

## **BOTH SIDES, NOW**

### **An Immersive Arts Experience**

#### **Creative Team Bios**

##### **KOK HENG LEUN – Artistic Director**

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". Under his 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.

##### **ARTSWOK - Producers**

At ArtsWok, our vision is to see communities thrive. We believe the secret sauce lies in evoking the creative potential of people through the arts so that they can freely imagine the solutions to their challenges.

It's about creating safe spaces for people to encounter difference, so that personal and social transformation can happen, which in turn strengthens community. Our work is about developing the capacity of artists as well as strengthening the ecosystem of interconnected stakeholders in the public, private and people sectors engaged in this field. We do this through consulting, providing training and networking opportunities, producing innovative arts programmes, as well as conducting research and advocacy.

ArtsWok is Huey Ko and Ngiam Su-Lin. Huey brings her training and experience in the fields of media and communications, film, international development, and public policy while Su-Lin's background is in theatre and drama-in-education, company management and producing, counseling, and community work.

Arts-Based Community Development | Where creativity and community mix |  
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### **JASMINE NG**

Jasmine has directed and co-directed a number of award-winning short and feature films such as *Eating Air* (Rotterdam IFF VPRO Tigers Competition, FIPRESCI Special Critics Mention, SFC Young Cinema Award), *Moveable Feast* (SIFF Silver Screen Awards- Best Short Film), *Pink Paddlers* (Khoo Teck Puat Foundation grant), as well as numerous TV commercials and documentaries.

She has contributed through film workshops for non-profit causes, and has served on various judging panels and boards of directors, including the Singapore International Film Festival (SIFF).

### **CHARLENE RAJENDRAN**

Charlene Rajendran is a Malaysian theatre educator, researcher and practitioner who teaches theatre at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Her research interests are presently focused on contemporary performance and culture in Southeast Asia, with particular emphases on the politics of difference in plural societies and issues of identity in urban contexts. Her PhD dissertation examined the politics of staging difference in the work of pioneering Malaysian theatre director, Krishen Jit (1939-2005). 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.

Charlene has been a performer, writer and director, collaborating with a range of practitioners in devising and facilitating dialogical theatre processes. In June 2012 she co-directed *Dream Country: a lost monologue* for the Singapore Arts Festival 2012 and was part of the Creative Team for *IPS Prism – An Immersive Arts Experience* in November that year. In October 2013 she participated in *2-Minute Solos*, an experimental performance produced by Five Arts Centre, Malaysia, writing, performing and directing her performance. Her book *Taxi Tales on a Crooked Bridge* (2009, Matahari Publishing) looks at negotiating identity as a Malaysian woman living in Singapore, within the frame of conversations with taxi drivers in Singapore. She continues to develop diverse ways of engaging theatre, pedagogy and the arts in advancing alternative perspectives of the contemporary human condition.

### **UNDR**

In 2012, UNDR was established as a creative studio based in Singapore. It was founded by three young designers all born in 1984 - namely Frayn Yong, Gene W. Tan & Hong Weiming.

Since its establishment, UNDR has been engaged for various projects ranging from residential spaces, offices and a recent public arts engagement installation - *IPS Prism*, where they had a chance to collaborate with Drama Box and ArtsWok. The project was well received, providing an immersive experience from interaction to visual graphics.

Prior to that, the founders of UNDR had the chance to gain experience in various reputable design studios. Aside from design expertise, UNDR is also well supported by Frayn's training in the fine arts.