

Esplanade Presents

THE STUDIOS: TRIP 2023

1 & 2 Apr and 8 & 9 Apr 2023

www.esplanade.com/trip



Dear friends of the media,

The Studios is Esplanade's longest running platform for presenting challenging, innovative and exploratory contemporary theatre and performance. Since 2003, it has established a reputation for presenting thought-provoking works and giving space for theatre-makers to explore different issues in a variety of forms.

As *The Studios* season moves into its next decade of growth and with the recent opening of the new Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade, we wanted to explore new ideas. One of these possibilities is [TRIP](#), a programme aimed at supporting the next generation of theatre directors who are bringing a different energy to Singapore theatre.

We saw an opportunity to create a programme within *The Studios* that could support early-career directors by giving them opportunities, resources and a platform. Through connecting them with an experienced creative and technical team, and providing them with a professional venue, we wanted to create a safe and supportive environment for these directors.

With this in mind, we launched an open call for *TRIP* in May 2022. Each selected director will direct two productions over the course of two years. In the first year, they will select a work from an assigned pool of scripts. In Year 2, they will stage a work of their choice. It is our hope that the selected directors can build on their experiences in *TRIP* to broaden their capacity and develop their careers.

After interviews and discussions with our Resource Panel of experienced theatre professionals (Aidli 'Alin' Mosbit, Edith Podesta, Sean Tobin), we selected **Sim Yan Ying "YY"** and **Renee Yeong** as our [directors](#) for the inaugural edition for *TRIP*. In April 2023, YY will be directing ***No Particular Order*** by **Joel Tan** and Renee will be directing ***I am trying to say something true*** by **Michelle Tan**.

We're excited to see these two passionate, thoughtful and articulate directors step up to this challenge, and invite audiences to join us in supporting their journeys.

Alicia Chong
Programmer
The Esplanade Co Ltd

About Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay

Esplanade is Singapore's national performing arts centre. It hosts a year-round line-up of about 3,500 live performances and activities presented by Esplanade, its partners and hirers. As an arts centre for everyone, Esplanade also creates opportunities for seniors, youth, children and underserved communities to experience the arts. More than 70% of the shows that take place each year at the centre are free for all to enjoy.

Esplanade also brings the arts virtually to audiences in Singapore and beyond, through its diverse range of digital programmes on [Esplanade Offstage](#), an all-access backstage pass to the performing arts and guide to Singapore and Asian arts and culture, with videos, podcasts, articles, quizzes and resources.

The centre works in close partnership with local, regional and international artists to develop artistic capabilities and content, push artistic boundaries and engage audiences. Esplanade supports the creation of artistic content by commissioning and producing new Singapore and Asian work for the international stage. It also develops technical capabilities for the industry nationally.

Esplanade –Theatres on the Bay is operated by The Esplanade Co Ltd (TECL), which is a not-for-profit organisation, a registered Charity and an Institution of a Public Character. The Charity Council awarded TECL the Charity Governance Award – Special Commendation for Clarity of Strategy in 2016 and 2022, and the Charity Transparency Award from 2016 – 2019 and 2022. Esplanade is Singapore's first Dementia-Friendly Arts Venue and a certified Dementia Go-To Point, as well as a Guide-dog Friendly centre.

TECL receives funding support from Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and its Community Programmes are supported by Tote Board Family, comprising Tote Board, Singapore Pools and Singapore Turf Club.

Visit [Esplanade.com](https://www.esplanade.com) for more information.

~ End ~

Issued by *The Esplanade Co Ltd*.

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Annexe

Esplanade Presents

The Studios: TRIP 2023

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TRIP is a new programme by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, presented as part of *The Studios*, that provides early-career directors with the opportunity to direct their own productions and showcase their work at the Esplanade Theatre Studio.

The two selected directors for the inaugural edition of *TRIP* are Renee Yeong and Sim Yan Ying “YY”. Please refer below for more information about the productions they will be directing and staging in April 2023.

To find out more about *TRIP* and the open call process, please click [here](#).

An Esplanade Commission
No Particular Order
Directed by Sim Yan Ying “YY”
Written by Joel Tan

1 & 2 Apr, Sat & Sun
Sat, 8pm
Sun, 3pm & 8pm
Esplanade Theatre Studio



A despot has come to power. The population is anxious, submissive and scared.

But beneath every violation of civil liberty, there are real human beings; behind every act of resistance, there is an individual willing to risk everything. And these people aren't heroic or remarkable - they're just like us.

Through a series of vignettes involving the lives of bureaucrats, soldiers, artists and tour guides, *No Particular Order* charts the fate of a society in turmoil to ask at every step of the way: is it empathy, or power, that endures?

Joel Tan's *No Particular Order* first debuted in May 2022 at London's Theatre503. Described as "startling and apocalyptic", the play was shortlisted for the Theatre503 International Playwriting Award as well as the 2022 George Devine Award. This performance marks its Singapore premiere.

Director: Sim Yan Ying “YY”

Playwright: Joel Tan

Performers: Arielle Jasmine Van Zuijlen, Karen Tan, Pavan J Singh and Shrey Bhargava

Lighting Designer: James Tan

Sound Designer: Lee Yew Jin (Ctrl Fre@k)
Set Designer: Hella Chan
Production Manager: Evelyn Chia (The Backstage Affair)
Stage Manager: Carolene Ruth Liew (The Backstage Affair)
Assistant Stage Manager: Irish Alcantara (The Backstage Affair)

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)

Performed in English

Advisory: Some mature content, including a brief depiction of sexual violence, and strong language

Ticket Price: \$28

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$23

Esplanade&Me Specials

Black & White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2) (Limited tickets)

About Sim Yan Ying “YY” (Director)



Sim Yan Ying “YY” (she/her) is a theatre artist based in Singapore and New York. She creates as a director, performer, writer, and deviser, and strives to make works that are experimental and accessible, physical in nature, and reflective of a diversity of lived experiences. YY believes in the power of live performance to bridge perspectives within and across communities in an increasingly polarised world.

Her original works include: *Where Are You?* (Wild Rice/Mabou Mines), a series of productions on how we experience grief and confront death; *Who Are You?* (Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay), a devised performance about migrant-local relationships in Singapore; *I LOVE WHITE MEN* (Caveat NYC/Ars Nova/Dixon Place), a one-woman show excavating white worship and postcolonial baggage from an immigrant’s perspective in New York; and *Without Reason* (ArtsWok Collaborative/Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay) about the struggles of an interracial relationship in Singapore.

Digital works: *Who’s There?* (New Ohio Theatre), an international collaboration about the socio-political and racial unrests in 2020; *(un)becoming* (T:>Works N.O.W. 2021), exploring the complex dynamics of mother-daughter relationships in modern-day Singapore; and *Bloodlines* 血脉 (Fault Line Theatre), a work-in-progress with artists across the Sinosphere examining the volatility and promise of Chinese-ness.

YY obtained her Bachelor of Fine Arts at NYU Tisch, and has trained in programmes such as The Necessary Stage’s Devising Platform, Singapore Repertory Theatre’s Directing Residency, and SITI Company’s Summer Intensive.

www.simyanying.com

About Joel Tan (Playwright)



Photo credit: Crispian Chan

Joel Tan is a Singaporean playwright based in London and Singapore. Recent work includes *The Butterfly Lovers* (Victorian Opera/Wild Rice), *No Particular Order* at Theatre503 (shortlisted for the George Devine Award), *Tartuffe* (Wild Rice), *When The Daffodils* at the Orange Tree Theatre; *Living Archive* at the Royal Court; *Ghosts in the Blood* for Audible UK; *Overheard*, and *Augmented Chinatown* with Chinese Arts Now. Upcoming work includes new plays with Wild Rice, the Royal Court, Headlong Theatre, and the Almeida Theatre.

Joel also works inter-disciplinarily and has collaborated with visual artists, poets, musicians and dancers as a writer, director, and dramaturg.

An Esplanade Commission

I am trying to say something true

Directed by Renee Yeong

Written by Michelle Tan

8 & 9 Apr, Sat & Sun

Sat, 8pm

Sun, 3pm & 8pm

Esplanade Theatre Studio



Photo credit: Crispian Chan

After smashing her work computer in the office pantry in an uncharacteristic fit of rage, Risa is now sat in a room with Dr Robert, her newly acquired therapist. She cannot go back to how she was living before. Risa must look back on her own life to look forward. What caused her to end up at this exact spot?

Was it her Catholic *ah ma* whose funeral she skipped, her ex-girlfriend whom she loved deeply but broke up with, or her tendency to feel too much? Or maybe... something else entirely?

This is a story about loss—except, there is no new way to write about loss. You can't speak or write about loss, until you realise you can't speak or write about loss. So instead, this is a story about distance: the spaces between people and places, the gaps between past and present; and about living in the gulf between what we know and what we feel.

First commissioned for the 2018 season of *The Studios*, Michelle Tan's deeply intimate script explores the complexities of personal truth and emotional vulnerability.

Director: Renee Yeong

Playwright: Michelle Tan

Performer: Sabrina Sng
Lighting Designer: Gabriel Chan
Sound Designer: Jing Ng
Set Designer: Petrina Dawn Tan
Production Manager: Lam Dan Fong (The Backstage Affair)
Stage Manager: Celestine Wong (The Backstage Affair)
Assistant Stage Manager: Chong Wee Nee (The Backstage Affair)

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)

Performed in English

Advisory: Some mature themes

Ticket Price: \$28

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$23

Esplanade&Me Specials

Black & White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2) (Limited tickets)

About Renee Yeong (Director)



Renee Yeong (she/they) is a Singaporean director interested in telling contemporary stories about women, the LGBTQ+ community, people of colour, and other marginalised groups in Singapore, America, and beyond.

Her recent directing credits include *Lotus Root Support Group* (Singapore), *When We Were Young and Unafraid*, *Dry Land* (Playwrights Horizons Downtown/NYU), *Annie Aspen's Musical Space Spectacular!* (Ars Nova's ANT Fest), and *I LOVE WHITE MEN* (Dixon Place, Ars Nova's ANT Fest, and Caveat NYC).

As an assistant director, she has worked with Tony award-winning director Rachel Chavkin on Bess Wohl's world premiere play *Continuity* at Manhattan Theatre Club and Huzir Sulaiman on *The Nuclear Family* in 2020 for Checkpoint Theatre, up until its postponement.

Renee also works as a sound designer. Notable sound design credits include *9'0 Clock Problem* and *All the Different Ways Commodore Matthew Perry Could Have Died...* (Theatre in Quarantine), *Romeo + Juliet* (Hypokrit Theater Company), *Our Options Have Changed* (Flux Theatre Ensemble), among others.

Renee is a member of the 2019 Lincoln Center Director's Lab and an associate member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Union. She earned her Bachelor's of Fine Arts at NYU in Directing in 2018.

www.reneeyeong.com

About Michelle Tan (Playwright)



Michelle is a writer and drama educator and has recently concluded a six-month residency at Centre 42 as their inaugural writer-in-residence. As a playwright, her work has been produced by several local companies, including Cake Theatrical Productions and Singapore Repertory Theatre. Michelle currently teaches in the theatre department at the School of the Arts.

Photo credit: Juliana Tan