MODEL CITIZENS

Biographies of Artists

The Necessary Stage
The Necessary Stage is a non-profit theatre company with charity status founded by our current Artistic Director Alvin Tan in 1987.

Our mission is to create challenging indigenous and innovative theatre that touches the heart and mind. We are committed to developing new works, international exchange and collaboration and reaching out to new audiences while maintaining high standards of production.

The Necessary Stage is also the organiser and curator of the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival and has been identified as one of Singapore's Major Arts Companies by the National Arts Council.

Alvin Tan
Director
Alvin is the Founder and Artistic Director of The Necessary Stage since 1987. He is also the co-Artistic Director of the annual international M1 Singapore Fringe Festival. One of the leading proponents of devising theatre in Singapore, Alvin has directed more than 60 plays which have been staged locally and at international festivals. He has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and The National Arts Council’s Young Artist Award. He served as a member of the curatorial panel for TransLab, an initiative created by the Australian Council for the Arts to promote intercultural theatre and performance. In 2010, Alvin was conferred the Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture, in recognition of his significant contribution to the arts.

Haresh Sharma
Playwright
Haresh is Resident Playwright of The Necessary Stage and co-Artistic Director of the annual M1 Singapore Fringe Festival. To date, he has written more than 60 plays which have been staged in Singapore, Glasgow, Birmingham, London, Dublin, Cairo, Manila, Melbourne, Busan, Seoul, New Delhi, Hong Kong, Hungary, Romania and Tokyo.

Haresh has a BA from the National University of Singapore as well as an MA in Playwriting from the University
of Birmingham, obtained in 1994 on a Shell-NAC Scholarship. He has also been awarded fellowships and grants by the British Council and the United States Information Service, and was conferred the Young Artist Award in 1997. His play, Off Centre, was selected by the Ministry of Education as a Literature text for N and O Levels, and republished by The Necessary Stage in 2006. In 2008, Ethos Books published Interlogue: Studies in Singapore Literature, Vol. 6, written by Prof David Birch and edited by A/P Kirpal Singh, which presented an extensive investigation of Haresh’s work over the past 20 years. A collection of Haresh’s plays have been translated into Mandarin and published by Global Publishing with the title 哈里斯·沙玛剧作选.

Haresh was awarded Best Original Script for Fundamentally Happy, Good People and Gemuk Girls during the 2007, 2008 and 2009 Life! Theatre Awards respectively. In 2010, the abovementioned plays have been published by The Necessary Stage in the collection entitled Trilogy and the script of Those Who Can’t, Teach, which was restaged as part of the 2010 Singapore Arts Festival, has also been published by Epigram Books.

Siti Khalijah

Cast

Siti made her debut as a full-time theatre actress after she attended the year long Theatre for Youth Ensemble programme held by The Necessary Stage in 2003. Some of her acting credits include Rainbow Fish (I Theatre), Rosnah (The Necessary Stage), Divine Soap (Cake Theatrical Productions), How Did The Cat Get So Fat? (Teater Ekamatra), Nothing (Cake Theatrical Productions), Hero (Panggung Arts), and Nadirah (Teater Ekamatra). Siti has also acted in TNS main season productions like Good People (Best Script, Life! Theatre Awards 2008), Gemuk Girls (Production of The Year, Life! Theatre Awards 2009), Frozen Angels, Sofaman, ______ Can Change and Those Who Can’t, Teach to name a few. Besides involving herself in theatre, Siti ventured into acting for television programmes, namely No Problem! (Kids Central) and Tahu Nahu (Suria). Her work has allowed her to travel to India, Indonesia, Scotland, Australia and Russia where she performed and/or assisted in forum theatre workshops.

Goh Guat Kian

Cast

Guat Kian is a fulltime theatre practitioner and teacher. She is one of the most experienced and well-known actresses in local Chinese Language theatre. She has appeared in more than 70 plays, many of which are important works in the development of Singapore theatre. They include Kuo Pao Kun’s Mama Looking for Her Cat and Sunset Rise. For her performance in The Finger Players’ Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea she received the 2006 Life! Theatre Award for Best Actress.
Karen Tan
Cast
Karen has had the privilege of working with TheatreWorks, Action Theatre, Dramaplus Arts, Escape Theatre, luna-id, SRT’s The Little Company, director Zizi Azah, Dream Academy, The Finger Players, Toy Factory, W!ld Rice and Cake Theatrical Productions. She has also lived and worked in the UK, Vienna, Kuala Lumpur and Cairo, and despite her years in theatre, she is legally unemployed and still cannot whistle. Her productions with The Necessary Stage include Still Building, Spoilt and Don’t Forget To Remember Me.

Vincent Lim
Set Designer
Vincent is a partner of VeTarchitecture, an architecture and interior design firm that has completed projects in Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Seoul since its inception in 2001. Vincent is also a freelance writer and has worked on two issues of The Singapore Architect magazine as editor.

He was responsible for the set designs of The Necessary Stage’s Asian Boys Vol. 1, ABUSE SUXXX, godeatgod, Mardi Gras, Top Or Bottom, What Big Bombs You Have!!!, Boxing Day: The Tsunami Project, Separation 40, Mobile, Fundamentally Happy, Off Centre, Gemuk Girls, _____Can Change, Sofaman Those Who Can’t, Teach (2010) and Good People, for which he was nominated for Best Set Design during the 2008 Life! Theatre Awards.

Vincent has taught part-time in the Department of Architecture at the National University of Singapore and has also been invited to workshops and final reviews at Chinese University Hong Kong.

Mohd Fadlin bin M Saffri
Multimedia Designer
Mohd Fadlin is a versatile performing arts practitioner who dedicates himself passionately in the arts scene. Currently, he is the Technical Manager for The Necessary Stage. He was a Technical Officer of Lee Foundation Theatre, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts for 5 years. He is currently pursuing his degree studies in International Hospitality Management (Events Management), University of Wales, Institute of Cardiff. At the moment, he holds an Advance Diploma & Diploma in Hospitality & Management from EASB, Institute of Management and Diploma in Intelligent Building Technology from Temasek Polytechnic. Mohd.Fadlin is also a resident performer in one of Sentosa’s newest attractions, Songs of the Seas. His recent involvements are,
Technical Consultant for *Sofaman* by The Necessary Stage, Festival Lighting Designer and Technical Manager for *M1 Singapore Fringe Festival 2010* organized by The Necessary Stage, TV drama production, *Kenangan Terindah* by B425 Pictures and *Pinggiran Ramadhan* by MediaReel for Mediacorp Suria.