

Welcome to this pre-show introduction to Contact, an immersive theatrical experience brought to you by the Singapore Repertory Theatre, SRT. It is an outdoor walking show for groups of 20 at most, about an hour long, running from the 29th of April to the 5th of June 2022, every Tuesday to Sunday at 6pm, 7.30pm, and 9pm. Every show will be audio-described.

This introduction is provided by Seren Chen, and will include a synopsis of the show, a spoiler-free description of what to expect, an introduction to the characters and visual ambience, and access information. The title Contact is stylised in all capital letters with a hyphen between each letter.

### **Show Synopsis**

A young woman sits alone on a park bench, lost in her own thoughts. What might be on her mind? In a world where social distancing is the norm, Sarah is approached in the street by a stranger passing by, who turns out to be much more than he seems. In 50 minutes, Sarah's life will be forever changed by this extraordinary moment of contact. It is a beautiful story of love, loss, catharsis, and redemption.

This show has been performed in many different countries since its 2020 Paris premiere. This Singapore adaptation is brought to you by the Singapore Repertory Theatre. For a full list of credits, please refer to the end of these notes.

### **Important Pre-Show Information**

The way the show works is this. A few days before the performance, you will receive a preparatory email with a link to the Contact app, some reminders of what to bring, as well as the exact location of your starting point. On the day of your booking, after you arrive at your starting point, a member of SRT staff will make sure that everyone is plugged into the show via earphones and the app on your smartphones. You will then be immersed in the show's state-of-the-art 3D sound design as the actors move through the Empress Lawn area around the Victoria Theatre. Walk the path with the performers and share their sensations and thoughts as you follow their footsteps.

Everyone in the audience will be listening to the same audio track, in sync with each other and the actors. You will have the opportunity to select "English with Audio Description" as your language while setting up.

### **About the characters**

Our cast for each show comprises two actors - a woman and a man. Two performances run simultaneously, with two different casts and routes within the Empress Lawn area. Chanel Ariel Chan and Rebecca Ashley Dass play Sarah, whose steps we follow through her journey. She carries a tension, a tightness in her movement and expression. Keagan Kang and Vester Ng play Raphael, the mysterious stranger, with a smooth gait and intense stare.

The characters' clothing choices vary from performance to performance. However, overall, Sarah tends to give off a slightly vintage vibe with her floral dresses and denim jackets, while Raphael is nondescript in his button-downs worn open over white tshirts and black jeans. They look like anyone else walking along the street. The show takes place over a few hundred metres around Victoria Theatre. This riverside area features rare open spaces within the city centre, with walking and cycling paths amid swathes of greenery, and public benches dotted amongst old colonial-style buildings. Across the river are the skyscrapers of the Central Business District and shophouses along Boat Quay. At night, they glitter with activity.

## **Accessibility Information**

SRT aims to provide an excellent experience and service for all patrons who may require additional support to access our venues and enjoy our events. All performances of Contact will have an audio description option, available as an alternative audio track upon setup before the show.

The Empress Lawn area where the performances are set is wheelchair-accessible, and there are accessible toilets available inside The Arts House. However, do note that the actors may sometimes walk quickly or choose to traverse some steps. In this case, do note that there's no need to rush to catch up - the actors will take their time at each stop, and the audio track will always be with you. The audience may move around the public space however you wish.

For the full 3D sound experience, earphones should be plugged into both ears, though the dialogue is clearly audible even if you choose to use only one side. However, there will be few audio cues for following the actors beyond the rest of the audience shuffling along beside you. Should you prefer a guiding hand throughout the route, it may be wise to make a date with a friend. A member of SRT staff will be present with each group to help with any technical issues, so do feel free to wave for assistance. There will also be a Front of House manager at The Arts House.

The audio description heard during the show was produced in the UK. Do note that as such, there may be small discrepancies between the description and the actors' exact movements. For example, Sarah may be described as leaning against a wall, holding her head in pain, when she may in fact be in the middle of a pavement, or sitting in a bench, but the moment of pain will be the same.

## **Making your way to the show**

The starting points will be located near The Arts House. The nearest parking options are at Parliament House, located at 1 Parliament Pl, Singapore 178880, and the National Gallery Singapore, at 1 St Andrew's Rd, Singapore 178957.

For Public Transport options, the nearest bus stops are 02181, Supreme Court; 04249, Opposite the Treasury, or across the river at 03011, Fullerton Square. The nearest MRT stations are Raffles Place and City Hall, both along the East-West and North-South lines.

Should you require any more information or assistance, do feel free to email [boxoffice@srt.com.sg](mailto:boxoffice@srt.com.sg) or call 6733 8166.

## **The team behind C-O-N-T-A-C-T**

The original idea for the show is by Gabrielle Jourdain, and the concept and direction are by Samuel Sené. This show was adapted into English by Quentin Bruno from the French book by Eric Chantelauze. The music and sound design are by Cyril Barbessol, and the app development is by Jean Philippe Marie de Chastenay of Touaregs. The dramaturgy consulting is by Hanna Lassere, and the associate producers are Aria Entertainment and WEF Productions on behalf of Contact Show UK. The roles of Sarah and Raphael were created by Inès Amoura and Jacques Verzier in Paris on the 13th of June 2020. For this SRT production, the associate director is Daniel Jenkins. The audio engineer is Daniel Wong, and the voices of Sarah and Raphael are given by Ching Shu Yi and Brendon Fernandez respectively.

We look forward to sharing this experience with you and hope you have a wonderful time with us!