

PRESS RELEASE
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Centre 42 (SG) and Five Arts Centre (KL) present:



Revisit a magical world of childhood memories at *Are You Game, Sau(dara)?*, a cross-Causeway double-bill created by Singaporean theatre company Bhumi Collective and Malaysian director Fasyali Fadzly.

Centre 42 (Singapore) and **Five Arts Centre (Malaysia)** are co-presenting a new double-bill titled ***Are You Game, Sau(dara)?*** this March. This exciting cross-Causeway theatre production marks the first time that the two companies are presenting a work together. It will be performed at **Kotak @ Five Arts Centre, Kuala Lumpur, from 1 to 3 March 2019**, and then at **Centre 42 Black Box, Singapore, from 8 to 10 March 2019**.

Are You Game, Sau(dara)? is created as a contemporary response to *Three Children*, a boundary-pushing 1988 play about childhood by Malaysian playwright Leow Puay Tin. *Are You Game, Sau(dara)?* comprises two works.

The first piece, ***Are You Game?***, is created by Malaysian director **Fasyali Fadzly**. This research-performance is inspired by the tabletop role-playing game format, and the actors will face a variety of riddles and challenges while playing a game throughout the show. At the same time, the performers will be relating the stories of the people of Melaka, inspired by the characters and locations in *Three Children*. There is no fixed script, and the audience can opt to participate in this experimental adventure by roleplaying with the performers.

The second piece, titled ***Sau(dara)***, is devised by Singapore-based theatre company **Bhumi Collective**, and explores childhood, memory, and play. Its premise is based on the artistic team's own childhood experiences, while also incorporating scenes from the original script of *Three Children*. A work-in-progress version of this work was first presented in 2018 under

Centre 42's The Vault programme, a platform that invites artists to create responses to past works in the theatre canon. More information about this showcase can be found [here](#).

Are You Game, Sau(dara)? will be performed in English and Malay, with English surtitles provided at the Singapore staging.

“We’re excited to embark on a new collaboration with Five Arts Centre. Through this co-presentation, we hope to explore new connections and approaches between independent artists, as well as between independent art centres. This deepening of relationship with Five Arts Centre, Bhumi Collective and Fasyali Fadzly is especially meaningful as Centre 42 has worked with each party on different occasions over the last two years,” says Ma Yanling, Company Manager of Centre 42.

June Tan, producer with Five Art Centre, echoes this with: “It’s exciting for us to see how a new way of archiving/recording is considered with responses by contemporary practitioners on text/performance strategies previously employed by the past production(s) of Leow Puay Tin’s *Three Children*. Puay Tin and her work have had close relationships with Five Arts’ members such as Krishen Jit to Chin San Sooi, Chee Sek Thim and others. We are curious and encouraged to see how we can expand this thread to include Fasyali, Amin, Centre 42 and the host of contemporary practitioners working on this double-bill, both on the Malaysian and Singaporean side.”

For interview opportunities and other media enquiries, please contact:

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ANNEX A: ABOUT

Centre 42

Centre 42 is a theatre development space in Singapore, committed to the creation, documentation and promotion of texts and writings for the stage. As an intermediary in the Singapore performing arts scene, Centre 42 incubates original writing for production development; provides space and a supportive environment for artists and new work creation; and develops a functional archive documenting the histories and processes of Singapore theatre. (More info: www.centre42.sg)

Five Arts Centre

Five Arts Centre is a dynamic collective of Malaysian arts practitioners dedicated to generating alternative art forms and images in the contemporary landscape. It is well-known for cutting edge, experimental, inter-disciplinary, inter-cultural work, and is engaged in providing platforms for the next generation of artists. Five Arts Centre also manages an independent art space, Kotak in Kuala Lumpur. (More info: www.fiveartscentre.org)

Bhumi Collective

Singapore-based Bhumi Collective is a multidisciplinary performing arts company. Sited at a point of convergence for artists embracing intercultural, intersectional and transnational practices to address, explore and are curious about issues to do with deconstruction, disruption and decolonisation. The name, Bhumi, meaning earth/soil in both Sanskrit and Malay, reflects their belief that human potential and diversity is fertile ground for collaborative art-making in a borderless world. They have made dance, theatre and/or music collaborations on projects presented at platforms such as the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and the Singapore International Festival of Music.

For *Sau(dara)*, the main direction and facilitation of the work will be led by Soutari Amin Farid, Joint Artistic Director of Bhumi Collective. Independent practitioner Grace Khoo will be providing dramaturgy with the company consisting of Lyn Hanis, Suryana Norddin, Nurul Farahani and Syafiqah 'Adha Sallehin. (More info: www.bhumicollective.com)

Fasyali Fadzly

Fasyali Fadzly is an educator, director, playwright and writer. An MFA graduate from the University of Calgary, Canada, he often tackles his work in a satirical manner. He believes comedy allows for both convention and innovation, not just in playwriting but also in finding new forms. He wrote and directed his own play *Teater Juta-Juta* [Theatre of Millions] which won Best Director, Best Original Script and Best Ensemble Performance in the Boh Cameronian Arts Award 2014; *Berani Mati* [Suicide Game]; *Kotak Hitam* [Idiot Box]; *Kawan-kawan Yang Kita Suka* [Friends that We Love]; and directed several plays from other playwrights such as Oedipus, 'Art' and Jebat. In 2017, he was invited to be involved in the One Table Two Chairs Meeting in Tokyo and staged a 20-minute show titled *Ingatan* at Za-Koenji Public Theatre, Tokyo. He also writes theatre-related articles and reviews and was published in local and international web portal. He occasionally acts for feature films, short

films, commercial and TV programmes. One of his short films that he wrote and acted in, *Skodeng: Kebenaran Yang Nakal*, won Best Film, Best Script and Best Director for the KL 48 Hours Film Project and represented Malaysia for the International 48 hours Film Project in Miami in 2010. A recipient of The National of Arts, Culture and Heritage of Malaysia (ASWARA) Academic Scholarship Award, he is now a lecturer at ASWARA. (More info: www.fasyalifadzly.com)

For *Are You Game?*, Fasyali will be working with emerging performers Ali Alasri, Darynn Wee and Hannan Barakbah to explore the meaning of this text in today's time.

ANNEX B: FACT SHEET

Kuala Lumpur Staging

Dates & Times: Fri, 1 - Sun, 3 March 2019; Fri & Sat: 8.30pm; Sun 3.30pm*

Venue: Kotak @ Five Arts Centre, 27 & 27A Lorong Datuk Sulaiman 7, Taman Tun Dr Ismail, 60000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Entry by donation: RM40

Website: www.fiveartscentre.org

**A post-show moderated discussion will be held after the final performance on 3 March 2019 at 6pm, with practitioners who had previously been involved in the staging of Leow Puay Tin's Three Children.*

Singapore Staging

Dates & Times: Fri 8 - Sun, 10 March 2019; Fri & Sat: 8pm; Sun 3pm

Venue: Centre 42 Black Box, 42 Waterloo Street, Singapore 187951

Admission: \$15; tickets available from Peatix at gamesaudara.peatix.com

Website: www.centre42.sg