

THEATRE FOR EARLY YEARS

Produced by



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“You Can Reach The Sky”

An immersive educational theatrical experience for infants & toddlers 2 – 18 months

You Can Reach The Sky by Ellison Tan and Myra Loke, is a unique theatre work created specially with very young children in mind. It is a highly interactive, engaging and multi-sensorial theatre experience for very young (pre-walking) audiences, engaging them in the process of exploration, discovery and learning. It follows the journey of a protagonist – the dandelion or in Japanese, the Tampopo, and its desire and curiosity to reach the sky.

“Children learn as they play. Most importantly, in play, children learn how to learn.”

~ Fred Donaldson ~

This immersive early years theatrical experience aims to provide a playful experience, giving each child ample time to engage freely in the space with developmentally appropriate and well-resourced opportunities for exploration, creativity and ‘meaning-making’ in the company of other children and supportive adults. In addition to engaging the young children in artistic activities, the performers are also inviting the adults to be actively involved in participating and facilitating the theatrical experiences for the children.



Touring season to preschools: March & April and July – September 2018

Show duration: 30 minutes (excludes pre- and post-interaction with babies)

Audience size per show: minimum 10 and up to 15 babies/toddlers

What the audience have to say:

“Absolutely amazing experience for my grouchy 5-month old daughter and myself. She was smiling throughout the performance and staring at the performers intensely. Although she was unable to crawl towards the props like the older babies, she was touching the props around her. She was so stimulated that she fell asleep soon after the performance ended! (What a dream for parents of young babies!) Thank you for creating such a memorable experience for my baby and myself!” ~Gladys Wong~

“Really want to give a big thumbs up for the team! There were no restrictions, so the babies were allowed to roam around freely while the show was ongoing. It was multi-sensorial and stimulating with the clever use of textured fabrics, lightings and sounds. It was also very up-close and personal as the performers took an effort to bring their props closer to every baby. The YCRTS team was also very friendly towards my little one. I will definitely let him participate again in any of your shows!” ~Nur Fatin~

“Probably one of the rare performance which allows the little ones to crawl around freely and be themselves instead of being restricted in carriers and being hushed at every single sound they make. Kudos to the team for coming up with this performance! Everything was great from the music to the props used to the lightings. Extra effort was taken by the performers to ensure that the babies are involved and brought close to the props. Fantastic experience and I would love to introduce this show to my friends!” ~Wenfang~

“I just wanted to commend you on a great performance! My husband and son really enjoyed it. It also gave us an opportunity to just enjoy something without constantly watching our son and entertaining him. I could meet other parents too, which is nice as being a stay at home mum can be isolating at times.” ~Eunice Lee~

Parents, don't miss this immersive theatrical experience with your child!

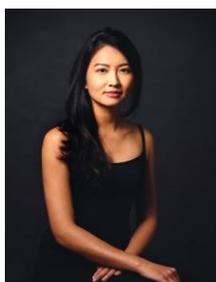


We would like to thank Singapore Press Holdings Foundation for their generous support in making it possible for us to bring the show to families at Presbyterian Community Services, Rainbow Centre and Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society.

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Artistic Creators and Performers:



Ellison Tan Yuyang - Ellison graduated from the National University of Singapore with a major in Theatre Studies. Since then, she has been working as a freelance theatre practitioner and educator. She is a firm believer in constant training, and has trained with ECNAD, Cake Theatrical Productions, The Finger Players and Nine Years Theatre. Ellison has also been mentored by Chong Tze Chien and Dr Robin Loon in playwriting, and her first full-length play *Inheritance* was staged last year by The Finger Players. Her most recent writing work was for Esplanade's Playtime! Series – *Rochee*, *The Friendliest Cockroach*. Her acting credits include: *Red Sky* (Nine Years Theatre), *Café* (Twenty-something Theatre Festival), *Manifesto* (The Necessary Stage and Drama Box), *Off Centre* (The Finger Players), and *Temple Reconstructed* (Cake Theatrical Productions). In 2015, Ellison was accepted into the Next Generation Program in Tokyo, a program that aims to grow emerging artists specifically in the field of Theatre for Young Audiences. Ellison is an associate actor with The Finger Players.



Myra Loke - Myra has been working in the arts since she was 16, taking on roles as a performer, designer, educator and production stage manager. As an associate artist of The Finger Players, Myra has performed in *ITSY- The Musical*, *The Flying Dutchman* and *Turn by Turn We Turn*. Myra also works very closely with The Finger Players as a props-maker and puppet designer. Myra is a firm believer of using the arts within communities and with youths to create social awareness and understanding. This led to her decision to join ARTivate(Pioneer Batch), a youth wing of Drama Box Ltd when she was 16. Since then, she has been part of various theatre-in-education plays by Drama Box Ltd such as *MoMo*, *The 11th Brother*, *shh...*, *Project Mending Sky: Us* etc. She also has immense passion in theatre for young audiences, and was part of Esplanade's Playtime series - *Let's Play Pretend*, *Hello Paige!* and *The Magic Treetop* (Huayi festival). Myra aspires to be an all-rounded artist.



Liew Jia Yi - Jia Yi is a performer and an educator based in Singapore. She has been involved in the theatre since her secondary school days and was trained in the pioneer batch of ARTivate – the youth wing of Drama Box. She graduated from the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, with a major in Psychology. Jia Yi continued to perform in short films while teaching children aged between 3 and 10 years old. Her recent acting credits include *Letting Go*, a short film commissioned by Temasek, under the 20/20 Short Film Project 2016, *Seletar*, which won the first runner up at the Cathay Motion Picture Awards 2015, as well as *3 Seconds*, which was shortlisted for Singapore Panorama Shorts in Singapore International Film Festival 2014. Having a passion for children and education, Jia Yi was involved in both acting and facilitation roles with Drama Box's theatre-in-education shows such as *Girl In The White Sand Box*, *11th Brother*, and *Momo*. She has also had international exposure where she took on the role of an actor-facilitator in the International Community Arts Festival 2017 in Rotterdam, Netherlands.



Vanessa Victoria Toh - A freelance theatre practitioner, educator and film actor based in Singapore, Vanessa graduated from LASALLE College of the Arts in Singapore with a first-class BA (Hons) Acting degree in 2015. Vanessa is trained in a variety of different physical and traditional asian forms such as Bharatanatyam, Contemporary Dance, Suzuki Method of Actor Training and Kalaripayattu. Since graduating, her recent theatrical credits include *The Lost Colours of the World* (Sweet Tooth by Cake Theatrical Productions), *Richard Wagner's The Flying Dutchman* (The Finger Players) and *Landscaping A Personal Myth* (a collaborative work with Elizabeth De Roza) which was presented at Odin Teatret in Denmark at TRANSIT 8 festival in 2016. Vanessa also recently joined an international star-studded cast in Canadian-based production company Unveil Studio's stage-to-film adaptation feature film *She Has A Name*, playing the character Mae, which premiered in 2016. Besides performing, Vanessa conducts acting lessons and workshops as a drama instructor in secondary schools. She also teaches Kalaripayattu to the Diploma in Performance course as part of their actor's training at LASALLE.

Educational Consultant:



Elaine Ng - Elaine, an early childhood practitioner continues to demonstrate her dedication, passion and leadership in the early childhood care and education arena. Elaine strongly believes that exposing young children to the arts at an early age is crucial to every child's development. Due to her strong belief, she advocates the importance of the arts to early childhood educators, preschool operators and parents. Elaine holds a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of South Australia and has more than 20 years' experience working with young children and preschool educators. A passionate early childhood leader and educator, she consults with National agencies, preschool organizations and lectures at SEED Institute, Wheelock College and Ngee Ann Polytechnic. She is a master trainer for Teaching artists and also a research advisor, particularly in the area of language and arts education for the professional educators studying at the Singapore University of Social Sciences. Elaine is currently an active executive committee member of the Singapore Drama Educators Association (SDEA), heading the Continuing Education and Training committee.