

Meet Fred - Pre-show Notes

Prepared by Eleanor Ee for Singapore Repertory Theatre

Introduction

Welcome to this introduction to *Meet Fred*, an interactive theatre performance presented by Singapore Repertory Theatre's Inclusive Young Company.

The audio described performances are at 7:30pm on Friday, 22 November, and 2:30pm on Saturday, 23 November, and run for about 1 hour 5 minutes with no interval. The touch tour will begin at 6.15pm on Friday, 22 November, and 1:15pm on Saturday, 23 November. Please aim to arrive fifteen minutes before the tour. The audio description will be delivered through the Sennheiser MobileConnect app on your phone. Please download the app ahead of time and bring your own earphones. Your audio describer will be Eleanor Ee.

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.

Creative Credits

Meet Fred is originally a Hijinx Production, created in association with Blind Summit.

The director is Grace Lee-Khoo.

The movement director is Regina Foo.

The production designer is Laura McEwen.
The sound designer is Noor Hidayat Norzizan.
The stage manager is Marilyn Chew.
Dorothy Png is the Lighting Designer.

Cast, Characters, and Costumes

The show features a large cast, many of whom play multiple characters and roles within the play. The main character, Fred, is played by two actors, voiced by another actor, and is puppeteered by two puppeteers at any one time.

Fred is played by Keanan Lim and Goh Tze Kiat. As Fred, they both appear in white make-up on their face, and have a white beanie atop their head. They also have on a white jinbei, comprising a kimono-style top that ends at their elbows, and loose short pants, along with one white sock on their right leg and white flat-soled shoes. Keanan wears a prosthetic leg, while Tze Kiat has a leg brace.

The Voice of Fred is played by Shea Chiang. Similar to Fred, she appears with a white beanie atop her head. We see her in a white button-up collared shirt with a white blazer over it, black and white striped tights, and black boots.

The Puppeteers are played by Jireh Koh, Rui Xuan Yung and Megan Pang. They appear in black beanies, long-sleeved black shirts and long black pants, and black flat-soled shoes.

Director is played by Prithviraj Kumar Basu. He appears in a yellow fedora hat, a blue button-up collared long-sleeved shirt, dark blue jeans and black flat-soled shoes.

Martin is played by Trevor Joshua Lee Jing Wen. He appears in a black beanie, black button-up collared long-sleeved shirt, black trousers, and black flat-soled shoes.

Jamal is played by Muhammad Hidayat bin Mohammad Yaakob. He appears in a cornsilk yellow button-up collared shirt, with a pattern of alternating light and dark blue leaves, and a dark blue panel with cornsilk yellow crosses running down the centre button-up portion of his shirt. He also has on a black lanyard and grey trousers, held up by a brown belt. Jamal is vision impaired. He wears black sunglasses and carries with him a white foldable cane.

Lucille and Maker are played by Megan, who also plays one of the puppeteers. Lucille appears in a white boater hat and a light blue kimono robe with a pattern of abstract looking trees that have pink trunks and green leaves. The kimono ends at her calves, and the black trousers she is wearing peek out from underneath. As Maker, she appears in a messy purple wig, with a loose and baggy white button up top that ends at her knees. She wears black trousers under her white top.

The Musicians are played by Srikant Pattabhiraman, Jeremy Tay Yong En and Hidayat, who also plays Jamal. Srikant appears in a black button-up collared shirt, with a grey vest patterned with white swirls on top of the shirt. His shirt is tucked into black trousers, which are held up by a brown belt. Srikant plays the guitar. Jeremy appears in a cap that says "Respect" across the front. His shirt has no sleeves and has a picture of John Cena in front, with the text John Cena printed below the picture. He also wears a pair of loose blue jeans. His outfit is completed with a long silver chain that dangles around his neck, a pair of sunglasses that hangs on his shirt, and a pair of soft black tennis wristbands. Jeremy also plays the guitar. As a musician, Hidayat wears a maroon cap and a red varsity bomber jacket that has white sleeves and red stripes at the wrists. Hidayat plays the Cajon. He removes the cap and jacket to quickly transform into Jamal.

The Creative Enablers are Lim Jue Hao Isaac, Ross Rodzleen and Hedzlyn Hazwany, who also play various Ensemble roles. They appear in black shirts, trousers and shoes.

Set and Setting

Meet Fred is set mainly in a theatre on a stage at KC Arts Centre. As Fred's story unfolds, the cast brings on various props to transform the stage into a job centre, void deck and a park.

Five large panels line up across the back of the stage, with the two panels on the far ends facing us and the middle three panels curving to form a "u" shape.

The panel on the far left is white, with captions projected on this panel. Each of the characters have their own speech bubble design for the captions, and the music and singing segments are signposted by music notes.

The next four panels have a light grey background with a mind map on them. Each of the panels has a large prominent word or phrase written in all capital letters on the top centre portion of the panel. The panels say "SHIT SHOW", "FRED", "DATE NIGHT" and "ROCK BOTTOM" from the left to right respectively. At various points of time, videos

with the actors' faces will be projected onto any of these four panels.

There are two steps at the front of the stage leading down towards us, one towards the left side of the stage, the other towards the right. Lily Goh, the sign language interpreter, stands on a black box in front of the left side of the stage, next to the end of the left steps. Shea, the Voice of Fred, mirrors Lily, standing on a black box in front of the right side of the stage, next to the end of the right steps.

There are two inverted "u"-shaped black boxes. One of the sides with the inverted "u"-shape reveals a brown brick pattern, and one of the solid square sides reveals a green and yellow garden wallpaper pattern with flowers. The other sides remain black.

When the musicians come in to play Fred's theme music, they are seen at their busking corner, to the right of the stage. Hidayat is positioned in front with his cajon, with Srikant behind him to the diagonal left, and Jeremy behind him on the diagonal right.

Setting 1: Stage

We first see Fred on stage, in a cuboid box of light that shines down in front of the fourth panel, on the centre right of the stage. An inverted "u"-shaped black box is in the front centre of the stage.

Setting 2: Job Centre

A rectangular table is at the centre, with a plant, a watering can and a laptop on top. There are two "u"-shaped black boxes, one to the left and right of the table. The laptop faces the right black box, where Jamal sits.

Setting 3: Void Deck

The two "u"-shaped black boxes are nearer to us, on our left. The black boxes are turned to the side with the brown brick patterns and are placed side by side, becoming a bench at a void deck.

Setting 4: Park

The two "u"-shaped boxes are at the centre, and the garden wallpaper side faces us. They are placed side by side, becoming a garden bench. There is a tall plant to the left of the bench.

Access Information

SRT aims to provide an excellent experience and service for all patrons who may require additional support to access our venue and enjoy our events.

For accessible booking options, please contact us at 6733 8166 from 10am to 6pm Monday to Friday.

The nearest parking options are Robertson Quay Hotel, located at 15 Merbau Road, Singapore 239032, opposite the theatre's front door, or the Robertson Walk Carpark at 11 Unity Street, Singapore 237995.

For Public Transport options, the nearest Bus Stop is B13211.

The nearest MRT stations are Clarke Quay (NE5), on the Northeast Line and Fort Canning (DT20) on the Downtown Line.

KC Arts Centre, the home of SRT, is guide dog friendly. It is also accessible for wheelchair use from both the front and rear entrances. There is currently 1 wheelchair space on row Q in the theatre stalls.

If you require a wheelchair space, or would like to understand more about transferring options, please contact our venue team via email at boxoffice@srt.com.sg or call 6733 8166.

We at SRT look forward to welcoming you and hope you have a wonderful time with us!

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