

For Immediate Release

Four Horse Road: The Theatre Practice's Unforgettable Promenade Theatre Blockbuster Returns Bigger and Better Than Before



“History has never seemed so fun.”

— *The Straits Times* (2018)

“The result is an exceptional production that has defied the odds, capturing Singapore’s cultural diversity as told through the history of a single district, and bringing us on a wild journey through time.”

— *Bakchormeeboy* (2020)

“...thoroughly entertaining, engaging, and exhilarating; an immersive site-specific production with creative use of the spaces around The Theatre Practice and a production that connects me with a history that is both personal and universal.”

— *Ronald, Audience* (2018)

Four Horse Road is back. The Theatre Practice (Practice)’s beloved promenade theatre production makes its triumphant return to Waterloo Street this August. Met with rave reviews during its original 2018 run, the production’s highly anticipated 2020 staging was tragically cancelled at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic after performing just two out of its planned 26 show run.

Inspired by real historical events that once took place along Bras Basah Road, *Four Horse Road* peels away the layers of one of Singapore’s oldest streets to uncover decades of buried stories and forgotten people through the format of promenade theatre.

Audiences follow one of six routes across different spaces in two heritage shophouses (The Theatre Practice and 42 Waterloo Street) and watch a series of episodic stories

unfold (a full list of scenes is available [here](#)* this document is confidential and intended for reference by permitted personnel only).

Excavating the Past, Illuminating the Present: Stories Marking Singapore's History

“Growing up, most of us experience history through a singular national narrative but even ‘global unifying events’ like the pandemic contain very different individual experiences,” muses Practice’s Artistic Director and *Four Horse Road* director Kuo Jian Hong.

“*Four Horse Road* is an exploration on how to encapsulate and question these big historical events by zooming in on ordinary people. Within these historically-inspired vignettes are different perspectives, imagined realities and unexpected parallels. We hope this will provoke curiosity in our shared past, and allow us to better understand ourselves and the place we call home.”

Led by mysterious guides, audiences travel through time and encounter eight (of out eleven) stories. Each scene is self-contained; audiences not only meet an eclectic group of characters from different time periods, they will also experience a wide range of genres, ranging from slapstick comedy to thrilling crime fiction and spooky suspense.

Meanwhile the intimate spaces invite audiences to get close to the action, where they will alternately take on the role of silent observer, banquet guests, care home volunteers... and more!

An Intimate Experience on an Epic Scale: Putting Together a Machine of a Show

Bringing to life this ambitious production for just 180 audience members a night, is a veritable village of 60 performers, crew and front of house staff. “At any one time, there are six scenes running concurrently across two buildings and multiple groups of audiences on the move,” explains Kuo. “It’s an incredibly complex show to construct; something that is highly structured yet feels free!”

“Another challenge is balancing the artistic needs of the work and the logical considerations of the spaces, which double as our offices and classrooms. In some ways, the show itself is a celebration of space in a very ‘Waterloo Street’ sense: layered uses, purposes and existences.”

Kuo is joined by a creative team of theatre veterans including playwright Jonathan Lim (*The Bride Always Knocks Twice — Killer Secrets, Chestnuts*), costume designer MAX.TAN (*Oiwa – The Ghost Of Yotsuya, The Soldier & His Virtuous Wife*), set designer Szu-Feng Chen (*Extinction Feast, The Soldier & His Virtuous Wife*), Genevieve Peck (*Puppet Origin Stories, Blank Run*) and more.

Celebrating 35 years on Waterloo Street: A Fundraising Evening for The Theatre Practice

To mark the return of *Four Horse Road*, a fundraising evening for The Theatre Practice will be held on 3 August. Patrons will enjoy an exclusive first-look preview of *Four Horse Road*, followed by an intimate reception with other like-minded arts supporters and members of the Practice family. The fundraiser will be graced by Guest of Honour Mr. Heng Swee Keat, Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies.

“*Four Horse Road* is a love letter to Waterloo Street, a place where The Theatre Practice have been creating and playing for more than three decades. We have built a home for ourselves, a space of experimentation, growth, connection, failure and most importantly... family,” said Practice’s Executive Director Daniel Goh. “I hope that supporters of the arts will join us for this fundraising evening, and to support The Theatre Practice and the work that we do.” More information about the Fundraiser Evening can be found [here](#).

Four Horse Road runs from 4 August to 3 September 2023, with tickets now available on BookMyShow. Additional information and discounts can be found [here](#).