

THEATREWORKS WRITERS' LAB presents

LAB REPORT 7

19 AUGUST 1995, THE BLACK BOX, 3pm and 7pm

The Writers' Laboratory is TheatreWorks' commitment to the development of playwriting in Singapore.

This is the seventh in the playwriting series from TheatreWorks' Writers' Laboratory. The Lab Report series introduces plays-in-progress written by participants in the Writers' Laboratory workshops in the form of dramatised play readings.

As with all Lab readings, we invite you, the audience to join us after the read to give feedback to the playwright. Your comments will help them to assess their work.

WHAT IS THE WRITERS' LABORATORY?

The concept of the Writers' Laboratory, brainchild of TheatreWorks' Artistic Director, Ong Keng Sen, was mooted in late 1990 at a gathering of Singapore writers at the Drama Centre. The aim of the Lab is to nurture and develop playwriting in Singapore. TheatreWorks Writers' Lab was inaugurated in April 1991.

The Lab is a unique self-help writing programme developed and organised by TheatreWorks. The result of the Lab - more Singapore plays, and an increasing awareness and recognition of Singapore playwriting. The Writers' Lab has also attracted attention overseas and a similar Lab has been set up in Perth, Western Australia, called the Swy Lab.

The Singapore Press Holdings has been sponsoring this important developmental programme of Singaporean theatre since its inauguration. SPH has been supportive and encouraging in the development of theatre in Singapore.

THE WILLIAM SUN WORKSHOPS...

Dr William Sun and his wife Dr Faye C Fei have been specially invited to conduct a series of three workshops for members of the Writers' Lab and the public.

William is a teacher, author, playwright and director now residing in the United States. Presently the Associate Professor at the Tufts University's Drama Department, he is also the special overseas correspondent for a Shanghai paper, Theatre Arts. Before going to the States, he was a Professor teaching at the prestigious Shanghai Theatre Academy. His area of speciality is Shakespeare and Beijing opera - and how these diverse disciplines can be fused and performed.

The three month stint at TheatreWorks, which started in May, consisted of a series of 4 public lectures on theatre in China; a public workshop in English for aspiring playwrights; a masterclass conducted specially for selected participants of the Writers' Lab and for the first time, a specialist workshop for playwrights writing in both English and Chinese. The plays in progress you will be watching today is the culmination of the work done by the participants of the three workshops.

THEATREWORKS WRITERS' LAB presents

LAB REPORT 7

19 AUGUST 1995, THE BLACK BOX, 3pm and 7pm

THE PROGRAMME

(programming and schedule are correct at time of printing.)

3 - 6pm

Be The Food Of Love (play on...) by Ovidia Yu

read by Gerald Chew, Janice Koh, Casey Lim, Jackie Low and Sheila Wyatt

This is a piece about food and eating and about how people feed themselves and other people...and all the different ways we have of satisfying all our different hungers.

Good Old Medicine by Lee Chee Keng (Bilingual play)

read by Chew Boon Leong, Chiang Kai Ting, Andrew Kong, Casey Lim,
Lim How Ngean, Robin Loon and Jackie Low.

Ever since he was a young boy, Wei-Xian's father had wanted to groom him to take over the family medical hall. But because he once created his own cocktail of Chinese medicine, and suffered from the result of drinking it, his father had kept him away from the medical hall, sending him away to stay with a friend. When father finally wants the son back, the boy has already decided for himself his own journey of life...

Quiet The Gorilla by Tan Mei Ching

read by Chiang Kai Ting, Janice Koh, Andrew Kong, Casey Lim and Sheila Wyatt

Siew has a dream about a runaway circus where everything is chaotic. When her sister, Min who is supposed to be studying abroad appears on her doorstep, Siew begins to feel that her dream is starting again. Min seems her usual not-so-nice self, but trouble is more than being fed-up about school or the cafeteria food. Besides this, Siew's friend is having some domestic problems needing her listening ear. Also, a stray cat has adopted a reluctant Siew. And her neighbour seems to be reliving motherhood through her and Min. Then, there's the anonymous caller who just wouldn't stop calling, who is becoming more than irritating. Siew's dream is becoming more real than she thought...

Pan Island Expressway by Chong Tze Chian

read by Chiang Kai Ting, Janice Koh, Casey Lim, Lim How Ngean, Robin Loon,
Jackie Low and Sheila Wyatt

And on the eighth day, God made the roads. "Some people," he said, "will spend their whole life travelling on it; some waiting by it while the others watch from afar..." Three groups of people each caught in different situations, all hoping to get out from it on this night along Pan Island Expressway.

THEATREWORKS WRITERS' LAB presents

LAB REPORT 7

19 AUGUST 1995, THE BLACK BOX, 3pm and 7pm

THE PROGRAMME

(programming and schedule are correct at time of printing.)

7 - 10pm

Just A Bit On The Heavy Side by Tan Choon Ping

read by Gerald Chew, Chiang Kai Ting, Lim How Ngean, Robin Loon, Jackie Low and Sheila Wyatt

Inspired by the true story of a single mother from suburban Australia with a weight problem, but who chooses to capitalise on her assets by becoming a fat stripper, entertaining most while terrorising some...until she comes face to face with one of her 'victims'. Can one really be fat and happy in an age where a person's physicality is constantly under scrutiny?

The Raven Beckons by Louise Cully

read by Gerald Chew, Chiang Kai Ting, Lim How Ngean, Robin Loon and Sheila Wyatt

A story about what can happen when a father leaves his daughter as a child and returns when she is a woman... A play that is universal, set anywhere in the world, embracing love and hate, passion and jealousy, and then, pain and guilt.

The Buried by Chua Tze Wei

read by Chiang Kai Ting, Lim How Ngean, Nora Samosir and Sheila Wyatt

During World War II, a bunker collapsed and buried an unknown number of people. A man has buried this painful memory in his forgotten past. A young woman is intent on digging it all up. What really happened on that fateful day in 1942? *The Buried* unearths a past of heroism, betrayal and love through a journey into the emotional and psychological terrain of these two people.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

At the end of each reading, ask yourself these questions, and let us know how you feel...

1. Did you find yourself involved in the play?
2. Do you find the story and characters original?
3. Is the plot well developed?
4. Is the plot clear?
5. Are the characters' motivations clear?
6. Does the dialogue enhance the play?
7. Does the play make a statement/point?
8. Is the statement/theme clear?
9. Did you enjoy the play and its contents?

HOT OFF THE THEATREWORKS' WRITERS' LAB!!!

dirty laundry, mergers and undercover

the second writers' lab compendium is out now!

7

plays from the writers' lab in one collectors' item compendium!

DIRTY LAUNDRY by **theresa tan**

MERGERS AND ACCUSATIONS by **eleanor wong**

UNDERCOVER by **tan tarn how**

WATCHING THE CLOUDS GO BY by **robin loon**

OTHERS by **enrico varella**

BREAKING THROUGH by **lee chee keng**

CETECEA by **otto fong**

ONLY S\$18.00

Hurry! Limited copies available!!!

**CALL THEATREWORKS AT 338 4077
TO PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW!!**

the writers' lab is sponsored by the singapore press holdings