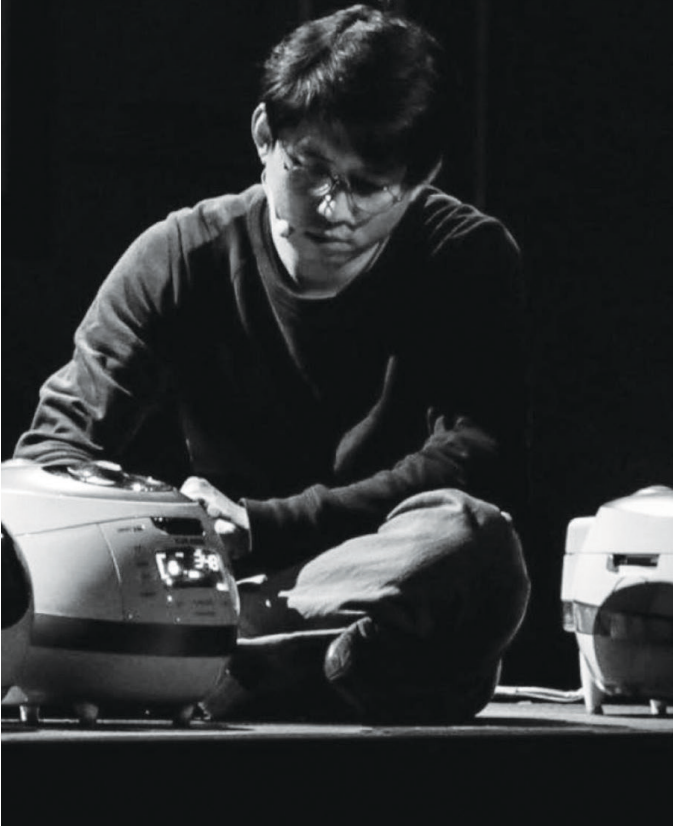


Clarice Presents

JAHN KOO: CUCKOO



Wednesday, February 12
& Thursday, February 13, 2025 • 8PM

KOGOD THEATRE

AT THE CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND

Clarice Presents

JAHA KOO: CUCKOO

In Partnership with Under the Radar

CONCEPT, DIRECTION, TEXT, MUSIC & VIDEO

Jaha Koo

PERFORMANCE

Hana, Duri, Seri & Jaha Koo

CUCKOO HACKING

Idella Craddock

SCENOGRAPHY & DIGITAL SUPPORT

Eunkyung Jeong

DRAMATURGICAL ADVICE

Dries Douibi

TECHNIQUE

Korneel Coessens, Jan Berkman, Bart Huybrechts (& Wim Clapdorp)

PRODUCTION

Kunstenwerkplaats Pianofabriek

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

CAMPO

COPRODUCTION

Bâtard Festival

Cuckoo is made possible with support from CAMPO, STUK, BUDA, DAS, SFAC and Noorderzon/Grand Theatre with the support of the Flemish Community.

This performance is also supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council and The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation and with support from Flanders State of the Art.



THE MORRIS AND GWENDOLYN
CAFritz FOUNDATION



ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

A journey through the last 20 years of Korean history told by a bunch of talkative rice cookers.

One day when his electric rice cooker informed him that his meal was ready, Jaha Koo experienced a deep sense of isolation. ‘Golibmuwon’ (고립무원) is an untranslatable Korean word expressing the feeling of helpless isolation that characterizes the lives of many young people in Korea today.

Twenty years ago there was a major economic crisis in South Korea, comparable to the financial crash in the United States and Southern Europe in 2008. This crisis had a huge impact on the young generation to which South Korean artist Jaha Koo belongs. He witnessed many endemic problems including youth unemployment and socio-economic inequality. Rising suicide rates, isolation, acute social withdrawal and a fixation on personal appearance are but a few of the symptoms.

In bittersweet and humorous dialogues, Jaha and his clever rice cookers take you on a journey through the last 20 years of Korean history, combining personal experience with political events and reflections on happiness, economic crises and death.

THE HAMARTIA TRILOGY

Cuckoo forms the second part of Jaha Koo’s Hamartia Trilogy. Together with *Lolling & Rolling* and *The History of Korean Western Theatre*, the trilogy consists of three intelligent documentary theatre performances, each telling a story about “hamartia,” Greek for “tragic error.” The common thread here is the far-reaching imperialism of the past and present, and its sometimes unexpected personal impact. Each time, Jaha Koo interweaves his personal stories with historical, political and sociological facts. Often themes that involve a clash of Eastern and Western culture: from the clipping of tongues to make it in the West, to the heavy personal toll of Western interference in the macroeconomic sphere.

The play will be performed in Korean and English, with English subtitles. This performance contains graphic footage of suicide, mature language, explicit content and strobe lights.

JAHA KOO



JAHA KOO (he/him) is a South Korean theater/performance maker, music composer and videographer. His artistic practice oscillates between multimedia and performance, encompassing his own music, video, text and robotic objects. His most recent project, *The Hamartia Trilogy*, includes *Lolling and Rolling* (2015), *Cuckoo* (2017) and *The History of Korean Western Theatre* (2020). The trilogy represents a long-term exploration of the political landscape, colonial history and cultural identity of East Asia. Thematically, it focuses on structural issues in Korean society and how the inescapable past tragically affects our lives today. *Haribo Kimchi*, Jaha Koo’s last performance, premiered in 2024.

Koo majored in Theatre Studies (B.F.A., 2011) at Korea National University of Arts and earned a master’s degree (M.A., 2016) at DAS Theatre in Amsterdam.

He currently lives and works in Gent, Belgium.

CLARICE PRESENTS

24/25 SEASON

at The Clarice Smith
Performing Arts Center

COMING UP IN DANCE!



Thu, Mar 5 & Fri, Mar 6 • 8PM

A.I.M by Kyle Abraham

The New York Times calls Kyle Abraham's A.I.M "one of the most consistently excellent troupes working today."



Thu, May 1 • 7:30PM

The Center Will Not Hold A Dorrance Dance Production

Created by Ephrat Asherie and Michelle Dorrance

Live percussion and a cast of performers deeply rooted in street, club and vernacular dances