

## **Split Theatre presents “Don’t Cancer Me Can”: Marking its inaugural Work On The Self programme**

- *Upcoming production features a devised script revolving around the performers’ real-life stories, as they respond with their own organic interpretations of the theme*
- *The performance marks the conclusion of Split Theatre’s inaugural Work On The Self programme, which is now accepting registrations for its January 2022 run*
  - *Tickets to “Don’t Cancer Me Can” are now available*



The Split Theatre Ensemble, facilitators of Split Theatre’s Work On The Self programme, will perform in the upcoming “Don’t Cancer Me Can”, spotlighting their own personal stories. (From left to right: Cheng Xin Rui; Lim Jun De – Associate Artist; Damien Ng; Clement Yeo; Sreya Sanyal; Ella Wee).

**Singapore, 19 November 2021** – “Don’t Cancer Me Can”, a highly personal performance organised by local nonprofit startup [Split Theatre](#) and supported by the National Arts Council (NAC), will feature the Split Theatre Ensemble and take place at The Arts House on 18 to 21 December 2021 across various timings. The performance is the culmination of Split Theatre’s inaugural [“Work On The Self”](#) programme, a recurring 10-week initiative funded by the National Youth Council (NYC).

This exclusive performance will feature diverse individuals comprising the Split Theatre Ensemble – permanent artistes of Split Theatre aged 22 to 29, who have themselves undergone the Work On The Self pilot programme and now serve as facilitators for the inaugural intake of participants. The Ensemble includes a voiceover talent and stunt performer with Autism Spectrum Disorder; a circus contortionist; as well as current undergraduates at the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University and LASALLE

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College of the Arts, among others. Audiences can look forward to seeing their personal stories and interpretations of the theme – “Don’t Cancer Me Can” – unfold on stage, with a unique script devised from their real-life anecdotes.

In line with Work On The Self’s mission to allow a safe space for healing through theatre, by blending actor training with personal development coaching, programme participants are guided to create their own theatrical “scores” – a mix of drama, song and movement – based on their personal memories, enabling them to tackle past obstacles. They will engage in various solo, partner and group exercises informed through years of academic and practical research undertaken by Founder and Artistic Director, Mr Darryl Lim – featuring physical theatre principles inspired by the work of renowned theatre directors Konstantin Stanislavsky and Jerzy Grotowski.

Mr Lim said: “At the core of the Split Theatre blueprint is the human experience, and helping individuals make sense of that experience. With Work On The Self, we invite participants to not only explore healing and self-care with the help of physical theatre tools, but to also translate that reciprocal act of caring to audiences. Through this process, we hope to empower everyday people to find their voice, boldly express their stories, and seek solace in the stage.”

The Work On The Self programme is open to the public for registration and accepts participants with no prior performing experience. It is currently accepting sign-ups for its second run from 22 January to 26 March 2022, which too will culminate in a capstone performance that participants are invited to take part in.

Tickets for “Don’t Cancer Me Can” are available now exclusively [here](#) at S\$35.00 for the physical show. Livestream tickets will be released at a later date. Timings are as follows:

<b>18<sup>th</sup> December 2021</b>	Shows at 2:00pm and 8:00pm
<b>19<sup>th</sup> December 2021</b>	
<b>20<sup>th</sup> December 2021</b>	Show at 8:00pm
<b>21<sup>st</sup> December 2021</b>	

The physical show at The Arts House is a mask-on event that will be run in accordance with Safe Management Measures.

More information on the Split Theatre Ensemble can be found in the [Annex](#).

## **Work On The Self – Empowering Everyday Individuals Through Theatre**

Work On The Self was piloted in July 2021 to empower everyday people, as participants, to articulate and make sense of their real-life stories within a safe space – and grow as actors and individuals in the process. Topics explored and reframed during the programme have included personal identity and LGBTQ+ issues, mental health and wellness, the state and

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future of education, and more.

Work On The Self ran its first official pilot from 24 July to 25 September 2021. The programme was officially launched in October 2021 and is currently conducting its inaugural run with eight participants from 16 October to 11 December 2021. Four more programme runs will take place in 2022.

The programme will be held at Sigma Collective Space, 10 Raeburn Park, from 7.30pm to 10.30pm each Saturday. Participants can sign up at a price of S\$350 nett, or S\$625 nett per pair; they can also choose to pay upfront or in two installments.

Split Theatre aims to eventually expand the Work On The Self programme to schools, institutions and universities. More information about Work On The Self can be found here: <https://www.splittheatre.com/wots>.

## **Split Theatre Ensemble – The Road Ahead**

Once participants have completed the Work On The Self programme, they can potentially opt-in to become facilitators as well as choose to join the permanent Split Theatre Ensemble. They will undergo the Train the Trainer programme, with trial sessions to learn about the concepts theoretically before embodying their learnings through experience.

Four Ensemble training cycles are expected to take place in 2022, alongside each run of the programme. The theme for 2022 will be *“Rootedness”* – this will be followed by *“Trunk – Steadfastness of Self Within A Team”* in 2023, *“Branches – Diversification of Self Within A Team”* in 2024, *“Leaves – Making Food Independently To Be Shared Within A Team”* in 2025, and *“Fruits – Gift-Giving”* in 2026.

– End –

## **Photo Library**

- High-resolution photos can be downloaded via [this link](#).
- All photos should be credited to Split Theatre.

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## About Split Theatre


[Split Theatre](#) is a Singapore theatrical production house that focuses on developing stories from the personal experiences of its actors, with an emphasis on creating original, process-driven and ensemble-focused works. Founded in 2016 by former educator Darryl Lim, who now serves as Artistic Director, the Theatre aims to train actors, through improvisation, to construct and express their personal truths – resulting in a very specific form of storytelling that is not merely re-enactment or representation, but spotlighting real stories with very specific memories. In line with its motto, You Matter, Split Theatre aims to remember and heal the past and the Singaporean identity, and consequently build meaningful human-to-human relationships – actor-to-actor, director-to-actor, trainer-to-facilitator, facilitator-to-participant, and ultimately actor-to-audience.

More: [www.splittheatre.com](http://www.splittheatre.com)

Follow us: [facebook.com/splittheatre](https://facebook.com/splittheatre)

## Annex

### The Faces of Split Theatre

Core Administrative Team	
 <p><b>Darryl Lim</b> 31 Founder &amp; Artistic Director</p>	<p>Darryl Lim is a performer, deviser, playwright and researcher. His research interests stem from Grotowski's training and he seeks to facilitate the actor's work on their self, so that each individual in his team becomes a fuller and more complete human being. In this manner, as each actor grows to become who they really are and who they can be, Split Theatre becomes fuller and more complete in its mission as well: each person really matters.</p> <p>Darryl is a former educator of five years, a trained Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP) certification trainer, master practitioner and coach, and a certified coach (trained by Collective Change Institute and accredited by the International Coaching Federation). He has also obtained a Master of Arts in Theatre Studies Research.</p>
 <p><b>Mabel Yeo</b> 29 Marketing Manager &amp; Associate Artiste</p>	<p>Mabel Yeo is a graduate from the National University of Singapore Theatre Studies programme and is currently a freelance actor, and part-time speech and drama teacher with a great passion for singing. Her theatre credits include <i>Pursuant: A Musical</i> (Singapore Lyric Opera), <i>Split, Deaf, Fourteen, COLOURS, Put Your Hands Up!</i> and <i>Hands Up!</i> (Split Theatre) and children's puppet shows such as <i>Duckie Can't Swim</i> (Paper Monkey Theatre). She has been a singer since the age of eight, and one day hopes to be part of a musical performing worldwide.</p>
 <p><b>Fadhil Daud</b> 29 Videography &amp; Photography Editor, Associate Artiste</p>	<p>Fadhil Daud is an actor, voiceover performer and educator. His theatrical works include <i>Candide</i> (WILD RICE), <i>Anak Melayu</i> (Teater Kami), <i>SKIN</i> (Toy Factory) and <i>Deaf, Fourteen, COLOURS</i> and <i>Put Your Hands Up!</i> (Split Theatre). When he is not directing school plays, he can also be seen in commercials for Microsoft, Canon and McDonald's.</p>

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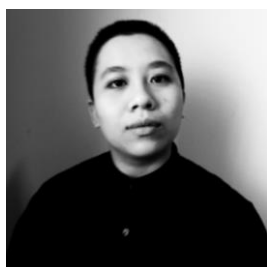
**Lexus Quek**

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Business Development &  
Administrative Manager

Lexus primarily handles the administrative and financial management of Split Theatre. He has been part of Split Theatre since 2015 when he acted in *Split*. Having no prior experience, Lexus fell in love with acting as it empowered him to play himself in someone's story. Since then, he has taken part in various productions with Split Theatre (such as *Deaf* and *Hands Up!*) and has grown to appreciate the art over time. A data analyst by profession, he deals with numbers and statistics. Split Theatre has shown him an entirely different side to life.

## Split Theatre Ensemble



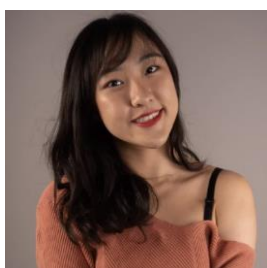
**Lim Ci Xuan**

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Actor & Work On The Self Facilitator

Lim Ci Xuan is in her third year of pursuing a double major in Chinese Studies and Theatre Studies at the National University of Singapore. She is a graduate of ARTivate (Drama Box youth wing) and a founding member of collective Matter.Less.

Her recent acting credits include *Dancing with Fish in the Midnight Zone* (Drama Box), *Dream Under the Southern Bough* (TOY Factory) and *Oedipus* (Toy Factory), *Mr Dong Guo* (Paper Monkey Theatre), and *Put Your Hands Up!*, *COLOURS*, *RESISTANCE* and *Prayer Meeting* by Split Theatre. She has been dabbling in movement work, puppetry, writing, visual arts and film of late.



**Ella Wee**

23

Actor & Work On The Self Facilitator

Ella Wee is a performer, writer and circus artist. She graduated from the National University of Singapore (NUS) with a double major in English Literature and Theatre Studies. She was also part of ACSian Theatre and Anglo-Chinese Junior College's Drama Elective Programme.

Her acting credits include *Prayer Meeting* and *Hands Up!* (Split Theatre), *The Vault: Ties That Bind* (NUS, Centre 42), *The Student Is Present* (NUS) and *Missing* (Missing Collective). She is a contortionist with Circus of Altrades and a member of S@ber, a poetry collective supported by SingLit Station.

Ella dabbles in movement, circus arts and poetry. Some of her poems can be found in various places.

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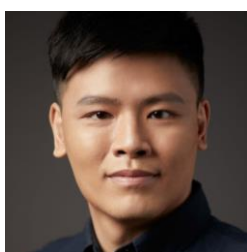


**Cheng Xin Rui**

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Actor & Work On The Self Facilitator

Cheng Xin Rui is a fourth-year Theatre Studies major at the National University of Singapore. He is a relative newcomer to the theatre scene. His recent acting credits include *Prayer Meeting* and *Hands Up!* (Split Theatre) and *The Story of Tonight* (The Runaway Company).



**Joash Zheng (they / them)**

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Actor & Work On The Self Facilitator

Joash Zheng is a performer, voiceover artiste and stunt performer with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Their select theatre credits include: *Urinetown: The Musical* (Pangdemonium), *牛转乾坤* (Esplanade / Paper Monkey Theatre), *The Last Five Years: A Gender Reversal* (Centre 42), and *Prayer Meeting* (Split Theatre).

Their television and voiceover credits include: *Kat Fish* (AMOK), *Zero Calling II* (Wei Yu), *Code of Law I* (Wei Yu), *Rojak* (Verite), *KIN: Matthew's Story* (Mediacorp), *Your Future in Energy* (Energy Market Authority), *City of Possibilities* (Singapore Tourism Board), *A Drive Like No Other* (Mitsubishi), *Setting You Apart* (Guocoland) and *Sleep Better* (Juzclean).

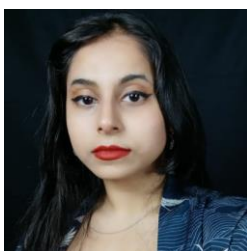


**Clement Yeo**

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Actor & Work On The Self Facilitator

Clement Yeo is a second-year Psychology student at Nanyang Technological University. He is a fan of storytelling because hearing different perspectives make his world bigger. His acting credits include *Prayer Meeting* and *Hands Up!* (Split Theatre) and *Youth Alive!* (Singapore Drama Educators Association and Singapore Association for Mental Health).



**Sreya Sanyal**

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Sreya Sanyal is a passionate graduate of WILD RICE's "young & WILD" programme who has performed with Split Theatre for *Prayer Meeting* and *Put Your Hands Up!*. She was also the Stage Manager for *Hands Up!* with Split Theatre.

Sreya graduated from the Singapore Management University and has been performing since she was five years old. She has been involved in productions such as *My Love Is Blind* (Musical Theatre Limited), *Wilderness* (The Runaway Company) and *1984* as well

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Actor & Work On The Self Facilitator	as <i>Ghost Light</i> (Singapore Repertory Theatre's The Young Company).
 <p><b>Damien Ng</b> 26 Actor &amp; Work On The Self Facilitator</p>	<p>Damien Ng is a stage and film actor who enjoys being in the company of people. He has been involved in <i>Prayer Meeting</i> and <i>RESISTANCE</i> with Split Theatre, as well as <i>House: Audio Play</i> (Actors of 2020) and <i>Telling Stories From Outside And Inside</i> (Singapore Biennale 2019). He graduated from LASALLE College of the Arts. Damien hopes to be a theatre director in the future, and has an interest in developing new perspectives from the world we live in.</p>
<b>Associate Artistes</b>	
 <p><b>Lim Jun De</b> 23 Associate Artiste</p>	<p>Lim Jun De is a freelance actor and playwright. He is in his final year of a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) of Acting at LASALLE College of the Arts, and is a graduate of WILD RICE's "young &amp; WILD" programme (2019).</p> <p>His theatre credits include <i>The Prince's Journey</i> by Ding Yi Music Company and <i>Prayer Meeting</i>, <i>COLOURS</i> and <i>RESISTANCE</i> by Split Theatre. His self-written and performed monologue "<i>(Re)Opening Up</i>" won the Viewer's Choice Award in Singapore Repertory Theatre (SRT)'s Coronalogues Competition (2020).</p> <p>His film credits include <i>Adulging</i> – Viddsee Web Series, <i>The Miracle Barbershop</i> – Viddsee Films, and <i>Once Upon A Katong</i> – National Heritage Board. He is currently working on his plays at the Playwright's Commune.</p>
 <p><b>Hoe Wei Qi</b> 28 Associate Artiste</p>	<p>Wei Qi is a Physics teacher by day and theatre person by night. She has worked on the Kim Seng Wind Symphony's annual concert, <i>Cabaret</i> (Stage Club), <i>Island Song</i> (The Song and Dance Players), <i>The Story of Tonight</i> (The Runaway Company), and <i>Hands Up!</i> (Split Theatre), and was last seen in <i>Working</i> (Sing'Theatre's Showstoppers). A musical aficionado, she can always be found performing, watching or reading about musicals.</p>