

The Transmission of Naraphong Charassri's Creative Concepts of Site-Specific Dance Performance

Jirayuth Panomrak

Department of Dance, Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Chulalongkorn University

Corresponding author jeabjirayuth@yahoo.com

Received 1 August 2016 | Revised 11 November 2016 | Accepted 4 January 2017 | Published 3 April 2017

Abstract

The purpose of this research was to study the transmission of Professor Naraphong Charassri, Ph.D.'s creative concepts of site-specific dance performance. Research methodology included studying related document, documentary survey, interviewing the experts, seminar, informational media, fieldwork survey, and group interview.

The findings revealed that the creative of contemporary Thai dramatic arts in the field of site-specific dance performance was to fulfill site-specific by choreographer, site or environment or the particular architectural structure by acting as drama stimulators in various ways. The area itself might encompass the meaning in 2 characteristics including space and site. In this particular study, 2 types of area are: 1) common area: the area which does not specify in any particular importance, it includes unlimited boundary by starting from small specific important area and 2) specific area: special area in certain particular way such as historical area, archeological area and educational area. These areas are tremendously significant for fine arts and they are comprised of six dramatic arts including space, time, force, body, movement and form.

In addition to those findings, the study of specific area found in creative concepts of site-specific dance performance proposed by Professor Naraphong Charassri, Ph.D could be classified in different types as follows:

1. Specific area based on heritage culture
2. Specific area based on contemporary culture
3. Specific area based on area diversity and context

Keywords: specific area of performing arts, Naraphong Charassri, contemporary dramatic arts

■ Introduction

The creativity in contemporary Thai dramatic arts making can be classified under specific choreographical arts reflecting towards specific areas by choreographer. Environment area, architectural structure enhancing in fine arts cause artistic diversity depending upon 2 components, site and space, which are considered as specific independence between location and acting. Site-specific dance or performance is work created in response to a particular place or site, inspired by its architecture or design, its history, and/or its current use (Koplowitz, 2013). The performance practice can generally articulate three types of site or space i.e. Real Sites and Fictional Spaces, Reconceptualizing Space, and, Theatre Spaces and Empty Spaces (Wilkie, 2004).

Some scholar, such as Dr.Chawarote Valyamedhi, has pointed out that it is easier and more observable while considering the performing site in two dimensions i.e. 1) common area: the area which does not specify in any particular importance and, 2) specific area: special area in certain particular way such as historical area.

The movement of acting from the location is considered as incomplete or diminishing component through relationship inside the blank component between pilot study of acting and area. Choreography designers and creative processes are the following effects result in acting towards the objectives of dramatic arts for retrieval. As a result, it comes to some comments from the general public that sometimes

“site-specific” can be just about anything that doesn't happen in a theatre and that the understanding of site-specific grows ever more bloated, its original meaning becomes fainter and more diluted (Field, 2015).

By incorporating theory of philosophy and architecture for acknowledging the area, it is essential to study about the area and interaction simultaneously. Acting in term of choreography designer by studying in line with philosophy as well as the practice of dramatic arts theory such as distinct area's notion, social area, way of construction, acquiring experience, recognition and implicit meaning realization of specific choreography fine arts are considered as important aspect for architectural area; therefore, specific choreography fine arts plays an influential part for the society. The interpretation from creative artist reflected the spectators to realize the importance of environmental art by incorporating environmental aspects blended with historical context, society, culture and other fields. Comprehending the hidden meanings of the place to emphasize or elaborate more understanding such as acting at auspicious historical place by contemporary dramatic arts artist Naraphong Charassri, which considered as area of thought combined with actual area, influencing with human's minds. He is

indeed a pioneer and leading artist of this type of fine arts who is recognized widely in both domestic and international perspectives.

Professor Naraphong Charassri, Ph.D is a pioneer in specific choreography, his specialization is in performing contemporary Thai dramatic arts. He obtained various awards and being recognized by bringing theory implementation of contemporary Thai dramatic arts mixes with academic community. The award named “Light, Sound and Visualization Kingdom of Great People (Ayutthaya)” offered to His Majesty King Bhumibol and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit in 1992. Light and sound acting named “Land of Memory” performed at Wangderm Palace Thonburi and “Wangladdawal have been recognised as public favor in international context and they have been attained famous widely in international context. The creative of Professor Naraphong Charassri, Ph.D's work studied about idea transformation, method, and creative process in order to benefit graduate students (Master and Ph.D Students) at Chulalongkorn University. Consequently, the creative of contemporary Thai dramatic arts has been developed consistently by merging the current knowledge and at the same time it leads to arise of new knowledge to the world of arts in Thailand.



Picture 1: Professor Dr.Naraphong Charassri, Ph.D. during his performance at Bangkok Art and Culture Centre (Photography advertised by BU Theatre Company)



Picture 2: Professor Dr.Naraphong Charassri, Ph.D. during his performance at Bangkok Art and Culture Centre (Photography advertised by BU Theatre Company)

■ Research Objective

To study the knowledge transformation about the component of creative contemporary Thai dramatic arts classified as site-specific dance performance.

■ Research Questions

The thesis named “The Transmission of Naraphong Charassri’s Creative Concepts of Site-Specific Dance Performance”. The researcher had intention to study the concepts of site-specific dance performance proposed by Naraphong Charassri in order to recognize the components of creative contemporary Thai dramatic arts by providing the research questions as follows:

1. The idea of creative transformation of contemporary Thai dramatic arts classified as site-specific dance performance proposed by Naraphong Charassri
2. Component of creative contemporary Thai dramatic arts classified as site-specific dance performance proposed by Naraphong Charassri
3. Taking place for creative contemporary Thai dramatic arts classified as site-specific dance performance proposed by Naraphong Charassri
4. Performing place for creative contemporary Thai dramatic arts classified as site-specific dance performance proposed by Naraphong Charassri
5. Common area for creative contemporary Thai dramatic arts classified as site-specific dance performance proposed by Naraphong Charassri

6. Specific area for creative contemporary Thai dramatic arts classified as site-specific dance performance proposed by Naraphong Charassri

7. Perception for creative contemporary Thai dramatic arts classified as site-specific dance performance proposed by Naraphong Charassri

8. Process of creative contemporary Thai dramatic arts classified as site-specific dance performance proposed by Naraphong Charassri

■ Delimitation of Research

The researcher intended to study The Transmission of Naraphong Charassri’s Creative Concepts of Site-Specific Dance Performance.

■ Assumption

For the thesis “The Transmission of Naraphong Charassri’s Creative Concepts of Site-Specific Dance Performance”, the researcher aimed to analyze the type of acting component and idea of creative site-specific dance performance of Naraphong Charassri, Thai artist who has creative numerous contemporary Thai dramatic arts. He is an outstanding artist who has initiative for creative of site-specific dance performance in Thailand named “Light, Sound and Visualization Kingdom of Great People (Ayutthaya)” performed in 1992.

■ Operational Definitions

Contemporary Thai Dramatic Arts

Contemporary Thai dramatic arts is the creative of dancing or traditional dance called "Fornram" by incorporating Thai dramatic arts with various cultural dramatic arts originated from distinct era simultaneously (Naraphong Charassri, 2015, July 10, Personal interview).

Transmitting

Utilising knowledge and theory gained from studying intensively in the particular field as well as accumulate the experience in term of creative contemporary Thai dramatic arts in expectation of success and being recognised in both domestic and international perspective, then it has been passed down to many generations of the students face to face.

Concept

Inspiration, method and idea of artists in creativity of their works can be noticed from each part of acting. This creativity is considered as general concept, which emphasises on developing the existing piece of work including the creativity to conceive an innovation in the particular task which has its own identity.

Creativity

It refers to the creativity of task (normally in abstract), which has good way of initiation such as creative idea of artist in designing and creating new work.

Site-Specific Dance Performance

It is the reaction towards specific site by choreography designer site or environment or architectural stimulant in acting and it causes variety depending upon two factors including site and space (Gilbert, 1992).

Area

The word "area" may define as location in two types, which means empty space (space) or specific space (site). In the beginning of the discussion of the study, it will be explained two types of area including common area and specific area.

Common Area

In this study, common area means general site, which does not specify any special aspect. The meaning

of common area may equate to the theory of Sir Isaac Newton about time and space (Valyamedhi, 2014, October 3, Personal interview). In fact, the meaning of common area or general site may include unlimited boundary starting from small area, which has certain important specification.

Specific Area

Specific area means area, which has certain special aspects such as history, archeology, education and et cetera.

■ Research Instrument

The thesis named "The Transmission of Naraphong Charassri's Creative Concepts of Site-Specific Dance Performance" was done by implementing the research instrument as follows:

1. *Documentary Research* The researcher studied related document from textbooks and academic journals about the transmission of creative of contemporary Thai dramatic arts in the field proposed by Naraphong Charassri concepts of site-specific dance performance. In addition from this, it included interviewing the experts and artists who had creative in particular works.

2. *Interviewing Experts* The researcher interviewed the related persons in the transmission of creative of contemporary Thai dramatic arts concepts of site-specific dance performance proposed by Naraphong Charassri and also performed group interview.

3. *Seminar* The researcher participated in the project named "1st and 2nd Building Standards for Role Model Artists Glorification in Dramatic Arts" to enhance knowledge.

4. *Other Informational Media* Informational media relating to the transmission of creative of contemporary Thai dramatic arts concepts of site-specific dance performance proposed by Naraphong Charassri and contemporary Thai dramatic arts acting performed in both domestic and international.

5. *Standard Criteria for Chulalongkorn University Role Model Artists Glorification Study* the standard

criteria of role model artist of Chulalongkorn University proposed by Vijjuta Vudhaditya, Ph.D and the second batch of graduate students who enrolled in the course “Doctor of Philosophy in Thai Dramatic Arts” under Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts by analysing the characteristics of role model artists who were initiator in the field of contemporary Thai dramatic arts.

■ Conclusion

Professor Naraphong Charassri, Ph.D is a pioneer in specific choreography, his specialization is on performing contemporary Thai dramatic arts. He obtained various awards and being recognized by bringing theory implementation of contemporary Thai dramatic arts mixed with academic community. The award named “Light, Sound and Visualization Kingdom of Great People (Ayutthaya)”, which is the model of Light, Sound and Visualization Acting in Thailand by incorporating with paradigm of life and Thai culture. It has been recognised widely in globally and achieve international standard. In addition, The performance in continental sport (Asian Games) proposed about contemporary culture, way of life, Asian philosophy of living which has foundation from the previous culture. From the creative works of Professor Naraphong Charassri, Ph.D, this research studied the transformation of idea, method, and creative process to benefit the graduate students of Chulalongkorn University. It also enhances the contemporary Thai dramatic arts’ works creativity by merging the current knowledge in order to establish the new knowledge for the world of arts in Thailand.

■ References

- Field, A. (2015, October 11). Site-specific theatre? Please be more specific. retrieved form <https://www.theguardian.com/stage/theatreblog/2008/feb/06/sitespecifictheatrepleasebe>
- Gilbert, A. G. (1992). *Creative Dance for All Ages*. Reston: National Dance Association.
- Koplowitz, S. (2013). Creating Site-specific Dance and Performance Works. Retrieved from <https://www.coursera.org>

- Wilkie, F. (2004). *Out of place: Negotion of space in site-specific performance* (Doctoral Dissertation). University of Surrey, Surrey.