

BIOGRAPHIES OF ARTISTS

NANYANG ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS

Established in 1938, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) is Singapore's pioneer arts education institution, well-known for grooming diverse artistic talent. Through its practice-led and industry-based curricula, NAFA's Theatre programme introduces students to a wide range of international and Singaporean theatre practices. A team of international conservatoire-trained faculty and local professional practitioners guide students to develop their own creative voices as theatre makers. NAFA's Theatre alumni have gone on to work with leading theatre companies and media organisations.

DIRECTOR – BRIAN GOTHONG TAN

Brian Gothong Tan is best known for his cutting-edge and highly engaging works in theatre, film and installation art. He graduated from the California Institute of the Arts in 2005 under the Shell-NAC Scholarship. His works have been nominated ten times in The Straits Times Life Theatre Awards and has won the award for Best Multimedia Design four times. He was the multimedia director for the National Day Parade in 2009, 2011, and 2016, as well as the inaugural Youth Olympic Games 2010 and SEA Games 2015. His latest projects include *Tropical Traumas* (Singapore International Festival of Arts 2016), *Into the Wild* (Art Science Museum, 2017), Singapore Bicentennial Experience and *Lost Cinema 20/20* (Esplanade presents: The Studios 2020). He was conferred the Young Artist Award in 2012, and more recently, the Singapore Youth Award in 2015.

PLAYWRIGHT – NABILAH SAID

Nabilah Said is a playwright, arts writer and poet. Her plays have won multiple awards, including Best Original Script at the Life Theatre Awards for *ANGKAT* (2019), and Outstanding New Work for *Inside Voices* (2019), also published by Nick Hern Books. In 2016, she founded playwright collective Main Tulis Group. She writes reviews and articles on the arts as the editor of ArtsEquator.com. Nabilah has an M.A. in Writing for Performance from Goldsmiths, University of London. nabilahsaid.com

LIGHTING DESIGNER – GABRIEL CHAN

Recipient of the National Arts Council's (NAC) Overseas Bursary, Gabriel graduated from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts with First Class Honours in Lighting Design. He was also awarded the Strand Lighting Scholarship, funding his training at the Metropolitan Opera, New York ('09 Winter Opera Season). He was conferred the NAC Young Artist Award in 2019 for his artistic excellence and contribution to Singapore's performing arts scene.

Signature theatre designs include *Constellations*, *Shakespeare in the Park: Julius Caesar*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Tempest* (Singapore Repertory Theatre), *The LKY Musical* (Metropolitan Productions), *First Fleet* (Nine Years Theatre), *Sometime Moon*, *Seven Sages of the Bamboo Grove* (Toy Factory Productions), and *Fluid* (The Theatre Practice). Gabriel was the lighting designer for Singapore's *National Day Parade* 2017, 2018 and 2020.

Gabriel is also founder of Linesmith, a new moniker under which he conducts Vectorworks drafting training courses in Singapore, authorised directly from Vectorworks headquarters in Washington. His new website can be found at linesmith.net.

SOUND ENGINEER – BOON

BOON's favorite childhood pastime was to watch *getai* with his mother, which led to a profound interest in sound and music. A versatile crew member, he has the capability to function as an operator, technician or engineer on any set. BOON is currently taking up sound design and hopes to be able to add it to his professional skillset.

PERFORMER – LEIA JAPHIA

Leia Japhia graduated with a Diploma in Theatre (English Drama) from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA). Her roles at NAFA include: Sister Elizabeth in *ASYLUM* by O Eklegein, and Oi in *The Craniarchipelago*. Leia's other experience includes playing Beatrice in *Carols by Candlelight 2014*, and Chloe in *Carols by Candlelight 2018* (Both held at St Andrew's Village).

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PERFORMER – MUHAMMAD ASYRAF BIN FARID BIN OMAR

Muhammad Asyraf Bin Farid Bin Omar graduated with a Diploma in Theatre (English Drama) from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA). His roles at NAFA include: Telyegin and Astrov in *Uncle Vanya*, Aune in *The Pillars of Society*, Vladimir in *Waiting for Godot*, Yusof Ishak in *ASYLUM*, Asyraf in *Sorry*, a performer in NAFA's 80th Anniversary Celebration Gala Dinner, and an ensemble cast in *August 9th*. His other experience includes Rama in *Ketoprak Lesung: Ramayana* ISI (Institut Seni Indonesia).

asyrafprinsloo@hotmail.com

PERFORMER – DAWN WONG

Dawn Wong graduated with a Diploma in Theatre (English Drama) from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA). Her roles at NAFA include: Varya in *The Cherry Orchard*, Vladimir in *Waiting for Godot*, Martha and Mrs Rummel in *The Pillars of Society*, Freethinker in *The Holy Quaternity*, and a performer in NAFA's 80th Anniversary Celebration Gala Dinner.

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PERFORMER – KAYLEIGH YAP

Kayleigh Yap graduated with a Diploma in Theatre (English Drama) from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA). Her roles at NAFA include: Dina (Act 1) & Mrs Bernick (Act 2) in *The Pillars of Society*, Sofya Alexandrovna (Sonya) in *Uncle Vanya*, Vladimir in *Waiting for Godot*, herself in her autobiographical monologue *Not Enough*, and a performer in NAFA's 80th Anniversary Celebration Gala Dinner. Other experience includes: Titania's Fairies in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and dancer in *Grease* (Tenby International School, Malaysia).

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PERFORMER – ASHLEY FONG

Ashley has always been interested in exploring the human condition through the arts since she was roped into theatre in primary school. She dreams of creating multisensory theatre through the combination of performance, sound, and design forms. Ashley recently graduated from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA)'s Theatre Diploma in Theatre (English Drama) programme. Her roles at NAFA include Olga in *The Three Sisters*, Hedda in *Hedda Gabler*, Yanti in *Saya Immigrant*, and Widow in *Balik Kampong*.

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PERFORMER – CAMELLA LIU

Camella Liu graduated with a Diploma in Theatre (English Drama) from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA). Her roles at NAFA include: Incense and Grandpa in *Ah Gong*, Actor in *Die Fledermaus: The Revenge of the Bat*, and a performer in NAFA's 80th Anniversary Celebration Gala Dinner. Camella's other experiences include: a dancer in *GAYA 2019: Sangharsa* (Singapore Management University's Komunitas Indonesia), sound operator for *Invitation to Intervene* (Dance In Situ), and as a performer in NasBodyWerkz Ensemble.

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PERFORMER – MISELLYA RIVANTI

Misellya Rivanti graduated with a Diploma in Theatre (English Drama) from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA). Her roles at NAFA include Nadya in *The Duel*, Thea Elvsted in *Hedda Gabbler*, Portia in *The Merchant of Venice*, Gus in *The Dumb Waiter*, Misellya in her autobiographical monologue *How to Survive Singapore*, and a performer in *Die Fledermaus: The Revenge of the Bat*. Misellya's other experiences include a performer in *Kecak Subali-Sugriwa* (Lit Up Asia Pacific Festival 2018) and dancer in *GAYA 2019: Sangharsa*.

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PERFORMER – YANG LISHUANG

Yang Lishuang graduated with a Diploma in Theatre (Mandarin Drama) at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA). Lishuang's roles at NAFA include: Nora Helmer in *A Doll's House*, herself in her autobiographical monologue *Incurable*, Procurator in *The Puppet King*, and a performer in NAFA's 80th Anniversary Celebration Gala Dinner. Her other experiences include: a performer in *一条活动的百纳被* by Arts Theatre of Singapore.

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PERFORMER – LIM JUNJIE, JEY

Lim Junjie, Jey graduated with a Diploma in Theatre (English Drama) from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) in 2010. He is a bilingual theatre artist and screen actor. His acting credits include: *Neon Village* (Cake Theatrical Productions), *The Fearful King* (Paper Monkey Theatre), *December Rains*, *Masters of Comedy*, *A Dream Under The Southern Bough: Reverie* (Toy Factory Productions) and *a line could be crossed and you would slowly cease to be* (Intercultural Theatre Institute). Besides performing, Jey is also a drama teacher for schools and a drama facilitator at Very Special Theatrics.

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