



WHAT A YEAR!

2014 has been an unprecedented, busy year for Intercultural Theatre Institute (ITI).

The year began with us welcoming a new cohort of students who hailed from Singapore to Brazil, as they embarked on their training.

In March, the 2014 graduating cohort performed *Pericles*, their first of three graduating plays. Their second piece, *Cloud Messenger*, – a devised work with The Necessary Stage’s Alvin Tan and Haresh Sharma, played to an appreciative audience over the National Day weekend. Just this November, the final-year students rounded up the year with a revisit of *Invisibility*, this time directed by Drama Box’s Kok Heng Leun – and with that, closed their three, rigorous years of intercultural theatre training.

November was an especially busy time with the final graduating show and the triennial **Asian Intercultural Conference 2014** happening in the same time period. Co-presented with The Esplanade this edition, we saw four days, 12 sessions and delegates from 20 countries gathered in discussion and sharings on the direction and impact of their work.

The Angels Initiative was inspired by Professor Tommy Koh, Ambassador-At-Large. Earlier in November, we had the privilege to bring together our ITI Angels – individuals who have made invaluable contributions in growing the intercultural cause. The inaugural dinner was a delightful gathering of conviviality and good conversation.

We are grateful to those who choose to support ITI – some stalwart donors are Lee Foundation and Hong Leong Foundation; business partners both old and new – Aesop, CornerStone Wines, First Printers, Pek Sin Choon tea merchants, Rasel Catering and Swiss Life (Singapore); and many other supporters who have stood behind us.

To close the year, we partnered with Aesop, for an evening of fund-raising as part of the #GivingTuesday global movement, where a portion of the sales proceeds were donated to ITI.

Beyond the perimeters of our institute, 2014 was also a year with many civic movements in the arts and cultural field. We saw the **Arts Engage initiative** successfully appealing against the implementation of a planned Media Development Authority term licensing scheme. Together with the larger civic society groups, we have also come together to be heard against the **National Library Board’s decision to ban three children’s books**. It was also a year we stood with joint signatories behind award-winning film-maker Tan Pin Pin’s *To Singapore, With Love*, which received a no-distribution rating from the authorities.

Indeed, it was a year of active engagement, of arts, culture and society working together. It was a year that gave us much to look forward to in 2015.

Next year, ITI will open our doors to our largest cohort of Singaporean students yet; even as the national calendar fills with plans, programmes and parties for SG50 – Singapore’s golden jubilee year.

There is much ahead; and if you would like to support and sustain what we do, an easy way to give to the arts this season can be found at **SG Gives**. Every contribution plays an impactful part.

Come join in the journey with us.

Happy holidays from all of us at ITI!



NEWS & ENGAGEMENTS

ITI Angels Initiative Inaugural Dinner 20 Nov

Generous philanthropists from across the spectrum of society came together for the inaugural ITI Angels Initiative Dinner. The evening also drew wonderful support from Swiss Life and partners Aesop, Cornerstone Wines and Pan Pacific Singapore.

Asian Intercultural Conference (AIC 2014) 25 – 28 Nov

With a focus on the “Asian intercultural”, the once-in-three-years AIC returned this November with a four-day run at The Esplanade, welcoming cultural practitioners, researchers, students and artists from around the world for a lively engagement.

Final graduation show – Invisibility 27 – 29 Nov

For the third and final show for this year’s graduating cohort, our students were guided by Drama Box’s Kok Heng Leun who directed them in Quah Sy Ren’s iconic work, *Invisibility*, revisited almost two decades since its debut.

2014 Cohort Graduation Day 1 Dec

Our heartiest congratulations to this year’s final-year cohort who officially graduated on 1 Dec after three intensive years with ITI. With that, they join the growing network of alumni working and contributing in art and theatre worldwide.

Speaking out for film-maker Tan Pin Pin - 10 Sep joint statement

Together with other Singapore artists, ITI director and co-founder, T. Sasitharan, was a signatory calling on the Media Development Authority (MDA) of Singapore to overturn a decision not to allow lauded film-maker Tan Pin Pin’s *To Singapore, With Love* to be shown on local shores.

As Guest-of-Honour

Sasi had the pleasure of being Guest-of-honour at In Source Theatre’s restaging of *Mandala* (9 Oct) and at art photographer Tan Ngiap Heng’s solo exhibition, *Body of Work* (20 Oct).

Working with Chowk

Sasi co-directed *The Blind Age* with Chowk Productions’ Raka Maitra for a powerful dance-theatre production at The Esplanade. Six of ITI’s students also formed part of the cast. “It was a joy to watch actors [from ITI] who were equally adept at dramatic as well as highly formalised movement expression,” reviewed *The Straits Times*.

The Fellowship Ends

General manager Goh Su Lin completed her one-year experience of the National Arts Council’ inaugural Cultural Fellowship programme. The year-long stint concluded with a final Cultural Leaders’ Lab Open Conversation at LASALLE on 13 November.

We Welcome In 2015

We look forward to the next year when visiting students from the Norwegian Theatre Academy and the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts join our 2015 cohort for training opportunities in ITI’s unique pedagogy.



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