

BOTH SIDES, NOW – LIVING WITH DYING (2014)

An Immersive Arts Experience

CREATIVE TEAM

KOK HENG LEUN

Heng Leun is the Artistic Director of Singaporean theatre company, Drama Box. He is also one of the few effectively bilingual theatre practitioners in Singapore, with extensive experience, having directed more than 80 English and Mandarin plays. He has been named by theatre critics as one of the most promising directors “to power Singapore Theatre in the years to come” and the one to “convince ordinary folks that theatre is not intimidating”. With him at the helm, Drama Box has become known for its exciting theatrical works that are staged at major theatre venues and community housing estates.

Heng Leun often addresses social issues and touches on human factors in his plays, placing much emphasis on the subjects' relevance to Singapore society.

He received the Young Artist Award from the National Arts Council of Singapore in 2000 and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Culture Award in 2003. In 2006, he was presented the Outstanding Young Person (Culture) award in recognition of his contribution to the local arts scene.

NGIAM SU-LIN

Su-Lin has been active in the Singapore arts scene for more than a decade, specifically in the areas of education, community, and company management, largely with The Necessary Stage. She was part of the team that piloted the *Development Through Drama* Programme which involved drama during curriculum time in schools, produced community theatre and festivals in collaboration with government bodies and corporates, and worked with numerous social service organisations to incorporate drama into their programmes. Other arts companies she has worked with include TheatreWorks, Drama Box and The Arts Fission Company.

Besides being trained in theatre studies and psychology, Su-Lin is also a qualified counselor and served briefly as a full-time pastor before returning to the arts. She believes that being human and fully alive is to be in relationship with self, and others, in community; where the practice of freedom is found in life-giving community.

KO SIEW HUEY

A Masters graduate in public policy from Harvard Kennedy School, Huey's expertise is in social innovation and leadership. She has worked on issues that involve creating public value through partnerships across the public, private and people sectors.

She has had experience balancing the interests of diverse stakeholders when implementing development programmes as a Program Supervisor with the international humanitarian organization WorldVision. At the China National Office, she pioneered the use of performance management tools, taking quantitative and qualitative data gathered from the field through household surveys and focus groups discussions to inform programme design and organisational strategy.

Huey started her career in the media arts after graduating from the Beijing Film Academy, producing social documentaries for Channel NewsAsia that won her in-house awards for outstanding feature stories. She remains an avid amateur photographer.

JASMINE NG

Jasmine Ng got her start in film when she received the first Singapore government scholarship to study filmmaking at Tisch-NYU in New York City. Apart from her experience directing and executive-producing TV commercials, feature film work (*Eating Air* / Rotterdam IFF VPRO Tiger finalist), and documentary series commissioned by international broadcasters (*Afterlife* / Discovery Channel), Jasmine has, throughout her film career, also devoted time to socially-engaged film projects that help to raise awareness and fundraise for non-profit organisations. *Pink Paddlers*, an independent feature documentary that she directed, showcased a motley crew of dragonboat racers who are breast cancer survivors. This film received support with a grant by the Khoo Teck Puat Foundation, and within Singapore, has helped raised funds for Breast Cancer Foundation Singapore, Unifem and SCWO Star Shelter.

She also conceptualised the multimedia installation for *IPS Prism* (2012) to create an immersive arts experience at the Drama Centre Black Box, using interactive film screenings to engage the public about issues of governance. Continuing with this same creative team, *BOTH SIDES, NOW: Living with Dying* is their third collaboration together. Jasmine also contributes back to community through film workshops and mentorship programmes, and has served on various judging panels and boards of directors.

CHARLENE RAJENDRAN

Charlene Rajendran is a theatre educator, researcher and practitioner who teaches theatre at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. As performer, writer and director, she has collaborated with a range of practitioners in devising and facilitating dialogical theatre processes. More recently she has been dramaturge for interdisciplinary arts projects that engage with issues of culture, subjectivity and agency. She is also engaged in researching pedagogies of play in arts education, and developing conversational approaches to teaching theatre as an integration of theory and practice, seeking to expand and deepen opportunities for critical dialogue in the classroom.

UNDR

UNDR is a design studio based in Singapore, consisting of two young designers - Frayn Yong and Gene W. Tan.

Since its establishment, UNDR has been engaged for various projects ranging from residential & commercial spaces, to exhibitions and public arts engagement installations such as *IPS Prism* (2012) and *BOTH SIDES, NOW* (2013), where they had a chance to collaborate with Drama Box and ArtsWok. Both projects were well received, providing an immersive experience from interaction to visual graphics.

PRODUCERS

DRAMA BOX

Drama Box is a non-profit contemporary theatre company with charity status. Formed in 1990, we have since gained a respectable reputation for presenting works that raise social awareness and inculcate civic responsibility amongst Singaporeans. Our productions are fun and entertaining, yet thought-provoking and reflective.

Drama Box's mission is to create, present and curate AESTHETICALLY COMPELLING THEATRE with a BROAD SOCIAL REACH, through DEEP AND INTIMATE ENGAGEMENT.

Our works engage dialogically with the people and their socio-political conditions. We want audience to be stimulated by the aesthetic experience, provoked to think about the issues presented, and to participate actively in our works as "Spec-Actors" or "Creators".

Drama Box Ltd is a recipient of the National Arts Council's Major Grant for the period from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2016. www.dramabox.org

ARTSWOK

ArtsWok is a consultancy that seeks to bring art-making and community building together in a meaningful way. Our vision is to see communities thrive, and we facilitate change by enabling communities to express identity, concerns and aspirations through the language of the arts.

We work with multi-disciplinary teams and engage stakeholders from various sectors to design and implement arts-based civic engagement projects as well as pilot innovative therapeutic arts programmes in community settings. ArtsWok convenes a community of practice, conducts networking and training as well as research and advocacy in the field of arts-based community development.

Arts-Based Community Development |Where creativity and community mix |
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