



ANNEX B - LIVE FRINGE

## BIOGRAPHIES OF ARTISTS

NASSIM SOLEIMANPOUR

MUNAH BAGHARIB

NEO SWEE LIN

UDAYA SOUNDARI உதய செளந்தரி

SANI HUSSIN

ZHOU CHONGQING 周崇庆(DENNIS CHEW)

### **Playwright - Nassim Soleimanpour**

Nassim Soleimanpour is an independent multidisciplinary theatre maker from Tehran, Iran. His plays have been translated into more than 20 languages. Best known for his play *White Rabbit Red Rabbit*, written to travel the world when he couldn't, his work has received awards for Best New Performance (Dublin Fringe Festival), Outstanding New Performance Text (Summerworks) and The Arches' Brick Award (Edinburgh Fringe) as well as picking up nominations at Total Theatre and Brighton Fringe Pick of Edinburgh.

By the time Nassim was permitted to travel for the first time in early 2013, his play *White Rabbit Red Rabbit* had been performed over 200 times in 15 languages. Since then, Nassim has facilitated workshops and panels in different countries including World Theatre Festival (Brisbane), Tolhuistuin (Amsterdam), SESC Vila Mariana (Sao Paulo), Schauspielhaus (Vienna), DPAC (Kuala Lumpur), Theatretreffen (Berlin), British Council (London), Asia House (London) and University of Bremen (Germany).

Nassim's second play *Blind Hamlet* for the London-based Actors Touring Company premiered at the 2014 Edinburgh Festival Fringe and has since toured extensively around the UK and was received well in Bucharest and Copenhagen. Nassim now lives in Berlin with his wife Shirin and dog Echo. *BLANK* is his third play which premieres in November 2015.

### **Performer - Maimunah Bagharib**

Munah rose to the ranks of YouTube royalty in Singapore as one half of Munah & Hirzi, a wacky duo on YouTube. Since then, Munah has ventured into the realm of acting, appearing on local sitcoms and dramas, as well as becoming a theatre actress and presenter. A fashionable social media icon, Munah enjoys travelling, scuba diving and the arts. She enjoys soaking in new cultures and places, and is always finding ways to improve her craft. She is determined to continue pursuing her passion in making comedic videos that has a strong message and expanding into presenting and theatre.

Maimunah Bagharib is proudly represented by FLY Entertainment.

### **Performer - Neo Swee Lin**

Neo Swee Lin has a law degree from the National University of Singapore and a diploma in acting from the Royal Scottish Conservatoire in Glasgow. She is a freelance actor who has



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worked with almost all the theatre companies in Singapore. She won The Straits Times Life! Theatre Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role in Teater Ekamatra's *Nadirah* in 2010, and the BOH Cameronian Award for Best Actor for the same role in Kuala Lumpur in 2013. She is married to Lim Kay Siu and they live in Singapore where they continue to work as actors. She has previously worked in the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival in *What Did You Learn Today?* written and directed by Sean Tobin.

### Performer - Udaya Soundari உதய செளந்தரி

Udaya Soundari fell in love with the arts as an adolescent. She went on to stage a musical in school, won a gold medal at the Singapore Youth Festival and was a Top 10 finalist on reality TV singing competition *Vasantham Star*. Udaya is now a multi-award-winning versatile artiste who has made her name as a singer, actor and host in her eight-year career in the entertainment industry. Udaya is excited to venture back into theatre, which sparked her interest in the arts.

உதய செளந்தரி இளம் வயதிலேயே கலை மீது காதல் கொண்டவர். அதில் தொடர்ந்து ஈடுபடுவதை அவர் ஒரு போதும் நிறுத்தியதில்லை. பள்ளியில் நாடகங்களை அரங்கேற்றியதிலிருந்து, Singapore Youth Festival-இல் தங்கப் பதக்கம் வாங்கியதிலிருந்து, வசந்தம் star-இல் பங்கெடுத்ததிலிருந்து உதயா தனது லட்சிய கனவை தொடர்ந்து உள்ளார். இன்று உதயா ஒரு பாடகி, படைப்பாளர், நடிகை என பல பரிமாணங்களை எடுத்து அதற்கான விருதுகளையும் வென்று இருக்கும் ஒரு நட்சத்திரமாக திகழ்கிறார். மேடை நாடங்களில் ஈடுபட வேண்டும் என்ற ஆசை 8 ஆண்டுகள் இத்துறையில் இருந்த பிறகு இன்று தான் நிறைவேறுகிறது. ஒருவரை சிரிக்க வைக்கும் தன்மை ஒரு வகையான திருப்தியை கொடுத்து தன்னை மேலும் உற்சாகப்படுத்தும் என்கிறார் உதயா. 'அதை தொடர்ந்து செய்ய வேண்டும் என்ற ஈர்ப்பு என்னை விட்டு என்றும் போகாது. ஒருவரை சிரிக்க வைக்க என்னால் கூடுமெனில் நான் அதை உயிருள்ளவரை தொடர்வேன்'

### Performer - Sani Hussin

Sani Hussin began his acting career in 1992 with Teater Kami's first youth theatre production. Since then, Sani has directed seven plays and acted in more than 30 plays in English and Malay. Sani has worked with numerous theatre companies such as Teater Kami, Teater Ekamatra, Dramaplus, ACT 3, Action Theatre, Drama Box and The Actors Studio (Kuala Lumpur). His stage credits include *Lantai T Pinkie*, *Salina*, *Pentas Opera*, *Rashomon*, *Anak Melayu*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Fugitives*, *Causeway*, *Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Indra Bangsawan*, *Free* and *The Trojan Women*. Sani is also actively involved in local TV productions and has acted in more than 40 TV dramas and films. Among his TV and film credits include the award-winning series *Soldadu 1 & 2*, *Singapore Short Stories*, *SP4*, *Bukit Chandu*, *Singapore Shakes Series*, *Ajna*, *Roman Picisan*, *Sayang Semuanya*, *9 Lives*, *Police & Thief* (seasons 2-6) and *Bisikan Bayangan*. His directing credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (in Malay), *Festival Pintu*, *MAT CD*, *Penantian* and *Sidang Burung*.

He won Best New Actor (1998) for his role in *Soldadu*, and received nominations for Most Popular Artiste (1999), Best Actor (2005) and Best Supporting Actor (2009) at Pesta Perdana. Sani was also nominated for Best Ensemble (Acting) for *Causeway* at the 2003 BOH Cameronian Arts Awards in Kuala Lumpur and Best Ensemble Cast for *Shanmugam - The Kalinga Trilogy* at The Straits Times Life! Theatre awards in 2006. He is a recipient of the National Arts Council's (NAC) Georgette Chen Arts Scholarship, LASALLE-SIA scholarship in 1997/98 and NAC Overseas Theatre Bursary Award for 1999/2000. Sani holds a diploma in Drama from LASALLE-SIA School of Drama and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theatre Studies from Queensland University of Technology. Sani is currently a freelance actor, arts educator and director.



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Sani Hussin memulakan kerjaya lakonannya pada 1992 di Teater Kami dalam pementasan teater belia yang pertama anjuran kumpulan itu. Kini, Sani sudah pun mengarahkan tujuh buah drama pentas dan berlakon dalam lebih 30 buah drama Inggeris dan Melayu. Beliau telah terlibat dengan banyak kumpulan teater seperti Teater Kami, Teater Ekamatra, Dramaplus, ACT 3, Action Theatre, Actor's Studio dan Dramabox. Antara lakonan teaternya ialah *Lantai T Pinkie*, *Salina*, *Pentas Opera*, *Rashomon*, *Anak Melayu*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Fugitives*, *Causeway*, *Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Indra Bangsawan*, *Free* dan *The Trojan Women*. Sani juga banyak terlibat dalam penerbitan TV tempatan, dan telah menjayakan lebih 50 buah drama TV dan filem. Ini termasuk siri *Soldadu 1 & 2*, *Singapore Short Stories*, *SP4*, *Bukit Chandu*, *Singapore Shakes Series*, *Ajna*, *Roman Picisan*, *Sayang Semuanya*, *9 Lives*, *Police & Thief* (musim 2-6) dan *Bisikan Bayangan*. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (dalam Bahasa Melayu), *Festival Pintu*, *MAT CD*, *Penantian* dan *Sidang Burung* pula adalah antara hasil arahnya.

Untuk Pesta Perdana, Sani telah mendapat 10 percalonan and 2 kemenangan – Pelakon Harapan Terbaik pada 1998 dan Pelakon Pembantu Terbaik pada 2009. Pada 2003, dia dicalonkan bagi kategori lakonan berkumpulan untuk *Causeway* di Anugerah Seni Cameronian di Kuala Lumpur; serta *Shanmugam the Kalinga Trilogy* di Anugerah Life! Theatre pada 2006 untuk kategori yang sama. Beliau seorang penerima biasiswa NAC Georgette Chan dan biasiswa LASALLE-SIA pada 1997/98, serta Anugerah Biasiswa Teater Luar Negara NAC pada 1999/2000. Sani mempunyai diploma dalam bidang Drama dari Sekolah Drama LASALLE-SIA, dan ijazah Sarjana Muda Kesenian dalam Pengajian Teater dari Universiti Teknologi Queensland. Kini, Sani merupakan seorang pelakon bebas, pengarah dan pendidik seni.

### **Performer – Zhou Chongqing 周崇庆 (Dennis Chew)**

Dennis started in radio broadcast at the age of 18. Having the talent and passion for radio, Dennis stayed in the industry for 19 years and has won more than five awards as a full-time radio DJ, including “Most Humorous DJ” and “Most Popular DJ”.

In 2009, the television program *Paris and Milan* changed his life. Dennis played Auntie Lucy, a straight-talking coquettish lady who loves free gifts. After appearing in three episodes, his role became a talking point among Singaporeans. This role brought Dennis features on magazine covers and product endorsements deals for the first time in twenty years. In the three years after, Dennis was often invited to attend various events and performances, and he received seven endorsements deals as well.

In 2012, he won the award for “Top Ten Most Popular Male Artiste” at Mediacorp’s Star Awards for the third consecutive year, and also acted in two movies, *Dance Dance Dragon* and *Ghost on Air*. Dennis has spent 23 years building his career and he will seize all opportunities given and continue to strive forward.

18 岁那年周崇庆开始与广播接触，与广播一见钟情的他一做就做了 19 年。成为全职后，周崇庆获奖无数。2009 年的《女王本色》，从此改变他的人生。周崇庆在节目里反串 Auntie Lucy，一个说话直率，风骚又爱拿 free gift 的阿婶。出现了三集后成为了新加坡人热烈讨论的一个角色。Auntie Lucy 也让周崇庆在娱乐圈二十多年来首次尝到上杂志封面的机会，代言也接踵而来。从 2009 到 2011，短短的三年，周崇庆除了常被受邀出席各类活动和表演，他手上的代言也多达七个。2012 年，周崇庆不负众望三度夺下十大最受欢迎男艺人。同年，他也参与了两部电影，分别是农历年贺岁片《龙众舞》和由他担任故事人兼主演的《灵听》。他用了 23 年所以他会把这一切抓紧，继续勇往直前！