





*"Mai Phen Rai ~ means "Never Mind" my dear  
You must look beyond, search for one's better side  
Mai Phen Rai ~ will make it easier  
Just remember you are special in my eyes"*







presents



# CHANG & ENG

◆ The Musical ◆

Based on the lives of the original Siamese Twins

Conceptualised, Produced & Directed by **EKACHAI UEKRONGTHAM**

Music & Lyrics by **KEN LOW**

Book by **MING WONG**

Choreography by **MOHD NOOR SARMAN**

Orchestrated & Conducted by **ISKANDAR ISMAIL**

Featuring **ROBIN GOH RJ ROSALES SELENA TAN**  
**BRENDAN HANSON HELEN SEARLE MARY-ANNE McCORMACK**  
with **HOSSAN LEONG**

At Certain Performances **EDRIC HSU** as Eng

Set Design **THORANISORN PITIKUL** Lighting Design **THIO LAY HOON**

Costume Design **NIPHON THUNTIYOTHIN**

Sound Design **PHILIP MURPHY** Musical Director **KEN LOW**

WITH ASSISTANCE FROM



NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL



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CHANG & ENG - THE MUSICAL WAS ORIGINALLY COMMISSIONED BY NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL OF SINGAPORE.  
IT HAD ITS WORLD PREMIERE ON THE 19TH OF JUNE AT THE FESTIVAL OF ASIAN PERFORMING ARTS 1997 AT VICTORIA THEATRE, SINGAPORE.





*"To live as one, tomorrow, that's the dream  
It's a life I've been searching for ~ if only I could  
I need to know ~ if there is that only chance  
That we could be normal ~ like everyone else"*



## Two Brothers. One Life.



*FATE OR COINCIDENCE? THE CHANG & ENG MONUMENT IN THAILAND IS LOCATED ON A ROAD WHICH BEARS THE SAME NAME AS THE DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER OF THIS MUSICAL... EKACHAI*

**S**tanding quietly amidst the serenity of their birthplace in Thailand is a monument of the original Siamese Twins.

Chang and Eng were born in a boathouse along the Meklong River in the province of Samut Songkram, about 72 kilometres southwest of Bangkok. It was where they led their conjoined life before leaving Siam for the West, nearly two centuries ago.

Theirs is an amazing and colourful tale. One that has become an inspiration for this musical...





# “The heart of their amazing lives is much more humane...”

Ekachai Uekrongtham ~ Director & Producer

**L**ike many who grew up in Thailand, I've long heard about the two brothers who were joined together forever. The little I knew of them has always intrigued me. There's a play here, I thought. A dark one... like The Elephant Man?

In 1995, just after finishing Corporate Animals, I revisited the idea of doing a play about the Siamese Twins. I was then in Sydney for a one-year attachment programme. Months after looking through books, microfilms and old newspaper cuttings, the story of Chang and Eng began to take shape in my mind, albeit in different texture and colours from what I had earlier envisaged.

I sensed much more warmth and vibrancy in their story. The dark and gloomy treatment would not be appropriate as I no longer saw it as a story about freaks. The heart of their amazing lives is much more humane and I could imagine the characters singing, dancing, making us laugh and touching our hearts.

On one level, it illustrates the power of the human spirit in turning their perceived weakness into strength. On another level, Chang and Eng tell us something about the value of tolerance and interdependency. Many a time, nations go to war or people fight just because they want to separate, to be free from one another. But can we really be free from one another?

In 1996, I spoke to Ken and Ming about doing a musical based upon the lives of Chang and Eng. One of the first things we had to decide was the spine of our musical. There are so many ways and angles to approach their story. Finally, we decided that Chang & Eng ~ The Musical would be about a pair of Siamese Twins yearning for separate lives ~ something that they were destined not to have.

On the outset, we all agreed that we were not going to make a BBC documentary. The musical is inspired by and based upon true historical accounts ~ the bones, the structure of our musical. We put in the flesh and blood as the characters came to life in our minds and imagination. We also had to compress, omit or combine several characters and events in their lives. (Otherwise, it will be a 5-hour musical!)

More people came on board and joined our team ~ Mohd Noor, Iskandar, the actors, the crew, Thio Lay Hoon, the orchestra, Philip... before I knew it, there were close to 200 people working on the production and I am very grateful to each and everyone of them.

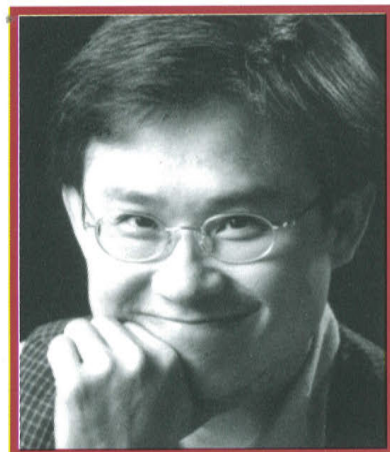
The musical finally premiered on 19th of June 1997 at the Victoria Theatre in Singapore. I still remember the very warm audience reception on the first night. It gave us the confidence to bring the musical back to Victoria Theatre two months later, when it played to packed houses.

In December 1997, at the invitation of the National Opera & Ballet of China, we presented a season of the musical at the Century Theatre in Beijing where Chang & Eng became the first English-language musical to be staged in China. We've never dreamt of staging such a big scale musical in Beijing, let alone seeing it played to full houses and long standing ovations, night after night. It was an unforgettable experience.

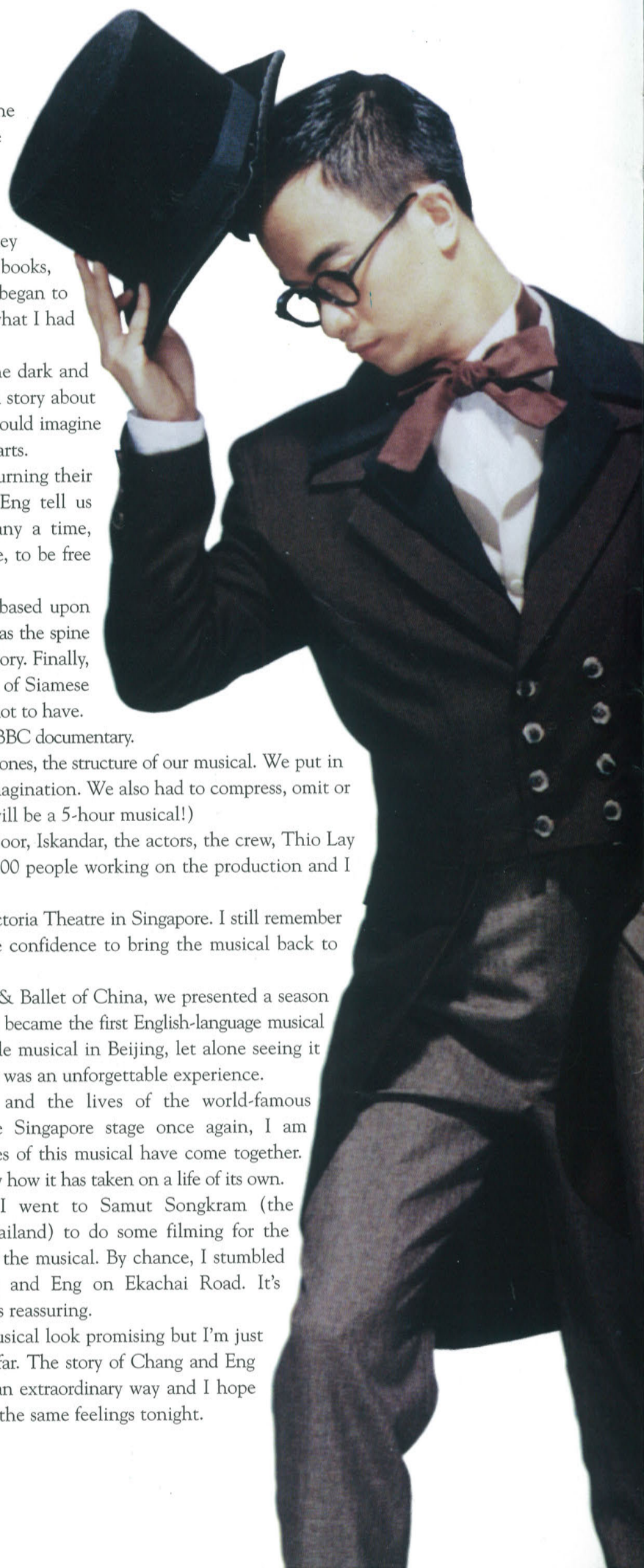
As the curtain rises and the lives of the world-famous Siamese Twins unfold on the Singapore stage once again, I am reminded of how bits and pieces of this musical have come together. Just the other day, I was struck by how it has taken on a life of its own.

In November 1998, I went to Samut Songkram (the birthplace of the twins in Thailand) to do some filming for the documentary on the making of the musical. By chance, I stumbled upon a monument of Chang and Eng on Ekachai Road. It's bizarre but in some strange ways reassuring.

Future plans for the musical look promising but I'm just very happy that it's come this far. The story of Chang and Eng has moved and inspired me in an extraordinary way and I hope you will leave the theatre with the same feelings tonight.



EKACHAI UEKRONGTHAM





# "The FOURTH time could be TRULY... HEAVENLY!"

Ken Low



It's the fourth season (twice before in Singapore, once in Beijing), and I am still feeling the excitement in the air everytime I watch Chang and Eng in rehearsals. Maybe it's the fact that we have a talented new cast, new chemistry, new interpretations... or maybe it's the fact that everyone's put in so much effort once again, from the cast to crew to the production team.

It's probably all of the above – but it's mostly because Chang and Eng are an inspiration to us all. Their tale is one that has to be told – two full lives that made the most of what they had, no matter what the obstacles were.

I need to thank the key people who made this trip Truly Heavenly for me – Ekachai for his vast vision and belief in me; Ming for his warm, endearing script; Iskandar for adding wonderful colours and shades to my musical landscape; the talented and hard-working cast of kids and adults; the production team for their unconditional support.

It's been a tough personal journey for us – but I'd like to share their sense of pride and joy, when I see you, the audience, laugh, cry, and get moved each night when the curtain rises once again on the lives of Chang & Eng.

Enjoy tonight's performance!



KEN LOW





# "They're the real thing... incredible but true!"

Ming Wong



MING WONG

I was approached by Ekachai to write a book for Chang and Eng just before I had to leave for London in 1996. I declined at first, biting my lip, thinking I would be too busy settling into my studies at the Slade School of Art, but the story of the twins continued to haunt me, taunt me. In the end I asked myself why not? My own journey seemed to mirror the twins' dislocation of the West. I could take it as an artistic challenge, and besides, London's West End is a masterclass in musicals.

The story of Chang and Eng covers a vast span of time and space, making the telling of it most exhausting. We had to decide what we wanted to say. During our research the issue of one's privacy seemed to distinguish the lives of conjoined twins from all the others. When you consider the Siamese twins' predicament, privacy is a privilege and not just a basic human right.

What about sex? – I hear you ask. The lives of the twins were well documented apart from the emotional and intimate details, which were left to my own imagination. We can only speculate as to the kind of antics the Siamese Twins and their young Southern wives could get up to. I can only suppose that whatever physical privacy denied them, was made up for with mental privacy.

However as the story developed, I discovered that the twins' anatomical abnormality became more and more irrelevant. Notwithstanding the fact that they managed to overcome their handicap and their great difference in character – putting me to shame for my merely 'neighbourly' ties with my own brother (we're like Bert and Ernie) – they became less of a freak, and strangely more human as the writing progressed.

It's a story about their yearning for separate lives. Not just a musical about twins ('Blood Brothers') or freaks ('The Elephant Man').

The following months were a flurry of frantic phone calls, faxes, E-mail and flying to and from Singapore. Planning and plotting with Ekachai; planting songs with Ken. Casting and rehearsals start. Re-writes and tune-ups up till the very last minute.

Somewhere along the way I learnt how to write a musical. Scenes had to develop to a point where the characters would launch into song. The 'Disappearance of the Fourth Wall'. Plenty of hearts-on-sleeves...

It is therefore really heartwarming to learn about the overwhelming response and support we've so far received for this latest run. I'm sure all the talented collaborators I've had the privilege to work with on this show would agree that this is a truly encouraging sign – thank you all.

"They're the real thing, ladies and gentlemen, incredible but true!"





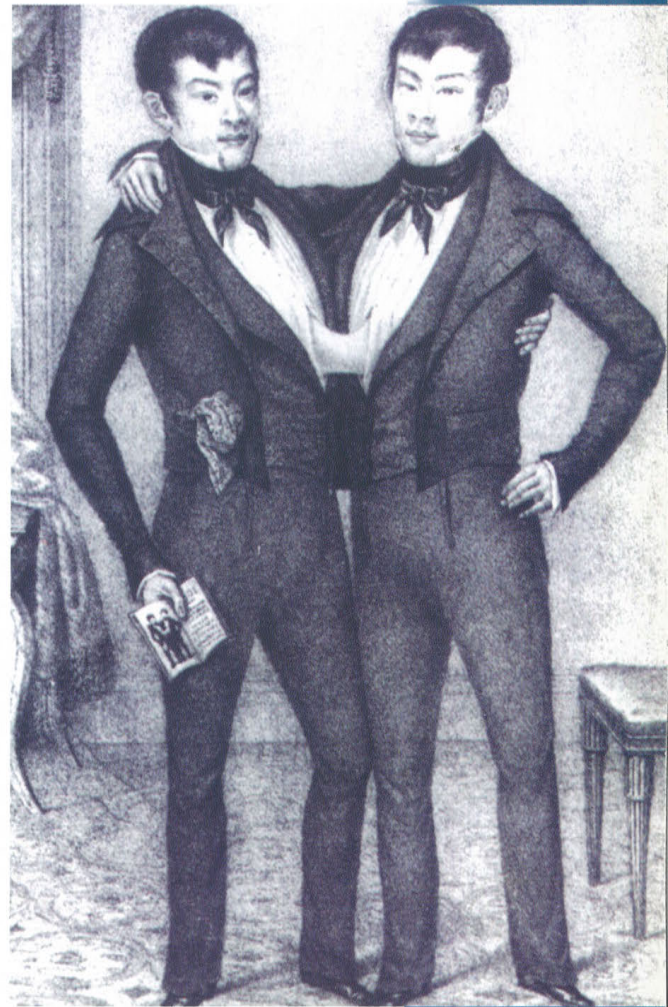
# Unity in Difference

by Tom Vaswani

As the most famous, indeed the very source of the term “Siamese twins”, the brothers Chang and Eng did not lapse into the realm of obscurity. Notorious to most people because of their physical “deformity”, Chang and Eng and others like John Merrick, the sisters Ritta and Christina nonetheless occupy an important space in our vision and experience of life. For it is often only in the face of an absolute difference that we can recognize our own identity: they hold a mirror with which we can better reflect on ourselves.

Born into a rural family on 11 May, 1811, in the village of Meklong in Siam, Chang and Eng would have remained just another “monstrosity of nature” (according to received opinion) had it not been for their longevity; for while instances of conjoined (or congenitally joined) twins – identical twins who are physically joined and often share some organs – were not unknown, Chang and Eng were the first recorded case of a pair of conjoined twins to survive infancy into adulthood. To take an example, the French Siamese twin sisters, Ritta and Christina, lived but for 5 months. More important than this, however, was the dignity with which they conducted their lives. With neither rancour nor self-pity, how the brothers dealt with, and managed to overcome physical, cultural and economic obstacles is a remarkable tale which gave birth to this musical production “Chang and Eng”.

Taking the biological aspect alone, it is easy to forget that more than 98 percent of all human pregnancies result in a single descendant; and while twins account for about 1 in 80 births, conjoined twins are special even in bare statistical terms, accounting for fewer than 1 in a million births. Their physical interdependence – Chang and Eng were joined by a ligament below their breastbones measuring about 8 cm long and about 3.8 cm in diameter – had one obvious blessing; the brothers did not exhibit that more tragic condition whereby one of the pair is markedly and severely underdeveloped, often tiny, and dependent on the other, stronger twin. In such a situation, the former is sacrificed to ensure the latter’s survival. As “symmetrical” Siamese twins, Chang and Eng were relatively normal except for the areas of fusion: though attached, each twin was a complete individual (that is, there were no shared organs), and needless to say, each had a distinct personality. This meant that each of the brothers were, basically, wholly “human” insofar as their biological and physiological functions are concerned – bar the mass of tissue and its implications (Ritta and Christina had separate heads, arms, and vertebrae but shared a body below the navel and had but two legs).

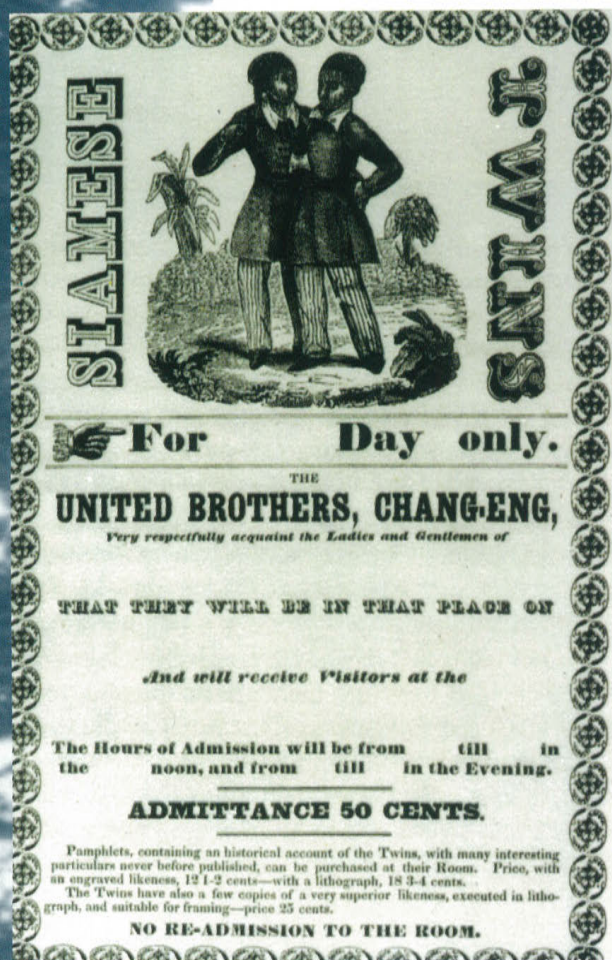


A 1839 LITHOGRAPH OF THE SIAMESE TWINS



ENG AND CHANG WITH JAMES MONTGOMERY  
(ENG'S SON) AND ALBERT (CHANG'S SON)





ACTUAL ADVERTISING POSTER FOR APPEARANCES BY CHANG AND ENG IN AMERICA

Little is known about their parents or their early life – what kind of impact they made within the family and how they were received into their community. In any case it would be difficult to expect such an “oddity” to remain undisturbed for too long. The brothers were soon received in the court of the King of Siam – with the inevitable patronage therein. News of the brothers spread further afield and (in 1829) not long after their audience with the King, Chang and Eng became tied to a merchant who organized and profited from their extensive travels throughout the 1830s around the eastern United States, Canada, Cuba, and Europe.

Without protection from the law, the brothers (as minors and foreigners) were left to the mercy of their merchant/sponsor and were unable to literally take charge of themselves until 1832, when they turned 21. Subsequently, the brothers exhibited themselves as “Siamese Twins”, “The United Brothers”. During this time, they pandered to the whims of the curious as curiosities of the cultured and civilized. Entrepreneurial, they charged 50 cents for the privilege of ‘an evening’s audience’, while pamphlets with lithographs were available at an additional cost. The title page of a sixteen-page pamphlet that could be purchased in the exhibition hall where the “Siamese Twins” were on display in New York City offered an ‘historical account of the Siamese Twin brothers’ for 95 cents. By all accounts a major attraction in the Eastern and mid-West cities of the United States through which they toured, this represented the brothers’ major source of income.

CHANG AND ENG WITH THEIR WIVES AND 18 OF THEIR 21 CHILDREN



CHANG'S HOUSE IN NORTH CAROLINA





Naturalized as American citizens, the brothers adopted the name Bunker and married a pair of sisters – Adelaide and Sarah Yates – in April 1843. Eschewing their previous livelihood, their exhibitions having given them a relatively sound financial footing – Chang and Eng moved to and cultivated separate farms in Mount Airy. As private individuals, they managed to maintain a semblance of “normality” by dividing and spending the working week equally between the two households. By all accounts family life did not present any additional difficulties for the twins and, between them, Chang and Eng fathered 21 children. In light of their years under the spotlight, the close of the brothers’ private lives was startlingly normal, almost more than human: the melancholic Chang developed an attraction to alcohol, much to the chagrin of Eng the teetotaler.

It was during the American Civil War (1861–65) that the brothers – and thousands of others – were re-introduced to the severity and toil of life. Having lost most of their possessions and slaves, they were forced, at the age of 58, to venture once more into the heartless world as “Prime Exhibits” in a collection of freaks. During their time with the Barnum & Bailey Circus, they were exhibited on an equal footing with the so-called “Feejee Mermaid” (which had a seemingly human head topping the finned body of a fish and was, of course, found later to be a fake) and Charles S. Stratton (a man only 25 inches tall).

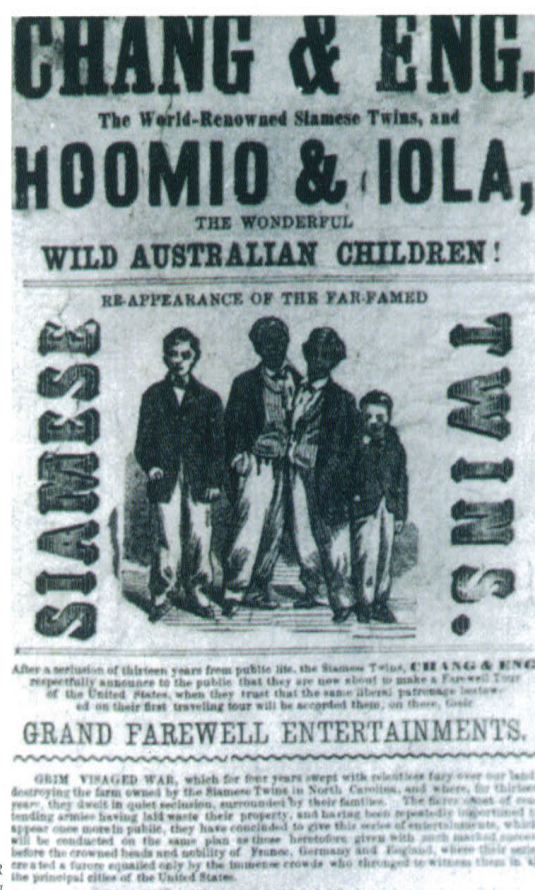
The final tour lasted a year and their return to the solace of their farms lasted a further 4 years before their tragic death in North Carolina, a place – indeed a world – radically different from whence they came.

In an age which increasingly places great stress on the individual and self, it is difficult to imagine individuality – uniqueness – tied to a pair of individuals. Nor, it seems, did they view their condition as something to be done away with, as can be seen in their refusal to be surgically separated when the idea was suggested on their arrival in America. The very fact of their being thus enjoined did not prevent either from developing and pursuing normal activities (both were capable marksmen) and having different personas.

Twins in general have exerted a fascination on our collective imagination. From the Zodiac Gemini (Latin: “twins”) to Laing’s concept of the divided self, the idea of a unity in difference, or difference in unity, intrigues. So does the world’s most famous Siamese Twins.

Theirs is a musical existence, to which we have to compare the dreariness of life. Theirs is a musical life to which this production transposes once again to its natural key: one of harmony and joyous celebration of this Wonderful Life!

ANOTHER ADVERTISING POSTER FOR  
APPEARANCES BY THE TWINS AND THEIR CHILDREN

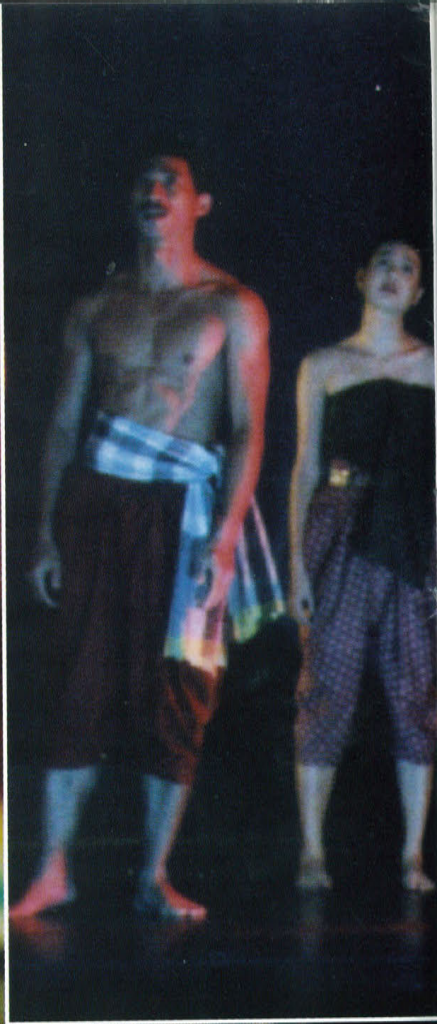


MEKLONG RIVER:  
BIRTHPLACE OF CHANG AND ENG  
IN SAMUT SONGKRAM, THAILAND

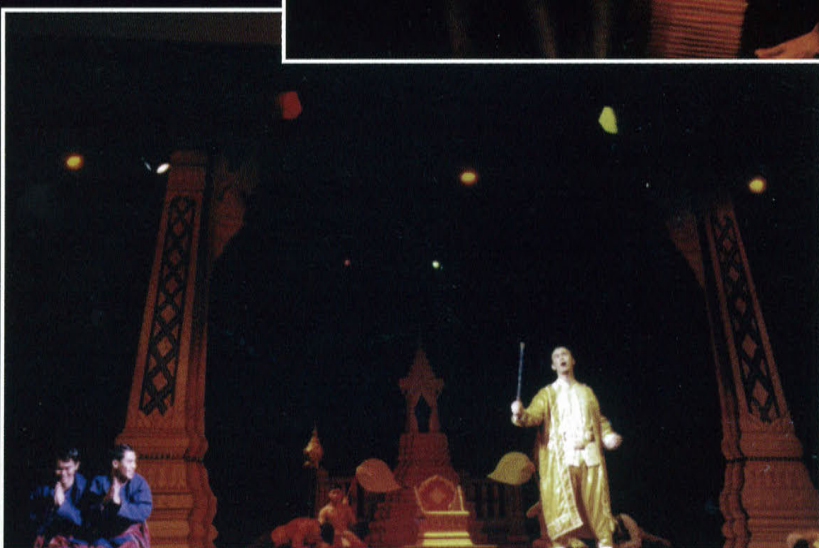
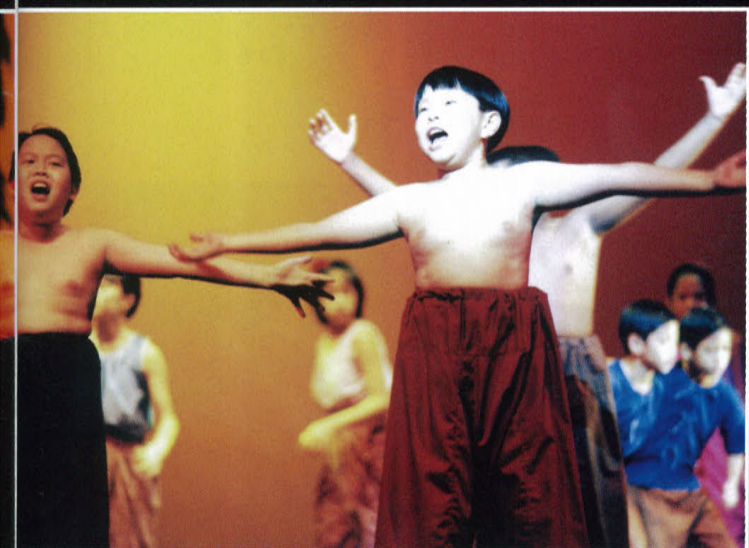




*"Discover tonight! The new Eighth Wonder of the World!  
Uncover tonight! The greatest living natural curiosity!  
Twin boys born in Siam..."*









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# The Cast



Chang	RJ ROSALES
Eng	ROBIN GOH/EDRIC HSU
Nok	SELENA TAN
Captain Abel Coffin/Mr Yates	BRENDAN HANSON
Sallie Yates	HELEN SEARLE
Adelaide Yates	MARY-ANNE McCORMACK
King of Siam	WILLIAM LIM/JAMESON SOH
King's Messenger/Dr Graves	HOSSAN LEONG
Midwife	ANNIE LEE/DENISE TAN

## ENSEMBLE

AIDIL BIN AMIN (Coffin's Assistant) GORDON CHOY (Coffin's Assistant)  
 ANNIE FERRAO (Ku Larb/Bride) EDRIC HSU (Doctor/New York Police)  
 NOR FAHMI BIN JAAFAR (Coffin's Assistant) SIMONE KHOO (Victoria/Mrs Allen) BEVERLY LIM (Bua)  
 LUCRETIA MARGRINA (Malee) HATTA SAID (Coffin's Assistant/Doctor/Alan Allen)  
 DARREN SEAH (Doctor/Coffin's Assistant/Alan Allen) MOHD SHAABAN (Coffin's Assistant)  
 JAMESON SOH (Doctor/Groom/Man in New York) DARIUS TAN (Doctor/Dr Anderson)  
 DENISE TAN (Nood/Victoria/Mrs Allen/Reporter) TAN SOON KIAT (Doctor/New York Police) ADELENE TAY (Jampaa/Noy)

## CHILDREN

FAIRUL AFFANDY BIN HUSSAIN (YOUNG CHANG) MUHAMMAD-HAIKAL BIN ABDUL AZIZZ (YOUNG ENG/CHANG)  
 MOHD ALIF DANIAL ABDUL AZIZ (YOUNG ENG) TIFFANY CHOO MATTHEW CHRISTIAN SASHA CHRISTIAN  
 CLAIRE CHUN HEIDI HO MALLORY HO MARSHA HO VALERIE ISKANDAR KOK JUN YI BENJI  
 KOK YI NING FRANCES LEE LIM PEI SHAN ONG VE JOY RAVIN SUBRAMANIAM RAMENDRA SUBRAMANIAM  
 SURENDRAN SUBRAMANIAM VAUGHAN-ALICIA WATTS CHARMAINE WONG JULIAN WONG JEMIMA YONG



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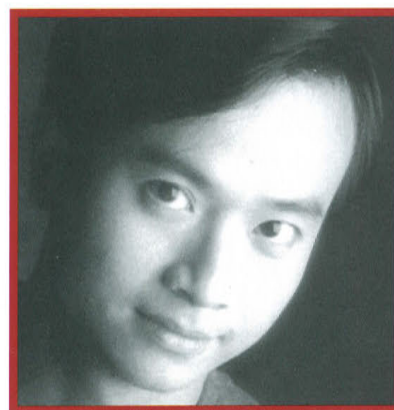
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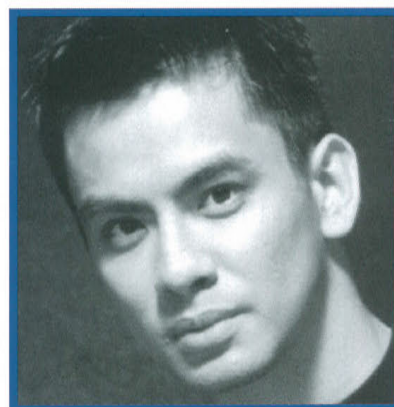
## ROBIN GOH

Robin Goh is an experienced singer, actor and dancer, who is currently a Producer-Presenter with Passion 99.5FM, Singapore's first and only arts radio station. He received training in singing, acting, dancing and other forms of stagecraft at the Singapore Armed Forces Music and Drama Company (MDC) in 1990-1991. He went to Japan as a member of the chorus in the 1993 Theatreworks production of the musical, Beauty World. Following that, he took the title role in the first run of Theatreworks' watershed play, Lao Jiu. In 1997, he was approached by Oak3 Films to star in the local full-length feature film, The Road Less Travelled. Soon after that, Robin returned to the stage as Chang in Action Theatre's production of the local musical Chang & Eng.



## ROSEO JOSE ROSALES

Born in the Philippines, RJ emigrated to Australia with his family in 1988. He was last seen on stage in the Australian production of Miss Saigon. Though he holds a Bachelor's degree in Science (Mathematics Major, singing is RJ's first love. He started vocal training in 1995 and has also attended dance lessons and acting workshops at the Sydney Actors' College. He has performed in numerous community functions and various concerts including the Centennial Celebration of Philippine Independence. He has also recorded songs and was featured in radio plays for the SBS Filipino Radio Program. His other theatrical credits include Bayan-Bayanan sa Sydney, Bayan Narito ang Iyong Tahanan, Hear The Call, Filipinas Circa 1880 and a fund-raising concert entitled Mary & RJ – With Attitude. He and his close friends have recently formed a youth choir of which he is most proud. RJ is thrilled to be in Chang & Eng – The Musical and would like to thank his family and friends for their love and support, and mostly the Lord for His blessings.



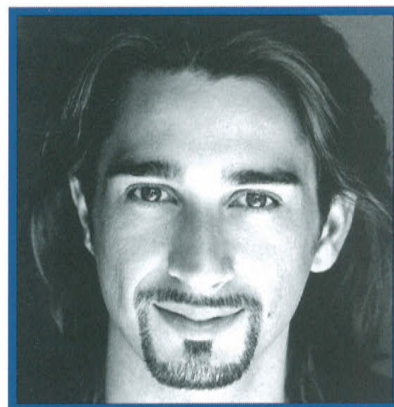
## SELENA TAN

Fresh from her recent success in Ah Kong's Birthday Party, and the second season of A Twist of Fate, Selena is glad to reprise her role as Nok which she has played since the original 1997 production for the Festival of Asian Performing Arts. She travelled to Beijing, China last year with the rest of the Chang & Eng cast. A member of SRT's Core Company, Selena has been a constant feature in many of the professionally produced local musicals, playing a myriad of roles. She was seen in Godspell, Sing To The Dawn, as Little Red Riding Hood in Into The Woods and as Crystal in Little Shop of Horrors. Other productions which Selena has been involved in include Singapore Dance Theatre's The Jungle Book (as narrator), SRT's Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf (as Stage Manager), WOW International's Army Daze (as Mrs Png) and SRT's The Fantasticks (as Assistant Director). Apart from the stage, Selena has recently dabbled in film and television as well. She will soon be seen in an upcoming episode of Phua Chu Kang and Rogue Trader, the movie based on Nick Leeson. Her most recent achievement is a self-titled one-woman show that was staged at The Cultural Pavilion.



## BRENDAN HANSON

Brendan has been performing professionally in musical theatre since 1994, when he graduated from the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts. Whilst studying, some of his roles included the Baker in Into the Woods, Mr Mister in The Cradle will rock, Tom in Robyn Archer's The Bridge, and Figaro in Le Nozze di Figaro. He visited Chiang Mai, Thailand in 1995 with The Gordon Frost Organisation in the musical Grease, performing the role of Sonny. Brendan's association with Cameron Mackintosh and specifically Les Miserables has been a major part of his career. He comes to Singapore after completing the Sydney and Melbourne seasons of the Australian tenth anniversary production. Brendan toured with the 1996 International company of Les Miserables through Asia and to Capetown, South Africa. Brendan has sung with the West Australian Opera company in Carmen, Orpheus in the Underworld and The Magic Flute where he met his beautiful wife Helen Searle.





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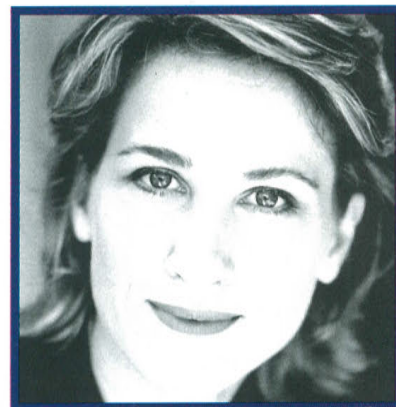
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## HELEN SEARLE

Helen graduated from the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts in 1991. Whilst studying, some of her roles included Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Masha in *The Seagull* and Nola in an Australian Adaptation of *Dr. In Spite of Himself*, directed by Aarne Neeme. Since graduating, she has performed the roles of Sorrell in the original cast of *Cargo*, Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and the tailor's wife in *The Overcoat*. Helen has also sung with the West Australian Opera Company as the third spirit in *The Magic Flute* and Mercedes in *Carmen*. This year, Helen played the role of Mick in the Australian premiere of *Bugalugs the Bum Thief* by Tim Winton and Anna van Gogh in *Vincent* by Australian composer Anthony Crowley. Helen's various television roles include Julie in *Children's Hospital* and Bernice in *Ship to Shore* for ABC TV.



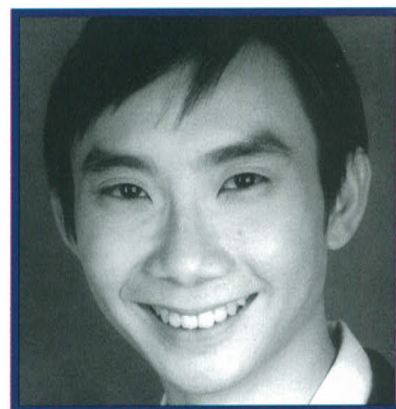
## MARY-ANNE McCORMACK

Mary-Anne McCormack graduated from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA), Sydney Australia in 1998. Whilst studying at NIDA, Mary-Anne performed the lead female role of Kate Nickleby in the Charles Dickens' classic, *Nicholas Nickleby*, Celia in *As You Like It* by William Shakespeare, Sophie in *Camille* and the role of Emilie in *Dangerous Liaisons*. Her musical credits at NIDA include the lead female role of Squeaky Fromme in *Assassins* and excerpts from *Ragtime*, *Rent*, *She Loves Me*, *Sunset Boulevard* and *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. Prior to NIDA, Mary-Anne's stage career began with her performances in Gary Ginivan's *Children's Musicals*. She then went on to appear in the Australian Opera's productions of *Turandot*, *Pagliacci* and *Cavalleria Rusticana*. She played Sister Leo in the musical *Nunsense* and toured Australia appearing in Pablo Picasso's *Four Little Girls*. On television, Mary-Anne has appeared regularly as a vocalist on *Good Morning Australia*, television commercials and several television series. She has been the lead vocalist in several bands in both Sydney and Melbourne. Mary-Anne is thrilled to have the opportunity to play Adelaide Yates in the Singapore season of *Chang & Eng* after appearing as Sally Yates in the Beijing season.



## HOSSAN LEONG

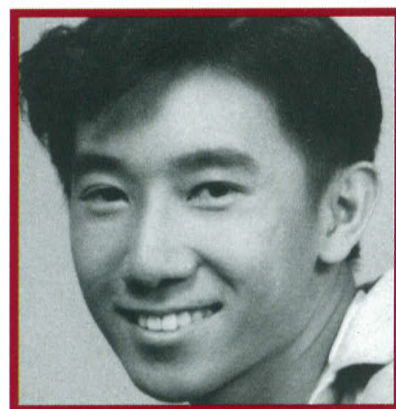
Hossan was in the original cast of *Chang & Eng* and has toured with the musical to Beijing. He has performed to sell-out shows at the Victoria Theatre with the production of his stand-up comedy act *Singapore Boy* and *The New Adventures of Singapore Boy*. Other successful musicals include *A Twist of Fate*, *Ka-Ra-you-OK?*, *Beauty World*, *Corporate Animals* and *Sing To The Dawn*. His theatre credits include *Let's Squeeze Again!*, *The Teenage Textbook*, *The Breakfast Club*, *Army Daze*, *The Chosen One*, *Mother's Day*, *Hope*, *Off Centre*, *'Scuse Me While I Kiss The Sky*, *Three Years In The Life and Death of Land and Talk*. Hossan is also a familiar face on television as the lead actor in *The Donny Lee Show*, the TV version of *Beauty World* and *Can I Help You?* He has also guest starred in *Shiver*, *Growing Up*, *Gurmit's World* and *Under One Roof*. An accomplished singer, Hossan has recorded the original cast albums of *A Twist of Fate*, *Chang & Eng*, *Sing To The Dawn*, *Corporate Animals* and *Beauty World*, as well as two original albums, *Crossing* and *On Eagles' Wings*.



*"THIS MUSICAL HAS TAUGHT ME ACCEPTANCE AND TOLERANCE. THE WORLD CAN LEARN FROM THIS. I'D LIKE TO THANK GOD FOR HIS EVERY BLESSING AND DEDICATE THIS PERFORMANCE TO DAD AND MOM. "THANKS FOR ALL THE LOVE AND SUPPORT... AND THE PIANO LESSONS! I LOVE YOU BOTH!"*

## EDRIC HSU

Since early kindergarten days, Edric has sung and acted in numerous school concerts and plays, and has won several singing contests. As a member of the SAF Music and Drama Company, he was given solo parts in public performances, as well as in acapella events. He also participated in local musicals such as *Kampong Amber*, *Mortal Sins*, *December Rains*, *Beauty World* and the SAF MDC's anniversary show, *25 Years on the Road*. Offstage, Edric co-wrote and recorded the Mandarin theme song of TCS' *Extraordinary People*. Besides radio commercials, he also did backing vocals for Tracy Huang, Sandy Lam, Dick Lee, Jacintha and Coco Lee.



*"I ENVY PEOPLE WHO LIVE THEIR LIVES AGAINST CONVENTION AND I REALLY APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT CHANG & ENG SUFFERED AND OVERCAME SO MANY OBVIOUS DIFFICULTIES - NOT JUST WITH OUTSIDERS BUT ALSO WITHIN THEMSELVES. THERE ARE SO MANY LESSONS TO LEARN FROM THEIR LIFE-STORY TOO AS I BELIEVE THAT IN EACH OF US LIES BOTH A CHANG AND AN ENG."*







# CHANG & ENG

## ◆ The Musical ◆



### 1829, NEW YORK

At the Masonic Hall in New York, curious crowds gather to witness a public exhibition of two Siamese boys joined at the chest by a thick cord of flesh. Captain Abel Coffin, the twins' manager, lures in the crowd and prepares to unveil the Eighth Wonder of the World for the first time in New York City.

### 1819, SIAM

At the age of eight, Young Chang and Young Eng are two healthy boys who adapt well to their dual life. They are, however, constantly mocked by other children. As a severe cholera epidemic breaks out in Siam, the twins are denounced as the evil omen that causes more than 30,000 deaths. The twins' mother Nok continues to love, protect and care for Chang and Eng like they are normal children.

### 1829, SIAM

Ten years have passed and Chang and Eng have become shrewd businessmen in their teens, selling duck eggs to provide for their family. Their lives take an unexpected turn when they are summoned to appear before the King of Siam in the Royal Palace.

By this time, they have caught the attention of Captain Abel Coffin, an American merchant who takes them to a journey across the sea to America, leaving their mother and home behind.



### 1829, NEW YORK

Chang and Eng are exhibited in crowded theatres across America and Europe, displaying their intelligence, charm and ability to move as one. They are a hit with the media and even make friends with members of the Royalty, including the Duchess of Berrie. As part of his publicity plan, Coffin arranges for Chang and Eng to be examined by prominent surgeons in order to have the twins' condition authenticated.

## 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

### 1840, NORTH CAROLINA

Yearning for a normal life, Chang and Eng decide to quit going on public exhibit and settle down in North Carolina. They become naturalized United States citizens and adopt Bunker as their new surname. At a garden wedding reception, they meet Adelaide and Sallie Yates, two young sisters. The twins fall in love and despite objections from Mr Yates and other townfolk, get married to the two sisters and go on to father 21 children.

As the twins get older, their personality differences deepen and their desire to lead separate lives grows stronger. Matters worsen with domestic quarrels between their wives and children. In the meantime, the American Civil War looms in the background as the tension between the northern and southern states intensifies.

At the end of the Civil War, Chang and Eng find themselves stricken by poverty. They unwillingly return to make public appearances in order to support their family...





# Musical Numbers

## ACT I

EIGHTH WONDER OF THE WORLD . . . . . Captain Coffin and Crowd  
 FROM NOW ON . . . . . Chang and Eng  
 STUCK TOGETHER . . . . . Siamese Children  
 LIVING CURSE. . . . . Kathin, Malee, Bua, Jampaa,  
    Villagers and Nok  
 MAI PHEN RAI (NEVER MIND). . . . . Nok  
 TEN YEARS ON . . . . . Noy and Nood  
 THE SUMMON. . . . . King's Messenger  
 ROYAL WELCOME DANCE . . . . . Siamese Court Dances  
 PRIDE AND JOY . . . . . King Rama III, King's Messenger,  
    Ministers and Siamese Court Dancers  
 RETURN TO SIAM . . . . . Villagers  
 THIS IS THE DAY . . . . . Chang, Eng, Nok and Villagers

## ACT II

READ ALL ABOUT IT (I) . . . . . Paper boys and New Yorkers  
 IT'S NO PACK OF LIES. . . . . New Yorkers  
 THIS IS IT . . . . . Coffin, Chang and Eng  
 HOW EXTRAORDINARY . . . . . Doctors and Coffin  
 READ ALL ABOUT IT (II) . . . . . London paper boys and Coffin  
 STEP RIGHT UP . . . . . Coffin's Assistants  
 DOUBLE TWO STEPS . . . . . Chang, Eng and Crowd  
 ORDINARY FREAK . . . . . Coffin  
 BRAND NEW DAY. . . . . Nok, Chang and Eng

## INTERMISSION

## ACT III

THE WEDDING DANCE . . . . . Town Folks  
 FOUR COULD BE HEAVENLY. . . . . Sallie and Adelaide  
 MAYBE IT NEEDS A LITTLE TIME . . . . . Eng, Sallie,  
    Chang And Adelaide  
 IF ONLY . . . . . Chang and Eng  
 THE GRAND MIDWIFE OF THE WEST . . . . . Midwife, her assistants,  
    and the Bunker Family  
 HALF THE LOVE . . . . . Adelaide and Sallie  
 DIVIDED . . . . . Civil war soldiers, Women,  
    Sallie, Adelaide, Chang and Eng  
 HOME AGAIN . . . . . Chang and Eng  
 FINALE . . . . . The Company







**I'VE GOT TWO FEET ON THE GROUND**

Chul Chung, Senior Director of Network / Telecom, Asia Pacific,  
Seagate Technology International

Even up here I'm in control. Because no matter how far I go, **AT&T** keeps me close.



It's all within your reach.

<http://www.ap.att.com>



**L...l...l...lights!**  
**C...c...c...camera!**  
**Ac...c...ction!**

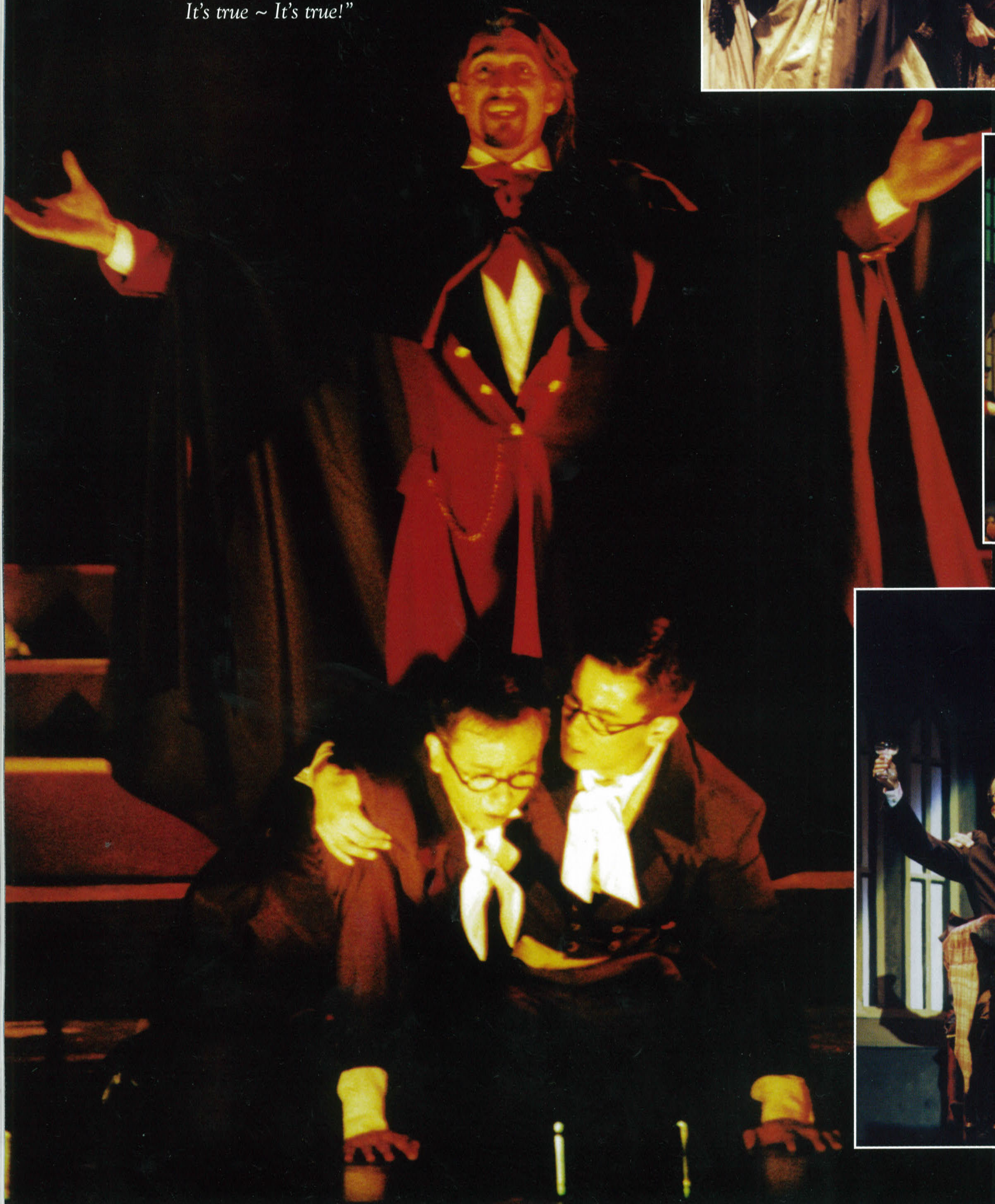


Carrier now sponsors all the aircons in Action Theatre's new premises at 42 Waterloo Street.

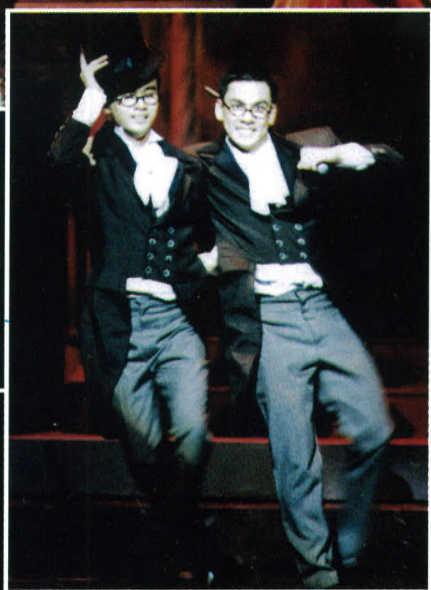
THE CARRIER MAN CAN



"They seem to be two healthy boys, with one life  
They look very happy, at ease together  
To separate them ~ it would be a crime  
It's also very risky and dangerous  
This is no story ~ How Extraordinary!  
It's true ~ It's true!"











MOHD ALIF DANIAL ABDUL AZIZ

## MOHD ALIF DANIAL ABDUL AZIZ

Chang & Eng is Alif's 3rd season appearance. Alif's interest in acting developed when he started accompanying his older brother, Haikal, to drama practices and rehearsals at TCS and Chang & Eng – The Musical.



MOHD HAIKAL BIN ABDUL AZIZ

## MOHD HAIKAL BIN ABDUL AZIZ

Ten-year-old Haikal is joined by his cousin Fairul in the lead roles of the young Chang & Eng. He received his early drama training at the SBC Children's TV Workshop. Since then, he has appeared in numerous Malay TV dramas, It's your Move, Mat Yoyo and the TCS All Stars Anniversary in 1995. This is his 3rd season with the show.



AIDIL AMIN

## AIDIL AMIN

Aidil made his first bold step in being a performer when he joined Haw Par Villa as full-time actor. His 21/2 years in Haw Par Villa has led him to perform in many of the STB's promotional shows overseas such as Malaysia, Thailand, India and Korea. In 1992, he left the company to join Boom Boom Room where his passion for performance grew even stronger. He auditioned for the SAF Music and Drama Company and made his musical debut in the Henen Advertising Musical. He then acted in Kampong Amber, where he played the role of a chauffeur called Ahmad. His last musical was Land of a Thousand Dreams. He is now the in-house choreographer of MDC and has choreographed many of the important shows in Singapore and overseas.



TIFFANY CHOO

## TIFFANY CHOO

Tiffany Choo, aged 12, just completed her PSLE at Raffles Girls' Primary School. Born in the year of the Tiger, she has a mind of her own and is motivated solely by her love and interest in the performing arts. Previously involved in numerous school performances, Tiffany's first performance was as a little mouse in Act Three's Pied Piper of Hamelin in 1991. When not on stage, Tiffany can be found singing (Yes, she never stops! ), swimming or playing with her three dogs.

*"I AM THRILLED TO BE PART OF CHANG & ENG! IT HAS BEEN AN EXCITING LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR ME."*



GORDON CHOY

## GORDON CHOY

Gordon Choy is an artiste of SAF Music & Drama Company (MDC). Besides dancing, acting, and singing, he is also proficient in Chinese opera, stilt-walking, gymnastics and lion-dance. He has performed at roadshows conducted by MDC and big projects like Chingay, SIA 50th Anniversary, Courtesy Launching & the WTO show. He has also travelled with the MDC to Taiwan, Thailand, Indonesia and Australia. Gordon has also taken part in the 2nd World Wushu Championship in Malaysia as one of the top ten competitors. He also acted in Shiver, VR Man, Dreamers, Jack Neo Comedy and Talk Show. He is also



MATTHEW CHRISTIAN

stuntman and dancer for TV Variety programmes. Gordon has represented STB promoting Singapore's Chinese Cultural Shows in Philippines, Egypt, South Africa, Spain and China.

*"SIAMESE TWINS COULD BE A STRONG FORCE. TWO-IN-ONE CAN BE AN ADVANTAGE BUT THE LACK OF PRIVACY CAN SOMETIMES BE A DIS-ADVANTAGE. I WANTED TO THANK MDC FOR GIVING ME THIS CHANCE TO BE INVOLVED IN CHANG & ENG"*

## MATTHEW CHRISTIAN

An 8-year-old student of Anglo-Chinese Primary School, Matthew enjoys the theatre and musicals in particular. He has acted in Chang & Eng – The Musical since its very first season in June 1997. Outside the theatre, Matthew's interests include wakeboarding, water-skiing and roller-blading. Matthew would like to thank "Uncles" Ekachai, Ken and Ming Wong for creating Chang & Eng – The Musical. He has forged many friendships among the cast and crew, and will treasure his experiences for a long time to come.

*"CHANG & ENG – THE MUSICAL HAS GIVEN ME MANY FRIENDS AMONG THE CAST AND CREW. I AM HAPPY TO BE IN IT FOR THE FOURTH SEASON, AND WOULD LIKE TO THANK 'UNCLES' EKACHAI, KEN AND MING WONG FOR BRINGING THE STORY OF CHANG & ENG TO ALL OF US."*

## SASHA CHRISTIAN

Five-year-old Sasha made her stage debut with Chang & Eng – The Musical in August 1997. She was also in the musical's Beijing production last December. Sasha attends Gracefields Kindergarten. She enjoys drawing, cycling and ice-skating, and is one of Singapore's youngest water-skiers. Chang & Eng – The Musical has cultivated Sasha's love for the theatre. She has learnt much about singing and dancing, and being on stage, and appreciates the opportunities she has received.

*"I HAVE LEARNT A LOT FROM BEING IN CHANG & ENG – THE MUSICAL, AND I REALLY, REALLY LIKE SINGING AND DANCING ON STAGE."*



SASHA CHRISTIAN

## CLAIRE CHUN

Claire was born in Conneticut, USA and showed an interest in music and drama at an early age. She has also been featured in various newspaper and TV commercials. She made her stage debut in the 1996 season of Les Miserables as Little Cosette. Claire also takes violin and piano lessons. In 1997, she played the violin for President Ong Teng Cheong at the Command House along with 10 other girls. Last year, she was accepted into the Singapore Youth Orchestra. Claire also wrote and directed a musical entitled That's Us with three other friends in 1997. In 1998, she wrote another musical entitled 'Jerichan Walls' which was selected for an exhibition held in Hwa Chong Junior College. This musical will also be staged by her school's English Literary Drama and Debate Society. Claire has also produced CDs of the two musicals. She thanks God for this opportunity to be in Chang & Eng as well as her family for their constant support and encouragement.



CLAIRE CHUN



## ANNIE FERRAO

Annie made her stage debut at 6 performing in a tiny grass skirt and yellow bikini at her pre-school graduation. Since then, she has graduated from her bikini to participate in her school's drama club and choral group, taking part in several Singapore Youth Festival competitions. Her other stage experiences include the 1992 STARS production of The Lords of Creation and The Cousin, an original musical put up by Temasek Hall, NUS. In her most recent performance, she played the lead role in All That's Left – an original musical by Casey Leong, put up by Temasek Hall, NUS. Apart from acting, Annie enjoys playing the violin, dabbling with paint and singing.

## ARCHIE HO

Archie is four years old. Next year, she will attend kindergarten. She loves to read, swim and play with the computer. Archie loves to go to the beach on her bicycle and jump into the sea. She also enjoys singing and dancing with her two elder sisters, Heidi (9) and Mallory (11). They would hold 'mini-concerts' at home and perform for anyone who is willing to watch.

## HEIDI HO

Heidi loves to sing and made it to the finals of a children's singing contest when she represented her kindergarten. She attends CHIJ (Katong) School where she is a member of the sailing team. She has a great appetite for books and taught herself how to read at an early age. Recently, she appeared in a Maggi Noodles commercial.

## MALLORY HO

In Primary 1, Mallory won 2nd prize in a character sketch competition when she played Lazy Mary. She is now 11 and has recently represented her school, CHIJ (Katong) in a sailing competition. She was a member of Wayne Township choir in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA where she represented her school, Chapelwood Elementary.

## FAIRUL AFFANDY BIN HUSSAIN

11-year old Fairul is a student in Yu Neng Primary School. He got his first taste of acting, singing and dancing at the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation's children's TV workshops in 1993. He has been approached regularly to appear on TV programmes and is currently in the fourth season of Chang & Eng. His hobbies include drawing, playing the bass guitar, soccer and roller-blading. He is presently holding a junior black belt in Taekwando.

*"SIAMESE TWINS ARE NORMAL PEOPLE AND SHOULDN'T BE TREATED AS IF THEY WERE OUTCASTS. WE SHOULD ACCEPT HUMANITY AND TRY TO PUT OURSELVES IN THEIR SHOES. IT HURTS DON'T YOU THINK?"*

## VALERIE FIFI ISKANDAR

Valerie, a Primary 6 student of Tao Nan School, is musically inclined. Growing up in a family where both her parents are actively involved in the music field, Valerie is inevitably exposed to the music world at a very tender age. Her active participation in school concerts has provided her with valuable experience. Though this is her first attempt in a musical, her talent is clearly displayed when given a role as one of the children of Chang & Eng.

## NOR FAHMI BIN JAAFAR

Trained in Balinese dance and physical body movement arts, Fahmi has appeared in The Candle and Stick at Moomba Festival 97 in Melbourne. Other acting credits include Singapore Kool by Act 3, Got to Go, Play till Dawn by TheatreWorks and Teater Kami's school projects (TIE).

## SIMONE KHOO

Simone is a lecturer in the Singapore Polytechnic's Language & Communication Department. She served as the polytechnic drama advisor from 1990–1996, producing, directing and acting in polytechnic productions including Grease and An Inspector Calls. She was part of booster chorus in Chang&Eng's FAPA commission in June 1997 before joining the ensemble for the August 1997 Singapore run and December 1997 Beijing run. Simone then took on the role of Hanee Cheong in Ah Kong's Birthday Party this year. A member of Full Circle and Vocaluptuous, she sang in AKA Acapella II and III in May 1997 and 1998.

*"PREJUDICE AND PERSECUTION AGAINST ANYONE WHO IS UNLIKE THE MAJORITY STILL EXISTS TODAY. CHANG AND ENG GREW UP NOT DWELLING ON THEIR DIFFERENCE BUT REVELLING IN THEIR UNIQUENESS. A LOT OF CREDIT GOES TO NOK WHO HELD FIRM TO HER BELIEF THAT HER SONS WERE SPECIAL IN EVERY POSITIVE WAY. HER LOVE FOR THEM OVERCAME THE ODDS."*

## KOK JUN YI, BENJI

Jun Yi, aged 9, a pupil of Maha Bodhi Primary School, made his debut performance in the first season of Chang & Eng. He likes to swim, draw, read and listen to music. He is now taking piano and Guzheng lessons. A monitor in primary 1 and primary 2, Benji is also part of his school choir.

## KOK YI NING

Yi Ning is Benji's five-year-old sister. She enjoys colouring, watching children's programmes, cycling, swimming, singing and acting. Her favourite food includes ice-cream, durian, mango, McDonald's and Kentucky Fried Chicken. This is her 3rd season with the cast of Chang & Eng.



ANNIE FERRAO



ARCHIE HO



HEIDI HO



MALLORY HO



FAIRUL AFFANDY BIN HUSSAIN



VALERIE FIFI ISKANDAR



NOR FAHMI BIN JAAFAR



SIMONE KHOO



KOK JUN YI, BENJI



KOK YI NING





ANNIE LEE



FRANCES LEE



BEVERLY LIM-MORATA



WILLIAM LIM



HATTA SAID



MOHD SHAABAN



LIM PEI SHAN

## ANNIE LEE

Annie started dabbling in acting and singing while she was in National University of Singapore, where she was active in hostel productions. During her university days, she also performed with S.T.A.G.E.S. in *A Tribute to Stephen Sondheim* (1994) and *Invade My Privacy* (1996). In 1994, she sang in a live recording for a BBC London radio programme, *Loose Ends*. Upon graduation, she has performed in *Got to Go, Play till Dawn* (1998) and *Diary of a Madwoman* (1997) with TheatreWorks; *Balls* (1998) with Singapore Repertory Theatre; *So the Psychologist, He Said...* (1998) with Touch Arts Company; *Pushcart Peddlers* (1997) and *Harold & Maude* (1996) with Asia in Theatre. She was also one of the original cast members in the Singapore and Beijing runs of *Chang & Eng – The Musical* (1997).

## FRANCES LEE

*Chang & Eng* is Frances' first role in a professional production. A regular theatre-goer since she was 4, Frances' love for the stage has been encouraged by her singing teacher, Jacintha Abisheganadan. Jacintha put Frances in the role of Rosemary Joseph in *Baby Beauty World* alongside her other pupils in her adaptation of the Theatreworks' classic for select audiences in late 1998. Described by her mother as a natural 'ham-it-upster', Frances wants to be an actress when she grows up. Says her mother, "If her teachers can motivate her with lessons the way Ekachai and Jacintha have been able to with her lines, Frances will sail through school!"

## BEVERLY LIM-MORATA

Beverly has participated actively in various theatrical activities throughout her academic life. She sang for two soundtracks locally, namely *Forever Fever* and *Teenage Textbook*. No More Tears, one of the songs she performed on the *Teenage Textbook Movie Soundtrack* is now a hit on the local radio stations. She had her big break in the entertainment scene when she DJ-ed for a week in *Perfect 10*. She hopes to do more for local theatre as well as the local music scene.

"I PERSONALLY DON'T FEEL LIKE THERE IS MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NORMAL PEOPLE AND SIAMESE TWINS. I CANNOT COMPREHEND THE DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS THEM AS I FEEL THAT BESIDES BEING JOINED TO EACH OTHER, THE ONLY DIFFERENCE THEY HAVE IS THE SAME KIND THAT SEPARATES ANYONE OF US WITH EACH OTHER, WHICH IS BASICALLY HOW WE REALLY ARE INSIDE."

## WILLIAM LIM

Born in Singapore, William started singing seriously when he was offered a place at Tokyo's Shobi Music Conservatorie under Madame Tomiko Sossi. In 1985, he entered the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, studying with Michael Rippon for four years. William also studied under Rudolf Piemay at The Royal Northern College of Music. In 1992, he took part in the Ross Ponselle International Voice Competition where he was awarded the Silver Rose. William

then spent the next two years under Patrick McGulgan as a postgraduate student at The Royal Northern College of Music. William's repertoire has included the roles of Enrico in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Guglielmo in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, the title part in Verdi's *Rigoletto*, the Speaker in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, the title role in Britten's *Noye's Fludde*, the title part in Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Frank in J. Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*, the baritone part in the Asian premiere of Huang An Lun's oratorio *Psalm 22*, Zuniga in George Bizet's *Carmen*, Sarastre in *Die Zauberflöte* and the bass part in Haydn's *Nelson Mass*. William has also participated in productions of Verdi's *Ernani*, Menotti's *The Medium*, Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera*, Leong Yoon Pin's *Bunga Mawar* and Mozart's *Don Giovanni* as well as a part in a *Masterclass* by Sherrill Milnes. He was one of the 25 semi-finalists in the 33rd Francesco Vinas International competition for voice in Barcelona. Most recently, 1998 saw William play the roles of Giorgio Germont in *La Traviata* and Dancairo in *Carmen*, both with The Singapore Lyric Theatre. In addition, William sung the bass solo part in The Philharmonic Chorus of Singapore's presentation of Mozart's *Requiem*.

## HATTA SAID

Hatta recently graduated from Temasek Junior College with a Diploma in Mechatronics. His debut appearance in a musical was as a chorus member in TheatreWorks' *Beauty World* in 1998. That was followed by a special appearance in ACTION Theatre's hit musical *Ka-Ra-you-OK?* in the same year. As a member of EchoBoys, Singapore's very own boyband, Hatta has performed on *Escape*, the group's first CD single released in 1998. He's currently working on EchoBoys' second CD single scheduled for release in March 1999.

## MOHD SHAABAN

Trained in modern and cultural dance, Shaa has been performing since his school days. He has also appeared in a number of local musical productions including *Aida* and *Big Bang – The Musical*.

## LIM PEI SHAN

Pei Shan started taking part in musicals when she was in kindergarten and continued doing so all the way through primary school, participating in various school performances. In secondary school, she was chosen to be part of the school's debating team and represented the school on a national level. Since the age of 6, she has been studying speech and drama. Recently, she hosted a radio talk-show for Heart 91.3FM called *Let's Talk*, Raffles City's Christmas launch and *Premiere 12's* new magazine-style show for kids entitled *Kids In Charge*. She has been part of the *Chang & Eng* cast since its world premiere back in June 1997.



## LUCRETIA MARGRID

Born to a family of professional entertainers in Malang, East Java, Indonesia, Lucretia made her national TV appearance at the age of 5. Twenty years have passed since that first appearance and they have been filled with television, stage, choir, Indonesian college stage dramas and several tape and CD recordings of cover versions to originals, including her recently released CD *Ilusi* which features her original compositions. She spent a year in vocal training in the renowned Pranajaya Music School learning the delicate, graceful movements of traditional Indonesian Dance including Javanese, Solo and Balinese. Chang & Eng – The Musical challenges her vocal, dance and acting talents.

## ONG VE JOY

Ve Joy is a Primary 6 student at Nanyang Primary. Besides learning the computer, she also learns the piano, violin, drama and choir as an ECA. Her hobbies are singing, swimming, computer and modelling.

## DARREN SEAH

Darren is currently a full-time performing artiste with the SAF Music & Drama Company, where he is trained in drama, tap, jazz, ballet and vocals. Apart from the many roadshows in army camps, he has performed in numerous shows including TCS/SIA 50th Anniversary's A Celebration of Gold, Chingay '98, National Day Parade '97 and '98, and MDC's 25th Anniversary's 25 Years on the Road. He has also worked with the Les Miserables Asian Tour 1996, Music and Movement's Karma Kommittee and ACTION Theatre's Block Sale where he had a cameo role. A member of the original cast of Chang & Eng, Darren toured with the company to China for its successful season in Beijing.

## JAMESON SOH

Jameson graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in USA with a degree in Economics and Business and a minor in drama. In Pittsburgh, he played Uncle Anthony in *Lucky Stiff*, Walter in *Chess* and David in *Godspell*. He also took the roles of Garcin in *No Exit* by Jean Paul Sartre and Duke Orsino in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. His theatrical experience extends beyond the stage, having been the Assistant Stage Manager and Stage Manager for two Pittsburgh productions of *The Glass Menagerie* and *Fool for Love*. Locally, he interned at the SRT, where he crewed for both seasons of *A Twist of Fate*. He also played Ken Gorman in The Stage Club's *Rumours*, the Neil Simon farce, and played the lead in Robert Yeo's *Changi*. Chang & Eng is his first project with ACTION Theatre.

## RAMENDRA SUBRAMANIAM

Ramendra is 8 years old and is in St. Michael's School. He acted in an animal show at kindergarten. In Primary 1, he entered a children's day Talent Quest competition and won consolation prize. He also sang in the Teachers' Day concert. He also acted in the Floating Safari in Noah's Ark.

## RAVIN SUBRAMANIAM

Ravin is 10 years old and is in St. Michael's School. He was in the choir in kindergarten and also took part in the Talent Quest Competition for SIA Family Day. He has sung for Teachers' and Children's Day and has taken part in competitions. Recently, he also acted in the "Floating Safari" in Noah's Ark.

## SURENDRAN SUBRAMANIAM

Surendran is 12 years old and is in St. Michael's School. He started acting at the age of 6 in kindergarten. He won the first prize in a Children's Fancy Dress Competition. At the age of 9, he started dancing and singing like Michael Jackson and won top prizes. In 1996, he played the part of Little Gavroche in *Les Miserables*. He has acted in school plays – Quasimodo in *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, in the Singapore Story and recently the Floating Safari in Noah's Ark. He has always been involved in entertaining, like singing and dancing for school concerts for Teachers' and Children's Day. He has also appeared in Lyric Theatre's *Midsummer's Night Dream*.

## DARIUS TAN

As a theatre buff, Darius has been active in the performing arts since his younger days. He has been involved with several local productions on and off stage with The Practice Theatre Ensemble, The Stage Club, Act 3, Dramaplay and others. He was also a choral and cast member of the 1996 Melbourne tour of *Aida* here in Singapore. Darius has also acted in a variety of Broadway excerpts for company dinners, such as *State Fair*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Oklahoma*, and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. He is very happy to be part of the 1999 Chang & Eng cast.



LUCRETIA MARGRID



ONG VE JOY



DARREN SEAH



JAMESON SOH



RAMENDRA SUBRAMANIAM



RAVIN SUBRAMANIAM



SURENDRAN SUBRAMANIAM



DARIUS TAN



# This is not an alcohol ad



You're probably a wine connoisseur, so we won't pretend to know your preferred choice. What we do know is that the perfect accompaniment to fine wine, is good music, fine art and maybe some ballet. Expressions brings the best and widest variety of Arts from all over the world.

All to make your evening perfect.

Salut!

**Expressions**  
*Mondays 8pm*





## DENISE TAN

Denise graduated with Honours from the University of Leeds with a degree in English Literature and Theatre Studies in 1997. While in the UK, she performed in musicals including Hair, Little Shop of Horrors (Chiffon), Cabaret, Fiddler on the Roof (Chava), Chess, Guys and Dolls (Sarah Brown) and Sweet Charity (Charity Valentine). She also acted in Howard Barker's Women Beware Women and Caryl Churchill's Top Girls as Lady Nijo, which was taken on a drama exchange to Murcia, Spain. As her final project in Leeds, she conceptualised, wrote and performed in Bo(a)rderline, a critically acclaimed one-woman show. Back in Singapore, Denise has appeared on television in The Donny Lee Show and Phua Chu Kang. She also art directed and acted in His Name Was Wong, a short film finalist in the 1998 Asian Film Awards. Denise made her professional stage debut in Beauty World (1998) as the cabaret singer. This was quickly followed by a plum role as the multi-faceted Electric Geisha in ACTION Theatre's 1998 production of Ka-Ra-you-OK? Denise also performs and conducts drama workshops in schools.

"BEING A PART OF THE COLLECTIVE EXPERIENCE OF CHANG & ENG HAS GIVEN ME A FRESH PERSPECTIVE TOWARDS WORKING AS A TEAM. I SEE THE TWINS AS A METAPHOR FOR ANY KIND OF DIFFERENCE WE PERCEIVE IN OTHERS. AS PART OF AN ENSEMBLE THAT JEERED AND SNEERED AT THE TWINS, YOU REALISE HOW PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY ARE PART OF THE NORM ADOPT A SUPERIOR ATTITUDE, WHEN IN ACTUAL FACT, THEY HAVE SUCCEDED TO A HERD MENTALITY THAT ROBS THEM OF ANY LUCID THOUGHT AS INDIVIDUALS. YOU LOSE THE ABILITY TO LOOK BEYOND SUPERFICIAL APPEARANCES, INTO THE INDIVIDUAL SOULS THAT LIE WITHIN. I'D LIKE TO THANK MY EVER-SUPPORTIVE FAMILY FOR ROOTING FOR ME. AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, GOD FOR PLACING ME IN A WORKING ENVIRONMENT THAT HAS BEEN NOTHING SHORT OF CHALLENGING, INSPIRING AND MAGICAL. TO HIM BE THE GLORY."

## TAN SOON KIAT

Soon Kiat has been interested in theatre and music since a young age. He has been involved in choral training in Anglo-Chinese Junior College since 1996 and has travelled with the choir to Sydney to participate in the 4th World Symposium for choral music. He also participated in the 1997 Singapore Youth Festival choral competition in which his choir claimed top spot. Currently, Soon Kiat is in the Music and Drama Company choir, which recently presented a musical to mark its 25th anniversary. Chang & Eng is Soon Kiat theatrical debut and he hopes to be involved in future productions.

## ADELENE TAY

To be cast in a musical has always been her dream as it encompasses three of her passions – singing, dancing and acting. Adelene has been involved in various school and public performances since she was 13. She was in the choir and dance groups of her college and university. In her school days, she sang commercial jingles. After becoming first runner-up in a national singing competition, she was exposed to more singing opportunities but now hopes to widen her horizons and have a hand in theatre and dance

as well. Now doing research in the university, she hopes to continue devoting her free time to music and drama.

"CONSIDERING MOST SIAMESE TWINS DO NOT SURVIVE LONG AFTER BIRTH, CHANG AND ENG SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BLESSED TO ESCAPE DEATH, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE FREQUENTLY LOOKED UPON AS CURSED. THIS PAIR OF REMARKABLE TWINS MUST HAVE REALISED IT WHEN THEY MUSTERED ALL THEIR COURAGE AND DETERMINATION TO LEAD FULFILLING AND NORMAL LIVES. THAT IS THE SPIRIT I WANT TO EMULATE."

## VAUGHAN-ALICIA WATTS

Vaughan-Alicia has done a number of both professional and semi-professional productions. She has danced for Singapore Dance Theatre's The Nutcracker as a little ginger in 1992, as a mouse in 1994 and also as a grasshopper and a time dwarf in their production of Cinderella. She has also acted, danced and sung in Singapore Stage Club's Aladdin, Jack and the Beanstalk, Cinderella and Peter Pan. Besides dancing and acting, Vaughan also plays the piano and trumpet.

## CHARMAINE WONG

As a kid, Charmaine was involved not only in television and cinema commercials but also appears in advertisements for magazines, posters etc. Her favourite so far is Baby's Love and Ikea. She also acted in a film entitled Daily Soap. She plays the piano and does Latin dance during her leisure time. Chang & Eng was her first stage musical and it was a truly memorable experience for her as she was only five years old when she started. She is happy to be back again in the new season of the musical and looks forward to contributing to the success of the show.

## JULIAN WONG

A student of Nanyang Primary school, Julian's exposure to the arts happened at age four when he took part in his first violin concert. He later became a regular host on Afternoon Leisure Hour on Channel 8 and also took up singing and drama lessons, appearing in Theatreworks' First Emperor's Last Days in June 1998 during the Festival of Arts. He also became the host of Hip-O and Friends on TCS Channel 5 and took the lead role of Ah Hock in Baby Beauty World. Most recently, he was in Three Fat Virgins Unassembled where he played a mean drama director and a philandering husband. When not acting or singing, Julian likes to swim.

## JEMIMA YONG MEI LIEN

Jemima, aged 8, is a Primary 3 pupil at CHIJ (Kellock). She has been involved in stage activities since her kindergarten days, when she played a dancing flower in Cecilia Hon Ballet Theatre's production of "Dance Scene II" at Victoria Theatre. Since then, she has sung, danced, made speeches and recited poetry at various school productions. Jemima is a music lover and has been taking music lessons in both piano and violin for more than two years. Her hobbies are reading and collecting coins, stickers and Barbie dolls.



DENISE TAN



TAN SOON KIAT



ADELENE TAY



VAUGHAN-ALICIA WATTS



CHARMAINE WONG

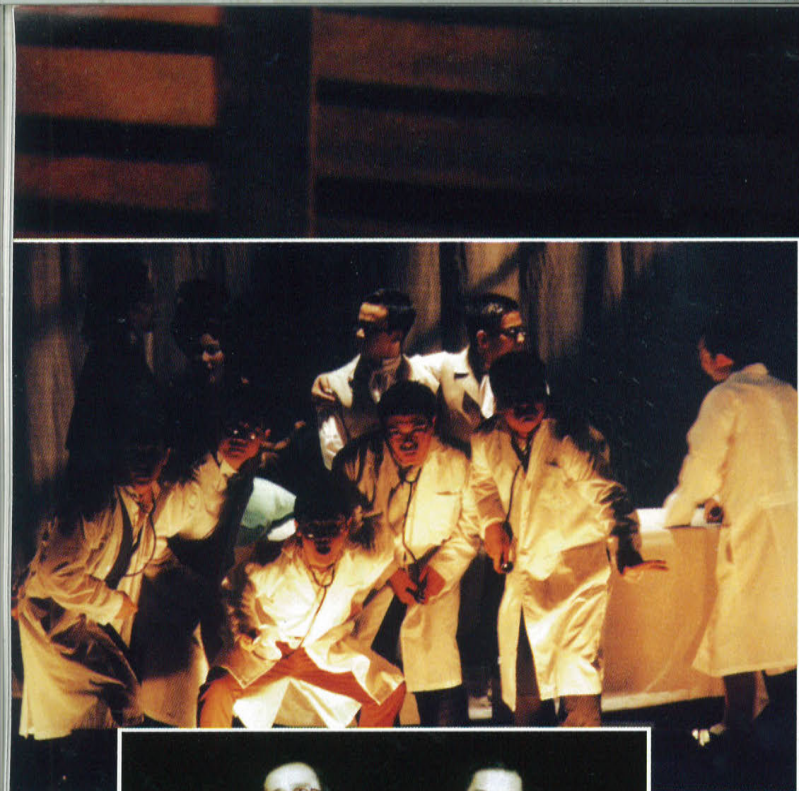


JULIAN WONG



JEMIMA YONG MEI LIEN





*Production shots from the 1999 & 1997 seasons.*



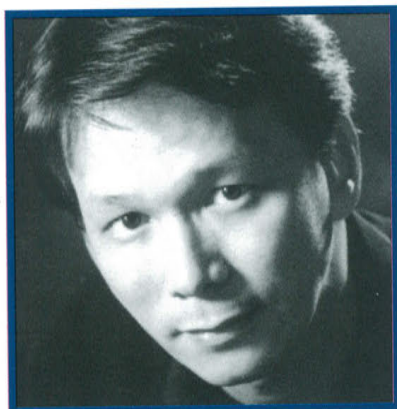
*"They say two's a company  
And three's a crowd  
But You and I...  
Him & He...  
Four could be Truly... Heavenly!  
Truly Heavenly..."*



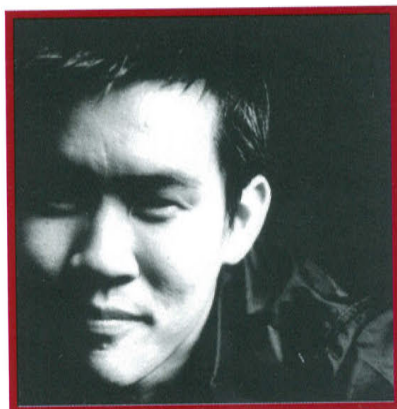




EKACHAI UEKRONGTHAM



KEN LOW



MING WONG

## EKACHAI UEKRONGTHAM

Ekachai founded ACTION Theatre in 1987 and has since produced all and directed many of ACTION Theatre's productions. His directing credits include Craig Lucas' *Prelude To A Kiss*; Eleanor Wong's *Exit, The Joust and Block Sale*; Chua Tze Wei's *Trine*; A. R. Gurney's *Love Letters*; Joyce Carol Oates' *Procedure (The Squeeze)*; Desmond Sim's *Drunken Prawns*, Ovidia Yu's *Imagine and Playing Mothers*; and *Confessions of Three Unmarried Women*.

In 1995, he conceived, produced and directed ACTION Theatre's hit musical *Corporate Animals* which was named Best Musical 1995. Following this in 1996, he directed *Lizard in the Loo* by Bryan Tan and *Trying to Find Chinatown* by David Henry Hwang as part of *Freshly Squeezed!*, a collection of bite-sized plays by local and American playwrights. The production was voted Best Local Drama Production in I-S magazine's Readers' Survey that year. He also produced and directed ACTION Theatre's popular musical drama *Ka-Ra-you-OK?*, recently picked as Best Musical/Comedy 1998 by The Straits Times' *Life!*. In 1998, he produced the New York season of Pek Siok Lian's *Mail Order Brides & Other Oriental Take-aways*, the first and only production direct from Asia at the New York International Fringe Festival.

His acting credits include roles in *Long Green Socks* by Wilson Wong and *Touch The Soul Of A God* by Eleanor Wong. In 1991, he made a short film entitled *The Nose* from the prize-winning short story by Desmond Sim. He has also produced *Pop Sparks I and II*, two pop concerts featuring original songs penned by local songwriters in 1989 and 1990. Ekachai has served on the Committee to Upgrade LaSalle-SIA College of the Arts and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, and has worked as marketing manager for American Express and Director of Marketing & Operations for Cameron Mackintosh Singapore. He was also on a professional attachment with Cameron Mackintosh's offices in London and Sydney in 1994 and 1995. Born in Bangkok, Ekachai came to Singapore in 1980 under the Asean Merit Scholarship scheme. He is now ACTION Theatre's full-time artistic director.

## KEN LOW

Ken comes from a background of stage and music performances and has appeared in various roles in ACTION Theatre's productions of *Prelude To A Kiss* (1992), *The Singapore Squeeze* and previously in Robert Yeo's *One Year Back home*, Star's *Gotta See Gotta Dance*, Stage Club's *Percival* and *Animal Farm*. More recently, he was the musical director for ACTION Theatre's *Ka-Ra-you-OK?* and also composer, lyricist, music director for ACTION Theatre's first musical *Corporate Animals* (1995). As the Resident Composer and Music Director for ACTION Theatre, he has also scored for other ACTION Theatre productions such as *Imagine*, *The Joust*, *Second Home* and *Six Lonely Oysters*.

Ken is also a member of the vocal group *Full Circle* and is currently producing and writing music for the *EchoBoys*, Singapore's very own boyband. His songs *Escape*, *Mai Phen Rai* and *Angel* are now on various radio stations' playlists. Ken is currently the General Manager of Warner Bros. Singapore and is responsible for the distribution and promotion of Warner Bros. and New Line Cinemas movies.

## MING WONG

Playwright and artist Ming Wong is currently pursuing a Masters in Fine Art at the Slade School of Art in London, working with print and electronic media. He was trained in Chinese Painting at Nanyang Academy of Fine Art and printmaking at LaSalle-SIA College of the Arts and drawing under Liu Kang. His works have been exhibited in group and solo art shows in Singapore, London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Tokyo and New York.

His plays include *Wayang Sayang* (1993), which won the first prize (student category) of the Hewlett Packard/ACTION Theatre Ten-Minute Play Contest, *Ka-Ra-You-OK?* (1995) which was commissioned by the ACTION Theatre Foundation of New Singapore Plays, *Dolls* (1996) which won the second prize of the second Hewlett Packard /ACTION Theatre Ten-Minute Play Contest, *Balls* (1998) and *Vanity Unfair* (1998). In 1995, he was sponsored by the British Council to attend the 1995 Royal Court Theatre International Summer School in London.





## MOHAMMED NOOR SARMAN

Mohammed Noor is a choreographer and performer with the Singapore Dance Theatre. His commitment to dance as an art form and consistently high standard of performances earned him a Young Artist Award from the National Arts Council in 1995. *Chang & Eng – The Musical* is his second commissioned work for ACTION Theatre, after the acclaimed musical, *Corporate Animals* in 1995. He has choreographed two major works for the Singapore Dance Theatre, *Serenade A Trois* and *Living Greens* which premiered in March 1996 and was showcased at the 4th Asean Dance Festival in December 1996. He was also recently commissioned to choreograph a pas de deux with music from *Sun and Moon*, an excerpt from *Miss Saigon*, for the recent Community Chest gala dinner. Mohammed Noor coaches students under the Singapore Dance Theatre "Dance Scholarship" which focuses on the development of young Singaporean dancers. He is also the resident Ballet Master of the National University of Singapore Dance Ensemble.



MOHAMMED NOOR SARMAN

## ISKANDAR ISMAIL

Iskandar is an accomplished musician and a much sought-after composer, producer, music arranger/orchestrator, music director and conductor. Through his company, Project M Pte Ltd, Iskandar has composed and arranged music for local and foreign artistes of leading record companies, such as Dick Lee, Jacintha, Sally Yeh, Nicky Wu and Aaron Kwok, to name a few. As Singapore's leading music arranger, he has composed and arranged music for the Singapore National Day Parade since 1988 and worked on the WTO Show in 1996. Some of the performers in that show were Sarah Brightman, Lea Salonga, Anita Sarawak. Iskandar's theatre credits include the orchestration for *Kampung Amber* (1994), *Big Bang* (1995), *Mortal Sins* (1995), *Sing To The Dawn* (1996), *Hot Pants* (1997) and *A Twist of Fate* (1997 and 1998). He has also arranged and orchestrated the acclaimed Jackie Cheung's Musical, *Snow Wolf Lake* 1997 which was performed in Hong Kong and Singapore with a star-studded cast. As the orchestrator for *Chang & Eng – The Musical*, he not only created the orchestral arrangements for the musical but also conducted the National Opera and Ballet of China Symphony Orchestra at every performance. With the same orchestra, he conducted, arranged and accompanied the famous vocal group, *Manhattan Transfer* in the opening segment for "A Nation Connects 1997". He also arranges for the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and the Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra. Iskandar is a graduate of the Berklee College of Music in Boston, USA. He was awarded the John Lewis Jazz Masters Award in 1978.



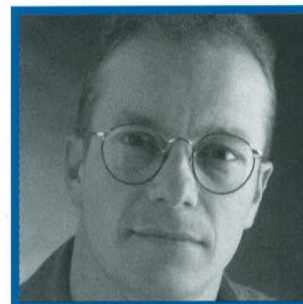
ISKANDAR ISMAIL



THORANISORN PITIKUL

## THORANISORN PITIKUL

A Fine Arts graduate from Chiangmai University, Thoranisorn has designed sets for all drama and musical productions by Dass Entertainment including the critically acclaimed Thai production of *Amadeus* and *Cinderella*.



PHILIP MURPHY

## THIO LAY HOON

In the past seven years, Lay Hoon has designed the lighting for over 50 productions both big and small, covering dramatic theatre, dance concerts, operas and musicals. Among these are ACTION Theatre's *Ka-Ra-you-OK*, *Block Sale*, *Six Lonely Oysters*, *Confession of Three Unmarried Women* and *Corporate Animals*. Recently, she has worked on *Cinemime* for Mime Unlimited, *Ballroom Dancing* for TheatreWorks and *An Evening with Lea Salonga* for Singapore Repertory Theatre. She works as an editor for a leading interior and architectural design magazine.

## PHILIP MURPHY

Philip Murphy was initially trained in stage management and began working as a sound operator on musicals and touring shows in the West End and throughout Europe. In 1990, Philip and Micheal Wilkie formed Coda Audio Services as a theatre sound design and installation company, having worked together on several major productions both in England and Australia in the 80's. Recently Philip and Michael have provided sound designs and technical services for Australian productions of *Smoky Café*, *Sweet Charity*, *Tap Dogs*, *My Fair Lady*, *Into the Woods*, *Berlin* and *Synergy* with Synergy. Coda Audio Services has also been providing the sound for the large outdoor Domain concert during the Sydney Festival in January for the past two years.





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## NIPHON THUNTIYOTHIN

After graduation from the institute of Technology in Bangkok, Niphon joined PBS Entertainment and worked in the costume department for 5 years. He became a freelance costume designer in 1995. His design range from costumes for contemporary dances and Thai classical drama, to costumes for concerts. As Dass Entertainment's chief costume designer, Niphon's intricately designed costumes were seen in Cinderella (1995), Amadeus (1996) and Sawitree ~ a Thai classical musical (1996)

## TAN LAY HOON

Lay Hoon's production credits include Broken Birds: An Epic Longing Descendants of the Eunuch Admiral (Festival of Asian Performing Arts), Ang Tau Mui: A Modern Woman, Wills & Secession, Therese Raquin, Mortal Sins, The Yang Family Cutting Edge Festival (no, not the arts festival), Pop Friction, Six of the Best, Descendants of the Eunuch Admiral (8th Cairo International Festival for Experimental Theatre), Descendants of the Eunuch Admiral, Destinies of the Flowers in the Mirror, Hamlet, Chang & Eng ~ The Musical (2nd Season), Twist of Fate, Breast Issues, Chang & Eng ~ The Musical (Beijing Season), Beauty World, The First Emperor's Last Days and Got to Go: Play Till Dawn.

## FELINA KHONG

Felina was the Production Manager for ACTION Theatre's musical comedy Ka-Ra-you-OK?, All Classical Music Explained, featuring British comedian Rainer Hersch, The New Adventures of Singapore Boy and Mail Order Brides & Other Oriental Takeaways which was staged recently in Singapore. She was also the Production Manager and Stage manager for Mail Order Brides & Other Oriental Takeaways when it participated in the 2nd New York International Fringe Festival in August 1998. Felina is currently Action Theatre's Production Coordinator. A graduate in Theatre Management from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, she worked as a Stage Manager for local productions of Jane Eyre – The Musical, The Matchmaker and The Merry Widow Opera in Utah.

## CHARLARDLERD TUNGKAMANEE

Charlardlerd graduate with an arts degree from Changmai University. He also received a scholarship for a technical attachment at the Banff Centre in Canada. He works as Production Manager and Lighting Designer from Dass Entertainment and has been involved in all major productions by the company.

## ROSLEY KASSIM

Rosley is a dancer turned choreographer. Formerly with TCS, he has appeared in television programmes like All Star Ceremony Show, Fame Awards 1995, A Nation Connects and the opening sequence of Viewer's Choice. He also choreographed the children's programme Hipo and Mei Special. He has participated and choreographed numerous projects with STB. Recently, he represented the Singapore procession for the Chingay Parade in Beijing and other numerous projects with the STB in Asia the Middle East and USA. He also choreographed the The President Star Charity (Beauty World).

## RABITA JAMAL

Apart from film-making, Rabita has done extensive backstage and frontstage work including stage management for ACTION Theatre's Ka-Ra-you-OK? (all seasons); Corporate Animals; The Squeeze II; NTUC INCOME's musicals, Land of a Thousand Dreams and A River In Time; WOW International's productions of Army Daze, Lest the Demons Get To Me, Who's Afraid of Chow Yuen Fatt and Three Fat Virgins Unassembled. She has also lighted and operated in ACTION Theatre's Singapore Boy, Just Joe, Varsity Playhouse and NUS Theatre's production of The Odd Couple as well as Singapore Lyric Theatre's production of An Evening of Opera, to name a few. For Rabita, this is the fourth time she is stage-managing Chang & Eng.



TAN LAY HOON



FELINA KHONG



ROSLEY KASSIM



RABITA JAMAL







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Conceptualised, Produced & Directed by ... EKACHAI UEKRONGTHAM  
 Music & Lyrics by ..... KEN LOW  
 Book by ..... MING WONG  
 Music Conductor/Orchestrator ..... ISKANDAR ISMAIL  
 Choreographer ..... MOHD NOOR SARMAN+  
 Musical Director ..... KEN LOW  
 Set Designer ..... THORANISORN PITIKUL\*  
 Costume Designer ..... NIPHON THANTYOTIN\*  
 Lighting Designer ..... THIO LAY HOON  
 Sound Designer ..... PHILIP MURPHY, CODA AUDIO SERVICES  
 Chinese Subtitles ..... LI LIEN FUNG  
 Production Managers ..... TAN LAY HOON, FELINA KHONG  
 CHARLARDLERD TUNGKAMANEE\*  
 Dance Master ..... ROSLEY KASSIM  
 Choral Master ..... HOSSAN LEONG  
 Costume Assistant ..... CHARLIRMPHONG RATTANAPRAPHASILP\*  
 Costume Assistant ..... WANDEE KETHONGSONG\*  
 Set Construction Supervisor ..... SUTHIE PIVORBUTH  
 Stage Manager ..... RABITA JAMAL  
 Assistant Stage Manager (Rehearsals) ..... ANGELINE SOH  
 System Engineer ..... CHRIS PYNE  
 Front/House Engineer ..... ADAM LUSTON  
 Radio Microphone Operator ..... MARK HOSTETLER  
 Lighting Operator ..... LIU SHU BIN  
 Head Stage Crew ..... JONATHAN LUM, TAN YAN MEI, ANGELINE  
 Make-up ..... COSMOPROF  
 Followspot Operators ..... FAZLI, CHEE WEI  
 Wardrobe Mistresses ..... ELISHA LOW, ELFA SUSANTI  
 Wardrobe Assistants ..... JASMINE LEONG, LEO PUI FUNG  
 WENDY LIM, LISA TAN, DIAN  
 Props Master ..... SATHESH KUMAR  
 Microphone Assistants ..... CHRISTINA THIO, HE YIN  
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Viola .....	Phua Thong Chee, Ian Gay Nicholas Ong, Nicholas Lee
Cello .....	Louise Chia, William Voo Zhen Hong
Harp .....	Fan Xin
Flute .....	Poh Tiong Wee
Oboe .....	Fong Chong
Clarinet .....	Simon Foo
Trumpet .....	Eddy Teo, Subronto Saaban Hardjo
Trombone .....	David Chen
Timpani .....	Damein Lim
Bass .....	Adam Lee
Piano .....	Indra Ismail/Ong Ka Mei
Keyboards .....	Linus Lee, Elaine Chan, Dawn Toh, Ong Ka Mei
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The Hong Leong Foundation and the Hong Leong Group of Companies have made significant contributions to civic, cultural and community activities in Singapore.

In the arena of arts, the Hong Leong Group has been instrumental in bringing in world-class performances such as “The White-Haired Girl” by the Shanghai Ballet Company and masterpieces by famous artists from New York’s renowned Guggenheim Museum for the inaugural exhibition at the Singapore Art Museum.

The Group’s hotels, under the auspices of CDL Hotels International, are pleased to actively support our homegrown theatre. Its three Copthorne hotels in Singapore are the official hotel sponsors for ACTION Theatre’s 1999 season of Chang & Eng. In view of the Singapore Tourism Board’s goal to develop a thriving arts tourism scene, the Group is excited to be a supporter of Chang & Eng, the first homegrown musical to be



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promoted actively in the tourist market. CDL Hotels, with its five hotels in Singapore, is also the official hotel sponsor for the 1998/99 season of another local theatre group, Theatreworks.

On the community front, the Hong Leong Foundation spearheads the Group's efforts to help the less fortunate. The Foundation has distributed hongbaos to public assistance/social welfare recipients totalling about \$150,000 every Lunar New Year season since its inception in 1980, and also donates to a Hardship Fund administered by the Ministry of Community Development. The Foundation is also a Green Partner, having pledged an annual donation of \$50,000 from 1997-1999 to support the efforts of the Singapore Environment Council. The Hong Leong Foundation and Hong Leong Group of Companies donated \$1.5 million to set up the Hong Leong-NKF Dialysis Centre in Aljunied, which was officially opened in 1998.

The companies within the Hong Leong Group, especially City Developments Limited (CDL), are also active in community relations in their individual capacities. In January 1998, CDL donated a total of \$2 million to 43 institutions, to mark the official opening of its flagship building, Republic Plaza. Going beyond our shores, CDL has also been supporting the efforts of the China Exploration & Research Society, whose goal is to explore and conserve the natural and cultural heritage in China.

The Group's employees also get involved in raising funds for charitable causes. For instance, the Group initiated a charity drive for the Autistic Association's Reach-Me Project in November 1998, raising a total of \$120,000.

The Hong Leong Group will continue to support the arts and partake in various community activities.



TOP RIGHT: CDL'S SPONSORSHIP COVERS THE AREA OF CULTURAL CONSERVATION.

RIGHT: LITTLE ONES FROM THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY AT CHINATOWN POINT'S LANTERN FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS.



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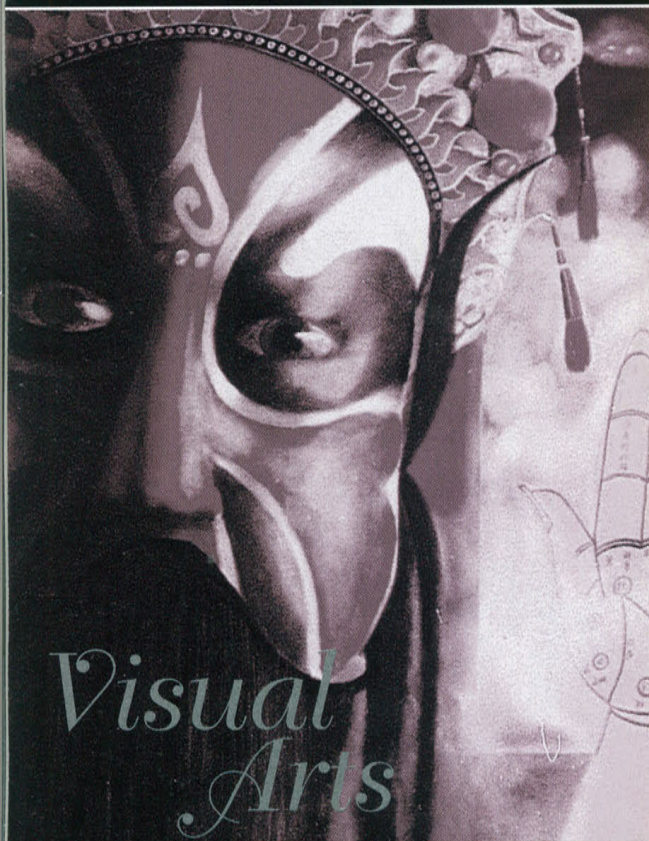
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GROUP OF COMPANIES'

COMMITMENT TO THE ARTS

AROUND THE WORLD.

BY SUPPORTING CULTURAL

PROGRAMS ACROSS THE

WHOLE SPECTRUM OF THE

ARTS THE GROUP AIMS TO

FOSTER AWARENESS

AND APPRECIATION OF

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## *Jazz*

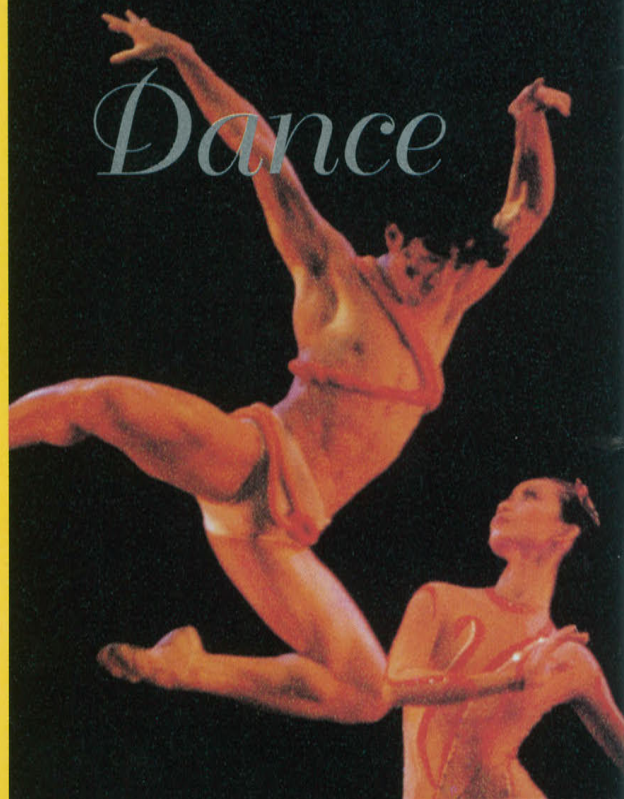
presented by



NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL

**Carol Kidd**

**Live Concert December 1998**



## *Dance*

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SINGAPORE  
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**Singapore Dance Theatre  
1999 Season**

... a contribution to the Arts



# Forty Years of Tradition

The Philip Morris Group of Companies' sponsorship of the arts began more than four decades ago. Jennifer Yeo speaks to ROBERT TAY, the company's General Manager in Singapore about the Group's longstanding tradition.

## 1 WHAT BUSINESS IS THE PHILIP MORRIS GROUP OF COMPANIES ENGAGED IN?

The Philip Morris Group of Companies is the world's largest manufacturer and marketer of consumer-packaged goods with over 3,000 leading brands. We are the second-largest food company in the world, with popular brands such as Kraft cheeses, Jacob-Suchard, Toblerone chocolate and Post cereals and the third-largest brewing company in the world, with Miller beer.

## 2 WHAT ARE THE ARTS-RELATED EVENTS SPONSORED BY YOUR GROUP OF COMPANIES IN THE REGION AND IN SINGAPORE?

The Group sponsors events in all spectrum of the arts: Visual arts, performing arts and music. The Group's cultural support programme have brought world-renowned artists to the region, including Pavarotti in Hong Kong, Placido Domingo in Taiwan, world class jazz musicians, Tony Bennett, Ray Brown Trio, Wynton Marsalis and most recently Carol Kidd in Singapore.

In Singapore, the Group's sponsorship is also intended to support the development of local talent. This is the reason for our sponsorship of productions of the Singapore Dance Theatre and Action Theatre.

In visual art, in order to realize the objective of nurturing artistic talent, the Group created the ASEAN Art Awards to provide a platform for regional exposure and recognition as well as a forum for young and budding artists to meet and interact. The programme started as the Singapore Art Awards in 1993. Upon the recommendation of Professor Tommy Koh, we expanded into an ASEAN Arts Award in 1994. Now in its fifth year, the Philip Morris Group of Companies ASEAN Art Awards is the only regional and most comprehensive painting competition for contemporary artists. The event is endorsed by the ASEAN Secretariat and in Singapore, the National Heritage Board and the Modern Art Society. More than 14,000 artists have taken part in the competition so far. And exhibition of the artists' works have been seen by more than 110,000 people in Southeast Asia.

## 3 WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO SPONSOR CHANG & ENG - THE MUSICAL

I first saw the musical in 1997. I was inspired by the vision and determination of Ekachai to produce the very first world-class Singapore musical. Of course, what also attracted me was a very inspiring script dealing with the reality and trauma of physical interdependence and the complex idea of unity in diversity. And, with a contribution to the New Blood Festival and Young Directors' workshop later this year, we look forward to continuing our co-operation and support of Action Theatre.



PHILIP MORRIS GROUP OF COMPANIES CREATED THE ASEAN ART AWARDS IN 1994.



ROBERT TAY, GENERAL MANAGER OF PHILIP MORRIS SINGAPORE WITH CAROL KIDD.

## 4 WHAT ARE THE GROUP'S OBJECTIVES FOR SPONSORING THE ARTS IN SINGAPORE?

The Group's sponsorship of the arts is rooted in the Group's forty-year tradition of supporting the arts around the world. We believe it is important to stay close to the creative process. The arts add vision, vitality and creativity to our people and our company. In the end, we benefit and contribute, we believe to the quality of life in the communities where we do business. In Asia, the Group's support has grown over the last decade. In Singapore, this coincides with the Singapore Government's objective to turn Singapore into an art and cultural hub. Our corporation has embraced this initiative and we hope to play our part, however modest, in expanding Singapore's cultural wealth and help to turn the government's vision into a reality.

## 5 WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS FOR YOUR GROUP OF COMPANIES BE SPONSORING THE ARTS?

The impact of our sponsorship is difficult to ascertain or quantify. Art patronage is by definition non-profit oriented. We are not expecting a return from our sponsorships. We see them as a donation to the community. We believe that the art programs we sponsor not only contribute to the recognition of the artists we support but hopefully enhance the lives of the people in the community. Internally it is rewarding to see my staff cultivate an appreciation of the arts. Over the last five years, we have been able to contribute to the improvement of the visual art scene in Singapore as a result of our creation of the ASEAN Art Awards. This alone is self-rewarding and encouraging.

Although we did not expect to get recognition for what we are doing, we are very grateful for the acknowledgement of our contribution by the media and the National Arts Council with the Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award we received last year.

## 6 HAS THE ASIAN FINANCIAL CRISIS AFFECTED THE GROUP'S ART SPONSORSHIPS?

We are not reducing the funding for our core sponsorship events in Singapore, which include the ASEAN Art Awards, the Singapore Festival of Arts, the Singapore Dance Theatre, Action Theatre and Jazz concerts. And to conclude, I would like to quote an inscription on the Kennedy Centre in Washington "This nation can not afford to be materially rich and spiritually poor". We believe this is apt for any nation.





**STRAITS MEDIA** is honored to be invited as the first outdoor media company to participate in the publicity campaign of Chang & Eng ~ The Musical.

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# About ACTION Theatre

A dynamic Singapore theatre company that focuses on developing and presenting original new works, ACTION Theatre is known for its refreshing approach in creating plays that explore topical and contemporary issues in an imaginative manner. Its past productions include thought-provoking plays about single-hood, loneliness, city life, obsession with property ownership, racial identities, mail-order brides and internet match-making. Also acclaimed for its musicals, ACTION Theatre has had a string of notable successes such as *Chang & Eng – The Musical*, *Corporate Animals – The Musical* and *Ka-Ra-you-OK?*

A long time advocate for exciting theatre that doesn't bore or leave out the new generation, ACTION Theatre introduced the 10-minute play genre (high-impact, bite-sized plays – about 10 minutes long each) in 1993 to lure in younger audiences with short attention span. Its bi-annual Hewlett-Packard/ACTION Theatre 10-minute play contest is aimed at discovering new writing talents for the stage. Winning scripts are staged annually as part of its "Squeeze" series, now in its sixth year.

Founded by its artistic director Ekachai Uekrongtham in 1987, ACTION Theatre is currently working with National Arts Council of Singapore to restore a pre-war bungalow house at 42 Waterloo Street into a home of intimate indoor and outdoor performance spaces. After restoration, the venue will house ACTION Theatre's research and development wing where new homegrown works and emerging theatrical talents will be developed and presented. Scheduled to open in July 1999, 42 Waterloo Street will also play host to a number of new cultural exchange initiatives between Singapore and other theatre companies around the world.



*Ka-Ra-you-OK?*



*Hewlett-Packard/ACTION Theatre  
10-Minute Play Contest*



*Mail Order Brides  
& Other Oriental Take-aways*



*How Do You Know  
You're Chinese?*

## View from the Gallery

*"ACTION Theatre could never be accused of being behind the times.*

*Its raison d'être is to present everything and anything new and thought-provoking. It has an impressive array of past performances and has maintained a steady stream of socially-aware productions..."*

ARTITUDE, SINGAPORE TELEVISION TWELVE

*"We need to bring more people into the theatre so Ekachai's ability to reach wide audiences is commendable.*

*He's good at breaking topical issues and illuminating them."*

RICHARD LIM, LIFE! EDITOR (AS QUOTED IN ASIA MAGAZINE)

*"ACTION Theatre's expansive well-spring of creative ideas introduced fresh theatrical genres to a public awakening to the arts."*

8DAYS MAGAZINE

*"The company pays more than lip service to the idea of developing and presenting new contemporary works by Singaporean playwrights... It also allocates grants to encourage the writing of full-length plays."*

VOGUE MAGAZINE



*Wayang Sayang*



*The Drowning Place*



# Arts Angels

## 42 Waterloo Street Patrons



THE HOUSE THAT THEY HELPED BUILD; FIRST ROW (FROM RIGHT TO LEFT) PEK SIOK LIAN, ACTION THEATRE; STACEY TAN, NAC; LENA ST. GEORGE-SWEET, THE BRITISH COUNCIL; EKACHAI UEKRONGTHAM, ACTION THEATRE; CECILIA PANG, HEWLETT PACKARD; MRS T. YANO, JCCI; JAMES CHIU, ICI PAINT; HENRY NG, ICI PAINT; MIDDLE ROW (FROM RIGHT TO LEFT) ROBERT TAY, PHILIP MORRIS SINGAPORE; MICHAEL TAN, PRUDENTIAL-BACHE; RICHARD TAN, GARDEN & LANDSCAPE CENTRE; PROFESSOR TOMMY KOH, AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE; MR T. YANO, JCCI; LIM SA BEE, NAC; HOSSAN LEONG; LAST ROW (FROM RIGHT TO LEFT) KEN LOW, ACTION THEATRE; TEO HAN WUE, NAC; CHESTER M. IKEI, JCCI; VINCENT LEE, HAN, YIP & LEE ASSOCIATE; EARNEST LIM, ICI PAINT.

**42** Waterloo Street is a pre-war bungalow which National Arts Council and ACTION Theatre are currently restoring into a home of intimate performance spaces. Restoration began in November 1997. We have now completed all the basic construction work and are currently fitting out the house. A "warm-up" season is scheduled to take place at 42 Waterloo Street in May 1999 leading up to its Official Opening in July this year.

ACTION Theatre and National Arts Council would like to thank all the organisations and individuals who have contributed to our Building Fund so far. We have raised most of the funds needed to restore the building. Only \$180,000 are still needed to enable us to complete the full fitting out of the building (e.g. stage lighting, curtain, outdoor stage construction, furniture, office equipment, etc.) We are also sourcing for sponsors for the programme of events that will take place at 42 Waterloo Street.

FOR INFORMATION ON THE VARIOUS DONATION AND SPONSORSHIP SCHEMES, PLEASE CONTACT EKACHAI UEKRONGTHAM OR FELINA KHONG AT TEL: 227 8128, FAX: 227 8129 OR E-MAIL : [action@pacific.net.sg](mailto:action@pacific.net.sg)



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# All we need are a few *angels*

*to keep the theatre scene vibrant  
to encourage the creation of new  
Singapore plays and musicals  
to keep the arts alive*

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**CHANG & ENG**  
♦ The Musical ♦  
Based on the lives of the original Siamese Twins





# Action-Packed On Singapore Stage

So much is happening in the arts scene these days that we are spoilt for choice. The picture was quite different when ACTION Theatre staged its first play back in 1987.

More than a decade and sixty-two productions later, we continue to focus on developing new plays and musicals while nurturing emerging talents for the future of Singapore theatre. The past two years also saw us putting homegrown works on the international stage – from *Chang&Eng – The Musical* in China to *Mail Order Brides & Other Oriental Take-Aways* in New York.

Theatre is our passion. And the stage will always be action-packed.



[www.happening.com.sg/action](http://www.happening.com.sg/action)



