

**Not. Ordinary. Work.**  
**Nuanced. Open. Winsome.**  
**Novel. Overt. Wayward.**  
**Narratives. Of. Women.**  
**Nonconforming. Overbold. Wicked.**  
**Nectar. Oracle. Wisdom.**

**2019 NOW.**

**10-28 JULY 2019**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

WEEK 1: 10–14 JULY	
EXHIBITIONS	<p><b>Two exhibitions</b>  <i>Apotropaic Texts</i> by Marilyn Tan &amp; Zarina Muhammed  <i>Power of Letters</i> by Noorlinah Mohamed &amp; Dahlia Osman            10 July, 6.30pm–10pm (Opening event)            11–28 July, 11am–7.30pm (Closed on Mondays)</p>
PERFORMANCES	<p><b>Three Fat Virgins Unassembled (3FVU)</b>            Written by Ovidia Yu            Directed by Grace Kalaiselvi            10–13 July, 7.30pm            13 &amp; 14 July, 3pm</p>
FILM SCREENINGS	
TALKS	<p>Opening panel discussion  <b>Women &amp; Voice: Perceived or Real Challenge?</b>            Moderated by Noorlinah Mohamed            10 July, 7.30pm</p>
WORKSHOPS	<p><b>Totems, Talismans, Curios and Pharmacopoeias: A Brief Time-Travelling History of Curses, Conduits and Cures</b>            By Zarina Muhammad            12 July, 7.30pm</p>
	<p><b>Stand-up Comedy Writing Workshop by Sharul Channa</b>            10-part workshop starting 24 June. Culminating in a solo 'live' performance at <i>Stand-up: Fresh + Raw</i></p>
FIRST READ: READINGS OF NEW WORKS BY EMERGING PLAYWRIGHTS	

PLUS: THEATREWORKS WRITERS' LAB 24-HR PLAYWRITING COMPETITION RETURN!  
 ENQUIRIES: [WRITERSLAB@THEATREWORKS.ORG.SG](mailto:WRITERSLAB@THEATREWORKS.ORG.SG)

**WEEK 2: 15–21 JULY**

Screenings on 19 & 20 July

**Innocents** by Wong Chen-Hsi, Singapore, 2012

**Spoor** by Agnieszka Holland, Poland, 2017

**I Was At Home, But ...** by Angela Schanelec, Germany & Serbia, 2019

**I Am The Revolution** by Benedetta Argentieri, Afghanistan, Iraq & Syria, 2018

**The Way We Walk With Each Other: An Interdisciplinary Conversation about Apotropaic Symbols, Texts, Gestures and Practices**

Featuring: Marylyn Tan, Zarina Muhammad, Hasyimah Harith and Izzaty Ishak  
17 July, 7.30pm

**Inchoate to Materiality: Process of Creation**

Featuring: Wong Chen-Hsi, Edith Podesta and Akshita Nanda  
20 July, 2pm

**Write Forum 1**

(For students aged 15 and above)

By Noorlinah Mohamed

17 & 19 July, 3pm

**Write Forum 2**

(For the public)

By Constance Singam and Dana Lam

20 July, 11am

**5 ON 13–14 JULY AT A SECRET LOCATION.**



### WEEK 3: 22-28 JULY

#### **Nimita's Place: Staged Reading**

Written by Akshita Nanda  
Directed by Edith Podesta  
25-27 July, 7.30pm  
27 July, 3pm

#### **Stand-up: Fresh + Raw**

Featuring new voices of  
stand-up comedians  
Hosted by Sharul Channa  
26 & 27 July, 10pm

#### **Symbols, Secrets, Silences: A Poetry/Art Workshop**

(For students aged 15 and above)  
By Marilyn Tan  
24 July, 3pm

#### **Well of Silence**

Written by Aswani Aswath  
Directed by Grace Kalaiselvi  
28 July, 11am

#### **The Book of Mothers**

Written by Eleanor Tan  
Directed by Yeo Yann Yann  
28 July, 2pm

## HIGHLIGHTS:

Go digital, visit [www.notordinarywork.com](http://www.notordinarywork.com) for details.

## TWO EXHIBITIONS

10 July, 6.30pm–10pm (Opening event)

11–28 July (Closed on Mondays), 11am–7.30pm, free admission

### Power of Letters

by Noorlinah Mohamed & Dahlia Osman

*Power of Letters* exhibit letters written to the forum page by women's rights advocates, from 1965 to the present. In exhibiting these letters, we invite all to engage with the issues and reflect on how they have affected policies as well as attitudes towards women in our society. This exhibition includes panel conversations and workshops for the public and students.

### Apotropaic Texts

by Marilyn Tan & Zarina Muhammad

Conceived as a mixed-media sculptural and performative installation, *Apotropaic Texts* dives into the use of protective magic, the various (mis)representations of the witch or the *nenek kebayan*, as well as a slew of apotropaic defensive tactics historically used to scare attacking troops, keep dangerous animals at bay, and calm the elements. This work intends to be a space for other voices that have been cast out to return and create a collective chant of protest.

## THREE PERFORMANCES



Image by Lim Wee Jin

### Three Fat Virgins Unassembled (3FVU)

Written by Ovidia Yu in the 1990s, *Three Fat Virgins Unassembled*, or 3FVU, is an acerbic satire that redefined the oppressed woman as a 'fat virgin', while illuminating and dismantling the stereotypes of Singaporean women. This 2019 edition is reassembled with a new cast, who, together with director Grace Kalaiselvi, will re-examine the text and respond to this question: Have things changed for women since then?

10–13 July, 7.30pm | 13 & 14 July, 3pm. Admission: \$35 (Concession \$20)



Image courtesy of Epigram

### Nimita's Place: Staged Reading

*Nimita's Place* is a story of two women, both named Nimita. Two generations apart, yet the two Nimitas face the same quandaries: Is history repeating itself? With the staged reading, director Edith Podesta navigates the real and the fictional by making audible the voices of the readers who have read the book. Weaving in verbatim texts with the book's narratives, the reader is brought into Nimita's world as another character. In doing so, the readers' connections with the characters and themes in *Nimita's Place* are revealed.

25–27 July, 7.30pm | 26 July, 3pm. Admission: \$18, plus one drink



### Stand-up: Fresh + Raw

Fresh from Sharul Channa's 10-part comedy writing workshop, participants will finally debut as stand-up comedians in this exclusive performance night. Running for two nights only, this open-mic style performance will be a safe space for all to kick back, relax and laugh. Hosted by Sharul herself, expect comedy that's authentic, fresh and raw.

26 & 27 July, 10–11pm. Admission: \$18, plus one drink

## A SUITE OF FILMS



Film still from *Innocents*, 2012

Join us in Week 2 of N.O.W. 2019 with a selection of films focusing on Women in Film. Leading the selection is our spotlight on Singapore filmmaker and writer, Wong Chen-Hsi, with her 2012 award-winning film *Innocents*. She points us to other works by women of which we selected *Spoor* by Agnieszka Holland. Then one thing led to another we got recommended *I Was At Home, But...* by Angela Schanelec. And more and more.

## WORKSHOPS FOR THE PUBLIC



Image by KC Eng

### 10-part Stand-up Comedy Writing Workshop

Are you able to tell a joke or two? Do you make your friends' sides split with laughter? Why not try your hand at stand-up comedy? Get into the art of stand-up with a 10-part workshop conducted by Sharul Channa, the only female professional stand-up comedian in Singapore. You'll learn how to write jokes in your own voice and perform on a live stage by the end of the course. Limited slots available.

Conducted by Sharul Channa  
Early bird before 31 May: \$400 (U.P. \$500)  
Starts 24 June

### Write Forum 2

Do you have something to say about the news stories you read in the papers? Are you bothered by issues of injustice or inequality? Writing letters to the papers is one way to express your views. Join Constance Singam and Dana Lam, two established writers and women's rights activists as they share strategies of getting your ideas across effectively, succinctly and powerfully.

Conducted by Constance Singam and Dana Lam  
20 July, 11am–1pm  
Admission: \$25 per pax. Materials and tour of exhibition included.

### Totems, Talismans, Curios and Pharmacopoeias:

#### A Brief Time-Travelling History of Curses, Conduits and Cures

What are the mythologies and contested histories of non-conforming bodies? How have the botanical and zoological been historically situated between the binaries of life and death, of magic and mayhem, of healing and killing, and of the demonised and desired? This workshop invites you to sift through ancestral knowledge, personal memory and public archives on healing and killing. Through the act of storytelling, ritual and gesture, you'll get to revisit these cross-cultural narratives and make your own apotropaic texts in response to them.

Conducted by Zarina Muhammad  
12 July, 7.30pm–9.30pm  
Admission: \$25 per pax. Materials and tour of exhibition included.

Go digital, visit [www.notordinarywork.com](http://www.notordinarywork.com) for details.



## TICKETING

**Three Fat Virgins Unassembled (3FVU)** – \$35 (Concession\* \$20)

\*Students, Seniors above 62, NSF and people with disabilities

**Film Screenings** – \$12

**Nimita's Place: Staged Reading** – \$18 plus one drink

**Stand-up: Fresh + Raw** – \$18 plus one drink

### Bundle Buys (excl. workshops)

2 programmes – 10% discount,

3 programmes – 15% discount,

4 programmes – 20% discount

Tickets for 3FVU, Film Screenings, Nimita's Place and Stand-up: Fresh + Raw are available at SISTIC.

### Workshops:

Stand-up Comedy Writing Workshop – Early bird before 31 May: \$400 (U.P. \$500)

Workshops for students/public: \$25 per person, incl. materials and exhibition tours

### Free Admissions:

— Exhibitions: Apotropaic Texts & Power of Letters

— First Read: Readings of new works by emerging playwrights

— Talks

Registration is required for Workshops, First Read and Talks. Register at [www.notordinarywork.com](http://www.notordinarywork.com)

N.O.W. 2019 is held at 72-13, Home of TheatreWorks,

72-13 Mohamed Sultan Road, Singapore 239007

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Telegram for updates

## N.O.W. 2019

TheatreWorks Writers' Lab presents N.O.W., a three-week public project. From 2019-2021, Noorlinah Mohamed, established actress and arts educator, is appointed N.O.W.'s Artistic Director. For the next three years, she focuses on celebrating women creators, thinkers, and change-makers, and their approach to making a difference. Led by women and supported by women production, technical and administrative teams, N.O.W. makes visible the multifaceted and capable women, their voices and their not ordinary work. From performance to film, music to visual arts, workshops to talks, N.O.W. spotlights her process, her thoughts and her creation. Experimental, deliciously weird, and yes, fun, these works explore the conversations women creators and thinkers have with the world – and each other.

## ABOUT WRITERS' LAB

Conceived by Artistic Director Ong Keng Sen in 1990, the Writers' Lab has been pioneering in encouraging and developing Singapore playwriting with its varied as well as far-reaching programmes. The Writers' Lab aims to provide exceptional first-time and emerging playwrights with opportunities to hone their creative writing skills through an incubating environment.

In addition, The Writers' Lab also maintains its R&D profile by affording established writers and Writers' Lab alumni an enhanced environment to advance their new works.

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