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We're proud to be supporting SRT as part of our commitment to enriching Singapore's arts and culture landscape.

# Meet Fred.

A Hijinx Production in association with Blind Summit

## CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTOR

Grace Lee-Khoo

MOVEMENT DIRECTOR

Regina Foo

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Laura McEwen

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Dorothy Png

SOUND DESIGNER

Noor Hidayat Norzizan





**From  
stories  
to  
possibilities**

How can we fuel the dreams of artists?  
We support SRT to create greater  
awareness and appreciation for the arts  
amongst young minds and our community.

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reshaping our world to  
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# ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Congratulations to our Inclusive Young Company. This performance of *Meet Fred* reflects their hard work and commitment to exploring stories that challenge us all to think differently, under the wonderful direction of Grace Lee-Khoo and Regina Foo.

As the companies Hijinx and Blind Summit developed *Meet Fred*, they drew powerful parallels between the lived experience of people with disabilities and the challenges faced by the puppet Fred. Just as Fred depends on his puppeteers to move freely through society, many people with disabilities rely on support to live independently. This relationship of dependence and interdependence is central to Fred's story—and it mirrors the everyday reality faced by many in society. Through the unique voices of our Inclusive Young Company, this story gains depth and honesty.

The devising process also invited the creators to imagine what Fred's life would be like if he lived with constant threats to his support system.

*Meet Fred* invites us to laugh, reflect, and consider the barriers many people face daily. Congratulations to our Inclusive Young Company for bringing this complex and meaningful story to life.

To our audience, thank you for joining us to support these talented young artists. Enjoy the show!

GAURAV KRIPALANI

# OWN YOUR STORY

# BE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**JOIN OUR 2025 INTAKE**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: 2 DEC 2024**



**SRT's Inclusive Young Company (IYC)** is a holistic acting programme for young persons and adults between the ages of 16 – 35, who identify as **Persons with Disabilities**.

IYC features professional masterclasses and mentorship, and provides a platform that offers equality of learning and professional development for young persons. **If you have a passion for theatre, we have the stage for you!**

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# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dearest Allies of IYC,

You're meeting Fred today, a puppet that's larger than life. Fred has big dreams and he's more human than you think.

*Meet Fred* asks the same question as I do in all my productions - "What is normal?"

The heart of Fred's story furiously beats the same question of what makes us human and humane. We are often so limited by these ideas of normalcy that we culturally police ourselves and others in what we should or should not achieve.

Personally, *Meet Fred* is about power and transcendence but not in the inspirationally superhuman sense. Our d/Deaf and disabled community seeks belonging, not benevolence. And meaningful representation calls for mainstream society to embrace the value of disability as part of the very fabric of the human experience, rather than being seen as less than, or ostracised.

Perhaps today, you will find that a part of you is just like Fred. As you ride the transitions in your life with your own set of differences and needs, you're also shooting for the stars of transcendence. You are carving out moments to dream limitlessly and actualise a better version of yourself.

That's where the power of your own narrative as a human being lies. Enjoy.

GRACE LEE-KHOO

# THE HIJINX PROCESS

As Hijinx explored the concept of creating an inclusive show with a puppet, the parallels between life for a puppet and the learning disabled artists that they worked with quickly became apparent.

Just as many of the people that they worked with rely on support in order to live an independent life, so does Fred rely on his puppeteers simply to exist. The relationship of dependence and interdependence that exists between Fred and his puppeteers is the exact same situation that many people with learning disability and disability in general face in their everyday life.

Inevitably during a devising process, it is the people present in the room that ultimately influence the direction a piece may go, and crucially what their experience is of the world at any given time. As the show was made, many of the learning disabled performers were living through the current overhaul of the benefits system by UK's Tory government then.

Hijinx and Blind Summit began to explore how life would be for Fred if he also lived in this environment – what would happen if Fred is threatened with losing his Puppetry Living Allowance? What would Fred be without his puppeteers? Would he even survive?

Suddenly, instead of the whimsical, light puppet show Hijinx had envisaged, they had a serious political message on their hands that could be presented with hilarity and made seem all the more ridiculous when seen through the eyes of the puppet hero Fred.

And when brought to Singapore, they are struck as they investigate who Fred is here.





# SYNOPSIS

Meet Fred, a puppet with a lot of personality who's trying to make sense of a confusing world. Fred just wants to be like everyone else, but being a puppet stands in his way. Being completely dependent on his puppeteers makes things... complicated. Especially when his PLA (Puppetry Living Allowance) is threatened, and one of his puppeteers might be gone!

Fred seems to navigate a world stacked against him. His journey reflects the struggles faced by many, especially those with disabilities, as he tackles paperwork, misunderstandings, and the quest for a normal life. Yet, amid the challenges, Fred discovers surprising moments of joy that light up his path!

*Meet Fred* tells a story that proves even the smallest among us have the biggest stories to tell. Filled with humour and full of heart, this charming tale is sure to keep you smiling long after the curtain falls.



# CAST

Prithviraj Kumar Basu

Shea Chiang

Goh Tze Kiat

Jireh Koh

Trevor Joshua Lee Jing Wen

Keanan Lim

Muhammad Hidayat bin Mohammad Yaakob

Megan Pang

Srikant Pattabhiraman

Jeremy Tay Yong En

Kevin Yeong Kwok Keong

Ruixuan Yung



# CAST

## Prithviraj Kumar Basu



PJ is a young aspiring actor. He graduated from Dover Court International School in 2017 and joined SRT's Inclusive Young Company in June 2021. When he joined the company, he did so with the intention of finding community in the theatre. Luckily he succeeded and has since then been growing more confident in conversations with others. His notable IYC Semester showcase roles include Frida Kahlo 1 in *The 9 Fridas*, Number 44 in *Open The Curtains*, Dracula in *Deformed*, Inspector Mack in *Catch Me If You Can* and the dual roles of Count Dooku and Rodney Williams in *The Rowan Tree*.

## Shea Chiang



Shea is a passionate amateur actor in her first role as Fred's voice. A devoted metalhead with a penchant for knitting and crochet, she has always enjoyed the arts. She has grown to love theatre with all her heart and she hopes she will remain active in the theatre until she becomes a crazy cat lady.

## Goh Tze Kiat



It is said that theatre is philosophy in action. And philosophy - is precisely what Tze Kiat majored in university. Now, after a series of twists and turns, here he is, fully embodying it. Tze Kiat can be described as a creative person. He also writes books, articles and even melodies and lyrics. He is also into spirituality and is a bit of a multipotentialite, which may not be immediately apparent on the surface. So you're not gonna unpack him so easily! Set aside all expectations and have a good time at *Meet Fred!*

# CAST

## Jireh Koh



Jireh Koh (b. 1991) is a multidisciplinary artist, musician, performer and classically trained opera singer. He has experience in physical theatre and movement practices, as well as stage-performing experience in opera productions locally and internationally. With extensive research into sacred and indigenous vocal traditions worldwide, his musical range includes Hindu and Buddhist mantra chanting, carnatic singing, Tibetan and Tuvan throat singing, western opera, early church music and more. His intercultural and vocal work has been featured in *The Straits Times* and *Plural Art Mag*, and he is frequently invited as a chanter and singer in the local interfaith and religious communities. Most recently, he was the lead vocalist for the multidisciplinary work *Flow with the Heart* with Odysseus Dance Theatre.

## Trevor Joshua Lee Jing Wen



Trevor is an aspiring artist, singer, dancer and actor. He enjoys singing and dancing to his favourite songs in his spare time. He has been a member of IYC since 2023, and has done some shows, notably *Open The Curtains* and *Clumsysaurus*. He appeared on a CNA documentary series, *The New Hire*. Trevor has also written and performed in *A Million Dreams* for Theatre360. Besides the performing arts, Trevor has been doing visual arts at an art organisation, ART:DIS, since the age of 5. In 2023, he co-emceed alongside Eunice Olsen at the ART:DIS 30th anniversary gala.

## Keanan



Keanan hopes for this story to be seen as a depiction of human difference, but also a bridge between that difference. He believes that the search for life's essentials — like comfort, freedom, meaning and love, is no different at its core from person to person. In taking on the physicality of Fred, he presents a body that looks different on the outside, but pulses with the same yearnings as us all on the inside.

# CAST

## Muhammad Hidayat bin Mohammad Yaakob



Muhammad Hidayat Mohamad Yaakob is a full time theatre performer and guide at Dialogue In the Dark (DiD). He is also a para-athlete in the national team for goalball, a competitive ball sport for the blind. He is currently training in the Inclusive Young Company. As an advocate for accessibility in theatre, he has served as a consultant for audio description services for various theatre shows.

## Megan Pang



Megan is a current communications undergraduate with a strong passion for the arts: be it acting, literature or film. As somebody who has worked with the disabled community, Megan hopes to make an impact using art to be an advocate for the marginalised.

## Srikant Pattabhiraman



Currently an NSF with the Singapore Armed Forces, Srikant is a natural musician with perfect pitch. He is a confident stage performer and is drawn to the world of art as a whole - enjoying painting, acting and baking in his spare time.

# CAST

## Jeremy Tay Yong En



Jeremy enjoys singing and playing the guitar and drums. He busks regularly in the east or central areas of Singapore. He has performed with a local band, The Red Percussion. Jeremy is also working towards being a drum teacher. This is his debut performance with IYC.

## Kevin Yeong Kwok Keong



Kevin is a young, energetic and cheerful performer who always keeps those surrounding him happy.

Kevin enjoys listening to music, especially to Disney classical music, and is also a big fan of Disney characters. He enjoys staying active by jogging and walking long distances with his regular friends.

## Ruixuan Yung



Ruixuan Yung is delighted to be making her debut with SRT's Inclusive Young Company in *Meet Fred*. She is currently a polytechnic student and hopes to study sociology in university before pursuing music therapy. She enjoys playing multiple instruments, including but not limited to the piano, yangqin and the guitar.

# CREATIVE ENABLERS

## Hedzlyn Hazwany

Meet Hedz, a sun-chasing, beach-loving foodie with a serious sweet tooth! With an interest in sign language, she connects with people from all walks of life as she travels, tasting desserts like flaky Parisian pastries and Greek baklava. For her, life is best with sandy toes and a sweet treat in hand.

## Lim Jue Hao Isaac

Meet Isaac, a creative writer and performer on wheels. Their recent works include *Is it because I'm...* (2022, SIFA X Headline Acts), *What is Sex?* (2020, TNS Playwrights' Cove), *I am Mei* (2019, Centre 42) and *Between Consciousness* (2016, T:>Works). They critique performance works on IG under @zac.rated.

## Ross Rodzleen

Meet Ross, a horror fanatic with a talent for tracking down the creepiest, most abandoned places to explore. When he's not out ghost-hunting, you'll find him hoarding books like they're going out of style. His ultimate dream? To be like Batman - filthy rich, with a massive batcave, except his is packed with books. And cars, obviously.

## Sreya Sanyal

Meet Sreya, who has volunteered with the Inclusive Young Company since its inaugural session in 2020.

She has appeared in: *Grease* (SingTheatre Showstoppers), *Ghost Light* (SRT's The Young Company), *Wilderness* (The Runaway Company), and *My Love Is Blind* (Musical Theatre Limited).

She has also worked on access shows for *Disgraced*, *2:22 - A Ghost Story*, *Shakespeare in the Park - A Midsummer Night's Dream* (SRT), *Errol's Garden* (SRT's The Little Company), *After Life* and *Girls Like That* (SRT's The Young Company), and *Unforgotten* (Musical Theatre Limited).



# CREATIVES

## Hijinx

Hijinx is an award-winning, inclusive theatre company based in Cardiff. All their productions include learning disabled performers alongside performers without learning disability. To support their work they have a network of Academies around Wales that train learning disabled performers in a variety of skills. They provide this training because it is virtually impossible for an actor with learning disability to access more traditional drama schools or universities. When ready, students from their Academies join them on their professional productions. This ensures that their work is always of the highest quality, with all artists starting a process on an equal footing. *Meet Fred* originally features three of their performers with learning disability, all of whom were heavily involved in the devising of the production.

## Blind Summit

Based in London, Blind Summit is recognised as one of UK's most exciting companies working with puppetry. They have had huge success with productions such as *The Table* and *Citizen Puppet*, and often work with companies such as Complicite and ENO. Hijinx came into contact with Blind Summit in April 2014 when they invited them to run a week's training in puppetry for their Academy students in Cardiff. Hijinx was joined by three of Blind Summit's artists, including Artistic Director Mark Down. It was during this week that the seed for making an inclusive production with a puppet was sown.

# CREATIVES

## Grace Lee Khoo Director

Grace Lee Khoo is the founder of Access Path Productions, Singapore's first disability-led theatre company. She graduated from Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and National University of Singapore's theatre studies program and now works internationally as a director, performer, producer, dramaturg, researcher, drama educator, audio describer for the blind/vision-impaired and creative access consultant. Grace was international artist-in-residence at Graeae Theatre Company (London) in 2017.

Grace currently serves as the lead artist of the Inclusive Young Company (IYC) - in collaboration with Singapore Repertory Theatre. With SRT, Grace has directed *Silence Bubble* (2018), Kaite O'Reilly's *9 Fridas* (2022) and Sarah Kane's *4.48 Psychosis* (2023).

Significant works include touring Unlimited UK commission Kaite O'Reilly's *And Suddenly I Disappear* (2017-2018), National Gallery Singapore commissions *Glimpse* (2023), *Self Portrait* (2019) and Singapore Art Museum commissions *desert of the ocean (doldrums)* for Singapore Art Week 2024, *Patterns of Perception* for Singapore Biennale 2023.

## Regina Foo Movement Director

Regina enjoys the process of theatre making as a prism to experience the facets of life, to open minds and to indulge in the colourful spectrum of human emotions both light and dark. She aspires to tap on the power of theatre as an intimate space where people can share stories to find strength, courage and hope to live, as life pulls us in many directions.

Since her graduation from Intercultural Theatre Institute in 2017, she has been focused on developing her practice to be shared with young children and adults with disabilities. She is also currently exploring projected play through puppetry and object manipulation.

# CREATIVES

## Laura McEwen Production Designer

Laura has worked nationally and internationally as a theatre set and costume designer for more than twenty years and is based in England. She has a specialism in designing for younger audiences, including designs for a range of companies such as the Royal Shakespeare Company, English National Opera, Polka Theatre, London, Unicorn Theatre, Nottingham Playhouse and York Theatre Royal. This is her second show for Singapore Repertory Theatre and she is really excited to join the team.

In addition to designing for theatre, Laura has undertaken a range of projects designing interactive spaces for young people. Most recently, this included the RIBA award nominated designs for the public spaces at Polka Theatre, London, in collaboration with Foster Wilson Architects.

Laura is also a practising artist and has had her artwork exhibited at the Royal Academy in London on numerous occasions.

[www.lauramcewen.co.uk](http://www.lauramcewen.co.uk)

## Dorothy Png Lighting Designer

A lighting designer by profession since 1994, Dorothy has worked with most of Singapore's theatre and dance companies. She also collaborates with independent artists for their own performances as a passion for creative experimentation. Her range of work spans across theatre, contemporary dance, ballet, opera, musical, site-specific works, outdoor productions and music concerns.

Trained in the University of Iowa, Dorothy's secondary profession is scenic design. She has increasingly done more set design in recent years. Her most recent set & lighting design was for Art:Dis 30th year celebratory production *Chachambo: Taking Flight* held at Victoria Theatre (August 2023), where she had to face the challenge of designing specifically for cast and audience with various disabilities in mind. Among her favourite set and lighting design works are *Lirica Arts "L'Inganno*.

Other credits include *Felice* directed by Tang Xinxin held at the NAFA Lee Foundation Theatre (2021), *Psychosis 4.48* an Intercultural Theatre Institute's graduation play at Drama Centre Black Box (2020) directed by Andy Ng, and *Dream Country - a Lost Monologue*, an outdoors site-specific performance at Esplanade Park for Singapore Arts Festival 2012, directed by Marion D'Cruz.

# CREATIVES

## Noor Hidayat Norzizan Sound Designer

Noor Hidayat Norzizan, affectionately known as “Yat” to his colleagues, is a seasoned senior stage technician at the Singapore Repertory Theatre. At the heart of Hidayat’s work lies his deep love for sound design. He approaches each project as a canvas, using sound as his paintbrush to create immersive and unforgettable auditory experiences. His meticulous attention to detail ensures that every note, tone, and sound effect resonates perfectly with the production’s narrative, enhancing the audience’s emotional connection to the performances.

Offstage, Hidayat continues to explore the endless possibilities of sound, constantly pushing boundaries and expanding his creative horizons. His dedication to the art of sound design is not just a profession; it’s a lifelong passion that enriches the world of theatre and leaves a lasting impact on all who have the pleasure of experiencing his work. Some of his work includes *Ghostlight*, *Girls Like That*, *A Monster Calls* (SRT’s The Young Company) and *It’s SG, It’s So Good!* (Singapore Food Agency).

# ACCESS PARTNERS

## **Joanna Ong** Creative Captioner & Creative Enabler

Meet Joanna, a creative captions designer and arts manager. As a captions designer, she adopts the 'aesthetics of access' approach to integrate captions into the design and aesthetic of live performances, enabling the Hearing and Deaf communities to enjoy live performances together. Her recent works include *And the Cats Dance by the Light* (2024) by Intercultural Theatre Institute, *SmartyPants and the Swordfish* (2024) by ART:DIS and *Open the Curtains* (2023) by SRT's Inclusive Young Company. Additionally, since 2022, Joanna has been a part of the Singapore Drama Educators Association's secretariat and manages its professional development programmes.

## **Philippe Pang** Creative Captioner

Phil is a freelance stage and arts manager who believes greatly in the importance of open and honest communication in the process of relationship and community building within his work. He graduated from NUS with a Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) in English language, and Minor in theatre studies, and was the arts management resident at Singapore Repertory Theatre (SRT) from 2021-2023. He also holds a Level 3 certificate in Singapore Sign Language from Equal Dreams.

## **Eleanor Ee** Audio Describer

Eleanor Ee is a theatre practitioner and drama educator. She is passionate about the possibilities of creating a universal language through theatre to deepen our connections with the world around us. She is also interested in questioning identity, traditions and the structures that have been created around us, and their relevance today. Her recent audio described works include *The Princess and the Pea* (2024) by SRT's The Little Company and *Tartuffe* (2024) by Wild Rice. She is currently an associate artist with P7:1SMA, and a GroundBreaker 2024 artist with The Artground.

## **Lily Goh** Singapore Sign Language (SgSL) Interpreter

Lily Goh is a pioneering Deaf artist, advocate, and founder of ExtraOrdinary Horizons, dedicated to promoting Singapore Sign Language (SgSL). With experience as a Deaf interpreter in theatre arts, she bridges communication gaps on stage, making performances accessible to Deaf audiences. An accomplished Deaf arts and music practitioner, Lily integrates music with sign language and visual storytelling to transcend barriers. As a registered Disability Equality Training (DET) facilitator, she empowers organizations to foster inclusivity. Recognized with the Singapore Woman Award in 2014 and the JCI TOYP Humanitarian Award in 2017, Lily continues to impact society through her artistry and advocacy.

# THE TEAM

## Production Team

Dramatherapist	Ambre Lee
Stage Manager	Marilyn Chew
Production Assistant	Tiara Emily
Lighting Operator	Tan Yi Kai
Sound Operator	Cherrie-May Ann Pinto
Stage Crew	Xingna Low Hui En

## SRT Board

Joy Tan (Chairman), Manraj Sekhon, Peter A Allen, E-Len Fu, En Lee, Irving Low, Jin Lu, Roshni Mahtani-Cheung, Charlotte Nors, James Walton

## SRT Team

Managing Director	Charlotte Nors
Artistic Director	Gaurav Kripalani
Artistic	Daniel Jenkins, Dick Lee, Kate Golledge, Inch Chua
Adminstration	Felis Chia, Cindy Goh
Finance	Rosalind Lim, Hebe Kwok, Angela Tan
Production	Grace Low, Charlene Poh, Anna Khairyna, Keidyn Lee
Sales & Marketing	Zach Ng, Redha Abdul-Wahid, Nadiyah Noordin, Zoe Ee, Pat Yuan Teng
Business Development	Jesviinder Padda
Centre for Creative Learning	James Wu, David Tan, Molly Bird, Jenny Mak, Seren Chen, Rachel Nip
Venue	Allison Lai, Rajkumar Thiagaras, Lee Kong-Shen, Noor Hidayat Norzizan, Derrick Wong
Residents	Hemamalini Vijayakumar, Raiessha Noa, Eric Larrea, Nana Zakirom, Tan Yin Qi
Interns	Laya Viswanathan, Danial Aizat, Alysha Qadriyah

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**INCH CHUA ————— NATHAN HARTONO**

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