

Artistic
Directors
Academy

T:>Works

Public Lecture

**URBAN
(RE)DEVELOPMENT**

by m7red

3 July 2024, 7.30pm

72-13 Mohamed Sultan Road
Singapore 239007

as part of
THE SEASON OF
THOUGHT
LEADERSHIP:
IN THE ARTS,
BY THE ARTS,
WITH THE ARTS

A

About Artistic Directors Academy (ADA)

Part of T:>Works' The Season of Thought Leadership: in the Arts, by the Arts, with the Arts, launched on 7 March 2024, Artistic Directors Academy (ADA), led by T:>Works Artistic Director Ong Keng Sen, is a research laboratory to develop Artistic Directors, harnessing international cultural innovators to helm Masterclass modules, as well as individual mentoring to sharpen and intensify skillsets.

D

ADA focuses on giving perspectives to existing and potential Artistic Directors who wish to facilitate creative platforms, collectives, engagement projects, companies, venues, and festivals. ADA is a curriculum-based capacity development project where T:>Works will share its immense skills in the international field, translating international developments to artistic positions in the local context, and therefore opening up creative avenues internationally whilst being based locally.

A

ADA kicks off with a public lecture and 10-session Masterclass #1: Urban (Re)Development by m7red.

MASTERCLASS #1:

URBAN (RE)DEVELOPMENT

28 June–6 July 2024

Image Courtesy of m7red



Masterclass #1 Specialists:

m7red

Courtesy of m7red. From left to right: Mauricio Corbalán and Pio Torroja

28 June

Friday, 26 June
7.30–10.30pm

1 session

Saturday, 29 June
2–10pm

2 sessions

Sunday, 30 June
2–10pm

2 sessions

Wednesday, 3 July
7.30pm

Public lecture

Thursday, 4 July
7.30–10.30pm

1 session

Friday, 5 July
7.30–10.30pm

1 session

Saturday, 6 July
2–10pm

2 sessions

6 July

m7red

is an independent network of socially engaged architects and spatial planners. They work with citizens, especially under-represented communities, to counteract developments that impact negatively on communal spaces. Rejecting top-down processes of public decisionmaking, they collaborate with stakeholders, network with relevant experts, and create innovative tools that clarify power relations, vested interests and political pressures, thereby empowering people to claim their rights in public space.

m7red's dynamic research methodology integrates diverse perspectives and stakeholders, transitioning from theoretical scenarios to practical applications in real-world settings. Emphasising a polyphonic approach, they engage multiple voices to comprehend complex urban landscapes guided by the principles of scale and character, and this interdisciplinary approach unravels contemporary urban intricacies.

About the Public Lecture

Since 2005, m7red has been dedicated to developing a methodology for complex urban scenarios. The public lecture will trace the evolution of their working processes from inception to the present, highlighting the challenges faced by architecture as a space of diverse mediations in the emerging era of post-globalisation. It seeks to explore trans-scalar stories, traversing various scenarios and territories and offering insights into the obstacles and opportunities that lie ahead urban (re)development over the next 20 years.

Artistic Directors Academy (ADA) Fellows

ADA took off in March 2024 with an open call, which concluded on 30 April, yielding a selection of 18 Fellows. The accomplished individuals spanning disciplines of performing arts, ecology, curation, visual arts, creative design, literary arts, architecture, technology, discourse, and community engagement, have committed to participate in ADA Masterclasses, mentoring, and discussions, which will culminate in research projects being showcased at the final presentation in 2025.



Adeeb Fazah

Adeeb Fazah is a theatre director, producer, playwright, and educator based in Singapore. He graduated from Nanyang Technological University with a degree in Communication Studies where he specialised in Public Relations with a minor in Drama and Performance. He is the Artistic Director of The Second Breakfast Company, co-founder of Strike! Festival and co-founder of Impromptu Meetings and In the Round. He currently serves as the elected Treasurer of the Singapore Drama Educators Association.



Akai Chew

With architecture as a stepping off point, Akai Chew works in photography, maps, and installation art. The common threads of urban memories, stratum of histories, and contested geographies connect such diverse projects. He has a background in urban planning, and architecture heritage. He studied architecture at the University of Tasmania, where there is an ever present hidden history of the First Nations, and such an engagement is strong in the curriculum. His practice is engaged in a site specific, observation and research based methodology. By revealing hidden multiplicity of place and the veneer of identity, he nudges us towards unexpected encounters with history.



Brendon Fernandez

Brendon Fernandez is an actor, arts educator, and voiceover artist. His recent theatre credits include Tartuffe, Session Zero, G*d is a Woman, Hotel, The Importance of Being Earnest, MERDEKA / 獨立 / சுதந்திரம், and Displaced Persons' Welcome Dinner. He also participated in multiple arts festivals including SIFA 2015, OzAsia 2017, Kunsten Festival des Arts in Brussels, and the Singapore Arts Festival 2008. His most recent screen credit was on Season 3 of the webseries People Like Us. An accomplished voiceover artist, he can be heard on numerous commercials, documentary television programs, and audiobooks.



Chen Jiexiao

Currently the director of Miao Dance 淼舞, Chen Jiexiao is primarily concerned with topics related to the human condition, in particular notions of loneliness. He began foundational training with Frontier Danceland's PULSE programme, eventually joining T.H.E 2nd Company. For the past few years, as an Independent Dance Artist he has collaborated with visual artists, presented his own full-length commissioned production and a full-length duet, and teaches workshops internationally. His dance films have been selected for more than 100 film festivals globally.



Photo Credit: Abdul Sami (@iamabdulsami) and Theatresauce (@theatresauce)

Dhinesha Karthigesu

Dhinesha Karthigesu is a multi-disciplinary storyteller, theatre maker and coach. In 2021, his theatre play RAVAYANA beat a thousand other global entries to be selected as part of a play development programme run by the New York theatre collective The Playwrights Realm. Since September 2023, he is the newly appointed Artistic Director and Lead Producer for Theatresauce, a Kuala Lumpur-based theatre company founded in 2017 focused on telling edgy urban Malaysian stories. Under his leadership, the company is now focused on championing (minority) Malaysian stories.



Elizabeth Mak

Elizabeth Mak is an interdisciplinary artist and theatrical designer. As the founder of Rainshadow Studios, a climate arts non-profit in Singapore, she practises non-traditional forms of visual and experiential storytelling to engage audiences on pressing social and climate issues. Her design portfolio spans over 100 productions across the US (Broadway, Off-Broadway, LORT), Europe, and Asia and includes collaborations with companies like The Public Theater, the Kennedy Center, and Third Rail Projects. She holds an MFA from the Yale School of Drama and an AB from Harvard University.



Ethel Pang

Ethel Pang is a community weaver, donning the roles of a writer, researcher, and educational facilitator. Her work stretches across Singapore and the broader Southeast Asia, where she immerses herself in diverse communities and geographies. With her communities, she actively champions issues like environmentalism, women empowerment, education, and migrant worker rights. Her core mission is to create spaces for collective learning and cultivate networks of collaboration for ecological well-being.



Photo Credit: Bokoo

He Jin Jang

He Jin Jang is a multicounty-based dance artist, born and raised in Seoul, Korea. Recognised as a "daring and candid choreographer" by Dance Magazine MOMM (Korea), she contemplates the body's reaction to the inescapable vulnerability as the dance of nervous systems, that has much to uncover in the frame of Live Arts. Her artistic research includes staging performances, writing, and organising discourses and workshops.



Helios Singh Bajwa

Helios Singh Bajwa practises space- and discourse-making at the intersections of curation, performance, writing, and philosophy. His interests lie broadly in contemporary art vis-a-vis the politics of aesthetics and the history of ideas, with a focus on thinking of, with, and through institutional forms. He is currently a gallery coordinator at UltraSuperNew Gallery and founding co-runner of Opens Para-Academic Forum, an independent, non-profit para-academic forum based in Singapore.

**Judee Tan**

Best known for her creations Ivory Low IQ and Dr Teo Chew Moi for their outrageous humour, Judee Tan more recently conceptualised the beloved duo show Meenah and Cheenah, earning her a Best Actress nomination and acclaim as Singapore's "next comedy queen". Lesser known is her passion and ability as a psychic healer, where she explores areas of mental health, ancestral trauma, collective wounds and the spiritual dimensions of theatre. While her performances pack a punch and strike a chord with audiences, she believes what's important isn't just connecting with others, but with our true selves.

**Kamillah Bahdar**

A cultural worker based in Singapore, Kamillah worked across exhibitions, programmes and projects as curator, organiser, collaborator, researcher and writer. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) from Monash University in 2012. In 2015, she pursued an MA at Nanyang Technological University, writing a thesis on the residency programmes supporting contemporary art practices in Indonesia. She received the inaugural 2017 IMPART Awards in the curator category. She currently curates for the art collection and programmes at SMU Libraries and Singapore Management University, and focuses on the role of art in education, support structures and community building.

**Lawrence Ypil**

Lawrence Ypil is an award-winning poet and essayist whose work explores the intersection of text and image, and the role of material culture in the construction of cultural identity. In 2020, he was a finalist for the Lambda Literary Awards and on the longlist for The Believer Book Awards for The Experiment of the Tropics, the winner of the inaugural Gaudy Boy Book Prize. He has received MFAs from Washington University in St. Louis and from the Nonfiction Writing Program of the University of Iowa. He teaches creative writing at Yale-NUS College.

**Melvin Tan**

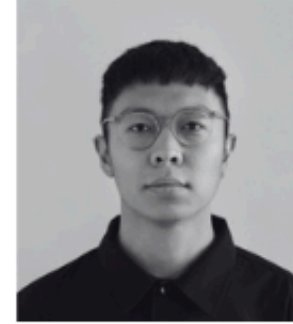
Melvin Tan is the Creative Director of Currency, a design agency providing value through strategic design. He believes purposeful design can transform projects and businesses. He enjoys helping new businesses enter the market and revitalising existing brands. Co-founder of Hothouse in 2020, the project supports and prototypes local artistic practices, fostering experimentation and production to upend conventions. The collective collaborates with new media artists INTER—MISSION and speculative architecture lab formAxioms, blending expertise in contemporary art, technology, design, and architecture for innovative knowledge building and dissemination.

**Md Muazzam (Zam)**

Zam is an interdisciplinary socially-engaged practitioner working at the intersections of applied theatre, community engagement, drama education, and performance-making for over 14 years. He is an Arts for Good fellow with the Singapore International Foundation. Locally and abroad, he directed, performed, and produced in productions and festivals. He also engages with social service agencies for children and youth, eldercare, and vulnerable communities. His expertise lies in community development, partnerships, project management, and arts engagement for social impact. His multifarious creativity and cultural endeavours are rooted in the pursuit of communicating truths with dignity, discernment, and care through an artistic lens.

**Natalia Tan**

Natalia Tan is a textile and community artist based in Singapore, and co-founder of the Singapore Eco Arts Festival. An active advocate of sustainability and socially-engaged artmaking, she co-creates with diverse audiences and a wide variety of materials — often salvaged from peer-to-peer freecycling groups, the public, and the urban landscape. In her art facilitation practice, she guides participants to gather inspiration from their heritage and memories to tell stories through textile art.

**Nicholas Tee**

Nicholas Tee is a live artist who collages action, image, sound and material through body-based performance, pain and endurance; their work often politically charged, angry and messy. Nicholas' work has been presented internationally, notably at Haus der Kunst (DE), Manchester Art Gallery (UK), Kettle's Yard (UK), ICA London (UK) and Point Centre for Contemporary Art (CY). Their work was featured in the 2019 British Art Studies journal published by Paul Mellon Centre. Besides their work as an artist, he is also a creative producer and is currently the Head of Artistic Development at Global Cultural Alliance, a non-profit arts organisation.

**Shaifulbahri Mohamad**

A creative producer, performance-maker and arts educator based in Singapore, Shaifulbahri is the Artistic Director of producing company Bahri & Co, former Joint Artistic Director of Bhumi Collective and founding Artistic Director of Yellow Chair Productions. He is also an Organising Member of Producers SG, a member of Asia Producers Platform (APP) Camp, a lecturer of BA Arts Management at LASALLE College of the Arts and an ISPA Singapore Fellow. He enjoys working with others on collaborative art across mediums to break the borders of art making. He believes in arts education and provides mentoring and development opportunities for emerging arts producers.

**Timothy Koh**

Timothy Koh is the Associate Director of Pangdemonium Theatre Company since 2022. He is directing work for the company, programming seasons, developing new plays, and directing a free program for teen actors and stage managers. He received training from the New York University Tisch School of the Arts (BFA Theatre), College of Arts and Science (BA English and American Literature). In New York City, he has worked as an Assistant Director at Lincoln Center Theater and Manhattan Theatre Club, held a Fellowship at Playwrights Horizons, and directed thesis plays at NYU's Graduate Department of Dramatic Writing. Other US experience includes work with Scott Rudin Productions, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, and the Lucille Lortel Awards.

About Dr. Ong Keng Sen



Photo credit: Jeannie Ho

Dr. Ong Keng Sen is Artistic Director of T:>Works and artspace 72-13 in Singapore. Apart from creating renown productions, Ong founded Arts Network Asia, a micro-grant peer organisation, and the international Curators Academy focused on synergy between contexts and curation. His seminal work was nomadic artist residency, The Flying Circus Project, traveling international artists through Asia, sharing their contexts amongst themselves and young people in local sites. Ong became Founding Festival Director of Singapore International Festival of Arts (SIFA), directing four editions. He was awarded the prestigious Fukuoka Asian Arts and Culture Prize for his creations in Asian contemporary performance. A Fulbright scholar, he was bestowed a honorary doctorate by University of Arts London. He was guest professor at Institute of Applied Theatre Giessen University and Freie University Berlin. He earned his Ph.D. in Performance Studies from Tisch School Of Arts, New York University in 2019.

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, Dr. 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 of 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.

T:>Works 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 (IPC) with Charity Status.

Media Contact:

ada@tworksasia.org | +65 6737 7213

Artistic Directors Academy (ADA) is funded in part by the Cultural Matching Fund.

Credits

Artistic Directors Academy

Founding Director	Ong Keng Sen
Producer	Jennifer Teo
Documenting Architect	Adrian Han
Masterclass Coordinator	Mel Peh
Technical Coordinator	Ian Tan
Lecture Production Manager	James Tay
Visual Design and Social Media	Zaihan Kariyani

T:>Works

Artistic Director	Ong Keng Sen
Executive Director	Traslin Ong
Digital and Outreach	Jeffrey Kang
Grants and Development	Shania Yusof
Administrator	Ong Soo Mei
Interns	Angeline Ang
	Charlotte Lee
	Jeverey Chiang

Board Members

Kathy Lai (Chairperson)
Mahesh Asrani
Mok Wei Wei
Noorlinah Mohamed
Ong Keng Sen
Suriani Suratman

