

WRITING & COMMUNITY

THEATREWORKS PRESENTS

# THE 24-HOUR PLAYWRITING COMPETITION

2014 PRIZE PRESENTATION  
11 OCT 2014 • SAT • 3PM • 72-13  
HOSTED BY BECCA D'BUS

In Partnership with



Image courtesy of South East CDC

[www.theatreworks.org.sg](http://www.theatreworks.org.sg) | [www.southeastcdc.org.sg](http://www.southeastcdc.org.sg)

## A Note from Mayor of South East District



Dear all,

It was my pleasure to kick-start this year's 24-Hour Playwriting Competition with the stimulus "Give me your hand", suggesting "support", to provide the participants with the opportunity to express the many different possibilities of how this act of support is so meaningful as we build a compassionate and caring community. It also signified South East CDC's seventh-year partnership and mutual support with TheatreWorks. I would like to applaud TheatreWorks for developing this successful "Writing & Community" programme, which has developed and nurtured numerous writers and talents through its playwriting competitions. The staged plays also continue to garner strong support from the community. Our experience shows that many of these plays had much resonance with the audiences as they delve deeper in societal themes and encouraged discussion in an informal manner through its post-show dialogues.

My heartiest congratulations to all the participants for your hard work and perseverance. You are all winners in showing your passion and tenacity to bring alive the art of writing plays. In addition, a big thank you to Malay Heritage Centre for being such a great host and venue partner. Last but not least, my appreciation to TheatreWorks for their efforts in bringing the community closer through the arts and I certainly look forward to another exciting round of community tour in the first quarter of 2015.

Thank you.

**Dr Maliki Osman**  
Mayor, South East District



## Judges' Comments

The challenges of writing a good play are complex and several. In particular the notion of a play as incomplete until it is staged, and thus the text as suggestive rather than definitive, is crucial to bear in mind for the writer. In this competition many writers have tried to engage with this demand, but only a few appear to have found the necessary links and translations that result in a well-written, imaginative and provocative script. This includes writing dialogue that is dynamic for the stage, concretising ideas that will translate effectively into action, and envisioning the stage to enhance the action intended. The work of a writer is thus intricate in putting together details that will give a particular flavour to the work, as well as expansive in giving life to large philosophical ideas. Although these are tough demands, the process should also be enjoyable and invigorating... producing a sense of pleasure in working with ideas and playing with possibilities on the page.

**Dr Charlene Rajendran**

Success is finishing a complete script in 24 hours. If you did that, you've succeeded – at the first step. What I found very interesting was so many entries read like incipient movie screenplays and novels. That's not a problem, in fact I hope the writers take the next step of completing the pieces started here, whether as plays, novels or screenplays. If just one piece started at the 24-hour playwriting competition comes full cycle to a production its writer is proud of, then this year's competition will also have succeeded.

**Ovidia Yu**



Image courtesy of South East CDC



Image courtesy of South East CDC

Keep writing. Read more, not just other plays but about other art forms too. Watch more. Take a keen interest in all genres and cross-genres in performance, music, film, visual arts, dance. Look at how artists across genres express and 'write'. It will help you to gain different perspective as you continue to write.

When you create as a writer, be yourself and write what you care about.

Theatre is highly collaborative. Directors and performers will respond to your creation and it will take a different shape often from what you imagine. Put all you've got on your part and then be ready to let go. It is wonderful when you find the right collaborators, people you trust and respect, who have the same trust and respect for you. Then the work becomes exciting.

You have a voice, it takes time sometimes to find it and honing it is a life time's work and a combination of discipline and passion is necessary.

**Natalie Hennedige**

## Shortlisted Scripts for the 2014 24-Hour Playwriting Competition

The following entries were shortlisted by the judges for consideration:

### Youth Category

*Hands* by Leong Xuan Li

*Open Wounds* by Teh En, Matthias

*Untitled* by Jolene Gina Abelarde

*Piety* by David Cornelius Singh

*Helpline* by Johannah Wai Shoke Rei

*Why We Bother* by Tan Wei Jia Zenda

*Next Station*, by Tharun Suresh

### Open Category

*Untitled* by Tan Mae Shen Joanne

*Stardust* by Nurraidah Binte Noor

*Six, Seven, Eight, Nine... Ten* by Tnee Li Ling Valane

*Three Inches of Alive* by Khoo En Ping Clarilyn

*Black Diamonds* by Liao Bolun Edgar

*Lanang (Boy)* by Muhammad Hafidz Bin Abdul

*Turn Me To Salt* by Ng Zheng Yang

This afternoon's reading is scripted and directed by Becca D'Bus, and performed by Gloria Tan, Irfan Kasban, Mish'aal Syed Nasar and Najib Soiman.



Image by Melissa Lim



Image courtesy of South East CDC



Image courtesy of South East CDC



Image courtesy of South East CDC

### Special thanks to the Judges:

Natalie Henedige, Dr Charlene Rajendran, Ovidia Yu

### Special thanks to the following for making the 2014 24-Hour Playwriting Competition Prize Presentation possible:

Director: Becca D'Bus

Performers: Gloria Tan, Irfan Kasban, Mish'aal Syed Nasar, Najib Soiman

Stage Manager: Nadya Noordin

Technical Team: Huang Xiangbin, Ed-Linddi Ong, Shan Tan

### Supporters who made the 2014 24-Hour Playwriting Competition possible:

Community Partner



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### TheatreWorks' Dedicated Interns and Volunteers:

Ayaka Ajiki, Brendan Ong, Boo Jiun Yi, Cara Ann Lee, Chan Wei Wei, Clarice Handoko, Gabriel Goh, Gan Zhen Hui, Kathy Lim, Louisa Viline, Natalie Lim, Sara Lau, Shauna Goh, Victoria Chen, Vivian Ngm

#### About South East Community Development Council

The South East Community Development Council (CDC) was set up on 24 November 2001. It oversees the Marine Parade Group Representative Constituency (GRC), East Coast GRC, Joo Chiat Single Member Constituency (SMC), Mountbatten SMC and Potong Pasir SMC, and serves a population of about half a million residents.

At the helm of South East CDC is Mayor Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, who steers efforts in achieving the three strategic thrusts that guide the work of the CDCs. Termed the 'ABCs of Community Bonding' – Assisting the Needy, Bonding with the People and Connecting with the Community – South East CDC initiates and manages programmes in collaboration with both community and corporate partners along these three strategic thrusts, so as to nurture a vibrant and self-reliant community.

#### About Malay Heritage Centre

Officially opened in June 2005, the Malay Heritage Centre (MHC) showcases the history, culture and contributions of the Malay community within the context of Singapore's history and multi-cultural society.

Through its exhibits, programmes and activities, MHC aspires to be a vibrant destination of historical and cultural significance for both Singaporeans and international visitors. It also hopes to honour the past of the Malay community while providing a means for the community's present-day expression.

The MHC is under the management of the National Heritage Board in partnership with the Malay Heritage Foundation.

#### Writing & Community

- Is a process-based writing programme designed for the community
- Seeks out potential playwrights from within the community through the annual 24-Hour Playwriting Competition
- Invites theatre professionals to work on the winning scripts from the competition and develop scripts into full productions
- Provides pre-competition workshops / talks to harness potential creativity from the community
- Nurtures and develops winning playwrights
- Returns these productions to the community by the way of the annual Performance Tour with free performances at six venues in the community primarily of the South East District
- Enables the plays to become the catalyst for the community to reflect and discuss important issues related to living in Singapore

Writing & Community is a strand of TheatreWorks Engagement, which deepens the knowledge and engagement with our patrons and stakeholders. It engages new audiences through its numerous programmes, which are developed to encourage audiences to appreciate the Arts and secondly to use the Arts as a forum to raise and discuss taboo, yet critical issues facing us today.

Visit our blog at <http://writingandcommunity2014.wordpress.com> for news and updates about Writing & Community.

Look out for our next series of interactive playwriting workshops by Tony Perez this December 2014 at 72-13.

Stay tuned to [www.theatreworks.org.sg](http://www.theatreworks.org.sg) for the upcoming performance tour of this year's competition winning script to the South East District from February to March 2015.

To know about TheatreWorks Engagement Programmes, join our mailing list by writing to [brendan@theatreworks.org.sg](mailto:brendan@theatreworks.org.sg)

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