



## Rasa Sayang Press Reviews

'For all its innovations, contemporary dance in Melbourne has largely maintained a general distrust of overt sentimentality and emotional expressiveness in favour of a cool, if often playful, detachment. Tony Yap's latest bucked the trend **with a deep investment in emotion** that didn't revert of the more common hysteric or neurotic modes but instead **demonstrated how dance can be as powerful a medium of raw feeling as narrative-based theatre**. It's still a cool piece, based on Buddhist practice as it is, but the performer's exploration of the intimacies of grief is anything but disinterested. Madeleine Flynn and Tim Humphrey's live score complements the **subtly wrenching** choreography.'

- **John Bailey – *The Sunday Age***

'Inspired by the Batu Hidup (living stones) of Malaysia, Ota's design features pillars wrapped in cocoons of white webbing, strange sculptures that erupt from the ground like sun-bleached bones, and shards of plaster to delineate stark mosaics on the floor.... Although the focus of this latest production from Yap's Buddha Body Series is "emptiness", the space **brims with latent energy**... Yap steps on to the wooden floor and seems to transform... **Despite its tiny scale, this work has an epic vibe** that is driven by Yap's ability to sustain his trance-like state from start to finish. ... At the end, Yap snaps back into his own persona and shrinks to human proportions. We are left wondering what has just happened and unsure of how to translate the experience into rational thought.

**Four stars.'**



- **Jordan Beth Vincent, *The Age***