SOMEBODY UNDER THE RAINBOW
The Future of Singapore Queer Theatre

Part of WILD@Home’s Art & Life Series
25 June (Thursday), 9pm SGT
Going Live on our Facebook and YouTube channel

For many years, theatre was the only space where queer Singapore lives could be portrayed and affirmed. Early queer plays were often presented as pleas for societal understanding. Since then, queer plays have started articulating a shared experience of marginalisation and injustice.

What next? Is Pink Dot a form of ‘queer theatre’? Are our plays still stuck with respectability politics rather than a radical queer politics of liberation? And have we been missing out on all the queer performances – drag, burlesque and livestream acts – that take place in bars, clubs and living rooms?

Ahead of Pink Dot this weekend, join Kenneth Chia, Stephanie Chan and Hazwan Norly for this stimulating, no-holds-barred discussion about queer theatre in Singapore, moderated by Ng Yi-Sheng.

PANELLISTS

KENNETH CHIA

Kenneth is an actor and writer working across screen and stage. Writing credits include Let’s Get Back Together (WILD RICE, Singapore Theatre Festival), Long Weekend (The Twentysomething Theatre Festival) and One Thousand Millennials Crying (M1 Singapore Fringe Festival). As an actor, he has performed on local TV (Code of Law, KIN, We The Citizens) and web-series (Sleeping Beauty and the Man in the Red Suit), as well as commercials and shorts. His forthcoming feature film, 男儿王 Number One (mm2), follows the comedic adventures of a troupe of drag queens. He is also a hair and make-up artist, with a focus on progressive beauty and fashion editorial content – both locally and regionally.
STEPHANIE CHAN

Stephanie is a poet, stand-up comic, producer and educator. They have produced poetry events in Singapore and the UK since 2012, and currently run an online poetry open mic called Spoke & Bird. They produce *Siao Char Bors Comedy*, a livestreamed chat show and open mic series that seeks to encourage female and LGBTQ voices in comedy in Singapore. They have organised with IndigNation, Singapore’s annual Pride month, since 2014. They are also a co-producer of *Queer the Year Cabaret*.

HAZWAN NORLY

Hazwan is a storyteller, playwright and copywriter. He is one of the co-founders of Singapore’s first playwright collective, Main Tulis Group, and theatre-making collective Rupa co.lab. His recent works include *Heavy Weight* (Late Night Texting 2019), *Pitch Witch* (BuySingLit Festival 2019) and *Korban* (Singapore Writers Festival 2019). He traces his professional theatrical roots back to Teater Ekamatra’s Mereka Youth Theatre Programme, as well as its Playwright & Director Mentorship Programme. He hates to smile but, like a true auntie of Bedok, will run to the window for a photo of a stray hornbill.

NG YI-SHENG

Yi-Sheng is a poet, playwright, fictionist, researcher and LGBT+ activist. He has written plays such as *Hungry, 251, Reservoir, Georgette: The Musical* and *The Last Temptation of Stamford Raffles*, and crafted lecture performances such as *Painted Shadows: a Queer Haunting of the National Gallery, Ayer Hitam: a Black History of Singapore* and *Desert Blooms: the Dawn of Queer Singapore Theatre*. His books include *Lion City, A Book of Hims, Loud Poems for a Very Obliging Audience, SQ21: Singapore Queers in the 21st Century* and the Singapore Literature Prize-winning *last boy*. He tweets and Instagrams at @yishkabob.