

For Immediate Release

Theatre Is Not Dead. Play Is Forever. — *M1 Patch! A (Live) Theatre Festival of Play* Returns for Third Edition



The Theatre Practice (Practice), Singapore's longest-running bilingual theatre institution, announced the third edition of *M1 Patch! A (Live) Theatre Festival of Play*, happening 18 July - 30 August 2020.

Championing the irrepressible spirit of play, the festival offers unexpected collisions and high quality art-making, while cultivating artists and audiences alike through meaningful exchanges.

While the festival programming retains its signature mix of accessible and experimental offerings of art, experience and performance, this edition sees seven out of the festival's eight works presented online. No longer constrained by physical or geographical boundaries, what possibilities will the digital medium hold?

THEATRE IS NOT DEAD: The Importance of Arts and Play During Crisis

Theatre has always served as a form of community, and provides moments of joy through the magic of the arts and collective expression. As people struggle with stress and loneliness in the months following the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for play and connection has never been more important.

“Practice has always been guided by a desire to respond to the changing world we currently live in”, Artistic Director Kuo Jian Hong explains. “In times like this, changes are larger, faster and more amplified. *Why do we create? What do we want to say? Who are we speaking to?* These are all important questions we have been asking ourselves.”

This year’s *M1 Patch!* festival rethinks what togetherness means in our new normal. The digital format not only ensures that the arts remain accessible during this period, it also allows Practice to reach a wider pool of international audiences and artmakers. Additionally, the online programmes feature live performances and real-time engagement which will allow audiences to connect in a shared digital space, while offering much-needed moments of pleasure and connection.

PLAY IS FOREVER: Creation in the New Normal

Moving online presents exciting new possibilities. “This is new territory so we are still experimenting and learning.” Kuo acknowledges. “So we do what kids do when they play! We go back to the fundamentals and distill everything down to our curiosities.”

Keeping storytelling at its core, the festival’s programmes present different forms of play to suit a variety of audiences.



Extending Practice’s award-winning work in Theatre for Young Audiences to a digital medium, ***HERE COMES KAYA AND ROTI? “Where Are Our Friends?”*** is a three-episode interactive show series peppered with audience participation and live interactions.

Unlocking the playfulness of everyday life, the ***Play With... series*** makes staying at home fun through one-of-a-kind experiences. Combining storytelling with interactive



elements, each session is hosted by a different Singaporean creator, including a fashion designer, a bartender and a group of game designers.

Exploring different cultures and perspectives through food, **Online Recess Time** gathers participants for a lunch party hosted on a chat platform, and invites them to “travel” to a different country by chatting with Singaporeans living overseas.

In keeping with the festival’s focus on cultivating audiences and artists, Practice offers a glimpse into the playfully experimental process of working with digital platforms. **Playwrights’ Bootcamp** challenges playwrights to consider how the new medium can affect rehearsals and performance as they craft their works, while the international artists in **Artist Farm** must find ways to create and communicate effectively in a collaboration process that takes place entirely online.

Presenting opportunities for relaxation, mindfulness and fun in the real world, the festival’s sole physical programme **coop** is an interactive multi-level outdoor installation located at Practice’s building on 54 Waterloo Street.

M1 Patch! A (Live) Theatre Festival of Play runs from 18 July to 30 August and will feature eight programmes. The full festival line up and individual programme information can be found at www.practice.org.sg. Stay tuned to The Theatre Practice’s Facebook and Instagram for the latest updates.

