

THEATREWORKS

presents

OFF OFF KILTTER

BY RAMESH MEYYAPPAN

A THEATREWORKS - TRON THEATRE CO-PRODUCTION

11-14 OCT 2017
72-13

"A profoundly absorbing
and moving show"

—The Scotsman, Scotland

"Jaw-dropping display of
both pure physical
comedy and magic"

—The List, Glasgow



Photo Credit: Niall Walker

OFF KILTER by Ramesh Meyyappan fits TheatreWorks to a T!

Ramesh is a boundary-pushing artist who is talented and adventurous, an artist who is constantly developing himself and honing his craft. He is an inspiration to many, and very much embodies the TheatreWorks spirit. It is natural that we are co-producing *OFF KILTER*, with Tron Theatre, Glasgow.

OFF KILTER is a story of mental health and of someone feeling *off kilter*. Not a topic much discussed, but one that's direly needed to be. In 2015, the Institute of Mental Health hosted TheatreWorks for our annual 24-Hour Playwriting Competition, and from it, we springboarded a number of productions dealing with mental health. Of note would be *Between Consciousness* – a work exploring a father's struggle with his child living with autism - in 2016, that we presented to a larger community in South East District, and *Grey Matters* in 2017, a Theatre-in-Education which explores stress and mental wellness in youth that continues to be on tour to schools.

OFF KILTER is one such quality and provocative work that provides the impetus for Singapore audiences to reflect on important issues that are rarely discussed and ought to be discussed. Theatre must reflect and interpret the society we live in, and to sound the alarm especially in this current messy world. Theatre must be that voice of conscience to provoke thinking, to offer alternative perspectives, and to provide inspiration and guidance.


We are grateful to the many who have generously shared their art, creativity, and commitment that allows TheatreWorks to have that voice.

We hope you will enjoy this work and thank you for your continued support!

TheatreWorks (Singapore)
11 October 2017



Photo Credit: Neil Walker



The central theme of *Off Kilter* was that feeling that many of us have experienced - the feeling of having 'an off day'. How when our routines are changed we can become unsettled or 'off kilter'. I wanted to explore how a man deals with the descent into mental ill health, loss of identity and how he is perceived and ultimately how we might empathise with Joe Kilter (the character). There is still a stigma around mental health - the invisible illness that often leaves those who suffer with mental health issues feeling increasingly isolated and on the fringes of society.

Mental illness is not widely understood. It is quite complex and for too long it was fairly taboo; we didn't want to discuss what we didn't understand. Terms like 'madness' were used, 'mad people' sent to asylums and underwent barbaric treatments not too long ago. Now there is at least some discussion and a willingness to try to understand. I didn't want to explore the history of mental health. I wanted *Off Kilter* to attempt to join the conversations from a starting point that we all have possibly experienced those moments of not feeling mentally well. With a hint of empathy we might be a little more open to trying to understand!

Ramesh Meyyappan (Lead Artist)

I've always known Ramesh to be an extraordinary artist and one whose works tend to explore the human condition, which are marked by both the beauty and ugliness of humanity and a depth of emotions. The story of *Off Kilter* is another such story, one that we felt compelled to tell. In a way, this story takes you into the private inner world of Joe Kilter, one that has moments that could be familiar to us; the face we hide in public, a private anguish, of burdens we hold, that we don't usually show. We are glad to have found like-minded people, the best team we could have, from Singapore and Scotland to share in the vision of telling this story, such as Andy Arnold, eminent Glasgow theatre director. It was not only that these are some of the most respected names, who are at the top of their professions, award-winning creatives, but that we all had a passion and vested interest to tell this story well.

This Singapore-UK collaboration meant that we had development workshops in both Glasgow and Singapore, which meant scheduling was a challenge. We showcased the work-in-progress in May at TheatreWorks, and with feedback from audiences, continued to refine the work for our premiere in Mayfest festival at Tron Theatre in Glasgow later that month, where we received great reviews. We continued to develop the work with dramaturg Douglas Maxwell, who is one of Scotland's most popular and produced playwrights.

As independent artists we are dependent on the support we receive from our partners, funders, donors, volunteers and audiences. With each investment of resources, be it time, money and tickets from you, our stakeholders, we are able to do our best work. Thank you. We are proud to share this work with you. Enjoy the show!

Pearlyn Cai (Producer)

Production Credits

Lead Artist: Ramesh Meyyappan (Singapore/Scotland)
Director: Andy Arnold (Scotland)
Dramaturg: Douglas Maxwell (Scotland)
Producer: Pearlyn Cal (Singapore) & Gillian Garrity (Scotland)
Lighting Designer: Andy Lim | ARTFACTORY (Singapore)
Associate Lighting Designer: Steve Kwek | ARTFACTORY (Singapore)
Composer: Joel Nah (Singapore)
Magic Designer: Kevin Quantum (Scotland)
Choreographer: Jessica Kennedy (Ireland)
Production Stage Manager: John Wilkie (Scotland)
Producing Assistant: Diyanah Said (Singapore)

To read the biographies of the personnel involved, please head to the *Off Kilter* Engagement blog at: <http://offkiltersg2017.wordpress.com>

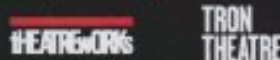
Off Kilter premiered at Tron Theatre, Glasgow from 11 - 13 May as part of Mayfest 2017.

And we would like to thank many others who made this production possible:

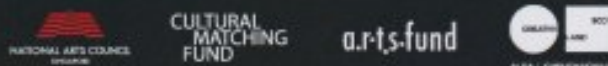
Sign language interpreters Amirah, Zhixiong, Claudine and Evelyn, and the staff from SAdeaf.

Members of the Press and Media & TheatreWorks' dedicated Ambassadors

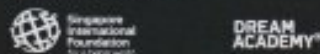
Co-produced by:



With Support from:



Special Thanks to:



TheatreWorks Team

Artistic Director (On leave of absence): Ong Keng Sen
Managing Director: Tay Tong
Project Manager: Mervyn Quek
Engagement Executive: Ezzat Alkaff
Production Executive: Ganesh Jayabal
Administrator: Ong Soo Mei
Finance & Accounts: Rosalyn Zaldua

Upcoming
@ 72-13




Because,
Because,
The Night
The Night
A bookshop
for insomniacs
Heman
Chong,
A bookshop
for insomniacs
Heman
Chong

Because, The Night

By Heman Chong
9 - 11 & 16 - 18 November 2017
10pm - 4am
72-13

Based on a list of 50 books culled from a series of informal conversations (touching on inequality, racism, homophobia, overpopulation, forced migration, exploitation of labor, overconsumption, climate change, etc) with friends and strangers on Facebook, *Because, the Night* is a non-profit, second-hand bookshop produced by artist Heman Chong that will inhabit 72-13 for six nights in November 2017. It is open between 10pm to 4am; a space built for people who can't sleep at night, a temporary home for insomniacs. Books include *Men Explain Things to Me* by Rebecca Solnit, *2666* by Roberto Bolaño, *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison, *Archaeologies of the Future* by Frederic Jameson and many, many more.

www.theatreworks.org.sg | www.72-13.com

Like us at TheatreWorksSg   

TheatreWorks (Singapore) Ltd is supported by the National Arts Council under the Major Company Scheme for the period from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2019.