

# NATIONAL LANGUAGE CLASS



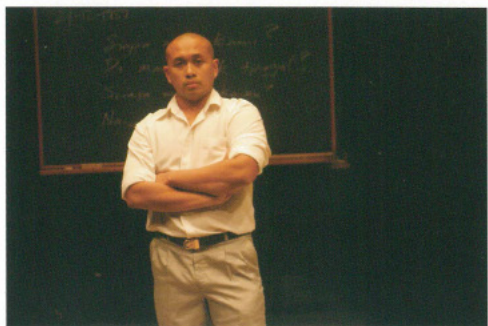
REMEMBER A TIME WHEN  
SINGAPORE WAS  
FOREVER MALAYA?

# NATIONAL LANGUAGE CLASS

by spell#7 

Remember a time when Singapore was forever Malaya?

Thought not.



In 1959, artist Chua Mia Tee painted a group of Chinese students learning Malay. Today, the painting is called 'National Language Class'. In their critically acclaimed play inspired by the painting, spell#7 revisit this vision of a future that never happened, and asks: how good is *your* national language?

Starting out as a language lesson with the audience, *National Language Class* stages multiple versions of Chua's iconic painting in a bid to get to grips with history, and resolve simmering tensions between teacher and pupil. As it develops into a power-play by turns humorous and menacing, tender and explosive, the performance asks: what is the relationship between who you are and the language you speak? And what does it mean to take a new language on - or give one away?



Fly Entertainment Artists

Interactive and inventive, *National Language Class* is an exercise in creative translation that suggests the past isn't what it used to be - and nor are we.

"...An innovative blend of language class, art tour and two man evocation of race relations... One felt enriched to have attended it."

(The Straits Times)

Performed by Yeo Yann Yann & Noor Effendy Ibrahim  
Directed by Paul Rae

"A tender yet unsettling piece."

(The Substation Magazine)

In Malay and Mandarin - no prior knowledge of either language is required!

3 - 5 April 2008, Thu - Sat, 8pm (75mins, no Intermission)  
Ticket at \$25 (Concessions for students, NSF and senior citizens: \$20)

Tickets available at Esplanade Box Office and all SISTIC authorised agents.

SISTIC Hotline: 6348-5555  
[www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg)

Presented by spell#7 in collaboration with Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay as part of

**the studios**