

Singapore
Arts Festival
2012
Our Lost Poems
18 May - 2 June

FESTIVAL GUIDE
STORIES, LEGENDS AND MYTHS COME ALIVE AT THE SINGAPORE ARTS FESTIVAL 2012.
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CONTENTS

FOREWORD	7
TICKETED PROGRAMMES	
● The Flight of the Jade Bird	8
● 男男自语	10
● Ciudades Paralelas (Parallel Cities)	12
● 兰芳记 Lan Fang Chronicles 2012	16
● Very Wagnerian Night	18
● dance/film	22
● They Only Come at Night: Pandemic	24
● End of the Road	26
● The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle	28
● Advanced Studies in ... (Ten Lessons for Life)	29
● The Best Sex I've Ever Had	30
● LEAR DREAMING	32
● Vertical Road	34
● Rite(s) of Spring	36
FREE PROGRAMMES	
● World of Stories	38
● Platform Campus — Circle Lines	40
● 共作室 OPEN-STUDIO 2012 Featuring SONGBIRD	41
● Flux	42
● Bridge Café Project	44
● DREAM COUNTRY — a lost monologue	46
● The Book of Living and Dying	48
● XII — In Search of 13	49
FESTIVAL VILLAGE	50
More Artists	52
KIDS ARTS VILLAGE	62
Tangle / The Young Ones! Performance Showcase / Spooky Stories by Children / Splash Art and Crafts	64
COM.MUNE	66
Workshops / Masterclasses / Libraries Extension / Up Close With...	
IN ASSOCIATION EVENTS	72
ARTSFEST CLUB & SUPER FAN CONTEST	78
TICKETING & DISCOUNTS	79
FESTIVAL CALENDAR	80
LOCATION MAP & LISTING	84
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	85



LEAR DREAMING

CONCEIVED & DIRECTED BY
ONG KENG SEN (SG)

PRODUCED BY
THEATREWORKS (SG)

HERE'S TO ART IN AN AGE OF MADNESS!

- 🕒 31 May & 1 Jun
8:00PM (90 mins)
- 📍 SOTA Drama Theatre
- 💰 \$45, \$25

● THEATRE

Performed in Bahasa Indonesia, Japanese, Korean and Mandarin with English surtitles.

Post-show dialogue after every performance.

SEEKING MORE LIMELIGHT?

Catch a set design Masterclass by award-winning scenographer and architect Justin Hill. More info on pg 68.

LEAR DREAMING

AND THIS IS ABOUT...

...Shakespeare's *King Lear* created as intercultural music theatre by eminent Asian artists.

In *Lear*, TheatreWorks' artistic director Ong Keng Sen had a vision, one where he imagined Shakespeare's greatest tragedy as a juxtaposition of different Asian cultures, languages and art forms, both traditional and contemporary. It was an ambitious notion but Ong accomplished it. Upon its 1997 premiere in Japan, it quickly became a groundbreaking intercultural theatre production, and subsequently performed to nine cities in the Asia-Pacific and Europe.

In 2012, *LEAR DREAMING* distils this Shakespearean tragedy on patriarchy and succession through the purity of Japanese Noh theatre. You will enter the mind of a past king and access his memories.

The timing for such a production is apt. In our present time when giants can fall and lines of authority are redrawn, the turbulence encapsulating *Lear's* humanity, time's passing and

transience becomes an allegory of the world today.

GO FOR LEAR DREAMING...

...to discover probing observations of human nature and kinship through various Asian art forms.

...to enjoy Asian dynamism as the region's brightest music stars¹ from different backgrounds come together in an artistic alchemy.

...if you wish to catch Noh master Umewaka Naohiko in action as he reprises his role as Lear 15 years later. In *LEAR DREAMING*, he is the only actor onstage surrounded by a host of musicians from all.

AND THE MASTERMIND BEHIND LEAR DREAMING IS...

...2010 Fukuoka Prize for Arts and Culture recipient Ong Keng Sen, known for vibrantly infusing Asian and Western traditions in his work.

Ong's philosophy of creating performances across cultures, languages and politics has led to his increasingly prominent presence at major arts festivals and cultural institutions in Asia, Australia, Europe and the United States.

¹ **Wu Man** - Exponent, Contemporary / Classical Pipa Music

Kang Kwon Soon - Vocalist, Jungja (classical Korean court music)

Toru Yamanaka - Sonic Artist, former associate of Dumb Type and composer for numerous productions with Ong Keng Sen

Piterman - Composer and Vocalist specialising in Mwang (the indigenous people of West Sumatra) Music Theatre

Rahayu Supanggah - Gamelan (Indonesian music) Composer who created music for *Lear* and Robert Wilson's *La Galigo*



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