

Wouldn't it be Nice?

A stylized illustration of a light blue faucet with a red handle and a red ring. A yellow padlock is attached to the ring. Two blue water droplets are falling from the spout. The background is a solid blue color with a wavy line at the bottom.

By Drama Box
Presented by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay

20 – 23 Oct 2026, Tue – Fri

CREATOR'S MESSAGE



Dear students,

Why did we make this show for you?

The characters in this performance may not be people your age, and the situations may not look like your everyday life. But the questions they face belong to all of us.

Who gets to make decisions? Who gets heard? What do we accept as “the way things are”? And what could we change if we imagined things differently?

We hope this performance sparks your curiosity about civil society and citizen activism – the many ways people come together, speak up about what they care about, and work towards change.

We also invite you to question. Question existing power relations, the ways we organise ourselves, and even ideas that may seem obvious, such as what it means to be a “good citizen” or to be patriotic.

There is rarely only one way of doing things. There may be other ways of sharing power, making decisions, caring for one another and imagining our society.

We don’t have all the answers. Neither does this performance.

We hope it gives you a starting point to ask “why?”, “why not?” and “what if?”, and to start exploring the possibilities for yourself.

Wouldn’t it be nice if...?

Drama Box

SYNOPSIS



It is Singapore, 10 years from now.

First the floods came, followed by a prolonged period of drought and contamination to our water supply. There is a shortage of clean water and an energy crunch. Water has become a controlled good, persistent power outages are disrupting the lives of Singaporeans, and there are strains in the social order.

In times of crisis, how should we organise and distribute limited resources? Who do we trust, and what do we expect from ourselves, our community and the authorities? How do we communicate, understand and collaborate across different perspectives, concerns and needs?

ACTIVITY 1

HOW DID THE CHARACTERS RESPOND?

Write your description for each character in the boxes below according to each of the question.

Characters	How did each character react and respond to the water shortage crisis?	What are the circumstances in his/her life that led to this reaction(s)?
Shaiful		
Nick		
Maslinda		
Amy		
Raman		

ACTIVITY 2

WHICH CHARACTER DO YOU RELATE TO?

Relate yourself to one of the characters in the play and answer the following questions.

(a) Which character do you relate to the most? Circle your answer.

Shaiful / Nick / Maslinda / Amy / Raman

(b) In what ways do you relate to him/her?

(c) How would you deal with the crisis differently from the character?

ACTIVITY 3

WHERE DO YOU HAVE POWER?

Answer the following questions.

Where do you have power or influence in your everyday life?

What could you do with it?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



WATCH

Katrina: Come Hell and High Water

[Source: Netflix (NC16)]



- A real-world example of what happens when a crisis puts pressure on government, institutions, communities and individuals.
- Helps you understand the physical, psychological and social impact of a crisis, allowing you to better imagine and connect with the world and circumstances depicted in the play.



READ

Gen Z Speaks: How volunteering taught me that the key to saving the world is the power of community

By Christina Gan (Source: CNA)



- A local perspective through a young person's journey from caring about an issue to taking action – what can one person do, and what becomes possible when people act together?

WHAT IS FORUM THEATRE?

Forum Theatre originated from "Theatre of the Oppressed", established by Brazilian theatre master Augusto Boal. The most distinct feature of Forum Theatre is that it turns passive spectators into proactive "**spect-actors**" by inviting them onstage to replace characters and change the outcome of a play.



Audience participation in Forum Theatre unfolds in gradual steps:

- Watch a short play about a problem situation.
- Think, discuss with others and share reactions to what they have watched.
- Suggest what a character could do differently.
- Volunteers go on stage to replace a character and try out their ideas.

Audiences are never forced to share or perform. A trained facilitator (also known as the "**Joker**" in Forum Theatre) guides the discussion, asks prompting questions, and supports the audiences so they feel safe and brave to contribute ideas.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer
Fervyn Kate Tan (Drama Box)

Director
Han Xuemei (Drama Box)

Playwright
Original script by
Kok Heng Leun (Drama Box)
Adapted by
Han Xuemei (Drama Box)

Set Designer
Han Xuemei (Drama Box)

Lighting Designer
Emanorwatty Saleh

Sound Designer
Tan Ting Yan, Rebecca

Co-Facilitators
Han Xuemei (Drama Box)
Sindhura Kalidas

Actor-Facilitators
Jodi Chan
Moli Mohter
Md Al-Hafiz Bin Hosni
Vishnucharan Naidu
Zhuang Chuhang

Educational Resources
Han Xuemei (Drama Box),
special thanks to **Chng Yi Kai**

Production Manager
Tennie Su

Stage Manager
Gillian Ong

Assistant Stage Manager
Voon Yueqi

Set Fabrication
Daniel Sim (Prop-erly)

MARKETING & PUBLICITY

Marketing
Amanda Leong (Drama Box)
Dimitra Meghawaty (Drama Box)

Key Visual Design
semistudio

Wouldn't It Be Nice? was first produced in 2012 by Drama Box for IPS Prism: An Immersive Arts Experience, presented by Institute of Policy Studies of the National University of Singapore.

WHO IS DRAMA BOX?

Founded in 1990, Drama Box is a socially engaged theatre company that creates performances about the world we live in. We tell stories that explore different experiences and perspectives, especially those that are often overlooked, and create spaces where people can come together, ask questions, exchange ideas and have conversations about the issues that matter to them.

Drama Box has been bringing theatre to schools and communities across Singapore. We have worked with young people to explore issues you encounter in your everyday lives and how you can respond to challenging situations.

Recent productions presented in collaboration with Esplanade's *Feed Your Imagination (F.Y.I.)* series include:



Re: Assembly (2023)



The Lesson (2019 & 2024)



The Thursday Afternoon Club: The Light of Time (2025)

Find out more about Drama Box and get the latest updates!

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