

M1 S'PORE FRINGE FEST 2015

Restaged works in the spotlight

SINGAPORE – In a jam-packed arts calendar like Singapore's, it's no surprise some productions go under the radar. But the spotlight will be shone on them at next year's M1 Singapore Fringe Festival.

Running from Jan 14 to 25 next year, the 11th edition of the festival carries the theme Art and Loss. The lineup includes six shows that are either restagings or have been further developed from previous shows. These include With/Out, a performance installation by Loo Zihan based on The Necessary Stage's (TNS) Completely With/Out Character, which was a monologue by the late Paddy Chew, the first person in Singapore to come out as being HIV-positive. Staged in 1999, Chew died a few months after the production.

Alongside With/Out, two more works by TNS from the early 2000s will also be revisited in a double bill, untitled women number one and untitled cow number one, collectively bundled as Untitled Women.

More recent works will also get a re-airing: Playwright Joel Tan's Mosaic, a coming-of-age piece centred around an '80s mosaic playground, was first staged at last year's Lit Up festival; and the inventive White Rabbit Red Rabbit by Iranian playwright Nassim Soleimanpour (performed earlier this year at the NUS Arts Festival) will feature a different actor for

each of its four nights — Lim Kay Siu, Pam Oei, Karen Tan and Benjamin Kheng, all of whom will get their script only on the day itself.

The online exhibition Mambo Night For A King by artist Jason Wee is inspired by a section he created for the recent Ways Of Wandering production at the Singapore International Festival of Arts' The OPEN event in July. That production looks at dance moves inspired by both the regular Mambo Night event at Zouk

and text from former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew's book From Third World To First: The Singapore Story. Meanwhile, Pat Toh's installation performance Terra Incognita is developed from the 2012 work-in-progress Homogenous.

"Usually, festivals (showcase) brand new and often under-developed work. I've been very mindful of making sure there's a good, strong local presence (but shown) in a healthy light as well," said theatre-maker and

educator Sean Tobin, artistic director of the fringe festival, taking over the role from TNS' Alvin Tan and Haresh Sharma. Jezamine Tan takes over the festival manager role from Melissa Lim.

Tobin said that for this edition, they decided to go for work that had already been staged. By putting an emphasis on restaging, they hope it would encourage a groundswell of support for newer faces in the scene, he added. **MAYO MARTIN**

> For the full story, visit <http://tdy.sg/todayarts>

> The M1 Singapore Fringe Festival runs from Jan 14 to 25 at various venues. Tickets at S\$19 and S\$22 from SISTIC. For more information, visit <http://www.singaporefringe.com>



M1 Singapore Fringe Festival 2015: Joel Tan's Mosaic gets a restaging. PHOTO: JOEL LIM.