

The M1 Singapore Fringe Festival is back for its sixth instalment with a new theme "Art and the Law" (*much* more interesting than it sounds, trust us!), and with twenty works of theatre, dance, music and visual arts from twelve different countries. SHAMUS SILLAR runs an eye over some highlights.

Fringe Duellers

1.

Tamas Wells Two Years in April

After releasing his debut album *A Mark in the Pane* in 2004, Australian Tamas Wells moved from Melbourne to the city of Yangon in Burma, where he resides to this day.

A second album, *A Plea en Vendredi*, met with considerable critical acclaim ("beautifully broken art" – *Sydney Morning Herald*), and an Asian tour followed. Wells' third album, *Two Years in April*, was recorded at his home in Yangon with a guitar and a traditional Burmese banjo and released last year.

For the M1 Fringe Festival, Wells' live musical performance will be enhanced by visual images telling a fictional story of a young girl's travels in Asia and Europe before her eventual return to suburbia in Australia – and to tragedy. This is the singer-songwriter's first show in Singapore, and the first occasion for the complete performance of *Two Years in April* with visuals.

23 January 2010, 7.30pm, Esplanade Recital Studio. Tickets from \$19. (Double bill with Malaysian electro-acoustic musician, *flica*.)

www.tamaswells.com
www.myspace.com/flicasound



Ten Minutes with Tamas Wells

Your music

"I love melodies. So when I listen to music or write music, it is always from a melody and song-writing perspective. I don't mind if it is recorded in a pristine studio or in a shack somewhere, as long as the melody is there."

Living in Myanmar

I have been here for almost four years now and the smell of the wet season, the holes in the floor of the taxis and the humility and generosity of people here are all starting to feel normal. I will be here for some time yet.

Heroes, mentors or influences

I have a friend in Melbourne who writes beautiful folk music. He recorded an album and sold a total of about 30 copies. It is one of my favourite albums of all time, but hardly anyone knows about him. He inspires me that art is about beauty and beauty is far more important than recognition.

Australia

I love Melbourne. It has such a diverse music scene and has developed its own sensibilities as a city. I will move back there one day. But at the moment, living in Asia is very fulfilling.

The future

Someone read me my Burmese horoscope the other day and it said that on a particular day of the month, at a particular time in the early morning, I had to go to a lake and feed 23 crows by hand. If I did that I would have a long and prosperous life. But I slept in that morning and didn't do it. So I guess we will have to wait and see about the future. ☺

2.

Jonathon Kambouris Last Meals



Gritty, dark and even taboo subject-matter dominates the work of American artist Jonathon Kambouris, born in Detroit in 1982. *Last Meals* is a series of photographic prints depicting mug shots of convicted killers and their selected last meals before execution. What does the food they have chosen tell us about their states of mind? These kinds of intimate details surrounding their final hours are a matter of public record and are Kambouris' inspiration for the series.

On the topic of Art and the Law, Kambouris says: "I took images which I found on the internet and which did not belong to me, and used them as a background. By doing this, I have brushed upon copyright infringement. Although I have manipulated these images in Photoshop and made them my own, have I broken the law to create the body of work?"

7-24 January 2010, Esplanade Tunnel. Free admission.

www.jonathonkambouris.com