

Biographies of Artists

Nine Years Theatre

Nine Years Theatre is a Singapore Mandarin theatre company that is co-founded by Nelson Chia (Artistic Director) and Mia Chee (Company Director).

The company believes in the accumulative process of art. This is reflected in their three-prong artistic direction: they are concerned with the development of their creation, with the issues of long-term, regular actor training, and the building of audience-ship through knowledge sharing. The name “Nine Years” is symbolic of our commitment to grow these efforts year by year.

Nine Years Theatre does not limit its range of productions by genre and scale, but aims to create works that are essentially actor-centred, that challenge the nature of the actor's art in productions, and ultimately, question the notion and the state of Mandarin theatre.

Nine Years Theatre Ensemble Laboratory

NYT Ensemble Project is an attempt to build a company of ensemble actors who train and create together over an extended period of time. Its main activities are divided into: regular training, creation and performance. For regular training, the ensemble uses the Suzuki Method of Actor Training and Viewpoints as its main systems to develop the art of the actor. The creation process draws on the synergy that emerges from these trainings over time. The ultimate aim of the project is to develop a sustainable group of company actors that accumulates its strengths through the ensemble environment to create works that are grounded and organic.

Nelson Chia

Director

Nelson is the co-founder and Artistic Director of Nine Years Theatre. He graduated from Goldsmiths College, London with a Masters in Directing and has an Honours degree in Theatre Studies from the National University of Singapore.

He was the Associate Artistic Director of Toy Factory Productions from 2003 to 2013, a Resident Artist with The Theatre Practice, an Associate Artist with The Substation, and a founding member of the ensemble collective A GROUP OF PEOPLE.

As an actor, he had played numerous leading roles in English and Mandarin productions by various theatre companies. He is a two-time winner of Best Actor in the ST Life! Theatre Award for his performance in a one-man show *White Soliloquy* (Toy Factory Productions, 2010) and *A Language Of Their Own* (directed by Casey Lim, 2012). As a director, he is known for his works of classics in Mandarin, which included *Oleanna* (The Theatre Practice, 2002), *Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?* (Nine Years Theatre, Esplanade Huayi Festival Commission 2012, Macau Arts Festival 2013) and *Twelve Angry Men* (Nine



Years Theatre, Esplanade Huayi Festival Commission 2013), to name a few. Internationally, his works had travelled to China, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and The Philippines.

As a theatre educator, Nelson had headed the Department of Theatre at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, lectured at Lasalle College of the Arts and the Theatre Studies Programme at the National University of Singapore.

Nelson has been training regularly in the “Suzuki Method of Actor Training” since 2008. He had studied the method with SITI Company in New York and the Suzuki Company of Toga in Japan.

蔡杰是一名演员、导演和剧场导师。他毕业于新加坡国立大学戏剧研究课程（荣誉学士），及伦敦大学金史密斯学院剧场艺术（导演）硕士课程。

蔡杰以导演和演员的身份参与过本地多个剧团的华、英语演出。他曾是“实践剧场”驻团演员/导演（2000—2002），也曾任本地剧团“Toy 肥料厂”的副艺术总监（2003—2013）。他也是本地艺术中心“电力站”的附属艺术家（2007—2009），也是以集体创作和定期演员训练为宗旨的演出团体 A GROUP OF PEOPLE 的创办人之一（2008—2012）。

他曾任教于南洋艺术学院戏剧系并担任该系系主任，也在拉萨尔艺术学院授课。他也曾是新加坡国立大学戏剧研究课程的全职讲师。

蔡杰自 2008 年开始定期进行“铃木忠志演员训练方法”的训练。他曾在纽约“SITI 剧团”和日本“铃木忠志剧团”学习这套训练方法。

Mia Chee

Actor

Mia is an actor and theatre educator, also co-founder and Company Director of Nine Year Theatre.

She found her love in performing at the age of 9 when she joined Rediffusion's children radio drama group. Since then, she has been performing in school through her teenage years and eventually graduated with a BA in Theatre Studies and Chinese Language from the National University of Singapore.

In addition to that, Mia was in the 2nd batch of students training under the former Theatre Training and Research Programme (now known as Intercultural Theatre Institute) and studied close to 2 years, before becoming a proud mother to her twin daughters.

She has worked with various theatre companies such as Toy Factory Productions Ltd, Dramabox, The Theatre Practice, The Necessary Stage and TheatreWorks. Recent works include *The Bride Always Knocks Twice* and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* at Macau Arts Festival 2013.

Mia has trained with SITI Company (New York) and Suzuki Company of Toga (Japan).

山淇是一名演员和剧场导师。

她自 9 岁加入了丽的呼声少年儿童话剧组之后，就爱上了表演。在念书时期不断参加表演工作的她，后来毕业自新加坡国立大学，主修戏剧学及汉语。

除此之外，她也是「戏剧训练与研究课程」（现今称为跨文化戏剧学院）的第二届学生，并在学习了将近两年之后，晋升为一对双胞胎女儿的妈妈。

山淇曾与本地多个剧团合作，包括 TOY 肥料厂、戏剧盒、实践剧场、必要剧场以及 TheatreWorks。近期作品包括「她门」及「谁怕吴尔芙？」（澳门艺术节 2013）。

她也曾接受 SITI 剧团（纽约）及铃木忠志剧团（日本）的训练。

Hang Qian Chou

Actor

Qian Chou first worked with Nine Years Theatre on their debut production *Twelve Angry Men* and is honoured and excited to be training with them as part of the NYT Ensemble Project.

He graduated from the NUS Theatre Studies Programme and has also trained at Ecole Philippe Gaulier Summer School (France), as well as in the pioneer cohort of WILD Rice's actors' training programme young & WILD.

He twice won a Life! Theatre Award for Best Ensemble for his work in *Lao Jiu: The Musical* and *Mad Forest* and was similarly nominated for *Own Time Own Target* and *The Hypochondriac*.

He performed in the *Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2011* and co-created his first clown show *The Wrestling 3-Oh!!!* as part of *Flipside 2013*. Other theatre credits include: *Liao Zhai Rocks!*, *If There're Seasons...* (Theatre Practice); *Jack & the Beansprout*, *Beauty World*, *On North Diversion Road* (WILD Rice); *Glass Anatomy*, *December Rains* (Toy Factory); *The Arabian Nights*, *Sing to the Dawn*, *The Elves & the Shoemaker*, *Under the Baobab Tree*, *The Gingerbread Man*, *Duck & Dive*, *The Wizard of Oz* (I Theatre); *Chestnuts Does Christmas* (STAGES); *Metamorphoses* (COLLAB Theatre Ensemble); and *Sunshine Girl* (Dick Lee Chuosenko).

乾畴非常荣幸能够续《十二奴汉》之后，再渡与九年剧场合作，并进行长期的群体演员训练。他毕业于国大戏剧系，也曾远赴法国巴黎，在小丑大师 Philippe Gaulier 的学院进修夏季课程，之后并到英国苏格兰演出爱丁堡艺穗节。他曾以《老九》与《Mad Forest》两渡荣获《最佳群体演出》一奖，并也以《Own Time Own Target》及《The Hypochondriac》获提名同一奖项。他也曾参演：《编剧操练营》，《聊斋》，《天冷就回来》（实践剧场）；《冲啊！》，《有谁在乎我？》（戏剧盒）；《搭错车》，《雨季》（Toy 肥料厂）；及《周处除三害》（猴纸剧坊）。

Neo Hai Bin Actor

Neo Hai Bin received his actor's training and exposure to theatre as a member of "ARTivate" (youth wing of Drama Box) since 2009. He soon became a freelance actor and found himself involved in productions by Drama Box, The Theatre Practice, TheatreWorks, and recently Nine Years Theatre. He was involved in *Bondage*, *The Magnanimous Cuckold*, *Dust: A Recollection*, *Twelve Angry Men*, *Farewell: The Body in 16 Chapters* (staged as part of Macau Arts Festival) etc. It is indeed a humbling experience to be part of theatre, part of life.

梁海彬通过戏剧盒的青年支部艺树人接触剧场，接受演艺训练。毕业后投入剧场工作参与舞台演出，其演出包括《上身不由己》、《绿帽王》、《城S》、《莎莎》、《十二怒汉》、《告别：身体十六章》（澳门艺术节演出项目之一）等，并从中越发认识自己，认识生命的无限可能。

Rei Poh

Actor

Rei Poh was demoted from the Express to the Normal stream during his secondary school days. Barely scraping his O Levels, he enrolled into NYP's Manufacturing programme, flopped his way to the second year, and became a school dropout. Rei signed on with Singapore Police Force in year 2000 but refused to continue on as there were too many interviews and it was till then he got in touch with theatre. Eventually, he graduated from LASALLE-SIA College of the Arts, obtaining a Diploma in Theatre Arts with a distinction. He received the Best Actor Award in *Short & Sweet Singapore 2007 - The Complaint*.

He was also involved in many productions by Drama Box, as well as The Theatre Practice, Panggung Arts, Toy Factory, etc. He has directed a number of community and education shows with Drama Box. His most recent works include Nine Years Theatre's *Twelve Angry Men* and assisting directing for *The Bride Always Knocks Twice*.

傅正龙在中学时期，因学业不佳从快捷班被贬进普通班之后，“O”水准会考勉强过关考进了南洋理工学院制造工程系。无心无力读了两年，最终还是成为一个名副其实的辍学生。2000年，正龙尝试报考当警察，却因为要参加的面试太多，嫌麻烦而放弃了。同年，正龙在偶然的情况下接触了戏剧。随后，正龙以优异成绩正式毕业于拉萨尔艺术学院剧场艺术系，并在2007年Short + Sweet中获得最佳演员奖项。

正龙也常与本地剧团合作，其中包括了本地华语剧场戏剧盒、实践剧场，Toy肥料厂，马来剧场 panggung ARTS 等。同时他也为戏剧盒执导了几部社区和教育剧场。最近，他也参演了九年剧场的《十二怒汉》，以及为实践剧场的《她们》担任副导演。

Jean Toh

Actor

Jean Toh graduated from the BA(Hons) Acting Programme at LASALLE College of the Arts. Also a practicing musician and dancer, Jean is a versatile stage performer who enjoys crafting the physicality and musicality of her characters. Some memorable roles are: Abigail Williams in *The Crucible* (Toy Factory), Girl in *Decimal Points 7.7* (CAKE Theatrical Productions), Prompter in *Kaspar* directed by Natalie Henedige and Queen Marie in *Exit the King* directed by acclaimed French director Alain Timar. On screen, Jean has hosted OKTO programmes such as *The Surprise Party* and *Zoom Zim Zam 2*. Recently, she represented Singapore's Institut Français Culture Lab in attending the Avignon Theatre Festival. She is blessed to be a part of the M1 Fringe Festival and Nine Years



Theatre Ensemble where she can hone her craft and contribute to local theatre wholeheartedly.

婷奕毕业于 Lasalle 艺术学院，是名演员与舞蹈员。她喜欢扮演并且挑战各种性格迥异的人物角色。所担任的角色包括：米勒 《萨勒姆的女巫》 的阿比盖尔 (Toy Factory) ， 《小数点 7.7》 的女孩 (Cake Theatrical) ， 由 Natalie Henedige 执导的彼得汉德克 《Kaspar》 的唤起者以及由法国著名导演 Alain Timar 执导的尤内斯库 《Exit the King》 的玛丽皇后。她主持了电视频道 OKTO 的 “The Surprise Party” 和 “Zoom Zim Zam 2” 。最近，她获选代表法国驻新加坡文化研究所参加阿维尼翁戏剧节。她也有幸加入 M1 艺穗节和九年剧场，从而磨练自己的演技并全心全意为本地表演艺术尽力。