

Floanne Ankah performs

French Actress and Singer in New York

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Agora II, a collaboration of dance performers

A couple months after moving to NYC, that happened to me and I decided to step into whatever I don't know much about it. The place I visited was a large old abandoned outside swimming pool in Brooklyn and my confusion was growing bigger and bigger by that time I got there. I wasn't sure about what to do because of the overly huge outside scale and a given piece of paper at the entrance explaining about tips, which didn't help reducing my anxiety that much.

I tried to look for her and, soon enough, I realized that it wasn't an easy task because of the many number of performers out there. By meaning "out there", they were literally "out there" because all of them couldn't fit into a couple of small outside tents at one time. I felt like sitting by an outside pool, where people were getting ready for Halloween Night.

Eventually, the performance started and I was sitting there for many beginning minutes while feeling like being tested how my learning curve could go up quickly with steep angle because so many things were happening everywhere at the same time. By the time I am getting used to whatever the situations out there, I started enjoying my main task, "looking for her", because I learned that it is quite enjoyable watching the way she performs. Sometime she dances highly choreographed moves with large number of other performers, sometime she passes through in front of me by riding on a bicycle. Yes, a bicycle! This pattern, however, wasn't shocking enough any more by this moment because of so many number of other performers with strikingly enough visual looking or strangely enough their behaviors.

I easily lost her sight, too, simply due to distance or dark lighting effect but getting back focus onto her was relatively easy because her performance stood out. It is funny that it was the first time I felt that there could be a beauty in the way riding bicycle. By comparing with the ways other performers who also ride bicycles, I learned that where those differences come from. That was her posture backed by her classically trained ballet skills. Of course, there are so many other performers who were choreographed to be looked like "just normal people". So, being stand out every time she moves could be one side of 50%. The other 50% would be just regular people, even though I know they are auditioned performers. That is OK, too, within this performance. I was beginning to understand a large picture of this performance.

There are people out there. These people are fueling themselves with a lot of their internal energy. These people have different external appearances. These people have their own rhythm, tune, beat, pitch, and tempo. These people live with their thrill, anger, joy, sadness, envy, sin, fear, illusion, hesitation, worry... and happiness. That was the part of theme embraced within this performance.

By the end of this performance, I started understanding of the sentence, "I am a dancer.", a bit better than before thanks to her. Her name is Nana Miki, who has been showing off her ever increasing capability and versatility to me and many people since then.

-Akira Harada, author



Featured collaborator Nana Miki in Agora II

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