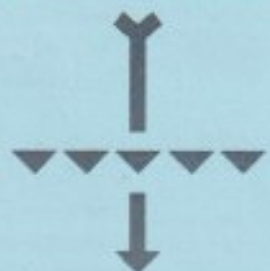


THEATREWORKS



SAYING GRACE

**A ONE-MAN SHOW ON THE PAIN
OF EATING AND HIS JOURNEY TO LIVE**



A TheatreWorks Writer's Lab
Community Project in partnership with the
South East Community Development Council

From 18 Feb to 30 Mar 2012
Various Locations in
the South East District



NURTURING CREATIVITY

Since 2008, TheatreWorks has forged a dynamic partnership with South East CDC to develop the craft of playwriting for the community's benefit. In the Writers' Lab Community Project, we enable young/aspiring playwrights – often winners from the annual 24-Hour Playwriting Competition – to work with theatre practitioners in bringing to life their new writing. The initiative showcases plays that express the heartbeat and lives of Singaporeans, through a whirlwind tour of public spaces within the South East District.

The Writers' Lab, conceived by Artistic Director Ong Keng Sen in 1990, is the longest-running developmental programme for playwrights in Singapore. It has nurtured generations of illustrious writers and presented many seminal Singapore plays.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Eating disorders are rarely discussed, brought up in social or official circles, much less recognized as a treatable malady. Although in our country it is categorized as a form of 'mental' illness and treated as such, Fangda's intriguing play charts its effects on a man with such a condition and provides a unique insight into what it is to live with bulimia nervosa. It is also funny, bittersweet, heart-warming and a fine effort from this talented young playwright who won the Youth Category in the 24-Hour Playwriting Competition 2011. It has been a pleasure directing Andrew in the titular role, consulting with Fangda who sat in on rehearsals, and working with the extremely hardworking and capable production team. Thank you Kuan Cien our Project Manager, Robin our dramaturg, and Tay Tong of TheatreWorks for his vision and advice. I hope that this play will open up discussion on issues that the play raises; and allow for some diversity and inclusion in society of what is normally seen as 'fringe', 'marginal' or even taboo.

Gerald Chew

CREDITS

Director	Gerald Chew
Playwright	Hu Fangda
Performer	Andrew Lua
With initial dramaturgy by	Robin Loon
Set Designer	Chan Silei
Lighting Designer / Technical Consultant	Yeo Hon Beng
Graphic Designer	Francis Nirmalan
Producer	Tay Tong
Administrator	Ong Soo Mei
Project Manager	Hoo Kuan Cien
Stage Manager	Nadya Noordin
Assistant Stage Manager	Deborah Hoon
Production Crew	Ng Siaw Hui
Project Assistants	Lyra Tan Ai-Ling, Marcia Vanderstraaten
Front-of-House Team	Cassandra Teo, Sherry Yeu
Archivist	Don Aravind Rajah

BIOGRAPHIES

Andrew Lua - Performer

Andrew's versatility as an actor has seen him cast in vastly different roles across mediums. Filming an Indie German film in the Himalayas, as well as hosting a travelogue in Hokkaido and Taiwan are some of his personal highlights. He has also acted in various local and international commercials, and is part of the Fly Entertainment family. His first love, however, brings him on stage with credits such as *Aladdin (Wild Rice)*, *Fried Rice Paradise* (Singapore Repertory Theatre & People's Association), *Off Centre* (The Necessary Stage), *The Full Monty* (Pangdemonium Productions), and *Turn By Turn We Turn* (The Finger Players).

Hu Fangda - Playwright

Fangda is a 17-year-old aspiring playwright from Raffles Institution. An active member of his school's drama society, he has written plays and acted under instructors such as Kenneth Kwok and Matthew Lyon. He also writes articles for the student paper where he has a regular column in addition to other publications. *Saying Grace* was drawn largely from unfortunate personal experiences and long struggles with severe mental illness in his family.

Gerald Chew - Director

Trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama, London, Gerald is an established actor of stage, film and television. He won a Life! Theatre Award for Best Actor in *Everything But The Brain* (Action Theatre), and has performed in Ho Tzu Nyen's *The King Lear Project* to critical acclaim. As a theatre director, he has previously directed *A Christmas Adam* (The Arts House); Tan Tarn How's *The Lady of Soul and Her Ultimate "S" Machine* (TheatreWorks); and *The Everyman Project* which participated in the Toronto Fringe Festival. In 2011, he attended the La MaMa Symposium for Directors in Umbria, Italy.

Chan Silei - Set Designer

Silei has taken on various production roles in theatre since 2006. Her set design credits include *Grimm Tales* (The Young Co., Singapore Repertory Theatre), *The Visit* (Project YUM!), *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* (The Little Company, Singapore Repertory Theatre). Her recent stage management credits are *A Note Went Off In My Head* (A GROUP OF PEOPLE) and *Fried Rice Paradise* (Singapore Repertory Theatre & People's Association). She also enjoys scenic painting as well as making props, and her work can be seen at Universal Studios Singapore and *Carmen* (Singapore Lyric Opera) respectively.

Yeo Hon Beng - Lighting Designer / Technical Consultant

A graduate from NUS Sociology and Theatre Studies, Hon Beng has spent the last 15 years of his professional career in diverse roles across theatre and film. He has worked extensively with many arts organisations/groups including Chinese Opera Institute, Drama Box, National Arts Council, Singapore Chinese Orchestra, Singapore Dance Theatre, Siang Leng Musical Association, STAGES, Theatre Arts Troupe, The Necessary Stage, The Theatre Practice and Toy Factory Productions. Hon Beng is currently an active theatre practitioner where he directs, does production design, production/technical/stage management, and conducts workshops at schools/tertiary institutions.

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Special thanks to Janice Seah and her colleagues at South East CDC, staff of all participating venues, press/media, and everyone who has contributed to the making of this production.

TOUR SCHEDULE



www.theatreworks.org.sg | www.southeastcdc.org.sg