

## ***The LKY Musical* Pre-show Notes**

Welcome to this introduction to *The LKY musical*, co-produced by Aiwei and Singapore Repertory Theatre.

*The LKY Musical* charts the story of Singapore's first Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew.

It starts from his student days in 1941 to Singapore's independence in 1965, following his life story from his pre-war days as a student at Raffles Institution through his transformation into a powerful political leader struggling to win Singapore's independence.

It is an inspiring tale of facing hardship head-on, overcoming seemingly insurmountable challenges and rising from the ashes - his lifelong friendships with those who would become Singapore's founding fathers. His courting and eventual break with Lim Chin Siong, a political ally who became his fiercest opponent as well as the love of his life, Kwa Geok Choo.

The audio-described performance is on Saturday, 24th of September at 2:30pm and runs for about 150 minutes, including a 15 minute intermission. The touch tour will begin 90 minutes before the show at 1pm. Your audio describers will be Seren Chen and Wiggie.

This musical is directed by Steven Dexter with music by Dick Lee; lyrics by Stephen Clark; book by Tony Petito; and story devised by Meira Chand. The set designer is Takis, costume designer, Dominique Devonshire, lighting designer, Gabriel Chan, sound designer, Jeffery Yue, hair designer, Ashley Lim and the make up artist, Bobby Ng. The choreographer is Andy Cai, the music director, Joanne Ho, the vocal coach, TJ Taylor, and arrangements are by Bang Wenfu.

There are 13 primary characters accompanied by 8 ensemble members.

The titular character, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, or Harry Lee is played by Adrian Pang. He is tall with neatly trimmed hair and a penetrating gaze.

His Raffles College uniform is a white collared shirt buttoned down the centre and white trousers with black socks and shoes. Sleeves are rolled up to the elbows, with a small, metal badge pinned on the left pocket.

In London, he wears a grey vest over a white shirt, navy blue trousers and a dark blue trench coat.

On entering politics, he wears the official attire of the People's Action Party - a white collared shirt and trousers. Throughout the play, he wears a watch with a leather strap. His belt, socks and shoes are black. In the final scene, he wears a white polo shirt with black trimmings.

Mdm Kwa Geok Choo, played by Kit Chan, is bespectacled with a bob of coiffed curls.

During her younger years, she dons a beige, plaid, knee-length dress with a wide full skirt cinched in at the waist with a dark brown belt. Her London days see her dressed in a maroon, v-necked vest worn under a white blouse and paired with a steel grey, pencil skirt. She wears black ballet pumps throughout.

After marriage, she wears an array of cheongsams, also known as the qipao. It is a figure-fitting, one piece dress, falling just below the knee with a standing collar, cap sleeves, and two side slits. She favours floral patterns in pastel hues at home but wears one in a solid dark turquoise at work.

Koh Teong Koo, the loyal family gardener and rickshaw puller, is played by Sebastien Tan. Ng Kai, another rickshaw puller, is played by Andy Yew.

These labourers, otherwise known as coolies, wear oversized, unbuttoned shirts over white singlets with khaki three quarter pants and black sandals. Their clothing palettes are drab, in muted shades of brown and blue.

Yong Nyuk Lin, a bespectacled Raffles College Science teacher and Geok Choo's brother-in-law, is played by Andrew Lua. Toh Chin Chye played by Joash Zheng and Goh Keng Swee played by Edward Choy, are Kuan Yew's university friends and the future ministers in his political party. Dennis Lee, Kuan Yew's younger brother, is played by Seng Henk Goh. S. Rajaratnam, played by Ebi Shankara, starts off as a journalist who later joins Kuan Yew's political party.

These men are generally dressed in collared shirts with slacks, paired with black socks and loafers. Sleeves are rolled up to their elbows. Their clothing palettes

are white and muted shades of brown, grey and blue.

Lim Chin Siong, played by Benjamin Chow and Fong Swee Suan by Timothy Wan are the radical left labour leaders. They wear white shirts, paired with dark brown belts and khaki loose-cut long pants.

Tunku Abdul Rahman, the Prime Minister of Malaya, is played by Hatta Said. He is bespectacled with a short moustache. First seen in a white shirt and dark grey pants with grey suspenders, he later dons traditional Malay attire, with a black songkok, white long-sleeved shirt worn over trousers and a green, striped sarong wrapped around the hips.

Lee Ah Haw, played by Bright Ong, is the triad gang member. He wears a navy blue shirt with thin white horizontal stripes and black trousers.

Other characters include teachers, students, bomb victims and Kempeitai soldiers, played by the rest of the ensemble cast - Amin Alifin, Fauzi Aziz, Gabriel Nicholas, Joel Low, Koh Jing Sen, Mohammed Al-Hafiz bin Hosni, Mitch Leow and Shadi Yusuf.

The kempeitai soldiers wear khaki cap hats with a flap neck and carry bayonets. The khaki military tunic jacket is paired with matching straight trousers.

The Sands Theatre is three storeys high, and the set for this show uses every inch of height it has. A large rectangle of space is delineated in wood, extending most of the way across the stage, and all the way to the top, longer than it is tall. This space is then divided into nine equal boxes, like a rectangular tic-tac-toe - three boxes by three. The backdrops behind the boxes, like the back of a shelf, may depict flags, sunsets, or simple room walls, and while furniture and props move in and out of all the floors, the topmost floor permanently hosts a curling mass of wiry forms, reminiscent of trees. It is within this jewelry box of a set, where actors can enter from any floor and sometimes cross up and down, that most of the action takes place.

Each box can be closed by an inner set of wooden slats that slide horizontally across them. Meanwhile, there is also an outer set of wooden slats, all vertical, that descend from the ceiling all the way down to the stage. These outer slats are divided into three columns that can lift individually or all together, revealing just the bottom left box, for example, or two whole floors, or a U-shape. With these

two layers of slats in place, any configuration of open boxes is possible.

With these versatile arrangements, one box may be open to show a London space, while another open at the same time may show a room in Singapore. Entire rows may be drawn open for a wider space, and there are also slat screens between the boxes that function like doors. Sometimes, when the slats are drawn but the space inside is brightly lit, the silhouettes of people and furniture are visible through the gaps. Drawn slats also serve as a screen upon which a variety of media may be presented - maps, videos, photographs, posters, flags, newspaper headlines, and even architectural details outlined in light.

In front of the boxes is a strip of stage that can be accessed directly from the wings. Action from the first floor boxes sometimes spills out into this space - not only do the actors move in and out of the boxes, but their floor can extend forwards and retract back, allowing spaces to be slickly presented towards us.

As we fly through Kuan Yew's life, most locations within the play do not recur. These spaces are fleeting and transitory, from wartime hospitals, to friends' homes, to his apartment in Cambridge. However, we begin and end in his home in 1965.

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 venue for this show is the Sands Theatre, located at Galleria Level B1 within The Shoppes at Marina Bay Sands, 4 Bayfront Ave, Singapore 018973. It is linked directly to the Bayfront MRT station, coded CE1 or DT16 on the Circle and Downtown lines respectively. Exits C and D connect directly to The Shoppes at Marina Bay Sands, with the Sands Theatre a 10-minute indoor walk away. MRT services to and from Bayfront Station operate daily from approximately 6am to 12 midnight.

Regular bus services also stop directly outside the entrance to Sands Theatre on Bayfront Avenue, Bus Stop Number 03501. This stop is serviced by buses 97, 97e, 106, and 133.

The closest car and taxi pick-up and drop-off point is outside The Shoppes entrance on Bayfront Avenue, a 3-minute walk from Sands Theatre, and the closest car park is MBS' North Car Park, entry via Bayfront Avenue.

The Box Office is located at the entrance of the Sands Theatre. The friendly Box Office team will gladly assist you.

The touch tour will commence 90 minutes before the show at 1pm. Please meet at the Box Office, where we will begin the tour.

Do remember to bring your own mobile phone and earphones and download the Sennheiser Mobile Connect App prior to your visit. The Box Office team has two spare handsets available for use if necessary, and can be collected from the Box Office. Please set aside ample time to check your app and connectivity.

Accessible toilets can be found on all levels of the theatre. Please approach a member of staff for directions.

Sands Theatre has a variety of wheelchair seats, both for sitting in your wheelchair and transferring. If you require a wheelchair space, or would like to understand more about transferring options, please contact our venue team at [boxoffice@srt.com.sg](mailto:boxoffice@srt.com.sg) or 6733 8166.

The bar is open before the show and during intermission, serving a variety of drinks and snacks, and is located in the foyer just outside the theatre doors.

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