

ủ quán miến
L NOODLES

★ RAHIM ★

WELCOME
MARONG ISTIMEWA
KATA: MARONG MARONG MARONG



Makanplace

a Singapore musical

created and written by

act 3



MAKATFLACE

A Singapore musical

adapted and written by

Simple, catchy songs and an
interesting group of characters

— *The Straits Times*

MAKANPLACE,

a Singapore musical

created and written by
ACT 3



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This book comes together with a cassette
of the Makanplace soundtrack

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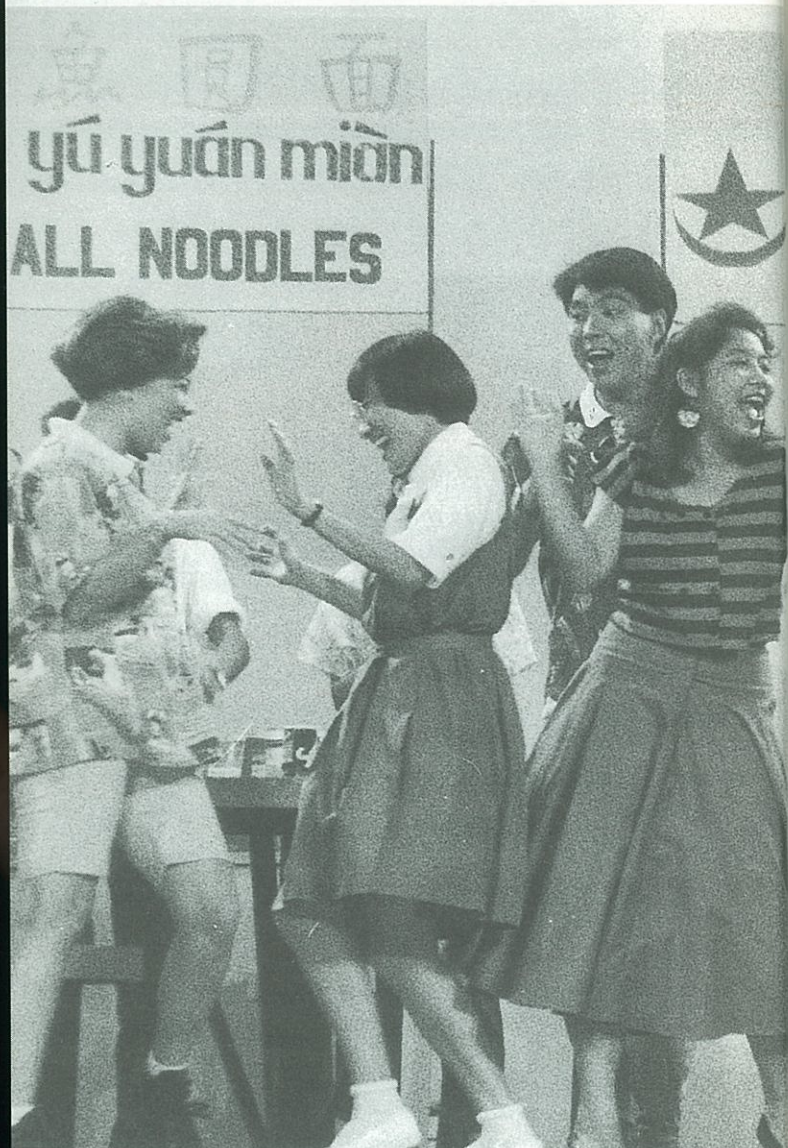
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*For all hawkers who feed us
day and night
in makanplaces
all over Singapore*



FOREWORD

I believe this play by ACT 3 will bring a lot of pleasure to many people. ACT 3 is Singapore's first professional theatre company. Since it began in July 1984, the company has introduced theatre to many Singaporeans, especially the young.

It was also the first completely local theatre company to stage a Singaporean musical, *Makanplace*. Its theme is simple, and it carries an equally simple, but relevant message — that dreams can be realised if one continues to strive.

It also captures the Singapore story: people of different races working together in harmony.

The musical's songs are catchy and easy to sing. It appeals to both the young and the old. This publication of the play will enable schools and other community organisations to perform it easily — this should help significantly in making the theatre attractive to an even wider circle of Singaporeans.

S. Dhanabalan
Minister for National Development

"Hey, it's time to celebrate... let's go to the Makanplace"

ACT 3 Directors' Notes

R. Chandran, Jasmin Samat Simon and Ruby Lim-Yang

Chandran, artistic director: Writing and directing Makanplace have been inspiring challenges.

As the words of the script flowed, one major concern was how to balance Singapore English with standard English. Excessive use of one would have caused terrible distraction, and the other, loss of credibility.

Choreographing the movement of more than 30 actors in, out and about the food centre set was a task in itself. Making it all look natural, well... phew! It's been worth the effort. Watching Makanplace come alive on stage continues to be extremely fulfilling.

Jasmin, musical director: We felt at the outset that the choice of music should appeal to most Singaporeans. We decided on a fresh "swing" tempo for the opening number, something that people could sing, snap their fingers, tap their feet, walk and dance to. For the finale, we wanted a "double beat samba", something noisy and rousing.

In between, there is a wide range of music: reggae, bassanova, rock-n-roll.

What about the musical arrangement and instruments? No big band sound or full orchestra sound. Simply the sound of a four-piece band with synthesizers.

My sister, Saedah, made the first soundtrack with just an electronic keyboard. Our good friend Zul, of Tania, made the second soundtrack with real instruments. And the music arrangement in this book, by Khew Sin Sun and Yeong Kim Leng, has also captured the mood of the songs.

Ruby, business director: Why do professional theatre? That's a question I have always been asked. As with other professions, doing theatre requires commitment, resources, dedication, discipline and talent.

We went into professional theatre because, very simply, we were ready to make that commitment. We also wanted to develop interest in theatre among the young.

It has been nearly seven years since we went professional. We are really happy that during that time we have roused a great deal of interest in theatre not only among children and parents, but also young people.

This book is symbolic of what we have always strived for in making theatre accessible. It is hoped that schools, drama groups, individuals will be inspired to do theatre, to achieve their dreams, like we have.



Zil impersonates celebrities as his father Pakchik looks on hopelessly.

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CHARACTERS (in order of appearance)

SIEW

LENG, the fish ball "ah soh"

RAHIM, the teh tarik "mamak"

PAK HASSAN, the mee rebus "pakcik"

AH TEE, the chicken rice "ah chek"

KUNG, the loan shark

ZIL

JUDY DE CRUZ, the tuition teacher

LIZ, mum

DOUG, kid

ANNE, kid

AH TENG, football fan

KARIM, football fan

ELDERLY CHINESE LADY

CAT I, pest

CAT II, pest

RAT I, pest

RAT II, pest

RAT III, pest

RAT IV, pest

COCKROACH I, pest

COCKROACH II, pest

SWEEPER

MR SINGH, taxi driver

ABDUL, taxi driver

GUY JOGGER

GIRL JOGGER

RAHMAN, prata seller
YIN MEI, Zil's mentor
TOURIST
BLIND MAN
BLIND MAN'S COMPANION
KIM, teenager
KATE, Kim's girlfriend
PATRICK, Judy's special friend
ENVIRONMENT INSPECTOR
BRIAN, a good Samaritan
TOM, aggressive diner
MITCH, schoolgirl
STEF, schoolgirl
AMY, schoolgirl
JEFF, schoolboy
MEL, schoolboy
SAN SAN, little boy
DEZEL, model
and an assortment of characters beyond any
ordinary description.

THE PLAY

[THE SETTING IS A FOOD CENTRE.
THERE ARE AT LEAST FOUR STALLS
VISIBLE ON STAGE:
CHINESE FISHBALL MEE, MEE REBUS,
TEH TARIK AND CHICKEN RICE. THERE
ARE OTHER STALLS OFF-VISION; WE SEE
FOOD BEING BROUGHT IN AND OTHER
HAWKERS WHO COME IN AND GO OFF.

THERE ARE MANY TABLES AND CHAIRS
SPREAD ACROSS THE SET AND BEYOND.

PEOPLE COME AND GO, SOME BUYING
FOOD, SOME JUST PASSING BY, IN THE
BACKGROUND]

SCENE 1

[AS CURTAINS OPEN WE SEE THE SILHOUETTE OF THE FOOD CENTRE AND THE MANY PEOPLE THERE. THEY ARE STANDING/SITTING MOTIONLESS IN VARIOUS POSES.

TWO PEOPLE COME IN FROM AMONG THE AUDIENCE...]

[ENTER: TWO PERSONS]

1ST PERSON

Hey, what time is it?

2ND PERSON

It's *(time of the performance)*

1ST PERSON

It's time for makan. Where shall we go?

2ND PERSON

To the makanplace!

[LIGHTS, MUSIC ON. EVERYONE BEGINS TO DANCE AND SING, "MAKANPLACE"]

[MUSIC # 1 MAKANPLACE]

Hey, it's time to celebrate
After a movie or on a date
You know it's gonna be really great
If you go to the makanplace

Give a treat to a friend or two
Have a chat, a rendezvous
When you're happy or when you're blue
Hey, go to the makanplace

(music bridge)

After a morning jog and a run
You come here for drinks and makan
Have a feast, snack or some fun
Here at the makanplace

Hey, it's time to celebrate
After a movie or on a date
You know it's gonna be really great
If you go to the makanplace

Give a treat to a friend or two
Have a chat, a rendezvous
When you're happy or when you're blue
Hey, go to the makanplace

You know it's gonna be really great
So, let's go to the makanplace

[AT THE END OF THE SONG PATRONS
DRIFT AWAY LEAVING THE HAWKERS
TO CLEAR THE MESS LEFT BEHIND...
SIEW, WHO HAD BEEN PART OF THE
CROWD, HAS JUST COME BACK FROM
SCHOOL AND FIDDLES WITH HIS
SCHOOLBAG]

LENG

Siew, go and clear the tables.

SIEW

Ma, I just came back from school; let me rest
for a while.

LENG

Rest? What, you think you're doing such hard
work going to school?

SIEW

It is hard work. If you don't believe you go to
school and see.

LENG

Eh, Siew... you think I was born like this. I've
been to school and I know.

SIEW

Last time school was different.

LENG

Don't argue; just go and clear the tables...

[IGNORES HIM AND PROCEEDS TO
CLEAN HER STALL]

SIEW

[AS HE WALKS TOWARDS THE TABLES
TO CLEAN] Easy way to win an argument; if
nothing else to say, she'll just say keep quiet
and do as I say... [TO LENG] Now?

[SIEW, PAKCIK, AH TEE, PRATA SELLER
(his stall is off-vision) AND RAHIM SING AS
THEY CLEAR AND CLEAN UP THE
TABLES]

[MUSIC # 2: MAKANPLACE (Reprise)
The Clean Up]

Siew: Hey, after each lunch break
All the plates I have to clear
I clean up till my back aches
Or my mum's shouting I will hear

Others: At the end of every meal time
It's time to clear the plates
Do it quick, don't take your time
So the next meal won't be late!

(music bridge)

All: At the end of every meal time
It's time to clear the plates
Do it quick, don't take your time
So the next meal won't be late!

[ENTER: KUNG]

KUNG
Hello, Madam Leng...

LENG
[A LITTLE NERVOUS]
Hello, Mr Kung...

KUNG
Madam Leng..., remember the money you
borrowed from my boss to renovate your new
house? You know, it's five months; you haven't
paid back...

LENG
Please can you ask him to give me two more
weeks...

KUNG
Two more weeks? ... Already five months you
cannot pay back... how to pay in two weeks?

LENG
I'll surely pay back the \$600... You know that
my life is now difficult... my husband is dead...
I have to take care of my son... he goes to
school—

KUNG
I know your difficulties... that's why we closed
one eye for five months.

LENG
I just bought the new house... I have a lot of
expenses...

KUNG
My boss doesn't like people to owe him money
for too long.

LENG
I'll pay back, don't worry...

KUNG
I don't worry for myself... I worry for you. My
boss warned that if you don't pay back, he'll
take you to court and close your stall.

LENG
I'll work very hard and pay him the money...

KUNG

[PONDERES FOR A MOMENT]... Last chance...
two more weeks...

LENG

Thank you...you want to eat something?

KUNG

No, thank you; my friends over there (off stage).
Two weeks, Madam Leng...

LENG

Yes, I'll pay you...

KUNG

[CATCHES SIGHT OF SIEW]
Your son studying hard?...

LENG

[NODS... TO SIEW] Call uncle...

SIEW

[MUTTERS] ...Uncle...

KUNG

Tell him to study hard... two weeks ...
[LEAVES]

[EXIT: KUNG]

RAHIM

[STEPS UP FROM BEHIND STALL]
You got problem with the moneylender...

LENG

Mm, mm... yes.

RAHIM

Need help?...

LENG

No, I can manage... just a small amount...

[THEY RETURN TO THEIR STALLS]

[IN A MOMENT ZIL BURSTS INTO THE
SCENE WITH SOME CELEBRITY
IMPERSONATIONS]

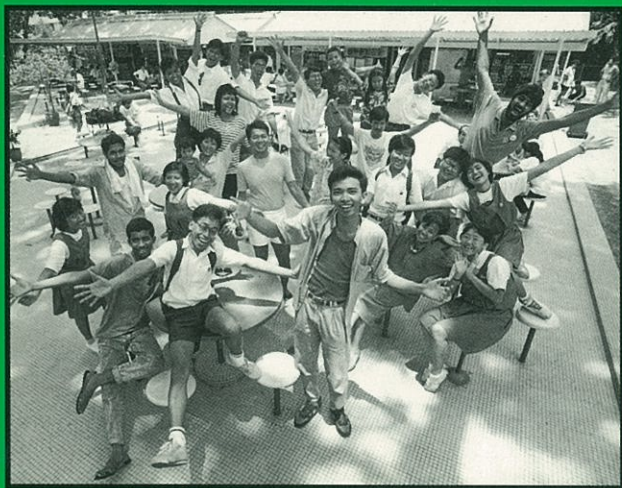
[ENTER: ZIL]

ZIL

[DASHES IN AND WITH A SERIOUS
CLARK KENT VOICE ANNOUNCES]
This is a job for Superman... [WHIPS OUT A
SARONG, TIES IT AROUND HIS NECK,
CAPE-LIKE, AND TAKES "OFF" IN
FLIGHT... AFTER A WHILE, LANDS...
THEN REMOVES THE SARONG, FISHES

Pages have been omitted from this book preview.

When "Makanplace, a Singapore musical" was first staged by ACT 3 in 1988, it received rave reviews. It has since been restaged and SBC has aired it over television. And now, even more can enjoy this musical with this book-cum-cassette.



The original cast of Makanplace

ACT 3 is Singapore's first professional theatre company and specialises in theatre for the young. It has, to date, staged over 1,000 performances.



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