

# Four Walls



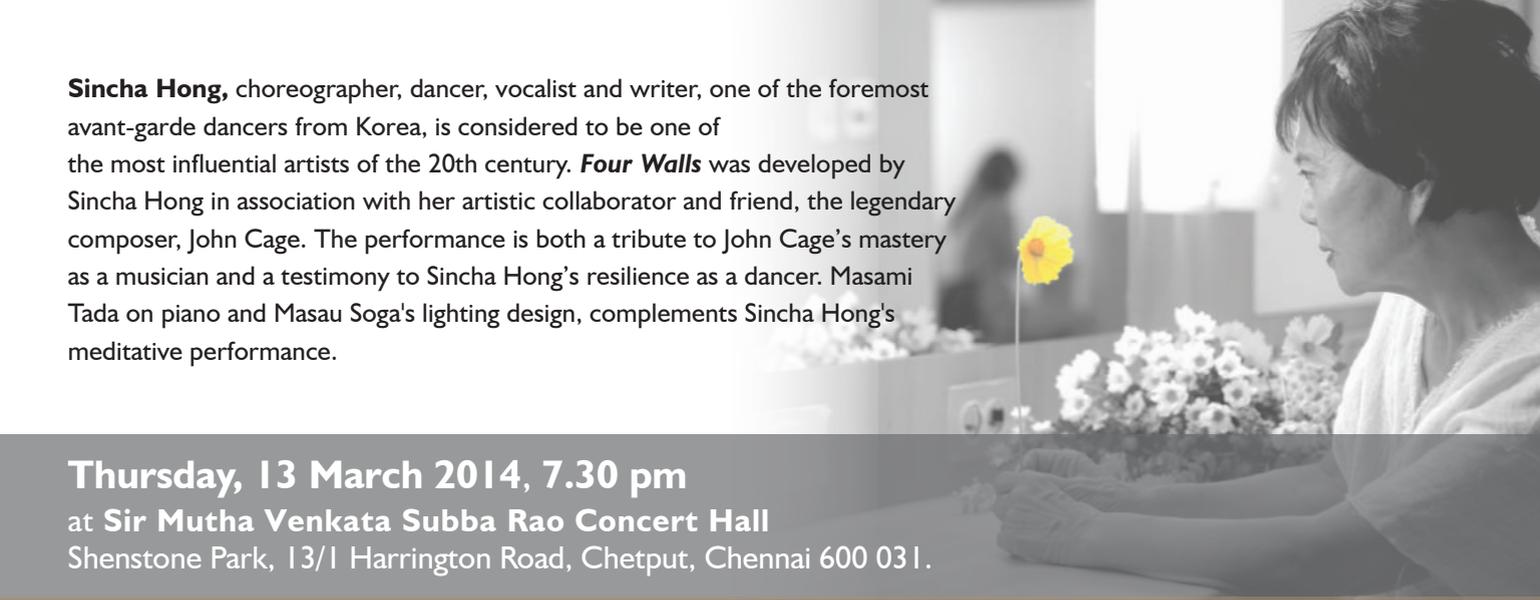
Thursday, 13 March 2014, 7.30 pm at Sir Mutha Venkata Subba Rao Concert Hall

  
InKo  
centre

  
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**Sincha Hong**, choreographer, dancer, vocalist and writer, one of the foremost avant-garde dancers from Korea, is considered to be one of the most influential artists of the 20th century. **Four Walls** was developed by Sincha Hong in association with her artistic collaborator and friend, the legendary composer, John Cage. The performance is both a tribute to John Cage's mastery as a musician and a testimony to Sincha Hong's resilience as a dancer. Masami Tada on piano and Masau Soga's lighting design, complements Sincha Hong's meditative performance.

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**at Sir Mutha Venkata Subba Rao Concert Hall**  
Shenstone Park, 13/1 Harrington Road, Chetput, Chennai 600 031.

**Dancer/Choreographer: Sincha Hon (Korea)**

After winning critical acclaim with her debut performance *Morning* in New York, Sincha Hong founded the Laughing Stone Dance Theater company and worked with legendary artists like John Cage, Yuji Takahashi, Margaret Leng Tan and Nam June Paik. On her return to Korea in 1993, Sincha Hong founded the Laughing Stone Dance Group Inc. which presents several public performances and meditation workshops. From 1995 to date, she organizes the Juksan International Arts Festival which is renowned for its presentation of avant-garde art.

Sin Cha Hong met John Cage (1912-1992) in the early 1980's and was inspired to create a dance drama with his music. **Four Walls**, was first performed by Merce Cunningham in 1944. Sin Cha Hong's version was first performed in 1984 in New York and was presented at the John Cage Festival at Wesleyan University in 1985 and later in the Pacific Ring Festival at San Diego. This was followed by a tour to Germany, Japan, and Korea. In 2012, 28 years after the first performance, **Four Walls Encore** was presented in Seoul to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of the legendary musician, John Cage.

**Composer : John Cage (USA)**

John Milton Cage Jr. (Sep.5, 1912 - Aug.12, 1992) was an American composer, music theorist, writer and artist. He is known as a pioneer of indeterminacy in music, electroacoustic music and non-standard use of musical instruments. Cage was one of the leading figures of the post-war avant-garde movement. Critics have lauded him as one of the most influential American composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. John Cage was also instrumental in the development of modern dance, mostly through his association with choreographer Merce Cunningham. He worked extensively with the acclaimed video artist Nam June

Paik and choreographer Sin Cha Hong to create powerful works that fluidly combine music, video art and dance.

**Four Walls composed by John Cage**

Written at a time when Cage was considering the serious move of ceasing to write music in order to devote time to being psychoanalyzed, the title is both deeply poignant and personal. Cage resolved to keep his tryst with music, which resulted in highly influential work, post-1950's.

**Four Walls**, written originally as music for a theater piece, a "dance play" about a family, was conceived by the dancer Merce Cunningham. The piece is mostly solo piano played in the diatonic scale (white keys only) with a short vocal phrase in the middle. It is a work of direct, evocative, mesmerizing musical gestures, set off by silences of varying length or by insistent rhythm with simple variations.

**Piano: Masami Tada (Japan)**

**Masami Tada** studied composition in the Showa Academy of Music in Japan. He learned to play the piano under the tutelage of Takehisa Kosugi. His teacher, Takahasi Kosugi, was the artistic partner of John Cage at the Merce Cunningham Dance Company.

**Lighting Design: Masaru Soga (Japan)**

Masaru Soga studied composition under his father and grandfather who were jazz and traditional musicians in Japan. He studied philosophy at Waseda University. In the 70's, Masaru Soga studied philosophy and composition under John Cage in New York and also studied theatrical techniques at theatre schools in London, New York, Sydney and Tokyo. He is now director of Office SOGA in Japan.