

Creative Team

Kok Heng Leun (Co-director, “Tanah” & “Air”)

Kok Heng Leun is a prominent figure in the Singapore arts scene, having built his artistic career as a theatre director, playwright, dramaturg and educator. He is known for engaging the community on various issues through the arts, championing civil discourse across different segments of society. Having begun his work in the theatre almost 30 years ago, some notable directorial works include “Drift”, “Trick or Threat”, and “Manifesto”. His explorations with multi-disciplinary engaged arts has produced works like “Project Mending Sky”, a series on environmental issues, “Both Sides, Now”, a project that seeks to normalise end-of-life conversations and “It Won’t Be Too Long”, which touched on the dynamics of space in Singapore.

Koh Wan Ching (Co-director & Cast, “Tanah”)

Wan Ching is a performer and theatre maker. Performing credits include “Night Just Before the Forests” directed by Sinead Rushe for Dirks Theatre, presented at the Macao Arts Festival and “Immortal Solechoreographed” by Edith Podesta. Directing credits include “precise purpose of being broken”, independently produced at the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival and movement direction for “It Won’t Be Too Long: The Cemetery” presented by Drama Box. She has trained with SITI Company as well as the Suzuki Company of Toga and is a graduate of the inaugural SITI Conservatory Program for international theatre artists.

Adib Kosnan (Co-director, “Air”)

Adib is theatre educator and practitioner who acts, writes and directs. His play “28.8” (staged in April 2017) was nominated for the Best Original Script in the Life! Theatre Awards, 2018.

His performance in GroundZ-0’s “0600” (staged in the Singapore International Festival of Arts, May 2018) earned him a Best Supporting Actor Nomination in the Life! Theatre Awards 2019. He is also a bilingual VO talent and translator (English & Malay). He is especially interested in improvisational theatre and forum theatre as potential tools for creating awareness and enhancing communication.

Adib is a founding member of Singaporean playwright collective Main Tulis Group (MTG) and is also currently an Associate Artist at Checkpoint Theatre.

Neo Hai Bin (Playwright, “Tanah”)

Neo Hai Bin is currently a writer and a theatre practitioner. His literary practice involves research works in social issues and the human condition, which then translates into different forms of literary expressions: scripts, poems, prose, critiques or short stories. Some of his plays include “招: When The Cold Wind Blows” (Singapore Theatre Festival 2018) and “Cut Kafka!” (Esplanade Huayi Festival Commission 2018). He has a volume of essays published as 《房间絮语》, and his literary works can be found at thethoughtspavilion.wordpress.com.

Zulfadli Rashid (Playwright, “Air” & Dramaturg)

Zulfadli Rashid is a multi-hyphenated playwright; proficient in both the English and Malay language. His notable plays include the award-nominated musical “Alkesah, Harap” (an adaptation from Haresh Sharma’s “Hope”), “The Chronicles of One and Zero: Kancil and Balik”.

At present, Zulfadli is an associate artist with Teater Ekamatra. He is also a founding member of the playwriting collective, Main Tulis Group.

Zulfadli looks forward to collaborating with artists across disciplines, languages, cultures and nationalities, creating art that will entertain, enlighten and inspire.

Akbar Syadiq (Set Designer)

As a designer, Syadiq explores the realm of stage design, props making, digital design, photography and print. He is currently resident designer at Teatre Ekamatra and continues to freelance to diversify his knowledge and experience.

Lim Woan Wen (Lighting Designer)

A graduate from the National University of Singapore’s Theatre Studies programme, Woan Wen received the inaugural National Arts Council Arts Professional Scholarship in 2001 and trained at The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in stage lighting design.

She has won multiple Best Lighting Design awards at The Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards and was conferred the Young Artist Award in 2011 by the National Arts Council. Woan Wen divides her time between freelance projects, working with The Finger Players as their associate lighting designer, and making work as one-third of the design collective INDEX.

Bani Haykal (Sound Designer/"Live" Performer)

Bani Haykal experiments with text + music. As an artist, composer and musician, Bani considers music (making / processes) as material and his projects revolve around modes of interfacing and interaction in feedback / feedforward mechanisms. He is a member of b-quartet and Soundpainting ensemble Erik Satay & The Kampong Arkestra.

MAX.TAN (Costume Designer)

Experiments with quirk cuts and expanding on extremely simple ideas define the MAX.TAN language. Maximizing on minimalistic ideas, this complex language results in details that are sometimes blown out of proportion. Much of the label's attention is paid to tailoring and draping while creating unexpected silhouettes and austere moods. The garments play with volume, modified shapes and use, masculine, feminine, oversized, undersized, deconstruction, reconstruction and transformation.

The label designed its first collection in 2010 and has since been featured on numerous international publications and participated on platforms such as Modefabriek (Amsterdam) and "Who is on next?" Dubai (organized by Vogue Italia) just to name a few. Besides designing for the bi-annual ready to wear collections, MAX.TAN has also extended its designing language into costume designs in theatre productions. In 2017, its second foray into costume design won Best Costume Design in the Life Theatre Awards, 2017.

Cast ("Tanah")

Chng Xin Xuan

Xin Xuan is a theatre practitioner, having received her professional training from the BA(Hons) Acting program at LASALLE College of the Arts in 2013.

Her professional acting credits include "The Way We Go" by Checkpoint Theatre, "It Won't Be Too Long - The Cemetery; Dusk & Dawn" by Drama Box and "Becoming Graphic" by Edith Podesta and Sonny Liew commissioned by Singapore International Arts Festival amongst others.

Xin Xuan is also a founding member of the collective "Go-Go Girls" which uses devising, viewpoints and composition as a framework for creating new works.

Jereh Leung

Trained in Salzburg (SEAD) and Singapore (NAFA), Jereh works in live performances, crossing disciplines.

Companies and artists he has worked with includes Drama Box, TNS, TheatreWorks, Frontier Danceland, Bani Haykal, Eng Kai Er, Tang Ling Nag, Loo Zihan, Isabelle Schad (DE), Xavier Le Roy(FR).

His works has been performed at Esplanade's da:ns festival and festivals in Germany and Portugal. He is currently a member of Dance Nucleus (SG), part of a community that incubates contemporary performance. More information about him can be found on his website: aldanzatore.wixsite.com/jereh

Wendi Wee Hian

Wendi Wee Hian is an actor and aspiring movement artist. Due to her small stature, she seeks to challenge boundaries of the physical form.

She loves devised works as she believes her most creative works extend her imagination beyond herself. Her recent works include “The Precise Purpose of Being Broken” (Koh Wan Ching, M1 Fringe 2019) and “Chinatown Crossings” (2019) (Koh Huiling, Drama Box).

She is grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with Wan Ching and Drama Box again. When jobless, she relives her anxiety through online shopping, astounding herself and others of the new ways she empties her bank account. Send help.

Lian Sutton

Lian Sutton is a graduate of the BA (Hons) Acting, and MA in Arts Pedagogy and Practice program at LASALLE. Selected theatre credits include “Temple” and “Electra” directed by Natalie Henedige, “2 Houses” by Lim Yu Beng, and “Those who can’t, teach” directed by Alvin Tan.

He was awarded Best Supporting Actor for his role in “Electra” at the 2017 Life! Theatre Awards. Lian is a co-founder of theatre collective, Dark Matter Theatrics, and associate artist of Pink Gajah.

Deonn Yang

Deonn graduated from LASALLE College of the Arts with First Class Honours in Acting, and has since been working as a freelance actor and drama instructor.

Since graduating, Deonn has been a part of two M1 Fringe Festivals, The Necessary Stage's inaugural Orange Production, and Esplanade PLAYtime! New to Singapore's Mandarin theatre scene, Tanah.Air is Deonn's first Mandarin theatre piece, and she is excited and thankful for this opportunity to work with Drama Box, Heng Leun and Wan Ching.

Deonn will next be involved in Esplanade's Huayi 2020 with Toy Factory in January.

Cast ("Air")

Roslan Kemat

Roslan Kemat is a veteran television actor with close to 40 years of experience. His first appearance in a television drama series was directed by Bani Buang. With an impeccable performance in the popular television drama "Rumah Besar Tiang Sebatang", his career soared and Roslan has been a household name ever since, appearing in various television drama series and variety shows in the local television networks.

Farez Najid

Farez Najid is a performer, facilitator and dungeon master.

He was trained in acting in Lasalle College of the Arts, and has been actively performing since 2010. His works as a performer include Off Centre (The Necessary Stage 2019), Tiger of Malaya (Teater Ekamatra 2018) The Rubbish Prince (3Pumpkins 2018,2019), Prism (Toy Factory Productions 2017), Geylang (WILD RICE 2016)

As a lead-facilitator, he has run numerous over-night camps and youth workshops during a 3-year (2013-2016) tenure in research and development of social & environmental programme with Ground Up Initiative (GUI) and WOW Kampung. He has also honed his skills as a drama-in-education facilitator, engaging children through work with schools, social service providers and arts companies. He has worked with Jamiyah Children Home, Superhero Me, 3Pumpkins, Yuhua Secondary School and Sunflower Preschool.

He also dives into the world of Dungeons and Dragons during his free time as a Lvl 7 Bard.

Suhaili Safari

Suhaili Safari has worked professionally as a theatre practitioner since 2003.

Although largely a stage actor, Suhaili has dabbled in writing and/or directing in productions such as “The Kingdom Under My Bed” (2010), a children’s play under Teater Ekamatra and “Move, As We Move” (2017) under Kaizen MD. She actively involves herself in community partnership, and does this through outreach endeavours with Sweet Tooth by Cake Theatrical Productions and Drama Box for “Both Sides, Now”. Her recent work includes “Medea” (Cake, 2017), “0600” (Ground Z-O, 2018) and “Inside Voices” (Lazy Native, 2019)(which won Best Outstanding Work at the annual Vaults Festival in London.

Suhaili is creating solo work beginning with “The Cleanse”, developing it specifically as part of The Substation’s “State of Love and Trust and Stars” programme this year.

Dalifah Shahril

Dalifah Shahril is a performer and an arts manager who is effectively bilingual in English and Malay. Dalifah has performed with various theatre companies as well as TV productions. Dalifah Shahril is also a voice talent with Mediacorp, commercial companies, local Malay radio station-94.2FM and several production houses.

Dalifah graduated from National Institute of Education in Specialist Diploma in Arts Education and Certificate in Teaching the Arts in an Early Childhood Environment from SEED Institute and has a Certificate of Educational Studies- Speech and Drama from The Teachers College, United Kingdom.

Dalifah is currently a freelance instructor teaching speech and drama for kindergartens, primary, secondary schools and Little Arts Academy.

Dalifah Shahril received her Best Actress award at the Straits Times Life Award 2018.