



## MEDIA FACT SHEET

6 April 2015

# CENTRE 42 LAUNCHES ITS ONLINE REPOSITORY DOCUMENTING THE HISTORY OF SINGAPORE THEATRE.

- The Repository** is Centre 42's purely digital archive of informational artefacts from Singapore's theatre history. This resource platform aims to provide users an impression or overview of the trends and developments in the local theatre scene over the decades. This historical impression is intended to encourage interested members of the public to delve further into our national theatre history, whether it be through exploration of The Repository or other historical archives and databases.
- The planning, collection, digitisation and presentation of The Repository has spanned 8 months, since the blueprint of the programme was announced at the Centre's official opening in July 2014. This has been a collective effort with contributions from the following theatre companies:

  - Cake Theatrical Productions
  - Checkpoint Theatre
  - spell#7
  - The Finger Players
  - The Necessary Stage
  - W!ld Rice
  - Drama Box
  - Singapore Repertory Theatre
  - Teater Ekamatra
  - The Esplanade
  - The Theatre Practice
  - Toy Factory
- At launch, The Repository will have **over 800 artefacts**, contributed by 6 theatre companies spanning Singapore's theatre history from **1987 to 2015**. The launch collection of artefacts mainly comprises publicity materials from past theatre productions, such as programme booklets and flyers.
- The Repository is a free resource accessible to the public. Users can browse the catalogue of artefacts online (<http://repository.centre42.sg>) to preview the cover visual of the artefact and some key facts about the production (date, playwright/director, presenter etc). To view the full high-resolution copy of the digitised artefacts, users can visit Centre 42's Library to gain access to the full content of the artefact.
- The Repository is expected to grow in size and with the long-term goal of expanding the collection to include other types of audio-visual artefacts. The Centre is appealing to all theatre companies, institutions, collectives – current and defunct – and individual practitioners to help build The Repository and contribute to the documentation of local theatre works.
- The next phase of The Repository's development will be focused on collaborating with artists and researchers to present works, such as essays, commentaries and presentations, based off the collection of artefacts. These creations will be made available in digital formats on the Repository website.



CENTRE 42 LIMITED

42 Waterloo Street, Singapore 187951 | +65 68849698 | info@centre42.sg | www.centre42.sg

Company Registration Number: 201403108H

## OTHER PROGRAMME UPDATES

1. **Book Den** is a listing and collection of books on Singapore Theatre, and is a complementary resource to The Repository. Via the online catalogue (<http://bookden.centre42.sg>), users can browse key publication details, get directed to the publisher's site to purchase, or choose to come by Centre 42 to browse a copy of the book, if available. The listing and browsing collection is mainly contributed by the following publishing houses and theatre companies:

- Drama Box
- Epigram Books
- The Finger Players
- The Necessary Stage
- Select Books

The collection also comprises book donations from individuals.

At launch, the Book Den will display **over 80 publication titles**, with more than 50% of these titles available as physical copies for browsing at Centre 42.



2. Since the Centre's opening, 2 sessions of the **Living Room** have been presented. The inaugural was hosted by the Centre's Chief Consultant Dr Robin Loon, while the second was in collaboration with the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival 2015 and hosted by its artistic director Sean Tobin. Both sessions saw an average audience size of 40, which kept to the programme's intention towards an intimate engagement with its guest and audience.

The upcoming Living Room is a series hosted by veteran journalist and actor Koh Boon Pin, and continues the focus on local playwrights. In 2 separate evenings, Boon Pin chats with Russell Heng (10 April) and Desmond Sim (17 April) about their respective personal journeys in theatre:

10 & 17 April, 8pm @ Centre 42 Black Box

Free admission. Register at <http://c42livingroomboonpin.eventbrite.sg>



3. **Boiler Room** was the first programme launched by the Centre in April 2014. The 2014 inaugural cycle is in its final review phase where the first drafts of the playwrights' scripts are evaluated from perspectives and expertise of an established playwright, a practicing director and experienced actor(s).

Edith Podesta directed Daniel Chan's test-read on 28 March 2015. Nelson Chia will be directing Suzanne Choo's test-read on 18 April 2015. The third playwright, Bryan Tan, is on a parallel review track that requires additional drafting time, due to the complexity of the material.

Open call for proposals for the next cycle – **Boiler Room 2015** – will begin 7 April, and close 6 May 2015. The one-month call hopes to receive applicants who enjoy the rigours of research, reflection and reviewing in the process of writing. The programme framework remains similar to the 2014 cycle.

Application details: <http://centre42.sg/boiler-room-open-call-2015>



4. **The Garage** is Centre 42's new practice development platform. The first programme under this is a dramaturgy apprenticeship programme aimed at young artists/fresh theatre-based graduates looking to be trained as dramaturges, or existing practitioners looking to develop and diversify their skill sets. The 2015 pilot cycle spans 12 months, from April 2015 to March 2016, and follows a three-phased framework: Theory Discursive, Project Work and Industry Attachment. The apprentices work together with the Master Dramaturge, Dr Robin Loon, throughout the phases to provide and review self-assessment reports. The pilot batch of apprentices have been selected through a closed-call application process.



More details about the selected dramaturge apprentices and programme development will be released end April.

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For any enquiries, please contact:

**Ma Yanling** | Marketing & Communications Manager, Centre 42 Limited  
Tel: +65 6884 9698 | Email: [yanling@centre42.sg](mailto:yanling@centre42.sg)

#### **About Centre 42**

Centre 42 is a non-profit organisation committed to the creation, documentation and promotion of texts and writings for the Singapore stage. The centre is a research and developmental initiative that aims to support the Singapore theatre industry by creating original writing for interested theatre companies and arts organisations for production development, while accumulating a functional archive documenting the histories and processes of Singapore theatre. For more information on Centre 42's programmes and initiatives, please visit [www.centre42.sg](http://www.centre42.sg).



Centre 42 is developed in collaboration with the National Arts Council.