

Cultural Arnis in Tirol, Austria

by Edessa Ramos

(representing IMAFP and BRIDGES Intercultural Productions)

July 14 – 17, 2005

4 Performances in *Freistaat Burgstein, Langenfeld, and Mieming*

Audience size: 50, Media coverage: TV, newspapers and magazines in Tirol



Outdoor Dance-Theater Performance

Arnis dances are used to portray the struggle for freedom, the fearlessness of the warrior, and the tragedy of war.

In the story below, the warrior (Edessa) leads other fighters to the field (Madonna, behind Edessa). They are always accompanied by death (Razel, the woman in black). The warrior is unafraid of death, is attracted to it, lured by it.



- the dance is based on my poem against war



The warrior swears to protect the children of her tribe, develop them into fighters.



The fighter, like a grieving mother, cradles the warrior children dying in the field.



Arnis in Outdoor Poetry Performance

In this performance, it was used to depict the struggle and death of a woman suffering from cancer. It is a dance of defiance and hope. It made non-martial artists appreciate the beauty of Arnis. The poem was written and read by Brigita, an Austrian poet.



- I read my favourite poem: Arnis Fighter



- with poets and painters from Italy

Arnis Anyo-Sayaw out on the field



- swirling Mindanao malong, strong wind in my hair, sticks and bolo cutting the air, this is how I want women to show the deadly elegance of the Filipino Warrior Art.