

BIOGRAPHIES OF ARTISTS

EMERGENCY STAIRS

Emergency Stairs is a non-profit experimental theatre company that walks on the fringe while dialoguing with the centre. By focusing on the processes behind creation, we create self-reflexive and irreverent works that disrupt and challenge existing notions of art-making. Through this, we aspire to become a platform for artistic dialogue within Singapore and beyond.

Emergency Shelter is Emergency Stairs' training and research platform. Emergency Shelter is an artist training programme with a focus on incubating new talents, developing new methodology, and creating new works.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR – LIU XIAOYI

The Artistic Director of Emergency Stairs, Xiaoyi is considered a promising figure at the forefront of the experimental theatre scene in Asia. He was a recipient of the National Arts Council's Young Artist Award in 2016. Xiaoyi started working professionally in theatre in 2002. As a director, the cornerstones of his oft lauded but controversial work are unsurprisingly experimentation, introspection, and poetry. His works often polarise, drawing both praise and debate.

CO-CREATOR/PERFORMER – CHANEL CHAN

Chanel is a theatre practitioner and creator. Some of her recent local acting credits include *Permanence* (Toy Factory Productions), *Three Fat Virgins Unassembled* (TheatreWorks), *13.13.13* (TheatreWorks), and *Offstage 2.0* (Emergency Shelter). Chanel has also performed in various international platforms and festivals.

Chanel is also a spokesperson for AWARE's Aim For Zero campaign.

CO-CREATOR/PERFORMER – CHNG XIN XUAN

Xin Xuan is an actress, director and educator, having received her professional training from the BA(Hons) Acting program at LASALLE in 2014. Her professional acting credits include *The Way We Go* by Checkpoint Theatre, *It Won't Be Too Long: The Cemetery (Dusk & Dawn)* by Drama Box and *Becoming Graphic* by Edith Podesta and Sonny Liew, commissioned by the Singapore International Arts Festival, amongst others. Xin Xuan is also a founding member of the collective Go-Go Girls, which uses devising as a framework for creating new works.

CO-CREATOR/PERFORMER – CHONG WOON YONG

Woon Yong is a bilingual performer and playwright. He is a founding and core member of Emergency Stairs. As a performer he was seen in *Merdeka (W!LD RICE)*, *Self-Portrait: A Performative Tour* (Access Path Productions), *FRAGO* (Checkpoint Theatre), and *GRIND* (Toy Factory Productions), among others. He wrote and performed in the bilingual monologue *G.F.E.*, which was presented by W!LD RICE's Singapore Theatre Festival 2018.

CO-CREATOR/PERFORMER – DARREN GUO

Darren, a bilingual performer, graduated from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts' Theatre Arts programme. He was also part of the pioneer batch of Creative Edge, a division of I Theatre. He was last seen as the Religious Servant in *Prism of Truth* by GroundZ-0, and also one of the puppeteers of White Dog in *Citizen Dog* by The Finger Players. Darren was an apprentice under The Finger Players and currently, a member of Emergency Shelter, the artist training and research programme of Emergency Stairs.

CO-CREATOR/PERFORMER – DOREEN TOH KWEE KEE

A professional theatre actor since 1992, Doreen is recognised by her peers and community as a seasoned theatre veteran. Other than performing with many leading theatre companies in Singapore, chalking up over 100 performances to date, she has also performed in international cities such as Bangladesh (India), Vienna (Austria), Hong Kong and Macau (China). In 2004, she won the Best Ensemble Acting award at The Straits Times Life Theatre Awards. In 2010, she scored a nomination for Best Drama Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role (*Letters to Heaven*, August Pictures) at the Asian Television Awards. Director John Clang's *Their Remaining Journey* was her first performance in a feature-length film, which made its world premiere at the 2018 International Film Festival Rotterdam and was shortlisted for the Bright Future Award.

CO-CREATOR/PERFORMER – GRACE LEE KHOO

Grace Lee Khoo is the Founder of Access Path Productions, Singapore's first disability-led theatre company. She graduated with an MA in Applied Theatre from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and a BA (Honors) from the National University of Singapore's Theatre Studies program. In 2017, Grace was International Artist-in-residence at Graeae Theatre Company (London).

A director, performer, dramaturg, researcher, educator, and producer who works internationally, she is a Singapore International Foundation Arts for Good Fellow and a proud member of Emergency Shelter.

CO-CREATOR/PERFORMER – JASMINE XIE

A fluently bilingual performer trained in Australia and now based in Singapore, Jasmine Xie has enjoyed performing in both English and Mandarin productions such as *The Awakening* by Mood Theatre, *The Spirits Play* by The Finger Players, and *Café* by Joel Tan at the Twenty-Something Theatre Festival. Her portfolio also includes voice acting, hosting and singing. Her love for movement-based training took her to New York City with the Movement Theater Studio. She loves collaborative creativity and how puppetry is an extension of expression.

CO-CREATOR/PERFORMER – LIEW JIA YI

Jia Yi is a theatre practitioner based in Singapore. She has been involved in theatre since her secondary school days and was trained in the pioneer batch of ARTivate, the youth wing of Drama Box, which is a local theatre company that creates works to raise social awareness and inculcate civic responsibility. Jia Yi took on multiple performing and facilitation roles in various projects, including *The Lesson*, during the International Community Arts Festival 2017 in Rotterdam, Netherlands. She is also a member of Emergency Shelter, Emergency Stairs' artist training and research programme.

CO-CREATOR/PERFORMER – NG MUN POH

Mun Poh is a theatre practitioner, performer and educator. She trained with The Theatre Practice's Actors' Lab from 2014 to 2016. She is an associate artist of The Theatre Practice, as well as a member of Emergency Shelter. Be it rehearsing, performing and teaching, she continues to explore her relationship with self and others through her work.

CO-CREATOR/PERFORMER – SABRINA SNG

Sabrina Sng is a performer and performance maker from Singapore. Working at the intersections of exploring culture and the body, she investigates philosophies and methods of physical training. She adopts an interdisciplinary approach to experimentation in questioning and challenging the conventions and consumption of theatre today.

Sabrina was a recipient of the National Arts Council's Undergraduate Arts Scholarship in 2013 and received a BFA (Hons) in Theatre Arts from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, with a focus in the Experimental Theatre Wing.