

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Asian Dramaturgs' Network Symposium returns for second edition

Co-hosted by Singapore's Centre 42 and Japan's Performing Arts Meeting in Yokohama

Singapore, January 2017 — Following the success of the inaugural **Asian Dramaturgs' Network (ADN)** Symposium, which was held in Singapore in April 2016, the event is set to return for its second edition. This time, it is taking place in **Yokohama, Japan**, from **16 to 18 February 2017**. **Centre 42** is the institutional partner that supports the network's programmes, and it is co-hosting the 2017 edition with the **Performing Arts Meeting in Yokohama** (also known as TPAM).

Dramaturgy has been playing an increasingly important role for both dance and theatre performances in recent years, and ADN was founded with the aim of bringing together the small but active community of dramaturgs within the Asian region. It serves as a platform for dramaturgs and other arts practitioners to network, exchange ideas and observations from their personal practice. It also provides them with an opportunity to promote their craft, and educate interested members of the public about dramaturgy.

Says **Dr Lim How Ngean**, the founding director of ADN: "Our inaugural meeting in Singapore – whose theme was 'Mapping Out, In & About' – called attention to the exigent practice and theory of dramaturgy that may be unique to the region. This call in turn saw a gathering of dramaturgs, arts practitioners and scholars from the region to discourse in a focused manner on what it means to practice dramaturgy, what it means to dramaturg and whether there is such a thing as 'Asian dramaturgy and the dramaturg'. And so with ADN 2017, which is titled '**Tracing Asian Dramaturgy**', we zoom in on specific practices of our host country, Japan, where we turn to local dramaturgs and arts practitioners for their take and strategies on working out dramaturgy in performance."

A total of 27 speakers – up from 21 last year – from 11 countries are participating in the ten events taking place at ADN 2017, most of which are opened to members of the public. Singapore is represented by playwright **Alfian Sa'at**, theatre educator, researcher and practitioner **Charlene Rajendran**, artistic director of Cake Theatrical Productions **Natalie Henedige**, and Centre 42's resident dramaturg **Dr Robin Loon**. They are appearing on a range of panels, such as "**Dramaturgies of Female Performance**" and "**Gendered/Queer Dramaturgies**". Additionally, acclaimed theatre director **Ong Keng Sen** is delivering a keynote lecture on the dramaturgical methodologies he encountered and employed throughout his career.

As the institutional partner of ADN, Centre 42 hopes to continue fostering the development of dramaturgy within the region. The 2017 edition is held at BankART Studio NYK as part of TPAM, a performing arts platform that is committed to promoting and exploring the possibilities of contemporary performing arts exchange through performances and meetings. It is supported by the Japan Foundation and the National Arts Council of Singapore.

Admission fees range from ¥500 to ¥3,500. More information about ADN, the programme schedule and speakers' bios can be found at: www.asiandramaturgs.com

FACT SHEET

Title: Asian Dramaturgs' Network Symposium 2017 – Tracing Asian Dramaturgy

Dates: Thursday, 16 February – Saturday, 18 February, 2017

Times: Thursday & Saturday: 10.30am – 5.30pm; Friday: 10.30am – 6.30pm

Venue: BankART Studio NYK, 3-9 Kaigan-dori, Naka-ku, Yokohama 231-0002

Admission: ¥500 to ¥3,500

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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.

About TPAM

TPAM (Performing Arts Meeting in Yokohama) is a space where professionals from various places in the world who explore the possibility of contemporary performing arts exchange through performance and meeting programs to gain information, inspiration and network for the creation, dissemination and vitalization of performing arts. Established in 1995 as Tokyo Performing Arts Market and moved in 2011 to the "Creative City" Yokohama. Reinforcing its focus on Asia and having started to involve itself in Asian co-production, TPAM is internationally recognized as one of the most influential performing arts platforms in Asia.