

THEATREWORKS

PRESENTS

72-13

~~FEAR OF WRITING~~

AN ABSURD PLAY
WRITTEN BY TAN TARN HOW
DIRECTED BY ONG KENG SEN

1 - 3 & 6 - 10 SEPTEMBER 2011
8PM, 72-13

BOOK BEFORE 1 SEPTEMBER
TO ENJOY THE EARLY BIRD
DISCOUNT AT \$25!

FEAR OF WRITING IS
TAN TARN HOW'S FIRST
FULL-LENGTH PLAY IN
10 YEARS! IT MARKS
HIS REUNION WITH
CULTURAL MEDALLION
RECIPIENT ONG KENG SEN,
WHO HAS DIRECTED
MANY OF HIS PLAYS AS
WORLD PREMIERES.



Respected Singapore playwright Tan Tan How returns to the forefront of Singapore theatre with the debut of **Fear-of-Writing**, his first full-length play in 10 years.

Fear-of-Writing portrays a playwright's creative handicap—the writer's block—under intense anxiety and scrutiny. Through this crisis, Tan uncovers the existentialism of self-censorship and freedoms in Singapore. An urgent provocation of the country's boundaries—as bound to art, artist, citizen and humanity.

The work marks Tan's reunion with Cultural Medallion recipient Ong Keng Sen, Artistic Director of TheatreWorks, who has directed most of his earlier plays as world premieres. Their collaboration began through TheatreWorks Writers' Lab in the nineties, a groundbreaking phase for Singapore theatre in voicing the nation's identity and spirit through dramatic writing, and where Tan nurtured his playwright's voice as an incisive commentary on Singapore society and politics.

In **The Lady of Soul and Her Ultimate "G" Machine** (1993), this landmark play presented a satirical comedy of Singapore's drive to promote the arts, as envisioned by civil servants; while in **The First Emperor's Last Days** (1998), the play imagined four writers tasked—under detention and surveillance—to pen the posthumous biography of a country's first great ruler.

In 2011, **Fear-of-Writing** proposes a theatrical parable for the politics of today, a future for the Singapore dream.

FEATURING *

Serene Chen
Janice Koh
Lok Meng Chue
Tan Kheng Hua

"This play is about the complacency of the average Singaporean, of theatre audiences and practitioners because there is no danger, no real change enacted by our works. It is about the commercialization of theatre; hijacked as entertainment rather than being an engine of change. Can we find a real political theatre, where the audience goes in X and comes out Y? This is the difficulty in writing this kind of work in this day and age, hence the long gap between my last play and this one." - Tan Tam How

DATE/TIME:

1 - 3 September 2011,
Thursday - Saturday, 8pm
6 - 10 September 2011,
Tuesday - Saturday, 8pm

VENUE:

72-13 (home of TheatreWorks
on Mohamed Sultan Road)

TICKETS:

\$10 - Concession for full-time
students and NSFs
\$25 - Seniors 55 years old and
above
\$25 - Early bird discount till 31st
August 2011
\$38 - Standard tickets from 1st
September 2011

No booking fee.

* To purchase tickets or enquiries,
please call 6737-7213 or email
tworks@singnet.com.sg
Book now to obtain your early
bird tickets!

Advisory: ~~Fear of Writing~~ is
recommended for audiences aged
16 and above. Adults should use
their discretion in deciding whether
to bring children and youth to the
play. Please contact TheatreWorks
if you have any queries.

www.theatreworks.org.sg
www.72-13.com
www.artsnetworkasia.org

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