

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**24 August 2023**



***The Vault: Past Perfect* brings the energy and legacy of theatre-making in the 90s back on stage**

*The Vault: Past Perfect* returns, after the success of its first showing at the Singapore International Festival of Arts (SIFA) this May. With two sold-out shows previously, the production puts a spotlight on the invigorating years of the theatre scene in the 90s, where local theatrical works began experimenting with non-conventional approaches to making theatre. On the occasion of watching its first showing, one of our audience members comments, “a valuable and precious recap and reflection on (the) theatre scene in the 90s”.

Taking place from **25-29 October 2023**, hear from three practitioners who were active during these times of theatre-making: **Oniatta Effendi**, **Serene Chen** and **Nelson Chia**. Recounting the 90s as some of their formative years in theatre that have shaped them to who they are today, they will highlight the rich history of theatre-making then through their personal experiences and voices. Expect more tidbits and artefacts from this decade of growth and experimentation in Singapore theatre, and expanded scenes!

Conceptualised by co-founders Robin Loon and Casey Lim under Centre 42's signature *The Vault* programme, *Past Perfect* will document impressions and perspectives of the 1990s through texts from scripts. Featuring excerpts from iconic plays like *Sunset Rise* (1999) and *Undercover* (1994), it carries on the themes of nostalgia from its SIFA run, while asking what nostalgia can productively achieve.

Seeking to inspire the next generation of theatre-makers, Dr Robin Loon says, "As you reminisce and indulge in a sentimental way yearning for a bygone era, you may become keenly aware of how you are shaped by what you have learned. So, what nostalgia could really do is teach us about now." This updated staging of *The Vault: Past Perfect* hopes to outreach to the younger generation as a way of illuminating what came before, while also appealing to the importance of remembering as the foundation for charting a way forward.

*The Vault: Past Perfect* will be staged from 25-29 October 2023, at the Black Box, 42 Waterloo Street. Tickets are priced at \$28 and can be [purchased via Eventbrite here](#). We offer a special \$21 concession price for arts students, and dedicated post-show sessions "After Words" as part of the efforts to unpack the show for younger audiences.

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

**Jaclyn Chong**

Programmes and Communications Executive

Centre 42

[jaclynchong@centre42.sg](mailto:jaclynchong@centre42.sg)

## ARTIST BIOS



**Casey Lim** has been acting, directing, designing and creating digital images for more than 20 years. He was the Associate Artistic Director of Theatreworks (1999). He is one-fourth of the collective TAFY (Two-And-Fifty-Years) which founded the Centre in 2014. Casey's decision to head the centre as its Executive Director is a testimony of his commitment to the arts in Singapore. He is looking forward to working with, talking and listening to artists and practitioners in Singapore and beyond. Casey is deeply committed to the collaborative processes involving writers, actors, dramaturgs and directors in the creation of new works and the reviving of canonical classical pieces..



**Robin Loon** is a playwright, academic and dramaturg. As a playwright, Robin Loon's recent works include contributing text to LIFT [TheatreWorks, 2013]. as writer and dramaturg of CASTING BACK [Esplanade's 10th Anniversary 2012], as translator & dramaturg for 男男自语 [Singapore Arts Festival 2012], as writer & dramaturg of BLUE PRINCE [The Blue Statemen, 2012], as writer of MATA HATI [Teater Ekamatra, 2011]. Apart from play-writing, Robin Loon also consults on many theatre projects as dramaturgs. Robin Loon currently teaches the Introduction to Theatre & Performance module & modules in Singapore

English Language Theatre & Theatre Criticism at the Theatre Studies Programme, National University of Singapore.



**Oniatta Effendi** is the Founder of Baju by Oniatta and owner of Galeri Tokokita. A Singaporean by birth, Oniatta has always had a love for artistry. Trained as an educator, she taught for over 21 years in various institutions, including Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore Polytechnic, LASALLE College of the Arts, and secondary schools. She is also an applied drama practitioner and works with youth offenders at rehabilitative spaces, youths with special needs, children in welfare homes as well as ex-inmates with addiction issues at a halfway house.



**Serene Chen** is an actress, host, voice artist and lecturer. In the late nineties, she spent the first 3 years of her professional career as an Producer-Presenter in Singapore's first arts radio station, Passion 99.5FM. Fast forward to 2023, she is an award-winning bilingual actress. For The Straits Times Life Theatre Awards, she won Best Supporting Actress in 2004 for "Landmarks: Asian Boys Volume 2" (Wild Rice), 2014's "8 Women" (S'ing Theatre), and 2016's "Public Enemy" (Wild

Rice). Serene continues to act on stage and screen. In 2022, she was a co-host on the podcast series, "Backlogues".



**Nelson Chia** is the co-founder and artistic director of Nine Years Theatre (NYT), an award-winning director, performer, writer and educator. He is an active player on the Singapore stage for more than three decades, taking on numerous major and leading roles in English and Mandarin productions. A graduate of Goldsmiths College, London (MA in Directing) and National University of Singapore (BA, Hons, Theatre Studies), Nelson was Head of Department for Theatre at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, adjunct lecturer at LASALLE College of the Arts and full-time lecturer of Theatre Studies Programme at the National University of Singapore. He was the Associate Artistic Director of Toy Factory Productions (2003 - 2013), a Resident Artist with The Theatre Practice (2000 - 2002), an Associate Artist with The Substation (2007 - 2009), and a founding member of the ensemble collective A GROUP OF PEOPLE (2008 - 2012).



**Centre 42** is a non-profit arts organisation with IPC status committed to the creation, documentation and promotion of text-based works for the Singapore stage. As a theatre development space and intermediary, we incubate original writings for the stage, support the development of artists and new works, and develop and maintain a functional archive documenting the histories and processes of Singapore theatre.

Centre 42 is developed in collaboration with the National Arts Council (NAC), and officially opened in 2014. Visit our website and C42's Archive of SG Theatre [here](#).