

In Partnership with

THEATREWORKS



THREE INCHES OF ALIVE

Is it possible to know a person whom you have never met?

Touring the South East District from
26 February to 21 March 2015

Written by
Clarilyn Khoo

Directed by
Irfan Kasban

Performed by
Gyan Lee & Siti Zuraida

Set Design by
Gerald Leow

FREE ADMISSION



Three Inches of Alive is the winning play of the 24-Hour Playwriting Competition 2014 (Open Category) and is presented as part of TheatreWorks' Writing & Community Programme, in partnership with the South East Community Development Council

WRITING & COMMUNITY

- Is a process-based writing programme designed for the community
- Seeks out potential playwrights from within the community through the annual 24-Hour Playwriting Competition
- Invites theatre professionals to work on the winning scripts from the competition and develop them into full productions
- Provides pre-competition workshops / talks to harness potential creativity from the community
- Nurtures and develops winning playwrights
- Return these productions to the community with an annual performance tour with free performances in the community, primarily of the South East District
- Enables the plays to become the catalyst for the community to reflect and discuss important issues related to living in Singapore

The presentation of *THREE INCHES OF ALIVE* is part of TheatreWorks' **Writing & Community** in partnership with the South East Community Development Council to nurture and develop new playwrights from the community. **Writing & Community** is a holistic, unique writing programme that serves the community through harnessing individual talents and creatives.

Writing & Community is a strand of TheatreWorks Engagement to encourage audience appreciation of the Arts, and deepen the knowledge of its patrons as well as stakeholders.

For more information on Writing & Community, please visit http://www.theatreworks.org.sg/singapore/the_writers_lab/writing_community/index.htm

Synopsis

Born to an English father and a Malay mother, Leila 'Anjung' Keats is an unprecedented figure in local history and considered to be one of the pioneers of Malaya. However, shortly after her death, the archivist investigating her life finds some curious inconsistencies. Of particular note is an art piece of mysterious origin and an untitled ghazal beginning with the cryptic refrain, 'Give me your hand'.

As he reads Leila's journals, the archivist is increasingly drawn into the details of her life.

Is truth subjective? Are the margins of history wide enough to contain the depth and breadth of a human life? *THREE INCHES OF ALIVE* explores the nature of history and the individual's place in it, questioning the objectivity of collected facts.

Playwright's Message

As I write this, two of my characters are speaking, arguing, laughing, moving, living and breathing about fifteen feet to my left. It is magical. There is something about the process of making theatre i.e. transforming words into story; cast and crew working together to breathe a pocket universe into existence - is utterly magical. And it is always a privilege to be a part of that process. So I really hope that you, the audience, will enjoy the performance while getting to know the characters and find something within this play that speaks to you (whatever it may be).

I am deeply grateful to the many people who have worked extremely hard to make *Three Inches of Alive* far more beautiful and amazing than it originally was. A big thank you to TheatreWorks for giving this play the opportunity to be heard; to Irfan, Ayda, Gyan, and Siti Zuraida for bringing Anjung and her Archivist to life with energy and compassion; to Gerald for investing the Keats house with detail and elegance; to Brendan and TheatreWorks team for their meticulousness and patience.

Many thanks also go to my family, for putting up with my long nights out at the theatre; to my dysfunctional fellowships, for their support and nonsense; to the various writing and drama friends as well as the good people of Checkpoint Theatre, for all you've taught me and all the art we have shared. I owe an immense debt to Mr Ken Mizusawa, for not judging all the ridiculous things I wrote in secondary school. Lastly, I thank God for the spark and the words.

Clarilyn Khoo

Director's Message

I would like to thank everyone for making time to attend this performance, and with that sharing this experience we call theatre. I am very honoured to have been asked to direct this beautifully written piece by Clarilyn, and the work put in by the collaborators, cast and crew. This gratitude should be of no surprise as the play speaks volumes about recognition, where it is due. It was my intention to create a poignant yet accessible piece of work to support the ideals of the play. I hope by the end of the performance, we see people not as characters but a crashing wave in the ebb and flow of time.

Irfan Kasban





Clarilyn Khoo
Playwright

Clarilyn first began writing in Primary Three, when an English picture composition got rather too far-fetched and was near given an 'F' for its cliché ending. Thanks to many patient teachers since then, she has become an avid writer who write poetry, prose, drama, things-in-between, and has been actively involved in student theatre productions. A reading of her short play *Silent Light* was performed as part of Writing Lab 2014. She is, among other things, an undergraduate of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at NUS, and extremely grateful to have the opportunity to see *Three Inches Of Alive* staged.



Siti Zuraida
Actor

Siti Z has been seriously dabbling in theatre for more than a decade. From her early teens as an accidental replacement in a school play, to someone who has seen many roles both onstage and off. After more than half a lifetime worth of theatre, Siti Z has come to a solid conclusion - theatre is the one thing that she cannot keep her hands off. She has worked extensively with other arts organisations such as Dramaplus, D'Rama Arts, Teater Artistik, Teater Ekamatra, The Voice, Cake, iTheatre and Panggung Arts.



Irfan Kasban
Director / Lighting Designer

Irfan's first theatre piece *CLASSIFIED: Projek Congkak* won Best Script and the Challenge Trophy at Teater Ekamatra's 2006 inter-tertiary theatre competition. He then wrote and directed *Genap 40*, which received raved reviews in 2007. He was commissioned by M1 Singapore Fringe Festival to stage his debut full-length English play *We Live in a Box* in 2009. Aside from showcasing at the Singapore Arts Festival 2010, his work *W.C.* explores comfort and boundaries.



Gerald Leow
Set Designer

Gerald Leow is a set designer and visual artist. He uses found objects from the cultural landscape and reworks them to shed light on the problematic nature of authenticity, culture and identity. His interests include anthropology and the study of material cultures.



Gyan Lee
Actor

An actor, writer, martial artist and comic, Gyan has tackled many different roles. With two award winning commercials, he is well known as the M1 head bobbing guy and the fishmonger who talks too fast; the latter a special mention in 8 Days magazine. His roles on stage has seen him in the 2005 fringe festival where he played Mr L, garnering good reviews in The Straits Times Lifer. He is often seen playing in various children shows, travelling schools expounding the virtues of society. He is training to be a clown doctor and will be seen in hospitals spreading laughter.



Images by Kong Chang Yew

About South East Community Development Council

The South East Community Development Council (CDC) was set up on 24 November 2001. It oversees the Marine Parade Group Representative Constituency (GRC), East Coast GRC, Joo Chiat Single Member Constituency (SMC), Mountbatten SMC and Potong Pasir SMC, and serves a population of about half a million residents.

At the helm of South East CDC is Mayor Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, who steers efforts in achieving the three strategic thrusts that guide the work of the CDCs. Termed the 'ABCs of Community Bonding' - Assisting the Needy, Bonding with the People and Connecting with the Community - South East CDC initiates and manages programmes in collaboration with both community and corporate partners along these three strategic thrusts, so as to nurture a vibrant and self-reliant community.

Catch *THREE INCHES OF ALIVE* at ...

Mountbatten Community Club, Performance Centre
35 Jalan Satu

26 February 2015, Thu, 8pm

27 February 2015, Fri, 3pm

27 February 2015, Fri, 8pm

28 February 2015, Sat, 3pm

Malay Heritage Centre, Auditorium
85 Sultan Gate

13 March 2015, Fri, 8pm

14 March 2015, Sat, 3pm

14 March 2015, Sat, 8pm

15 March 2015, Sun, 3pm

Siglap South Community Centre, Multi Purpose Hall
6 Palm Road

20 March 2015, Fri, 3pm

20 March 2015, Fri, 8pm

21 March 2015, Sat, 3pm

Visit our blog at <http://writingandcommunity2015.wordpress.com> for news and updates about the production

THREE INCHES OF ALIVE Team

Playwright	Clarilyn Khoo
Director & Lighting Designer	Irfan Bin Kasban
Performers	Gyan Lee Siti Zuraida
Set Designer	Gerald Leow
Publicity Designer	Chang Sheau Ling
Production Stage Manager	Nurraidah Noor
Assistant Stage Manager	Htoo Tinzar Hlaing
Production Crew	Abdul Ameer
Production Intern	Lim Weyu

TheatreWorks Team

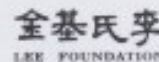
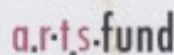
Artistic Director (on leave of absence)	Ong Keng Sen
Managing Director	Tay Tong
Project Manager	Mervyn Quek
Engagement Executive	Brendan Tan
Marketing & Partnerships Executive	Ivan Chng
Administrator	Ong Soo Mei
Finance & Accounts	Rosalyn Zaldua
Engagement Interns	Kathy Lim Lim Ying Bi
Ambassadors' Coordinator	Louisa Villine

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Mountbatten CC
Siglap South CC



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TheatreWorks (S) Ltd is a recipient of the National Arts Council's Major Grant for the period from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2016

And the many others who made this tour possible
Members of the Press & Media
TheatreWorks' dedicated ambassadors and volunteers

Do you have ideas for a play?

Why not take part in our upcoming 24-Hour Playwriting Competition from 6 - 7 Jun 2015 at the Institute of Mental Health! Visit www.theatreworks.org.sg or email Brendan at brendan@theatreworks.org.sg for more details.