

Programme Booklet (A4 folded in half, info to be arranged accordingly)

Cover Page - Coloured printout of The Fool poster

Pg 1 - Production credits (Centered)

A TWISTED KINGDOM

Written by Christopher Fok

Directed by Marcia Vanderstraaten

Performed by Lian Sutton

Featuring the voices of Willem and Annika Vanderstraaten Beh

Original Music by Isa Ong and Chew Wei Shan

Vocals by Chew Wei Shan

Lighting Design by Hakeem Kasban

Set Design by Olivia Vong

Costume Design by Faith Sim

Illustration by Marc Gabriel Loh

Stage Management by Jodi Thiele

With Special Thanks to Allison Menon, Izyanti Asa'ari, Jon Cancio, Isa Foong and Terence Tan

Pg 2 - Dark Matter Theatrics mission and scope with logo

Dark Matter Theatrics is a theatre collective interested in the uncommon in common stories. They search for the magic in the mundane, focusing on creating contemporary theatre that interests, inspires and invigorates the common folk.

They aim to foster artistic development in the people involved in their productions with an emphasis on local playwrights. They also aim to create universality through specificity with the stories that come from the common folk, in hopes of giving voice to a generation of people who have much to say about the society and world they live in.

They have to date put up four productions, *Strange Fruit* (2011) by Christopher Fok, *Paper Men* (2012) by Luke Vijay Somasundram, *Loud Mouth Loving* (2013) by Christopher Fok, and *Micromanage Overwork Exaggerate* (2014) by Marcia Annelise Vanderstraaten.

Pg 3 - Director's Message (100 words)

A TWISTED KINGDOM DIRECTOR's MESSAGE

"Experience: that most brutal of teachers. But you learn, my God do you learn." – C.S. Lewis

The first time I read the script for *A Twisted Kingdom*, I knew it would be a challenge to stage, but I also knew it had to be staged, one way or another. It is a rare play that combines broad archetype with distinct characterization, the shine of the fantastic with the dull glare

of the real, the most universal of themes – no, not love, but suffering – with the painful precision of a single life. The Fool, at once both lovable and annoying, is one of the most indelible characters I have ever encountered, and how he has led us on a merry chase throughout the production process! I am deeply grateful to Lian for his courage and willingness to be vulnerable, and I am especially indebted to Christopher for summoning The Fool from the depths of his imagination, that we may all listen enraptured for a while. May you too enjoy this encounter, and never forget the journeys that make us all who we are.

Pg 4 - The Fool's Journey

0 (The Fool) - You start as a babe, and you step off the cliff into the unknown.

1 (The Magician) - If you are male, this is who you could become at your full potential.

2 (The High Priestess) - If you are female, this is who you could become at your full potential.

3 (The Empress) - Your mother carries you across the threshold.

4 (The Emperor) - Your father imposes the rules by which you live.

5 (The Hierophant) - You encounter your first teacher. She gives you your first task.

6 (The Lovers) - You try to put together the pieces of your identity.

7 (The Chariot) - You use reason to conquer the outside world.

8 (Justice) - It is time to pass the last test, and you try to conquer yourself.

9 (The Hermit) - You go into yourself, you are tattered by the world, but you carry on.

10 (Wheel of Fortune) - You encounter the ever changing nature of life, there are only shades of grey.

11 (Strength) - You accept responsibility for yourself.

12 (The Hanged Man) - You submit to your own destiny and leave behind all your doubts and fears, the guilt and the shame.

13 (Death) - You die to the person you used to know yourself to be. You are clean and can move forward.

14 (Temperance) - You find in yourself a great momentum, energy and life force.

15 (The Devil) - You see the lies, the illusions and anger that propels you forward. Humour in the face of opposition, an opportunity to do what is right, facing and defeating one's demons.

16 (The Tower) - The divine lightning crushes all pre-conceived notions. Your heart is laid bare.

17 (The Star) - Hope.

18 (The Moon) - Like the tides, things that lie secret and hidden will move out into the light and back again.

19 (The Sun) - It is the end of the line. You realise that your beautiful little self has grown and expanded through experience and hard work. You have dragged yourself from the pits of despair, climbed the tower and realised you were the Sun after all. And then you tucked yourself back into your little pack and stepped off the cliff again, laughing.

20 (Judgement) - You finally see the great pattern of life.

21 (The World) - The landscape of the Abyss.

Pg 5 - Main Creatives (50 words each, with black & white headshots)

- Director - Marcia Annelise Vanderstraaten

Marcia Vanderstraaten obtained her MFA in Dramatic Writing from NYU Tisch School of the Arts Asia. Her most recent plays were *Micromanage Overwork Exaggerate* (The Common Folk, 2014), a semi-docudrama on the Singapore education system, and *HOTEL* (W!LD RICE, 2015), a commission for the Singapore International Festival of the Arts, which was co-written with acclaimed playwright Alfian Sa'at. She is currently Associate Artist with W!LD RICE.

- **Actor - Lian Sutton**

Lian Sutton is a graduate of the BA (Hons) Acting program at LASALLE. A trained martial artist from an early age, he constantly seeks to merge his talents to tell stories in varied and engaging ways. Theatre credits: *Micromanage Overwork Exaggerate*, *2 Houses*, *Pigeons*, *The Danny Crowe Show*, *Lady of Soul*, *Cat in the Hat*, and *Berita Kepada Kawan*.

- **Playwright - Christopher Fok**

Christopher Fok works in the architecture of stories. He believes a strong narrative architecture ensures a lasting quality, a building you go back to again and again, just to look at the arches. *Apotheosis* (2013), *Loud Mouth Loving* (2013), *Atomic Jaya* (2013), *Outsider*. (2014), *Micromanage Overwork Exaggerate* (2014), and *15 Stations* (2015).

Pg 6 - 7 - Production (50 words each, with black & white headshots)

- **Sound Designer - Isa Ong, DUNCE**

Isa Ong has been writing and performing music for close to a decade under the acts *Pleasantry*, *sub:shaman*, *Amateur Takes Control* and *Sleep Easy*. This is his first foray into composing music for a theatrical performance. He is quite nervous.

- **Vocals - Chew Wei Shan, DUNCE**

Chew Wei Shan writes and plays music for electronic duo *.gif*, prog-rock band *sub:shaman*, as well as her own solo project as *weish*. Being intimately familiar with Christopher Fok's writing, she is deeply moved by *A Twisted Kingdom* - an incredibly difficult play to write, and even more so to share with an audience. This is her second time lending vocals to Chris' work, and she is immensely proud to have been a part of this production.

- **Lighting Designer - Hakeem Kasban, DUNCE**

Hakeem stumbled into the theatrical field in 2012 with no prior experience. Through the years he grew particularly fond of how lighting adds to the dramatic impact of performances. *A Twisted Kingdom* represents his first time experimenting as a lighting designer. Yes, Irfan Kasban is his brother.

- **Set Designer - Olivia Vong**

Part-time student, full-time dreamer, Olivia is excited to be working with Dark Matter Theatrics again. Always interested in the intricacies of collaborative theatre-making – be it in directing, dramaturgy or management, she is thrilled to be working with these bold and talented individuals she can call friends.

- **Costume Designer - Faith Sim**

A recent graduate of young & W!LD, Faith is a smallish cosplayer learning to costume for the world of theatre. Previous costuming credits include young & W!LD's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, young & W!LD's *Geylang*, and assisting in *The Curious Lives of Shakespeare and Cervantes* by Generasia.

- **Illustrator - Marc Gabriel Loh, DUNCE**

Marc Gabriel Loh is an artist, designer and illustrator based in Singapore. He draws inspiration from cultural oddities and issues pertaining to the human condition in attempt to create mixed media works that are both theatrical and whimsical. Marc also wishes he owned a large format scanner.

- **Stage Manager - Jodi Thiele**

Jodi Thiele hails from NSW Australia and is a jack of all trades. She has worked on various productions in Singapore, Australia and South East Asia including "Guest" (Lit Up Festival 2014), "The Omega Quest" (Revolt Productions) and the One ASEAN puppet performance "Water" for 2015's ASEAN Day celebrations. ATK is her second production with Fok, Vanderstraaten and Sutton, the first being M.O.E.

Pg 8 - Our Sincerest Gratitude towards: (In one block of text)

- Izyanti Asa'ari, Allison Menon, Jon Cancio, Isa Foong, Terence Tan and many others who have helped us along the way. We wouldn't be able to do this show without your support.

Pg 9 - Do support our crowdfunding effort at (will give you the url when it is approved) as we still have costs to cover for this production. We have prepared for you exciting perks and rewards for your support of this production. All our merchandise can be found on the website.

Pg 10 - With support from:

- National Arts Council (Logo) [Sent]
- The Substation (Logo) [Sent]
- Dunce (Logo) [Sent]
- Centre 42 (Logo) [Sent]
- Artsolute (Logo) [Sent]