

# making a STAND

by PROJECT TANDEM

EDEN HALL | 6.30PM | 14 NOV 2018

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**BRITISH COUNCIL SINGAPORE**

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## programme

A LOT OF SPACE

by **agnes lim** @ dining room

*As a disabled driver, Agnes learns just how challenging it is to fight for a parking lot - can she ever win?*

MUM

by **stephanie fam** @ drawing room

*What does it take for one to find her voice and speak up after keeping mum for so long?*

RIDICULE OR RESPECT?

by **june chua** @ drawing room

*It matters how we see ourselves. It matters too what others call us. June learns to stand up for herself when she encounters a rude cashier.*

8 RULES

by **claire teo** @ drawing room

*When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. Claire shares her personal formula for survival and success.*

WELCOME TO MY WORLD

by **dawn-joy leong** @ grand staircase

*Remember. Imprint. Expand. Enter the world of autism. Be enchanted.*

## credits

Artistic Director/Head of Mentorship/Dramaturg **Peter Sau**

Lead Writer/Dramaturg **Shai**

Verbatim Script Editor/Disability Advocate **Alvan Yap**

Advisor (Scripting/Dramaturgy/Disability Advocacy) **Kaite O'Reilly (UK)**

Verbatim Script Interviewers **Peter Sau, Lim Lee Lee**

Lead Transcribers/Researchers **Shai, Lim Lee Lee**

## director's message by peter sau

In the last two years, I have grown highly aware of the lack of professional disability arts in Singapore. Project Tandem is thus set up as a cost-free theatre training platform for D/deaf and disabled emerging artists.

I believe a community of such professionally trained performers can be a great force for a paradigm shift in Singaporean theatre, and become our creative asset partaking in the growing international exchange of disability-led arts practice, which is remarkable for its progressive force, artistic re-imagining of theatre traditions and lively aesthetic debates. This would break homogeneity and allow new perspectives of creating and presenting artistic work.

No longer should D/deaf and disabled people and their conditions (invisible or otherwise) be perceived in the realm of survivor re-enactments, inspirational and heroic icons, or figures of tragedy. Instead, it should be realigned to become a celebration of true diversity of the human condition, and a recognition of our own vulnerabilities and futures. We are *not* non-disabled; instead, we are *not-yet* disabled.

We should also rethink whether non-disabled actors should command the limelight and be awarded for their 'believable' performances by performing D/deaf and disabled characters on stage. Instead of assuming artists with disabilities 'can't do much things', we should embrace that they can do things differently.

Take away from them the labels and the stigma, and their genius would be revealed, to enable all of us more ways to experience the world.

## performers

A chance participation as a performer in Singapore International Festival of Arts 2017 Open Homes spurred **Agnes**, a veteran Financial Services Manager for more than 10 years, to pursue her long time passion as a performer - a dream compromised after a road traffic accident. As a Project Tandem mentee, she made her first stage appearance in *And Suddenly I Disappear: The Singapore 'd' Monologues* in May 2018.

## agnes lim



Currently studying at LASALLE College of the Arts, **Claire's** dream is to become a musical theatre actress. Though it will be a long journey, she believes with every song and every dance she performs, her passion would only grow stronger. To her, theatre is about creating value in someone else's life - to make people more human. 'I may be at a great disadvantage, but I have passion, I work hard and I have a vision.'

## claire teo



## dawn-joy leong



**Dr. Dawn-joy Leong** is an Autistic art-science researcher whose multi-art practice includes creating immersive mind-body experiences based on principles derived from intrinsic modalities of Autism and Neurodiversity. Lucy Like-a-Charm, a rescued former racing Greyhound, is Dawn's creative muse, closest companion, and psychiatric assistance dog. (Website: [www.dawnjoyleong.com](http://www.dawnjoyleong.com))

## june chua



**June** is a transgender activist & the founder of The T Project, a shelter for the homeless transgender community in Singapore. She actively promotes the visibility of the transgender community and advocates for more transgender-specific social service support to be made available. She was awarded the Promising Advocate of the Year in 2016 and the Champion for Gender Equality and Justice by AWARE. She identifies with the social model of disability and joins Project Tandem to engage in the necessary outreach beyond the LGBT community.

## stephanie fam



**Stephanie** believes art is self-expression and self-empowerment in many forms. Since 2006, she has devoted herself to the Toastmaster movement in public speaking & leadership. She hopes to publish her poetry one day as she perceives her words to be her mirrors. As a Project Tandem mentee, she made her first stage appearance in *And Suddenly I Disappear: The Singapore 'd' Monologues* in May 2018.