

For Immediate Release

REVIVING MANDARIN NURSERY RHYMES — THE NURSERY RHYMES PROJECT RETURNS WITH A SECOND INSTALMENT

The Theatre Practice, Singapore's longest-running bilingual theatre institution, announced the imminent release of the second instalment of *The Nursery Rhymes Project*, a three-part initiative created to revive classic Mandarin nursery rhymes.



The Theatre Practice's *The Nursery Rhymes Project* preserves the classic melodies and stories we grew up loving, while offering a modern refresh so they can be enjoyed by future generations. The series offers multiple entry-points into the world of Mandarin nursery rhymes in the form of a music album (Sing Our Songs), illustrated lyric book (Paint Our Songs) and live performance (Imagine Our Songs).

Needed Now More Than Ever

As parents struggle to find new resources to entertain and engage their young ones during this circuit breaker period, the need for quality materials has never been more apparent.

"*The Nursery Rhymes Project* was first created because I could never find high quality Mandarin nursery rhymes when my daughter was growing up," explains Artistic Director Kuo Jian Hong. "These were the songs my parents and grandparents sang to me when I was a child, and I want all families to be able to create these wonderful memories together!"

The fun and entertainment nursery rhymes bring will also allow children to create a positive relationship with the Chinese language and culture. Practice strongly believes that learning Mandarin is more effective when the child can access language beyond a purely functional or academic approach. As their first exposure to Mandarin, Nursery rhymes then becomes a bridge to allow for a more accessible way of connecting with the language.

The first instalment was launched in 2017 to resounding success. The songs were listened to and streamed over 170,000 times, and over 4000 copies of the books have reached families around the world. Meanwhile, the touring show has touched thousands of children through school shows and community outreach programmes all across Singapore. Now, families and educators alike can look forward to more songs and more stories in May 2020.



The Much Anticipated Sequel Debuts Despite Unpredictable Times

“Logistically it has been really challenging to complete this work given the circumstances”, Kuo acknowledges, “but we know how much families would appreciate a second instalment. In fact, I’ve gotten so many SOS messages from friends whose kids insist on playing the first album non-stop!”

The “Sing Our Songs 2” album will feature 13 new songs, and will be released in May 2020 on Spotify and Apple Music. Arranged by award-winning musician Julian Wong, the songs are recorded by Singapore’s best musical theatre talents including Joanna Dong, Juni Goh (MICappella), Ric Liu (Dreamz FM), Ethel Yap, Frances Lee, and more.

The “Paint Our Songs 2” illustrated lyric book featuring exclusive illustrations from Singaporean illustrator Lee Kow Fong (Ah Guo) will be available for purchase at The Theatre Practice and other selected bookstores from 20 June 2020 onwards.



Finally, an expanded version of “Imagine Our Songs” will debut at M1 Patch! A Theatre Festival of Artful Play in July - August 2020. New stories will also be added to the “Imagine Our Songs” jukebox musical touring version, and will be available in customisable options for school and home bookings.

More information can be found at www.practice.org.sg. Stay tuned to The Theatre Practice’s Facebook and Instagram for the latest updates.

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About The Nursery Rhymes Project

A gift handed down from one generation to the next...

From the cradle, nursery rhymes have entertained and soothed us. Later on, these songs became our first exposure to language, and our foundation for learning about the wider world. A staple in every household, nursery rhymes are not only crucial to our children's development and growth, they are integral parts of our heritage.

The Nursery Rhymes Project offers a much-needed update on our childhood favourites. Created to address the lack of quality mandarin nursery rhymes material, it preserves the classic melodies and stories we grew up loving, while offering a modern refresh so they can be enjoyed by generations to come.

Conceived by Artistic Director Kuo Jian Hong, the series offers multiple entry points into the world of mandarin nursery rhymes, with each instalment consisting of three parts: *Sing Our Songs* (music album), *Paint Our Songs* (illustrated lyric book) and *Imagine our Songs* (live performance).

Sing Our Songs:

Fun, surprising and immensely catchy, award-winning musician Julian Wong's original arrangements bring our signature light touch to classic children's songs, featuring the voices of Singapore's top singers and musical theatre talents.

Paint Our Songs:

Travel to the whimsical watercolour worlds of Nursery Rhymes, as popular Singaporean illustrator Lee Kow Fong (Ah Guo) brings to life the imaginative wonders of nursery rhymes, with a dash of local flavour.

Each copy of *Paint Our Songs* comes with an USB containing the *Sing Our Songs* music album.

Imagine Our Songs:

Get ready to sing, dance and groove along with our mini jukebox musicals and storytelling sessions. With stories by mandopop lyricist Xiao Han and playwright Su Chun Ying, these interactive theatrical performances feature original stories that reinvent classic mandarin nursery rhymes.

About The Theatre Practice

The Theatre Practice (Practice) is Singapore's longest-standing professional bilingual theatre institution. Artist-driven and deeply progressive, Practice strives to be an arts space in Singapore that consciously nurtures and empowers people who care about humanity. Over the past 55 years, we have developed and presented a vast critically-acclaimed multi-genre repertoire that reflects the complexities of Singapore's diverse cultures.

Practice today is a cultural force. As a bridge between cultures, we have brought practitioners of diverse backgrounds together for exchange, and provided platforms for international works. As pioneers in Arts Education in Singapore, we have nurtured leaders in the Singapore arts scene, and inculcated the love for the arts in generations of youths.

Under current Artistic Director Kuo Jian Hong, Practice continues to shape our cultural landscape as the definitive voice in Singapore theatre. Deeply influenced by the importance of play in art-making, Practice has become the embodiment of the irrepressible spirit and fearless experimentation of play under her leadership.

Artistically diverse and constantly relevant, Practice will always engage in the ceaseless exploration of new frontiers.

The Theatre Practice is supported by the National Arts Council under the Major Company Scheme for the period of April 2020 to March 2023. Practice is also an Institution of Public Character and a member of the Singapore Chinese Language Theatre Alliance.