

Harri & Tatta Pre-show Notes

Welcome to this introduction to a modern take on Hare and Tortoise. This famous fable has been adapted by Kate Golegde, directed by Cherlyn Woo, and presented by The Singapore Repertory Theatre Little Company.

This audio described performance is at 2pm on 20 November, and runs for about 50 minutes with no interval. The touch tour will begin at 1.00pm.

Your audio describers will be Shalni Doshi and Roger Jenkins.

Introduction

Hare and Tortoise is not a dramatisation of the famous fable by Aesop. Yes, there are two characters named Harri, who's fast like a Hare, and Tatta who is slow and careful and takes her time, like a tortoise, but they're kids — classmates, in fact. And yes, they're on a race - but not through the countryside! Instead, the run takes place right here in Singapore - starting from their school, the pair walk, hop on the MRT, and ride bus 77 as they travel to different places in search of clues.

The biggest difference though is that in this story, instead of competing against each other, Harri and Tatta - who are definitely NOT friends - have to compete together as a team in order to be able to win the race.

Will they be able to put their differences aside - or even use their different skills in order to help them succeed? Mmm, that won't be easy!

Credits

Director	Cherilyn Woo
Writer	Kate Golegde
Production Designer	Petrina Dawn Tan
Movement Coach	Isabelle Chiam
Lighting Design	Gordon Chan
Sound Design	Stan and Soap
Stage Manager	Keira Lee

Cast, Costumes, Characters

A cast of 3 takes us on this amazing race, Singapore style.

Harri, based on the Hare, is played by Ching Shu Yi. A fast and furious student who acts first and thinks later, Harri is clever and sparky. Everything Harri does is done quickly: thinking, talking, decision making. A little impatient, but never intentionally unkind, this extrovert is sociable, talkative, energised and unafraid of risk.

Lauren Sim plays Tatta, based on the Tortoise. A careful student who takes her time over every task presented, Tatta is known as a bit of a loner. She prefers the safety

of books, and observing the world. She is a good listener, practical, observant, thoughtful, creative and focused. Throughout the race, she is the one holding the map and working out which way to go.

Both characters are dressed in similar costumes but in contrasting colours, one brown and one green. Can you guess who's who? The costumes consist of a long-sleeved collared jacket with a zipper down the middle and a flap collar. At all times, Harri & Tatta wear the jacket zipped up. Instead of pants, both wear bermuda shorts that end just above the knee. Harri's costume has a light brown base with a warm yellow contrast, while Tatta's is in shades of green. Both characters wear sneakers that match their outfits and white socks ending just above the ankles. Harri has her hair in 2 shoulder-length plaits while Tatta ties hers in 1 ponytail.

The costumes refer to their animal inspirations through accessories. Harri wears a felt brown cap with small bunny ears while Tatta carries an army-green shell-patterned backpack

On their right wrists, Harri and Tatta wear sweatbands. In the first part of the race, Harri and Tatta are forced to compete while their right wrists are joined by an elastic cord. That cord is clipped onto these wrist bands.

Krish Natarajan plays several roles.

His most important role is as Coach Y, Harri and Tatta's race coach. Krish wears a light grey track jacket and track pants, with red green and yellow stripes on the sides of the long sleeves and long pants. He carries a small black sling bag, worn across body from his right shoulder. In his hands, he carries a loudhailer.

Krish also appears as several people along the way.

As the fruit seller, he wears a white long-sleeved shirt, black long pants and a black beret. This look is completed with a large black apron worn over his shirt and a small crate of oranges in his hands.

As the MRT station staff, Krish wears a red shirt instead of white and a dark blue vest with the same black pants worn earlier.

As the janitor / cleaner in a mall, he wears a white jumpsuit while he mops the floor.

As Lep, the previous year's winner, Krish is dressed in a black tshirt, track pants and jacket. He also wears dark glasses and a gold chain and medallion around his neck

Finally, as the construction worker, he is dressed again in the light grey track suit of Coach Y, but with a neon yellow safety vest over it. He wears a yellow hard helmet on his head.

Set, Setting

Harri and Tatta travel to many different places in the story, and so the set designer had to be very creative to find ways of suggesting where they are without being realistic

- otherwise changing the scenery would be even slower than a tortoise chewing lettuce!

The set consists of a series of layers which are gradually revealed during the play

At the start of the play, a painted curtain has 5 bright red stripes of various heights side-by-side like a tall flight of steps seen from the side. The panels are numbered 1 - 5 with one, which is the shortest, on the left and #5, which is the tallest and twice as tall as #1, on the right. These stripes continue onto the floor of the stage, like running tracks in a stadium, running across the floor towards the audience and wrapping over the flight of steps which enable Harri & Tatta to run off the raised stage and down into the auditorium in one segment of the race.

The rest of the curtain is painted with thin, vertical brown wavy stripes that suggest tree trunks of different heights, which are topped with abstract green shapes that could represent the trees leaves or possibly hills in the distance. The backdrop is a light earthy colour at the bottom but gradually changes to a soft eggshell blue higher up and this in turn higher still becomes greyer in patches, suggesting clouds perhaps?

Behind the curtain are two small panels - about the size and shape of a double-door frame which can slide left and right and are used to represent a gate, an MRT carriage, the entrance to a building site.

Behind these two small frames are 4 very tall, rather narrow panels that tower all the way to the stage ceiling. They are marked with thick, bright red lines that seem to outline tall buildings such as you'd find downtown in Singapore, as well as thin grey lines which seem to mimic the red ones but off-set lower than the red lines, creating a busy, crowded feel. These panels can be moved in different arrangements - 4 together (as they are at the start) or split 2-2 ect.

Behind them, at the very back of the stage, the backdrop is like a piece of abstract modern art, with broad angular lines - there are no diagonals or curves - In dark blue, purple and black that run up and down and across the back wall, rather like the line on an MRT map. The black lines are very broad and have a thin white line running along the middle: they remind me of a road painted on the floor in a kids playground

Two ramps play an important part in the story as Harri and Tatta journey across Singapore, and represent the escalators in/out of the MRt and dangerous part of a building site. Each Ramp is built on a simple moving scaffolding platform, They're about 3 metres long, with the lower end about 45 cms off the ground and the high about 1.2metres - and of course there's a handrail on one side for safety!

Small Individual items - such as a set of stylised traffic lights to represent a busy intersection or the icon of the MRt - are lowered into place as required.

Access Information

SRT aims to provide an excellent experience and service for all patrons who may require additional support to access our venue and enjoy our events.

For accessible booking options, please contact us at 6733 8166 from 10am to 6pm Monday to Friday.

The nearest parking options are Robertson Quay Hotel, located at 15 Merbau Road, Singapore 239032, opposite the theatre's front door, or the Robertson Walk Carpark at 11 Unity Street, Singapore 237995.

For Public Transport options, the nearest Bus Stop is B13211.

The nearest MRT stations are Clarke Quay (NE5), on the Northeast Line and Fort Canning (DT20) on the Downtown Line.

The touch tour will commence at 1.00pm, 1 hour before the show begins. Please inform the staff at the front door that you are there for the Touch Tour and they will bring you to the assembly point.

Please have your mobile device and headset with you. The Box Office will have headphones and devices on standby if needed.

KC Arts Centre, the home of SRT, is assistance dog friendly. It is also accessible for wheelchair use from both the front and rear entrances. There is currently 1 wheelchair space on row Q in the theatre stalls.

If you require a wheelchair space, or would like to understand more about transferring options, please contact our venue team via email at boxoffice@srt.com.sg or call 6733 8166.

We look forward to welcoming you and hope you have a wonderful time with us!

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