



## Art of the times

The Museo Reina Sofia in Madrid, Spain, recently opened to the public the third section of the Museum's Collection, which is articulated around four areas corresponding to the key moments in the history of art — both Spanish and international — in the 20th and 21st centuries. The artworks in the

third section span from 1962 to 1982.

Titled *From Revolt to Postmodernity (1962–1982)*, the collection is displayed in a 2,200 sq m space in the Nouvel Building. In it are about 300 works, including paintings, drawings, sculptures, installations, videos, photographs and documentary material by a wide selection of artists. In the 20 years covered by the newly presented work, world-

changing events took place whose decisive factors were the growth of new technologies, the advance of consumerism, the processes of decolonisation (materialising in nonconformist attitudes among young people and women) and the beginnings of globalisation. See the art that came out of this turbulent time in history. For visiting information, see [www.museoreinasofia.es](http://www.museoreinasofia.es).

# CulturalIndex

the arts at a glance BY Elaine Lau



## Murderous intent

TerryandTheCuz's theatre production *Klue, Doh!* is a classic whodunit presented in a most unconventional way

Local performing arts company TerryandTheCuz wants to do more than just entertain — they want to redefine the experience of theatre, to change our idea of what theatre can do.

In last year's production, *My Lingam Speaks*, a piece that married stand-up comedy with production elements of lighting, sound, music and props, it showed how stand-up can be more than just getting on stage and telling joke after joke. And with the play, *Klue, Doh!*, currently playing at Black Box @ MAP, TerryandTheCuz shows yet again how theatre can be presented in an unconventional way.

*Klue, Doh!* is a cleverly devised, well-thought-out tale of murder and intrigue told from two different perspectives. The audience is taken on a thrilling ride from start to finish, one that's full of surprises, twists and turns. Brilliant characterisation, witty lines, scandalous situations and a riveting plot all make for a fun night out at the theatre.

An original production created in collaboration with Australian theatre-makers, *Klue, Doh!* revolves around the murder of Datuk Jackson Mo, who is found dead in an unusual fashion in the study of his mansion in Ipoh. What makes it deliciously complicated is there is more than one suspect: the estranged wife, Datin Saras; her wily



Datin Saras reacts to a query from Inspector Paku

brother, Alan Jason; the young promiscuous lover, Charity Ho Mun Mun; the self-absorbed wedding planner, Phlegon; the disgruntled son, Abraham; and the dim-witted Indonesian maid, Gangbang. So, who actually did it?

That question is answered either in the first half or second half, depending on which "room"

you start in. This is what's so interesting and ingenious about the way the play is presented. In what I believe is the first attempt of its kind here, the action and drama take place in the study and the living room of the mansion simultaneously, with the actors darting in and out of the respective rooms, and audience members watching on each side. The group who watches the play in the "living room" is given only clues pointing to what happened, while the group in the study knows straight away who has been killed and gets to see the plot of the murder-mystery unravel. The groups then switch rooms after intermission. It's a tricky thing to pull off, but the writers and producers of the show have put it together amazingly well.

The air of mystery begins the moment you check in at the counter at Black Box, MAP @ Publika, and you are branded either a "witness" or "suspect" (yes, you get stamped on the arm). Mingling outside the theatre, one could feel a palpable sense of anticipation, as people tried to guess what was up. I was a "witness", and my fellow witnesses and I headed into the "study", where we were introduced to each of the suspects in turn, as well as the two policemen determined to crack the case, Assistant Superintendent of Police Hamzah Mat Nor and his young ciku, Inspector Pakuwathy. I'm not going to delve much into the plot other than to say there are elements of Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express* in it, and that we laughed — and sometimes gasped and winced — our way through the climax and conclusion of the convoluted tale.

Several months back, TerryandTheCuz did a test run of the play with a small group of invited guests and members of the media, after which we gave feedback on what we thought could be improved upon. I was pleased to see that several scenes that I had thought were too drawn out had been tightened, and some puzzling scenes that detracted from the story were taken out.

What is all still there is the gut-busting humour injected in the story that at times, bordered on the risqué but stopped right where it started to get to be too much. There's also a healthy dose of slapstick (watch for Inspector Paku's *Gerak Khas* moves), but what is most brilliant and hilarious about *Klue, Doh!* is the potpourri of characters that play on Malaysian stereotypes.

Bringing these characters to life was a truly exceptional cast: theatre veterans Anne James and JD Menon as the vengeful Datin and her opportunistic brother; Davina Goh as the pouty and whiny girlfriend from Jinjang; Nabihan Yaacob as the Indonesian help (her Indonesian accent is a tee); Jon Chew as the gay wedding planner; Terence Conrad as the distant son; Ley Shahrwind as Inspector Paku; and Iqmal Shafiq as ASP Hamzah. The cops provided much of the comedy — the overeager young inspector, who unwittingly finds himself in a sticky situation, and the superior, who is more interested in throwing his weight around than anything else, or so it seems.

*Klue, Doh!* was a thoroughly well-crafted production, clever in its execution and riotously funny.

***Klue, Doh!* is staged until Dec 17 at Black Box @ MAP, Level G2-01, Block A5, Dutamas, 1 Jalan Dutamas 1, off Jalan Duta, KL. Showtime is 8.30pm and tickets cost RM68 (adult) and RM38 (students). Get them from [www.tix.my](http://www.tix.my).**