



Lo Mio and Chiu Liet: Presenting Shakespeare’s Classic in Bite-Sized with Chopsticks

KUALA LUMPUR, January 2016 - Presented by The Actors Studio Seni Teater Rakyat and the Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (klpac), SIFU Production’s “**Lo Mio and Chiu Liet: Forbidden Love in Forbidden City**” (羅妙與邱麗葉：紫禁城禁忌之戀) is an original adaptation of Romeo and Juliet – one of William Shakespeare’s most popular plays. This retelling turns the romantic tragedy set in the Italian Renaissance into a tragi-damedy set in turn-of-the-century feudal China, where a cultural clash between the westernized House of Chiu and the feudalist House of Lo becomes the wedge between our star-crossed lovers.

With lines such as “O Lo Mio, Lo Mio, whyforth mantao”, **Lo Mio and Chiu Liet: Forbidden Love in Forbidden City** contains many comedic infusions of its Chinese setting without straying too far from its source material. The question to ask here is: *How do you lend a breath of fresh air to a story that’s over 400 years old?* Adapted by Freddy Tan and UiHua Cheah and directed by Freddy Tan, the play will be a bilingual English/Cantonese (with some Mandarin) production with subtitles provided.

The 11-strong cast features the talents of Alfred Loh, Amanda Ang, Dylan Yeo, Emily Tan, Fahad Iman, Gregory Sze, Ho Su Chuin Mark Beau De Silva, Shawn Loong, Stefanie Paulus, and William Yap. **Lo Mio and Chiu Liet: Forbidden Love in Forbidden City** will be opening slightly after Chinese New Year, from 25 Feb till 6 Mar 2016 at klpac’s pentas 2.

Lo Mio and Chiu Liet: Forbidden Love in Forbidden City is the second play to be launched under klpac’s 2016 Shakespeare Festival, commemorating the 400th anniversary of the playwright’s death. For more information on the festival and other upcoming plays, please visit: <http://www.klpac.org>

SHOW DETAILS

Show Title	“Lo Mio and Chiu Liet: Forbidden Love in Forbidden City” (羅妙與邱麗葉：紫禁城禁忌之戀)
Presenter	The Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (klpac) and The Actor’s Studio Teater Seni Rakyat in collaboration with SIFU Production
Dates/Times	25 – 27 Feb, 2 – 5 Mar 2016 @ 8:30pm 28 Feb, 6 Mar (Sunday) 2016 @ 3:00pm
Venue	Pentas 2 , The Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (klpac),
Admission	RM45 (Adults) RM35 (Students, Disabled and TAS Card Members) <i>All ticket prices are inclusive of 6% GST and ticket handling fee</i>
Box Office	+603 4047 9000 (klpac) +603 7880 7999 (ticketpro)
Online Ticketing	theactorsstudio.com.my, klpac.org, ticketpro.com.my
Social Media	https://www.facebook.com/theklpac https://www.facebook.com/TheActorsStudio https://www.facebook.com/sifu.production https://www.facebook.com/events/570299153126022/
Other Info	The show will run for approximately 90 minutes. There will be a 15-minute intermission. Doors open 10-15 minutes before every scheduled performance. Latecomers will only be allowed in at suitable times. Recommended for audiences from 13 years and above. There will be surtitles in both English and Chinese.

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 organisation, it aims to nurture and develop the performing arts in Malaysia. Since opening, it has housed close to 400 performances, film screenings, art exhibitions and events. The klpac Academy 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 the 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 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 www.klpac.org.

About SIFU Production

Founded by three friends who share the passion and love for theatre, **Siti** Farrah Abdullah, **Freddy** Tan & **Ui** Hua Cheah formed SIFU Theatre Production in 2013. Mostly known for their highly experimental 'NETMBR play buffet of 30 plays in 60 mins' show that played thrice here in KL, and once in the neighbouring Singapore as part of the Causeway Exchange Festival in 2014. As well as the staging of local work - FIFTEEN in 2015 and the production team behind the INDICINELIVE! REVIVAL SHOW. The company aims to produce quality artistic entertainment that involves and arouses the local community to develop appreciations in all aspects of theatre arts. Look out for more productions to be conceived by SIFU Production in the near future!

Lo Mio and Chiu Liet Production Team

Executive Producer (klpac)	Dato' Faridah Merican
Artistic Director (klpac)	Joe Hasham OAM
Director/Playwright	Freddy Tan
Playwright	Ui Hua Cheah
Production Manager	Easee Gan
Assistant Production Manager	Soo Choy Wah
Stage Managers	Kit Hui Min
Assistant Stage Manager	Carlos Ong
Production Assistant	Sho Suzuki
Publicist (klpac)	Nurul Mohamad
Publicist (SIFU Production)	Ngion Mie Chelle
Set Designer	Tan Zen Lin
Sound Designer	Clarence Chua
Multimedia Designer	Nicholas Chin
Costume Designer	Dominique Devorsine
Lighting Designer	Boy

Cast	Alfred Loh, Amanda Ang, Dylan Yeo, Emily Tan, Fahad Iman, Gregory Sze, Ho Su Chuin, Mark Beau De Silva, Shawn Loong, Stefanie Paulus, William Yap
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BIOGRAPHIES:

Creative Team

FREDDY TAN – Director/Co-Writer

Freddy's love affair with theatre started in 2009 and he has been storming the scene both on and off stage with his eccentricity since. He was involved in every episode of INDICINELIVE! in various aspects including acting, writing and production managing. Other key acting credits include AFTER JULIET (2010), CARTOON by Steve Yockey (2011), FANTASTIC MR FOX (2013), NEVER EAT TOO MUCH BEFORE RAPTURE (2013 – 2014) and ZAK ZEBRA THE AFRICAN SAFARI in Kuala Lumpur (2015, February) and in Korea (2015, September).

Freddy has also bagged the Best Director and Best Overall Production awards for three years running at the annual SHORT + SWEET MALAYSIA Festivals Musical Category since 2011. His other notable theatre involvements include CORPORAL PUNISHMENT (2012, Director), THE UNEXPECTED GUEST (2013, Director), SIFU Production's very first full length play - FIFTEEN (2015, co-director) and INDICINELIVE! THE REVIVAL SHOW (2015, Director).

UIHUA CHEAH – Co-Writer

UiHua had his first taste of the stage in 2010. It tasted of paint and feet. INDICINELIVE has a special place in UiHua's heart since it's his first ever theatre production, and he has been a part of it for almost all its incarnations. Some of his other engagements are CARTOON BY STEVE YOCKEY (2011), CORPORAL PUNISHMENT (2012, Actor & Co-writer), THE UNEXPECTED GUEST (2013), THE NATURE OF MONSTERS (2014), and KLPAC 10TH ANNIVERSARY: DIRECTORS (2015). Oh, and he also bertumpang glamor with SIFU Production as an actor/facilitator/anything because they have awesome business cards.

UiHua also dabbles in stand-up, winning Best Overall Performance for SHORT + SWEET COMEDY in 2013 and 2014; and scriptwriting. These include entries to SHORT + SWEET THEATRE (Best Script Award, 2011 & 2012) and IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD NOW RUN SCREAMING (2012, Contributing Writer). You can also check out some of UiHua's more serious writings at cilisos.my

CLARENCE CHUA – Sound Designer

Clarence at first glance appears to be exactly what he claims to be, a clean-cut music graduate and enthusiastic music teacher to his students who thrives on coffee, which he consumes as most would water at the Theater of Sound in Petaling Jaya. He is also an undercover spoon specialist and sometimes 'rockstar' who in 2011, led his band Juanophobia to win the PASSPORT TO FAME BATTLE OF THE BANDS CHAMPIONSHIP. A former Sony Artist and 'rocker-for-hire', Clarence has performed for New Year's Eve at Sunway Lagoon Surf Beach and has become the musical director to beat at the SHORT + SWEET Festival series for Musical Theatre where he was named Best Musical Director in 2012 and 2014. He was also recently involved in SIFU Production's FIFTEEN (2015) as Sound Foley.

NICHOLAS CHIN – Multimedia Designer

Nicholas left the hectic work of advertising five years ago to join the hectic world of theatre. He was a full time designer and later the marketing manager for The Actors Studio and klpac. A designer at heart, he is driven to create on work and off. Nicholas has been the multimedia designer for indicinelive! for every episodes since 2010.

Cast/Performer

GREGORY SZE as LO MIO (*Romeo*)

When asked what he wanted to do many years ago, Gregory Sze said he wanted to act – to which his parents laughed and asked “What do you really want to do?” Of course, they meant well. To prove that he was just as serious, he started taking up acting classes and even auditioned for roles in a number of local productions. He even went as far as to procure a degree in acting - under the belief that a piece of paper would make him a better actor.

Over the years, he was involved in several stage productions including PARAH (2011, 2013), THIS CANNOT, THAT CANNOT (2013), SHORT + SWEET THEATRE (2013), MIASMA (2013), TWELFTH NIGHT (2010), STAGE THERAPY (2009). He was also part of the ensemble that formed the bulk of klpac’s 2009 T4YP troupe.

Other accomplishments include a role in a Malaysian TV series, dubbed GEMILANG (2011). The end of 2015 would mark his return to theatre after a one-year-plus stint as a writer for a local automotive portal.

STEFANIE PAULUS as CHIU LIET (*Juliet*)

Taking up an interest in the arts from the humble age of six, Stefanie Paulus had fallen in love with the concept of the stage, making it her place of refuge and her solace. From acting to dance lessons to music recitals, she never tires in finding new avenues at which to challenge herself. Each character is a new depth within her own psyche, each movement is a strong statement and each note that she sings is a new experience that she hopes to willingly translate from her innermost feelings.

Officially starting her performing career in KAKI BLUE THE MUSICAL and CUCI THE MUSICAL back in 2009, Stefanie had a strong performing prowess, continuing her work in acting, as well as music, all the way through to her first feature role as Martirio in BERNARDA ALBA in 2010. After taking a four year break to complete her Master’s Degree in Psychology, Stefanie has found her way back to KL and is once again heeding the call of the stage. With new experiences and recently completed showcases such as LOVE AND INFORMATION (2015), SEVEN FLOORS (2015), and ASCENT: THESE MEMORIES WERE MADE FOR WALKING (2015), she is looking to plunge back into the world she left behind with a new sense of vigour, passion and vision.

MARK BEAU DE SILVA as NURSE & PRINCE AISIN (*Prince Escalus*)

Mark Beau de Silva has been working in the arts since 2002, first as a stage manager, then a playwright with The Actors Studio Academy. His first play STORIES FOR AMAH was directed in 2002 by Joe Hasham and garnered five nominations in the inaugural Cameronian Arts Award including best script. Since then, Mark has written and directed many other plays namely 8 WAYS TO LIGHTEN THE SCHOOLBAG, OH MY GOD, BOTTOM TOP, KAKI BLUE THE MUSICAL, ADAM THE MUSICAL, and BIG HEAD POTATO HEAD which won 3 awards in the 2010 ADA Theatre Awards. In 2009, Mark spent 3 months working with South Korean company Nettle Theatre on a devised piece, and staged his first play in Singapore; MAMA’S WEDDING with Action Theatre.

In 2011 Mark won Best Director in the Short and Sweet Theatre Festival, and in 2013 the musical that he wrote MARRYING ME won Audience Choice Award at the 2013 Cameronian Arts Awards. Mark recently won Best Director in the Short and Sweet Festival 2014 for Theatre Category, and co-directed the musical ZAK ZEBRA’S AFRICAN SAFARI which toured in 2015 in South Korea. Mark is completing his masters in performing arts in 2016.

WILLIAM YAP as MA WA LIU (*Benvolio/Mercutio*)

An actor, a script writer, a director, a producer and a publicist, the multi-talented William Yap Yai Leong has been active in the local Chinese speaking theater scene since school days.

He made his directing debut in January 2010 by initiating & co-producing LOVE, a short film project and received Best Original Script award for SORRY IN LOVE in ADA Drama Awards 2012. His recent directorial works include PEOPLE LIKE US, FIRST LOVE, LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP, OLD BIRD, SICK and <O.N.S.> had received critical acclaims and overwhelmed box office from the audience. He was invited to be one of the 10 directors to be featured in the klpac 10th Anniversary Director Showcase. His other notable theatre works as actor include LAUGH CHINESE STYLE 2, NO TAKE 2 & GO TO HELL.

William is now a Content Manager for Malaysia's Number 1 Chinese Radio, MY FM.

HO SU CHUIN as SIFU FA LAI (*Friar Lawrence*)

Chuin started theatre when he was 13 with his high school' drama club. The days in drama club makes him realized that theatre is a space that can give him a glimpse to the truth and future of humanity, social and life itself. Hence he is dedicated to pursue the art in theatre. Chuin is an actor trained by the Suzuki Method, he is also a director and a playwright. His recent theatre works includes ROSANCRANTZ & GUILD ENSTERN IS DEAD(2013, as Director), EROS SNIGGER(2014, as Playwright & Director), LOVE OF NIGHTINGALE(2015, as Actor), WE WAIT AND WE STOP(2015, as Actor & Collective Artist), THE EXCEPTION AND THE RULE(2015, as Actor). Film Works include RETAKE(2015), and UNTIL WE MET(2015).

ALFRED LOH as MASTER CHIU (*Capulet*)

Alfred Loh began acting in 2008 as part of KLPAC's inaugural T4YP ensemble (2008). Notable stage appearances include The Oral Stage's OH DAD, POOR DAD, MOMMA'S HUNG YOU IN THE CLOSET AND I'M FEELING SO SAD (2009), Shakespeare's OHELLO by Masakini Theatre (2011), DANCING AT LUNGHANSA by The Actors Studio Kuala Lumpur (2011), A LANGUAGE OF OUR OWN for Little Red Shop (2013), 2 HOUSES for the Georgetown Festival (2014), ANOTHER COUNTRY with Wild Rice Singapore (2015) and most recently in Short and Sweet Kuala Lumpur where he won Best Actor in the theatre category. Alfred's musical appearances include THE PRODUCERS (2013) and THE WIZARD OF OZ (2012) with Pan Productions, and SINBAD (2014) with klpac.

Alfred's screen work include the childrens series KAPTEN BOLEH for Astro Ceria (2008) and PROJEK POP: THE SERIES for Phuture Phlow Films (2012). Alfred has also acted in various corporate videos, YouTube commercials, Malaysian independent short and feature films. Alfred also has an events management company that he aims to grow to fund his artistic pursuits.

AMANDA ANG as LADY CHIU (*Lady Capulet*)

Leaving the world of advertising deadlines and embarking on a new journey with "scripts down" targets instead, Amanda is largely excited (and maybe a little anxious) to venture full time into acting. With no formal training, she hopes that her previous performances have, nonetheless, resonated with audiences; potentially less for technique than for passion. In 2014, she was awarded Short+Sweet theater Best Actor (Female). Her theater experiences include: KLPac's ZAK ZEBRA (2015), BETRAYAL by Harold Pinter (2015), SHORT + SWEET THEATER (2014), MACBETH by Eugene Ionesco (2013), SHORT + SWEET THEATER (2013), THE UNEXPECTED GUEST (2013), KLPac's MALAYSIAN GIRLS (2012), CARTOON by Steve Yockey (2011), LOST & FOUND (2010) and EMP's JAMBALAYA (2010). She had also the chance to be a part of the TV pilot, LEGEND (2014) directed by Ash Nair & Gavin Yap and debuted in her first Malaysian independent film with Khairil M. Bahar's RELATIONSHIP STATUS (2011).

FAHAD IMAN as TYBALT CHIU (*Tybalt*)

Mohamad Fahad Iman is an actor for stage and screen, and he also aspires to be a director one day. He first dabbled in theatre when he joined the ensemble cast of WAYANG: THE STORY OF KUALA LUMPUR under Masakini Theatre Company in 2012. He then took his Diploma in Performing Arts at Sunway University, and finished his studies in 2014. He has also appeared in several nationwide TV commercials for brands such as KFC, Coca-Cola, Shell, TM Unifi, Toyota and Dashing. He is also appearing in his first TV series drama Isteri VS Tunang as a supporting role, slated to air on February 2016, on Astro Ria.

DYLAN YEO as BA LEI (*Paris*) and GREGORY CHIU (*Gregory*)

Dylan started his love for theatre during his university days, acting credits include ONCE UPON A TOWN (2013) and THE MID AUTUMN (2014). After graduation, he was actively involved in the Incubator Workshop, which is an independent performing group based in Universiti Malaysia Sabah. LOMIO AND CHIU LIET: FORBIDDEN LOVE IN FORBIDDEN CITY will be his first production outside of Sabah.

EMILY TAN as LADY LO (*Lady Montague*)

Graduated with a degree in classical music, Emily had always love live theatre performances. Watching musicals and plays inspired her a lot and she hope someday can do something related to theatre performance. In 2014, she becomes a member of Monday Show Entertainment where she started her training for acting, singing and dancing. After a year of hard work she had her first musical performance in MONDAY SHOW EXPOSED held at Indicine, klpac. She plays the role of the Baker's Wife from the musical INTO THE WOODS in one of the scenes. In September 2015, she and the other members from Monday Show Entertainment took part in the 2015 Short + Sweet Classic and Chorale where they won two awards (Best Glitz and Glamour and Audience Choices Award).

SHAWN LOONG as SAMPSON CHIU (*Sampson*)

Shawn's endeavour into theatre is relatively new, joining SHORT+SWEET THEATRE in 2015 as an actor has since propelled his interest in understanding the works, effort and discipline required in making performing arts come alive. A true believer in the importance of self expression, he is here to stay for awhile. Theatre has since become the perfect escape for him, and a more significant opportunity to quench his insatiable thirst of self-discovery.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

1. What's an adaptation?

Adapting a text for performance is a unique process. The creators of the new piece may choose to focus on or enhance certain aspects of the original text while de-emphasizing, adjusting or eliminating other aspects. Often times the structure of the story is altered in some way and what was, in the original, narrative description becomes stage action.

2. What can I expect from the show?

Parodies, satire, and a whole lotta laughs.

3. Why is it set in China?

Because we find 1920-30s China as a more familiar time and setting for Malaysian audiences than the original 1590s in Verona, Italy. Mainly due to our exposures to Hong Kong, Taiwan and China made films and cultural influences.

4. Will there be audience participation?

No, unless laughter is considered participation.

5. Can I bring children?

We recommend the show for audiences aged 13 and above, but will allow entry with parental consent. However, babies are highly un-recommended.

6. Can I bring my parents?

As long as they pay for tickets.

7. What language is the show in?

The show is primarily in English and Cantonese with some Mandarin.

9. Will there be subtitles?

Yes, in both English and Chinese for all dialogues.

Issued by

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