

The Center for Philippine Studies
in the School of Pacific and Asian Studies
UH Manoa Filipino and Philippine Literature Program
and UH Manoa Ethnic Studies Department

present

Building Filipinx Contemporary Dance

September 4

Tuesday

3:00-4:30 pm

Kuykendall

Auditorium

“Building Filipinx Contemporary Dance” presents the development of Filipinx contemporary dance through *A Stage of Our Own* art collective and *Manariwa Dance Company* in Los Angeles.

Toni Pasion presents intersections between Philippine folk dance and contemporary dance, and how this investigation is being utilized to empower Filipinx and Pacific communities through dance and storytelling. Filipinx contemporary dance is inspired in part by Pacific contemporary dance, and considers intersections between these communities through parallel histories and shared cultural values.

Filipinx contemporary dance is a reflection of a dynamic Fil-Am community utilizing art as a decolonial practice by engaging with and healing histories, building community, and focusing on re-generation and resilience.



Toni Pasion is an emerging dancer, choreographer, and scholar. She is born in San Jose and raised in Los Angeles, California. Pasion received her BA in Asian American Studies and Women’s Studies from the University of California, Riverside, and her MA in Dance from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. She first connected with her cultural roots with Kayamanan Ng Lahi Philippine Folk Arts, and furthered her understanding of Pacific epistemology as a hula student for 20 years with hālau in California, Aotearoa, and Hawai‘i.

In 2017, Pasion founded *A Stage of Our Own*, an annual performance and convergence of Philippine

and Pacific artists. Pasion’s newest development is founding *Manariwa Dance Company*, focusing on Philippine and Pacific contemporary dance in Los Angeles, and created to serve as a platform to build inter-cultural relationships and dance research.

Free and open to the public.

For more information regarding this lecture or disability access, call 956-5901 or email Pia Arboleda at pca62@hawaii.edu.

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