An UK artist has fallen in love with the night markets of Taiwan
約書亞沙發兒Joshua Sofaer
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A theatre of daily life that works as long as there is fun and pleasure
原型樂園 Prototype Paradise

Art in life. Super delicious cross-disciplinary projects.
夜市劇場 Night Market Theatre
【News article】

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Here comes the performance that is “No Yummy No Money”!

Show time: Every night from Nov. 11(Tue.) to 15(Sat.), Zhiqiang Night Market, Hualien

When you walk around the night market, if you could buy a performance from the vendors, what kind of taste of life would you want to try? Inspired by the one and only night market culture of Taiwan, British contemporary artist Joshua Sofaer and Taiwanese theatre company Prototype Paradise will collaborate to create a performance shop “Night Market Theatre” which will last for 5 days in Zhiqiang Night Market, Hualien in mid-November. Artists will present freshly-made and tailor-made live performance for the audience.

Prototype Paradise (PP) was established by a few performing art practitioners including Yoyo Kung, Juan Chin, etc.. With the idea that art and daily life should come together, PP creates non-traditional theatre experiences and international cultural exchange, with the aim to explore the aesthetics of audience/performer relationships. Two years ago, PP invited Sofaer to Taiwan and he fell in love with Taiwan night market, its delicious food, and its dramatic atmosphere. To him, the vendors behind the stalls look like they are presenting a “miniature stage.” In order to attract customers’ attention, the decoration of the stalls look like theatre scenery sets and props, such as TV screens playing in loop news coverage, the colorful signs, the autographs and pictures from celebrity customers, etc.. When people approach to order something, the stallholders reach out from the “proscenium” of the stalls and deliver their food. To Sofaer, the relationship between stallholders and customers is like the relationship between performers and audience; every performance is cooked and delivered only after somebody orders it. Those bosses not only sell food but also their night market lives. To Taiwanese, going to night markets is already not only about filling up their stomachs but also a social activity to share their life with friends and family. Walk and eat. Chat and see.

Sofaer is internationally famous for his ‘participatory art’ works. He always works with local citizens, and often with an irreverent use of humour, he plays with established forms of performances and exhibitions. Sofaer pitched to PP: why not build a place to “sell performances” in the night market surrounded by delicious food and challenge the usual imagination of general public towards performing arts? The result: Sofaer will soon arrive at Taiwan, and he will go to Hualien to work with PP and 8 Taiwanese performers including Yuan-liang An, Jimmy Chang, and some Hualien local artists. They will go through a devising process of 3 weeks, and then take the collective outcome, a creative ‘menu’ to go into Zhiqiang Night Market in November.

The Night Market Theatre booth will be located next to the BBQ, stinky dofu, juice bars, etc. in Zhiqiang Night Market. It looks fake but it’s real. Different from the performances usually seen on the streets, this art project is more about ‘doing business in the night markets’ and providing ‘experience-style’ dishes. For example, $10 for a performance that will Make You Laugh Aloud. Or $30 for a Sour Romance, but pay $5 more and you’ll get Sugar Added. Artists will feed peoples minds and souls with creativity. This project will work with audience and thee surrounding vendors to make the night market experience an alternative adventure and a brand new experience in life.

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夜市劇場 Night Market Theatre

2014年11月11日（二）~ 15日（六），每晚18:30~22:00

花蓮自強夜市（花蓮縣吉安鄉自強路與和平路交叉口）

主辦製作：原型樂園

藝術總監：約書亞‧沙發兒

聯合策展：貢幼穎、秦嘉嫄

共同創作表演：Qaisul林仰民(搖滾樂)、安原良(演員)、江源祥(行為表演)、吳政樺(文字工作)、張吉米(導演)、莊慕華(社運音樂)、曾恕涵(導演)、蕭於勤(應用戲劇)

Night Market Theatre

Zhiqiang Night Market, Hualien, Taiwan

(Intersection of Zhiqiang Road and Hoping Road, Jian Township, Hualien County)

11 (Tue.) to 15 (Sat.) November 2014, 18:30-22:00

Presenter and Producer: Prototype Paradise

Artistic Director: Joshua Sofaer

Co-curators: Yoyo Kung, Juan Chin

Artists: Yuan-Liang An (actor), Jimmy Chang (director), Yuan-Shang Chiang (performer), Mu-Hua Chuang (social movement music), Corinne Hsiao (applied theatre), Qaisul Istasipal (Yang-min Lin) (rock n’ roll), Shuhan Tzeng (director), Cheng-Hua Wu (writer)

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