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highlights Jo’s nuanced writing and critical exploration of performativity and construction of gender identities and stereotypes.

Says Jo, “We ‘perform’ gender every day. Depending on who we are with and what we need them to do (or not do), we dial up and down on 'femininity' or 'masculinity' in what we wear, how we stand, how we speak.... Sometimes, we push like mad against stereotypes, and sometimes we lean into it just to make things not just easier for other people, but for ourselves. And is it always bad, or good, to do that? I wanted to examine different gender expectations and how we all respond to them in different ways - hence the eight characters.”

Indeed, as playwright, Jo is intrigued by the slippages of non-conforming behaviours and how they affect relationships and negotiate social norms. The result: **King** is a highly layered piece of theatre examining stereotypes, sexism, discrimination and privilege with complexity, humour and sensitivity. For the 2023 live edition, expect new elements including additional musical numbers and dialogue not seen in the digital version.

Journeying with the titular character Geok Yen, **King** invites us to consider ways in which we negotiate our discomforts and blindspots, and what it takes to feel comfortable in our skin sans judgement and ridicule.

Joining our National Day week celebration is White Rabbit by Hao Food SG. In a synergistic collaboration, T:>Works and Hao Food SG celebrates local brands and homegrown stories. White Rabbit, remembered as a childhood candy, makes a delightful appearance as ice-cream at 72-13. Generously sponsored by Hao Food SG, proceeds from purchases of ice-cream at **King** will be donated to T:>Works to sustain its creative endeavours.

T:>Works presents

King

written and performed by **Jo Tan**

directed by **Irfan Kasban**

10–13 August 2023, 8pm
12 & 13 August 2023, 3pm
72-13 Mohamed Sultan Road, Singapore 239007

S\$38, \$28* (*concessions for NSFs, Full-time students, and Seniors 55 years and up)
King’s Opening Night Party on 10 August at S\$88, includes a ticket to **King** + free flow drinks & cocktail reception

Tickets available at Peatix at <https://bit.ly/king2023-tworks>

For media queries and images, contact Noorlinah Mohamed at 96619071 / noorlinah.mohamed@gmail.com.

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Annex 1

About Jo Tan – Playwright and Performer

Jo is an actor and writer who trained at The Ecole Philippe Gaulier in Paris under a National Arts Council Residency. Since then, her work has been seen in cities from New York to Busan, including playing a main lead in internationally feted movie, “Tiong Bahru Social Club”, and main characters in several Singapore TV series. She’s won numerous Life! Theatre Awards titles for her self-penned/performed works that include “Forked”, “A Bit Pivot”, and “King”, the last of which scored her the Best Original Script and Best Actress titles in 2022. She is also a Dim Sum Dolly (the tall one).

About Irfan Kasban – Director and Designer

Irfan is a transdisciplinary artist concerned in weaving intricate universes as a celebration of space and time. His curiosity has led him to work in various mediums across many different genres. In 2020, Irfan was conferred the Young Artist Award by the National Arts Council, Singapore. Motivated by the pursuit of emotional authenticity and ephemerality, he continues to redefine the boundaries between art and the audience. Irfan’s current area of interest and research is performance as ritual healing. For “King”, Irfan not only directs but also helms the production design from set, lights, sound to key visuals.

About T:>Works

Established in 1985, T:>Works is an independent and international arts company based in Singapore at its space, 72-13. It is currently led by Artistic Director, Ong Keng Sen. T:>Works’ mission and vision are the pioneering of thought leadership in the arts focused on transdisciplinary, transcultural, and inclusive processes. To this end, there is a strong educational perspective with research and discourse contextualising histories, contemporary experiences, and situated art practices in the global south. T:>Works also serves to investigate the current urgencies of being located in Singapore, and larger Asia, through different creative expressions in the public sphere. It is a recipient of the National Arts Council Major Company Grant from 1 April 2022 until 31 March 2025. T:>Works is an Institute of Public Character with charity status.