

## **BIOGRAPHIES OF ARTISTS**

### **THE COLLECTIVE – RUPA CO.LAB**

Rupa co.lab. is a Singaporean collective of theatremakers 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), meaning “form, shape”, Rupa co.lab. is dedicated to reshaping contemporary conversations, through the lens of the Malay person.

Rupa co.lab’s productions *Rumah Dayak* and *Pandan* have both received raving reviews by the theatre and non-theatre attending public.

### **DIRECTOR – ADIB KOSNAN**

Adib Kosnan is a Singaporean actor, playwright, and director. He is an Associate Artist with Checkpoint Theatre and a founding member of the playwriting collective, Main Tulis Group (MTG). He was named Best Supporting Actor at the Straits Times Life Theatre Awards 2020 for his role in *ANGKAT: A Definitive, Alternative, Reclaimed Narrative of a Native*, by Nabilah Said and Noor Effendy Ibrahim, after being nominated in 2019 (0600 by Ground-Z0) for the same award, and for Best Script in 2018 (28.8 by Teater Kami). Adib was most recently seen in a piece he wrote for Checkpoint Theatre—*Keluarga Besar En. Karim*.

Among his directing credits: *Without Reason* by Sim Yan Ying (ArtsWok Collaborative, August 2017), and *Air* as part of *Tanah•Air 水•土 : A Play In Two Parts* by Drama Box (co-director with Kok Heng Leun, October 2019). Adib also wrote and directed *Rumah Hantu* (November 2019), as part of Projek Bahasa Pengarah under akulahbimbosakti.

### **PLAYWRIGHT / RUPA CO.LAB MEMBER – RAIMI SAFARI**

Raimi Safari started his foray into theatre by assistant stage managing for Noor Effendy Ibrahim’s *Billik 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.

### **PRODUCER / DRAMATURG / RUPA CO.LAB MEMBER – 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 / MARKETING / RUPA CO.LAB MEMBER – 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, the festival highlight of the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival 2019, 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 / RUPA CO.LAB MEMBER – 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 *Pandan* as part of the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival 2021, *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 Mereka Youth Theatre Programme and Playwright & Director Mentorship Programme.

**PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER – VIVI AGUSTINA**

Vivi Agustina is a freelance trilingual stage manager. She graduated from the Esplanade'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.

**ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER – BIB MOCKRAM**

Bib Mockram has over 15 years of foundations in traditional Malay dance. She delved into theatre practice with Teater Ekamatra's incubation programme, Mereka, and pioneered the Kaizen Dance Residency Programme. Her notable credits include *Versus* (Cake Theatrical Productions, SIFA 2015), *Nak Dara* (P7:1SMA, 2020), and contemporary docu-dance *Gen No-sides* (Keenam, 2018).

**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 *Kerana Nila* Teroka at Pesta Raya 2019, ANGKAT: A Definitive, Alternative, Reclaimed Narrative of a Native by Nabilah Said and Noor Effendy Ibrahim at the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival 2019, *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 designs for *Untitled* by The Kaizen M.D. (2013), *Ma'ma Yong: About Nothing Much To Do* (2015), and *MinTak Izin* by Projek Ujong Tanjong (2018). 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.

### **ALHAFIZ JAMAT – SOUND DESIGNER**

Singaporean born and bred, Alhafiz Jamat is a renowned multi-instrumentalist with specialization in Bamboo Flute and Accordion. He is one third of OrkeStar Trio, a well-known leading instrumental band, and music director for Sri Gemilang, a traditional Malay music ensemble. His ability to mesmerise audiences with his enchanting musical talent made him a much sought-after musician in the local Malay arts scene.

A budding and passionate self-taught musician, Alhafiz's music career reached one of its highlights when he was given the opportunity to record a solo full instrumental album. With guidance from the late Mr Zag Fahmoa, a local album producer, Alhafiz recorded and released his debut album *Dharma* in 2006.

Since then, Alhafiz has composed and produced over 200 original music pieces for local and overseas events. He has travelled to several countries in Asia and beyond such as Turkey, Slovenia, Brazil and USA for music and dance festivals.

### **CAST – SUHAILA M SANIF**

Suhaila began her involvement in theatre at the age of 18. Her first involvement with Teater Kami Ltd was in 2001 where she started as a crew. On a more practical level, she has had the opportunity to be involved in youth productions in 2002. From there, Suhaila extended her talent further by committing to school tours, facilitator, resident actress, and working as a School Programme Coordinator. Since then, Suhaila has gained many valuable experiences and training as a performer and technical crew member. Productions she was involved with include *Hayat Hayati* (2002), *Awang Batil* (2003), *Psikosis... Racau* (2004), *White Baju* (2005), *Maafkan Anan* (2007), *Balada Tun Fatimah* (2012), and *NGACO* (2014 & 2020)

### **CAST – WAN HADDAD SALLEH**

Wan Haddad would like to think he is a dreamer. An actor bilingual in English and Malay, he has performed in school assembly shows and with several theatre companies. He was recently in *Tepok Amai-Amai Belalang Kupu-Kupu*, and *WAN BELANTARA: Enjet-Enjet Semut (KING OF THE JUNGLE: As the Ants Go Marching In)* by Saiful Amri and Anwar Hadi Ramli at the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival 2021.

An arts consultant and trainer for educational programs which includes Speech & Drama, Haddad has also appeared on television since 2007. Recently, he received his Certificate in Teaching & Learning Pre-School Arts Education and he continues to inspire young dreamers. Now with a wish tied upon a tree, he would like to dedicate this piece to his Mak.

### **CAST – ISKANDAR SHAH ZULKIFLI**

Iskandar Shah is a full time TV-actor. Having worked behind the scenes for TV productions, Iskandar took the first step into acting in 2016. Most recently, Iskandar has appeared in *Krono* as well as *Mr Ballerina* for Suria. Through the years, Iskandar believed in the value of hard work and learning. These values opened up the

opportunity for him to be part of *Rindu di Bulan*, making his debut as a theatre actor, fulfilling a dream he planted years ago.

### **CAST – SUHAILI SAFARI**

Suhaili Safari is an artist both in theatre and music. Since 2005, she has engaged herself in various theatre productions both locally and overseas, such as *Inside Voices* (2019, Lazy Native) which won Best Outstanding Work at the annual Vault Festival in London. Although Suhaili occasionally crosses her work into television and voice work, her greatest passion is to advocate for minority voices, which includes her most recent productions with Drama Box (*Tanah•Air 水•土 : A Play In Two Parts*, 2019), and The Theatre Practise (*A Bride Always Knocks Twice*, 2021). Suhaili is also a musician, who involves in acoustic folk, electronic and neo-soul gigs and various music collaborations from Sounding Now's Open Spaces at Yong Siew Toh Conservatory (2019), The Observatory's Playfreely sessions, in particular, No Man's Land, an all-women music improvisation (2017) and most recently SAtheCollective's *ThirdSpace Sessions - Voce* (2020).