

For immediate release

23 Feb 2012



Corporal PUNishment: Putting the 'Cute' in 'Execute'.

Kuala Lumpur, February 2012 –The Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (klpac) is thrilled to present ***Corporal PUNishment***, a devised play taking on the manic and often reprehensible theme of puns and wordplay. Like an irritated bowel, the show will run in Pentas 2 @ the Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre from **11 April to 15 April**.

Conceptualized and written by Uihua and Freddy Tan (*The winner of SHORT + SWEET MALAYSIA THEATRE 2011 Best script and Festival Director's award respectively*), the play, also directed by Freddy Tan, aspires to explore the complexity of puns and the potency of shaping a performance primarily based on wordplay.

Set in an abysmally serious world where pun-crafting and joke-cracking will earn you jail time, one man named TL, who is born humorous faces many difficulties in life due to the clash between his propensity for humour and the (literally) serious world- he lives in. He then comes across the legend of the Pundora's box: a long-forgotten ancient relic which, according to the myth, would turn this otherwise boring world upside down. ***Corporal PUNishment*** sees TL embarking on an epic adventure with his companions, overcoming the odds that inevitably stand in their way. But, what awaits them inside the Pundora's box? Could it be the long forgotten sense of humour? Or could it be a global pundemic that will change the(ir) world forever? We don't know either. We haven't written that part of the script yet.

Incorporating a strong element of ensemble work and *metatheatre* approach, ***Corporal PUNishment*** is the farcical response to the sometimes monotonous world that we live in.

Corporal PUNishment will showcase the young and talented cast consisting of Jeremy Ooi and Chi Ho in principal roles, and featuring Matthew Ong, Erin Marie, Prisca Wong, Jen Yee, Miho Yeap, Joe Pagnelli, and Lorna Hoong as ensemble cast. Uihua, the playwright, will also make a cameo appearance as a ~~planted audience~~ supporting cast.

Written and produced with the objective to entertain and defy the road less travelled, ***Corporal PUNishment*** is recommended for mature, less Frost-y audiences only.

Corporal PUNishment will also be travelling north to Penang during the Labour Day week, showing from May 2 till May 6 at Stage 2, penangpac, Straits Quay.

klpac presents ***Corporal PUNishment*** from April 11 to April 15 at Pentas 2; co-present by penangpac from May 2 to May 6 at Stage 2. Tickets are priced at RM33 for adults and RM23 for students, the disabled and TAS Card members; to purchase, call +603-4097 9000 or walk-in to klpac or The Actors Studio @ Lot 10; visit www.klpac.org for more info.

Issued by
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SHOW DETAILS



Show Title	Corporal PUNishment
Presenter	The Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (klpac) Performing Arts Centre of Penang (penangpac)
KL Shows Dates/Times	*April 11 (Wed) - April 14 (Sat) @ 8.38pm Matinee on April 15 (Sun) @ 3.33pm Secret show on April 15 (Sun) @ 8.38pm
Penang Shows Dates/Times	*May 2 (Wed) – May 5 (Sat) @ 8.38pm Matinee on May 6 (Sun) @ 3.33pm Secret show on May 6 (Sun) @ 8.38pm
KL Venue	Pentas 2 , The Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (klpac) Sentul Park, Jalan Strachan 51100 Kuala Lumpur
Penang Venue	Stage 2 , Performing Arts Centre of Penang (penangpac) 3H-3A-I, Straits Quay, Jalan Seri Tanjung Penang Tanjung Tokong, 10470 Penang
Tickets	RM33 (Adults) RM23 (Students, the Disabled and TAS Card members)
Promotions	* Preview night – April 11 (Wed) & May 2 (Wed) @ RM23 flat rate
Box Office	
Call or Walk-in:	klpac @ Sentul Park (+603-40479000) The Actors Studio @ Lot 10 (+603-21422009 / 21432009) penangpac @ Straits Quay (+604-899 1722)
Walk-in Only :	ILasso Tickets @ A606 Block A, Phileo Damansara II, PJ 79576088
Website	http://www.klpac.org/?p=5882
Facebook	http://www.facebook.com/events/346644585375889/
Visuals	click here Also check out the <i>Corporal PUNishment</i> event page on Facebook!
Other Info	<i>Corporal PUNishment</i> will run for approximately 75 minutes without an intermission. Doors open 10 minutes before every scheduled performance. Recommended for mature audiences only (nature of content, simulated violence, sexuality), with costume changes on stage.

About The Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (klpac)

Opened in May 2005, klpac is Malaysia's only fully-integrated performing arts centre. A non-profit organization, it aims to nurture and develop the performing arts in Malaysia. Since its opening, klpac has housed close to 400 performances, film screenings, art exhibitions and events. The Actors Studio Academy housed in klpac conducts a wide range of courses and runs a crucial community outreach programme. Other educational initiatives include the klpac Orchestra, the Theatre for Young People (T4YP) programme, an Artist-in-Residence programme as well as an annual bursary called Datin Paduka Seri Endon Award for Performing Arts Excellence.

klpac is the result of a partnership between The Actors Studio, YTL Corporation and Yayasan Budi Penyayang. Its sponsors for the 2009 to 2011 period include HSBC in the Arts, Mercedes-Benz Malaysia, JT International Berhad and Jabatan Kebudayaan dan Kesenian Malaysia. For more information, please visit <http://klpac.org>.

THE CORPORAL PUNOGRAPHERS

Executive Producer | **Dato' Faridah Merican**

Artistic Director | **Joe Hasham OAM**

Concept & Story | **Freddy Tan & Uihua**

Director & Production Manager | **Freddy Tan**

Stage Manager | **Lorna Hoong**

Set, Costume, Prop Design | **Devised by ensemble**

Lighting Design | **Mohd Fairuz @ Boy**

Sound Operation | **Ezanen Mazlan**

Backstage Technician | **Mathanakumar Murthi**

Photography & Multimedia Design | **Nicholas Chin**

Graphic Design | **Joel Wong**

Cast | **Chi Ho, Erin Marie, Jen Yee, Jeremy Ooi, Joe Pagnelli, Lorna Hoong, Matthew Ong, Miho Yeap, Prisca Wong** | Supported by **Uihua**

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

with Freddy Tan, director/writer and Uihua, writer of *Corporal PUNishment*

What is a devised play?

It is a play conceived and brought to theatrical fruition by the equal collaboration of a group of people. All elements of the piece - writing, direction, set, costume, lighting and any other devices deemed a necessary part of the finished piece will be the responsibility of the group.

What exactly is Pun?

To put simply, pun is a joke exploiting the different possible meanings of a word or the fact that there are words that sound alike but have different meanings. One can pun about anything and at anywhere so long there're words involved. Example: "*Hurt a bone today and you will hurt to marrow*"

Why choose puns as the theme for the devised play?

For too long, puns have been maligned as a low form of humour. Are puns an effective comedy method or just abuse? If quick, hard-hitting, and impactful punches are valued in boxing and first dates, why is the same reverence not applicable to humour?

What is metatheatre?

Metatheatre can be defined as a play about a play or a play within a play; highlighting moments of self-consciousness by which a play draws attention to its own fictional status as a theatrical make-believe. For example, a play about the scriptwriting process of the said play or an actor expressing his view about the play from outsider point of view (e.g., audience, reviewer, security guard, etc).

Who should come and watch this play?

Those who want to laugh. Those who want to experience theatre with an edge. Those who can stomach cerebral penmanship, enjoy verbal wit and punchlines. Essentially, those who want to have fun.

What can I expect from watching this play?

The universal bonding between your palm and your forehead.

What other words can one use to describe this play?

Punch-line-driven. Alternate reality logic. Social commentary. Heroism. Out-of-the-box

Sum up this play in one word.

Genus!

BIOGRAPHIES: CREATIVE TEAM

DATO' FARIDAH MERICAN | Executive Producer

In 1989, Faridah co-founded The Actors Studio with her husband Joe Hasham. As the first privately owned and operated theatre venue in Malaysia, The Actors Studio was instrumental in the growth of the performing arts in the 1990s. Faridah, has more than anyone else, guaranteed certain continuity in mainstream theatre by bridging the generational gap, working extensively with young people today. Her philosophy that 'Performing Arts belong to all Malaysians' has helped unite all practitioners and instilled a sense of community within Malaysian Performing Arts.

Her role in the arts has expanded from that of actress to director, producer and mentor. She is a tireless advocate of the arts, taking the message of a cultured Malaysian to the man on the street, corporate gurus and heads of government. She is responsible for the birth of The Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre, set up by the YTL Group, Yayasan Budi Penyayang and The Actors Studio. Faridah Merican was awarded the BOH Cameronian Lifetime Achievement Award for 2004.

JOE HASHAM OAM | Artistic Director

Joe was born in Tripoli, Lebanon, did his schooling in Sydney, Australia, moved to Malaysia in 1984 and is now a proud permanent resident of his adopted country. Joe is Artistic Director of The Actors Studio, which he set up with his wife Faridah in 1989 and also Artistic Director of The Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre. Joe is a graduate of NIDA (National Institute of Dramatic Art) at the University of NSW, Sydney, Australia. Before he made the decision to come to Malaysia, he was one of the most sought after actors in Australia. Joe is a multi-award winning film director, actor, writer and recording artist.

Joe was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), within the Australian Honours System "For Service to the performing arts through The Actors Studio (Malaysia) and The Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre; and, as an actor, writer, producer and director".

FREDDY TAN | Director & Writer

Class clown, kid-at-the-back-of-the-bus-making-all-the-funny-noises, token Chinese gangster, frisky, juvenile and adventurous – Freddy is all these and more. Freddy Tan first started in theatre when he stage managed for *INDICINELIVE! 1* (April 2010). Since, he has worked both on-stage and off-stage (i.e., stage/production management, scriptwriting, etc). If you think he looks familiar, you've probably crossed paths with him in productions such as the *INDICINELIVE!* series, *After Juliet*, *IONESCO X2: The Chairs*, *SHORT+SWEET Malaysia Musical & Theatre (2010 & 2011)*, *CARTOON* by Steve Yockey, and *Malaysian Girls*. He recently won the Festival Director's award for his innovative direction of *Cast Adrift (written by Patrick Lee)* in *SHORT+SWEET Malaysia Theatre 2011*. He is also the resident production manager at klpac.

UIHUA | Director & Writer

With a face that looks as if it was caught on the wrong end of a Subaru, Uihua is an instantly recognizable figure among theatregoers and car enthusiasts. His most recent acting engagements were *CARTOON* by Steve Yockey (2011), *Klue, doh!* (2011) and the *INDICINELIVE!* Series (2010-2011). Uihua's first foray into scriptwriting was an entry to SHORT+SWEET THEATRE 2011, which he won the best script award. He has also contributed another short script to *It's the End of the World, Now Run Screaming!*, staged later this year. During the formative years of his youth, Uihua was introduced to the pulsating, gyrating cadence of Edgar Allen Poe and he's been writing poetry ever since- though in matters of the heart and esoteric rites of passage compared to Poe's gothic horror. You might say he caught a Yeats infection after a night of Poe dancing.

LORNA HOONG | Stage Manager & Ensemble Cast

A Dance graduate from the National Arts Academy, this ice queen is known to heat things up when it comes to disciplining people. A juggler of many hats, she skillfully organized her time between teaching English/dance/drama and musical theater. She is also a dancer, actor, writer, choreographer, stage manager and director. By any chance you need a person to whip your cast into shape... give her a call.

Prone to getting things done her way, she is perfect as a stage manager and at the same time, her outlandishness in being serious is perfect for comedy. This is her third foray into the comedy scene after *INDICINELIVE! 3* and *CARTOON* by Steve Yockey.

NICHOLAS CHIN | Photography & Multimedia Design

Taking with him a panache for print and an affinity for all things digital, Nicholas left the really long hours of advertising and to spend really long hours in a theater. With the line between a day job and what he does for fun now gone, he has been reduced to a slacker having too much fun.



BIOGRAPHIES: CAST

CHI HO | Principal Cast - FC

Phoon Chi Ho has only one talent - he is hardworking. Due of this, he is a budding actor, comedian, writer and voice-actor. He has acted in several commercials, movies, TV dramas, and plays. In 2010, he won Best Actor at KLPAC's SHORT + SWEET THEATRE competition. He is a well-known stand-up comedian in the Klang Valley and he's a member of the Malaysian Association of Chinese Comedians. He writes on a freelance basis, with works published on magazines, like FHM and FourFourTwo. He also lends his voice to cartoon characters, like the 12 characters in Soccer Kids (Animasia) that sounds like him. Currently, Chi Ho is attending a crash course on word economy. In Corporal PUNishment, Chi Ho will be playing the character of FC, who is the best friend and adventure companion to the protagonist – TL.

ERIN MARIE | Ensemble Cast

They say you spend a fine amount of \$\$\$ on a hobby. Performing for over a decade, yes, the wallet isn't happy but her heart sure is! You might've seen her in Kelvin Wong's *The Poet And The Rent* or the recent Short + Sweet Festival 2011.

A curious cat with an attention span of a 5-year old, she does Public Relations and Event Coordination when she doesn't pretend to be someone on stage. For fun, you'll find her abusing Shazam on her brand new purchased iPhone or drawing on people's faces while they are asleep. Her last words would be to tell you that Sagittarians are truly, truly, oh so truly special people. Like Britney Spears. High Five? No?

JEN YEE | Ensemble Cast

Jen Yee has had a passion for performance from a young age. Having performed in several school plays, workshops and crazy antics at home, she has finally arrived at the KLPAC scene, with only one show under her belt so far. Designer by day and actor by night, she has dedicated herself to making you laugh - after office hours only.

JEREMY OOI | Principal Cast – TL

Jeremy Ooi started his theatre experience behind the scenes with THE ORAL STAGE and KLPAC since 2008. After a few productions of doing production work, stage management and tech operations, he finally found the courage to venture on stage and made his acting debut in 2010. After a few more productions on stage, he joined SHORT + SWEET THEATRE 2010 and 2011, was short-listed for the gala night for both years. Still fairly new to acting, this will mark his 6th appearance on stage. A game producer by day, he continues to explore artistically in theatre and martial arts on his free time.

Jeremy will be playing as TL, the protagonist in Corporal PUNishment.

JOE PAGNELLI | Ensemble Cast

Joe Pagnelli, 16, first found his love for theater when he was just 10 years old, when he was encouraged by his Drama teacher to audition for a part in the school's production of "Blood Brothers". After enjoying his first role, he subsequently joined school productions every year after that. In 2009 he moved from France to Malaysia, and brought with him his unusual humor as well as extrovert personality. He spent his last 2 high school years in Sri Kuala Lumpur where he, along with his class, joined the inter-class drama competition, winning twice in a row. It was then that he met Kelvin Wong, who ultimately casted him months later in *Rupert and His Seven Russian Email Brides* (SHORT + SWEET THEATRE 2011 Best Overall Production and Best Glitz & Glamour awards), where Joe's open-mindedness and enthusiastic nature led to him playing a Russian woman. Besides acting, Joe enjoys doing improv comedy as well as cooking, albeit some have said that his humor can be rather tasteless.

MATTHEW ONG | Ensemble Cast

Matthew is a journalism major who moved on from the broadcasting line into the world of corporate marketing. Matthew also sang for The Canticle Singers and the Horses of Uranus (yes, a real choir) for several years.

Matt enjoys embarrassing himself, which is why he does theater. Having done two plays (*CARTOON* by Steve Yockey & *Rupert and His Seven Russian Email Brides*), Matt is keen for more. Matt also likes Pina Coladas, getting caught in the rain, and isn't into yoga. He thanks one and all for making it to the show.

MIHO YEAP | Ensemble Cast

Corporal PUNishment is Miho's second production under klpac and she definitely thinks it'll be a lot 'pun-nier.' Miho has been a member of her school drama club since the age of 12 and has been making crappy jokes since birth. To date she has taken part in *The Wizard of Oz*, *Fame*, *The Ratz*, *Arabian Nights*, *Frantic Assembly* and *Complicite* under the Alice Smith School, KL.

PRISCA WONG | Ensemble Cast

Graduated from USM (Penang) with Acting and Directing degree, she knows that the fancy degree will not earn her big bucks in the theatre scene. And so, she hides behind cameras and work as a Production Manager for a production house. (And no, she still doesn't earn the big bucks). In 2009, she was in *Wacky Bar*, directed by Joanna Bessey, as the girl that fills up the empty space on stage. She made her acting debut in *Women Of Silk River* (2010), directed by Kimmy Kiew. Then, there was *Bars and Bedrooms* (2011), directed by Elza Irdalynna and SHORT + SWEET THEATRE 2011 in *Birthday* directed by Nurul Badriah. Prisca enjoy adventurous activities, snapping her lomo cameras, and soaking up the sun. Secretly, she wants to stay on a treehouse by the waterfall with her cat. (Yes, she is a cat-lady).