

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

18 July 2023



Inhabitants of Waterloo Street band together to bring to life untold stories of the street at Singapore Night Festival 2023

Waterloo Street Stories is a collaborative project by the #WaterlooStKakis for Singapore Night Festival 2023, to spotlight the dynamic and textured stories that make this street unique. At the heart of *Waterloo Street Stories* is a rich narrative of one of the main thoroughfares of the Bras Basah Bugis district, illustrated through movement, audio plays, music and photographs that responds to the oral histories of different Waterloo Street personalities.

Stretching from Rochor Road to Bras Basah Road, Waterloo Street is home to a diverse mix of communities, as well as religious, arts, food, and lifestyle organisations. This mix includes Centre 42, Objectifs, P7:1SMA, SMU-ACM (Arts and Culture Management Programme at Singapore Management University,) and The Theatre Practice, who each have been building their own artistic and educational communities on this street.

Through movement, audio plays, music and photographs, which respond to the original oral histories of different Waterloo Street personalities compiled by students from SMU-ACM, we invite audiences from around Singapore to celebrate these stories with us.

For the first time since becoming neighbours, the five organisations have come together to research, curate and produce an arts-led event that celebrates the histories and people of the street. They operate under an informally official collective name, **#WaterlooStKakis**, signifying a neighbourly and mutually supportive working ethos.

Waterloo Street Stories Highlights:

- **Exhibitions:** Outdoor installation of photo stories by emerging photographers Marc Chu, Muhammad Zulfadhli, Pek Yan Lin, and Sarah Tan. Also features an indoor showcase of a visual timeline map of the street, memories collected from Waterloo Street communities and an open call that invites the public to reimagine the future of the street.
- **Music Performances:** 2-night outdoor music showcase produced in collaboration with local music production house Panik Records, featuring emerging music artists Alicia DC, Angelo, Krysta Joy and Farizi.

The music will include original songs, covers and mixes inspired by the oral histories, street foley and a playlist of songs collected from Waterloo Street communities.

- **Audio Plays:** 4 short audio plays inspired by the oral histories, produced in collaboration with local audio creative house Artwave Studio, and written by playwrights selected through an open call - Christopher Chee, Laura Hayes, Lim Shien Hian and Rajkumar Thiagaras.
- **Movement Responses:** Two movement responses to the oral histories and artistic outcomes of this project, which are intended to invite the audience to further reflect upon the past, present and future of Waterloo Street. Dance artists include: Kansh, Xie Shangbin, Eleanor Si Ying Ee, Nathania Lauren Sim, Dalilah Diyanah, Syarifuddin Sahari
- **Four Horse Road: After Hours:** Offering a rare opportunity to explore the nooks and crannies of a theatre, wander through installations and set pieces of The Theatre Practice's epic promenade theatre adventure, *Four Horse Road*. F&B friends Kai's (@drinkeatkw) and COUPCAT by BUNKERBUNKER will also be on hand to keep stomachs full and cups filled all night long.

Exhibitions, Performances, Movement Responses and Audio Plays

Venue: 155 Middle Road (Objectifs)

Dates and Time: 10 - 27 August 2023

Four Horse Road: After Hours

Venue: 54 Waterloo Street (The Theatre Practice)

Date/Time: 18, 19, 25 & 26 August 2023, 10.30pm onwards

For interview opportunities and any other media enquiries, please contact:

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Lim Ming Rui, Manager, Objectifs

For public information about the programmes, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/waterloo23>

ANNEX

About the Works and Presenting Organisations

WSS Audio Plays is presented by Centre 42 and Artwave Studio

Centre 42 and Artwave Studio present a collection of audio plays written by four playwrights selected through an open call process. In these imaginative shorts inspired by the oral histories collected for Waterloo Street Stories, a broken-hearted young man befriends a gnomish astrologer; a cat assists a woman on an adultery investigation; a young rebel negotiates the morality of a dystopic revolutionary Singapore; and in the near-future, a robot uncovers a heritage crime through shards of sound... Enigmatic, intimate, and boldly imaginative, these are plays that explore the complex inner worlds of both people and their non-human counterparts, subtly revealing the rich and humorous spirit world beneath our everyday ironies and heartbreak.

The four short audio plays are: “*The Battle of Waterloo Street*” by Lim Shien Hian, “*Hide and Seek*” by Laura Hayes, “*Stranger Signs*” by Rajkumar Thiagaras, and “*[Classified] Project Demolition 2058 A.D.*” by Christopher Chee. These are developed with dramaturgical support from playwright Joel Tan, directed by Cheryl Woo and Ng Sze Min, and produced in collaboration with local audio creative house Artwave Studio. The plays will premiere as part of Waterloo Street Stories housed at Objectifs - come hear these plays first at the Lower Gallery, while soaking in the Waterloo Street vibes. They will also be made available online after the festival.

Centre 42 is a theatre development space committed to the creation, documentation and promotion of Singapore theatre, particularly in text-based works. We incubate original writings for the stage, support the development of artists and new works, and manage a functional archive documenting the histories and processes of Singapore theatre. Centre 42 is located at 42 Waterloo Street, and has called the Blue House its home since 2014.

www.centre42.sg

Artwave Studio is an audio content house creating meaningful encounters in sustainability, wellness and the arts. Artwave is a team of creative writers, voiceover artists, sound designers and audio engineers assembled to produce original podcasts & novel audio-first experiences for audiences and organisations. With our strong understanding of story and ability to curate experiences, we create opportunities for meaningful encounters, taking inspiration from the most ordinary of things; objects, food, books, rituals and more. <https://artwave.studio/>

Waterloop is presented by P7:1SMA

‘*Waterloop*’ is a performance that considers a timelapse of sounds and energies on Waterloo street. As it loops through time, the rhythmic gestures offer a counter-perspective in which history never leaves. History insists on existing, disappearing and reappearing in daily life. Once known as a one-way street, the architecture and rhythms on Waterloo Street mirrors the flow of community.

Choreographed by Norhaizad Adam, *Waterloop* will be performed by Kansh, Xie Shangbin, Eleanor Si Ying Ee, Nathania Lauren Sim, Dalilah Diyanah and Syarifuddin Sahari. The performance will be accompanied by a foley track by Farizi.

Dates: 25 and 26 August 2023

Times: 8:30 pm and 9:30 pm

Venue: Courtyard, Objectifs

P7:1SMA is a dance performance company that embodies traditional and contemporary practices. Our body of work advocates the relevance of culture across communities. We hope to shift the perspective of Malay culture, identity and dance through intimate and innovative performance experiences. www.p71sma.com

WSS Exhibition is presented by Objectifs Centre for Photography and Film

Originating from the oral histories collected for Waterloo Street Stories, four emerging photographers, Marc Chu, Muhammad Zulfadhli, Pek Yan Lin, and Sarah Tan, spent some time photographing 18 individuals who live and work in the neighbourhood.

From a priest that makes cocktails at a Catholic social enterprise cafe to a private investigator who started a fundraising campaign for the community cat's medical fees, each photo series tells a unique tale, showcasing the remarkable diversity of people and culture on Waterloo Street.

The stories will be exhibited in Objectifs' courtyard as part of Waterloo Street Stories, and visitors can also sign up for guided shoots led by the participating photographers over the festival weekends.

Dates: 10 – 27 August

Time: Tues - Sat, 12pm - 7pm, Sun, 12pm - 4pm (closed Mondays)

Venue: Courtyard, Objectifs

Objectifs is a visual arts space in Singapore that is dedicated to film and photography. Our goal is to cultivate original voices in visual storytelling, and to inspire and broaden perspectives through the power of images. We do this by presenting a year round programme of exhibitions, screenings, workshops, talks, mentorships and residencies, aimed at fostering dialogue about visual culture, and advancing the practice and appreciation of photography and film. www.objectifs.com.sg

WSS Oral Histories, Community Exhibition and Live Music Showcase are presented by SMU Arts and Culture Management Programme

Inspired by the power of the arts to build community and ignite shared experiences, a group of Arts and Culture Management students from Singapore Management University – Ansley Goh, Chloe Lye and Faith Lim – undertook the arduous task of unearthing and documenting the original oral histories of the unique personalities behind 18 diverse businesses on the Street.

Pop into the Lower Gallery at Objectifs and get to know the overlooked yet relatable living histories and memories of the communities of Waterloo Street from yesteryear to today. From a third-generation umbrella florist to an entrepreneurial gelato-maker and the grandson of one of the first few sarabat stall owners who invented Indian Rojak, discover the shared experiences and unexpected connections that enrich Waterloo Street and relate to the

everyday histories and commendable resilience of its communities. Come by to connect and envision a Waterloo Street that you would love to spend more time at, feel at home in, and be proud of.

Wander around Waterloo Street to discover our pop-up audio series and get to know the Street and its inhabitants. Each audio stop uplifts local histories and stories of the Waterloo Street Communities. Find an audio stop, listen, enjoy, and share part of your story.

Join us after hours on 18 and 19 August for a mix of music, dance, drinks and connection! Local music artists – ALICIA DC, Angelo, Farizi and Krysta Joy will debut their original song responses to the oral histories collected for Waterloo Street Stories. Apart from soulful performances featuring a raw blend of voice and acoustic instrumentation, they will also entertain audiences with covers of songs dedicated to Waterloo Street, from its communities. Plus, be ready to move and groove with dance artists from P7:1SMA! This live music showcase is produced in collaboration with P7:1SMA and local music production house Panik Records.

Community Exhibition

Dates: 10 – 27 August

Time: Tues - Sat, 12pm - 7pm, Sun, 12pm - 4pm (closed Mondays)

Venue: Lower Gallery, Objectifs

Pop-Up Audio Series

Dates: 10 – 27 August

Venue: Around Waterloo Street

Live Music Showcase

Dates: 18 and 19 August

Time: 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Venue: Courtyard, Objectifs

The **Arts and Culture Management Programme** at Singapore Management University (SMU-ACM) is a second major that provides an interdisciplinary blend of conceptual and skills-based learning to equip students with the foundational knowledge, managerial aptitude and strategic reflexivity for entry into the arts and creative industries. The hallmark strengths of ACM are the close linkages to the arts and cultural policy communities in Southeast Asia, and focus on experiential industry projects intended to sharpen the professional competencies and cultural leadership potential of students.

Panik Records (PK Records) is an independent production house founded in 2021 with a genuine passion for Singapore music. Their careful curation of artists has resulted in over a million streams across their produced tracks, with a myriad of genres ranging across soul, R&B, indie folk and more.

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Four Horse Road: After Hours (四马路:不打烊) *is presented by The Theatre Practice*

When the curtains go down, the party begins.

What lies behind the doors of this blue and white heritage shophouse? An unexpected side of Waterloo Street reveals itself with *Four Horse Road: After Hours*.

Offering a rare opportunity to explore the nooks and crannies of a theatre, wander through installations and set pieces of The Theatre Practice's epic promenade theatre adventure, *Four Horse Road*. Chill out at one of the many atmospheric spaces or let loose as our black box theatre transforms into a dance floor. You might even encounter some unexpected surprises along the way! Our friends Kai's (@drinkeatkw) and COUPCAT by BUNKERBUNKER will also be on hand to keep stomachs full and cups filled all night long.

Find out more about [Four Horse Road](#), happening from 4 August to 3 September at [practice.bigtix.io](#).

Dates: 18, 19, 25, 26 August 2023

Time: 10.30pm onwards

Venue: The Theatre Practice

The Theatre Practice (Practice) is Singapore's longest-standing professional bilingual theatre institution. Artist-driven and deeply progressive, Practice strives to be an arts space in Singapore that consciously nurtures and empowers people who care about humanity. Over the past 58 years, we have developed and presented works that aim to reflect the richness and complexities of Singapore's diverse cultures. Artistically diverse and constantly relevant, Practice will always engage in the ceaseless exploration of new frontiers. <https://practice.org.sg/>

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