

SHOWTIME

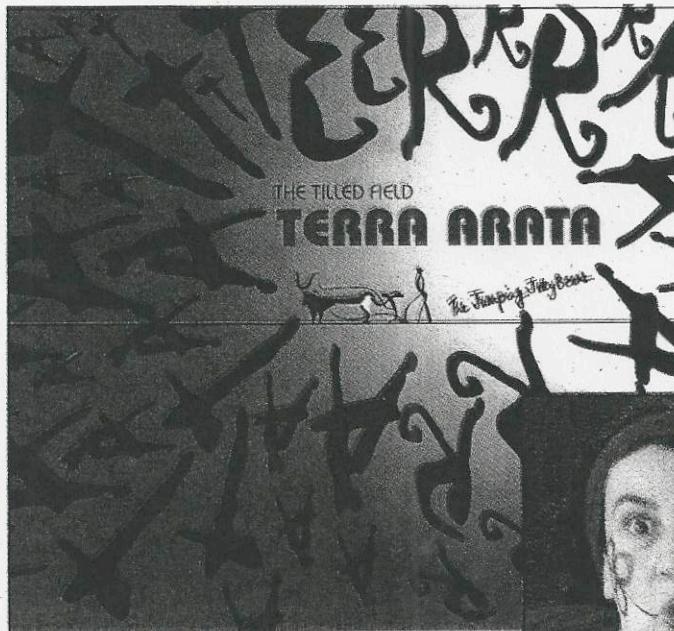
SURREAL
TERRA
ARATA
>>>



SHOWTIME!

NEW SUNDAY TIMES

NOVEMBER 6, 2005



Intepreting a painting is one thing but coming up with an entire play from that interpretation? For *The Jumping Jellybeans*, it was a challenging feat, writes SUBASHINI NAIR.

Surreal

“WE were trying to come up with new ideas for our next play and Cinzia Ciaramicoli suggested that I look at Joan Miro’s painting *The Tilled Field*,” recalls the *The Jumping JellyBeans* director Shantini Venugopal.

“I thought it was a very strange but interesting painting and we decided to create a play from our own interpretations of the painting. We worked on each animal and came up with a story,” she says, adding she and Ciaramicoli researched each animal before coming up with the play, *Terra Arata*.

The play has changed a lot from its original.

“It was supposed to be different with stories on each animal but now it has been taken a notch up with the play being surrealistic and dreamy with no connection to one another. They just happen.”

So would children understand the concept? “Better than adults,” says Shantini.

“Adults will need a storyline but children will be able to connect and watch the play as it is.”

Another lesson from the play, according to Shantini, is to show children that anything is possible and one can look at something and interpret it differently.

The synopsis of the 50-minute-long *Terra Arata* according to *The Jumping JellyBeans* is:

“Welcome to a world of dreams in Terra Arata.

“We’ll take you through a journey filled with tales from near and far. Birds and bulls and fishes too

come alive before your eyes.

“This world of dream belongs to you, together we’ll see it through.”

Shantini says they will also be performing *Terra Arata* the following week at the Asian Children’s Arts Festival in Singapore.

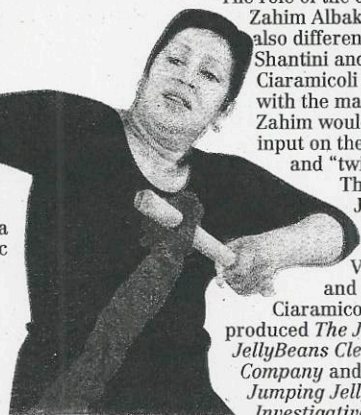
“We decided that since it was a new play, we wanted to perform it in Malaysia first,” she said sounding excited and admitting that it had been a very interesting process.

She adds that it is different for the entire cast (which includes Sadiq Raffali) because they are not working with scripts.

The role of the director Zahim Albakri was also different because Shantini and Ciaramicoli came up with the material and Zahim would give his input on the material and “twig it”.

The *Jumping JellyBeans*, founded by Venugopal and

Ciaramicoli has produced *The Jumping JellyBeans Cleaning Company* and *The Jumping JellyBeans Investigative Company*. —



nsunt@nstp.com.my

■ *Terra Arata* will be performed at the Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (KLPA) Pentas 2 on Nov 12-13 at 11am and 3pm. Tickets are priced at RM12 (for those aged three to 16) and RM22 (aged 17 and above). Call 03-40479010.