

W.O.W.
INTERNATIONAL
presents

3

FAT VIRGINS

UN
AS
SEMBLE D

by Ovidia Yu

What makes a Singapore Superwoman?

Brought to you by

W.O.W.
INTERNATIONAL

DEC 12 - 20 1995
DRAMA CENTRE

By arrangement with

THEATREWORKS

DONNA KARAN

NEW YORK

P A R F U M

WOMAN TO WOMAN

"Our lives are complicated. We're forever juggling family, work and personal time. That's why my mission - from fashion to beauty - is to create a modern system that helps simplify and streamline life: must-have pieces and accessories that work for your lifestyle. Beauty products that get the job done quickly and effectively. And a fragrance that has the power to invigorate and, the sensuality to arouse something inside every woman who wears it." - Donna Karan.

-ALL NATUREL-

True style lies in the details. That's why Donna introduced The Naturals, an ivory alternative to her signature black bath and body packaging. "The black bottles and jars looked out of place in my beach house and it drove me crazy," explains Donna, whose airy Hamptons home is awash in shades of white. "I thought, if I have this problem, so must other women." So now there's a choice. Because staying neutral should always be an option.

You are invited to preview The Naturals, exclusively at Tangs, from 1 Jan '96. The first 1,000 patrons to visit the Donna Karan fragrance counter at Tangs with a copy of this souvenir program will receive a sample of Donna Karan's Cashmere Body Lotion, while stocks last.



3 FAT VIRGINS UNASSEMBLED

By Ovidia Yu

For Pat Chan

Director
IVAN HENG

Project Manager
FELICIA WOO

Technical Manager
TAY HUEY MENG

Stage Concept/Visualisation
WILLIAM TEO

Set Construction
SEBASTIAN ZENG

Lighting Designer
LEE CHENG HENG

Lighting Operator
ANNABEL TAN

Sound Operator
ELISHA LOW

Stage Manager
RABITA JAMAL

Asst Stage Managers
ELISHA LOW & WENDY CHAK

FOH Managers
VINCENT JITCHEN L., STEVEN LAU WAN LOONG &
SOH PEI FERN

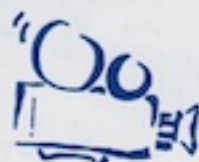
Wardrobe/Foyer Installation Art
EVE TAN

Programme Editor/Coordinator
SHARMINI FERNANDO

Box Office Consultant
ELSIE SIM

Backstage Helpers
HAYDEN NG & YANG





W.O.W International is a Theatre & Broadcast Event Producer.

Our outfit provides Consultation and Production Services for promotions, marketing and entertainment programmes focusing mainly on Broadcast Standard Videos and Theatre incorporating music, dance & drama.



W.O.W International

In the video arena, we have produced MTVs, Corporate Documentaries, TV Programme Trailers/Commercials, Dramatised Training Programmes and the Opening Ceremony Videos for the 1995 Singapore Quality Award and Productivity Campaign: Innovation and Quality. This year we also produced the 2-day live transmission of Television Programme Previews for Singapore CableVision.



In Theatre, we specialise in creating One-Act plays specially devised for Corporate clients that have included Tan Chong Motors, NPB and Singapore Technologies. We definitely look forward to develop more training tools of this nature.

The bulk of theatre productions grew from a personal interest. W.O.W International is optimistic that drama can be a viable Arts business.



In the last 2 years, the new productions of "Private Parts" & "Army Daze", both by Michael Chiang, reached 30,000 people in total for a combined theatre run of 6 weeks for 50 performances.





The support spells well for the sponsors who were all private individuals. I take this opportunity to thank them for their faith in and support of W.O.W International. I hope for more patrons of the Arts who may like to be part of our outreach programme to make theatre-going a thoroughly enjoyable and thought provoking experience.

For 1996, we're originating an exciting piece of theatre for the Singapore Festival of Arts in June. "Your Singapore, My Hong Kong, Whose Country?" is a play in English, Cantonese & Mandarin with participation from Hong Kong TV & Film actors in collaboration with The Singapore National Arts Council.

This Singaporean production will be written jointly by Singapore and Hong Kong playwrights. The play is a funny, yet hard-hitting social drama that tackles the issue of new emigrants in Singapore. In a larger context, the play universalises the trauma of being a transient citizen pressured to accept and assimilate a new cultural or national identity in a short span of time. Do join us for the premiere of "Your Singapore, My Hong Kong, Whose Country?" at the 1996 Singapore Festival of Arts. Leave us your personal particulars if you would like to be on our mailing list.

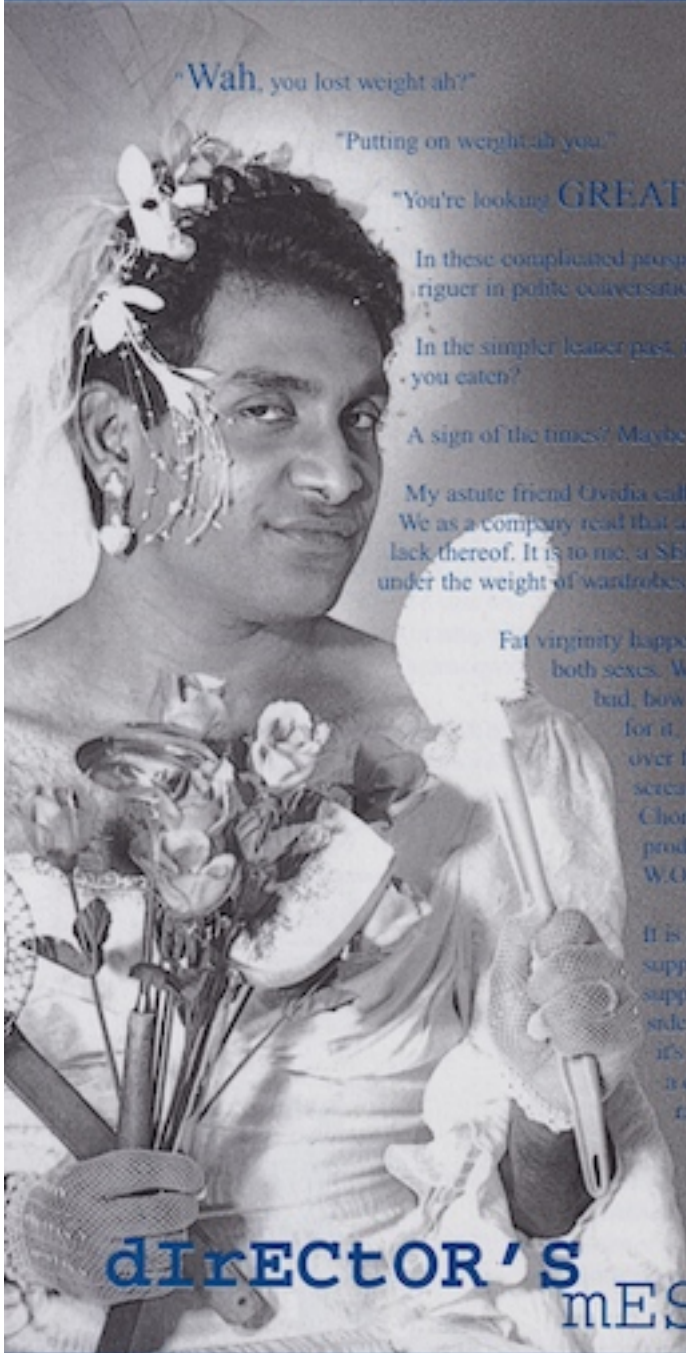
Today's performance, "3 Fat Virgins Unassembled" is a nostalgic get-together for many dear friends - practitioners like myself who had started when the Singapore theatre scene was still struggling for recognition & legitimacy.

Director, Ivan Heng, was in the original cast of "Army Daze" which I directed in 1986, and William Teo, the Visualiser for the Sets & Costumes, co-directed "Rashomon" with me in 1987 for TheatreWorks; their talent certainly gave this revamped production of "3 Fat Virgins Unassembled" a certain magic & oomph. I'm sure you'll also be cheered by the cast's exuberant performance as you'll be witnessing an acting ensemble that is made up of some of the most talented actors working in theatre here in Singapore.

I would like to thank TheatreWorks and Ovidia Yu for allowing us to stage the play, and also AWARE for contributing their key thoughts to women's issues in our programme.

For now, get ready for an eye-opening roller coaster ride into the drama of trying to be the Singapore Super woman.





"Wah, you lost weight ah?"

"Putting on weight ah you?"

"You're looking GREAT!"

In these complicated prospering days, these phrases are de-riguer in polite conversation, every greeting practically.

In the simpler leaner past, it used to be *chi hao ma?* or have you eaten?

A sign of the times? Maybe.

My astute friend Ovidia calls it the age self-consciousness. We as a company read that as SELF-consciousness, and the lack thereof. It is to me, a SELF-consciousness that crumbles under the weight of wardrobes, great institutions and vanity.

Fat virginity happens. It happens to men and women, both sexes. What it is, whether it is good or bad, how it happens and who is responsible for it, is something we have chewed over for the last two months (It's been a scream everyone, thank you Suiw Chong, Wilham, Sebastian, my super production team and everybody at W.O.W.).

It is my only hope that if you go for supper tonight, i.e. when you go for supper tonight, it might be at least a side dish in the proceedings. And oh, it's deliciously funny too. At best like a double chocolate truffle cake, with razor blades.

Enjoy!

director's
mESSaGe

director
Ivan
heng



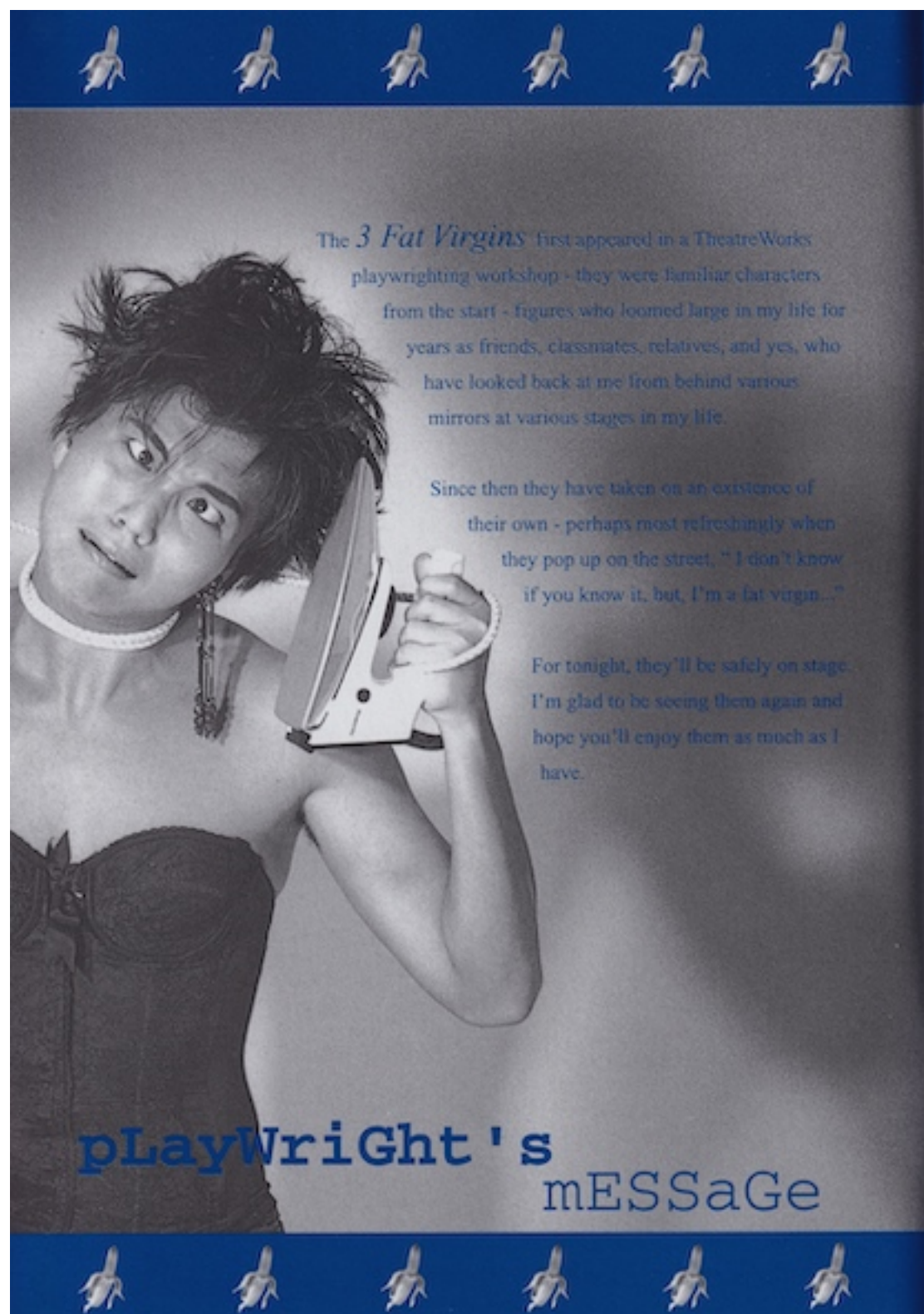
Ivan Heng grew up in Siglap in the company of strong Singapore women. After completing his law degree, he confused them by taking the plunge into theatre, acting, directing, and recently writing. He likes Gilda Ma and so designed a set for her *Capricious* (Necessary Stages) and directed *The Woman in a Tree on the Hill* which won them the prestigious Fringe First and the New Names of 1993 Award at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Ivan enjoys the reputation of being the first Singaporean to take off all

his clothes on stage without being arrested and the first BAT Arts Scholar. In 1993, he graduated from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, winning the Royal Lyceum Theatre Award (Best Shakespeare Performance), the Margaret Gordon Prize (Best Final Year Performance) and the Dorothy James Prize (Outstanding Studentship). He now lives and works in the UK as a starving artist.

In the summer of '94, Ivan embarked on a new adventure in playwriting. *Journey West*, his one man show won the Spirit of the Fringe Award in Edinburgh this year and was recently picked as Time Out's Critic's Choice. It will play Singapore, Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur in January 1996, before touring Canada, Germany and Belgium.





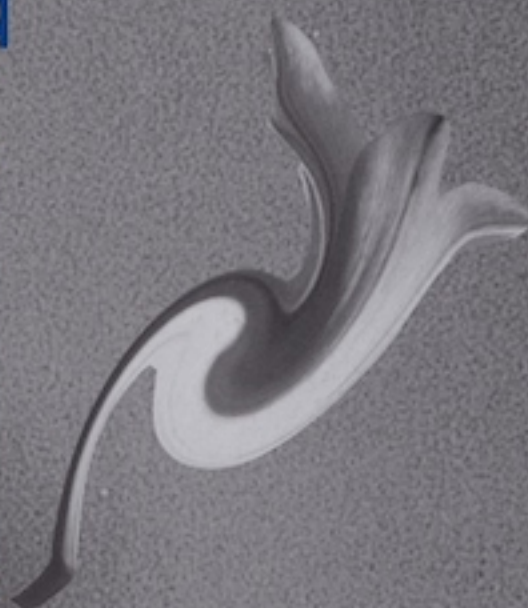
The *3 Fat Virgins* first appeared in a TheatreWorks playwrighting workshop - they were familiar characters from the start - figures who loomed large in my life for years as friends, classmates, relatives, and yes, who have looked back at me from behind various mirrors at various stages in my life.

Since then they have taken on an existence of their own - perhaps most refreshingly when they pop up on the street. "I don't know if you know it, but, I'm a fat virgin..."

For tonight, they'll be safely on stage. I'm glad to be seeing them again and hope you'll enjoy them as much as I have.

pLayWriGht 's
mESSaGe

PLAYwright
Ovidia
yu



Ovidia Yu started writing while in Methodist Girls' School at the age of 17. Her first stage piece was performed when she was in Anglo-Chinese Junior College.

She has to her credit 2 novels which are *Miss Maorby Investigates* and *The Maorby Marathon*. Her short stories have been published in *A Taste of Asian Fiction*, *The*

Singapore Sting, *The Fiction of Singapore* (*Anthology of ASEAN Literatures*), *Tales of the Living Tales of the Dead* and *Mistress*. The 17 plays that Ovidia has written, have been performed by TheatreWorks, The Necessary Stage, Action Theatre, Arts and Acts and

Wayang-Wayang Theatre Company in Singapore, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Glasgow, Edinburgh as Cafe Theatre and televised in Singapore.





Tan Kheng Hua, is neither

fat nor a *virgin*.

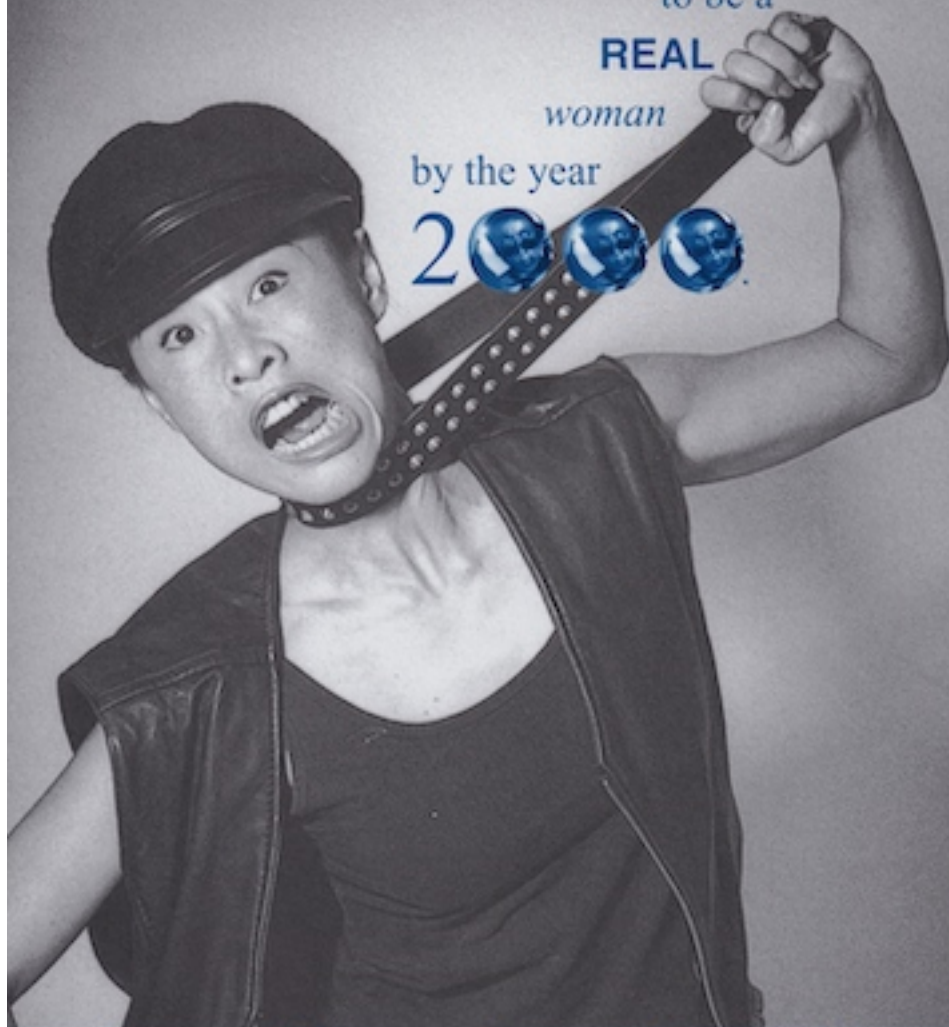
She hopes
to be a

REAL

woman

by the year

2000.



W O M A N Tan Kheng Hua

Tan Kheng Hua was once an acrobat, juggling a full-time day career in Marketing Services and a part-time night career as an enthusiastic young actor. No longer that young, but still as enthusiastic, she performed her most death-defying feat to date when she plunged full-time into acting almost two years ago, forsaking the safety net of a regular job. Performing in two rings, or just one, life remains a circus, and Kheng Hua lives to fill it with more and more amazing adventures.

Audiences may have seen her on stage as Lulu in *Beauty World*, Lucia in *Mad Forest*, Andromeda in *Trojan Women*, Chao Long in *The Moon is Let's Bright*, The sisters in *Lao Jiu*, Ellen Foh in both *Mergers and Acquisitions* as well as the recent *Billy and Susannah*, Edward in *Pro are*



Parts and May in Kampong Amber among others.

On television, she is known to have redefined the term *Alcoholic* in her role as Andrea Cheng in *Masters of The Sea* and *Troubled Waters*.

In real life, Kheng Hua lives on kaya bread, grapes, Ruffles Potato Chips and late-night video watching, and lives with actor-husband Lim Yu-Beng.





“But Mum, it's an experiment for science. I didn't mean to kill them. I thought I could discover a new way to make them **grow** better.”

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The advertisement features a man with a mustache, smiling and flexing his right arm. He is wearing a white lace-trimmed nightgown. In his right hand, he holds a small can of 'VEGETABLE' seasoning, which has the word 'VEGETABLE' and Chinese characters '蔬菜粉' on its label. A blue-tinted inset photograph shows the same man eating a banana. The entire advertisement is framed by a dark blue border at the top and bottom, each containing a row of six small banana icons.

VIRGINA Lim Yu-Beng

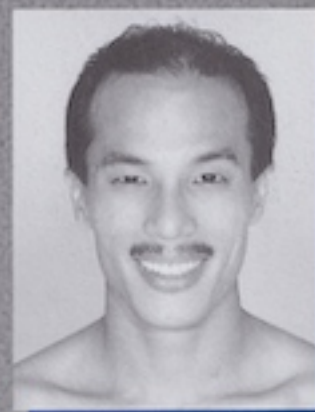
Presently a Freelance actor and Theatre Practitioner, Yu-Beng sits on the Board of Members of TheatreWorks (S) Ltd where he worked full time for five years as Technical Manager. During this time, while supervising the technical mounting of all the company's productions, he somehow managed to squeeze in time to act and direct as well, providing him much joy and fulfilment, at the expense of thousands of hairs.

Among the more significant roles he's played are Peter in *As If He Hears*, Huat in *The Moon is Less Bright*, Radu in *Mad Forest*, Alban in *The Lady of Soul* and Her Ultimate "S" Machine, The Singer in *Longing*, Dianne in *Will You Be There?*, Gowazaki in *Broken Birds* all Theatreworks productions.

He recently sang the lead role of Derrick in the NTUC musical, *Land of a Thousand Dreams*, last June, and played the outrageous Sgt. Mok in WOW International's April production of *Army Daze*.

Yu-Beng has directed *Long Green Socks*, *One Year Back Home*, *Bernard's Story*, *Sammy Won't Go To School*, *Cetacea*, *Breaking Through* and *A Night Out With Michael Chiang* also for Theatreworks.

In 1994, he was awarded the British Council Fellowship by the British Council in Singapore.



Television audiences will recognize him most recently as CID Detective Sgt. Alan Leong, from the current TCS Police series, *Triple 9*.

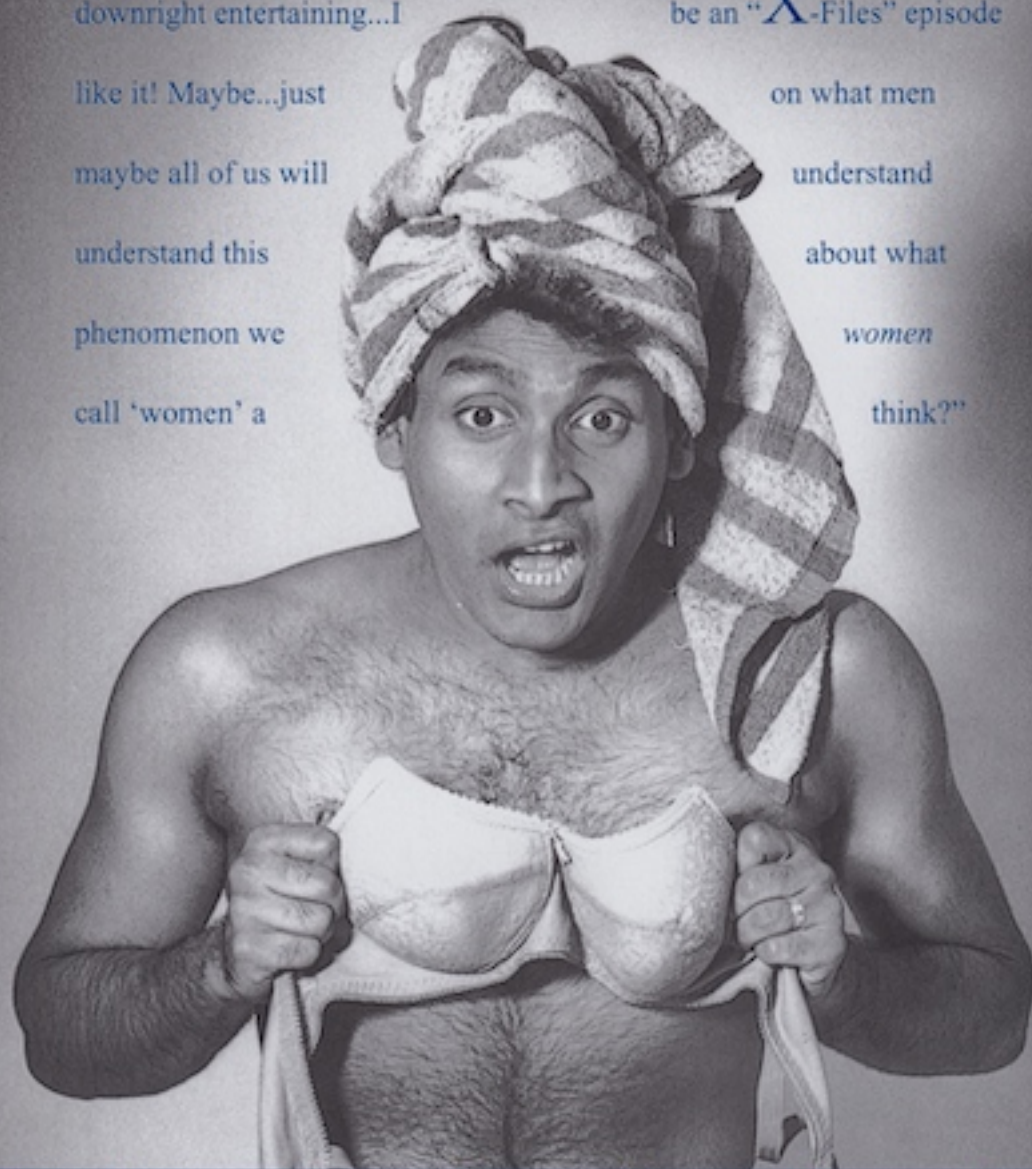


"The play is fuNny, provoking and
downright entertaining...I

little better. Maybe there should
be an "X-Files" episode

like it! Maybe...just
maybe all of us will
understand this
phenomenon we
call 'women' a

on what men
understand
about what
women
think?"



VIRGIN C
Ferlin
jayatissa



Getting off the Sinaran express from KL, seven years ago, Ferlin didn't quite expect to be still here. He shocked himself by preferring to cavort with crimes and contracts rather than with cadavers and cataracts. The choice, nevertheless, gave him time to pursue his deeper, darker desires. A monster was created. He tormented NUS as director (*Deathtrap*), actor (*The Good Doctor*) and choreographer. Insatiable, he infiltrated the unsuspecting Singapore theatre scene in multiple disguises through *Army Daze*, *Best Foot Forward*, *Sweeney 2*, *Love, Food & Babes* and most recently, *The Breakfast Club*. An obsessive and optimistic creature, he hopes to steadily perpetrate more of such misdeeds in the future and hopefully, get better at it. He prays no one will find out.



“

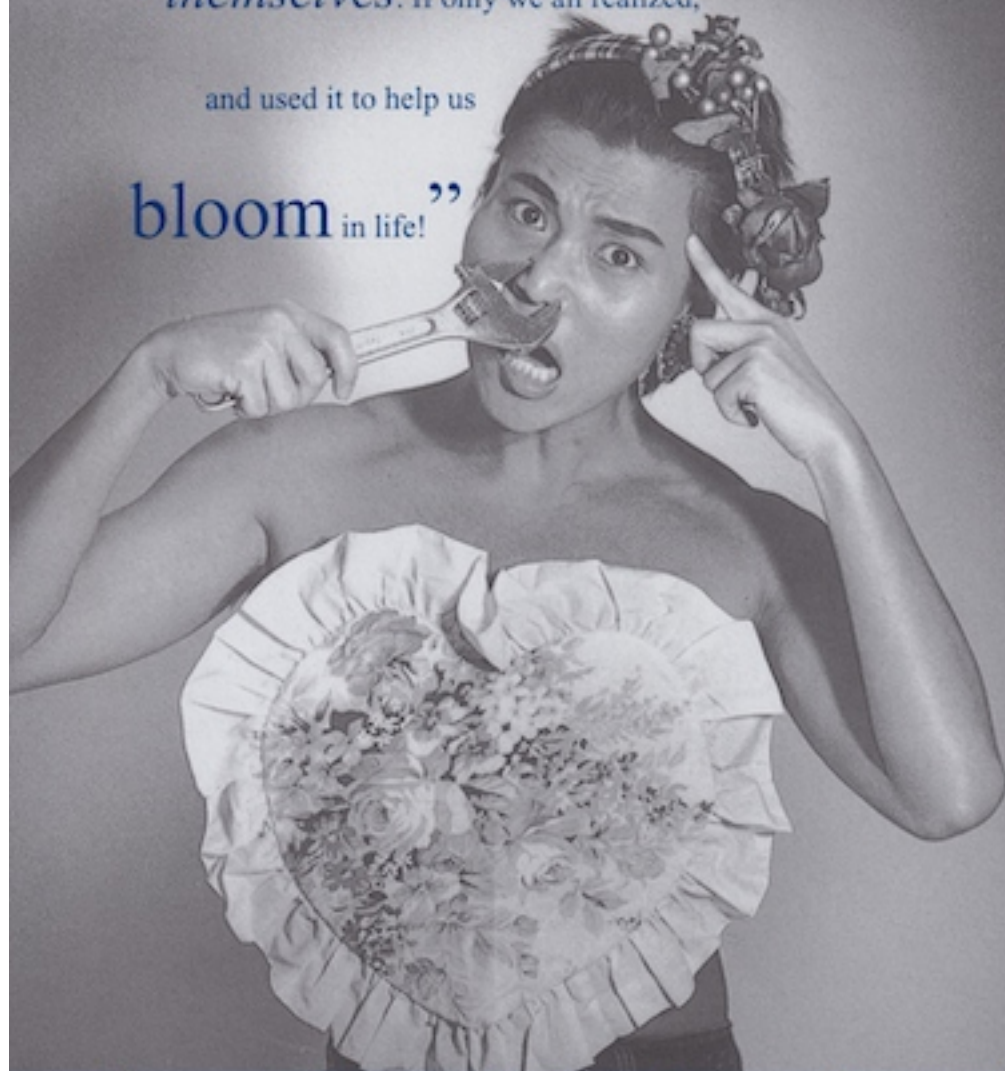
The age of **Self**-consciousness is a

time that everyone goes through within

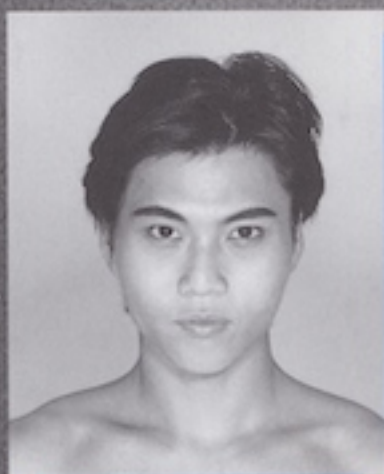
themselves. If only we all realized,

and used it to help us

bloom in life!”



V I R G I N B
Ernest
seah





Ernest has been a fashion designer and stylist for more than 15 years and loves to eat, eat and eat ... and act.

Ernest received his acting training from the Singapore American Drama Association, the New School of Drama in Toronto and the Lee Strasberg Theatre in New York.

His acting background is absolutely varied, having played roles from that of a Go-Go Dancer in *A Deeper Love* and a Prostitute in *Bigis Street* to a film director in *Hells Kitchen*. His work in Singapore includes roles in *Private Parts*, *Lest The Demons Get To Me*, *Army Daze* and *Breakfast Club*. Television audiences would remember him as Ekachai in TCS drama serial *Troubled Waters* and Ramond Tan, a murderer in *Triple 9*.



- 
- 
- Scene 1:* Woman at Tea
Scene 2: Woman at Work
Scene 3: Woman at Home
Scene 4: Woman With Another
woman's husband
Scene 5: Socialites
Scene 6: Woman at Home:
All we do is eat



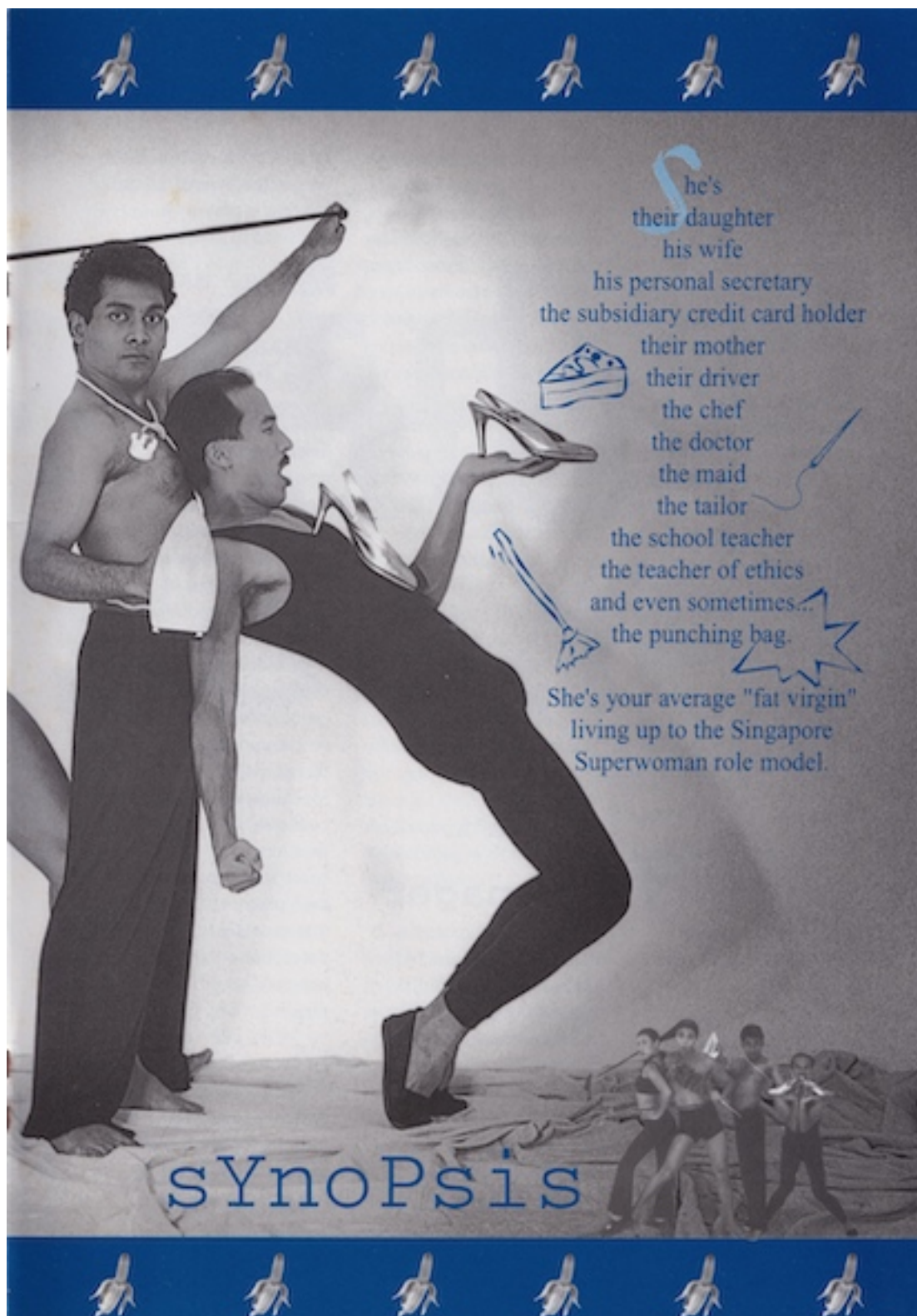
-
- Scene 7:* Aspiring Women
Scene 8: Woman who walk out
Scene 9: Woman and God
Scene 10: Woman in love
Scene 11: Wise Woman
Scene 12: Foolish Woman
Scene 13: Magic Beans
Scene 14: Agony Aunt
Scene 15: Real women
Scene 16: Virgin Forest



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She's
their daughter
his wife
his personal secretary
the subsidiary credit card holder
their mother
their driver
the chef
the doctor
the maid
the tailor
the school teacher
the teacher of ethics
and even sometimes...
the punching bag.
She's your average "fat virgin"
living up to the Singapore
Superwoman role model.

sYnoPsis



LEE CHENG HENG - Lighting Designer

A number of productions have been lit by Cheng Heng. These have included those by WOW (*Private Parts*), and Theatreworks' *Beauty World*, and *Way of Violence*. He has also been involved in the productions of other theatre companies such as the Singapore Lyric Theatre's *Rigoletto*, and *Tosca*, and the Necessary Stage's *Love, Food and Babies*. He was also the lighting designer for *Graduation Ball* (Singapore Dance Theatre), and *Drunken Prawns and other delicacies* (Action Theatre).

RABITA JAMAL- Stage Manager

Rabita is comfortable with backstage and frontstage work, having had extensive experience in both. Her backstage work includes the stage management for the second run of *Lest The Demons Get To Me* (W.O.W Cafe Theatre), Assistant Stage Manager for *Army Daze* (W.O.W), props

management for *Kampong Amber* (Singapore Festival of Arts, 1994), and *A River in Time* (NTUC Labour Day concert, 1995). Frontstage, she has been heavily involved in designing and operating lighting for a number of productions. She has lit *Dance Extravaganza* (NUS Centre for the Arts), *Playground* (NUS Arts Festival, 1995), *The Odd Couple* (Varsity Playhouse), *The Chosen One* (The Necessary Stage), *An Evening of Opera* (Lyric Theatre), *Tales from the East* (Playact Productions, YPT), and *Jeeva Gannum* (Ngee Ann Polytechnic Annual Indian Cultural Festival).

VINCENT JITCHEN L.- FOH Manager

Vincent's involvement with theatre started since 1988. He has managed many major Singapore productions including "Beauty World", "Private Parts", "Army Daze" and most recently, "Mortal Sins". Vincent was also the Front-of-House Manager

for this production in 1992. An auditor by profession, Vincent is presently seconded to London for Article Ship as Chartered Accountant.

SEBASTIAN ZENG- Set- Construction

Sebastian Zeng is no newcomer to the local theatre scene and has designed more than 50 stage productions in dance, drama, opera, mime and musicals since 1989. As part of a design partnership with William Teo in many theatre productions, he has produced visually stunning set pieces as exemplified in this year's "The Mahabharata" which ran continuously in 3 different locations. Sets were specifically designed for each place, using different materials, scale, colour and decorations, thus providing perspectives of the same play.

He feels that theatre is a collaborative art that a stage designer contributes an integral approach to the production, enhancing



qualities of the play through symbols, objects and backdrop.

WILLIAM TEO- Stage Concept/ Visualisation

In 1980, William Teo, artistic director of Asia in Theatre Research Centre, was exposed to Cambodian History in France. This was the first step to the realisation of a dream which he and a talented group of cast and crew have set out to create; a theatre that transcends nationalities and cultures. Since then, ATRC has staged several productions based on the works of Akatagawa, Brecht, Euripides, Gogol and others.

From ATRC'S first production "The House of Bernada Alba" in 1987, to "Medea", "The Conference of the Birds" and "Mother Courage" in 1989, ATRC's goal has always been towards a fusion of the various rich Eastern traditional theatre forms. Their plays have been held

in the humid outdoors, in disused warehouses and in parks. Magic. "Free yourself from the luxury of purpose-built, air-conditioned theatres and resensitise yourself to your natural surroundings" seems to be ATRC's dictum towards a more interactive theatre.

For the past few years, William has travelled to various Asian countries to understand their history and culture. He is no camera-happy tourist in these foreign lands however. For the ATRC, travel is synonymous with research. And research, often involves trekking through Thailand, living amongst the hill tribes near the Burmese Border and hobnobbing with Balinese mask-makers!

In February this year, Mr Teo launched Project Aspara. This project will involve two to three years of experimentation with international actors. Its aim is to mould a theatre, through the exchange of ideas, which will cut across cultural boundaries. It will

culminate in the production of THE CREATION: THE HISTORICAL TRAGEDY OF CAMBODIA - THE YEAR 0020. In the process, Project Aspara will recreate the Hindu Epic, THE MAHABHARATA. The Mahabharata is part of the Cambodian tale and has been accepted as part of the national culture of Cambodia for many years. With Project Aspara, ATRC desires a meaningful exchange of ideas with the Cambodians, to learn from their art, their spirit and their strength.





and a

ARE YOU *FEMINIST* MATERIAL?

Try our little quiz to test how "AWARE" you are!

- Q. Do you know any feminists?
- Q. Do you think feminism is a "bad" word?
- Q. Do you quiver and shake at the thought of a feminist approaching you?
- Q. Do you think that all feminists are misguided about gender issues and social problems?
- Q. Do you think that all feminists are women with hairy legs, crew-cuts and body odour?
- Q. Does it detract from the issues if some are?

If your answer is YES to any of the above, then do pick up a leaflet in the foyer and come to AWARE'S next forum - perhaps we can change your mind!



AWARE is

- a social services organisation where women may turn to for help, counselling and legal advice ;
- a place where women and men may meet and share experiences with women and men from all ages, races and walks of life ;
- an activist group which looks into women's and social issues and advocates for change to bring about a more just and equal society ;
- an association which is raising awareness of women's status and rights so as to remove stereotyped concepts of the role of men and women at all levels.

Drop by and be more aware of AWARE :

AWARE

Blk 5, Dover Crescent #01-22

Tel: 7797137

Helpline no: 1800-774-5935 (4pm to 10pm)



Acknowledgements

SPECIAL THANKS TO

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Susan, Allan & Letty of



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Mr David Paddon of



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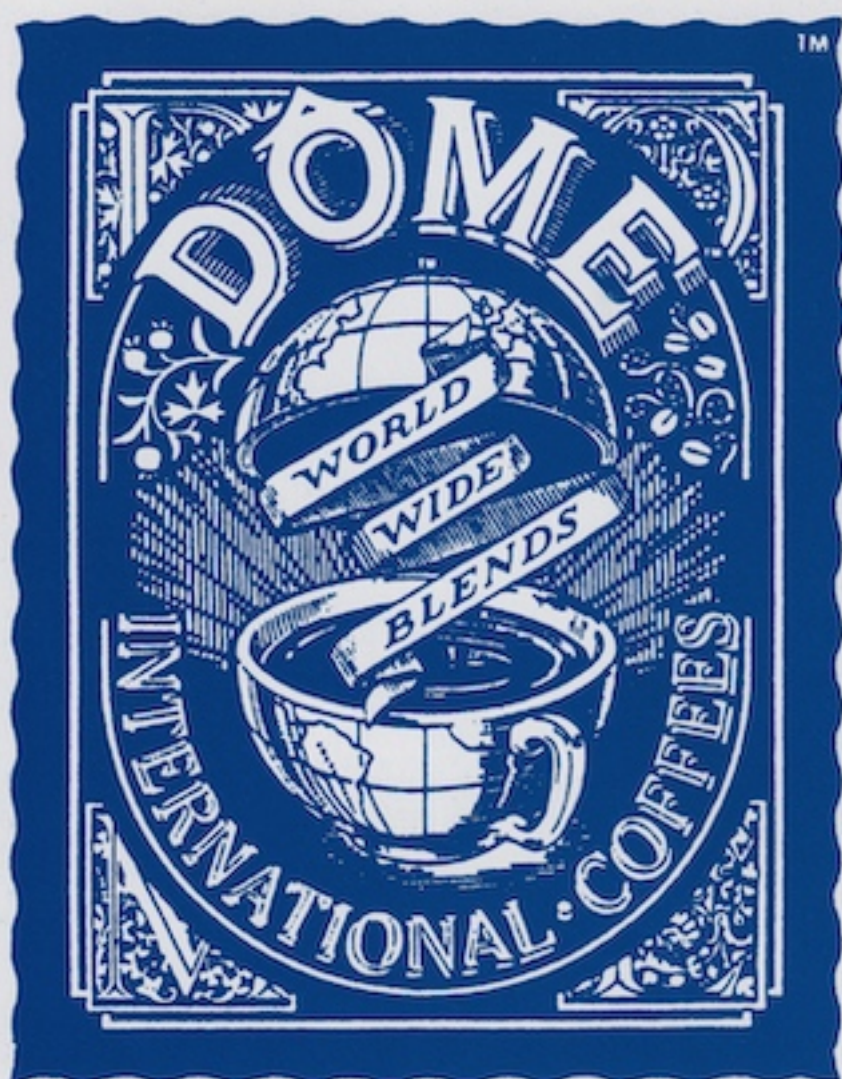
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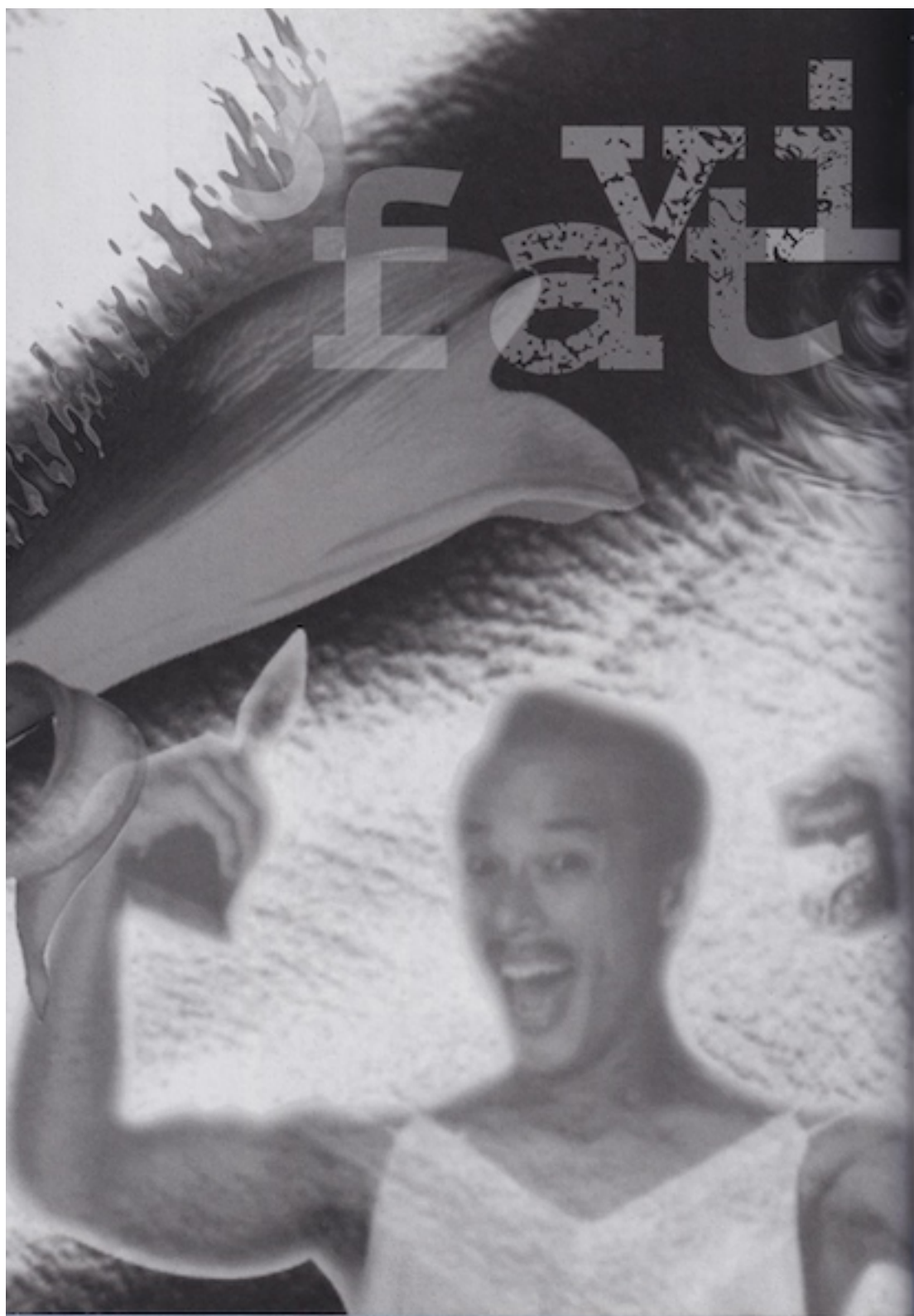
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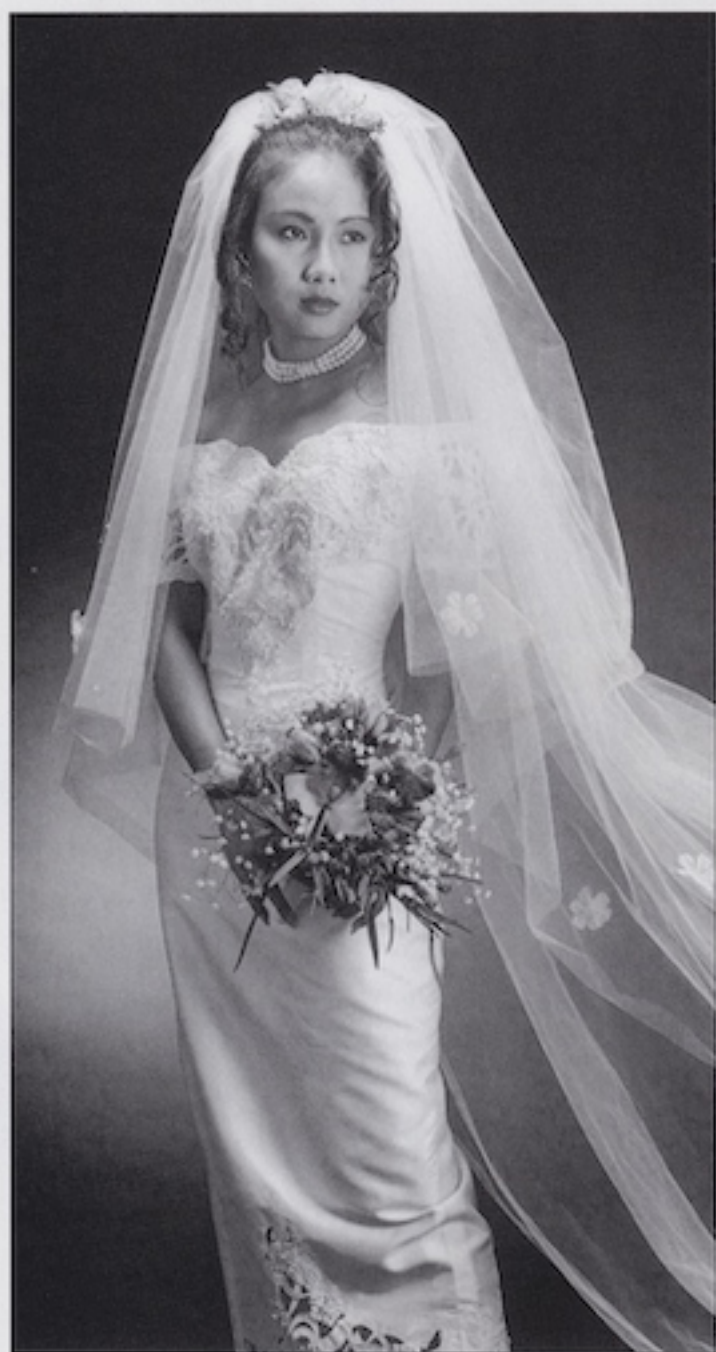
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