

## GENERAL INFORMATION GUIDE

### ADDRESS

National Library Building  
100 Victoria Street, Singapore 188064

### OPERATING HOURS

Monday to Sunday  
10am – 9pm (except public holidays)

### GETTING TO THE LIBRARY

#### BY TRAIN

10-minute walk from:  
Bugis MRT Station  
Bras Basah MRT Station  
City Hall MRT Station

#### BY CAR

Parking is available at the National Library Building. Parking rates apply.

#### Operating Hours:

Monday to Sunday, 7am to 11.30pm

### BY BUS

Cosmic Insurance Building  
Bus stop (01029)  
7, 32, 51, 61, 63, 80, 145, 175, 197, 851

Bras Basah Complex  
Bus stop (01019)  
2, 12, 33, 130, 133, 960

St. Joseph's Church  
Bus stop (01013)  
130, 133, 145, 197, 851, 960

Hotel Grand Pacific  
Bus stop (01012)  
2, 7, 12, 32, 33, 51, 61, 63, 80, 175

### BY TAXI

Pick-up and drop-off points along  
Middle Road and Victoria Street.



National Library  
Singapore



[www.nlb.gov.sg](http://www.nlb.gov.sg)



National Library Singapore

All information is correct at time of printing.

# Script & Stage

THEATRE IN SINGAPORE

FROM THE 50s TO 80s

28 OCTOBER 2016 –

26 MARCH 2017

LEVELS 7 & 8, PROMENADE  
NATIONAL LIBRARY BUILDING

10AM – 9PM

FREE ADMISSION



14 February – 17 April 2017

JURONG REGIONAL LIBRARY

20 December 2016 – 13 February 2017

WOODLANDS REGIONAL LIBRARY

31 October – 19 December 2016

CENTRAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

Delve into stories from traditional theatre found in Southeast Asia! Get up-close and personal with characters from the epic tales of the Ramayana, Mahabharata and Chinese legends. Learn about the theatre traditions of *wayang kulit* (shadow puppetry), Chinese street opera, and *therukoothu* (Tamil street theatre) through interactive displays at selected libraries around Singapore.

Theatre Tales!

MOVING EXHIBITION

Not to be missed are showcases of notable local musicals, such as *Beauty World* (TheatreWorks) and *Chang and Eng* (Action! Theatre), at the lobby of the National Library Building.

As we trace the development of Singapore's vernacular theatre communities from the 1950s to the 1980s, treat yourself to publications such as *Keris Sempena Riau*, the first *sandiwara* (Malay historical theatre) published and staged locally, as well as the manuscripts and drafts of acclaimed local playwrights like Kuo Pao Kun and Stella Kon.

Script & Stage explores the fascinating roots of local playwrighting and theatre production, highlighting significant performances, playwrights and prominent theatre companies that have shaped the foundation of contemporary theatre in Singapore.

MAIN EXHIBITION

# Script & Stage

THEATRE IN SINGAPORE  
FROM THE 50s TO 80s



## FREE ADMISSION

PLEASE REGISTER AT LIBRARY EKIOSKS  
OR [WWW.NLB.GOV.SG/GOLIBRARY](http://WWW.NLB.GOV.SG/GOLIBRARY).  
ALL PROGRAMMES ARE HELD AT THE  
NATIONAL LIBRARY BUILDING.

## PROGRAMMES

### THE ANATOMY OF A GREAT SO MUSICAL

Friday, 18 Nov 2016  
7.00pm – 8.30pm  
Level 16, The Pod  
Language: English

Learn firsthand from the experts what goes into a great musical and what makes Singapore musicals so distinctive.

Join us for an express tour of the exhibition before the programme at 6.30pm.

Meeting Point: Level 1 lobby, next to the information counter)

Speakers:  
Stella Kon, playwright and writer  
Kenneth Lyen, music composer and writer

Moderator:  
Jonathan Lum, NAFA Theatre lecturer and actor

### SINGAPORE ENGLISH LANGUAGE THEATRE: A GLANCE

Thursday, 1 Dec 2016  
7.00pm – 8.00pm  
Level 5, Possibility Room  
Language: English

Join Dr Robin Loon as he provides a snapshot of the evolution of English-language theatre in Singapore, from its origins as expatriate theatre to today's flourishing scene with many home-grown theatre companies.

Speaker:  
Robin Loon, Senior Lecturer of Theatre Studies, National University of Singapore (NUS). Playwright, dramaturg and co-founder of Centre 42.

### MALAY THEATRE DEVELOPMENTS: FROM THE 1960s TO PRESENT

Saturday, 14 Jan 2017  
10.00am – 11.30am  
Level 5, Possibility Room  
Language: Malay

Find out how the culturally rich local Malay contemporary theatre evolved into what it is today through the eyes of its theatre practitioners, before joining us for a tour of the exhibition.

Speakers:  
Nadiputra, Cultural Medallion recipient and director  
Aidli Mosbit, director, playwright and actor

Moderator:  
Hazriq Idrus, author and actor

### SOCIAL PLAYS IN SINGAPORE TAMIL THEATRE

Saturday, 4 Feb 2017  
2.00pm – 3.30pm  
Level 5, Possibility Room  
Language: Tamil

Learn about the various kinds of Tamil social plays staged locally and the impact they had on audiences, before joining us for a tour of the exhibition.

Speakers:  
Ram Narayanasamy, playwright and actor  
Anantha Kannan, Director of AK Theatre

Moderator:  
Vadivalagan PVSS, actor and media personality

### KUO PAO KUN: THE EDUCATOR

Saturday, 18 Mar 2017  
2.00pm – 3.30pm  
Level 5, Possibility Room  
Language: Mandarin

Kuo Pao Kun is perhaps Singapore's greatest dramatist and arts activist. Find out more about Kuo's role as an educator and how his far-sightedness has nurtured generations of theatre practitioners, before joining us for a tour of the exhibition.

Speakers:  
Liu Xiaoyi, Lab Director of The Theatre Practice  
Tan Beng Tian, Artistic Director of Finger Players

Moderator:  
Lee Chee Keng, actor and lecturer at Yale-NUS College

## CURATOR'S TOURS

Thursdays | 10 Nov, 8 Dec 2016  
5 Jan, 23 Feb, 9 Mar 2017  
7.00pm – 8.00pm  
Meeting Point: Level 7, Promenade  
Language: English

Discover the roots of local playwriting and theatre production. Learn about significant performances, playwrights as well as prominent theatre companies that have shaped the foundation of contemporary theatre in Singapore.

Conducted by:  
Georgina Wong, Assistant Curator, National Library

## SCHOOL TOURS

Through guided tours specifically tailored for schools, students will discover facets of local theatre through various media such as manuscripts, photos, posters and oral history interviews.

Worksheets will be provided for students during the tour. The activities in the worksheet are designed to enable students to learn the skills of critical analysis and show a greater appreciation for the art of theatre and playwriting.

Interested schools can send an email to [visitnls@nlb.gov.sg](mailto:visitnls@nlb.gov.sg) for more details. Book early to secure a tour slot!



## EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS



**WHEN SMILES ARE DONE**  
By Goh Poh Seng  
Staged by Centre 65 in 1965

*When Smiles Are Done* is Goh Poh Seng's debut play and Centre 65's first production by a local playwright. English-language amateur theatre companies during the 1960s very rarely produced local plays, and Centre 65 was started with the aim of promoting local English literature and theatre.



**雷雨 (THE THUNDERSTORM)**  
By Cao Yu  
Staged by Singapore I-Lien Dramatic Society in 1959

*The Thunderstorm* by Chinese playwright Cao Yu is a classic Chinese play that was extremely popular in the 1950s and 1960s, and was produced by several theatre groups in Singapore. It was even staged in Malay twice in the 1960s and once in 1990!



**MATAHARI MALAM**  
By Masuri S.N.  
Staged by Persatuan Kemuning Singapura in 1978

*Matahari Malam* was one of the few plays written by literary pioneer Masuri S.N. who predominantly wrote poetry and literature. This play was part of a deliberate attempt to create more quality local Malay plays through a collaboration between ASAS '50, a Malay literary group, and Kemuning.



**டாக்டர் சுந்தர் (DOCTOR SUNDER)**  
By S. Varathan  
Staged by Rational Dramatic Troupe in 1961

The majority of *Doctor Sunder* was written by S. Varathan while he was on board a ship from Singapore to India. The play centres on a young Malayan doctor in crisis. A popular play, it was restaged several times in schools and theatres.