

ALL OTHER PLAYS BY THE NECESSARY STAGE (from 2000)

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FROZEN ANGELS

As the world advances its research on life sciences, stem cells and artificial intelligence, what impact is there on human life and relationships? What does the future hold? Can life be built from scratch? Helmed by director Alvin Tan and playwright Haresh Sharma, in collaboration with Hungarian medialogist Jozsef Vamosi and local film-maker Loo Zihan, **Frozen Angels** is a workshop-performance exploring current issues of science, using digital media and theatrical performance.

Director : Alvin Tan
Playwright : Haresh Sharma
Medialogist : Jozsef Vamosi
Multimedia Artist : Loo Zihan
Cast : Cheryl Lee
 Kevin Zhang



Photo credit: Loo Zihan

“... the production was a subtle and thoughtful one which delved deep into humanity and human programming... a revealing cultural document and a potent piece of theatre.”
 - The Straits Times Life!

“Tiny, subtle and intimate: this is the best theatre I've seen this year... It is miniature, it is evocative, it is important.”
 - The Flying Inkpot

- Presented in Singapore as a work-in-progress in March 2007 at University Cultural Centre, as part of the National University of Singapore Arts Festival

THE SEVEN-MONTH ITCH

Co-presented with Action for Aids

Jason and Daniel have been in a relationship for seven months. One day, Jason meets a man at a club, and has unprotected sex with him. Although he regrets his action, it is too late. He has betrayed the trust of his partner. Worst of all, he may be infected.

Will he be brave enough to take an HIV-test?
Will he confess his infidelity to his partner?

This interactive play will be presented in an informal setting and will involve audience participation.

Rated R18 – Adult themes, suitable only for those aged 18 and above.



Photo credit: The Necessary Stage

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MARDI GRAS (2004)

Get your Pride Flags out! Mardi Gras is back!

After a successful sold-out run last year during Singapore's PINK month - August! - this sexycrazycool play is back to make you laugh, cry and gasp!

A group of people come together to organise Singapore's first Pride Parade. They plan to hold the March at the Padang, with dykes on bikes, fags and fag hags, leathers and feathers; they want to shout out loud and be proud.

As they plan, the tension mounts; the cracks in their relationships surface. Jokes turn to bitchiness, which turn to clawing. Are they going to prove themselves to be ONE PEOPLE, ONE NATION, ONE SINGAPORE...

Or will the rainbow colours represent segregation and prejudice?



Photo credit: The Necessary Stage

Rated R18 – Explicit language and sexual content

Written by **Haresh Sharma**

Directed by **Alvin Tan**

Set Design by **Vincent Lim**

Lighting Design by **Thio Lay Hoon**

Multimedia Design by **Brian Gothong Tan**

Performed by **Irene Ang, Paerin Choa, Jay Espano, Natalie Henedige, Koh Chieng Mun, Kumar, Hossan Leong, Rody Vera, Zahim Albakri**

“**Mardi Gras** is witty, inventive, wonderfully alive and richly entertaining as it throbs with a generous big heart in its celebration of the strengths and weaknesses of our gay brothers and sisters.”

- Happening!

“... Haresh Sharma's writing... was at its best when it laid down this kind of challenge, pushing the audience to look past what should be funny into what is actually serious.”

- The Flying Inkpot

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TOP OR BOTTOM

Mourning is such hard work. You want to cry but you don't want to be unglam. And what do you wear to your friend's wake if you have to go to a club after that?

The death of someone special causes a group of friends to re-examine their lives and their feelings about death. Fundamental questions are asked: Will I go to hell if I'm a bitch? Am I spending too much time at the Gym? Can I be gay and married?

The group of friends soon make important realisations:

That you can be married and gay

That you can be friends and use each other

That you can be top and bottom

If you ask nicely, will your friend's corpse come back to life?



Photo credit: The Necessary Stage

Starring **Paerin Choa, Natalie Henedige, Kumar, Hossan Leong, Rody Vera**

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SING SONG

Co-presented with South East Community Development Council

Music is a universal language for people all over the world, of all cultures. A language of the soul. Music often marks key moments in our lives that echo on and on. Music brings people together and is often a source of comfort and reflection in times of solace. Where words fail, music speaks.



After six months of collecting people's musical memories, **Sing Song** is a tribute to the musical stories of people's lives. Turning points, seasons, times and friendships been and gone. Romance, break ups, birth and death.

Victory and defeat. Celebration and devastation.

Shower songs, the songs stuck in your head, the time you performed, the songs you wrote, the television jingles, and the pop idols you worshipped.

Come and meet the failed musician, the closet composer, Gloria Estefan's No. 1 fan, the friend lost in a tape recording, Makcik Power the musical TV host and many others!

Join us for a night of Melody, Harmony, Rhythm and Nostalgia. Enjoy Songs from different generations, languages and styles, with an array of different instruments.

Come and recollect the soundtrack of your life!

Created by **Sean Tobin & Natalie Henedige**

Devised and performed by **Aidli 'Alin' Mosbit, Gani Abdul Karim**
and **Lim Kay Siu**

Also performed by **Kumar** and **Celine Rosa Tan**

And featuring musical talent from our community, including a *cappella* group

Tic Tac Tone and our very own fabulous **ABBAcadabras!**

Music Consultant: **Sydney Tan**

Set & Lighting Designer: **Yo Shao Ann**

Costume Designer: **Serena Tobin**

“Pat Conroy once said, “Without music, life is a journey through a desert.” Perhaps this was the message that The Necessary Stage intended to deliver to the audience with their musical play, SING SONG. And deliver it they did!”

- The Flying Inkpot

godeatgod (2004)

"...you know you're in for something beyond the ordinary"
- *The Business Times*

After a sold-out run in August 2002, this year's **godeatgod** is a reconceptualised version of that original staging, with an all new cast including Rody Vera from The Philippines, Eriko Wada from Japan and esteemed local actors Aidli 'Alin' Mosbit and Peter Sau.

A layered and moving exploration of power, sexuality, spirituality and survival in the post-traumatic world, this multi-national, multi-media romp is interwoven with the stories and emotional landscapes of its characters.



Photo credit: The Necessary Stage

Writing in response to 9/11, playwright Haresh Sharma excavates the tragedies that surfaced - dishonesties, power struggles, corruption and egos - which have made the world an elimination platform dominated by the powerful. Where do we look to for the new moral order?

godeatgod is an intimate, personal and at times funny exposition about trying to live a better life; a take on censorship in the context of art; and an examination of love and grief.

" "Like divine signs glimpsed by the faithful, godeatgod is most rewarding for its subtle touches."

- The Straits Times review

". *godeatgod* is a stylish multimedia presentation that weaves together drama, music, multimedia and technology into a thought-provoking whole."

- The Business Times review

Playwright **Haresh Sharma**

Director **Alvin Tan**

Set Designer **Vincent Lim**

Lighting Designer **Suven Chan**

Multimedia Artist **Brian Gothong Tan**

Song Composer **Babes Conde**

Starring **Aidli 'Alin' Mosbit, Peter Sau, Rody Vera, Eriko Wada**

OH MAN!

Copresented with the Southeast Community Development Council

Macho, Macho Man! I gotta be... a macho man ?
OH MAN! What are men like in Singapore? Powerful?
Confused?
Boring? Sexy? The Necessary Stage grabs the issues by
the ba**s, and probes deep into Singapore's MANHOOD.
Are men in Singapore getting the short end of the stick?
Are they losing their marbles? Are they still on top?
Join our testosterone-charged cast as they present scene
after scene of MAN-hood, MAN-liness, and MAN-kind:
Stories of Fathers and Sons; Man's rites of passage,
from getting a tattoo to having a child; tales of Blood brothers,
road ragers and restless retirees!
OH MAN! Can they MAN-age? Are they MAN-united?
Come and find out...
10 things Men Can't do!
10 things Men hate about themselves!
10 things Men really feel but cannot say!



Photo credit: The Necessary Stage

Directed by **Sean Tobin**
Written by **Haresh Sharma**
Devised by **The Cast**

Performed by **Micheas Chan, Sheikh Haikel, Kumar, Lim Kay Tong, Errol Lim, Aziz Mustajab, Randall Tan and Nicholas Tee**
Choreography by **Aaron Khek**
Music by **Andrew Crothers**
Set Design by **Chong Tze Chien**
Lighting Design by **Yo Shao Ann**
Multimedia by **Choy Ka Fai**

“When scenes were supposed to make us laugh, they unfailingly did. Particularly amusing were the lists of "ten things that men can't do" that cropped up every now and then, accompanied by infectiously silly choreography and chanting. Sheikh Haikel had a good time selling clichés like the male inability to ask for directions or change nappies, and newcomer Errol Lim reached slightly deeper but with equal humour in his list of ten things men secretly want (my favourite was "to rule the world").”
- The Flying Inkpot

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MARDI GRAS (2003)

A group of people come together to organise Singapore's first Pride Parade - Singapore's first Mardi Gras. They plan to hold the March at the Padang, with dykes on bikes, fags and fag hags, leathers and feathers; they want to shout out loud and be proud.

Excuse? Will they even get a license? Um, will we?

As they plan, the tension mounts; the cracks in their relationships surface. Jokes turn to bitchiness, which turn to clawing. Eventually, the very event that is supposed to show their unity threatens to tear them apart.

Are they going to prove themselves to be ONE PEOPLE, ONE NATION, ONE SIN-GAY-PORE. or will the rainbow colours represent segregation and prejudice? Is pink over?

Mardi Gras is part of the Necessary Stage's fundraising drive.

Rated R18 - Explicit language and sexual content

Written by **Haresh Sharma**

Directed by **Alvin Tan**

Starring

Corinne Adrienne

Paerin Choa

Natalie Hennedige

Garrett Hoo

Hossan Leong

Jimmy T

Rick Tan

Also featuring special guest appearances by **Kumar** and **Irene Ang**

Mardi Gras



Photo credit: The Necessary Stage

“The script was very funny. Bitchy one-liners, pop culture references, in-jokes and double entendres came fast and furious with some cleverly constructed set-pieces paying off very nicely.”

- The Flying Inkpot

REVELATIONS

A world premiere commissioned by the Singapore Arts Festival 2003

Revelations.

A man arrives home after 9 years.

A married woman falls in love with a young girl.

A brother asks "Where is my husband?"

Revelations.

One house, and a grandmother plays monopoly.

One house, and a woman kills her children.

Revelations.

Someone gets married.

Someone becomes a man.

Someone says "Satyam. Shivam. Sundaram."



Photo credit: The Necessary Stage

Revelations. Our father, our mother, our children.

Revelations. I need you by me, beside me, to hold me, to scold me.

Revelations explodes with a narrative tapestry of stories, images, movement and soundscape, culminating in an overarching theme of hope and salvation in seeming chaos. Created by Young Artist Award recipients Alvin Tan and Haresh Sharma, Singapore's enfant terrible Jeff Chen and Chong Tze Chien, this multi-sensory epic will be nothing less than prophetic.

Performed by **Kumar, Goh Guat Kian, Noorlinah Mohamed, Serena Ho, Rodney Oliveiro, Nora Samosir, Nick Shen, Sean Tobin**

Written by **Haresh Sharma** and **Chong Tze Chien**

Directed by **Alvin Tan** and **Jeff Chen**

Set Designed by **Vincent Lim**

Lighting Designed by **Suven Chan**

Music Composed and Performed by **Kenneth Paul Tan**

Multimedia Designed by **Loh Ren Hao** and **Ngiam Shin Shin**

“This was not the kind of poetry spun from overt lyricism, but the skilful weaving of poetry from everyday speech and speech contrapuntals from various corners of Singaporean life.”

- Quarterly Literary Review Singapore

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BOTE: THE BEGINNING OF THE END

At the beginning of the end, everything was normal. And then something moved. And then there was song. And then there was singing and crying, and shouting and fighting. And lots more fighting. And then there was quiet.

The Beginning of the End is about the now, then and later. There is dance, drama, video and design. There are fast movements and there are slow movements. There are teasing exhibits of things and lives around you.



Photo credit: The Necessary Stage

The Beginning of the End is not a play.

It is a Performance on the parody of life - both absurd and funny.

Are we beginning the ending? Or ending the beginning?

WATCH AND learn..

Devised & Performed by **Nora Samosir, Noorlinah Mohd, Serena Ho, Natalie Henedige, Rodney Oliveiro, Micheas Chan, Liu Ya-Ling** and **Ang Hui Bin**

Conceptualised & Directed by **Jeff Chen**

Set Design by **The Orange Playground**

Multimedia by **Brian Gothong Tan**

Lighting Design by **Suven Chan**

“I liked the humour, the sets, the idiosyncrasies, the risks it took...”
- The Flying Inkpot

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godeatgod (2002)

Two brothers: He needs Kor Kor by his side.

Husband & wife: Someone's dying and they can't do anything about it.

Patricia Mok & Norleena Salim: They want to change the rules and no one can stop them.



Photo credit: The Necessary Stage

Once there were two of us... and that's it.

Different stories are interwoven in this multimedia, multiracial romp:

godeatgod is a funny, honest and sometimes painful confrontation with sexuality, spirituality and power.

Performed by **Patricia Mok, Norleena Salim, Natalie Henedige, Ian Loy** and **Matthew Lyon**

Written by **Haresh Sharma**

Directed by **Alvin Tan**

Staged by **Alvin Tan** and **Chong Tze Chien**

Multimedia by **Brian Gothong Tan** and **Jeff Chen**

Music by **Babes Conde**

“What I particularly enjoy about TNS productions is the level of self-reflexivity – in terms of the awareness of the actors that they are actors watched by an impressionable audience – that the actors are allowed to convey, which provides for much of the double-edged humour in the performances.”

- Quarterly Literary Review Singapore

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CLOSE IN MY FACE

*Copresented with South-East Community Development Council
Sponsored by British American Tobacco*

This play will explore the joys and pains, the ignorance and the intimacy, the prejudice and the harmony, the empathy and the apathy, the closeness and the closed-ness that we share with our neighbours.



Photo credit: The Necessary Stage

With original music and choreography, real-life stories and people from our neighbourhood; the void deck, the lift, the community centre, and the kitchen window take centre stage!!!

Directed by **Sean Tobin**
Choreography by **Elysa Wendi**
Music Director: **Philip Tan**
Set Designer: **Hella Chan**
Lighting Designer: **Yo Shao Ann**

Starring **Kumar**, Mediacorp Artiste **Andrew Seow** , **Zachary Mosalle** , **Natalie Hennedige** , **Serena Ho** , **Faith Lew** , and residents from South-East Singapore - **Aziz Mustajab** , **Soh Hwee Yan** , **Grace Tan** and **Sarah Tng**

“Corniness and melodrama aside, the play still manages to challenge audiences into dwelling on its subject matter in a way that is both intelligent and entertaining. Close - In My Face effectively treads that fine line between pandering to and challenging its audience.”
- Quarterly Literary Review Singapore

“One can place many laurels on this unconventional yet compelling production, and its fluent sequences and provocative script evoked gems of afterthought that haunted one's conscience beneath the hilarity and laughter.”
- The Flying Inkpot

“... a winning combination of side-splitting humour and powerful soul-searching.”
- The Business Times

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W W W

Stop the press. She is not Wonder Woman. She is only a Thai hooker. She can't save the world.

All hell is breaking loose. The world is on the brink of World War III. The world needs superheroes. An American boy is abducted. An ex-beggar holds him hostage. His parents demand justice, compensation and salvation. But the superheroes in Thailand are not Clark Kents, Bruce Waynes or Diana Princes. They are gigolos, hookers and drags. Who will save the boy? Who will save his parents? Who will save the Supermen, Batman and Wonder Women? Who is saving who?



Photo credit: The Necessary Stage

A Naturalistic Comic Book Fantasy

Starring **Beatrice Chia, Hossan Leong, Norleena Salim, Claire Devine & Richard Lord**

Written by **Chong Tze Chien**

Directed by **Alvin Tan & Chong Tze Chien**

Set Designers: **Chong Tze Chien & Dorothy Png**

Lighting Designer: **Yo Shao Ann**

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A potent collaboration between The Necessary Stage and The Theatre Practice, inspired by Dr Sun Yat Sen and Madam Chen Cui Fen, his lover, confidante, housekeeper, messenger, and partner in revolution. Written by Kuo Pao Kun, Haresh Sharma, and Chong Tze Chien, and directed by Alvin Tan and Wong May Lan.



Photo credit: The Necessary Stage

“It was produced and written by talented young people. The Singapore Arts Festival 2001 features productions from 20 countries. This home-grown one can vie with the best of them.”

- The Straits Times

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ABUSE SUXXX!!!

A madcap, rollercoaster ride of a play that both entertains and confronts you.

You don't know whether to laugh, cry, shout or just collapse. Conceptualised by Alvin Tan and Haresh Sharma, and devised with cast.



Photo credit: The Necessary Stage

“The play is quite shocking...It is shocking because it is honest and it is real. *ABUSE SUXXX!!!* ends with the actors in a straight line, eyes filled with yearning, arms outstretched and beckoning. Beckoning perhaps, for us to enter their minds and consider the cavernous possibilities of a world, topsy-turvy through their eyes. No doubt it is a shocking reality.”

- The Flying Inkpot

“In short, yet another quality production from The Necessary Stage.”

- The Business Times

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SPOILT

This play is about Tracy, who has everything in life, and decides to throw it all away. For the first time in her life, she is no longer afraid because she has nothing left to lose. Written by Chong Tze Chien and directed by Jean Ng.



Photo credit: The Necessary Stage

“The story succeeds in ways beyond curiosity- as the play progresses, one begins to intuit the deeper commentary embedded within-primarily that of the flaws of materialism as the blueprint for happiness.”
- The Business Times

“Chong Tze Chien makes no mistake here. His writing shows that his understanding of the human condition is incredibly perceptive. Needless to say then that this play has many memorable lines.”
- The Flying Inkpot

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3SOME

A triplebill of new original works, launched The Necessary Stage at our new home at the Marine Parade Community Building. Featuring:

Princess Diana is Dead

Conceptualised by Chong Tze Chien

untitled women number one

Written by Haresh Sharma

Directed by Jeff Chen

Talk

Conceptualised by Alvin Tan and Haresh Sharma



Photo credit: The Necessary Stage

“Writer-cum-director, Chong Tze Chien, has once again identified himself as a force to be reckoned with.”
- The Arts Magazine

“Director Alvin Tan and Playwright Haresh Sharma stick their fingers into a minefield of issues - crime and punishment, the afterlife and, of course, the dumbing-down power of the media.

Like giant Duracell bunnies moving in for the kill, actors Darren Chiam and Peter Sau hold the frenzied piece together.”

- The Straits Times

“Their complete stillness belied the forcefulness of their emotions. Evoking themes of womanhood and loss, they stood in contrast to the mound of white flesh in the corner.”

- The Straits Times, on **untitled women number one**

“Uncompromisingly original, the cast and crew have produced thought-provoking, experimental works that serve to redefine the semiotics of theatre praxis.”

- The Arts Magazine

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UNDER THE LAST DUST

The Necessary Stage's biggest-single production in 2000 was conceived and directed by Associate Director, Jean Ng, in collaboration with 16 female artists.



Photo credit: The Necessary Stage

“As a disturbing portrait of contemporary society, Dust is not easily forgotten; it is a piece that haunts you...”

- **The Business Times**

“With women throwing paint on plastic sheets Jackson Pollack-style, knocking on doors expectantly but always in vain and fighting with one another in contextless, incoherent, dialogue-free landscapes, Under the Last Dust was a visual spectacular - special kudos to Dorothy Png’s lighting design...”

- **The Flying Inkpot**

“Minimal and beautiful.”

- The Straits Times

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ASIAN BOYS VOL. I

Asian Boys Vol. I, a risqué, cutting-edge work, was presented at The Necessary Stage's Black Box. Directed by Jeff Chen, written by Alfian Sa'at.

“A runaway success, a fandango of laughter, tears and even more tears of laughter.”
- The Straits Times

“With sharp direction by Jeff Chen and a highly versatile cast, *Asian Boys Vol. I* embraced what is seen as alien, clinical or criminal in Singapore and loved it into poignant life.”

- The Flying Inkpot



Photo credit: The Necessary Stage

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