

*Awake  
with  
Nenek*

## Director's Note



Family. The very word.

I sometimes watch other people's families. At dinners, at parties, at funerals and I wonder what keeps everyone together.

Is it love? Is it old stories? Or is it the fact that everyone is so often too busy and meet only when there's an occasion? And the reason to meet is only because it's simply necessary, or more like because you have no choice?

So it is then, personal space that keeps us together when in actual fact, it only keeps us apart?

And in my 30 years of existence, I've learnt nothing from family, except how to keep my mouth shut. And I've questioned myself time and again, why can't we speak up against a wrong, even if it meant that boundaries would need to be broken.

Why say that a child sees the truth in everything, if you won't let the child speak up?

I have no answers. I can't offer you any either in this play. I can only say this.

Don't wait too long. And I'm not talking about time.

# *Disclaimer*

Any characters represented in this production or any similarity to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. The views and opinions expressed herein do not necessary reflect those of a given organisation.

# *The Synopsis*

Think about this.

You're old.

You're about to kick the bucket.

You own a 3 room flat in Toa Payoh.

You have 3 ungrateful children, of which, one can't stop thinking about her inheritance, the other can't remember who you are and the last doesn't even want to acknowledge you as her own. The only one you can trust can't even stand up on her own two feet. What do you do? Washing dirty linen in public couldn't get any dirtier than this. Based on a true story, but of course with drama sikit, *Awake with Nenek* addressed the age-old question that has been on many Singaporean's minds since the word HDB came about, "Who's going to get the 3 room flat?" Even if they don't necessarily deserve to get it.

Written and Directed by Tian Lye, *AWAKE WITH NENEK* also features familiar faces such as Josephine Tan (H is for Hantu), Edward Choy (H is for Hantu), S Karthik (Uncle Taxi – Vasantham), Crispian Chan, Grace Kalai, Muhd Ruzaini B Mazani and Aarathi.A

*AWAKE WITH NENEK* is a comedy that promises to make you laugh, cry, jeer and even wonder if your own relatives are doing the very same thing behind your back right now.



# *Who's in production*



## Aarathi / Cik Besar

Aarathi is a qualified Chartered Accountant, who has been trying to get on stage at every opportunity. Initial theatre work in school and university paved the way for Immigrants in Bangsar working with Marion D'Cruz and dancers in Kuala Lumpur some years ago. Concentrating on her paid career, and travelling the world, she did not come upon another opportunity to play till her recent move to Singapore a year ago. Taking a break from the corporate world, this resourceful self-starter draws on her corporate experience to manage a home-based business and to conduct training programs for the society. A versatile and enthusiastic individual, she enjoys challenging herself to achieve new heights and giving back to the community she lives in. This is Aarathi's first performance to the general public here in Singapore.



## Aidan / Delivery Man

Since young, Aidan has been greatly inclined to theatre. He has been performing from the tender age of 8 up to date, featuring in a multifold of productions ranging from charitable ones put up at local community centers for disabled youth to student-initiated performances at various old folks homes as well as larger-scale, non-profit theatre works screened at The Arts House; the most recent being *The Rainbow's Ending* presented by We Colour People.

# *Cast team*



## Crispian / Johnson

Crispian graduated from LASALLE's BA(Hons) Acting programme in 2008 and has gone on to work on the international stage – performing in Brussels for the kunstenfestivaldesarts for The King Lear Project; in the Perth International Arts Festival in Australia; and in Wild Rice's Importance of Being Earnest in Singapore. He has also appeared on TV, including the experimental improv-drama 9Lives on Arts Central and in a number of TVCs. Just recently in 2009, he completed an episode of The Philanthropist in South Africa, performing alongside James Purefoy and Michael K. Williams. Crispian is represented by Fly Entertainment.



## Edward / Tony

Edward graduated with a Master of Arts degree from the National University of Singapore Theatre Studies programme in early 2008. Since 1996, some of the roles he has played include Mowgli in SRT's production of "The Jungle Book", and the Ming Dynasty emperor "Wan Li" in the Discovery Channel documentary "Great Wall", shot on location in Hengdian, China.

He also had a successful career as a voice artist from 2005-2008, voicing characters in 16 different Japanese animation/live action titles, mainly for the U.S. Market.

He currently splits his time between working as an actor, model, teacher and corporate trainer.



# *Cast team*



## Grace / Sarojini

Kalai Grace is currently a full-time freelance actress, storyteller, drama and storytelling educator and producer. Her theatre acting credits include Bantham & Athipathy for Supiradeepam Drama Group; Kaamam.Com, Macbeth in Tamil, Uriyadi, Lamenting, Prasavam, Kurugiya Vattam, Nil Gavani Sel, Vanthavan Yaar, Kuraloviyam, Kaathal Kalyaanam Katherikka and Sathai for Ravindran Drama Group; Being & Becoming for The Peranakan Association; The Picnic for Short & Sweet Singapore 2007; Above Us Only Sky for The Necessary Stage's M1 Fringe Festival 2008 and Rhinoceros for Singapore Arts Festival 2008. The versatile actress has appeared in numerous Tamil television dramas for Vasantham central and MediaCorp Channel 5. She was also involved as actress and translator for Eric Khoo's movie, 'My Magic' which made it to Cannes Film Festival 2008. Over the last 7 years she has been engaged by various companies to conduct speech & drama, public speaking, scriptwriting, creative writing and storytelling programmes at various places such as Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Primary School, Catholic High Junior School, CHIJ Katong Girls School, Swiss Cottage Secondary School, Commonwealth Secondary and many more. She was invited by National Book Council to do Tamil storytelling during 2008 Storytelling Festival and National Library Board to conduct a Tamil storytelling workshop for the seniors participating in the Senior Citizens' Storytelling Competition 2008.

# *Cast team*



## Josephine / Pek Neo

Jo's schizo stage credits range from being a Japanese Prostitute for Drama Box (David The Best), a Posh Brit turned Ghost-of-Tit for Wild Rice (Olivia Raffles turned Hantu Tetek in The Last Temptation of Sir Stamford Raffles), different delusional women for The Necessary Stage (Emily Gan in Off Centre, Above Us Only Sky), a smorgasbord of hyper-modern women for Action Theatre (Manhood) and a Pontianak and a Sunday school teacher for Stages (H is for Hantu and Chestnuts 2009 respectively).

She's worked with Tianlye several times as her co-actor, so is honoured and excited to work on her script and under her direction, in this important production for We Colour People! Other projects keeping Jo jolly this year are The Full Monty (Pangdemonium), the Makan-Drama Festival (Action Theatre) and December Rains (Toy Factory).



## Ruzaini / Baba

Ruzaini was last seen on stage in Eight-in-a-Box by YellowChair Production (2009). He then did Short+Sweet Singapore 2009 as Assistant Stage Manager. His other credits include Love's Labour's Lost as Boyet (SRT The Young Co., 2008), Judgement Day as Judge Dudd (YellowChair Production, 2008), Cafe Chemistry as Jon Kerns (YellowChair Production, 2008). Besides acting, Ruzaini has also worked as stage crew for Festival Pintu (Theatre Ekamatra, 2007) and Above Us Only Sky (2007).



# Who's who in production



## Karthik / Maharaja

Karthikeyan, currently pursuing an Engineering degree at the National University of Singapore, started his journey in theatre arts when he was 13, when he represented his school in several inter-school drama competitions. At the age of 15, he was chosen to play the lead role of Ravindran Drama Group's first literary play 'Pathy Vathy - A Love...' in 1999. Since then, he has been actively involved in many RDG's plays and events.

Karthik has been performing on stage and film for several years now. He was awarded the Best Info Ed Host in 2003 at Mediacorp Vasantham's 'Pradhana Vizha', a local awards ceremony. He was nominated for the same award and Most Popular Male Personality in 'Pradhana Vizha' 2005. He has acted and hosted several shows in Vasantham which has been widely commended. As the vice president of NUS Tamil Language Society, he had the opportunity to produce, write, direct and act in Sangae Muzhangu 07, a biannual musical by NUS Indian students. A huge scale production of its kind that was staged at UCC hall to a sellout crowd, it explored the human flaws that cause an individual's downfall.

After his first stage production as the protagonist of Pathy Vathy by RDG, he has taken several roles which explored his versatility as an actor. He has also acted in Mirror Theatre's 'Separation: The Kalinga Trilogy' directed by Vadi PVSS. The play which was part of Esplanade's Kala Utsavam – Indian Festival of Arts, won many accolades among the audiences. Karthik's role as Kassim received special commendation from the local media.

"... provided a welcome dose of comic relief with their energetic portrayal..." ( Hong Xinyi, The Straits Times, 2006). Following that he has acted as Arjuna in RDG's 'Pandavas', a play presented



# *Cast team*

## Tian Lye / Director / Jan



Within 6 months of going into professional acting, Tian Lye was nominated Best Actress in the Straits Times Life! Awards 2006 for her role in *Flush* presented by Agni Koothu. That nomination pushed her acting career forward, landing her roles in productions such as *Off Centre* by The Necessary Stage as well as *Separation – The Kalinga Trilogy* directed by Mirror Theatre in collaboration with Esplanade Theatres for Kalaa Utsavam – Indian Festival of Arts, *Ignoreland* presented by Dramabox, to name a few. In 2007, she was picked among many other hopefuls to perform as the lead storyteller for Playhouse Disney travelling school performances in shows such as *Mickey Mouse Clubhouse*, *My Friends Tigger and Pooh* and *Handy Manny*. Although better known as Joanne Ng among her peers in the theatre industry, 2009 holds a new meaning to her journey as a theatre Practitioner when she found her true calling as a director with her very first debut in *Rainbow's Ending* presented by We Colour People Theatre and Company. She believes this new name brings about a much needed change in her life. The name Tian Lye to her, is and will always be, her one true inspiration. The inspiration that has carried her through all the hardships and the pain. Her father. And though it has been 10 years since his passing, his ideas and beliefs will carry on living through her. As the Artistic Director of We Colour People Theatre and Company, Tian Lye hopes to inspire other individuals and give them the equal opportunity that she was given to express creatively and without fear of prejudice. She says, "Believing ideas is important. Giving these ideas a voice is most crucial."



# *Producitorn team*



## Albert / Lighting Designer

His design work began in 2002 for a Lasalle dance's graduation show when he was still a student in Lasalle International College of the Arts majoring in Technical Theatre Arts. Started from Lasalle's productions (Double Bill, Tony Llacer Show, Jungle Book, etc), he has designed for many professional performing companies such as Arts Fission, Action Theatre, Singapore Repertory Theatre, Singapore Lyric Opera, We Colour people and many more.

Besides for professional performing companies, he's designed for various schools, churches, concert and event companies around Singapore and Indonesia. He was also the in house designer for Indonesian Arts Festival 1, 2, and 3 in 2003, 2005, and 2007 besides being the designer for Enchanting Indonesia festival (all were supported by Indonesian Embassy in Singapore) as well .

His recent works are Singapore love Letters by Action Theatre in collaboration with National Arts Museum, It's My Life The Musical which was produced by Tan Kheng Hua and directed by Lim Yu Beng, Bear and chicken go camping, The Defending The Caveman, The Boy Who Cried Wolf, and The Crucible by Singapore Repertory Theatre. Watch out for his upcoming production INDONESIAN ARTS FEST 2010 at Republic Polytechnic.

# *Producitorn team*



## Irene / As. Stage Manager

Irene graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration from National University of Singapore (2002), but her passion has always been related to arts - be it theatre, music, film and visual arts.

She joined her high school- all girls- theatre club back in her home town- Jakarta; where she took up the main role as "The Governor" in a play by Nicolai Gogol ("The Inspector General").

Enthusiastically involved as a director, scriptwriter and actor for the past 6 years in Indonesian Arts Festival (2003, 2005 and 2007) organised by a collaboration of Indonesian community supported by the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore.

Her last collaboration was with a group of scriptwriters in "Drama Lab" the dramatic writing class of 2011-The Department of Dramatic Writing, New York University, Tisch Asia School of the Arts. This is her first collaboration with We Colour People Theatre and Company.



*Producitori  
team*



Leonard / Publicity Manager

Leonard boasts a diploma with Merit in Business Administration (Branding Management) from the prestigious Singapore Polytechnic, School of Business. During his studies he interned at Jetstar Airways where he wowed the people there with his excellent people skills and was hired even after his internship. During the course of his studies, he was placed on the honor roll for his excellent results. He has thus been accepted into the Lee Khong Chian School of Business at the Singapore Management University and is very eager to learn more. The arts scene is very new to Leonard, however he is keen to put to use all the skills that he has acquired in his many years of study and hopes to see We Colour People reach greater heights and professionalism.



Zulhilmi / Sound Operator

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# *Producitorn team*



## Lewin / Production Manager

Lewin's love for theatre began when he participated and received an Honors Certificate for Effective Speech, from London College of Music part of Thames Valley University at age 13. In 2003, Lewin decided to pursue his career in the arts professionally by working with Just Jesters, a children's entertainment company, where he learnt to manage talents and projects for the company. When the opportunity of working with overseas theatre companies came, Lewin grabbed it immediately and was rewarded with valuable knowledge and experience. He worked with Polyglot Puppet Theatre (Australia), Kazenoko-Kyushu Theatre Company (Japan), Cleveland Theatre Company (UK), Tuida (South Korea) and Papon & Tonino (Argentina). He also had the chance to improve and develop his skills with established local companies such as Act 3 International, Agni Koothu (Theatre of Fire), DramaBox and The Theatre Practice. In 2007, Lewin was selected among many others to perform for Playhouse Disney's traveling schools show organized by Disney South East Asia and has not stop performing for Disney SEA for the past 3 years. In 2008, Lewin together with his peers co-founded We Colour People (WCP) Theatre and Company. Given his extensive experience in managing, he was elected as Managing Director of WCP. Since then, he produced plays such as "Up Close and Personal" (2008) – a series of short plays in which he wrote his first play "Don't Friend You", "Grateful Gracious Me" in collaboration with Mercy Relief for the "Harmony for Humanity Concert" (2008) and "Rainbow's Ending" (2009). He hopes to influence others around him, with motivation and hunger to improve. And he is also determined to inspire audiences and steer WCP forward.



# *Producitorn team*



## Nina / Stage Manager

Nina graduated from LaSalle-SIA College of the Arts, Diploma in Theatre Arts. Her acting credits include LaSalle-SIA's Let the Balloons Go, MC: Checkpoint directed by Elangovan of Agni Koothu, Fanshen and The Caucasian Chalk Circle directed by Matt Grey, Bedtimes stories, in Tongues Untied, a Monologue Festival. Nina starred in True Files for Mediacorp TV, as well as the Indonesian Arts Festival from 2003 to 2005. In 2007 Indonesian Arts Festival, she directed a short play of 15 minutes. During which she also worked as a post-production video editor for the renowned Indonesian theatre company Teater Koma for their theatrical production with Opera Kecoa in June 2003 and also as a make-up artist during the Indonesian Arts Festival for the year 2005. Nina was part of the make-up and costume department of the mandarin production He Shi Bi that was held in Victoria Theatre in 2004. In 2007, she was a Stage Manager for Transfigured Night, an Esplanade production. Nina decided to pursue a Diploma in Business Management from Marketing Institute of Singapore graduated in 2008. She is now a Sales Manager for Freedom Group Private Limited.





# Evening Sky's production & Synopsis

# *We Colour People*

We Colour People Theatre and Company is a non-profit theatre society consisting of dedicated individuals who believe that theatre exist as an agent for positive social change.

## **Mission Statement**

"The Thirst for Change"

Why is change so important If we don't change, we don't grow.  
And if we don't grow, then we aren't really living.

## **Vision**

We want to create an avenue for all to explore, express and experiment without fear of judgment or prejudice. We want to give every individual equal opportunity and freedom to express creativity and love for theatre. Believing in ideas is important. Giving it a voice and making a change is most crucial.



we colour people

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THEATRE AND COMPANY