

## Young Artist Award 2012 Recipients

### Mr Liao Jiekai (Film)

Liao Jiekai was born in 1984 in Singapore. Jiekai became actively involved in video work during his school-going days. In 2001, at age 17, his video installation work, *Remembering a Timeless Self*, was exhibited at Art Connects at the Singapore Art Museum. In 2003, another video installation work, *Untitled Space*, was shown at *Ideals and Idealisation* (Singapore Art Museum). Jiekai pursued his undergraduate studies at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts with an emphasis on film and video in 2008. In 2012, he was a participant at the 10th Berlinale Talent Campus.

Jiekai made a number of successful short films. *Clouds in a Shell* (2008) was screened at the 5th Singapore Short Cuts at the National Museum of Singapore and the 13th Asian American Showcase at the Gene Siskel Film Center in Chicago in 2008. *The Inner City* (2008) was included in the Official Selection for the Singapore Indie Doc Fest and was in competition at Asian Hot Shots Berlin in 2009. His latest short film *Before the Wedlock House* was screened at the 9th Singapore Short Cuts at the National Museum of Singapore and the Singapore Indie Doc Fest at the Substation in 2012.

In 2010, Jiekai made his first feature film *Red Dragonflies* which won the prestigious Special Jury Prize at the Jeonju International Film Festival. In the same year, it also competed for the Asian New Talent Award at the Shanghai International Film Festival and was included in International Competition at the Buenos Aires International Film Festival of Independent Films and Santiago International Film Festival.

Jiekai is actively involved in the filmmaking community in Singapore. In 2009, he co-founded 13 Little Pictures, an independent filmmakers' collective, with other emerging filmmakers in Singapore. Jiekai served as co-editor of Looi Wan Ping's *White Days* and Tan Bee Thiam's *Kopi Julia*, and production designer for Green Zeng's *Blank Rounds*. He has also conducted video and filmmaking workshops at the Asian Film Archives, Singapore in 2010 and Pre-U Seminar 2011, among others. Since 2009, Jiekai has been teaching Film and Visual Art at the School of the Arts, Singapore.

For the Singapore Biennale 2011, Jiekai collaborated with Bulgarian artist Nedko Solakov for the work *The Flying Method of an Artist with a Fear of Flying*. He had also contributed to Cheo Chai-Hiang's *Banyak Orang Bergelang Tangan* (Esplanade, Singapore, 2010) and *Don't Sit On Me* (Tun Tan Cheng Lock Centre for Asian Architectural and Urban Heritage, Melaka, Malaysia, 2012).

### *Recent Activities*

*His short film and documentary, "Before the Wedlock House", was recently screened at the 9<sup>th</sup> Singapore Short Cuts and the 5<sup>th</sup> Singapore Indie Doc Fest in August and September 2012.*

### **Mr Looi Wan Ping (Film)**

Born in 1977 in Singapore, Looi Wan Ping graduated from the National University of Singapore with a Bachelor of Social Sciences (Hons) in Sociology. Wan Ping went on to pursue an Advanced Diploma in Film Production, specializing in Cinematography, at Ngee Ann Polytechnic from 2002 to 2004.

As Director of Photography, Wan Ping worked on many notable independent films by other emerging local filmmakers. In 2008, he worked on Anthony Chen's *Haze* and won the Best Cinematography award at the Timishorts Film Festival, Romania in 2009. His other credits include Daniel Hui's *One Day In June* (2010) and Liao Jiekai's *Red Dragonflies* (2010) which won the Special Jury Prize at the Jeonju International Film Festival. Wan Ping also served as Art Director for Boo Junfeng's *Sandcastle* (2010) which was named Best Film at the Vietnam International Film Festival.

In 2009, Wan Ping directed his first feature film *White Days*. *White Days* won the Green Chilies Audience Award (2nd Prize) at the Asian Hot Shots Berlin festival in 2010. The film also competed for the prestigious FIPRESCI award at the Hong Kong International Film Festival in 2009 and in the Asian Film Festival in Rome, Italy in 2011. It was included in the Official Selection for many film festivals including the Singapore International Film Festival and the World Film Festival in Bangkok, Thailand in 2009, and also the Buenos Aires International Festival of Independent Films in Argentina and the Cine//B Film Festival in Santiago, Chile in 2010. From June to October 2009, *White Days* had its commercial release at Sinema Old School.

Wan Ping was selected to be mentored by Taiwanese filmmaker Hou Hsiao-Hsien in the Asian Film Academy at the Pusan International Film Festival 2008. He also interned on the set of *Face* (2009), a film by renowned director Tsai Ming Liang. In 2009, Wan Ping co-founded 13 Little Pictures, a filmmakers collective, with several other young independent filmmakers in Singapore, which has facilitated close collaboration among Singapore's emerging filmmaker talents.

#### *Recent Activities*

*He is currently working on a documentary film project on singles living in HDBs.*

### Mr O Thiam Chin (Literary Arts)

O Thiam Chin was born in 1977 in Singapore. Having graduated with a degree in English Language and Literature from the Singapore Institute of Management, he worked in the banking industry before turning to his interest in writing, becoming a full-time writer in 2005.

Thiam Chin's short stories look at life from a myriad of perspectives and often have a distinct local flavour. He has been published extensively in various literary journals. Locally, *Third Eye* (2009), *Family History* (2009), *Garoupa* (2009), *Sleeping* (2011) and *You Are Always Here, All the Time* (2011) were published in the *Quarterly Literary Review Singapore*. Regional publications include *Fireworks* (2008), *Turning a Blind Eye* (2009) and *Grasshoppers* (2010) in the *Asia Literary Review*.

Thiam Chin's works have also been selected for renowned international publications. In 2011, *Eyes and Ears* was published in *World Literature Today* and, in 2012, *The Good Husband* was published in *The International Literary Quarterly*. *Pebbles* was translated to Swedish and published in *Karavan* in 2009 while *Playground and Beach* were translated to German and published in *Die Horen* in 2012.

To date, Thiam Chin has published four collections of stories: *Free-Falling Man* (2006), *Never Been Better* (2009), *Under the Sun* (2010) and *The Rest of Your Life and Everything That Comes With It* (2011). *Never Been Better* and *Under the Sun* were included in the top ten fiction books in the POPULAR-The Star Readers' Choice Awards in Malaysia. Thiam Chin was also longlisted for the Frank O'Connor Short Story Award awarded by the Cork City Council in Ireland in 2010 for *Never Been Better* and in 2012 for *The Rest of Your Life and Everything That Comes With It*.

Thiam Chin was invited to attend the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa, USA in 2010. He has also participated in several writers festivals which included *WordStorm: The Festival of Australasian Writing* and *Bryon Bay Writers Festival* in 2010, *Ubud Writers and Readers Festival* in 2011, as well as the *Singapore Writers Festival* in 2009 and 2011.

#### *Recent / Upcoming Activities*

*His short stories, "The Yellow Elephant" and "The Girl Who Swallowed the Sun", were selected for Utter, as part of a Singapore Writers Festival (SWF) lead-up event in July 2012. He will also be a panellist for two SWF events – Finding My Muse and Who Needs the Novel in Singapore – on 4 and 11 Nov 2012 respectively.*

### Mr Zhuo Zihao (Dance)

Zhuo Zihao was born in Singapore in 1981. He graduated from the former LASALLE-SIA College of the Arts, Singapore with a Diploma in Dance in 2002. In 2007, Zihao was awarded the NAC Arts Bursary by the National Arts Council and pursued dance at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Hons).

Well-known in dance circles for his distinctive style and athleticism, Zihao is a leading dancer at T. H. E. Dance Company, having joined the company in 2008 as a founding member. Prior to this, Zihao was a member of Odyssey Dance Theatre (ODT) from 2002 to 2004. Zihao has performed extensively in Singapore. His performances with ODT include M Bodies at the DanzInc International Dancers and Choreographers Residency Festival. With T. H. E., he performed O Sounds at the Singapore Arts Festival in 2010 and As It Fades in the 2011 edition. In 2009, he performed Within.Without at the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival and Void – Jendela Peradaban at the Esplanade da:ns Festival.

Zihao has been invited to perform for numerous overseas festivals with his companies. He performed Within.Without at the Guangdong Modern Dance Festival in 2009 and O Sounds for Ductac Season 10/11 in Dubai, UAE, Singapour Festivarts in Paris, France and Annual International Contemporary Dance Conference and Festival in Bytom, Poland in 2010. He also performed Water Bloom at the Annual International Contemporary Dance Conference and Festival in Bytom, Poland, the ChangMu International Dance Festival in Goyang, Korea, the Guangdong Modern Dance Festival, China in 2011, Les Hivernales Festival de Danse in Benoit Xii, Avignon, France in 2011 and most recently, at Oriente-Occidente Festival, Rovereto, Italy. Zihao also participated in a residency and performance at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in 2001 and a cultural exchange, residency and performance at Expressions Dance Company, Australia in 2002.

Besides performing, Zihao has also ventured into choreography. As early as 2003, he choreographed Chrono.Sphere for Man. Power. A Season of Male Choreographers. He co-choreographed Within.Without for the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival and Flowing for T. H. E. Emerging Choreographers in 2009. For CONTACT 2010, Zihao ventured into dance and 3D technology with his innovative work Contemplation - Illusion 1 (Experimental Dance 3D). Recently in 2011, he co-choreographed In the Middle (Platform Campus – Recapturing Vague) for the Singapore Arts Festival.

#### *Recent / Upcoming Activities*

*As one of the main dancers in T.H.E. Dance Company's productions, he was involved in the restaging of "As it Fades" at Beijing Modern Dance Festival in July 2012 and at Oriente Occidente 2012 in Roverto, Italy in September 2012. Zihao is also dancing in T.H.E.'s "Silences We Are Familiar With" at the Esplanade da:ns Festival 2012, from 19 to 20 Oct 2012. In addition, Zihao is currently working with ITE students who have taken up dance as a co-curricular activity.*

### **Mr Darren Ng Tzer Huei (Music – Multidisciplinary Practice)**

Born in Singapore in 1979, Darren Ng was trained in Classical Piano (ABRSM, Performance Grade) and majored in Theatre Studies and Philosophy as an undergraduate at the National University of Singapore. Upon graduation, Darren became a full-time sound designer, music composer and sound artist.

An Associate Sound Artist and Music Composer of The Finger Players, Darren has worked on numerous productions with the group, including *The Book Of Living And Dying* (2012), the award-winning *Turn By Turn We Turn* (2011) and *POOP* (2009/2010), amongst others. With The Finger Players, Darren won the Best Sound award at The Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards for *Twisted* (2005) and *0501* (2007). His other nominations for the award include *First Family* (2006), *Cat, Lost and Found* (2009) and *suitCASES* (2010).

Darren has also worked with many of Singapore's major theatre companies. Some of his sound credits include *Deciphering The Peach Garden Oath* (Toy Factory, 2011), *Emily of Emerald Hill* (Wild Rice, 2011), *Closer* (Pangdemonium! Productions, 2011) and *AFAR* (Drama Box, 2012), amongst others. Darren won the Best Sound award at The Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards 2011 and 2006 for *Blackbird* (2010) and *Snow Queen* (2006), respectively, by the Singapore Repertory Theatre and an Honourable Mention for Special Achievement for Best Sound in the same award in 2005. To date, he has more than 150 theatre and arts productions under his belt and 10 award nominations by The Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards in the past decade.

Besides theatre, Darren's repertoire also includes film, dance and museum exhibitions. He composed for several notable local independent films including *Loo Zihan's SOLOS* (2007), *Anthony Chen's Haze* (2008), *Brian Gothong Tan's Invisible Children* (2009) and *Boo Junfeng's Sandcastle* (2010). He also composed music for T. H. E. Dance Company's *O Sounds* (2007/2010), *Variance* (2008) and *The Man in the Center* (2010), among others. He has been commissioned by the National Museum of Singapore (NMS) and the Asian Civilizations Museum to create sound installations for exhibitions, among them *Greek Masterpieces from the Louvre* held at the NMS in 2007 and a permanent sound installation in the Living Gallery since its re-opening. The newly re-opened Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Hall (2011) also features his permanent sound and music creations.

Darren is also an electro-acoustic sound artist and composer who practices under the pseudonym *sonicbrat*. Being a multi-instrumentalist, his music explores playing various instruments with unconventional methods and fusing found sounds with his acoustic compositions. He has released twelve albums in Europe and Japan and has performed extensively both locally and abroad, including at *F1 Rocks* (Singapore, 2009), the *Wiener Festwochen* festival (Vienna, Austria, 2009), *Sonar* (Barcelona, Spain, 2009) and *Zomerparkfeest* (Venlo, Netherlands, 2009). *sonicbrat* was twice named *JUICE* magazine's *Laptop Artist of the Year* in 2008 and 2010. In 2011, his album *Hana* was named to *The Guardian's* list "December's Best Music From Across the Music Alliance Pact (MAP)". *sonicbrat* is currently signed as an artist under *Kitchen Label*.

#### *Recent / Upcoming Activities*

*In recent months, Darren was Sound Designer for numerous local theatre productions, including Blank Space Theatre's "Freud's Last Session", presented as part of the Esplanade Studios in April 2012; The Finger Player's "The Book of Living and Dying", presented as part of the 2012 Singapore Arts Festival in May 2012; and Dramabox's "AFAR", presented as part of the Esplanade Studios in August 2012.*

### **Mr Brian Gothong Tan (Theatre - Multidisciplinary Practice)**

Born in 1980, Brian Gothong Tan studied digital animation at Nanyang Polytechnic. He received the Shell-NAC Scholarship in 2003 and pursued experimental animation at the California Institute of the Arts, returning in 2005 to practise in Singapore.

Brian began designing multimedia works for theatre productions in 2001, with his debut work for *The Optic Trilogy* by Action Theatre. Since then, he has contributed to numerous productions including *Mammon Inc.* (Action Theatre, 2002) and *Mobile* (The Necessary Stage, 2006). He won the Best Use of Multimedia award at the annual Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards in 2005 for *godeatgod* (The Necessary Stage). He also received the Best Multimedia Design award for *Nothing* (Cake Theatrical Productions) in 2008 and his directorial debut for the stage, *Decimal Points 4.44* (Cake Theatrical Productions and The Substation), in 2012.

Besides his work in the theatre, Brian is also involved in visual arts and film. His exhibitions include *Heavenly Cakes and Sentimental Flowers* (Singapore Art Museum, 2003), *We Live In A Dangerous World* (Singapore Biennale, 2006) and *Signs, Omens, And Relics Of Faith (72-13)*, Singapore, 2007). He served as Director of Photography for *Pleasure Factory* (2007), an official selection for the Un Certain Regard prize at the Cannes Film Festival in 2007. In 2008, Brian released his first feature film, *Invisible Children*, which participated in the Bangkok International Film Festival in 2008, and Asian Hot Shots Berlin, Singapore International Film Festival and Sintok Singapore Film Festival Tokyo in 2009.

Brian has also helmed the multimedia team for numerous large-scale events. He served as Director of Film and Visual Effects for the National Day Parade in 2009 and 2011 and the Youth Olympic Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies in 2010. Brian was also commissioned to produce the main video installation for the Singapore Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo in 2010, and more recently for Night Festival 2012 with *WE THE PEOPLE*, a film that was projected onto the façade of the National Museum of Singapore.

#### *Recent / Upcoming Activities*

*Recently, Brian created a video installation, "We the People", for the Night Festival in September 2012. Following his directorial debut, "Decimal Points: 4.44" in May 2011, he is working towards his second instalment in the Cake Theatrical Production's Decimal Points Series in September 2013.*

### **Ms Zizi Azah Bte Abdul Majid (Theatre)**

Zizi Azah was born in 1980. Shortly after graduating from the National University of Singapore with a degree in philosophy and sociology, Zizi started freelancing as a stage manager and lighting designer, working on productions by various theatre companies such as The Necessary Stage and Theatreworks. From 2005 to 2006, Zizi worked as a full-time stage manager at the Esplanade. Through close to a decade of her work in technical theatre, her credits include Impenjarament (Teater Ekamatra, Singapore Arts Festival 2005), Mobile (The Necessary Stage, 2006. Multiple stagings - Singapore Arts Festival 06, The Actors' Studio Bangsar and Setegaya Public Theatre, Tokyo) and Design for Death (KYTV, Seoul Fringe Festival 2004).

As Artistic Director of Teater Ekamatra since 2009, Zizi has led the company to several exciting seasons and expanded the company's relevance beyond the Malay theatre scene. In 2009, with Teater Ekamatra, Zizi directed Nadirah which was nominated for Best Production of the Year at The Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards 2010. Other productions Zizi directed include In Search of Wonderland (2009), Charged (2010) and Mata Hati (2011). Under her leadership, Teater Ekamatra earned its first nomination for Best Theatre Company in Singapore for the I-S Readers Choice 2012 awards.

Besides her work as a director, Zizi is a prolific playwright. In 2007, she wrote the memorable How Did the Cat Get So Fat? which was nominated for Best Script at the Life! Theatre Awards. Later works include Above Us Only Sky (2008), Suap (2009), Heart(h) (2010) and Bleeding Grace (2012). In July 2011, Zizi was the only Singaporean sponsored by the National Arts Council to attend the 5th Annual Playwright's Retreat at LaMaMa Umbria. During the residency, Zizi adapted The Gunpowder Trail which was performed in September 2011.

Zizi actively nurtures the next generation of theatre practitioners. She currently helms Teater Ekamatra's Playwright Mentorship Programme. From 2009 to 2011, Zizi taught at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and, since August 2009, at LASALLE College of the Arts in Singapore. Besides theatre, Zizi is also involved in community work. She served on the Steering Committee of the Community Leadership Forum Labs in 2011 and is a member of the Wisma Geyland Serai Planning Committee and Programming Sub-group.

#### *Recent / Upcoming Activities*

*She recently directed a new multidisciplinary and collaborative work, "Bleeding Grace", exploring the abject pain of mediocrity, for the Esplanade Studios in July 2012. She is also writer and director for a new work, "Not Counted", in December 2012. She continues to lead merEKA (Teater Ekamatra's Mentorship platform for young talent). Mentah, its showcase for 2011/12 participants, took place in March 2012.*

### Ms Genevieve Chua (Visual Arts)

Born in 1984 in Singapore, Genevieve Chua graduated with a Diploma in Fine Arts (Painting) from LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore in 2004. Her works span a variety of mediums including drawing, photography and installation. Genevieve's works possess distinctive aesthetic and recurring motifs of nature and female figures in dim light. Genevieve's art explores the fear of the unknown.

For a young artist, Genevieve has exhibited extensively. Her solo exhibitions include *As Brutal As* (La Liberia Gallery, Singapore, 2007), *Lost in the City: Full Moon and Foxes* (National Museum of Singapore, 2009) and *Child and the Beast* (Objectifs Centre for Photography and Filmmaking, 2011). Recently, Genevieve has also exhibited overseas such as at ArtHK 2011 (AsiaOne ChanHampe Galleries, Hong Kong, 2011).

Genevieve was also selected to exhibit at the Singapore Biennale 2011 where she showcased Adinandra Belukar at the Old Kallang Airport. In 2009, her digital work *Raised as a Pack of Wolves* was commissioned for the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival. Other group exhibitions in which she has participated include CUT 2009: *Figure, New Photography from Southeast Asia* (Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2009), *Next Wave Time Lapse* (Federation Square, Melbourne, Australia, 2010) and *Cross-Scape* (Kumho Museum of Art, Seoul; Jeonbuk Museum of Art, Jeonju; Goeun Museum of Art, Busan, South Korea, 2011). Her work, *After the Flood* (2010), was sold by international auction house Sotheby's and was exhibited at *The Singapore Show: Future Proof* (8Q Singapore Art Museum, 2012).

Genevieve constantly seeks to expand her practice and this has led her to participate in numerous residences locally and abroad. In 2010, she was selected for the BMW Young Asian Artist Series at the Singapore Tyler Print Institute and the Late Fall Residency at The Banff Centre in Calgary, Canada. In 2011, she took part in the GCC Creative Residency Programme at the Gyeonggi Creation Centre in Gyeonggi-do, South Korea and The Art Incubator at the Centre for Creative Communications in Shizuoka, Japan.

#### *Recent / Upcoming Activities*

*She is currently participating in the opening of Gillman Barracks, where she re-presents a 2010 photographic work, "After the Flood", in organic form in September 2012. The work was also presented at SAM 8Q as part of The Singapore Show: Future Proof, in March 2012. Genevieve will also be holding a solo exhibition, "Birthing Ground, Not a Sound", presented by Valentine Willie Fine Arts on 5 Nov 2012.*



### Mr Tan Wee Lit (Visual Arts)

Born in Singapore, Tan Wee Lit graduated from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology-LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore programme with a Bachelor of Arts in fine arts in 2003. In 2005, Wee Lit received an Overseas Scholarship Grant from the Media Development Authority and pursued his Masters in Fine Arts at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (2006-2008). In 2007, he received the Skeeter Merit Scholarship from SAIC and was nominated for the International Sculpture Community Outstanding Student Award. Upon graduation from SAIC in 2008, he was also awarded the Graduate Fellowship Award.

Wee Lit staged his first solo exhibition in 2008 at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago in Chicago, Illinois, USA as part of the 12X12 New Artists/New Work exhibition. He had also participated in other exhibitions abroad including Identities vs. Globalisation (Chiangmai Art Museum, Chiangmai; National Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand and Dahlem Museum, Berlin, Germany, 2004), Emerging Illinois Artists (McLean County Arts Center, Bloomington, Illinois, USA, 2007), the 5th Evergreen Outdoor Sculpture Biennial (Evergreen Museum-Johns Hopkins University, Maryland, USA, 2008), Contemporary Urban Asian Art Trail (Blackburn Museum and Gallery, Blackburn with Darwen, UK, 2008) and The Same Rain, The Same Wind (Chiangmai University, Thailand, 2012).

#### *Recent / Upcoming Activities*

*Locally, Wee Lit has also participated in various local exhibitions and his works are in various many private collections locally and overseas. His public works include "Eroclamation" (Haw Par Villa MRT) and "All the Essentially Essential" (Raffles Place). He is also involved in the Graduation Showcase of first batch of SOTA Visual Arts students, "V/Λ" from September to October 2012.*