusmiati Suid to join Gumarang Sakti Dance Company.

Being included in this group he was trained extensively by Hartati, Benny Krisnawardi, Boi G. Sakti and Gusmiati Suid herself and became the principal dancer of the company and assistant choreographer of Boi G. Sakti. He also soon started teaching the methodology and movement vocabulary of Gusmiati Suid and continues teaching it until now. Besides his involvement in Gumarang Sakti Company, Davit worked with various established Indonesian choreographers such as Hartati, Tom Ibnur and participated in diverse contemporary art forums in Indonesia

and abroad such as collaborations with film director Garin Nugroho, Netherland director Gerard Mosterd and T. H. E. Dance Company Singapore.

Fitrio Artha was born and lives in Batusangkar, West Sumatra. Now age 21, he started his training in Pencak Silat, Kumango style when he was 10 years old. One of his teachers was his father, a well-known master of Pencak Silat *Kumango*. Rio took successfully part in various Pencak Silat competitions such as Pagarruyung Festival and Gelangan Pandeka Minang in Padang.

Nanda Lesmana from Batusangkar, West Sumatra is now 19 years old and started his training in Pencak Silat *Kumango* style with age 10. He won already various awards in Pencak Silat competitions, such as 1st winner for “Jurus Tunggal Category” in 2013, Bronze medal at in Traditional Silat Festival for Parik Paga Luhak and Tuo in 2012.

Syahrial Tando, born in Aro Suka (West Sumatra) of farmers who were also a traditional musician. He enrolled at a special high school for studying traditional music (karawitan) and continued to Academy of Arts in Padang Panjang (West Sumatra) before taking a postgraduate at the Arts Academy in Denpasar, Bali.

In 1998, he joined Gumarang Sakti Dance Company, and composed many works for the Company’s choreographers, mother and son Gusmiati Suid and Boi Sakti. He also collaborated with contemporary Indonesian composers: Tony Prabowo, Dwiki Dharmawan and Cilay among others as well as international musicians such as Yin Ming (pianist from China) and Marc Appart (Belgium).

Creating his own musical instruments, he founded METAdomus-Metamorphose, a contemporary music group whose style rooted in Indonesian traditional music. They release their own albums and tour within Indonesia and abroad. In his most recent production in 2013, Syahrial staged his own composition for 61 musicians at Graha Bhakti Budaya Jakarta in a concert titled: *Manjalin Raso dalam Saluang Concerto*.

Katia Engel, born in Augsburg and currently based in Berlin and Indonesia, works in the field of performance, installation, video and photography. Besides her formal education in dance and movement at Dance Institute Bremen/Germany and Laban-Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies New York, she trained herself in photography, sculpting and filmmaking.

Katia Engels stage works are typically based on a specific visual concept. Starting with solo performances of self-sculpted masks, she shifted her focus at recent productions towards the connection between self-created video works and movement.

Since 2004, Katia divides her time between Berlin and Indonesia. Her long-term collaborator is Indonesian film director and photographer Faozan Rizal. Their collaborative works of site-specific video, photography and installations, have been presented internationally in film festival and exhibitions. www.katiaengel.com
