

BIOGRAPHIES OF ARTISTS

RUPA CO.LAB

Rupa co.lab is a Singaporean art collective of theatre-makers Hazwan Norly, Nabilah Said, Nessa Anwar and Raimi Safari. In collaboration, these four artists tap into their vibrant and diverse creative processes to create new Singaporean works. Derived from the Sanskrit word, रूप (rūpa), which means 'form, shape', Rupa co.lab is dedicated to reshaping contemporary conversations, through the lens of the Malay person. Their debut production, *Rumah Dayak*, written and directed by Nessa Anwar, performed to full houses in November 2019.

PLAYWRIGHT/ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – HAZWAN NORLY

Hazwan Norly is a storyteller, playwright, and copywriter. He is one of the co-founders of Singapore's first playwright collective, Main Tulis Group, and theatre-making collective, Rupa co.lab. His recent works include *Heavy Weight* as part of Late-Night Texting 2019, *Pitch Witch* as part of BuySingLit Festival 2019, and *Korban* as part of Singapore Writers Festival 2019. He traces his professional theatrical roots back to Teater Ekamatra's Meraka Youth Theatre Programme and Playwright & Director Mentorship Programme.

PRODUCER/DRAMATURG – NABILAH SAID

Nabilah Said is a playwright, theatre critic and producer who has presented work in Singapore and London with Teater Ekamatra, The Necessary Stage, Bhumi Collective and Lazy Native. Recent producing credits include *Rumah Dayak*, *ANGKAT: A Definitive, Alternative, Reclaimed Narrative of a Native* which was the festival highlight of the 2019 M1 Singapore Fringe Festival, and *Inside Voices* in London's VAULT Festival. She is the founder of Main Tulis Group. Nabilah won the 2020 Straits Times Life Theatre Award for Best Original Script for *ANGKAT*.

PRODUCER/ MARKETING & PUBLICITY MANAGER – NESSA ANWAR

Nessa Anwar has written, acted and produced for theatre, television and video. Nessa began acting under companies like Singapore Repertory Theatre and Teater Ekamatra. She graduated in Philosophy from the National University of Singapore, studying playwriting and screenwriting. Her first full-length play, *Riders Know When It's Gonna Rain* was staged under Checkpoint Theatre and WILD Rice, and her second full-length play, *Rumah Dayak*, was the inaugural production of Rupa co.lab. She is a founding member of Singapore playwright collective Main Tulis Group.

PRODUCER/ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER – RAIMI SAFARI

Raimi Safari started his foray into theatre by assistant stage managing for Noor Effendy Ibrahim's *Bilik Ahmad*. Following which, he dabbled in acting for theatre, TV and film for both English and Malay audiences. His latest works include *Landing* for Late-Night Texting under Centre 42, as well as collaborating with fellow Main Tulis Group members to present *Pitch Witch* for BooksActually's BuySingLit Festival 2019, and a 15-minute piece titled *Welfare Assistance* for Singapore Writers Festival in 2019.

DIRECTOR – RIZMAN PUTRA

Rizman Putra graduated with a Master of Arts (Fine Arts) from LASALLE College of the Arts in 2007. He is a performer and a visual artist, and is part of the Malay retro-pop duo, NADA. He has also performed and exhibited his works locally and internationally. Rizman was one of the four artists selected for the President's Young Talents Exhibition (2005), Fukuoka Triennale (2005) and the Singapore Biennale (2006). He is currently an Associate Artist with Cake Theatrical Productions.

STAGE MANAGER – VIVI AGUSTINA

Vivi Agustina is a freelance trilingual stage manager. She graduated from Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay's Stage Management Training Programme in 2013, and has since been working as a venue stage manager there. Vivi enjoys working across the range of performing art forms, from theatre to dance to music. She is excited to be working on an M1 Singapore Fringe Festival work again this year!

LIGHTING DESIGNER – EMANORWATTY SALEH

Emanorwatty Saleh has worked extensively in production and stage management, lighting and sound design, as well as acting and performing. Some of her technical credits include *Teroka! Kerana Nila* at Pesta Raya 2019, *ANGKAT: A Definitive, Alternative, Reclaimed Narrative of a Native* at the 2019 M1 Singapore Fringe Festival, *Cerita Cinta* by akulah BIMBO SAKTI as part of Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay's Pentas, *Anak Melayu* by Teater Kami, and *Rumah Hantu* by Adib Kosnan.

SET DESIGNER – HAIRI CROMO

Hairi Cromo is a theatrical set designer with a background in Space and Interior Design. Some of his notable works include installation art for Singaplural (2017), as well as set design for *Untitled* (2013) by The Kaizen M.D., *Ma'ma Yong: About Nothing Much To Do* (2015), and *MinTak Izin* (2018) by Projek Ujong Tanjong. Hairi is also a choreographer whose recent work is a docu-dance piece *Gen No-Sides* (Keenam 2019), co-choreographed with fellow practitioner Bib Mockram.

SOUND DESIGNER – ABDUL HAKIIM AKA DEFØRMED

Based in Singapore, Abdul Hakiim is an electronic-based music producer. Described as “refreshing, wild, raw and highly imaginative”, he desires to bring forward a new identity of music in Singapore. He is currently studying at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, majoring in Audio Arts and Sciences. He graduated from Singapore Polytechnic with a diploma in Music and Audio Technology in 2018. His musical influences range from many styles such as electronic, traditional, acoustic, experimental, and video game music.

CAST – IRSYAD DAWOOD

Irsyad Dawood is a freelance actor and theatre-maker. After graduating from School of the Arts, Singapore, he made his debut at the 2018 M1 Singapore Fringe Festival, where he presented *Does This Work For You?*, a verbatim play discussing workplace discrimination in Singapore. On his days off, Irsyad volunteers his time at The Artground, a free access arts space for children. In the coming years, he hopes to spark crucial and urgent conversations through his art and support others who do the same.

CAST – SAIFUDDIN JUMADI

Saifuddin Jumadi, or Uddyn, is a lifelong arts enthusiast. He has his roots in Malay traditional dance with Era Dance Theatre and the People's Association Malay Dance Group. Uddyn is multi-faceted; he simultaneously pursued his degree at the prestigious Al-Azhar University of Egypt while developing his capacity in performing arts. With the aim of marrying faith and the performing arts, Uddyn co-founded Big Mouth Production. Since 2009, he has produced and written more than 30 productions, with the intent to push boundaries.

CAST – DALIFAH SHAHRIL

Dalifah Shahril is a performer and a drama educator who is effectively bilingual in English and Malay. She is also a voice actor and voice-over talent for various companies and television productions. A graduate of the National Institute of Education (Arts Education), Dalifah enjoys working with young children and teaches speech and drama in Ministry of Education schools. Dalifah was named Best Actress at the 2018 Straits Times Life Theatre Awards and was nominated for the same category in 2019 for *Lanang* (Hatch Theatrics).

CAST – SYIMAH SABTU

Syimah Sabtu is a dance practitioner and choreographer from Singapore. She believes in exploration, not being bound by a genre, and focuses on internally examining The Body before, during and after each process. Her practice explores the connection in elements nested within bodies—their histories, textures, beliefs and the stories they have to tell. Most recently she has been obsessed with her research into The Dualities of Being. She is an Associate Artist with P7:ISMA Ltd and Dance Nucleus.