



A THEATREWORKS PRIMARY SCHOOL "TIE" PROGRAMME 1995

THE GIFT

initiated, commissioned and organised by TheatreWorks

written by Noel Greig

TIE programme designed and directed by Rani Moorthy

THE GIFT, commissioned by TheatreWorks, performed to Singaporean children aged 10-12, is a unique arts education initiative. It involved the "twinning" of Bukit Panjang Primary School in Singapore and Betinck School in Nottingham, England. Over a period of months, there was an exchange of letters, stories, drawings and poems took place. The children shared their thoughts, experiences and feelings freely and as they wished.

The project invited the children, within the framework of correspondence, to use their own individual imagination and curiosities. This helped to empower them and to validate their personal experiences.

At the end of this process, Rani Moorthy and the writer sifted through the wealth of material to identify the themes and issues which were the concern of these young people. An original drama was then created reflecting the spirit and enthusiasm of the correspondents.

This process helped to unite the interests of the educationist and the artist. And this unique collaboration between the two schools enabled two very separate groups of young people to make an imaginative encounter with each other as well as within themselves.

THE GIFT reflect the concerns of young Singaporeans, performed in an imaginative and professional manner for young people of Singapore. A T.I.E. programme consists of 3 parts: pre-play session, play and post-play session. A Teacher's Pack is produced linking the special key areas of the programme with the various subjects in the Singaporean curriculum. The pack is produced to complement the demands of the Singaporean curriculum with specially designed follow-up activities and worksheets.

In the pre-play session, a trained facilitator takes the children through a series of activities to contextualise the play and to help the audience enter into the imaginative world of **THE GIFT**. In the post-play session, the facilitator-director guides them through a discussion with the actor-teachers on the issues of the play. The children are provided opportunities to test assumptions, explore possibilities and to take the responsibility for their decisions. This programme is a rare opportunity for Singaporean students to encounter important issues in a guided and responsible manner.

Exposure to **THE GIFT**, a TheatreWorks' initiative, generates excitement and motivation for learning and lateral thinking which teachers can capitalise on in constructive and structured follow-up activities.

THE GIFT

at the Cremorne Theatre, Queensland Performing Arts Centre

Sunday, 2 July 1995

6.15 pm

SYNOPSIS

"THE GIFT" is a story of 2 young people in their early twenties; Suan Tze, a Singaporean and Craig from Nottingham in the United Kingdom. When they were ten, they were pen-pals. Through the written medium, a friendship was forged, a friendship that has helped them cope with similar problems even when they are half a world apart. As 10 year olds, they have had to deal with different expectations of parents, peers and society and their own feelings of inadequacy. Their self-esteem takes a beating as neither fit the conventional roles of a 'pretty, young girl' and a 'rugged youth'.

In their dreams, they have opportunities to work out their confusion with the help of 2 mysterious sage-like gardeners. And in their dreams, they finally meet and together confront their buried feelings which they have suppressed for over 10 years..

CAST

LEE WENG KEE	as	THE GARDENER
GITANJALI KOLANAD	as	THE GARDENER
EILEEN SEAH	as	SUAN TZE
JOSEPH TURNER	as	CRAIG

CREATIVE TEAM

PLAYWRIGHT	NOEL GREIG
DIRECTOR/FACILITATOR	RANI MOORTHY
LIGHTING DESIGNER	MICHELE LIM
TIE CO-ORDINATOR	LUCILLA TEOH

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THEATREWORKS would like to thank the following institutions for their sponsorship and support. Without them, this performance would not be possible :

NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL (SINGAPORE)
ARTS FUND (SINGAPORE)
LEE FOUNDATION (SINGAPORE)