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Caren Cariño (Dr) has earned three related degrees: PhD Southeast Asian Studies, National University of Singapore; MFA Dance and BEd Dance, University of Hawai'i, USA. Her professional career includes member, Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, USA; Programme Leader/Lecturer (Dance), Lasalle College of the Arts, Singapore and currently Vice Dean /Principal Lecturer (Dance), Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore. Cariño has presented her research that focuses on education, performance and cultural studies in many countries, including Australia, China, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and the USA. Her recent publications

include 'Contemporaneous, Contemporisation, Contemporary Expressions in Dance' (2015) in *Arts Hats* published by World Scientific; co-editor of *Evolving Synergies: Celebrating Dance in Singapore* (2014) with Stephanie Burrige published by Routledge, in which she also authored the chapter 'The Evolving Cultural Ecology through Dance'. Cariño is dance advisor to Singapore's Ministry of Education; National Arts Council and People's Association. She is also affiliated to the World Dance Alliance where she is Vice President, Singapore chapter and was recently Chairperson of *Asia-Pacific Dance Bridge: Connectivity through Dance*, October 2015.

Expressing Cultural Heritage through Contemporary Dance: Case Studies of Four Choreographers in Singapore

Traditional dance is typically associated with cultural heritage. However, this presentation looks how contemporary dance can also be a medium to convey cultural heritage. While contemporary dance is often associated with Western constructs, the various forms of contemporary dance produced by choreographers located in Singapore often reflect their anxiety over emulation, rejection and negotiation of Western ideas. On one hand they embrace the ideals and aesthetics of the West, seen as progressive. On the other hand, they reject the West because of their need to express local autonomous meanings. Their dances often centre around prioritizing cultural continuity, influenced by what is thought to be something inherited and learned. This presentation features four Singapore choreographers and how they transmit their cultural heritage through contemporary dance.



Rumah Tangga (2010) choreographed by Marn Qin Pei Charlotte