

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Centre 42 presents:



Come celebrate a night of text-based works in fun, bite-sized experiences with us!

Singapore, 18 July 2016 – The fun officially starts after the sun goes down, and Centre 42 is throwing open the doors of its blue house on Waterloo Street on Saturday, 20 August for the public to enjoy a free evening of exciting textual experiences. Held in conjunction with the Singapore Night Festival, this one night only event is titled Late-Night Texting and features over 15 bite-sized, text-based performances by four local groups.

As a non-profit organisation that supports new writing for the Singapore stage, Centre 42 provides a space and platform for theatre makers to create works. With Late-Night Texting, the Centre hopes to serve as a playground for the wider arts community to experiment with text-based performances. The event also provides an opportunity for visitors to explore the quiet but charming enclave of Waterloo Street.

The line-up for Late-Night Texting includes EAT MY SHORTS by **Dark Matter Theatrics**, which comprises a series of nine short plays, each ten minutes long, written by local playwrights and enacted by Danielle Cutiongco, Salif Hardie and Jasmine Xie. Short plays have rarely been staged in Singapore since the Short and Sweet Festival ended in 2011, so this would be a great opportunity to experience this format in performance. **Saga Seed Theatre**, meanwhile, is showing SEEDY STORIES, where six sensational stories of crime, conspiracies, and superstitions are brought to life around the nooks and crannies of Centre 42, starring Deonn Yang, Ric Liu, Tim Nga and Zelda Tatiana Ng, and directed by Thong Pei Qin. A more detailed synopsis for the plays in both programmes can be found in Annex B.

For something more off-the-cuff, there's A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC by **Les Musicables**, the musical theatre arm of The Improv Company, who promises to stage two full-scale improvised musicals based on audience suggestions. And last but not least is ONE MIC STAND by **destination: INK**, which sees eight poets take to the mic for a series of spoken word performances.

On top of these showcases, **BooksActually** is setting up a pop-up store for those looking to build up their collection of local literature, while the **Coffee Bandits** food truck is on hand to keep the food and drinks flowing all night long.

Ms Ma Yanling, Marketing and Communication Manager at Centre 42, says: "Late-Night Texting came about when some artists approached us with ideas to try out short

performances that are easy to stage and are fun for both the performers and audiences, and that's what we have made it to be! By presenting this event in conjunction with the annual Singapore Night Festival, we hope to contribute to the vibrancy of Waterloo Street during the precinct-wide event and bring new audiences into our blue house to get to know text-based works presented by local artists."

For media enquiries, please contact:

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ANNEX A - About

Centre 42

Centre 42 is a non-profit organisation with charity status committed to the creation, documentation and promotion of texts and writings for the Singapore stage. We incubate original writing for production development; provide space for artists and new work creation; and develop a functional archive documenting the histories and processes of Singapore theatre. Centre 42 is developed in collaboration with the National Arts Council, and officially opened in 2014.

Dark Matter Theatrics

Dark Matter Theatrics aims to engage people from all walks of life with honest and impactful storytelling. The collective consists of playwright-director Christopher Fok, actor Lian Sutton and playwright Marcia Vanderstraaten. When they aren't working together on plays they love, they're variously engaged in library work, report writing and drinking beer. EAT MY SHORTS is envisioned as a new annual short play festival, debuting its pilot mini edition in 2016 as part of Centre 42's Late-Night Texting event.

Saga Seed Theatre

Saga Seed Theatre aims to be a nucleus to bring together artists from different backgrounds and stages of artistic growth to share experiences and create new original work. They envision a culture of inclusivity and open collaboration in making theatre, and strive to build bridges across generations. SEEDY STORIES is Saga Seed Theatre's POP-UP PLAYS August edition, bringing to audiences not-staged-before short plays written by local playwrights. They will be performed in site-specific settings at Centre 42's Late-Night Texting event.

The Improv Company

The Improv Company specialises in improvised theatre, forsaking the safety of scripts for spontaneous storytelling. Dedicated to spreading the art of improvisation throughout Singapore and making theatre accessible to everyone, they hold regular classes and shows. The Improv Company held its inaugural Improv Theatre Festival in Centre 42 in June 2016. A LITTLE NIGHT MUSICAL brings back this improvisational theatre form to tickle new audiences in Late-Night Texting.

destination: INK

destination: INK is Singapore's longest running open-open mic and an incubator for original literary/visual/sonic experiments. Performers include Stephanie Dogfoot, Victoria Lim, Cheyenne Alexandria Phillips, Liy & Z, Marylyn Tan, Shaan Sipahimalani and Charlene Shepherdson. ONE-MIC STAND is a first time showcase of spoken word performances in Centre 42, broadening the notion of performative text works.

BooksActually

BooksActually (est. 2005) is an independent bookstore specialising in Literature (including obscure and critical works). In their bookstore, you can often find literary trinkets in the form of stationery and other lovely tchotchkes. They publish and distribute books under their imprint Math Paper Press, and they also hand-stitch notebooks and produce stationery under Birds & Co. A first time partnership with Centre 42, BooksActually will be bringing literary titles beyond the Centre's current collection of published plays.

Coffee Bandits

Coffee Bandits is Singapore's only coffee specialty food truck. Besides coffee, they serve food and pride themselves on great service. This is the second year Coffee Bandits is partnering with Centre 42 for the Night Festival event; fuelling visitors with night bites, caffeine and alcohol to last the texting experiences.

ANNEX B - Synopses

EAT MY SHORTS

FAKE IT, IT'S REAL by Yang Ming

Claire Lim wants larger breasts, but her most trusted plastic surgeon Dr Malcolm Ang wants to close his clinic and move to Tibet. Will Claire convince Dr Ang to perform the operation?

ASSASSINS by Tan Suet Lee

Mr Ross wants to hire an assassin to kill his son, for the good of his son's future. He mulls over the idea with his bodyguard.

THE KNOT by Jean Tay

The Knot is a surrealistic play exploring the breakdown of marriage.

MY LAST DATE (AND HOW I RECTIFIED IT) by Christopher Fok

Boy and Girl are on their second date. But what they say to each other isn't always what they say in their heads.

PERIOD ROOM by Ellison Tan Yu Yang

As Grandmother's body lies waiting for an autopsy, Granddaughter and Father have a heated conversation about sending Grandmother to the hospital.

BADANG: THE INTERVIEW by Nur Hamidah

Badang is the descendant of a legendary strongman. He attends an interview to become the spokesperson of an upmarket condominium.

WHY I DON'T TAKE MA ON HOLIDAY by Dora Tan

Wei and Ma are waiting to board their flight to Australia. An argument breaks out between them when Wei discovers what Ma has packed for the trip.

MEANWHILE SOME HISTORY AT A WEDDING by Gabriele Goh

Two ex-lovers meet at a mutual friend's wedding and talk about love and relationships.

TRAFFIC by Marcia Vanderstraaten

Things become complicated when a wife is unable to tell her husband from his twin brother.

SEEDY STORIES

THE DRAGON, THE PHOENIX AND THE MOTHER by Gabriele Goh

A woman has her fortune told. But palm-reading is a dodgy business, and she ends up more than she bargained for.

CON! by Dan Koh

A con-man goes for an easy target. And none come easier than the old Ah Ma down the HDB corridor.

KITTENS by Joanne Tay

The disgruntled gangsta cat plots a daring escape. Will he heed the voice of caution?

OPERATION MISTY MOUNTAIN by Luke Vijay

Elements of the Armed Forces plan shadowy conspiracies. Ultra-top-secret. Shhh.

THREE RULES OF WHORE by Eugene Koh

What does it take to be a whore? Attend Whore 101 and find out!

G.F.E. by Chong Woon Yong

A man deliberates over visiting brothels in Geylang, but not before recounting his past 'Girl Friend Experiences'. (Performed in Mandarin and English.)

Annex C – Fact Sheet

Title: Late-Night Texting

Date: Saturday, 20 August 2016

Time: 7pm – 11pm

Venue: Centre 42, 42 Waterloo Street, Singapore 187951

Admission: Free

Website: centre42.sg/latenighttexting

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