

Time Out!

Take a break.

This April the people
of Vientiane
will have the
unique opportunity
to experience a
modern form of theater.

The theater ensemble
antagon theaterAKTion,
from Frankfurt, Germany,
uses dance and
physical expression
instead of words.

They create an
international language
that touches audiences
on an emotional level.



antagon theaterAKTion (Photos: Sepp'l Niemeyer & Ruben Ballester)

Lao-German Cultural Project

*A spectacular theater show
on the way to Vientiane*

Where did I come from?

Where am I now? Where am I going?

antagon theaterAKTion asks the large questions about life.

The Laos premiere of the production *Time Out* will be antagon's first performance in Asia. *Time Out* is a spectacular action show that uses live music, stilt performances, film projections, fire effects, dance, and large, moveable stage scenery. With two years of performing *Time Out*, the antagon crew presents a pressing topic for today's society: Time – How does time affect us? Always ticking, how do we react to the clock?

The 70-minute performance melts reality with illusion. The audience is led into a fantastical space and time. "We stop the time machine, look inside for one moment, and think," explains antagon Artistic Director Mr. Bernhard Bub. *Time Out* is a show like a rollercoaster – it grabs images

from the European past and present, and twists them into a vision of a new, powerful and changing future.

During the 18-day visit in Laos, the 10 performers, 2 musicians and 3 technicians will additionally give seminars about their work and hold theater workshops at the National University of Laos, collaborating with the Faculty of Dance and Arts, the Vientiane International School (VIS), and the Embassy of Germany.



After 15 years of cultural exchanges in Europe, Latin America, and recently in Armenia (October 2004), antagon is excited to explore the similarities and differences between the Laos and German cultures. Mr. Bub visited Laos in February to prepare for these performances. He gladly talks about the openness and friendliness he experienced while in Vientiane. "The social life, the nature, the people in Laos – they fascinate the Europeans, because the Laos way of life contrasts strongly with the European daily reality. And from the other point of view, Europe is fascinating to people in Laos. Embracing our differences is a theme of our theater production and this visit."

The large stage scenery was created specially on location for these performances. The antagon Technical Director Joscha Erker traveled to Laos in February to weld



the metal scenery together, with Laos stage technicians.

Four performances will be presented in the Culture Hall in Vientiane on April 28, 29, 30 and May 1. Ticket prices begin at 3 dollars, in order to open this cultural event to the widest possible audience. All profits will be donated to an organisation that educates about AIDS/HIV and helps people who are suffering from these diseases, because this is a problem that concerns all people everywhere in the world.

More information, photos and videos are online at www.antagon.de

Voices about *Time Out* from the German Press

"As expected, antagon pulls the best out of their bag of tricks. They bring a raw, elementary energy to being alive: The metal gnashes, the pavement burns, and the performers whirl on yard-high stilts over the platform. The audience can't avoid being spellbound."
(Frankfurter Rundschau, August 4, 2003)

"The whole atmosphere is stamped with a flurry of musical rhythms, dance and impressive imagery on stage. The arena of the antagon theater lives from the constant changing of moods, circumstances and relationships."
(Trottoir Heft 40, Sept.-Nov. 2003)