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Inno Design Tech Expo  
設計及創新科技博覽

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# An interview with Jesko von den Steinen

**Some** people are born artists. They live for art and live out art. In reality, however, how many artists are able to break out of their boundaries and fuse all aspects of their lives and works with creativity? The main character of the “House of Dancing Water,” Jesko von den Steinen, will share his unique experiences in this regard in a discussion titled “Dialogue with Creative Entrepreneurs” during the Inno Design Tech Expo 2014 organized by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council. As a preview to the discussion, Jesko spoke to us about his perspective on living a free life that seems to transcend time and space.

“One of my teachers once told me that, the smaller your prison cell is, the bigger your kingdom is. Many outstanding artists or performers create works or performances that have a firm framework. The key is to develop your creativity within this framework,” says the actor from the Franco Dragone Entertainment Group.

Jesko is an outstanding actor, clown, and choreographer who played the main clown character in the famous Cirque du Soleil production “Saltimbanco” for five years. Before that, he had attempted acrobatics, dance, and mime and performed in drama festivals all over the world, including at the Macao Arts Festival.

To explain his idea of developing oneself within a framework, the German-born Canadian performer used an example. “You know? When I am performing, I am simultaneously thinking of several things – my condition at that moment, the audience’s reaction, the rhythm of the performance, and the safety of the water show. I have to observe these things both from a distance and in detail. Performing

cannot be too robotic or it would lose its soul.”

Having multiple talents does not mean that Jesko cannot stand boredom. On the contrary, he says that his secret to success is that he is a “boring” person. “Don’t be afraid to be a boring person. Whenever you try too hard to be interesting, you can only achieve anything but that.”

He continued, “when I was in school, my teacher told me to read Shakespeare aloud, but he said, ‘Jesko, you are not reading it in an interesting way! Everyone, raise your hand if you think Jesko’s reading is boring.’ Many of my fellow students raised their hand. So afterwards, my teacher told me to read aloud from the phone book. I read it aloud naturally, the other students actually thought that I was more interesting when reading from the phone book. I found out that being true to my own style is the most important. The audience themselves would have their own interpretation of different characters and pieces.”

The secret to performing can also be applied to doing business. Jesko, who has also participated in movie productions and creative design, shared four core values in a TEDx talk he did a while ago. One of these values is “intentional inhibition.” He explains, “this is actually related to the famous Alexander technique. I extended it to the realm of work. For example, when your boss tells you to do something, I wouldn’t encourage you to say no immediately, but you have got to say no inside and then think, instead of blindly obeying, how can you do your task well?”

The 38-year-old performer says that he loves sharing his ideas with other people, but it is important to pick a good time to do so. When people are constantly encountering failure, it is no use to give them any advice. Are you ready to engage with Jesko?

## Jesko von den Steinen 專訪

有些人，天生就是藝術家。他們為藝術而生，也活出藝術。然而，在現實中，如何從藝術走出去，令創意、生活、工作融會貫通？「水舞間」的男主角Jesko von den Steinen，將在香港貿發局設計及創新科技博覽的「與創意企業家對話」中分享；在這之前，他先跟我們談談當中見解。在他身上，你會學懂，一種能游走在何時何地間的瀟灑。

「我其中一位老師跟我說過，你的囚室愈小，你的王國就愈大。許多出色的藝術家或表演者，他們的作品或演出都有很堅固的結構，而如何在此結構中發揮到你的創意，就是關鍵。」這位Franco Dragone娛樂集團的演員如此說。

Jesko是一名出色的演員、丑角、編舞家，亦曾在太陽劇團備受注目的《Saltimbanco》劇目中領銜主演小丑一角，長達五年之久。此前，他更在藝壇作出不同雜技、舞蹈及藏劇的嘗試，又在世界各處的戲劇節表演，包括澳門藝術節。

所謂在結構中發揮自己，這位在加拿大成長的德國人舉了個例子：「你知道嗎？表演的時候，我腦中同時在思考幾樣東西：當刻的狀況、觀眾的反應、表演的節奏、水上匯演時的環境安全等。我要同時有宏觀和微觀的觀察，表演不能太機械化，這樣才不會沒了靈魂。」

多才多藝，不代表他不甘單調；相反，他說成功的秘訣，正在於「夠悶」：「你不要怕做一個沉悶的人。你愈想變得有趣，你就愈只能練成『有趣』以外的任何東西。」

他續說：「我讀書時，老師叫我讀莎士比亞，他卻說：『Jesko，你讀得很無趣呢！覺得他演得乏味的同學，請舉手。』很多人舉手。於是，老師叫我拿電話簿來讀，我自然的逐行唸，再問同學意見，大家竟覺得我讀電話簿更好！於是我發現，我之前太著意讀出莎士比亞的角色的味道，太想讀得有趣了。原來，忠於自己風格才是最重要；如何解讀角色和作品，觀眾自會有他們的領會。」

表演的秘訣，應用到企業，同樣受用。亦有從事電影製作及創意設計工作的Jesko，早前就在TEDx的演講中分享了四大原則，其中一點是「Intentional Inhibition」：「這個其實與著名的阿歷山大技巧有關。我把它引伸到工作方面，譬如說，當你的上司叫你做一件事情，我當然不會鼓勵你當面拒絕，但你得在心裡說不，然後想想，除了盲從，如何才能真正做得更好。」

這位38歲的表演者說，他樂於與人分享，但重點是要挑好時機——正如一個人不斷「撞牆」的話，你說甚麼他都聽不進去。不論有否在「撞牆」的你，準備好與Jesko交流了嗎？

DATA  
Seminar: Dialogue with Creative Entrepreneurs  
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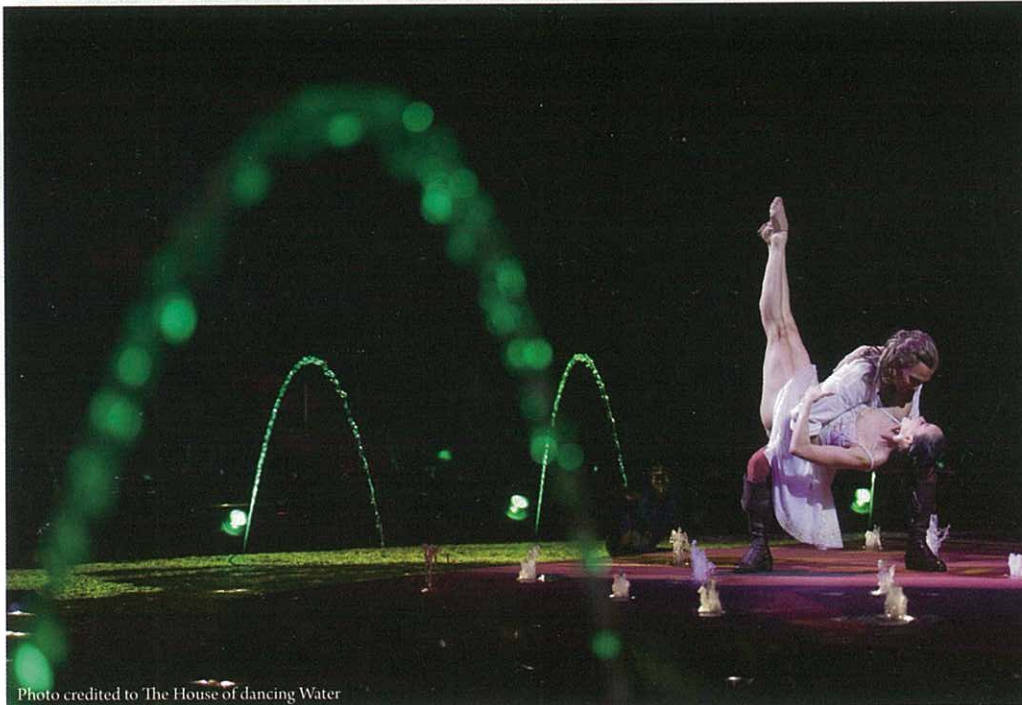


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