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// 72-13.com // TWorkssg.wordpress.com // T:>Works is supported by the National Arts Council under the Major
Company Scheme for the period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2022. // T:>Works is an Institute of Public Character
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MEDIA ALERT

THE SWIMMING POOL LIBRARY

Dive into an extended audience experience, designed to amplify your enjoyment of Brian Gothong Tan's anticipated production

SINGAPORE, October 7, 2021 — To safeguard the health of its audience, cast and crew during this pandemic, T:>Works will take a creative response to the endemic situation and stage its upcoming production, ***The Swimming Pool Library***, in three parts.

1. Despite tightened Covid-19 safety measures until October 24, the live performance and simultaneous digital live-cast will be presented on 28-30 October 2021. The cast – Karen Tan, Irfan Kasban, Umi Kalthum Bte Ismail, Lian Sutton Azizul 'Izzy' Mahathir (a.k.a. Vanda Miss Joaquim) and Ronald Goh – will perform the meshing of texts from performance company spell#7's "Various Gangsters" (2002) and writings from "EXHALE: An Anthology of Queer Singapore Voices" to present a layered portrait of the quest for love and belonging in the garden city.

With limited seating for the four live performances, Singapore and international digital live-cast ticket holders will enjoy each night's live performance streamed in real-time, in close-ups and viewed in comfort from their personal devices.

2. The full exhibition will open in January 2022, coinciding with Singapore Art Week. The genesis of ***The Swimming Pool Library***, this visual and sensory segment invites audiences to journey with the artist in the making of his works. Works including paper sketches, 3D printed sculptures, 3D film photography and DIY books will jigsaw the pieces of Tan's creative imagery of a boy's rite of passage.
3. The hybrid theatre experience and the exhibition will be bridged by three special events scheduled between November 2021 and January 2022. Revolving around "Othering in Gender and Sexuality", these will explore the themes surrounding ***The Swimming Pool Library*** by inviting speakers, artists, writers and viewers to enjoy curated conversations about how masculinity and stereotypes are classified by society.

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Says Tan: “We are taking this exciting staging approach to give audiences the opportunity to enjoy the exhibition in its entirety, and peace of mind. Partaking in the ongoing conversations on otherness in gender and sexuality, as well as video-on-demand, from home will also extend the audience’s show journey.”

Adds Ong Keng Sen, Artistic Director of T:>Works: “T:>Works is trying not to lose our artistry as we become resilient, adaptive, and flexible to this challenging time in Singapore. This is why we have set up an artistic atelier within T:>Works – to explore creative strategies of communicating with our audiences over a longer period of time for one work.

“Rather than combusting everything in two months, we now expand our works into a transdisciplinary range of expressions, over five months of communication, from September to January. We want to become less wasteful and more sustainable in our creative processes, as we listen to our different audiences.”

NEW DATES

Live performance and digital live-cast:

28 (SOLD OUT), 29 & 30 Oct, 2021, 8pm | 30 Oct, 2021, 3pm

Live performance venue: 72-13

Exhibition and multimedia installation:

6 – 23 Jan 2022, [Tue – Wed, 12pm – 6pm | Thu – Fri, 12pm – 7pm]

Free with registration. Timed-entry only.

Tickets are available at theswimmingpoollibrary.peatix.com.

Images for the production can be downloaded [here](#). For media enquiries, please contact Michelle Bong Lejtenyi at michellebonglejenyi.tworks@gmail.com or +65 9747 5616. For updated information, visit <https://theatreworkssg.wordpress.com/>, or follow www.facebook.com/TWorkssg/ and [@tworkssg](https://twitter.com/tworkssg).

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ABOUT T:>Works

Established in 1985, T:>Works is an independent and international performance company based in Singapore. T:>Works’ vision and mission is the pioneering of thought leadership in the arts focused on transdisciplinary, transcultural, and inclusive processes. To this end, T:>Works’ mission is to provide a strong educational perspective with research and discourse contextualising the situated histories, lived contemporary experiences, and embodied art practices.

T:>Works also serves to investigate the current urgencies of being located in Singapore through different creative expressions in the public sphere. It supports Singapore artists, and articulates the Singapore arts through its various productions and developmental programmes. It engages new writing, transdisciplinary performances and collaborations, and provides fellowships for artists, scientists, creatives working in contemporary culture and post-digital media.

Since its establishment, it has staged over 200 productions and 2,500 performances in Singapore and internationally, reaching an audienceship of over a million. A recipient of the National Arts Council Major Company Grant for the period from 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2022, T:>Works is an Institute of Public Character with charity status.

ABOUT BRIAN GOTHONG TAN

Brian Gothong Tan is one of the leading creatives in Singapore, and is best known for his cutting-edge and highly engaging works in theatre, film and installation art. He graduated from California Institute of the Arts in 2005 under the Shell-NAC Scholarship. His works have been featured in numerous productions which have toured successfully in many countries like Italy, USA, Korea and the United Kingdom.

His latest projects include “Tropical Traumas” (Singapore International Festival of Arts 2016), the Singapore Bicentennial Experience, “Lost Cinema 20/20” (Esplanade, 2021) and “Havoc Girls and Kamikaze Boys” (2021, M1 Fringe and NAFA). He was conferred the Young Artist Award in 2012, and the Singapore Youth Award in 2015.

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THE SWIMMING POOL LIBRARY

28 -31 Oct, 2021; 6-23 Jan, 2022

72-13

SYNOPSIS

Reflecting an unconventional rite of passage where society's labels of gender and sexuality do not necessarily apply, *The Swimming Pool Library* is an immersive, multi-sensorial production that looks at the relevance of society's definitions of masculinity, and questions, among other things, why it can't involve tenderness, kindness and vulnerability.

Journey along a rite of passage reflected through director Brian Gothong Tan's intimate, surreal lens, featuring a live performance simultaneously live-cast over the internet – complemented by an exhibition and multimedia installation celebrating Tan's visual arts aesthetic.

CREATIVE AND PRODUCTION TEAM

Director: Brian Gothong Tan

Associate Producer: James J. Tay

Stage Manager: Justina Khoo

Lighting Designer & Technical Manager: Andy Lim

Sound Designer: BOON

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Asst to Brian/Set Coordinator: M. Nurfadhli Jasni

Costume Designer: Theresa Chan

Live cam editor (Streaming): Eric Lee

Camera Director: Teh Yee Sheng

Assistant Stage Manager: Christopher Ong

Publicity/Marketing Design: Howie Kim

Public Engagement Programmes: Noorlinah Mohamed

CAST

Karen Tan, Umi Kalthum Bte Ismail, Azizul 'Izzy' Mahathir (a.k.a. Vanda Miss Joaquim), Lian Sutton, Irfan Kasban and Ronald Goh

OFFICIAL TICKETING PARTNER

Peatix

theswimmingpoollibrary.peatix.com

LIVE PERFORMANCE AND DIGITAL LIVE-CAST:

28 (SOLD OUT), 29 & 30 Oct, 2021, 8pm | 30 Oct, 2021, 3pm

Tickets at \$35 (live performance) and \$15 (digital live-cast)

EXHIBITION AND MULTIMEDIA INSTALLATION:

6 – 23 Jan 2022, [Tue – Wed, 12pm – 6pm | Thu – Fri, 12pm – 7pm]

Free with registration. Timed-entry only.
