

For Immediate Release

This Is the ~~New~~ Next Normal — *Patch! A (Live) Theatre Festival of Play* Returns for Fourth Edition



The Theatre Practice (Practice), Singapore’s longest-running bilingual theatre institution, announced the fourth edition of *Patch! A (Live) Theatre Festival of Play*, happening March to April 2021.

For the fun-loving and eternally curious, *Patch!* brings together artists and audiences who love the often messy, sometimes raw, but always powerfully resonant nature of live theatre.

Now reimagined as an international hybrid on/off-line festival, *Patch!* continues to champion the essentiality of play through a diverse range of original digital productions, intimate live experiences and innovative hybrid works.

WHAT COMES NEXT: The Role Of Arts In A Post-Crisis World

As more people seek comfort in the arts and entertainment, theatre’s timeless power to entertain, nourish and heal has never been more apparent.

In 2021, the power of the arts is amplified. As we struggle to navigate a changed world, theatre and play can equip us with the critical thinking, empathy and ingenuity required to find a new way forward. “As champions of play, *Patch!* has always challenged assumptions and pushed boundaries.” observes Artistic Director Kuo Jian Hong. “This

attitude is especially important as we begin to rebuild our world. What have we never questioned before? Do existing structures still work? Can we find new answers?"

As artists, this translates as a reimagining of not just what we create, but how we create. What happens when art-making is no longer restricted by physical space, geographical location or theatrical format? Can we find solutions by collaborating with experts from vastly different fields? Can we extend access to an even wider group of audiences?

Grounded in the potent power of storytelling, *Patch! 2021* offers artists and audiences opportunities to reflect and rethink with programmes that offer alternative perspectives.

THIS IS THE NORMAL: Imagining Theatre For The Future



The digital medium can offer a storytelling environment as powerful, intimate and engaging as a black box or proscenium stage. As one of the first theatre companies to embrace digital theatre, Practice pushed the limits of artistic creativity and technological capabilities with ambitious projects like *Patch! 2020* and *Practice 55*.

Patch! 2021 continues this year-long exploration, and considers how technology can enhance the live experience. Instead of seeing digital theatre as a temporary solution, Practice has embraced the hybrid digital-live format as a new adventure. "Change is constant, and theatre has always evolved in response to the world around us," says Kuo. "In creating this hybrid, we are taking our past experiences and learning, and transforming it into something new. It is a PATCHwork, not a bandaid."

Going beyond traditional theatre spaces, the festival opens up space for vastly different storytelling formats and challenges our assumptions of what a theatre festival can look like. At the same time, the key tenets of live theatre remain very present in the festival. "Regardless of medium, liveness and connection remains central to our

work. As we experiment, we are conscious of preserving the spontaneous, live and present nature of interactions that are so characteristic of live theatre,” Kuo explains.

Key Programme Highlights

Body of Knowledge (at Home):

“A remotely engineered collaboration that feels as natural as it does magical.”
- Running Dog, Reviewer.

Australian theatre-maker Samara Hersch’s critically-acclaimed project makes its Singapore debut after a successful international tour! Powerful, intimate and thought-provoking, it explores the unsaid through honest conversations between teenagers and adult audience members, as facilitated through a phone line.

KAYA & ROTI: Welcome to Camp Breakfast!:



This March holidays, join us for an innovative at-home camping experience for the whole family! Conducted in Mandarin and a part of the beloved *The Nursery Rhymes Project* universe, it is an extended and holistic experience designed for families to play, learn and rediscover their homes.

Play With... Series:



The returning *Play With...* series features encounters with Singaporean art-makers and craftsmen through storytelling and interactive elements. Dance doyenne and cultural medallion recipient Goh Lay Kuan makes a rare return to the dancefloor as she explores the relationship between ballet, health and aging bodies. Meanwhile, Chef Imran Kidd (Big Bern's American Grill, Mint & Coco (Oman)) demystifies fine dining and explores our ability to taste and smell, through the deconstruction and reconstruction of flavours.

It's Not About The Numbers Series:

Discover intimate connection through bite-sized adventures and surprising encounters with this brand-new series of live in-person works for single or small audiences. The series features original works by two emerging Singaporean artists, Adi Jamaludin and Zoea Tania.

HERE COMES KAYA AND ROTI: "Where Are Our Friends?":

Beloved characters Kaya and Roti are back! Extending Practice's award-winning work in Mandarin Theatre for Young Audiences, the innovative online theatre show features sing-alongs, storytelling and craft sessions filled with audience participation and live interactions.

Patch! A (Live) Theatre Festival of Play runs from March to April 2021 and will feature ten programmes. The first wave of festival line up and individual programme information can be found at www.practice.org.sg/patch. A second set of programmes will be released on 24 February 2021. Stay tuned to The Theatre Practice's Facebook and Instagram for the latest updates.