

THEATREWORKS

presents



SPH
YOUNG
PLAYWRIGHTS
SERIES

NEW

PRACTICE

THEATRE

ENSEMBLE

PRESENTS

SPH NEW PLAYS

SEASON 3

3





1 Cards

by parvatbi narayan

5 Will You Be There?

by tan choon ping

2 Ordinary Woman

by dana lam

SINGAPORE

plays

3 Will You Please Jump?

by kim ong

4 The Can Opener

by tan mei ching

Date

13th-
22nd
January
1995

Time

8 pm

Venue

Jubilee
Hall,
Raffles
Hotel

Tickets

\$15 & \$18
available at
Tangs,
Centrepoint &
Raffles Hotel
Information
Counter

Ticket Hotline:
3386735

wRITERS' Lab

an annual festival of NEW SINGAPORE PLAYS: SPH YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS SERIES 3

The TheatreWorks Writers' Lab is a developmental project spearheaded and organised by TheatreWorks. The Lab is in its third year, thanks to the unflagging support of the Singapore Press Holdings.

SPH Young Playwrights Series is an annual programme that allows young aspiring playwrights from the Lab the opportunity to perfect the art of playwriting and to see their dreams materialise.

The establishment of the TheatreWorks Writers' Lab has proved to be an important catalyst in the proliferation of more Singapore plays. In its three years of existence, more than 50 new plays have been read and/or produced. These have included critically acclaimed and sell out plays like *Three Fat Virgins Unassembled*, *Lest the Demons Get To Me*, *Mergers and Accusations*, *Bernard's Story* and *Absence Makes The Heart Grow Fonder*.

This year, TheatreWorks is proud to present five new short plays. The works cover a wide range of themes and emotions—ranging from the humorous to the intense to the provocative. The festival will also introduce four new playwrights who will be making their debut in this series.

THE THEATREWORKS WRITERS' LAB COMPENDIUM

Fat Virgins, *Fast Cars* and *Asian Values*, the first compendium of plays from the TheatreWorks Writers' Lab was launched in January 1993. The book is a compilation of the best works from the first year of the TheatreWorks Writers' Lab. Two pieces from the collection won the top awards in the 1994 National Book Development Council Book Awards: Russell Heng's *Lest The Demons Get To Me* won the coveted Award in the Drama Category and Ovidia Yu's *Three Fat Virgins Unassembled* was awarded the Highly Commended prize in the same category. A second compendium will be published in January 1995. The book will be on sale at TheatreWorks from 13 January 1995.

NEW





1 CARDS

Written by Parvathi Nayar Narayan
Directed by Lok Meng Chue

December - A footnote. A moment of contact. A summation of the year gone by. A recognition of the year ending. It is a peculiar time of the year that can be either celebratory, or nostalgic and depressing. For Shraevani, December means something else, something even more...

Against this backdrop, *Cards* takes a look at Singapore, life, long distance relationships and stuffed toys.

PARVATHI NAYAR NARAYAN is a full-time artist and writer. Her works have been exhibited in several exhibitions here. She also teaches art at Temasek Polytechnic and is a freelance arts correspondent for The Business Times. *Cards* is Parvathi's first play for TheatreWorks' Writers' Lab. She is presently working on a new full-length play.

2 ORDINARY WOMAN

Written by Dana Lam
Directed by Lok Meng Chue

What happens when three non-exemplar women make a non-heroic attempt at breaking the conventions of their lives?

DANA LAM worked as a journalist and a book editor between 1976 and 1985. She is gainfully married — has two children, a supportive mother-in-law and a husband.

Dana has co-written two books, *Pregnancy* and *The Heart Is Where It Is: the NUSS Story*. She wrote *Bernard's Story* in 1991, the first year of TheatreWorks' Writers' Lab.

3 WILL YOU PLEASE JUMP?

Written by Kim Ong
Directed by Tang Fu Kuen

A hilarious piece about the pressures of society and the effects they have on two distinctly different individuals.

KIM ONG, works as a sales executive. She keeps a thick file of literary ideas and aspires to produce creative works and products. Another of her play *Top Of The Hill* was read recently at TheatreWorks' Lab Report 6.

SINGA

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4 THE CAN OPENER

Written by Tan Mei Ching
Directed by Tang Fu Kuen

A prisoner hears the voice of someone digging towards him. They each need something the other person has. Can they trust each other to mean what they say? Do they trust themselves to believe what they hear?

A surrealistic journey in search for freedom, trust, a voice. And food.

TAN MEI CHING received a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from the University of Washington. She has won short fiction writing contests in the US and was subsequently published in the respective journals. For her



one act play, *Water Ghosts*, she was awarded first prize in the NUS-Shell Short Play Contest (1992). She also received a Commendation Award for her novel *Beyond The Village Gate* (Singapore Literature Prize 1992) which is now published and out in the bookstores. She is presently working on new plays and a collection of short stories.

WILL YOU BE THERE? 5

Written by Tan Choon Ping
Directed Lok Meng Chue

Please note: This play contains adult themes and language

August 30th 1993. A concert is cancelled amidst speculations of the performer's whereabouts. What does it all have to do with a transvestite? A monologue delving into the psyche of a man trapped in his own fantasy world.

TAN CHOON PING wrote his first play, *Second Chance* in 1991. It was broadcast in the same year as part of SBC's "Rediscover the Magic of Radio" campaign. During the day, Choon transforms himself into a mild-mannered accountant and tries very hard to write plays with a calculator.

SINGAPORE
plays

壹

生存仔日记

作者：林春三

这个故事，可以追溯到很久以前。很久很久以前，中国南方有个助产神，叫顺天圣

母陈靖姑。女人生产时，要供奉夫人画像，生产以后要向画像拜谢。因为她救人产难，是司命之神，所以也叫注生娘娘。

这一段人间送子观音娘娘的故事发生在新加坡，她叫关玉娘，20岁学接生，做了私人助产士，接生了9,000个孩子。

一本本生存仔日记，记录了每个生命的源起，形成了一片严严实密的生命网络。

关玉娘为什么要学接生？她的丈夫呢？她自己有孩子吗？那个年轻的庙祝「讲古先生」整天在庙里弹唱注生娘娘陈靖姑的故事，这天上人间，除了两段千秋功德，还有多少人间温情，在他的铮铮琴音里激越，低回……



贰

昭南档案

作者：黄佳一

1949年，日军南下，烽烟滚滚。新加坡沦陷，改称昭南岛。瞬

即展开肃清异己的行动：大检视。

在这个非常时期，梨春园戏子新剑郎，新闻工作者蒋志远，商人胡大为，在牛车水，一个由小货仓临时改成的囚室，不期而遇。不同的出身背景，信仰与价值观引发了连串冲撞，面临严峻的现实，每一个人都必须重新发现，思考和审查自己尊贵又卑微的生命在无情的历史中的定位和错位……

叁

私房戏

作者：李集庆

三对男女分别在个别不同的年代相遇，并且认识。年代的不同，意味着相识的情况、沟通的形式，对世态看法的不同。然而，贯穿这三代人的是一种需要流动的推动力，去探索新的空间，去寻找更好的可能。

对于彼此的扶持与行为，他们持有各自的揣测与诠释。三代人的故事由20年代一直延续到80年代，并且会更久远地延续下去。

必须不停地搜寻，才可能找到一个可以安定下来的地方。

新加坡剧作

新加坡报业控股《剧本创作室》

《剧本创作室》
新剧展3
实践话剧团主办
新加坡报业控股赞助

为了提高华语剧本的质与量，培育新的写作人才，并鼓励本地色彩的剧本，实

新剧展3

践在1992年3月创办了一个推动华语编剧工作的《剧本创作室》。在《剧本创作室》出炉的新剧本将于新剧展里呈献，给予新剧作者机会展现他们的作品。

《剧本创作室》及新剧展是由新加坡报业控股赞助，致力为本地华语剧坛开创一股新的创作风气。

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THE JAPANESE

PROMISES TO PAY UP
ON DEMANDONE HUNDRED
DOLLARS

实践话剧团主办

新加坡报业控股赞助

《生仔日记》 A Midwife's Diary

95年1月25日至26日

晚上8时正

《昭南档案》 Shonan Recollected 《私房戏》 Life's Moments

95年1月28日至29日

晚上8时正

地点：戏剧中心

票价：\$10、\$15

售票处：电力站、胜友书局、实践话剧团

询问电话：3372529

貳

昭南档案

作者：黄佳一

私房戏

作者：李集庆



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新加坡报业控股《剧本创作室》

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