

## Creative Collaborators



### **Alecia Neo, Artist**

Alecia develops long-term projects that involve collaborative partnerships with individuals and communities. Her socially engaged practice unfolds primarily through photography, video, installations, and participatory workshops that address modes of radical hospitality, reciprocity, and caregiving to explore issues of identity and the search for self. Alecia is the co-founder of Brack, a platform for socially engaged artists in Southeast Asia, and recipient of the Young Artist Award (2016) presented by the National Arts Council, Singapore.



### **Sandhya Suresh, Performer**

As an independent artist and company dancer at Chowk Productions, Sandhya has performed, choreographed, and directed diverse commissions and presented original works locally and internationally. She has a BA (Hons) in Dance from LASALLE College of the Arts (Goldsmiths); trained in classical Ballet under the Royal Academy of Dance; and completed her Arangetram, a debut Bharathanatyam graduation solo, at the Temple of Fine Arts, Singapore.



### **Kyongsu Kathy Han, Performer**

A versatile performer-practitioner, Kyongsu trained at LASALLE College of the Arts and the Intercultural Theatre Institute. Her body of work, which includes theatre for young audiences, musicals, opera, dance, and film, has been informed by her multiracial background, and has been presented locally and internationally. Her directorial debut was in 2018, with the opera *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, and she has coached in various schools, including the National University of Singapore. To further expand as a multidisciplinary artist, Kyongsu trains in the martial art Ninjutsu at Bujinkan Ryuko Dojo, and in Odissi at Chowk, both in Singapore.



### **Khairul Amin, Director of Photography**

Khairul did not have plans to work in film, but always enjoyed observing and photographing people and random things. This led to stints working up the ranks of camera departments for over a decade. He had the privilege of working with directors, producers, and creative collaborators of different backgrounds on commercial, narrative, corporate, and documentary film projects. Khairul is keen to continue using the visual medium to explore stories relating to culture, identity, social issues, and diversity.



### **Li-chuan Chong, Composer & Sonic Artist**

As a practitioner, Li-Chuan's activities run the gamut of acoustic composition, electro-acoustic sound, sonic art, installation, free improvisation, "live" electronics, and site-specific and collaborative work involving music and sound as key elements. Li-Chuan's career in music and sound started in the late 1990s, freelancing as a composer and sound designer in collaboration with practitioners in theatre, dance, visual arts, and architecture locally and internationally.

## Acknowledgements

*ramah-tamah was inspired by the personal stories shared by the following individuals, and by found text.*



### Baba GT Lye

G. T. Lye is a veteran Peranakan actor and a playwright involved in Peranakan *wayang* (theatre). He has played the role of a Peranakan matriarch numerous times, and was a member of the Gunong Sayang Association, a Peranakan social club that promotes the preservation of *dondang sayang*, the singing of Malay poetry. Lye has written, directed, and acted in many Gunong Sayang Association stage productions. He honed his skills in *pantun* (traditional poetic form) and *dondang sayang* by shadowing a group of professional *pantun* performers in Malacca. When not creating or performing, Lye is a consultant on Peranakan arts and culture. For this artwork, Lye has composed five original pantuns on Peranakan patois style.



### Irene Ong

Irene is a Peranakan dramatist and restaurateur. She discovered her passion for theatre following her 2002 debut in a play by Gunong Sayang Association. She acted in the "Ways of The Matriarch" (2003–8) television show, and joined Theatre for Seniors in 2011. These days she enjoys rehearsals, music, dancing, and working with theatre professionals and like-minded friends. During the past 10 years, she has acted and co-produced Peranakan plays for The Peranakan Siblings. She is enjoying her last lap in life so that she can smile and say, "Indeed, I loved life."



### Kamini Ramachandran

Kamini Ramachandran is a pioneer in the field of storytelling in Asia. She is the creative force behind MoonShadow Stories, which spearheaded performance storytelling for adult audiences in Singapore. She is a teaching artist at LASALLE College of the Arts, and developed the Narrative & Storytelling module for the Expressive Arts postgraduate diploma at Singapore University of Social Sciences. She has contributed extensively to the global storytelling scene through her involvement in organising conferences and festivals. Kamini is also the founding director of the non-profit arts organisation The Storytelling Centre Ltd, and she started the Young Storytellers Mentorship Programme to sustain the art of storytelling by nurturing emerging talents.



### Vimal Kumar

Vimal is multidisciplinary Singaporean artist whose work often explores themes related to culture, heritage, and traditions. His interest in the visual aspect of storytelling, performance, and ritual serves as the basis for his creations. His strength lies in traditional media, including oil, gouache, and ink, but he often incorporates digital media such as photography, digital painting, and motion graphics to further enhance and expand on his explorations.



### **Moli Mohter**

Moli is a prolific theatre practitioner who has been in the industry since 1993. She acts, writes, and directs. Moli is also a drama educator and has worked with youths at risk in Singapore Girls' Home and Singapore Boys' Home. She trained with the Singapore Drama Educators Association in their course "Drama Pedagogy: Essential Teaching and Learning Approaches", and completed Oliver Chong's acting masterclass organised by The Finger Players. Currently, she is pursuing her diploma at Ngee Ann Polytechnic in Care and Programme (Student Services and Coaching). She started Makaia Arts in 2019 to focus on Malay drama programming.



### **Alia Aishah Binti Shahrir**

Alia graduated with a Bachelor of Law degree from the International Islamic University Malaysia, and is a practicing lawyer specialising in banking and finance at a firm in Kuala Lumpur. She is a co-founder and incumbent vice-president of the Organisation for National Empowerment, a non-governmental body for youths seeking to effect meaningful reforms in the areas of national unity, education, economy, and politics. She spearheaded "Project Deep Pockets", a series of financial literacy workshops that educate youths on financial planning and instruments.



### **Samantha Tio (Mintio)**

Mintio is a visual artist born in Singapore. Trained as a photographer at the School of Art, Design and Media, Nanyang Technological University, Mintio has been actively creating works and participating in exhibitions both locally and abroad. She is based in both Bali and Singapore; she programmes and facilitates activities at Ketemu Project Space (Bali) and Co:Creation (Singapore) as Director.

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