

Creative Conversations

Theatre panel and perspectives under the spotlight

Step behind the scenes to uncover the journeys, opportunities, and impact awaiting young creatives in theatre today.

Creative Conversations: Theatre Panel and Perspectives Under the Spotlight invites young theatre enthusiasts to explore the diverse paths in the arts. From **academic options** and the **journeys of emerging artists** to **career pathways** beyond traditional theatre, and the impact of **applied theatre** with the cast of *Meet Fred* —each session offers fresh insights and real stories from today's theatre makers.

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

14 November	8:35PM	Academic Pathways for Young Theatre Makers
15 November	8:35PM	Making Their Marks: The Journey of Young Theatre Makers
16 November	8:35PM	Commercial Pathways for Arts Graduates
22 November	9:05PM	Applied Theatre and Meet the IYC
23 November	4:05PM	Engaging Youth Audiences in Singapore Theatre

Academic Pathways for Young Theatre Makers

14 November

8:35PM [after the performance of *A Super Happy Story (About Being Super Sad)*]

Panelists:

Matt Grey, Programme Leader, Diploma in Performance, LASALLE College of the Arts

Rei Poh, Associate Dean, School of Theatre, NAFA / UAS

Samantha Bounaparte, Programme Chair, Diploma in Arts and Entertainment Production Management, Republic Polytechnic

*Moderated by **Jesviinder Padda**, Head of Development, SRT*



MATT GREY

Programme Leader, Diploma in Performance, LASALLE College of the Arts

Matt Grey is an award-winning actor and educator with over thirty-five years of industry experience. He has acted, directed and taught acting internationally in Australia, Britain, France, India and Singapore. He specialises in voice and speech training and has been managing the Diploma in Performance at LASALLE since 2015. Matt has developed the programme to educate artistic practitioners, who are socially responsive, critically engaged and independently creative.

In addition to his programme leadership and teaching practice, he acts regularly for Singapore's leading theatre companies. His acting debut was in British television at the age of sixteen. He later trained at the Guildford School of Acting conservatoire and has continued to perform ever since. In 2013, he was awarded 'Best Actor' in the 13th Life Theatre awards for his portrayal of Sigmund Freud in *Freud's Last Session*.

Matt's research interest is in voice and speech training in Singapore. Over the last twenty-five years, he has integrated established pedagogies into a process that promotes the actor's authenticity and credibility in realistic and stylised acting. Working in a multi-cultural context, his research enables his students to work across different modalities and develop a wide and flexible range of artistic responses in their work.



REI POH

Associate Dean, School of Theatre, NAFA / UAS

Rei Poh is a theatre practitioner, director, and actor interested in using game design in participatory theatre. He holds a Master of Directing for Performance from the Victorian College of the Arts and leads ATTEMPTS, a participatory performance collective. Rei has created groundbreaking works like ATTEMPTS(MEL), ATTEMPTS(SG), DATING SIM (beta) and WINDOW. Currently, he is the Associate Dean for the School of Theatre at NAFA/UAS and recently completed THE CENTRE, following a two-year incubation at Huayi Brewery.

Established in 1938, the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) is Singapore's pioneer arts institution. The academy is known for its rigorous and high-quality curriculum, innovative and practitioner-led teaching approach, diverse artistic creations and community outreach. NAFA takes pride in nurturing and empowering students with the courage to shape the future of Southeast Asian arts and the world. NAFA is a founding member of the University of the Arts Singapore.



SAMANTHA BOUNAPARTE

Programme Chair, Diploma in Arts and Entertainment Production Management, Republic Polytechnic

Samantha Bounaparte is Programme Chair for the Diploma in Arts and Entertainment Production Management (formerly Arts and Theatre Management) at Republic Polytechnic, with over 15 years of experience in the tertiary education sector. In her role, she leads programme development to equip students with a strong foundation in arts and production management, preparing them to meet the evolving demands of the industry.

Samantha has a personal focus on creating multisensory experiences for neurodiverse audiences and regularly conducts workshops on performance-making for these communities. Her notable works include *Riley's Rain* at the M1 Peer Pleasure Festival and *The Universe of Feelings*, a collaboration with Superhero Me at the Esplanade. In 2018, she attended the Artist Professional Development program at the Big Umbrella Festival at Lincoln Centre, working alongside renowned practitioners like Oily Cart UK and Trusty Sidekick NY, deepening her commitment to inclusive, sensory-driven theatre.

Samantha's work ensures that graduates emerge not only as skilled professionals but as thoughtful, socially conscious practitioners. Her dedication to accessible theatre enhances her students' learning experience, inspiring them to create impactful works that resonate with and engage diverse audiences.



Making Their Marks: The Journey of Young Theatre Makers

15 November

8:35PM [after the performance of *A Super Happy Story (About Being Super Sad)*]

Panelists:

Members of The Winter Players: Feroz J. Malik, Wong Shao Qi & Marwyn Ho

Moderated by **Daniel Jenkins**, Deputy Artistic Director, SRT



FEROZ J MALIK

The Winter Players

Feroz is a strange figure. He bears an aching love for all things that are moving. As a professional sufferer he possesses a powerful voice and a personality that adds poetry to everything he does.

Since graduating from LASALLE's Diploma in Performance, Feroz has been seen shouting at children as Prospero in *Caliban's Island* (Esplanade's March On! Festival) by Void Deck Games, playing Leontes in *The Winter's Tale* last year by The Winter Players, and madly raving about the poetic forms of verse to anybody who will listen.

WONG SHAO QI

The Winter Players

Shao Qi is graduating soon from LASALLE's BA (Hons) Acting programme and previously graduated from the Diploma in Performance programme at LASALLE. She is passionate about theatre and screen acting, having experience in short films. Shao Qi has dabbled in many parts of theatre and the arts since she was 12, including stage managing, production making and writing.

She hopes to be able to write and produce her own work one day. Shao Qi is also part of the theatre collective The Winter Players.



MARWYN HO

The Winter Players

Marwyn is a theatre maker, and the founding Artistic Director of The Winter Players. He holds a BA (Hons) in Acting from LASALLE College of the Arts, and a Diploma in Applied Drama and Psychology from Singapore Polytechnic. He also graduated from SRT's Young Company in 2019.

With The Winter Players, he is currently living his dream staging a theatrical world tour of international classics. From Shakespeare to Ibsen and hopefully Lorca soon, he hopes to educate, entertain, and make many friends along the way.

COMMERCIAL PATHWAYS FOR ARTS GRADUATES

16 November

8:35PM [after the performance of *A Super Happy Story (About Being Super Sad)*]

Panelists:

Macadia Wei, Senior Market Strategy & Partnership Manager, Fever

Blake Tatroe, International Consultant (Entertainment & Sports)

Sarah Peters Tatroe, Co-Managing Director, TS Live Events

Moderated by **Daniel Jenkins**, Deputy Artistic Director, SRT



MACADIA WEI

Senior Market Strategy and Partnerships Manager, Fever

Macadia Wei serves as the Senior Market Strategy and Partnerships Manager at Fever, a leading global live-entertainment discovery platform. Macadia brings a diverse background, having driven impactful initiatives from shaping investment promotion policies and sector development for Singapore to driving tech transformation projects in a global bank. Now at Fever, Macadia leverages her expertise to enhance audience engagements in the live-entertainment space through innovative and data-driven partnerships. Working alongside creators, she aims to disrupt traditional models and introduce new value to the arts sector and beyond.

fever



BLAKE TATROE

International Consultant (Entertainment & Sports)

Blake has spent his professional career contributing to the sports and entertainment industry, specializing in business development, marketing, and commercialization including spearheading first-time sport and entertainment experiences in numerous territories across APAC and the Middle East.

Blake spent 12 years with Feld Entertainment, the global leader of touring family entertainment. During his time with Feld, Blake led first time productions of *Monster Jam* as well as countless productions of *Disney On Ice* and *Disney Live!* throughout the region.

In 2019, Blake joined ONE where he led all live event marketing and ticketing efforts. During this time, Blake also supported eSports live event marketing for DOTA 2 and season 1 of *The Apprentice: ONE Championship Edition*.

Most recently, Blake joined Michael Cassel Group with a focus on expanding the company's touring theatrical productions around the globe and the development of new musical markets. Blake led the business development and commercial negotiations for the first-ever international tour of *Hamilton* and *Juliet* in Singapore and was critical in fundraising efforts for productions across Australia, West End and Broadway.

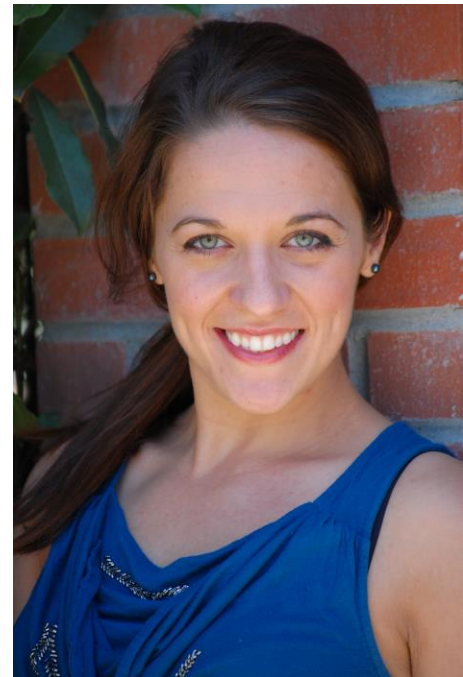
SARAH PETERS TATROE

Co-Managing Director, TS Live Events

Sarah began her career as a performer and dancer with the Walt Disney Company, captivating audiences as a parade and show performer at Disneyland Resort in California.

She then joined Feld Entertainment, touring over 25 countries with *Disney Live!* as a performer, Dance Captain, and Assistant Performance Director, where she honed her leadership skills in show integrity and cast training. After her time on the road, Sarah relocated to Singapore, stepping into arts education with AQ Dance Academy and as a Performance Specialist for the Walt Disney Company Asia Pacific. In these roles, she specialized in choreography, performance direction, casting, training, and talent management across major productions including 'Carols in the Domain' (Sydney, Australia) 'Best Singer' (Japan) & 'Disney and Me' (India).

In 2021, Sarah launched TS Live, a boutique arts and entertainment consultancy dedicated to creative development and live event management. Partnering with leading organizations like Proactiv Entertainment, Disney Theatrical Group, Fever Entertainment, and VStar Entertainment, TS Live provides critical event support to premier entertainment experiences throughout APAC.



APPLIED THEATRE & MEET THE IYC

22 November

9:05PM [after the performance of *Meet Fred*]

Panelists:

Grace Lee-Khoo, Lead Artist, SRT's Inclusive Young Company

Keanan, Member, SRT's Inclusive Young Company

Jireh, Member, SRT's Inclusive Young Company

GRACE LEE-KHOO

Lead Artist, Inclusive Young Company

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). 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.



JIREH KOH

Member, Inclusive Young Company

Jireh Koh is a musician, performer and classically-trained opera singer with 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 *Odyssey Dance Theatre*.



KEANAN

Member, Inclusive Young Company

When parts of myself were lost, expressing the emptiness through art was resurrective. I hope the story that you watch today resonates with you on some level. Although we are bodies on stage that may appear different from what you wake up to daily, the search for happiness, freedom, meaning, love — are latent within all of us. If we strive to empathise with that, we can do our best to be the enablers of each other's dreams, together.



ENGAGING YOUTH AUDIENCES IN SINGAPORE THEATRE

23 November

4:05PM [after the performance of *Meet Fred*]

Panelists:

Nelson Chia, Co-Founder & Artistic Director, Nine Years Theatre

Chong Tze Chien, Artistic Director, NUS Stage

Ivan Heng, Founder & Artistic Director, Wild Rice

Tracie Pang, Artistic Director & Managing Director, Pangdemonium

Gaurav Kripalani, Artistic Director, Singapore Repertory Theatre



NELSON CHIA

Co-Founder & Artistic Director, Nine Years Theatre

Nelson is a director, actor, playwright, acting teacher, and theatre lecturer. He is a four-time Best Director and two-time Best Actor winner at the Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards. Nelson's productions are known for detailed ensemble work and culturally layered scripts. From 2012 to 2014, he was the first Singapore artist commissioned for three consecutive years by The Esplanade for the Huayi Chinese Festival of Arts. In 2012, he co-founded Nine Years Theatre with his wife, Mia Chee. Besides high-quality Mandarin productions, NYT is invested in actor training, making Nelson a local leading figure in the field.

An award-winning Singapore Mandarin theatre company, Nine Years Theatre (NYT) is dedicated to creating high-quality performances. While Chinese culture is the foundation of its work, it is not the centre of its practice. NYT aspires to celebrate the multicultural identity of Singaporean Chinese through theatre. NYT tells stories that remind us of our humanity and invests in actor training to maintain consistent quality. Its accessible and culturally layered work speaks to diverse audiences. NYT's performances range from original plays and transcreations to interdisciplinary and international collaborations. In 2024, NYT is awarded the Singapore Chinese Cultural Contribution Award (organisation).



CHONG TZE CHIEN

Artistic Director, NUS Stage

Tze Chien is the Artistic Director of NUS Stage, a core member of The Finger Players and an award-winning playwright/director. Some of the awards he has won include the Singapore Dramatist Award, and The Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards. His plays have been staged in Singapore, UK, Budapest, Taiwan and Japan. He has three collections of plays containing critically acclaimed plays such as *Charged* (The Business Times' top ten Singapore play of all time) *PIE*, and *Turn by Turn we Turn*, just to name a few. For his contributions to Singapore Theatre, he was awarded the Young Artist Award 2006 by Singapore's National Arts Council.





IVAN HENG

Founder & Artistic Director, Wild Rice

Ivan Heng is one of Singapore's most prominent, dynamic, and respected creative leaders, recognized for his pioneering contributions to theatre as an actor, director, playwright, designer, and producer. As the founder and Artistic Director of WILD RICE, Ivan has transformed the Singaporean theatre landscape, blazing a trail for contemporary theatre with a distinctive Singaporean voice.

Ivan's career spans nearly four decades, during which he has directed and acted in landmark productions across more than 20 cities worldwide. His professional debut came in 1986 with Theatreworks Singapore, starring in Yukio Mishima's *Kantan*. He also played iconic roles in some of Singapore's most groundbreaking plays, such as Malcolm Png in *Army Daze* and Frankie Wong in *Beauty World*. After winning the prestigious BAT Arts Scholarship, Ivan trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, where he graduated at the top of his class. His Edinburgh Fringe hit, *The Woman in a Tree on the Hill*, marked a significant achievement early in his career. Following this success, he founded Tripitaka Theatre Company, where he created *Journey West*, a one-man show that toured internationally and earned him critical acclaim.

In 2000, Ivan's portrayal of Emily of Emerald Hill led him to found Wild Rice, a company at the vanguard of Singapore theatre. Under his leadership, the company has produced over 170 productions and 80 original works, reaching more than a million audience members and garnering over 30 Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards. Ivan's activism has also made him a powerful voice for LGBTQ+ rights and freedom of expression in Singapore. He has been part of the Repeal 377A movement since 2007 and continues to champion equality and justice. For his outstanding contributions, Ivan was awarded the Cultural Medallion – Singapore's highest cultural honour. In 2024, he was knighted Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres by the government of France, and an Honorary Doctorate by his alma mater the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

TRACIE PANG

Artistic Director & Managing Director, Pangdemonium



Tracie trained at Croydon College, London, and has since clocked up 30 years as a theatre practitioner throughout the UK and Asia, working with Quicksilver Theatre Company, Mu-Lan Theatre Company, Pimlico Opera, Theatre Royal Stratford East, and Theatreworks.

In Singapore, Tracie set up and established The Little Company and was Associate Artistic Director for Singapore Repertory Theatre from 2006-2010. In 2009, Tracie founded Pangdemonium Theatre Company with her husband Adrian and is the co-artistic director and executive director.

Tracie directs the vast majority of Pangdemonium's shows and has won the Best Director Award for *Falling*. She has also received the Best Director nomination 14 times at the Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards. Tracie is very proud to have been awarded the 2015 AWA International Woman of the Year for The Arts, as well as the 2017 Women's Weekly "Great Women of our Time" Award for Arts and Media.



GAURAV KRIPALANI

Artistic Director, Singapore Repertory Theatre

Gaurav Kripalani is artistic director of the Singapore Repertory Theatre (SRT). He is an instantly recognisable face on the local arts stage, having presented and produced over 150 productions, including nine Shakespeare in the Park productions, theatre classics as well as original Singaporean works including original musicals like *Forbidden City: Portrait of an Empress* and *A Twist of Fate*. Gaurav secured SRT's involvement in international collaborations such as *The Bridge Project*, a three-year partnership with The Old Vic and BAM which included Sam Mendes directing Kevin Spacey in *Richard III*; presenting the RSC's *King Lear* starring Ian McKellen; and co-commissioning Peter Brook's last play, *Battlefield*.

Gaurav serves on various Boards including the National Heritage Board, the International Society for the Performing Arts, and Mercury Musical Developments.

He was the director of the Singapore International Festival of Arts (Sifa) from 2018 to 2020.

ABOUT THEATRE360

Theatre360 by SRT's Centre for Creative Learning, is an initiative designed to demonstrate to Singapore's youth that theatre can be a viable and lucrative career. This November, dive into an action-packed festival offering a 360-degree industry experience through engaging panel discussions, captivating performances, and hands-on workshops led by seasoned professionals, industry organizations, and emerging artists.

For more info about other Theatre360 programmes, please visit <https://www.srt.com.sg/theatre360>

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