



INTERCULTURAL THEATRE INSTITUTE presents

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S

OTHELLO

DIRECTED AND ADAPTED BY **TANG SHU-WING**

PERFORMED BY **ITI GRADUATING CLASS OF 2025**

6 – 8 NOV 2025

ESPLANADE THEATRE STUDIO

PROGRAMME

Presented by **Intercultural Theatre Institute**
In collaboration with **Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay**

OTHELLO

Written by William Shakespeare
Directed and adapted by Tang Shu-wing
Performed by ITI Graduating Class of 2025

6–8 November 2025
Thu – Sat: 7:30 PM / Sat: 2:30 PM
Esplanade Theatre Studio

Duration: 3 hours and 15 minutes (including intermission)

Presented by



In collaboration with



With support from



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SYNOPSIS

Intercultural Theatre Institute (ITI) proudly presents *Othello*, the graduating cohort's final production, directed and adapted by the internationally acclaimed theatre artist Tang Shu-wing.

Hailed as one of Hong Kong's most influential theatre directors, Tang is the founder and Artistic Director of Tang Shu-wing Theatre Studio, winner of three Hong Kong Drama Awards for Best Director, and recipient of both the Medal of Honour by the Hong Kong SAR Government and the Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Arts by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council.

Tang Shu-wing's adaptation of *Othello* strips the play to its emotional core, highlighting its relevance today through his signature use of minimalist aesthetics. Tang's bold approach to Shakespeare's classic tragedy explores jealousy, love, betrayal – and the consequences of living in a constructed reality that seeks to divide and destroy.

The graduating actor-students of ITI's Class of 2025 will transcend ethnic and gender boundaries to stage the spiralling descent of *Othello*, Desdemona, Iago, and the characters who orbit them.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

In the memory of time

Directing *Othello* means much more than a professional work to me. Mr. Kuo Pao Kun, the founder of TTRP (the former entity of ITI), was often invited as an external assessor by the newly established Hong Kong Arts Development Council in the mid-1990's. He attended several of my shows. I was among his audience when he promoted the to-be-born TTRP in Hong Kong in 1999. He asked me to direct a play for Theatre Practice soon after his health condition deteriorated. Although it fell through then, karma somehow led me to direct this ITI graduation project more than 20 years later.

My encounter with Pao Kun and various other masters convinced me that Simplicity is the hardest thing to conquer. I embarked on a long research journey on acting and theatre aesthetics, gathering some fundamental principles which I found particularly useful in my professional practice. Insight, sense of responsibility and skills are the three keys to excellence. Today, my pursuit is no longer merely a "physical theatre" with which I am always associated, but a minimalist aesthetics starting from the Body where the human soul is born, regardless of whether the corporeal expression is realistic or not.

Shakespeare was the first playwright to expose the complicated psychology of Modern Human Beings. I chose *Othello*, one of his most difficult plays, to train my four actors because they need this kind of learning experience here and now before undertaking more diverse challenges in the future.



CONTINUED

This play is actually about an individual fighting a war against themselves, under a destructive and groundless belief, which draws close parallels to real human warfare - including our fight against fake news nowadays. I believe that this theme connects equally to the younger generation. My goal is to create 'a poetry of words embedded in a network of realistic corporeal expressions.' My job is to help the actors form an ensemble while finding personal support for each one of them to grow.

To work on a play such as *Othello* within seven weeks with students who have never performed in Old English before is not an easy task. I must extend my gratitude to the faculty and staff of ITI who are so efficient in problem-solving; to my dedicated design and production team members; to Esplanade, where some of my favourite works were presented at Huayi more than a decade ago; and to you all who came to witness the process of a collective effort to produce a live performance under a school context.

Tang Shu-wing

CREDITS

Written by William Shakespeare

Directed and Adapted by Tang Shu-wing

Lighting and Set Designer.....Dorothy Png

Costume Designer.....Loo An Ni

Sound Designer.....Daniel Wong

Production Manager.....Clarisse Ng

Stage Manager.....Maureen Ni

Assistant Stage Manager.....Yan Xi

Graphic Designer.....Chris Foo

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Special thanks to Guan Weinan.

ITI GRADUATING CLASS OF 2025

Aditi Venkateshwaran.....IAGO / BIANCA

Kunal Dara.....OTHELLO / CASSIO

Sanat Mehta.....RODERIGO / BRABANTIO / EMILIA

Surendran Ananthan.....DESDEMONA / MONTANO

CAST



Aditi Venkateshwaran - *Iago / Bianca*

Aditi Venkateshwaran is a contemporary performer— an actor, dancer and a choreographer with a keen interest in storytelling, writing and travel. Trained in the Indian Classical dance form of Kathak as well as Hindustani Classical music, Aditi has worked in the performing arts field since she was a child. She directed her first full-length dance theatre production — *In Transit* (2017), followed by *Fall Again | Fly Better* (2020), a one-woman show, which toured to various festivals around India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Europe. Her recent work, *Constant Acts of Disobeying* (2021), is an investigation into the feminist movement and the mandates of gender and sexuality.

She received the Pandit D.V Paluskar Award for Kathak by the Sharda Sangeet Academy, Mumbai, as well as the Rangasetu Fellowship by the Maharashtra Cultural Centre, Pune. Aditi's work traverses the traditional and the contemporary and shows an inclination towards discovering an interdisciplinary approach to performance practices in her country. She looks at people around her for inspiration and is deeply interested in the stories they have to share.

Aditi is a recipient of the Tan Chay Bing Education Fund Scholarship and a beneficiary of the Möbius Fund, a revolving loan fund for actor-students.



Kunal Dara - *Othello / Cassio*

Kunal Dara is an actor from New Delhi, India, whose journey into theatre began with skipping college to immerse himself in the world of performance—playing theatre games, exploring the space, and sometimes, just being present. Over the years, he has been part of the LTG Repertory Company and collaborated with various theatre groups across Delhi as a freelance artist.

Before joining ITI, Kunal was a core member of Mrit Pathshala (The Dead School), where he performed for over a year. Notable works include *King Lear*, *The Other Half*, *Kala Yug*, *Maya*, and *Andorra*. Beyond performance, he has used devising as a tool to engage with underprivileged children and domestic workers on workplace and home safety, collaborating with the Martha Farrell Foundation (MFF).

Looking ahead, Kunal envisions a future of performing and travelling. Eventually, he hopes to cross disciplines and create his own unique body of work, blending different artistic forms and perspectives.

Kunal is a recipient of the Tan Chay Bing Education Fund Scholarship and a beneficiary of the Möbius Fund.

CAST



Sanat Mehta - *Roderigo / Brabantio / Emilia*

Sanat Mehta is a movement and theatre artist whose practice bridges dance, theatre, and intercultural performance.

His notable works include the solo performance, *Maintain Distance* (2020), 'Dr. Astrov' in *Uncle Vanya* (2019), *A Man Alone with his Destiny* (Butoh, 2022), *Shadow and the Spirit* (Butoh, 2024), *Entangle* (Butoh & Contact Improvisation, 2025) and *No Particular Order* (2025). Driven by curiosity about acting pedagogies, somatic wisdom, and embodied spirituality, Sanat investigates these concepts through the lens of Asian performing arts and their dialogue with global theatre and dance traditions. His vision is to integrate a holistic understanding of the living body into artistic practice, fostering both individual and collective expression.

He has facilitated educational programs across South Asia, sharing knowledge on self-transformation through the performing arts. His empirical research spans Movement Meditation, Butoh, Contact Improvisation, Taiji, and Flow Arts, drawing inspiration from Noh Theatre, Wayang Wong, Kutiyattam, and Jingju, as well as Suzuki, Mask Work, and other Acting methodologies he has studied at the Intercultural Theatre Institute.

Sanat is a recipient of the Tan Chay Bing Education Fund Scholarship and a beneficiary of the Möbius Fund.



Surendran Ananthan - *Desdemona / Montano*

Surendran Ananthan is an aspiring actor who first became intrigued by the arts upon joining the Ngee Ann Polytechnic Indian Cultural Society. His interest inspired him to audition for an acting competition on the local Indian channel, Vasantham (known as "Udhayam" in 2010). He progressed till the finals and clinched the 1st runner-up. He was then introduced to the local Tamil theatre companies Athipathi International, Avant Theatre, Ravindran Drama Group and 2Tango Dazzle to explore his acting skills. In addition to his contributions to the theatre community, he is also active in Singapore's TV dramas and short films.

He has acted in many dramas, including *Murasu*, *Iruthiyil Yaar*, *Moksha Festival*, *Sakuni* and more. At the Pradhana Vizha Awards in 2024, Surendran walked away with the "Most Popular Male Personality Award" presented by the Vasantham channel. His desire to improve his acting skills and grow as an artist led him to enrol at Intercultural Theatre Institute in 2023. After graduating from ITI, Surendran intends to become a drama educator for youth to inspire the future generations. He strongly believes that the best way for continuous learning is through teaching.

Surendran is a recipient of the Tan Chay Bing Education Fund Scholarship.

CREATIVE TEAM

Tang Shu-wing, MH - *Director*

Regarded as one of the most influential theatre directors in Hong Kong, Tang is the Artistic Director of Tang Shu-wing Theatre Studio and former Dean of the School of Drama of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. Recent signature works include adaptations of *King Lear* and the *Bhagavad Gita*. His major awards include the Medal of Honour from HKSAR, the Award for Outstanding Contribution in Arts by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, an Honorary Doctorate from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, and l'Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture.

Dorothy Png - *Lighting and Set Designer*

Trained at the University of Iowa in both Lighting and Scenic Design, Dorothy has worked with most of Singapore's theatre and dance companies since she started her theatre career in 1993. She also collaborates with independent artists for their own performances, with a passion for creative experimentation. Her range of work spans across theatre, contemporary dance, ballet, opera, musical, site-specific works, outdoor productions and music concerts. She is excited to be working on this version of ITI's *Othello* with famed Hong Kong director Tang Shu-wing.

Loo An Ni - *Costume Designer*

Loo An Ni is fascinated with the tactility of objects and spaces. This brought her into theatre where possibilities are endless. Having taken on various roles behind the scenes from design and construction of costumes and puppets to wardrobe management, her current interest is exploring how these two fields can meld with or complement each other. She is currently a member of The Finger Players' core team.

Daniel Wong - *Sound Designer*

Daniel Wong is a sound designer, composer and music producer. He graduated from Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music with a B.Mus (Hons) in Recording Arts & Science. Sound design credits include *Singapore, Michigan; Doubt: A Parable; People, Places & Things; Muswell Hill* (Pangdemonium), *Disgraced; 2:22 - A Ghost Story; The Almighty Sometimes; Tuesdays with Morrie* (SRT), *Every Brilliant Thing; I And You* (Gateway Arts), *G*d is a Woman; Cafe* (Wild Rice). Outside of theatre, Daniel runs a recording studio, where he produces songs for artists and provides audio post-production services for films and advertisements.

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ABOUT ITI

Intercultural Theatre Institute (ITI) is the world's premier intercultural theatre conservatory, conceived as a unique, independent, and unprecedented enterprise in theatre training, social and cultural interaction, and human understanding. It offers a unique curriculum that juxtaposes traditional and contemporary practices. ITI equips students to address today's artistic and societal challenges through a strong foundation in intercultural dialogue.

Committed to nurturing diverse voices and fostering regional collaborations, the institute aims to play a vital role in shaping a vibrant arts ecosystem. Its mission is rooted in the future of arts education and talent development, embracing the values of cultural and social diversity and celebrating humanity and life.

ITI began as the Theatre Training & Research Programme (TTRP) and has evolved over the past 25 years. Today, ITI's Acting Programme is highly regarded in the arts community and has attracted international recognition of the highest order through its consistent quality and celebrated alumni.

**“The responsibilities of the artist are clear.
The highest responsibility of the artist is often
to be irresponsible, to speak truth to power, to
give voice to the voiceless, to say that which we
are afraid to say, to cast out doubt, to believe in
the common humanity of all mankind.”**

T. Sasitharan, ITI Co-Founder & Director

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Join the Community!

In celebration of ITI's 25th anniversary, we are inviting 250 people to stand with us — to help sustain this unique and vital institution for the next generation of socially conscious artists.

Your gift will:

- Support actor-students who need financial assistance
- Sustain our rigorous intercultural training
- Keep ITI independent, inclusive, and artist-driven

Be one of the 250!

ITI is a registered charity and an approved Institution of Public Character (IPC). More than 60% of its income has to come from fundraising.

Donations to ITI are eligible for 250% tax exemption and dollar-to-dollar matching by the government's Cultural Matching Fund.

DONATE via GIVING.SG HERE
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Your feedback matters.

PEI Registration No: 200818680E | Registration Period 13 Jul 2024 to 12 Jul 2028.

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THANK YOU

