



*STORIES WE TELL IN THE DARK...*

# GHOST LIGHT

Written by Rob Johnston

Directed by Daniel Jenkins



**THE YOUNG COMPANY GRADUATION SHOWCASE**

**15 –19 DEC 2020 | KC ARTS CENTRE – HOME OF SRT**

Advisory (Some Disturbing Content)

# MANAGING DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

*A ghost light is an electric light that is left energized on the stage of a theater when the theater is unoccupied and would otherwise be completely dark*

Theatres all over the world have experienced a disruption to our work and lives on and off stage like never before. It has been very difficult for our team and our Young Company students to run our training programmes on zoom and in very tiny groups – yet alone to produce to rehearse and produce a graduation show.

But we managed to find a way and we have enjoyed working with this year's graduating batch of talented young people.

It was very unclear when theatres were allowed to reopen, so our Learning & Engagement Manager Paul Adams and Programme Manager Daniel Jenkins pitched a very creative idea. As impossible as it sounded to create a promenade piece in a small space, I'm super proud of what the team with *Ghost Light* has created in partnership with playwright Rob Johnston.

Our theatres may be dark... but the ghosts and the spirit of theatre live on.

Enjoy tonight's performance!

**CHARLOTTE NORS**

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

*Ghost Light* was conceptualised during Singapore's lock down period, when our theatres were closed and our stages dark. These uncertain times forced our hand to approach this year's Young Company graduation production differently; to create a piece of theatre that allows audiences an opportunity to experience theatre from a unique and unusual perspective; to watch a show not only from the auditorium, but from below, above and even on the stage. *Ghost Light* aims to provide the audience with an inside look at the many beliefs and rituals that exist within the theatre world and the history from which these superstitions are derived. I would like to thank my cast of young actors who faced their fears and braved the darkness to work on this production; Gaurav, Charlotte, and all at SRT for their continued belief and encouragement for my work and their support in the importance of nurturing young Singaporean actors; Rob Johnston for working so closely with me to create this production; my creative and stage managerial teams; and of course you the audience, who were brave enough to join us on this journey. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to create this unique site-specific experience and to be able to continue to produce work against all the odds, even while our industry was plunged into darkness. I am, however, overjoyed to see our theatres in Singapore opening up at last, as audiences are once again invited back and for now at least, our theatre ghost light can remain switched off.

**DANIEL JENKINS**

# SYNOPSIS

Picture a theatre. This theatre. Picture a stage. This stage. Picture a light that never goes out. A light that can't go out. A light we won't let go out. Our 'ghost light'.

We leave it burning when the theatre goes dark and falls silent for a time. When all the tragedy and comedy, sadness and joy are put on hold for a time. And all our spaces have become quiet spaces. Empty spaces. But not quite empty. Because the whispers and fragments of every tale we've ever told are waiting to be told again. Waiting in our ghost light's ghostly dark to be told again...

## CAST LIST

Tour Guide 1	Megan Ann Pang
Tour Guide 2	Rohan Patil / Nick Yeo
Tour Guide 3	Misha Paule Tan / Kaelen Ong
Sal	Jacqueline Monteiro / Michelle Turberfield
Stagehand 1	Maia Chen / Niraj Nair
Stagehand 2	Ariadna Padron Yassin / Avaana Harvey
Understudy	Joel Gay Han / Sreya Sanyal
Actor 1	Lauren Blair Smith / Elizabeth Chernyak
Actor 2	Kaelen Ong / Misha Paule Tan
Actor 3	Beverly Joy Goh
Death	Joel Gay Han / Avaana Harvey / Michelle Turberfield / Lauren Blair Smith

## CREATIVE TEAM

Director	Daniel Jenkins
Writer	Rob Johnston
Lighting & Sound Design	SRT Team

Set adapted from SRT's production of *Tuesdays With Morrie*, designed by Petrina Dawn Tan

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager	Aude Albiges
Stage Manager	Chantel Goh
Puppet Builder	Chan Lee Lee

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Official Learning Partner

**KAPLAN**

Thanks to the Learning & Engagement Team for their support of the production.

## ABOUT SRT

Founded in 1993, Singapore Repertory Theatre (SRT) is one of the leading English-language theatres in Asia. SRT's mission is to enrich, engage and entertain audiences by staging theatrical productions of the highest calibre, collaborating with the best talent in the world.

Follow us on:



Contact us for more information on any SRT production:  
Tel: 6221 5585

E-mail: [office@srt.com.sg](mailto:office@srt.com.sg)

Website: [www.srt.com.sg](http://www.srt.com.sg)

**KC ARTS CENTRE – HOME OF SRT**

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If you or someone you know is interested to join The Young Company, please e-mail [youth@srt.com.sg](mailto:youth@srt.com.sg) for more information.

# THE YOUNG COMPANY ACTORS

## GRADUATING CLASS



### MAIA CHEN

Maia is a recent graduate of School of the Arts Singapore where she specialised in Classical, Pop and Musical Theatre singing. She aims

to pursue theatre further in university and looks forward to making a career out of her passion.



### ELIZABETH (ELZBIETA) CHERNYAK

I am just a human who enjoys learning about life and subsequently telling the stories I learn of. To me, acting is a

powerful tool with which I can be the voice of those who cannot express their own. Theatre allows different worlds to come alive, and getting lost in these fantastical representations of our world, from Shakespeare to musicals, is a true privilege that I have had. Being a part of SRT's The Young Company has allowed me to delve deeper into these stories, and further understand myself as an actor. The friendships I have made and the skills I have learned will forever be remembered, and I am truly thankful for having been a part of this adventure for the two years! When not acting, I am learning about genetics and playing classical guitar, while simultaneously trying to survive the IB.



### GAY HAN JOEL

Joel Gay has always enjoyed the arts as it enables him to see ordinary things in the most extraordinary ways in all its simplicity and

complexity. A graduate from LASALLE's Diploma in Performance, he is part of a theatre collective named The Callbacks. In his spare time, he also lends himself creatively to films and other projects such as serving as artistic director and co-writer to ongoing comic series *RED*. Joel is interested in pushing the envelope with his acting and stunt work career.



### BEVERLY JOY GOH

Beverly Joy Goh is a Singaporean Singer and Actress-in-training. She is currently a second-year Performance student at

LASALLE College of The Arts. She is studying singing under Grace Ng and she is working on getting teaching diplomas in Musical Theatre and Classical Voice. Beverly has been given opportunities to undergo training from other theatre companies including Pandemonium!, Sing Theatre and BUDS Theatre company. When she doesn't have rehearsals, you can often find her re-reading Little Women or blending essential oils. She hopes that she continues to grow as a performer and a human!



### AVAANA HARVEY

Avaana Harvey, 17, is an aspiring actress, dancer and singer-songwriter. A full tuition Arts scholarship holder at GEMS World Academy Singapore and

five time winner of the 'Artist of the Year' award, she has been cast as Dorothy in *Wizard of Oz*, Morticia in *The Addams Family*, Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Danielle in the musical *'Bring it On'*. Avaana holds a distinction in the ATCL in Performance Arts from Trinity College London, has attended a musical theatre workshop at the Boston Conservatory and an On-Camera acting workshop at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. She hopes to pursue a career in the arts and is truly thankful to all her mentors.



### NIRAJ NAIR

An aspiring actor, Niraj is a full-time student who's been lucky enough to train both in Singapore and in New York, through NYU Tisch; though,

he's mainly known for being able to make a mean curry in a hurry.



## KAELAN ONG

Kaelen is a young actor based in Singapore. Holding a Diploma in Applied Drama and Psychology from Singapore Polytechnic, she enjoys working with

different communities using drama, and the study of psychology and philosophy. Her recent credits include *The Lifespan of a Fact* (SRT) as Levi Presley, and *1984* (SRT's The Young Company). She hopes to be able to use her art, voice and platform in drama to educate or inform, and to tackle important issues that are otherwise not spoken of enough. Freelancing now as a drama teacher, actor and artist, she hopes to further her studies in drama in the near future.



## ARIADNA PADRON YASSIN

Ariadna Padron is a theatre graduate from SOTA who's passion for acting has led her to performing in multiple school

productions including *Oedipus the Musical* (2018) and *HOOD* (2019). Besides acting, she has developed a love for playwriting and placed second in TheatreWorks' 24-Hour Playwriting Competition (2018). Over the two years being in The Young Company, her passion for acting has grown even more as she has grown not only as a performer but has learnt lessons that go beyond just the theatre which she will carry with her as she pursues her future endeavours.



## SREYA SANYAL

Sreya is a Content Associate at PR and content agency Mutant Communications. She has previously appeared in *Pick-A-Hero* (SRT The

Young Company), *1984* (SRT The Young Company), *Wilderness* (The Runaway Company) (Generasia x Musical Theatre Limited), *The Big Grey* (SMU StageIT x Cake Theatrical Productions), and *Club Malam* (The O.P.E.N., Singapore International Festival of the Arts). Her play *Camouflage*, written for the SRT's Young Company Writing Program was featured at the 2018 Asian Youth Theatre Festival. She is infinitely thankful for all the opportunities and guidance she has received while being a part of the Young Company.



## MISHA PAULE TAN

Misha is an aspiring actor and is passionate about musical theatre. She has performed in various productions by Sing Theatre Academy (The

Voices Festival @ The Esplanade, *Legit, Pick-and-Mix, The Greatest Show*). In the day, she creates fun and meaningful children's programmes in hopes that it will make a positive impact on their growing up years.

Misha is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the Young Company. When she is not performing, she embraces her alter ego who is a Hong Kong Aunty.



## MICHELLE S. TURBERFIELD

Michelle Turberfield is a Eurasian performer (half British Caucasian and half Singaporean Chinese) who spent most of her

childhood travelling and living in different countries around Asia. She discovered the delight that is theatre when she was 12 years old in a one-week drama workshop with Act3, and hasn't stopped doing theatre since. She is currently studying in her last year of the Diploma in Performance course in LASALLE College of the Arts. Although she has only been in student productions, Michelle hopes to continue learning and stepping out of her comfort zone in the professional world. Michelle is a thoughtful and hardworking individual who strives to create thought-provoking and compassionate art.



## NICK YEO

Nick is a youth trainer and educator, and occasionally does freelance acting. In his work and similarly in his involvement in theatre, he always looks to make

meaningful connections with others, and to explore the meaning and beauty of being human together.

He is extremely grateful for opportunities like this to develop his love for theatre, and will not forget the lessons learnt and friends made on his journey. Finally, as the theatre re-opens, he wishes everyone a wonderful time with their friends and family! But not without a good scare or two ...

# THE YOUNG COMPANY ACTORS

## YEAR ONE

### JACQUELINE MONTEIRO

Jacqueline first fell in love with the theatre as a young ballerina. Since then, she has appeared in a variety of performances both on stage and on screen, which have only deepened her passion as a performer. With a keen interest in the underlying nature of things, she can often be found working on her own personal theories of reality in her spare time. Jacqueline is grateful to be a part of The Young Company, and looks forward to her second year in the programme!

### MEGAN ANN PANG

Megan took a hiatus from SRT's The Young Company back in 2017 to pursue her Bachelors in London. Now a graduate of University College London, she is excited and ready to be back with TYC to finish what she started three years ago. While she is not graduating from TYC just yet, she is proud and thankful for the opportunity to be a part of this year's graduate showcase.

An aspiring actress with interests aplenty, she spends her time in between auditions and acting gigs, coding, tending to her plants, taking up online classes, arranging floral bouquets and making coffee.

### ROHAN PATIL

Rohan started performing at the age of four. He has fallen in love with the stage since, and is aspiring to work professionally in the field. For the last three years, Rohan has been appearing in plays and musicals in both leading and supporting roles at his alma mater, Stamford American International School, Singapore, at which he is a senior. Rohan's most memorable show to date is his school's production of *Little Shop of Horrors* in late 2019, in which he played the leading role of the cantankerous, but lovable Mr. Mushnik. Offstage, Rohan can be found singing, playing the piano, or listening to opera! Rohan would like to thank his family for supporting him tirelessly throughout his acting endeavours.

### LAUREN BLAIR SMITH

While completing her BFA in Contemporary Dance and Arts Entrepreneurship Minor at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Lauren Blair Smith had the privilege to perform works by critically acclaimed choreographers, such as Anouk Van Dijk, Ranko Bogosavac, Kelly Maxner, Grady McLeod Bowman, Larry Keigwin, Martha Graham, José Limón, Ming-Lung Yang, and more. She performed in the UNCSA Drama productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; and *Still Life with Rocket*, Mollye Maxner's Helen Hayes Award-winning devised theatre piece. Lauren trained at the Yale Summer Conservatory for Actors and Boston Conservatory Musical Theatre Intensive.

After a competitive selection and interview process, Lauren was chosen as a 2021 William R. Kenan Fellow at Lincoln Center Education. She will spend seven months in NYC receiving practical knowledge and experience as an arts educator, as well as developing an original work premiering in NYC in early 2022. Lauren was also specially awarded the 2020 Artpreneur Grant to bring her latest creation, *Intruder*, to various dance festivals around the world.

As the youngest contestant, Lauren finished third overall and top female on *Dance Singapore Dance*, Season 1. Her choreography was featured internationally in Melbourne, Jakarta, Singapore, and Taipei.

# THE CREATIVE TEAM

## DANIEL JENKINS, DIRECTOR

Theatre includes: *Julius Caesar*, *Hand to God*, *Disgraced*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Tempest*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Othello*, *Twelfth Night*, *Macbeth*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Blackbird*, *The Pillowman*, *Defending the Caveman*, (SRT), *Dragonflies*, *The Pillowman*, *Chinglish*, *Circle Mirror Transformation*, *Swimming With Sharks*, *Dealers' Choice*, *The Full Monty*, (Pangdemonium), *RED* (Blank Space Theatre), *Quills*, *Popcorn*, *The Physicists*, *The Deep Blue Sea*, *Lonely Planet* (luna-id), *Death and the Maiden* (Escape), *Cabaret* (Toy Factory), *Hotel*, *Animal Farm* (Wild Rice), *Members Only* (Sing Theatre).

TV/Film includes: *Crazy Rich Asians*, *The Last Madam*, *SR115*, *Tanglin*, *Ave 14*, *Rojak*, *Love is Love*, *Heartland*, *2025*, *Avenue 13*, *Hong Bao and Kisses*, *The School Bell Rings*, *Code of Law*, *Keong Saik Street*, *The Kitchen Musical*, *Dream School*, *Café 13*, *The Garden City Butcher*, *Moon Face*, *In The Room*, *The Faith of Anna Waters*, *Afterimages*, *The Genius of Beauty*, *Robotropolis*.

Directing includes: *1984*, *The Roses of Eyam*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *The Laramie Project*, *The Trojan Women*, *Lord of the Flies*, *Grimm Tales*, *The Crucible* (SRT's The Young Company), *The Tale of the Frog Prince*, *The Cat in the Hat*, *Upstairs in the Sky*, *The Ugly Duckling*, *Gretel and Hansel* (SRT's The Little Company), *Hello Adam*, *The Magic Jungle*, *Bunny Finds The Right Stuff*, *Fatimah and her Magic Socks*, *Us* (Esplanade PlayTime).

Daniel has been nominated 6 times for both Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor at the Straits Times Life Theatre Awards and he has won the Best Supporting Actor Award twice for his roles in *Quills*, and *Cabaret*.

## ROB JOHNSTON, WRITER

Rob is a writer and theatre-maker based in Manchester, UK. For SRT and the Science Centre Singapore Rob wrote *Catalysts*, an immersive promenade theatre show for children staged at the SCS in 2019. Rob won Best Drama at the Manchester Theatre Festival 2017 for the one-woman play *Dark Satanic*. Rob's play *The Riot Act* toured theatres, museums, libraries, and festivals in 2019. *Sylvia vs the Fascists*, a one-woman play exploring the life and work of suffragette and socialist Sylvia Pankhurst, will tour in 2021, postponed from 2020.

OPEN FOR  
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**INCLUSIVE**

YOUNG COMPANY

**iYC**



2014 Production of *The Laramie Project* by The Young Company

## Calling all performers of diverse abilities – there's still time to audition for our exciting new programme, **Inclusive Young Company (iYC)**, an effort in partnership with **Access Paths Productions**.

iYC is a holistic acting programme for young persons and adults between the ages of 16 – 35, who identify as persons with disabilities. Sharing its goals with SRT's acclaimed The Young Company (TYC) acting programme, it aims to equip and nurture you with the confidence, transferable employment skills, and communication techniques that you will need to shine onstage, as well as in your career of choice. It features professional masterclasses and mentorship – led by international artist Grace Lee-Khoo – which will provide a platform for the development of your creative potential as an independent performer and theatre-maker.

The programme will be conducted in two exposure semesters in 2021.

**Express your interest in auditioning for us  
and we will send more details about the process over**

**[www.srt.com.sg/iyc](http://www.srt.com.sg/iyc)**

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