

tworks IS 20 (!) & MOVING...

### Singapore Season

**'LIVE' at the Equator – Breeze through 2004 with us...**

**Feb:                    Marriage of Inconvenience                    Sunny with slight turbulence**  
**The Black Box, Fort Canning Park**

Marriage of Inconvenience is a romantic comedy about a Singaporean female doctor who falls in love with a Filipino male nurse, braving parental objections and all. A witty script, it also explores the thorny issue of stigma and prejudice against 'foreign workers'.

A new play by one of The Writers' Lab playwright Ng Swee San, developed from 2002's Hearing Voices programme, tworks has undertaken the commitment to produce it as our main season show. Directed by Jeffrey Tan, the love affair features local talents Corinne Adrienne Tan and Koh Chieng Mun, and award-winning Philippines actors Bart Guingona and Lou Maningas.

tworks will kick off its series of fundraising events with an entertaining and happening Love Fetish Party @ ROUGE CLUB. From hot musical items, sexy moves, to adrenaline pumping games, it promises to be a night of cheeky fun, love and romance! 13 & 14 February: at \$55 per person with free flow beer and housepours!

**March:                No Parking on Odd Days**  
**The Chamber, Old Parliament House**

A commissioned E&O project, it marks the opening of the Old Parliament House. The classic play with witty political commentary, written by Kuo Pao Kun, would be given a fresh perspective by veteran actor Lim Kay Tong and director Jeffrey Tan, in the old parliamentary chamber.

**April:                'Shanty: Follow that Dream'**                    **Sunny days ahead**  
**Jubilee Hall**

Inspired by "Call it Shanty!" The story of The Quests by Henry Chua, 'Shanty: Follow that Dream' is about the celebration of dreams, naivety, innocence, joy of youthful energy and optimism, as it questions how far one would go to fulfill one's dreams, passion and desire. It will follow the dream of four dreamers, and their trials and tribulations along the journey towards being 'rich and famous'. Conceived and directed by Lok Meng Chue, with dramaturgy by Robin Loon.

A fundraising gala dinner, with special performances by a popular band, would be held in conjunction with the show. Details to be confirmed later.

**August:             Ma: Moment                                        Warm with passing showers**  
**Site-specific (venue to be confirmed)**

A poignant tale of parent-child relationship, featuring black-and-white film by Chu Gei, starring Butterfly Wu, Josephine Siao and Lee Hong Kum. Performed by Lok Meng Chue, directed by Low Kee Hong.

**Nov: Sniffing the Equator**  
**A dramatised reading, The Black Box**

**Sultry breezes... Sweltering nights...**

A sardonic perspective of the 'beautiful' Singaporean, written by David Fuhrmann-Lim. What are the symptoms? What is their language? Why and how do they exist?

2 contemporary Singaporean females looking for love, meaning of life while at the same time looking for the best offer, the best discount and the best place to lunch!

## **THE WRITERS LAB**

A laboratory that has continued to encourage and develop new Singapore writing for 14 years! Brand new activities planned include the Marketplays with fresh commissions as showcases and platforms for new writers.

### **Singapore Young Dramatists Award**

SYDA is the only nation-wide playwriting competition that exists currently to provide a platform for nurturing the creative potential of young playwrights age 13-21 years.  
Submission deadline: 31 July

### **24-Hour Playwriting Competition**

April: popular, fun and far-reaching playwriting event! This year, write a play about love and romance in 24-Hours at Angsana Bintan!

### **The Greenhouse**

A one-year incubatory writing program that nurtures young talents who have won the playwriting competitions. Watch out for the airing and dramatised readings of these new plays!

## **International Projects**

### **Feb – Apr, Dasarts, Amsterdam: BLOCK 20**

The Continuum: Ancient Technologies, Borders and Transcendence  
[featuring EXOTICA!]

This block focuses on the continuum between contemporary practice and ancient Asian arts, ranging from Sanskrit theatre (Kutiyattum) of 1000 years ago to Thai classical painting to the Japanese Noh theatre of Zeami. How can contemporary practice draw from the conceptual frameworks of these ancient arts, for instance?

In particular, block 20 extends beyond aesthetics to question where borders lie today. How can we initiate creative interventions which would transcend these borders?

In the middle of block 20, students will be introduced to EXOTICA! They will be encouraged to transgress borders through entering the performative dimension of everyday fantasy, bondage, adventurous sex of bdsm (bondage, dominatrix, sado-masochism). In sessions with Fetish Diva Midori, leatherman George Wong and Bangkok queer artist Michael Shaowanasai.

Ong Keng Sen has curated the themes and the teachers. He will be mentor to an international group of 13 participants, together with 13 international guest teachers-artists.

For more info go to website: [www.dasarts.nl](http://www.dasarts.nl)

### **May DA VINCI PROJECT VERSION 2.0**

The second series of the Art & Science laboratory DAVINCIPROJECT which began in November 2002. Version 2.0 will serve as a research and hothouse platform for the tworks (Singapore) & dumb type (Japan) collaboration BIO. These series of workshops and mini-showings will serve to encourage potential partners and sponsors to come on board the project.

### **June: Sandakan Threnody Victoria Theatre, Singapore Arts Festival Brisbane Festival (Sep) Melbourne Festival (Oct)**

A cross-media collaboration between Singapore, Japan and Australia artists based on Australian wartime survivors' accounts of the death march in Borneo at the end of World War II.

Sandakan Threnody is directed by 2003's cultural medallion award winner Ong Keng Sen with music composed by Australian composer Jonathan Mills. It metaphorises the experiences of war and brutality into a contemporary existential journey, a journey into the heart of darkness.

"To evoke is to call forth; to bring to recollection imaginatively; to summon a spirit by invocation. Perhaps we are evokers of a forgotten past, a past erased and evaporated. We evoke what could not be said before."

### **Dec: The Flying Circus Project**

A gathering of international artists from SEA/Asia, Europe, Africa, Brazil, Lebanon - a hothouse of ideas with different disciplines and artforms. There will be a series of performance and showing throughout the 3 weeks.

## DVD PROJECT:

### **Roots, Re-invention and Continuity in Changing Times: Tracing the Continuum between the Traditional and Contemporary Southeast Asian Performing Artists**

Since its inception four years ago, this project has taken us across seven different Southeast Asian locales—from remote mountain villages in southern Philippines to the vibrant city center of Bangkok, to war torn backyards of Cambodia and Vietnam, to the old city of Mandalay, Myanmar where time seem to stand still, to the choreographic home of the late Gusmiati Suid outside Jakarta, and even to the strongly Islamic fishing village of Kelantan.

The culmination of this project will be the creation of a series of DVDs that traces the relevance of traditional Southeast Asian artforms and artists in contemporaneous times. More specifically, we look at the various strategies these artists have evolved to ensure the survival and at times revival of the artforms.

The first of the series to be produced features the traditional stringed puppets of Myanmar. Titled, **Between Tradition and Contemporary Concerns: The Re-making of a Marionette Troupe**, this set of 2 DVDs will document the journeys undertaken by a modern day puppet troupe madam in ensuring the survival and relevance of the artform in a rapidly changing Myanmar.

The projected end-users are students of cultural studies, arts and culture institutions, cultural ministries, and the like. Hence, the focus is on documentation providing necessary detailed archival content for other research work.

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