



PAPER PRESENTATIONS

DAY 1 | 17 JULY 2025

BRIDGING DISTANCES

Date: Thursday, 17 July 2025

Time: 4pm - 5pm

Venue: NAFA Campus 3, Studio 410A

Connecting Canada and Southeast Asia: Pedagogic Exploration of Southeast Asian Performance Forms

Presented by Dennis Gupa (The Philippines/Canada)

This presentation examines how Southeast Asian performance forms create interdisciplinary pedagogical frameworks beyond Western/non-Western binaries in Canadian theatre education. Through autoethnographic analysis of his work in Acting Theory and Practice (ATAP), Gupa explores ethical approaches to integrating Filipino and Indonesian theatrical techniques within liberal arts education. The presentation investigates how these methodologies foster transnational imagination and post-human relationality while confronting critical questions about decolonization and settler colonialism.

Discover how an "Asianists pedagogy" creates intercultural pathways that honour Southeast Asian theatrical traditions, while developing performance skills that transcend conventional Western paradigms.

About the Presenter:

Dennis Gupa is an Assistant Professor at the University of Winnipeg's Department of Theatre and Film. With a PhD in Applied Theatre from University of Victoria, MFA in Directing from UBC, and MA in Theatre Arts from UP Diliman, his work as a theatre director and performance studies scholar explores the intersection of cultural practices, environmental awareness, and community engagement.

Learning the Best Practices of Noh Theater and Tari Java from Masters and Teaching Them to Students and the Community

Presented by Jeremy Dela Cruz (Philippines)

This reflective presentation offers unique insights from a Filipino practitioner's immersion in Japanese Noh Theatre and Javanese dance traditions. Dela Cruz examines the intensive training methodologies, mentorship approaches, and cultural contexts that shape these sophisticated art forms, revealing their distinctive aesthetics and performance techniques.

The presentation details practical strategies for transmitting these traditions through experiential learning and cultural appreciation in contemporary educational settings.

Discover how cross-cultural artistic engagement creates meaningful bridges between Southeast Asian performance practices, while contributing to their preservation and evolution beyond traditional boundaries.

About the Presenter:

Assistant Professor at the University of the Philippines Los Baños with a MA in Philippine studies and BA in Theatre Arts. Jeremy Dela Cruz's diverse training spans Javanese Traditional Dance, Japanese Noh Theatre with Nohmaster Naohiko Umewaka, and Kabuki with Master Fujima Toyohiro, enriching his cross-cultural performance practice.

Applied Improvisation and Its Impact on Participants - Emerging Findings from Singapore

Presented by Dr. Wang Jiunwen, Dr Ivy Chia & Adrian Wong (Singapore)

This research-driven presentation reveals how applied improvisation develops essential 21st-century competencies across diverse contexts in Singapore. Drawing from multiple case studies - including improv courses, college classroom interventions, and amateur improviser interviews - the researchers demonstrate how embracing spontaneity and co-creation enhances adaptability, uncertainty management, and collaborative skills.

The findings highlight applied theatre's significant potential beyond traditional arts domains, offering valuable insights for curriculum design and personal development practitioners.

Discover how this playful, inclusive approach creates powerful bridges between theatrical practice and broader educational objectives.

About the Presenters:

Dr. Wang Jiunwen "June" is an Associate Professor at SUSS in Singapore, specializing in leadership development and arts-based pedagogy. Her research explores how methods like improvisation and LEGO Serious Play foster creativity, adaptability, and inclusive learning. She designs experiential modules and collaborates widely to advance innovative arts-based approaches in education and research.

Dr. Ivy Chia is the Programme Head for Expressive Arts Therapy at SUSS, with a background in the arts and commitment to arts-based interventions, research and therapeutic practice. Passionate about community care and social connections, she believes the arts play a vital role in exploring human experiences, facilitating deeper community-based inquiry and healing across Singapore.

Adrian Wong is Lead Specialist (Drama) at Singapore's Ministry of Education, bringing his extensive experience as Senior Teacher (Drama) and researcher into his role for Drama curriculum and co-curriculum design. He leads initiatives to enhance students' 21st Century Competencies through Drama in MOE schools, developing innovative approaches to theatrical education in formal learning environments.

TRADITIONAL FORMS FOR CONTEMPORARY TIMES

Date: Thursday, 17 July 2025

Time: 4pm - 5pm

Venue: NAFA Campus 3, Studio 410B

Puppet Dances as Advocates of Change: Utilizing the Art of Bunraku in Advancing Environmental Awareness and Socio-Political Issues

Presented by Aileen dela Cruz (Philippines)

This culturally-grounded presentation examines how Bunraku, traditional Japanese puppet theater, serves as a powerful medium for contemporary advocacy. Aileen dela Cruz analyzes how the UP Center for International Studies Bunraku Ensemble's productions "Noong Unang Panahon" and "Si Felimon" leverage visual storytelling techniques to address pressing environmental and socio-political concerns.

Discover how this centuries-old art form's distinctive narrative approaches create compelling spaces for audience engagement with complex issues, fostering dialogue and inspiring action beyond conventional advocacy methods while preserving cultural heritage through innovative application.

About the Presenter:

Aileen dela Cruz teaches arts, humanities, and theatre courses at the University of the Philippines Los Baños. With a Master's in Theatre Arts from University of the Philippines Diliman and a Bachelor of Music in Music Education with Voice Emphasis from the University of Santo Tomas, she brings interdisciplinary expertise to her teaching, exploring connections between musical and theatrical expression while fostering creative development in her students.

Puppet Bagani, Showcasing the Manobo Suyam Embroidery and the Japanese Otome Bunraku in Retelling the Struggles and Triumphs of the Manobo Tribe

Presented by Carlito Camahalan Amalla (Philippines)

This heritage-informed presentation examines an innovative fusion of Filipino and Japanese theatrical traditions that gives voice to indigenous narratives. Amalla demonstrates how Agusan Manobo suyam embroidery combines with adapted Japanese bunraku techniques to create a neo-ethnic puppetry form enriched by organic tud-om chanting, storytelling, movement and props.

Discover how this research-based performance centres the Bagani (warrior-leaders) while elevating indigenous textile traditions as visual narrative devices - creating theatrical expressions that document both the struggles and triumphs of the Agusan Manobo ethno-linguistic community, while preserving their living cultural heritage through contemporary performance.

About the Presenter:

Carlito Camahalan Amalla is an Assistant Professor at De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde and recipient of the 2020 Outstanding Leadership in Culture and the Arts award in New York City. His work, exhibited across the USA, Africa, Europe, and Asia, reflects his master's degree in art history from the University of the Philippines, exploring visual narratives across cultural boundaries.

Faces of the Rainforest: Reclaiming Urban Stories through Spirit and Identity

Presented by Muhammad Azri Ali (Malaysia)

This innovative presentation examines how indigenous traditions can transform contemporary urban spaces through participatory performance. Ali reveals how "Faces of the Rainforest" blends Sarawakian mask-making traditions with modern theatrical techniques - including projection mapping and physical theatre - to create immersive site-specific experiences.

Through community workshops, residents craft masks and share stories that revitalize neglected spaces, transforming them into vibrant cultural hubs.

Discover how this project fosters community connection while celebrating the resilience of Sarawak's cultural identity, offering insights for practitioners seeking to bridge traditional forms with contemporary contexts.

About the Presenter:

Muhammad Azri Ali is a Lecturer in the Drama and Theatre Programme at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), specializing in stage directing, devised theatre, acting, and theatre production.

After earning a degree in Creative Technology from Universiti Teknologi MARA and an MFA in Theatre Directing from the University of Calgary, he has dedicated himself to advancing Kuching's theatre scene through teaching, supervision, and collaborative performances with the local arts community.

SPIRITUALITY, WISDOM, AND FAITH IN THEATRE

Date: Friday, 17 July 2025

Time: 4pm - 5pm

Venue: NAFA Campus 3, Studio 506

The Spiritual Art(ist) - A Tribute to my Theatre Training in Bali

Presented by Raiya Binti Bashir Basalamah (Singapore)

This thought-provoking presentation challenges conventional perspectives on spirituality in theatrical practice through the lens of immersive Balinese training. Basalamah examines how modern society's limited understanding of spirituality has affected artists and training institutions, particularly those operating within colonial frameworks.

Through personal narratives of spiritually-focused training experiences, this presentation humanizes an often exoticized community while inviting audiences to reconsider their fundamental purpose in theatre-making.

Discover how indigenous spiritual practices can transform contemporary artistic development, offering valuable insights for practitioners seeking more holistic approaches to theatrical training.

About the Presenter:

Though it leaves her wanting to curl up at home to recharge her social battery, **Raiya Binti Bashir Basalamah** finds much fulfilment teaching drama to primary and secondary school students in Singapore. She integrates her near decade of performing arts training not just to her work, but also to her personal growth, creating dynamic educational experiences that nurture students' creative expression and confidence.

Adapting Tradition: Bonbibi, Festivals, and the Ecology of Faith in Contemporary Performance

Presented by Shatarupa Bhattacharyya (India)

This insightful presentation examines how traditional Bonbibi rituals from the Sundarbans can be reimagined through contemporary performance to address pressing ecological and social issues. Drawing from doctoral research, Bhattacharyya reveals how religious practices transform under development pressures, exploring the Hinduisation of Bonbibi and the commodification of faith.

Through storytelling techniques, the presentation demonstrates how characters navigate internal conflicts between tradition, greed, and nature.

Discover how local myths and rituals provide powerful foundations for engaging contemporary concerns while preserving cultural heritage in theatrical practice.

About the Presenter:

Shatarupa Bhattacharyya is a theatre practitioner and social scientist from India with a PhD in Development Studies. She skilfully merges her social sciences training with theatre practice to explore complex social and emotional themes, blending realism with symbolic storytelling. Her work prominently examines gender dynamics and human relationships within contemporary Indian society.

Analysis of the Five Aggregates and Six Realistic Acting Approaches

Presented by Weerabhat Boonma (Thailand)

This interpretive presentation examines realistic acting methodologies through a Buddhist philosophical lens. Boonma's research analyzes the practice procedures of six influential acting masters - Stanislavski, Chekhov, Adler, Strasberg, Meisner, and Hagen - categorizing them according to the Buddhist Five Aggregates. The findings reveal how 'Thinking' (Sankhara) dominates realistic acting approaches, while 'Feeling' (Vedana) receives less emphasis.

Discover how the fundamental principle of avoiding "indicating" in realistic acting can be explained through Buddhist concepts of causal relation (Pacayakarn), offering fresh insights into the intersection of Eastern philosophy and Western performance techniques.

About the Presenter:

Weerabhat Boonma is a full-time lecturer at the Faculty of Mass Communication, Chiang Mai University, and founder of Cat oN oX theatre in Thailand. With a Master of Arts in Communication Arts from Chulalongkorn University, he brings academic rigor to his creative practice, exploring the intersection of performance, communication, and cultural expression in contemporary Thai society through innovative theatrical forms. Weerabhat is presently doing a PhD in the Department of Dramatic Arts at the Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University.

DAY 2 | 18 JULY 2025

HISTORICITY

Date: Friday, 18 July 2025

Time: 4pm - 5pm

Venue: NAFA Campus 3, Studio 410A

Building on Performance Traditions in Staging Putri Anak, A New Komedya as a Response to the Call for the Formation of a National Theater in the Philippines

Presented by Amparo Adelina C. Umali, III (The Philippines)

This paper explores the production Putri Anak: A New Komedya as a realization of the vision shared by Philippine theater scholars who regard the komedya as a vital component of Filipino cultural heritage and a foundation for building a national theater. The production reimagines the traditional komedya by respectfully integrating indigenous and lowland Christian music, dance, and theatrical elements with broader Asian influences—such as the folklore of the sky maiden, Javanese, Bharata Natyam and other performance styles, and Southeast Asian traditional music. In doing so, it revitalizes its archaic performance conventions, addresses its limitations, and presents a compelling, contemporary iteration. As Philippine theater scholar Nicanor Tiongson asserts, Putri Anak is “an artistic piece that bravely opens new avenues and imagines possibilities for the development of the ancient komedya both as an art form and as a pillar of the national theater in this generation.”

About the Presenter:

Dr. Amparo Adelina "Jina" C. Umali is a Professor and Coordinator for East and Southeast Asian Studies at the University of the Philippines Centre for International Studies. She lectures on Japanese and Southeast Asian Theatre and Literature, bringing insights from her doctoral studies at Doshisha University in Kyoto to illuminate cross-cultural theatrical traditions and practices throughout the region.

Kutho Tirto: Performing Counter-Histories in a Swamp-City

Presented by Benny Widyo (Indonesia)

This exploratory presentation examines how counter-histories emerge through ritual, myth, and speculative reimagining in Tulungagung, East Java. As the third publication in The Trees and The Wires project, Benny Widyo analyzes the Ringin Kurung ritual - where seven sacred banyan trees "sealed" a swamp to establish a town square - to reveal how urban spaces become layered dramaturgies.

The presentation demonstrates how colonial archives, oral traditions, and embodied rituals coexist in productive tension, offering a performative approach to reading urban historicity. Discover how this methodology challenges linear historical narratives while honouring the complex entanglements between landscape, memory, and infrastructure.

About the Presenter:

Benny Widyo is an artist, curator, and producer from Tulungagung, Indonesia with a background in photography and cultural studies. After initiating Gulung Tukar, a multidisciplinary art collective focused on inclusive spaces, his work has been presented at Biennale Jogja and Pekan Kebudayaan Nasional.

He served as Artistic Director of Biennale Jatim IX (2021–2022). His broader practice explores social issues, artistic research, community organizing, and archival work within contemporary Indonesian contexts.

INCLUSIVE ARTS

Date: Friday, 18 July 2025

Time: 4pm - 5pm

Venue: NAFA Campus 3, Studio 410B

Deaf Music: Crafting Storytelling and Deaf Poetry for Inclusive Theatre

Presented by Lily Goh (Singapore)

This practice-based presentation redefines theatrical accessibility through the concept of Deaf Music. Goh examines how rhythmic visual elements and expressive gestures create powerful storytelling experiences for Deaf and hard of hearing audiences. Drawing from her own performances and social media platforms, she demonstrates the foundational principles of Deaf Music and its synergistic relationship with Deaf poetry.

Discover how these approaches challenge traditional theatrical paradigms while fostering cross-cultural understanding. The presentation offers valuable insights for practitioners seeking to create more inclusive theatrical experiences that authentically represent Deaf culture and expression.

About the Presenter:

Lily Goh is a Deaf arts and music practitioner, founder of ExtraOrdinary Horizons in Singapore, and an advocate for Deaf culture. With expertise in Deaf Music, Visual Vernacular, and Singapore Sign Language, Lily promotes accessibility and Deaf awareness, engaging diverse audiences through performance, advocacy, and social media to bridge communication gaps and foster inclusive artistic expression.

The Impact of Social-Emotional Competencies on Drama Students with Dyslexia During the Pandemic

Presented by Muzdalifah Hamzah & Amrit Gill (Singapore)

This research-driven presentation examines how online drama education uniquely supported students with dyslexia during pandemic learning disruptions. Drawing from the Speech and Drama Arts programme at the Dyslexia Association of Singapore, Hamzah and Gill reveal that while students with Specific Learning Differences struggled with mainstream online education, virtual drama classes provided a distinctive supportive environment.

The findings highlight how drama education's inherent emphasis on emotional expression and social interaction created crucial spaces for wellbeing during isolation.

Discover practical insights for practitioners seeking to enhance learning experiences for neurodiverse students through accessible, emotionally supportive drama practices.

About the Presenters:

Muzdalifah Hamzah is a Lead Educational Therapist at DAS in Singapore since 2012 and has led the Speech & Drama Arts (SDA) programme since 2019. As Programme Manager, she oversees curriculum, resources, and performances while teaching literacy, focusing on social-emotional development to inspire students with learning differences. She holds a Master of Arts in Special Education from the University of South Wales.

Amrit Kaur Gill, a Senior Educational Therapist with DAS since 2012, contributes to the Speech & Drama Arts programme as a Core Team Member, developing curricula and supporting students with dyslexia. She teaches literacy and conducts drama workshops in MOE schools, applying her Master of Education in Special Education from NIE-NTU to create inclusive, engaging learning environments for diverse learners.

[NEW] Project-Improv for Human Development

By Matthew Sheahan (Canada)

This presentation addresses post-COVID increases in anxiety and vulnerability challenges through innovative drama education approaches. Sheahan examines how improvised drama strategies can develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaborative skills without requiring formal performance - creating safer spaces for personal growth.

Drawing from his ongoing "Improv for Human Development" project, the presentation demonstrates how drama education serves whole-person development rather than just performance skills.

Discover how decolonized drama strategies integrate with indigenous frameworks and the creative process to foster human development, while building students' capacity for constructive vulnerability and collaborative engagement in inclusive learning environments.

CITY, FOREST, SEA

Date: Friday, 18 July 2025

Time: 4pm - 5pm

Venue: NAFA Campus 3, Studio 506

Narratives of the Community: Unearthing and Harnessing Local Cultural Capital through Applied Drama in Hong Kong

Presented by Au Yi Man (Hong Kong)

This investigative presentation examines how applied drama preserves local narratives within Hong Kong's commercially-dominated urban landscape. Focusing on TEFO's "Stories Crossing@Tai Po" initiative, Au reveals how Community Theatre, Playback Theatre, Forum Theatre, and Storytelling techniques cultivate meaningful listening and sharing practices within local communities.

The presentation analyzes how these methodologies weave community tales into the social fabric, reinforcing communal bonds while enriching Hong Kong's broader cultural narrative.

Discover practical approaches for leveraging theatrical practices in community cultural development, offering valuable insights for practitioners seeking to preserve local identity within rapidly globalizing urban environments.

About the Presenters:

Dr. Au Yi Man holds a PhD in Arts and Creative Education from the University of Melbourne and an MA in Applied Drama from the University of Exeter. An applied theatre practitioner and researcher, she focuses on theatre creation, curriculum design, teacher training, and community theatre. Executive Director of Hong Kong Drama/Theatre and Education Forum (TEFO), lecturer at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and editorial member of DaTEAsia journal.

The Whispering Rainforest: A Journey of Wonder for Young Hearts

Presented by Qawiem Hamizan (Malaysia)

This creative presentation showcases a children's theatre project that bridges Sarawak's rich cultural heritage with contemporary storytelling techniques. Hamizan reveals how university students transformed recycled materials into an interactive production that introduces young audiences to rainforest wonders through vibrant characters and dynamic narratives.

The presentation explores practical approaches to integrating traditional and modern theatrical elements while navigating budget constraints.

Discover how this resourceful model empowers communities to sustain cultural heritage while fostering environmental awareness and inspiring young imaginations - offering valuable insights for practitioners developing culturally-rooted children's theatre in resource-limited contexts.

About the Presenter:

Muhammad Qawiem Bin Hamizan is a theatre practitioner and scriptwriter currently pursuing advanced studies at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) while on study break from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS).

With extensive experience in acting, directing, theatre management, and stage management, he actively writes for film and television, emphasizing creativity, cultural storytelling, and innovative approaches to Malaysian performance and production.

DAY 3 | 19 JULY 2025

STRATEGIES FOR WORKING WITH YOUTHS TODAY

Date: Saturday, 19 July 2025

Time: 4pm - 5pm

Venue: NAFA Campus 3, Studio 410A

Unsilent Mode: Hybrid Performance Making By and For a Digital Generation

Presented by Kelvin Wong (Malaysia/UK)

This presentation introduces a three-year performance project reimagining theatrical practice for a generation raised on digital media. Wong outlines how Unsilent Mode uses hybrid approaches to explore an audience engagement spectrum: liveness–presence (2024), immersion–embodiment (2025), and participation–interactivity (2026). The project leverages online connectivity to unite performers across multiple locations with live audiences, removing physical travel barriers while preserving theatrical immediacy. It offers a methodology that crafts distinctive performance encounters for digitally attuned youth — while maintaining distinctions between live theatre and other forms of mediated experience in an increasingly noisy world.

About the Presenter:

Kelvin Wong is a Malaysian theatremaker, producer, and educator currently pursuing a PhD at the Universities of Exeter and Bristol, funded by the UKRI Arts and Humanities Research Council. His practice-based research investigates the intersections of intermedial performance, physical–virtual embodiment, translocal dramaturgy, and environmentally sustainable practices within post-pandemic contexts. Current project: unsilentmode.com

Moving In: A Youth Theatre Programme for Migrant Workers & Singaporeans

Presented by Aisha Shaik (Singapore)

This insightful presentation details Shoes Theatre's 2018 programme uniting Bangladeshi migrant workers with Singaporean youth through collaborative theatre-making. Shaik outlines the specific activities conducted across 12 sessions with fourteen participants aged 19-30, examining the practical challenges encountered when bringing these diverse groups together.

The presentation provides a structured overview of the programme's evolution and shares concrete learnings valuable for both facilitators and participants.

Discover how this cross-cultural initiative fostered understanding of different cultures, aspirations, privileges, and hardships through theatrical engagement.

About the Presenter:

Aisha Shaik is an Applied Theatre practitioner and media professional who explores stories of intersectional identities through creative mediums. With experience in social services and special education, she founded Shoes Theatre collective and collaborates with Tapestry Playback Theatre, using performance to amplify diverse voices and foster community dialogue across Singapore's multicultural landscape.

Beyond Words – Preliminary Findings of an Applied Drama Programme on Adolescent Boy's Social-Emotional Development

Presented by Adrian Wong, Rachel Lee & Danial Hanafi (Singapore)

This research-driven presentation reveals initial findings from a pioneering 12-week drama programme at Suncare charity serving underprivileged adolescent boys in Punggol. The speakers will outline the specific programme design, detailing how activities helped participants explore identity, masculinity, and emotional expression while building peer support networks.

Wong, Lee, and Hanafi will share their methodological approach to observation coding, preliminary impact measurements, and key implementation insights.

Discover the next steps planned for this groundbreaking project - possibly the first Singapore-based study examining drama's effect on adolescent boys' social-emotional development.

About the Presenters:

Adrian Wong is Lead Specialist (Drama) at Singapore's Ministry of Education, bringing his extensive experience as Senior Teacher (Drama) and researcher into his role for Drama curriculum and co-curriculum design. He leads initiatives to enhance students' 21st Century Competencies through Drama in MOE schools, developing innovative approaches to theatrical education in formal learning environments.

Rachel Lee is an experienced Literature educator in Singapore who specializes in applied theatre and drama facilitation. With six years of teaching experience and a master's degree in applied Theatre from the University of Warwick, she has successfully led multiple drama programmes in school, creating inclusive teaching environments that effectively support and engage diverse learners.

Danial Hanafi is a Drama and English Language teacher at Youth Residential Services in Singapore, working with youth offenders and those requiring protection. He specializes in curriculum design for drama programmes, co-curricular activities, and English Language with drama pedagogy integration, using creative approaches to support rehabilitation and personal development through theatrical expression.

WORKING HYPERLOCALLY IN COMMUNITIES

Date: Saturday, 19 July 2025

Time: 4pm - 5pm

Venue: NAFA Campus 3, Studio 410B

It Takes a Village: Decolonizing Community Storytelling Through Playback Theatre

Presented by 3 Cups of Kopi (Singapore)

This community-centered presentation examines how Playback Theatre creates powerful spaces for authentic storytelling and connection. Through their production "It Takes a Village," 3 Cups of Kopi demonstrates how prioritizing real, lived experiences over scripted narratives amplifies overlooked voices while fostering deep listening and shared understanding.

The presentation reveals practical strategies for building trust within diverse communities and transforming personal stories into meaningful unscripted performances.

Discover how this approach challenges dominant narrative structures while creating theatrical experiences that centre stories of support, connection, belonging, and resilience within hyperlocal contexts.

About the Presenter:

3 Cups of Kopi is a Singapore-based Playback Theatre ensemble dedicated to creating safe, inclusive spaces where personal stories are shared and transformed into improvised performances.

Through movement, music, and metaphor, they foster empathy, build community, and explore the human experience, emphasizing connection, understanding, and the power of collective storytelling in Singapore's diverse cultural landscape.

Reinstating Mosques as Nuclei of Community Activities Through the Arts: Towards an Islamic Arts Festival

Presented by Gene Sha Rudyn (Singapore)

This presentation examines how mosques can reclaim their historical role as centres of community activity through artistic engagement, and artists can reclaim their historical platform in mosques through community outreach. Drawing from Keelat Theatre Ensemble's community-embedded mosque productions, Sha Rudyn shares lessons learned from successful artist-mosque collaborations.

The presentation analyzes challenges and opportunities encountered when staging arts events in religious spaces while providing practical recommendations for developing sustainable partnerships.

Discover how these insights are being transformed into a comprehensive proposal for an Islamic Arts Festival - offering strategies for practitioners seeking to revitalize cultural spaces while honouring religious traditions within contemporary community contexts.

About the Facilitator:

Gene Sha Rudyn holds a Master of Arts in Arts and Cultural Leadership from Goldsmiths College, University of London. A bilingual theatre artist with over three decades of experience, he has performed major roles in productions across Singapore, Malaysia, Budapest, Hobart, Hong Kong, Perth, Wellington, and Yokohama, bringing a bi-cultural perspective to international theatre audiences.

Reaching Across Spaces Through Reminiscence Arts

Presented by Md Muazzam (Zam) (Singapore)

This practice-focused presentation explores how reminiscence arts create bridges between generations and sectors. Zam demonstrates how storytelling and performance techniques can transform community engagement while addressing critical social challenges like aging and isolation.

The presentation shares methodologies for designing effective reminiscence sessions that empower seniors to share their narratives.

Participants will gain practical tools for establishing sustainable partnerships between arts practitioners and the senior sector, creating shared spaces where collective stories flourish and intergenerational connections thrive.

About the Presenter:

Md Muazzam (Zam) is the founder and Artistic Director of Artivism - Arts for Action in Singapore. With over 15 years of experience in applied theatre, he works at the intersections of arts, community, culture, education, and performance-making, fostering cross-sector collaborations that harness the transformative potential of the arts as a catalyst for dialogue, connection, and action.

DIGITAL STRATEGIES IN THE CLASSROOM

Date: Saturday, 19 July 2025

Time: 4pm - 5pm

Venue: NAFA Campus 3, Studio 506

Once Upon a Time: A Digital Storytelling of Noli Me Tangere using Gaming Consoles as The Virtual Space of the Performance

Presented by Ajee Garcia (The Philippines)

This presentation reimagines classic Filipino literature through immersive digital storytelling. Garcia explores how gaming consoles can transform passive classroom storytelling into interactive virtual performances of works like "Noli Me Tangere." Drawing from five years of public school teaching experience, the presentation addresses challenges in student engagement and literature retention through technology integration.

Discover how this approach converts students from passive listeners to active participants in virtual environments - creating more memorable learning experiences while making canonical texts accessible through familiar gaming interfaces.

The presentation offers practical implementation strategies using readily available technology in resource-conscious educational settings.

About the Presenter:

Ms. Almira Joanna D. Garcia is an Assistant Professor at the University of the Philippines Los Baños. She holds a Master of Arts in Theatre Arts from the University of the Philippines Diliman and a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology Education from Philippine Normal University. Before joining academia, she served as a public school teacher for a decade, imparting knowledge in digital illustration and performing arts. Her extensive experience in theatre is evident in her engagements with esteemed institutions such as Dulaang Unibersidad ng Pilipinas (DUP), UP-Dulaang Laboratoryo, Philippine Drama Company, and DZUP. Her research interests lie at the intersection of theatre and education, particularly focusing on theatre in education and theatre for young audiences.

Enhancing Learning Motivation and Effectiveness in Classical Chinese Texts through Drama and AI Tools: A Study in Hong Kong Senior Primary Classes

Presented by Dr Wong Lai Ping & Dr Tsin Tak Shun (Hong Kong)

This evidence-based presentation reveals how integrating drama methodologies with AI tools transforms student engagement with classical Chinese texts. Through rigorous quasi-experimental research involving questionnaires, assessments, observations, and interviews, Tsin and Wong demonstrate measurable improvements in both motivation and comprehension among Hong Kong primary students.

The presentation outlines specific implementation strategies that bridge traditional texts with contemporary performance and digital techniques.

Discover practical approaches for language educators seeking to revitalize classical literature through this pedagogical combination that responds to today's technology-immersed learning environments.

About the Presenters:

Dr. Wong Lai Ping is a Senior Lecturer at Hong Kong Metropolitan University with expertise in drama education and pedagogy. Her scholarly work explores the application of theatrical methodologies in teaching and learning environments, focusing on developing critical thinking and creative expression through drama-based interventions across educational settings in Hong Kong.

Dr. Tsin Tak Shun is a Research Associate at Hong Kong Metropolitan University specializing in theatre and performance studies. His research examines contemporary Asian performance practices, cultural identity, and the intersection of traditional and experimental theatre forms, contributing valuable perspectives on the evolution of drama in educational and community contexts across Hong Kong and Asia.

Using Technology as an Enabler for Creative Collaboration in Drama

Presented by Edna Pan (Singapore) & Harvinder Singh (Singapore)

This forward-thinking presentation explores how technology and AI tools can enhance rather than replace traditional drama practices in developing crucial 21st-century competencies. Edna and Harvinder demonstrates how digital tools serve as creative enablers within scenario-based activities, facilitating deeper decision-making and perspective-taking processes.

The presentation offers practical approaches for integrating technology into drama education that simultaneously builds social-emotional skills while developing critical thinking abilities.

Discover how thoughtfully designed technological interventions create hybrid learning environments where digital collaboration amplifies rather than diminishes the inherently human aspects of dramatic exploration.

About the Presenters:

Edna Pan and Harvinder Singh are passionate secondary school Drama educators in Singapore dedicated to exploring innovative pedagogies that enhance student learning. Their collaborative approach encourages creative exploration, developing methodologies that engage diverse learners while fostering critical thinking, emotional intelligence, and authentic artistic expression through theatrical practice.