

The best of TheatreWorks  
Writers' Lab

An original play by  
**Shen Tan**

Directed by  
**Tan Shou Chen**

19 July<sup>Thu</sup>  
— 4 August<sup>Sat</sup>  
2018

72-13  
Home of TheatreWorks

**72-13**

**BECAUSE  
I LOVE YOU**  
2018 Season



# TheatreWorks Message

## Welcome to 13.13.13!

TheatreWorks is thrilled to open our BECAUSE I LOVE YOU season with 13.13.13.

13.13.13 is written by Shen Tan, whose journey with the Writers' Lab started on 09.07.11 when she took part in our 24-Hour Playwriting Competition at the Outward Bound Singapore in Pulau Ubin. Since then, Shen has continued her development as a writer in the Lab's writing workshop and mentorship with playwright Tony Perez, leading to a dramatised reading of 13.13.13 last year.

The Writers' Lab is not just a writing programme. It is TheatreWorks' commitment to the process of development, incubation, risk taking, investment, trust, belief, confidence and hope for our local talent. It is a process that matters because emphasis is placed on the process. The process of rigour, collaboration, nurturing and trust.

Thank you to the wonderful 13.13.13 team who dedicated their energies to create this new work and made the process meaningful and enjoyable – Shou Chen our director who led the team; Sharda, Thomas, Jo and Chanel, our performers; Silei, Yvette, Alberta, Benjamin and Brian, our designers; Ganesh, Keira, Marilyn, Hazel, Hyder, Wan Yee, Am, Darren, Fazlin, Muzzamier, Rafie, Sufyan, Aqira and Raymond, our production team; Jonathan, Crispian, Andre, Eugene and Matthew, our publicity team; the TheatreWorks family comprising Mervyn, Soo Mei, Ezzat, Ashley, Shaz and Charlene; and finally, Shen, without whom the words of 13.13.13 would not exist.

13.13.13 moves us to think more deeply about our relationships, about family, about ties. What is this thing called love?

BECAUSE YOU LOVE, you will \_\_\_\_\_.

BECAUSE YOU LOVE, you must \_\_\_\_\_.

BECAUSE YOU LOVE, you can \_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you for joining us this season to fill in the blanks.

**Grace Low**  
Producing Director  
TheatreWorks (Singapore)  
19.07.18

## Playwright's Message

— Shen Tan

### Why do we want what we can't have?

We seem to have come full circle seven years after I started writing 13.13.13.

In 2011, a few close friends were fighting to undo their marital vows, while a politician asked why it was important for gays to be married when there were already sufficient legal work-arounds.

Three weeks before the first public staging of 13.13.13, a UK heterosexual couple fought and beat the apex court for the right to have a civil partnership, refusing marriage.

### Beyond the legal form of marriage, civil unions or partnerships, what truly binds us?

I had not intended 13.13.13 to be an urban love story. But having heard Shou Chen the director describe the script as such, I began to recognise three love stories and a fourth towards the end.

Theatre is a miraculous medium. The fact that each creative talent in the cast and crew imbues their own meaning in the script to present to the audience an experience that is infinitely greater than the mere words that I penned: That is magic.

Thank you TheatreWorks for staging 13.13.13 and thank you to the ever creative team.

## Director's Message

— Tan Shou Chen

### Our values shape the stories we tell of ourselves and the fights we draw blood for.

Thank you Shen, TheatreWorks and the company of 13.13.13 for your trust. I am grateful.

Finally, thank you for coming to the theatre. Should you wish, more of my thoughts working on 13.13.13 can be found at [www.becauseiloveyou.sg/13-13-13-director](http://www.becauseiloveyou.sg/13-13-13-director)



## Creative Team



**Shen Tan**  
— Playwright

Shen Tan won the TheatreWorks 24-Hour Playwriting Competition in 2014 for *Balik Kampung*. This prize provided the opportunity to develop *13.13.13*, first written in 2011, for staging.

Shen's roles in the performing arts have spanned Sound Design (*The Vagina Monologues*), Direction (*Short and Sweet Festival*) and Technical Direction for school concerts. She was a post production audio engineer for Anime (*Doraemon*, *One Piece*).

Shen majored in theatre production, specialising in Sound Design and graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with a Drama degree. *13.13.13* is in loving memory of Professor Stephen Gerald.



**Tan Shou Chen**  
— Director

Tan Shou Chen is a recognised theatremaker from Singapore. An actor for over 14 years now, he has performed in numerous marquee shows for Singapore's best theatre companies. As a director, he has created works for the opening festival for the National Gallery Singapore, NUS Arts Festival, and the Bangkok Theatre Festival. His most recent work, *Open Waters*, an inter-city work between Bangkok and Singapore, received the support of the National Arts Council Creation Grant. *13.13.13* is his first directorial work seen on Singapore's mainstage. Shou Chen's works are known to evoke the epic. His interests reside in the encounter between differences: be it culture, time or space; and the traverse between tradition and contemporary.



**Chan Silei**  
— Set Designer

Silei is interested in crafting spaces and is always being crafted by space.

Silei has designed spaces and sets for *How Did The Cat Get So Fat?* (2018, Tan Beng Tian for Esplanade The Studios), *When We Dead Awaken* (2018, Intercultural Theatre Institute), *Red Sky* (2016 Nine Years Theatre), *I Am LGB* (2016, Loo Zihan for Singapore International Festival of Arts), *With/Out* (2015, M1 Singapore Fringe Festival; 2017, Esplanade The Studios). She has also assisted local and international designers and artists in realising their concepts.

Besides designing sets, Silei also works as a Production Manager for projects such as the Singapore International Festival of Arts (2015 to 2017).



**Alberta Wileo**  
— Lighting Designer

Alberta is a freelance lighting designer and theatre artist, and has his own company UV SOLUTION. He has designed for many professional performing companies such as Arts Fission, Singapore Repertory Theatre, Singapore Lyric Opera, Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Singapore Dance Theatre, HUM Theatre, Apsaras Arts, Frontier Danceland, The Philharmonic Orchestra, Singapore, Maya Dance Theatre, New Opera

Singapore, Esplanade Theatres on The Bay and Bali Safari. Currently, he is preparing for a big aquatic musical in Bali for the Bali Marine Park set to open in December.

Alberta has been painting the stage in Singapore and around the world – Malaysia, Japan, USA, India, Indonesia and France – for the past 15 years.



**Yvette Ng**  
— Costume Designer

Yvette has spent over ten years in theatre with works spanning dressing, wardrobe management and costumes coordination, to styling and designing.

She enjoys working together with fellow artists (sometimes in really tough situations) to create pretty visual experiences and particularly loves working with companies looking to pioneer an unconventional approach in otherwise stale verticals. Being involved more with styling and design work allows Yvette to explore challenges with every project, creating things that matter. Otherwise she is found getting inspired, googling recipes and making food.



**Benjamin Lim Yi**  
— Sound Designer

Benjamin Lim Yi is a Singaporean composer based in Beijing.

His range of work span from





commissioned concert pieces, theatre, contemporary dance, to film, television and children's music. They have been performed and showcased in Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Seoul, London, and many cities across China including Shanghai and Beijing.

His soundtracks for film have accompanied and won various awards at notable international film festivals. Benjamin graduated from the Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing, with a Masters of Music in Composition under the tutelage of Professor Jianping Tang, and was a recipient of the Singapore National Arts Council (Postgraduate) and Central Chinese Government scholarships.



### Brian Gothong Tan — Multimedia Designer

Brian Gothong Tan is best known for his cutting-edge and highly engaging works in theatre, film and installation art. He graduated from California Institute of the Arts in 2005 under the Shell-NAC Scholarship. He was conferred the Young Artist Award in 2012 and Singapore Youth Award in 2015, and has won four Life! Theatre Awards for Best Multimedia in 2005, 2008, 2012 and 2016. He was the Director of Film and Visual Effects for Singapore's National Day Parade 2009, 2011 and 2016.

His recent works include *Tropical Traumas* (2016 SIFA), *Into The Wild* (2017 Art Science Museum), and *Lost Cinema* (2018) under NAC's Creation Grant.

## Cast



### Sharda Harrison

Sharda Harrison graduated from LASALLE College of the Arts with a B.A. in Acting. She has acted for a range of local theatre companies in Singapore such as Wild Rice, Cake Theatrical Productions, The Necessary Stage and Singapore Repertory Theatre.

Sharda runs her own theatre and education company Pink Gajah Theatre which she founded in 2013. Sharda has performed internationally as an independent artist in Adelaide, Croatia, Indonesia and Malaysia, and in Perth touring her company's work, *Temuan* (the meeting) at the Perth Fringe Festival. She has been nominated numerous times as best supporting actress at the Life! Theatre Awards and is part of the winning ensemble of *Wild Rice's Hotel*.



### Thomas Pang

Thomas is an actor and theatre maker who has worked with many Singaporean theatre companies. Directorial work includes *Salt Pepper Ketchup* (San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company), solo work *Cold Bones No More* (Think City, KL), and *you/me*, a collaboration with Lim Pei Ern (M1 Dance Festival). Thomas has also coached the

acting for productions of Shakespeare at LASALLE College of the Arts, and organizes for two collectives: Room to Breathe— which produced a read of James Thoo's *Stool Pigeon*, and 3-in-1—a jam space for working actors and directors. Thomas plays Jake in the science fiction television series *Glitch* seen on Toggle.



### Chanel Chan

Chanel completed her BA in Acting at LASALLE College of the Arts, and graduated with a First Class Honors in 2014. She is now working as a professional theatre practitioner. Since graduation, Chanel has performed in various international platforms and festivals. Some of her acting credits includes *Offstage* (Emergency Stairs), *Chrysanthemum Gate* (M1 Fringe Festival), *Bitch: The Origin Of The Female Species* (M1 Fringe Festival), *Landscaping A Personal Myth* (Odin Teatret), *The Last Bull: A Life In Flamenco* (Checkpoint Theatre), *The Good, The Bad, The Sholay* (Checkpoint Theatre) to name a few.



### Jo Tan

Jo is a multilingual stage/screen actor whose work has been seen in various cities including New York, Cannes, London, Yeosu and Beijing.

In Singapore, she has been privileged to work with many of Singapore's finest companies,

and her performance in Checkpoint Theatre's *Frogo* earned her a nomination for Best Supporting Actress at this year's Life! Theatre Awards. The National Arts Council awarded Jo a residency at Ecole Philippe Gaulier in Paris, where she trained for over a year. She also writes scripts, and *Forked*, her first full length play, premiered earlier this year and continues to be developed under The Finger Players' Watch This Space initiative.





## Upcoming @ 72-13

### The Reunification Of The Two Koreas

By Joel Pommerat  
1 — 10 Nov 2018

TheatreWorks BECAUSE I LOVE YOU Season continues with The Reunification Of The Two Koreas, a co-production with Centre Dramatique National de Tours.

What are those bonds that lead us to love, hate, help, betrayal, care, flee, fight, abuse or lie? A patchwork of 20 short scenes explore situations where a relationship is challenged, drawing us into a maze where appeased relations between humans seems as primal, desirable and quixotic as the reunification of the two Koreas.

**Director**  
Jacques Vincky

**Translator**  
Maure Goldberg

**Performers**  
Cynthia Lee Macquarrie  
Ebi Shankara  
Janice Koh  
Karen Tan  
Pavan J Singh  
Tan Shou Chen  
Tinaohy Nga  
Umi Kalihum Jamal  
Zeida Taitana Ng

www.becauseiloveyou.sg  
Tickets available at SSTIC.

## Credits

**Producer**  
Grace Low

**Production Manager**  
Ganesh Jayabal

**Stage Manager**  
Keira Lee

**Assistant Stage Manager**  
Marilyn Chew

**Wardrobe Coordinator**  
Hazel Seah

**Lighting Operator**  
Hyder B Zainal Abiden

**Multimedia Operator**  
Mohammad Amirul Bin Azmi

**Sound Operator**  
Yeo Wan Yee

**Graphic Design**  
Roots

**Social Media & Marketing**  
Eugene Tan

**Matthieu Aw**

**Crew**  
Darren Lee  
Fazlin Abdul Aziz  
Muhammed Muzzamier  
Bin Abu Bakar  
Muhammad Rafie  
Bin Mohamed Hussain  
Muhammad Surfan Saban  
Nurul Aqira Khalrudin  
Raymond Lee

**Administration & Finance**  
Mervyn Quek  
Ong Soo Mei

**Front-of-house**  
Ezzat Alkaff  
Ashley Tan  
Shazwini Rosli

**Hair & Makeup**  
(Publicity & Video)  
Ashley Lim  
Bobbie Ng

**Lama Majaj** for the creation of the paintings used in 13.13.13.

**Lama Majaj** is a registered art therapist and visual artist with 15 years of experience in the arts, health and humanitarian sectors. Her recent work focused on embedding cross-cultural community arts projects in international contexts.

**Lightreach Productions** for lighting equipment support.

**PhasePhonic** for sound equipment support.

**Judy Ngo and Koh Hui Ling** for junior actors in the video segments.

**Julie Wee** for voiceover recording.

**Melissa Ho and Zhang Shan Shan** for loan of props.

PRODUCED BY

THEATREWORKS

SUPPORTED BY

NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL

CULTURAL MATCHING FUND

HONG LEONG FOUNDATION

www.72-13.com

www.theatreworks.org.sg

theatreworks.sg

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## From Identity To Mondialisation: TheatreWorks 25

**From Identity to Mondialisation: TheatreWorks 25** celebrates TheatreWorks and offers a glimpse into the journey that Singapore's longest established theatre company has taken since it was set up in 1985. This very first edition showcases stunning visual history of the company, featuring photography from many of TheatreWorks' groundbreaking performances and quotes and anecdotes from members of the company, past and present.

The 300-page book focuses on the company's approach to worlds-creating with friends all over the world, beyond cultural and ethnic identity. As opposed to globalisation (one world), the company has preferred an approach of multiplicity and plurality. It attempts to journey beyond identity politics and nationalisation into open spaces of idealism. The art of TheatreWorks continues to prioritise an expanding process of human relationships rather than the unitotality of globalisation.

We hope this publication will serve as an important reference for contemporary performance in Asia today, and we hope that you will find it illuminating and enjoyable.

Please approach our Front-of-House staff if you would like to purchase a copy. Or, contact us at [tworworks@singnet.com.sg](mailto:tworworks@singnet.com.sg).



# About TheatreWorks

TheatreWorks, established in 1985, is an independent and international performance company based in Singapore. It is unique for its reinvention of traditional performances through a contemporary juxtaposition of aesthetics. TheatreWorks has two main red lines in its work: the first is the creation and presentation of inter-disciplinary or intercultural programmes, the second being documentary performances.

TheatreWorks reflects a concern with negotiation, synergy, as well as artistic sharing between individuals and societies.

TheatreWorks has consciously created 72-13, a space, to have more diverse and inclusive dialogues. TheatreWorks intends to share the transcendental potential of art through innovative contemporary performances engaging audiences with uncommon alternatives.

## TheatreWorks Board of Directors

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Restu Imansari Kusumaningrum  
Sharon Lim  
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## TheatreWorks Team

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Ong Keng Sen

Producing Director  
Grace Low

Project Manager  
Mervyn Quek

Engagement Executive  
Ezzat Alkaff

Administrator  
Ong Soo Mei

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