

Singapore

The Necessary Stage (Singapore)

15 – 18 February 2012, 8pm

18 & 19 February 2012, 3pm

Esplanade Theatre Studio

Biography of Creative Team

The Necessary Stage

Formed in 1987 by current Artistic Director Alvin Tan, The Necessary Stage is a non-profit theatre company with charity status. Their mission is to create challenging, indigenous and innovative theatre that touches the heart and mind. The Necessary Stage has been identified as one of the Major Arts Companies by the National Arts Council. The Company is also the organiser and curator of the annual M1 Singapore Fringe Festival.

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 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 70 plays. 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 □ 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 also been published by The Necessary Stage in the collection entitled *Trilogy*. Most recently in 2011, two collections of short plays by Haresh entitled *Shorts I* and *Shorts II* have been published as well.

Vincent Lim

Set Designer

Vincent is the principal of Visual Text Architects, a firm that completed projects in Singapore, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Kuala Lumpur. Besides winning a Silver award in the SIA-ICI Colour Awards in 2002 and a Honorary Mention in - S3: Steel. Space. Structure competition in 2007, Vincent was selected in 2010 as an up-and-coming architect for URA's 20 under 45 exhibition. In 2008, he was nominated for Best Set Design at the Life! Theatre Awards for *Good People*.

Philip Tan

Sound Designer

Philip Tan, a critically-acclaimed Composer / Music Director / Sound Sculptor / Performer / Educator / Music-consultant, has been dedicated to his craft for the last 2 decades. Philip defies being pigeon-holed and creates works that are aesthetically-adventurous and entertaining. His works have been performed and presented to great accolades in many parts of Europe, USA, and Asia. In 2003, 2005 & 2009, Philip received the Life! Theatre's Best Sound Award for his contribution to Theatre music composition. He is awarded the SIA Excellence in the Arts Award 1999, and the Young Artist Award 2007 by the National Arts Council in Singapore.

Suven Chan

Lighting Designer

Suven graduated from the Hong Kong Baptist University and Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. She came to Singapore in 1990 as the Technical Manager of The Substation. In 1998, Suven decided to focus on lighting design on a freelance basis. She has worked in previous productions by The Necessary Stage such as *Exodus*, *Revelations*, *What Big Bombs You Have!!!*, *godeatgod*, _____ *Can Change* and *Those Who Can't, Teach*.

He Shuming

Multimedia Designer

HE Shuming is a Singaporean filmmaker. He graduated with a BA from The Puttnam School of Film, LASALLE College of The Arts. His short film *National Day* (2009) was screened at short film festivals in Singapore, Jakarta, Bangkok and Poitiers while his thesis short film, *Labour Day* (2010) was in-competition at the 2nd Asia-Africa Film Festival in Indonesia. He has also directed television productions for Mediacorp okto and Channel NewsAsia.

Karen Tan

Cast

Karen is privileged to have worked with TheatreWorks, Action Theatre, luna-id, Escape Theatre, SRT's The Little Company, Wild Rice, The Finger Players, Teater Ekamatra, Toy Factory Theatre Ensemble, and Cake Theatricals, in a career that's obviously gone on too long. *Singapore* is Karen's 6th production with The Necessary Stage, after *Still Building*, *The Garden*, *Don't Forget to Remember Me*, *Model Citizens*, and *When the Bough Breaks*.

Najib Soiman

Cast

Najib Soiman is an arts educator, a theatre practitioner and a regular participant in the Singapore Arts Festival as playwright, director and performer. He is active in the traditional musical scene and has performed in festivals overseas. He was the President of Teater Ekamatra from 2006 – 2007 and Artistic Director of Panggung ARTS from 2008 – 2009. In 2009, Najib won Best Actor at the 9th Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards for his performance in *Gemuk Girls*.

Rodney Oliveiro

Cast

Rodney Oliveiro graduated from the National University of Singapore in 2001 with a degree in Theatre Studies and English Literature. He has been an actor, director and scriptwriter with theatre companies and schools. With over 40 performances under his belt, Rodney has worked with theatre companies in leading and supporting roles. On the small screen, Rodney is most remembered as part of the cast of *Spin* and *Singapore Short Story Project*.

Siti Khalijah Zainal

Cast

Siti made her debut as an actress after she attended the Theatre for Youth Ensemble programme held by The Necessary Stage in 2003. Her acting credits include The Necessary Stage's *Those Who Can't, Teach, Frozen Angels*, *Gemuk Girls and Good People*. Siti has also acted in productions by CAKE Theatrical Productions, Wild Rice, I Theatre and Panggung ARTS. In 2011, Siti won Best Actress at the Life! Theatre Awards for her role in *Model Citizens*.

Sukania Venugopal

Cast

Sukania Venugopal is a full time actor who has worked extensively with accomplished actors and directors from both sides of the Causeway. Past productions include *Leela Purushotaman*, *Utter*, *Singapore*, *Balek Kampong*, *Meera*,

A Street Car Named Desire, Sybil, Past Caring, Good People, Puteri Gunung Ledang, Mid-Summer Night's Dream, Twelfth Night and Second Link. She has also acted in the movies *Talentine* and *Garuda*.

Sharon Frese

Cast

Sharon Frese is a British Afro-Caribbean Theatre Practitioner. Her passion for theatre was indulged for 7 years at The English Theatre Frankfurt, stage managing and performing in productions such as *Equus, What the Butler Saw, Romeo & Juliet, Betrayal* and *Fat Men in Skirts*. A Ba (Hons) Theatre Studies graduate (Rose Bruford) Sharon is delighted and honoured to be making her Singaporean stage debut under the guidance of wonderful friends and colleagues at The Necessary Stage.