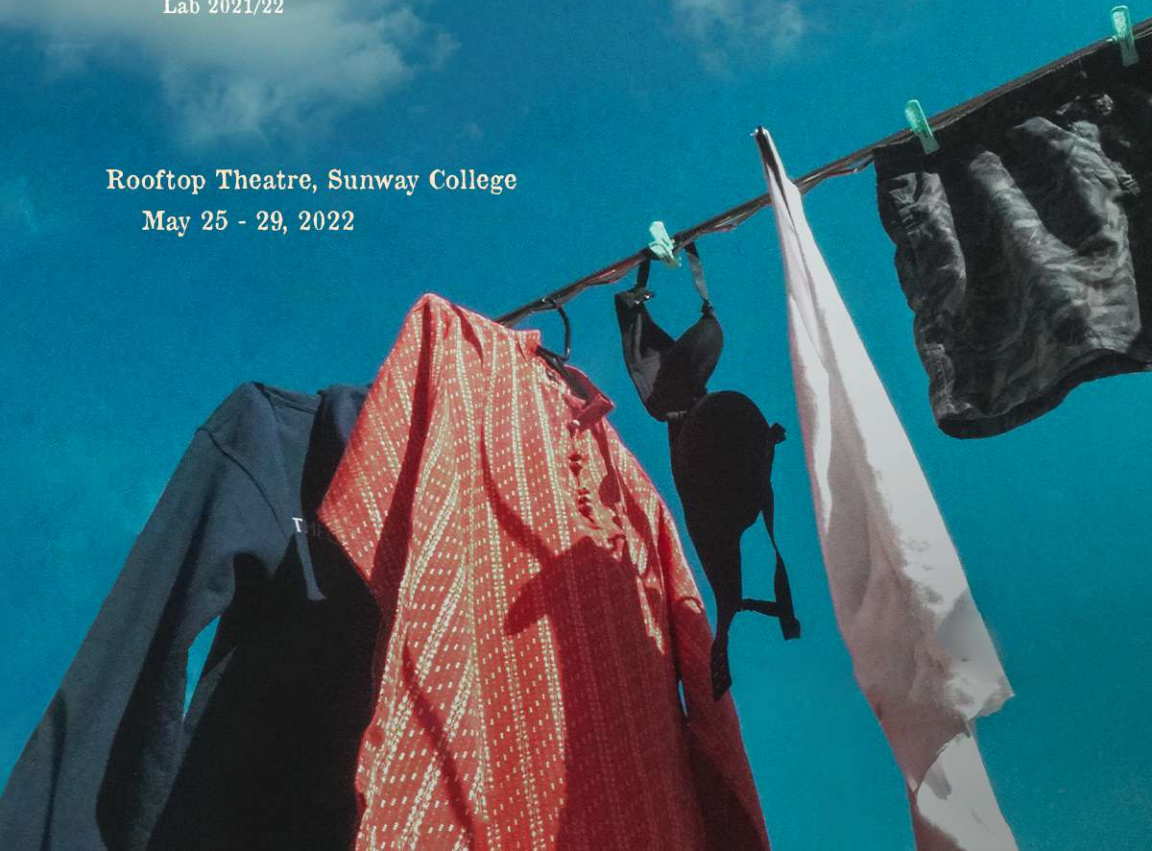


these familiar strangers

Showcase III of the
Emerging Directors
Lab 2021/22

Rooftop Theatre, Sunway College
May 25 - 29, 2022



IMPORTANT PRE-PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

On Timing & Latecomers

There are 5 pieces altogether for each performance. Each piece runs for approximately 25 minutes with 5-to-6-minute intermissions in between. The intermissions allow us to strike and set up for the next piece. During intermission, audiences are also asked to not wander too far from the theatre so we can begin the next piece on time. Latecomers will only be admitted during intermission. As we're sold out, we won't be able to reschedule missed performances. We cannot refund tickets either.

On Phone Use

Please silence your phones before the performance. Please use your phones for digital program reference only at any time during the performance. Texting, photography, and videography of any kind are strictly prohibited.

On Content Warning & Sensory Overload

This performance contains elements of physical violence and sexuality – viewer discretion is advised. Bright lights, strobe lights, and very loud sounds are sometimes used. If you're unable to take the sensory overload, we advise closing your eyes and/or ears momentarily.

On Restrooms

There are restrooms on the same floor as the Rooftop Theatre. Please speak to one of our ushers for directions.

On Vaccination, Masks & RTK-Antigen Testing

Only those who are fully vaccinated with valid MySejahtera digital certificates are permitted entry. Theatresauce reserves the right to deny entry if this condition are not fulfilled.

You're required to keep your masks on at all times. We also encourage you to be boosted with a third dose and take an RTK-Antigen test before attending the performance. All production members have received their booster shots. They are also tested on the RTK-Antigen every alternate day throughout production week.

Despite all safety and prevention measures taken, the risk of exposure to Covid-19 exists in any public place where people are present.

By visiting Sunway College and its grounds, our audiences assume all risks related to exposure to Covid-19.

Thank you and we hope you enjoy the performance!

The Pieces

in Order of Performance

orang muda, darah muda

with the ensemble of Aila Azizul, Jad Hidhir, Shufitri Shukardi & Firdaus Sufiyan
with scenic designer Bryan Chang

Directed by **Mia Sabrina Mahadir**

*Love, sex, religion, and freedom,
through the rise and fall of the Malay millenials.*



half full, half empty?

with the ensemble of Phraveen Arikiah & Camillea Benjamin
and visual designer iwaz & sound designer Jun

Directed by **Dexter Zhen**

Loneliness. Is it the presence or absence of the void?



love the stranger who was your self

with the ensemble of Mila Bakar, Kamini Senthilathiban & Nephi William
and scenic designer Bryan Chang & music by Francoe

Directed by **Dinesh Kumar Maganathan**

*A girl trapped in a cave during a catastrophic event faces a terrible shadow she calls
The Entity. When all hope appears lost, she is visited by two strangers who join her on
a mystical quest to defeat The Entity. Will she finally be free?*



untitled, 2022

with the ensemble of Nurul Abdul Aziz, Vincent Lim & Tin Raman
and scenic designer Bryan Chang

Directed by **Low Yee Choy**



Raaga. Leela. Abhinaya.

with the ensemble of KB Ash, Ganz C, Thasha Gunaseelan,
Krithika Ramachandran & Komi Sam

Directed by **Dhinesha Karthigesu**

*Inspired by the short story Raga and Leela by Aghilen M. Sankar, this piece explores
the making and breaking of a family unit when a tragic diagnosis strikes. Taking cue
from Mani Ratnam's film aesthetics, the piece is a remix of traditional love stories of
90s Tamil films.*



THE EDL DIRECTORS

Dhinesha Karthigesu (top right) is a multidisciplinary storyteller and coach. Directing, curating & producing credits: *ROIA: Weaving A Womxn*, a performance and visual arts installation with Veshalini Naidu, and *The Human Exhibit* site-specific theatre series, with Ian Skatu. Additional directing credits: *Brown Boy Dreams* for Short + Sweet Musical 2019 (winning the Festival Director's Award) and the *Snehidhane* music video with PERA. dhinesha.com

Dinesh Kumar (top middle) began directing at the age of 16 for a school function and has not looked back. Acting credits include Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *Hamlet*, and *Harold Pinter's Betrayal*. Directing credits: *Manstruating*, *Rule #34* and *Overheard at a Cafe in Taman Tun*, all of which he won the Best Director's award. Dinesh is a journalist at a major English newspaper.

Low Yee Choy (bottom right) is the Artistic Director of lowercase laboratories. He debuted directorially with Dinsman's *Bukan Bunuh Diri* under Anomalist Production. His short film, *疫见你*, won first prize at the Ripple Film Festival in 2020. He recently produced lowercase laboratories' first theatre showcase, *have a peace of my mind*. Choy works full-time under the Creative & Communications department at Sevenvault. Sunway University: Diploma in Performing Arts.

Mia Sabrina Mahadir (bottom left) is an actor, educator, content creator, cat fosterer, and Tarot reader. Her exploration in theatre began with Short+Sweet Theatre Malaysia, including *Stay* and *Wayang*, which she directed. *Wayang* also won her the Festival Director's Award.
[@kutufutubom](https://www.instagram.com/kutufutubom)

Dexter Zhen (top left) was trained in movement and seeks to create works that delve deep into the raw human psyche. He also plans to explore theatre education in the near future. Selected credits: *Dulu. Saat Itu.*, *INDICINELIVE! 6*, *Scenes from an Execution*, *The Seagull*, *Koulan*, and *Simultaneously Futura*. University of California, San Diego: BA in Linguistics. [@dexterzhen](https://www.instagram.com/dexterzhen)



THEATRESAUCE

THE EMERGING DIRECTORS LAB

Theatresauce's Emerging Directors Lab (EDL), now in its third year, responds to the dearth of trained directors in the Kuala Lumpur theatre scene. This rigorous year-long program – run and overseen by Artistic Director Kelvin Wong – offers early-career directors with a conducive yet challenging space to hone, sharpen and personalize their craft.

The EDL is among the few highly structured, long-term director-training programs in the country, if not the only one. The initiative came about as an alternative to MFA training programs abroad. Over a year, directors delve in seminars, research and practice. The EDL consists of three parts and includes more than 160 contact hours with the Artistic Director. Part one explores the foundations of drama, realism and dramaturgy while part two examines theatre theory, composition and style. In part three, directors investigate trends in post-drama, nonrealism, devising, and theatre criticism. Occasionally, guest speakers are invited. Each part culminates in a fully-supported collective project that is showcased to the public. To maximize EDL directors' experience, they also assist directors for the company's Mainstage productions.

Through this initiative, Theatresauce hopes to provide the local scene with a steady influx of inquisitive, critical and aesthetically diverse theatre-makers. A few of our EDL graduates have gone on to found new theatre companies, of which they are Artistic Directors.

The 2021 cycle of the EDL is supported by the Cultural Development Economy Agency (CENDANA) and Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur, while the inaugural 2017/18 cycle was supported by the Krishen Jit ASTRO Fund.



THEATRESAUCE

Theatresauce is a director-driven collective founded in 2016. We've undergone various artistic trajectories, from back-to-back productions of well-made plays to an entire season dedicated to devised and experimental work. The company today embraces various theatre-making forms, while remaining committed to the creation of edgy and innovative productions that draw from our experiences as urban Malaysians.

Theatresauce advocates diverse thought, dramaturgies, and practices. We invite our collaborators and audiences to look beyond grand narratives, the prescriptive, and binaries of right/wrong. We're less interested in what contemporary theatre should be. We espouse opportunities, possibilities, and new ways of seeing.

The company trains [emerging directors](#) and runs [The School](#) for learning opportunities on all things theatre. We operate from our [HQ](#) in USJ 21, Subang Jaya. We also rent out our multi-purpose studios at [highly-affordable rates](#). Also check out our [press archive](#) and an expanding directory of [theatre companies in Malaysia](#).



Acknowledgements

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The Star
Tenderfist
Veshalini Naidu
Wong Yek Lee
Yoke Tailoring, Summit USJ

Theatresauce's Patrons for 2021/22

Prof. Don & Donna Bowyer
Pr. Chew Weng Chee & Pr. Lew Lee Choo

Front-of-House Managers
Murasaki Haru & Jazzie Lee

The Theatresauce Production Team

Kelvin Wong : Artistic Director
Emily Thea : General Manager
Shevone Seow : Production-Stage Manager
Bryan Ho, Liew Chin Zhing & Tan Chisa : Assistant Stage Managers
Uihua Cheah : Outreach Manager
Jazzie Lee : Season Designer
Bemmie Tang : Season Archiver
Koo Shao Hang : HQ Manager

Facebook & Instagram: Theatresauce
theatresauce.com

Theatresauce HQ:
3-3, Jalan USJ 21/5, Subang Jaya, 47630 Selangor

For our 2022 season between February and May,
Theatresauce has:

Trained 5 emerging directors;

Presented 5 productions and 41 performances in 3
different spaces;

Worked with more than 80 artists of diverse
backgrounds, skills and experiences; and

Played to more than 2,000 audiences.

We thank you for your support and look forward to
seeing you in our 2023 season!

If you're interested in supporting Theatresauce's works in the
future as a donor/benefactor in order to keep our ticket prices low
and pay our people adequately, please get in touch with
kelvin@theatresauce.com.