

Centre 42 (SG) and Five Arts Centre (KL) present

ARE YOU GAME, Sau(dara)?

**A double-bill of new works inspired by
Leow Puay Tin's *Three Children***

Join in the fun and games as Malaysian and Singaporean theatre practitioners respond to this 31-year-old landmark play.

Are You Game?

Directed by Fasyali Fadzly (Malaysia)
Performers: Ali Alasri, Darynn Wee,
Hannan Barakbah

Sau(dara)

Directed by Soultari Amin Farid
(Singapore/Bhumi Collective)
Performers: Lyn Hanis, Suryana Norddin,
Nurul Farahani, Syafiqah 'Adha Sallehin



RM40

1, 2 March 2019 | 8.30pm

3 March 2019 | 3.30pm

Kotak @ Five Arts Centre (Kuala Lumpur)

Bookings: fiveartscentre@gmail.com

Hotline: +6018 202 8827

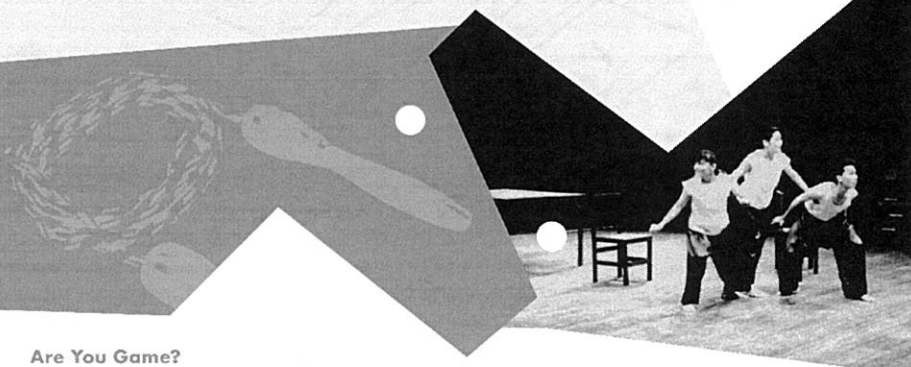
SGD15

8, 9 March 2019 | 8.00pm

10 March 2019 | 3.00pm

Black Box @ Centre 42 (Singapore)

Bookings: gamesaudara.peatix.com



About *Three Children*

Three Children was written in 1985 by Malaysian playwright Leow Puay Tin. The play is about three grown-up siblings — two sisters and a brother — who return to their childhood home on Kappan Road, Malacca, to confront their past. Eschewing a linear narrative, the three characters and a narrator race through a series of childrens' songs, games and sketches.

Thirty years ago, TheatreWorks staged *Three Children* in a directorial collaboration between its artistic director Ong Keng Sen and Five Art Centre founder Krishen Jit. For three months, the directors trained and devised with the cast, comprising Lok Meng Chue, Claire Wong, Lim Kay Tong and Neo Swee Lin. *Three Children* opened on 11 November 1988 at the Drama Centre to critical acclaim. *Three Children* returned in 1992 as a touring production with the directors, Lok and Wong, and joined by Loong Seng Onn and Tan Kheng Hua. This production toured to Singapore, Malaysia and Japan.

To find out more about *Three Children*, head to centre42.sg/about-three-children

About *Are You Game, Sau(dara)?*

Are You Game, Sau(dara)? is created as a contemporary response to *Three Children*, a boundary-pushing 1988 play about childhood by Malaysian playwright Leow Puay Tin. *Are You Game, Sau(dara)?* comprises of two works.

The first piece, titled *Sau(dara)*, is devised by Singapore-based theatre company Bhumi Collective, and explores childhood, memory, and play. Its premise is based on the artistic team's own childhood experiences, while also incorporating scenes from the original script of *Three Children*. A work-in-progress version of this work was first presented in 2018 under Centre 42's The Vault programme, a platform that invites artists to create responses to past works in the theatre canon.

The second piece, *Are You Game?* is created by Malaysian director Fasyali Fadzly. This devised piece revolves around the idea of memories and identity seen through a contemporary Malaysian lens. This work in progress is semi-interactive, and seeks to playfully engage with audiences.

Are You Game, Sau(dara)? will be performed in English and Malay, with English surtitles provided at the Singapore staging.

"We're excited to embark on a new collaboration with Five Arts Centre. Through this co-presentation, we hope to explore new connections and approaches between independent artists, as well as between independent art centres. This deepening of relationship with Five Arts Centre, Bhumi Collective and Fasyali Fadzly is especially meaningful as Centre 42 has worked with each party on different occasions over the last two years," says Ma Yanling, Company Manager of Centre 42.

June Tan, producer with Five Art Centre, echoes this with: "It's exciting for us to see how a new way of archiving/recording is considered with responses by contemporary practitioners on text/performance strategies previously employed by the past production(s) of Leow Puay Tin's *Three Children*. Puay Tin and her work have had close relationships with Five Arts' members such as Krishen Jit to Chin San Sooi, Chee Sek Thim and others. We are curious and encouraged to see how we can expand this thread to include Fasyali, Amin, Centre 42 and the host of contemporary practitioners working on this double-bill, both on the Malaysian and Singaporean side."

Are You Game?

Production/Creative Team

Director – Fasyali Fadzli
Performers – Ali Alasri, Darynn Wee, Hannan Barakbah
Visual designer – Brian Chang
Lighting designer – Syamsul Azhar
Stage Manager – Karyn Tan
Producers – Hoe Hui Ting & June Tan

Synopsis

Are You Game? is a devised piece that revolves around the idea of memories and identity seen through a contemporary Malaysian lens. This work-in-progress response to the original play *Three Children* is semi-interactive, and seeks to playfully engage with audiences.

Producer's notes

Ride, ride, ride, ride....
Riding into the jungle.
Ride, ride, ride, ride....
On my horse, my faith.

This text accompanied me as an actor in the Chinese version of *Three Children from Petaling Street*, adapted from Puay Tin's *Three Children* as we toured this play to different places in Malaysia and to Macau. It gives me a great sense of connection and belonging, to be a Producer for this double-bill responses, and to know that these responses are touring. And perhaps that is the magic of Puay Tin's text and sensibility that we belong to a particular space of local dreams, memories and histories. And that space continues to move and develop into the contemporary. We would very much like to thank everybody involved in making this happen and are excited to "join forces" with our friends in Singapore. Please come join us and enjoy the ride!

Director's notes

A lot of question running through my head when I said yes to this project. How can I archive *Three Children* in a form of theatrical performance? How to respond to this phenomenal work I never watched? What is the thing I want to keep from the original play and why? Should I create something I am not familiar with?

Creating *Are You Game* is a unique process compare to my other plays. I was encouraged to work with artists who I never worked with. I knew all my actors beforehand but not like my any other projects which I already built our relationship over the years. For this project, it was really creating everything from scratch. Then, I met my actors and started researching together.

We composed our performance together. We failed. We asked ourselves again. Tried again. Questioned again until we all agreed that this is the thing we want to show. We tried so hard to find ways to respond to this play. We want to put everything that being said in *Three Children* in our performance. But, it was impossible. This play is so big and overwhelming we cannot do that. *Are You Game* really dragged me deep into a very challenging task and riddle.

While creating this work, I had this moment like if you play Scrabble, you have lot of high scoring alphabets, but you can't create any word out of it. I was in that moment a lot of time. I try to get high marks, but forget to just enjoy the beauty of the game, the beauty of the play.

I hope you enjoy watching this play as much I enjoy creating it. I can never get the right answer to all my questions and your curiosities. Therefore, I will keep asking the most important question to challenge myself: are you game, Fasyali?

Director

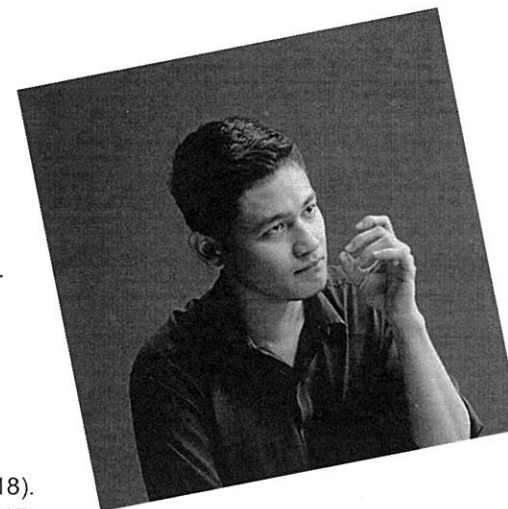
Fasyali Fadzly is an educator, director, playwright and writer. He had written and directed his own plays such as *Teater Juta-Juta*, *Berani Mati*, *Kotak Hitam*, *Mati Hidup Kembali*, *Ingatan* and directed several plays from other playwrights. His theatrical works are staged in Malaysia and abroad such as Japan, Indonesia, Singapore, Canada and Czech Republic. He also writes theatre-related articles and reviews and was published in local and international web portal. Currently, he works for Malaysian theatre archive project, My Art Memory Project as a researcher with Kathy Rowland. Fasyali is now serving as lecturer at The National of Arts, Culture and Heritage of Malaysia (ASWARA).



Performer

Ali Alasri is a multidisciplinary artist who's a part time lecturer at the Diploma in Performing Arts programme in Sunway University, while also being involved in a diverse array of work in the Malaysian arts scene.

His performance involvements include Mark Teh's *Something I Wrote* (2014), Faridah Merican's *Tragedi Hamlet* (2016), Arief Hamizan's *Api, Jangan Lupa Api* (2018) and *Sejuk Siang Hari* (2018). He also directed *AKTA 10:15* (2017), a workshop performance staged at Five Arts Centre, and is trained in Exchange Theatre (2017). Currently, he is also devising for Arief Hamizan's new play that'll be staged in August.



Performer

Currently a production assistant in Five Arts Centre, **Darynn Wee** majored in Acting and Directing from Universiti Sains Malaysia. Prior to this, she has been in a few acting roles, namely, *Monodrama: In Utero Pseudocyesis* (2014) performed in UPSI for the Academic Performance Workshop (APeW), *The Day I Met the Prince* (2015-2016) which toured in Penang, KL, JB, Singapore and Australia, *Fragrance* (2017) a monodrama performed in Georgetown, Penang for the Wayang diSinkah series and for her graduating play, she performed the role of Dr. Mary Yuen in *Atomic Jaya* (2018). Recently, she just ventured into stage managing and gotten herself SM-ing for *Gostan Forward* (2018) in Bangkok, Thailand, and *Tiga 3* (2018-2019) in KL and Penang.



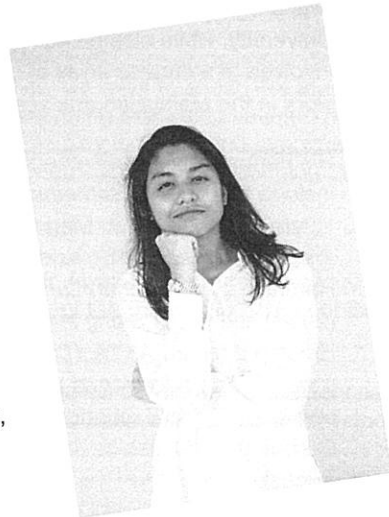
Performer

Hannan Barakbah is that bit of yellow every room needs.

She has a degree in Architecture but has no idea what to do with it. She bricked her way back to theatre 2 years ago by joining the Theatre for Young People programme by The Actors Studio.

In 2018, she directed *Playlet #11: Kurator Dapur*, questioning gender roles & societal norms, subtly.

Since then, she has performed as a dead flower, a dead girl, a girl befriending a ghost, & most recently, as an unfinished idea for an unfinished novel, rocking Wayfarers & a megaphone.



Visual Designer

Bryan Chang is a generalist, his works range from design and direction to videography and photography, and has worked on projects with PopTeeVee, #BetterCities, The Cooler Lumpur Festival, The Wknd and Think City. His recent works include *The Misinterpreted Futures of George Town: 2068*, ***2080: A Technical Show*, *What The Faiq*, a feature-length documentary, and the visual identities for a group of restaurants. He prefers tea over coffee, silence over small talk and doesn't have a driver's license.



Lighting Designer

Lighting Designer, Videographer & Performer—**Syamsul Azhar** graduated with a Bachelor of Film and Digital Media at Deakin University (2011).

He has lighting designed in many places and different spaces. Collaborated in numerous performances with Mark Teh & Five Arts Centre. Directed a technical design performance with a team of designers and theatre practitioners ***2080* a show that only performs with Projections, Sound, Lighting and Set (2017). He will be exploring and experimenting more shows like this in the near future.



Stage Manager

Karyn Tan is a student from Diploma in Performing Arts, Sunway University. She started to be drawn into the arts through acting in high school, and developed skills in film as well while attending college. Passionate in both theatre and film, she has completed projects that made into the student showcase for every semester.

She sees her life as a batter of arts - mixing all the ingredients together, she aspires to be an all-rounder who excels in different aspects, constantly on her way digging deeper in the field. But during free time, she actually enjoys solving Sudoku puzzles!



Producer

Hoe Hui Ting graduated from New Era College Drama and Visuals Department in 2011. She is currently working with Five Arts Centre as company manager. She has worked with well-known theatre companies such as Instant Cafe Theatre, Wild Rice, Pentas Project, O Puppet Theatre and at the Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (KLpac) and the Damansara Performing Arts Centre (DPAC) as stage manager.



Producer

June Tan is a biologist from Imperial College, London who has worked in finance, software product management, toxic waste management and renewable energy from 1997 to 2009. She is a member of the performing arts collective, Five Arts Centre and from 1998, has stage managed and tour managed theatre performance to Berlin, Singapore, Korea, India, Japan and UAE. June's creative producing begun in 2006 and she is interested in facilitating space for new and alternative discourse.



Sau(dara)

Production/Creative Team

Director – Soultari Amin Farid

Performers – Lyn Hanis, Suryana Norddin, Nurul Farahani,
Syafiqah 'Adha Sallehin

Producer – Iffah Idi

Executive Producer – Mohamad Shaifulbahri

Dramaturg – Grace Lee-Khoo

Synopsis

Four women discover that even in their twenties, growing up female and Malay in Singapore means that you'll never truly be a grown up. To navigate the winds of change, they replay the games they used to play and songs they used to sing. Four friends relive stories of themselves and others like them. Of growing up and growing older, of growing apart and growing (none-the-) wiser, *Sau(dara)* is a tempestuous retrospective of womanhood. A work-in-progress version of this work was first presented under Centre 42's The Vault programme in 2018.

Producer's notes

June and I began the conversation about centre-to-centre collaboration over two years ago, having met each other at various performing arts meetings over a period of time. Running our respective arts spaces in Malaysian and Singapore, we found common ground in the play "Three Children". The 1988 and 1992 productions of Leow Puay Tin's landmark play were the result of a creative exchange between Malaysian and Singapore theatre companies. The productions were groundbreaking, creating many firsts that we only now recognise as having impacted our theatre scenes. In the spirit of the original exchange, Centre 42 and Five Arts Centre are presenting the exciting project that is "Are You Game, Sau(dara)?", two new works that respond to "Three Children". Revisiting Leow's play in this way documents and promotes the shared histories of our two nations, creates an opportunity to develop new works, and, for Centre 42, enables us to build relationships with our counterparts and theatre-makers across the Causeway. We at Centre 42 are thrilled about the Kuala Lumpur leg of this project because it will be the first time the centre will be co-presenting a work outside of Singapore. And on the following weekend, we are excited to be sharing the results of this cross-Causeway collaboration with our home audience.

Director's notes

When I was first asked to do a performance response for this play as part of its 30th anniversary, I was worried that its reputation may affect how I approach the work.

But a close reading of the script proved to be quite therapeutic in some sense. I felt transported to moments in my childhood, memories with my grandparents in our kampung at Malacca and as a mischievous boy exploring my neighbourhood in Simei.

Devising this artistic response has been quite an adventure. The work has evolved greatly from its October 2018 showing at Centre 42. We welcomed two additional members to the team, Nurul Farahani as a new collaborator and Grace Lee Khoo as dramaturg.

Bringing 4 great female collaborators with great expertise in the various disciplines of theatre, traditional dance and music has been truly a dream!

The original script allowed my collaborators to tap into their intimate experiences and share some of their stories growing up. I for one felt the script made me think about the experiences of girls and women particularly their roles as mothers and in managing the household. The conversations about womanhood also gave each other glimpses into the lives of my collaborators as minority artists in Singapore.

I am grateful to Centre 42 for giving Bhumi Collective this opportunity to reflect upon this iconic work and provide a contemporary response to it. Most of all, we are grateful that we found creative collaborators who were gracious and generous with their stories.

Director

Soultari Amin Farid is the joint artistic director of Bhumi Collective and he identifies himself as choreographer, arts educator and researcher. His artistic works and research interests are aimed at questioning and challenging normative notions of identity which includes class, ethnicity and gender.



Performer

Hi my name is **Lyn**!
I love the colour black
but it's not the
colour of my soul ;)



Performer

Suryana is no fun to
work with. Until you get to
know her.



Performer

My name is **Nurul Farahani**, you can call me Fara for short. I enjoy dancing and I love the outdoors.



Performer

Syafiqah 'Adha is fundamentally a musician with a passion for ethnic music and the accordion. As a performer, she loves stepping out of her comfort zone to venture other kinds of performance making opportunities and is blessed to be part of *Sau(dara)*.



Producer

Iffah is an Arts Management graduate from LASALLE College of the Arts. She loves all things theatre and vows to give back to the industry one footprint at a time.



Executive Producer

Shai is the Joint Artistic Director of Bhumi Collective. He holds an MA in Creative Producing from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. He is also a recipient of the Goh Chok Tong Youth Promise Award (Distinction) and was formerly the Artistic Director of Yellow Chair Productions (Singapore).



Dramaturg

Grace Lee-Khoo is the Founder and Creative Development Director of Access Path Productions. A UK-trained applied theatre practitioner, she completed her Master's Degree in Applied Theatre at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in 2016 and now works internationally as a producer, director, dramaturg, performer, researcher and educator.



About Five Arts Centre

Five Arts Centre is a dynamic collective of Malaysian artists and producers, dedicated to generating alternative art forms and images in the contemporary arts landscape. It is well-known for cutting edge performances in theatre, dance, music and young people's theatre, and incorporates aspects of the visual and digital arts as well. The collective has performed and presented its work in Southeast Asia, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, India, Egypt, Australia, Canada, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Portugal, Switzerland, Finland, UAE and the United Kingdom.

Since it was formed in 1984, by theatre directors Chin San Sooi and Krishen Jit, and dancer-choreographer Marion D'Cruz, Five Arts Centre has been committed to articulating the complexity of Malaysian culture and identity through explorations and fusions of local vocabularies, forms and traditions, in relation to the global, modern and cross-cultural. As such, it has been instrumental in the growth of a Malaysian identity in the arts that draws from multiple influences and hybrid histories.

For over three decades, Five Arts Centre has been at the forefront of creating experimental, interdisciplinary and intercultural work, providing platforms for the next generation of arts practitioners. Contemporary social, political and cultural issues impinging on Malaysian life are precipitated by way of performances, exhibitions, creative seminars and research workshops.

From 2004 to 2006, Five Arts Centre was the manager of Arts Network Asia, a regional organisation supporting arts work in Asia. In 2006, ASTRO and Five Arts Centre launched the Krishen Jit ASTRO Fund to support artistic work by Malaysians and others committed to the development of the arts in Malaysia. At the 12th Boh Cameronian Arts Awards in 2015, Five Arts Centre was awarded the inaugural "Most Inspiring Award". In 2016, Five Arts Centre was awarded the "Praemium Imperiale Grant for Young Artists" from The Japan Art Association.

Today, the collective consists 13 individuals from diverse generations and disciplines. They are Anne James, Chee Sek Thim, Chew Kin Wah, Fahmi Fadzil, Ivy N. Josiah, Janet Pillai, June Tan, Kubhaer T. Jethwani, Mac Chan, Marion D'Cruz, Mark Teh, Ravi Navaratnam, and Suhaila Merican.

Tel/Fax: +603 7725 4858

Mobile: +6018 202 8827

fiveartscentre@gmail.com

www.fiveartscentre.org

www.facebook.com/FiveArtsCentre

www.twitter.com/FiveArts

www.instagram.com/fiveartscentre

About Centre 42

Centre 42 is a non-profit organisation committed to the creation, documentation and promotion of texts and writings for the Singapore stage. As a theatre development space, the Centre incubates original writing for production development, provides space for artists and new work creation, and develops a functional archive documenting the histories and processes of Singapore theatre.

Centre 42 is developed in collaboration with the National Arts Council Singapore (NAC), and officially opened in 2014. It is currently supported by the NAC for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2020.

For more information about Centre 42, please visit www.centre42.sg

About Bhumi Collective

Singapore-based Bhumi Collective is a multidisciplinary performing arts company. Sited at a point of convergence for artists embracing intercultural, intersectional and transnational practices to address, explore and are curious about issues to do with deconstruction, disruption and decolonisation. The name, Bhumi, meaning earth/soil in both Sanskrit and Malay, reflects their belief that human potential and diversity is fertile ground for collaborative art-making in a borderless world. They have made dance, theatre and/or music collaborations on projects presented at platforms such as the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and the Singapore International Festival of Music.

Acknowledgements

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|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Amir Hafizi | Sharmilla Ganesan - BFM 89.9 |
| Ben Chong | SINKEH, George Town |
| Chin San Sooi | SP Ho |
| Leow Puay Tin | TheatreWorks |
| Mun Kao | Wong Oi Min |
| National Arts Council (Singapore) | Zedeck Siew |
| Robin Loon | |

Kuala Lumpur staging

Dates & Times:

- 1 Mar (Fri) 8.30pm
- 2 Mar (Sat) 8.30pm
- 3 Mar (Sun) 3.30pm

Venue:

Kotak @ Five Arts Centre, 27 & 27A Lorong Datuk Sulaiman 7, Taman Tun Dr Ismail, 60000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Entry by donation:

RM40

Ticketing:

Hotline: +6018 202 8827

Email: fiveartscentre@gmail.com

*A post show discussion will be held after the final show at 6pm with the playwright Leow Puay Tin along with two theatre directors Chin San Sooi and SP Ho, both of whom had been involved in the staging of the play.

Singapore staging

Dates & Times:

- 8 Mar (Fri) 8pm
- 9 Mar (Sat) 8pm
- 10 Mar (Sun) 3pm

Venue:

Centre 42 Black Box, 42 Waterloo Street, Singapore 187951

Admission:

\$15; tickets available from Peatix (gamesaudara.peatix.com)