

Feed Your Imagination (F.Y.I) 2026

ERROR 403: This School Is Mine

By The Necessary Stage

FULL ARTISTS' BIO LIST

The Necessary Stage

Established in 1987, The Necessary Stage (TNS) is a non-profit theatre company with charity status. Our mission is to create challenging, indigenous and innovative theatre that touches the heart and mind. TNS has the honour of being the only arts company in Singapore helmed by two Cultural Medallion recipients: Artistic Director and Founder Alvin Tan and Resident Playwright Haresh Sharma. The company is also the organiser and curator of the annual Singapore Fringe Festival.

Having presented more than 120 original plays in Singapore and abroad, TNS remains focused on breaking new ground in original local content and intercultural and interdisciplinary exploration. For our Main Season, we produce an average of two plays a year. The works are original, mostly devised pieces created in a collaborative process that is based on research, improvisation before scripting, and input from all members of the production.

TNS has also been unwavering in its efforts to nurture new talents and local content, through various platforms including youth- and senior-oriented training initiatives, commissions at the Singapore Fringe Festival, and laboratory and developmental platforms, including the TNS Devising Platform since 2020. The company also has a comprehensive online archival portal at tnsarchives.com, providing the public access to its 38 years of history.

FB: <https://facebook.com/thenecessarystage>

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Deonn Yang – Co-Playwright & Co-Director

Deonn is an actor, theatre-maker and teacher. She graduated from LASALLE College of the Arts in 2016 with a BA (First Class Hons) in Acting. Deonn is currently an Associate Artist of The Necessary Stage and a core member of Playwrights' Commune, an independent playwriting collective.

As an actor, Deonn has been a part of Esplanade's *PLAYtime!* and *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts*, M1 Singapore Fringe Festivals, and the Singapore International Festival of Arts (SIFA). Her notable theatre credits include *Tanah•Air 水•土* by Drama Box, and *Straight Acting* produced by Wild Rice, which earned her a Best Actress nomination at The Straits Times Life Theatre Awards 2022.

As a theatre-maker, Deonn made her professional debut as a playwright-director at the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival 2023. She also recently directed a successful run of *Survivor Singapore* as part of Esplanade's *Feed Your Imagination (F.Y.I) 2023* programme. Deonn has collaborated with TNS and Haresh Sharma since 2017 and was assistant director to Haresh for *Acting Mad* (2022), *Three Years in the Life and Death of Land* (2023), as well as co-director for *History, Whose Story?* (2025). Most recently, she was assistant director to Haresh for TNS' *SG Insecure* for which she was also one of the featured playwrights for the work.

Deonn is grateful and excited for the opportunity to continue working with TNS as an Associate Artist, and looks forward to growing, learning and developing further as an artist. She is interested in people and their stories and in always having a good laugh.

Sindhura Kalidas – Co-Playwright & Co-Director

Sindhura Kalidas is a theatre practitioner and educator. She is currently an Associate Artist with The Necessary Stage (TNS) and a core team member of The Finger Players (TFP).

Sindhu's recent performance credits include Wild Rice's *Psychobitch*, Deonn Yang's *Why Be Good When You Can Be The Best?* (2023), presented as part of the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival, Singapore Repertory Theatre's *The Coronalogues* (2020) and TNS's *Off Centre* (2019).

Her recent dramaturgical credits include the Singapore Youth Theatre's double bill *Every Student Is A Good Student/In My Head* (2023), TFP's *Puppet Origin Stories* (2022), as well as TNS's *Acting Mad* (2022).

She is also the writer of TNS's *Happy Indian Women* (2023), a verbatim theatre production which questions the assumptions we make about the diverse South Asian diaspora in Singapore today, which she co-directed with Haresh Sharma. Most recently in 2025, Sindhu is also one of the playwrights featured for TNS' *SG Insecure*.

Sindhu is a recipient of the NAC Postgraduate Arts Scholarship and holds an MA (Distinction) in Dramaturgy and Writing for Performance from Goldsmiths, University of London. She hopes to continue exploring themes of race, gender, and community in future works and shed light on underrepresented and misrepresented groups in Singapore.

She is deeply grateful to be learning from and growing with TNS.

Arielle Jasmine Van Zuljen – Performer

Arielle graduated in 2020 from the School of the Arts Singapore, with an International Baccalaureate Career-Related Programme (IBCP) Excellence Award in Theatre, and has been part of the theatre industry over the past five years.

Her credits include: *(un)becoming* (TheatreWorks, 2021), *Survivor Singapore* (The Necessary Stage, 2023), *No Particular Order* (Esplanade, 2023), *How I Learned to Drive* (Esplanade, 2024), *Crack the Cast: RED* (Sight Lines Productions, 2024), *Shakespeare in the Park – Macbeth* (Singapore Repertory Theatre, 2025) and *The Almighty Sometimes* (Singapore Repertory Theatre, 2022), for which she was awarded Best Actress at The Straits Times Life Theatre Awards 2023.

Arielle feels deeply blessed for the productions she has been part of, and for the creatively talented people she has had the opportunity to work with. She is excited to continue exploring and learning to create meaningful performances.

IG: [@ari.elle.e](#)

Coco Wang – Performer

Coco Wang Ling (She/They) is a multidisciplinary theatre-maker and actor who completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts (Theatre) degree at the Victorian College of the Arts in 2022. Her creative practice focuses on play, world-building, and connecting with the audience. She recently took on the lead role in *The Serangoon Garden Techno Party of 1993* (Wild Rice).

Other stage credits include *HOTEL* (Wild Rice), *Threads: The Emperor's New Clothes Musical* (Singapore Repertory Theatre's The Little Company), *White, All White* (The Necessary Stage), *Mosaic* (Esplanade), and more.

She's also still figuring things out.

IG: [@cocowangling](#)

Dennis Sofian – Performer

Dennis is an actor, host and voiceover artist who plays the violin and freestyle raps.

His Singapore stage credits include *Makan Culture* (Singapore International Festival of Arts, SIFA), *Charlotte's Web*, *The Cat in the Hat*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* with Singapore Repertory Theatre (SRT); *An Inspector Calls*, *Tartuffe*, and *Bull* with W!LD RICE; and *Fat Kids Are Harder to Kidnap* with How Drama.

Internationally, Dennis has performed in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* with Engineer Theatre (London) and *Mail Ordered*, which toured across Canada at the Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, and Vancouver Fringe Festival, where it won the Pick of the Fringe award.

Dennis trained at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

Salif Hardie – Performer

Salif Hardie is a true blue homegrown Singaporean actor, singer and performer who made his first foray into the scene at the age of 12. He is a Lasalle College of the Arts BA Acting alumnus, with local credits ranging from top local theatre bills to being a familiar face on both English and Malay TV, and international credits ranging from the prestigious Festival Internacional Cervantino to HBO's *WestWorld* Season 3.

IG: [@salifx](#)

Wong Chee Wai – Set Designer

Chee Wai is a full-time freelance set designer.

He has designed for and worked with various performing arts companies in Singapore. Some of his recent works include *Twelve Angry Men*, *Tartuffe: The Imposter*, *Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs*, *HOTEL*, *An Inspector Calls*, *Pinocchio*, *The Good Citizen*, *Momotaro and the Magnificent Peach*, *Straight Acting*, *The Amazing Celestial Race*, *Mine*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Merdeka / 獨立 / சுதந்திரம்*, *Emily of Emerald Hill*, *Supervision*, *Mama White Snake* and *Monkey Goes West*.

Emanorwatty Saleh – Lighting Designer

Ema's passion for theatre was ignited in 1992. Her professional debut as a lighting designer followed in 1997 with Teater Kami's compelling production, *Indra Bangsawan*, staged at the prestigious Victoria Theatre.

Building on this foundational experience, Ema attained a BA in Technical Theatre Arts from LASALLE College of the Arts in 2007, before taking a brief hiatus to focus on motherhood.

Upon her return to the craft, Ema embarked on a dynamic artistic philosophy she terms "street style". This approach intentionally deviates from formal, conventional methods, allowing for boundless exploration, experimentation and exciting unpredictability. Driven by the inherent adrenaline of live performance, she is currently channelling her creative energy toward confronting challenges and pushing boundaries within the digital design realm.

Safuan Johari – Sound Designer

Safuan Johari is an artist who works primarily as a composer, music producer and sound designer. Music-making is usually a world building exercise and the resulting microcosms often meander through traditional, experimental and popular topographies of Nusantara (maritime Southeast Asia) culture. Starting out as a prominent figure in Singapore's underground music scene, he has expanded his practice into composing for theatre, dance, films and multimedia installations.

Over the years, his fascination for imagining a speculative future built upon the spectres of cultural past grew deeper. His practice tends to study the complex cycles of, and complicated relationships between mythology, history and futurity. New perspectives are

constantly formed, which provided the motivation for Safuan to explore his works beyond music and sound. The recent years have seen him taking directorial and curatorial roles for commissioned works by Esplanade, Singapore International Festival of the Arts and National Gallery Singapore. This expansion in breadth also sees him experimenting with generative audio-visual digital media.

Individually and as a collaborator, Safuan has performed, exhibited or presented works at Palais de Tokyo Paris, tanzhaus nrw Düsseldorf, Festival/Tokyo, Perth Festival, Sydney Festival, Worldwide Festival Sète, Singapore International Festival of the Arts and the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival. He is also currently an Associate Artist of The Necessary Stage.

IG: [@maxlane](#)

NONFORM – Multimedia Designer

NONFORM is a multidimensional creative agency and home to a collective of visionary multidisciplinary artists. They approach every challenge through strategic deconstruction, using creativity not just as expression but as a tool for solving complex problems. Their breadth of expertise allows them to design unexpected and effective solutions across mediums and industries.