



Arts & Disability Forum 2020

Cultivating Collaborations, Increasing Access

7, 8 & 9 October 2020

Captioning will be provided during the virtual forum.

Organisers



Programme Partner



Supported By



Featured artwork: *Rainbow Movement (3)*, by VSA(S) Artist-in-training, Avlynn Ng

PROGRAMME

4.00 pm

Opening Remarks

By Andrew Liew, Chairman, Very Special Arts Singapore

4.05 pm

Keynote #1 – Influencing Outside your Comfort Zone

By Ruth Fabby MBE, DL, Artistic Director, Disability Arts Cymru (United Kingdom)

4.30 pm

Panel Discussion #1 - Collaborations

Panel Discussion #1 - Collaborations

Moderator: Justin Lee, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies (Singapore)

Panellists:

- Ruth Fabby MBE, DL, Artistic Director, Disability Arts Cymru (United Kingdom)
- Stevens Chan, Founder, SOS Missions Berhad (Malaysia)
- Jean Loo, Co-Founder & Lead Producer, Superhero Me (Singapore)

5.00 pm

Break

5.10 pm

Breakout A – Audience Development and Engagement

Moderator: Aruna Johnson, Deputy Director, Education & Development, National Arts Council (Singapore)

Panellists:

- Alicia Teng, Assistant Director, Community & Access, National Gallery Singapore (Singapore)
- Kavitha Krishnan, Artistic Director, Resident Choreographer, Maya Dance Theatre Ltd (Singapore)
- Paul Adams, Learning & Engagement Manager, Singapore Repertory Theatre (Singapore)

6.10 pm

Closing

DAY ONE

KEYNOTE ONE

INFLUENCING OUTSIDE YOUR COMFORT ZONE

COVID-19 HAS AFFECTED EVERYONE BUT ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH DISABILITY.

COVID-19 HAS RESULTED MANY WITH ACQUIRED DISABILITIES

VIEW THOSE WITH DISABILITY AS A PART OF SOCIETY -- NOT APART

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY TO SPEAK WITH COHESION ON DISABILITY MATTERS

DON'T FORGET THE PERSON UNDERNEATH THE DISABILITY

I WAS DIAGNOSED WITH BILATERAL GENETIC DEAFNESS

WE CANNOT CHANGE THE PAST, BUT WE CAN CHANGE HOW WE LIVE OUR FUTURE

WE MUST WORK EQUALLY & OPENLY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL.

WE ARE NOT A BURDEN!

FIRST EUREKA MOMENT! DISCOVERING DANCE

- * PHYSICAL THEATRE
- * SIGN DANCE
- * MIMING & BEING A CLOWN

SECOND EUREKA MOMENT: SOCIAL MODEL OF DISABILITY

- * IDENTIFYING & CALLING OUT BARRIERS, THEN REDUCING AND ERADICATING THEM

RUTH FABBY

PANEL DISCUSSION #1 COLLABORATIONS

COLLABORATION IS AN ATTITUDE

- LIKE A JAZZ IMPROV
- BRINGING WHAT YOU CAN TO THE TABLE!
- YOU NEED TO LISTEN

- * **DIVERSITY IS KEY** LEARNINGS MADE RICHER!
- * **COLLABORATION - NOT PITY.** THERE IS SO MUCH VALUE & RICHNESS TO SHARE.



DISABLED EXPERIENCE IS VARIED & COMPLEX



Organisers



Programme Partner

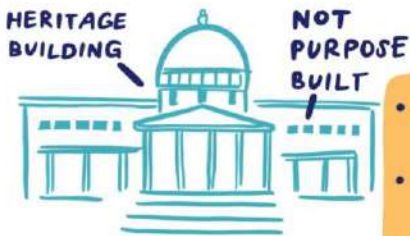


Supported By



BREAKOUT A - AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT & ENGAGEMENT

NATIONAL GALLERY SINGAPORE



PILOT EFFORTS TO REDUCE BARRIERS

- KNOW THE SPACE
- PREPARE STAFF
- INFORM VISITORS



- * ACCESS & FAMILY GUIDE
- * DIALECT TOUR
- * SISTER GUIDE - IN TAGALOG & BAHASA
- * GALLERY SIGNS TOUR

ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT

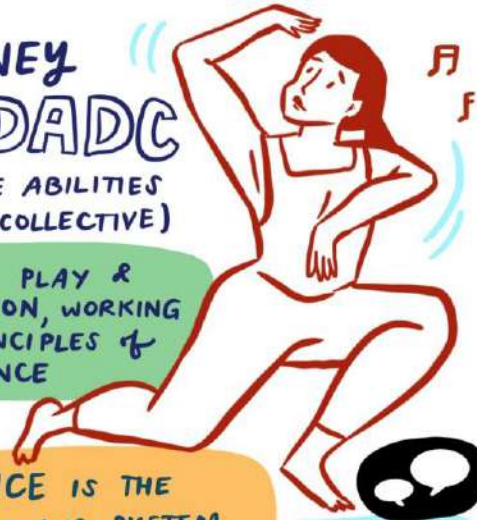


ALICIA TENG

JOURNEY WITH DADC

(DIVERSE ABILITIES DANCE COLLECTIVE)

CREATIVE PLAY & EXPRESSION, WORKING WITH PRINCIPLES OF COEXISTENCE



AUDIENCE IS THE STEM TO OUR SYSTEM (A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP)

ENGAGE & INTERACT

ENCOURAGES CONFIDENCE & FAMILIARITY

EMPATHY & CARE



KAVITHA KRISHNAN

SRT

SINGAPORE REPERTORY THEATRE

THE 5P's

PEOPLE

- * DISABILITY TRAINING for ALL
- * HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP TO GETTING FEEDBACK

PLACE

- * TRANSPARENCY & VENUE CHALLENGES
- VISUAL STORIES
- VISUAL MAPS
- SIGNAGE
- SEATING
- WEBSITE ACCESS



WHY NOT A DIGITAL VENUE?



PROGRAMME

- * ASSISTED PERFORMANCES
- * LONGER TERM REPRESENTATION IN CREATION

PROMOTION

- * CLARITY
- * ACCESS IN MIND

PARTNERSHIP

- * FULL CIRCLE, BACK TO THE PERSON
- * GOOD PARTNERSHIPS ARE BUILT ON UNDERSTANDING
- * AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS
- * COLLABORATION IS KEY!



PAUL ADAMS

“

It is more than access, it is about process, design, creativity and development that builds accessible experiences that are understood by all without questioning the ‘why’.

RUTH FABBY MBE, DL

Artistic Director,
Disability Arts Cymru
(United Kingdom)



“

The future of arts and disability is equality in spite of diversity as creativity has no discrimination.

STEVENS CHAN

Founder,
SOS Missions Berhad
(Malaysia)



For more information, visit www.adf2020.sg

Arts & Disability
Forum 2020
Celebrating Collaborations, Inspiring Action

For more information, visit www.adf2020.sg

Arts & Disability
Forum 2020
Celebrating Collaborations, Inspiring Action

“

Keep a pulse on the systems that shape your work and think of influencing across circles. The pursuit of an authentic practice will blur lines and leave you with more questions than answers.

JEAN LOO

Co-Founder & Lead Producer,
Superhero Me
(Singapore)



“

Inclusion in the arts means challenging our constructions of what counts as art, who can be an artist, and how to have aesthetic experiences in ways we never knew possible.

JUSTIN LEE

Senior Research Fellow,
Institute of Policy Studies
(Singapore)



For more information, visit www.adf2020.sg

Arts & Disability
Forum 2020
Celebrating Collaborations, Inspiring Action

For more information, visit www.adf2020.sg

Arts & Disability
Forum 2020
Celebrating Collaborations, Inspiring Action

“

It's ok that we haven't gotten it all sorted out, Arts and Disability is a journey of continuous learning.

ALICIA TENG

Assistant Director,
Community & Access,
National Gallery Singapore
(Singapore)

For more information, visit www.adf2020.sg

Arts & Disability
Forum 2020

Celebrating Collaborations, Inspiring Artists

“

Work within the frames of here and now; challenge our thoughts, give space to fail and discover together.

KAVITHA KRISHNAN

Artistic Director, Resident Choreographer,
Maya Dance Theatre Ltd
(Singapore)

For more information, visit www.adf2020.sg

Arts & Disability
Forum 2020

Celebrating Collaborations, Inspiring Artists

“

The future of arts and disability is ... exciting! So much talent to discover and opportunities to make a truly diverse arts industry.

PAUL ADAMS

Learning & Engagement Manager,
Singapore Repertory Theatre
(Singapore)

For more information, visit www.adf2020.sg

Arts & Disability
Forum 2020

Celebrating Collaborations, Inspiring Artists

PROGRAMME

2.00 pm

Announcements

2.05 pm

Keynote #2 – Artistry of Access into the Future

By Caroline Bowditch, Chief Executive Officer,
Arts Access Victoria (Australia)

2.30 pm

Panel Discussion #2 - Incorporating Access

Moderator: Paul Adams, Learning & Engagement
Manager, Singapore Repertory Theatre (Singapore)

Panellists:

- Caroline Bowditch, Chief Executive Officer, Arts Access Victoria (Australia)
- Sofia Begum, Programmer, Children & Youth, The Esplanade Co Ltd (Singapore)
- Tan Beng Tian, Independent Theatre Practitioner (Singapore)

3.00 pm

Break

3.10 pm

Breakout B – Artistic Collaborations Across Abilities

Moderator: Alecia Neo, Artist and Co-Founder of
Brack (Singapore)

Panellists:

- Peter Sau, Artist-Educator, Theatre Director and Producer (Singapore)
Dawn joy-Leong, Researcher and Multi-Artist (Singapore)
Claire Teo, Theatre Actor and Singer (Singapore)
- Partho Bhowmick, Founder, Blind with Camera & Beyond Sight Foundation (India)

4.10 pm

Closing

KEYNOTE TWO ARTISTRY & ACCESS INTO THE FUTURE

WHAT IS AESTHETIC ACCESS?

- * ACCESS THAT'S BUILT INTO THE PROCESS & ARTISTIC WORK
 - SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION
 - AUDIO DESCRIPTION
 - CAPTIONING
 - RELAXED SPACES
- * ACCESS THAT'S A PART OF THE ARTISTRY!
EX: STAGE DIRECTION

3. AUDIO DESCRIPTION

- * DESCRIBING THE SETTING/VISUAL FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED AUDIENCE



CAROLINE BOWDITCH

4. RELAXED SPACES

PLAN

PLAN FOR ACCESS FROM THE START OF YOUR BUDGET, ARTISTIC THINKING, SCHEDULES

EXPERIMENT & TRY OUT

EXPERIMENT & TRY OUT WITH DEAF & DISABLED AUDIENCE

EMPLOY

EMPLOY ACCESS CONSULTANTS AS ADVISORS

1. CAPTIONING

TRADITIONALLY WORDS IN BLACK BOXES AT THE TOP/BOTTOM, BUT YOU CAN GET CREATIVE



2. SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION

FALLING IN LOVE WITH FRIDA

- * HER 1ST ATTEMPT AT AESTHETIC ACCESS
- * SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER AS PART OF THE CAST FROM THE START



ALL SHOWS MADE ACCESSIBLE TO DEAF & DISABLED AUDIENCE

RECLAIMED FRIDA KAHLO FROM THE POV OF A DISABLED PERSON

PANEL DISCUSSION #2 INCORPORATING ACCESS

ACCESS

AS A CHARACTER

- NEEDING A SCRIPT, BUDGET, BLOCKING
- ALLOWS YOU TO REALLY EMBED ACCESS INTO THE ARTS!

THEATRE ETIQUETTE BACKFIRING...

- THE VIEW OF AN 'ATAS' THEATRE SHOULD BE REWRITTEN
- ARTS IS FOR EVERYONE.

AUTHENTIC REPRESENTATION

- * THERE IS CURIOSITY ABOUT THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF DISABILITY
- * SHIFT IN POWER
- * SHOW DIFFERENT BODIES; NEW STORIES!

BE BRAVE BE CURIOUS



CAROLINE BOWDITCH



SOFIA BEGUM



TAN BENG TIAN



BRIDGE the GAP



MAKE A CASE FOR ACCESSIBILITY WHEN SEEKING FUNDING SUPPORT!

BREAKOUT B - ARTISTIC COLLABORATIONS ACROSS ABILITIES

SOMETHING ABOUT HOME 2020

HISTORIES
CULTURES
DESIRES



THEME: INVISIBLE CITIES

- 4 ORIGINAL POEMS
- WORKED WITH ARTISTS WITH DIVERSE ABILITIES
- MET VENUE CHALLENGES
- HIGHLIGHTED THE PERFORMERS' STRENGTHS
- INCLUSIVE & RESPECTING EACH PERSON'S NEEDS



PETER SAU



CLAIRE TEO

♥ HEART WORK

- BUILDING AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS

WORKING ACROSS DISABILITIES; NOT ABOUT THE DISABILITY, BUT WORKING WITH THE PERSON.

- HIGHLIGHTING OUR STRENGTHS WHILE PUSHING OUR BOUNDARIES!

- DIRECTED USING TACTILE, IMAGINATIVE APPROACHES

EMPOWERMENT: INDIVIDUALS FIRST!

(NOT MERELY ACCESS & INCLUSION)



DIVERSE ABILITY NOT DISABILITY



- REHEARSED AT HOME FIRST- TO AVOID FATIGUE
- CHAMPIONING OUR ARTISTRY



DAWN-JOY LEONG

I AM ARTISTIC. A RESEARCHER & MULTI-DISCIPLINARY ARTIST!

SENSORY PHOTOGRAPHY THE BRIDGE ACROSS ABILITIES



DISABILITY IS A DIVERSE HUMAN CONDITION

TRAIN THE TRAINER BETWEEN NON-DISABLED & DISABLED

COLLABORATION BETWEEN NON-DISABLED & DISABLED ARTISTS CONTRIBUTING TO A MAINSTREAM CREATIVE SPACE.

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED



PARTHO BHOWMICK

BLIND FOLDED MULTI-SENSORY PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS WITH THE SIGHTED



“

We need to move away from seeing access as a drain on resources, time and quality, towards seeing it as the most exciting creative opportunity we have available.

CAROLINE BOWDITCH

Chief Executive Officer,
Arts Access Victoria
(Australia)



“

The future of arts and disability is when inclusivity becomes a natural reflex in art-making.

SOFIA BEGUM

Programmer, Children & Youth,
The Esplanade Co Ltd
(Singapore)



For more information, visit www.adf2020.sg

Arts & Disability
Forum 2020
Celebrating Collaborations, Inspiring Access

For more information, visit www.adf2020.sg

Arts & Disability
Forum 2020
Celebrating Collaborations, Inspiring Access

“

The future of arts and disability is looking good because dialogues between diverse communities have increased and changes have been attempted.

TAN BENG TIAN

Independent Theatre Practitioner
(Singapore)



Photo by Tucky's Photography

“

The future of arts and disability is ... exciting! So much talent to discover and opportunities to make a truly diverse arts industry.

PAUL ADAMS

Learning & Engagement Manager,
Singapore Repertory Theatre
(Singapore)



For more information, visit www.adf2020.sg

Arts & Disability
Forum 2020
Celebrating Collaborations, Inspiring Access

For more information, visit www.adf2020.sg

Arts & Disability
Forum 2020
Celebrating Collaborations, Inspiring Access

“

Working with artists with disabilities invites us to approach art-making from the standpoint not of "cans" but of "hows."

PETER SAU

*Artist-Educator,
Theatre Director and Producer
(Singapore)*



Arts & Disability
Forum 2020

For more information, visit www.adf2020.sg

“

There's no methodology to communicating with disabled artists. It's more about relearning to build authentic connections with individuals, from the heart.

CLAIRE TEO

*Theatre Actor and Singer
(Singapore)*



Arts & Disability
Forum 2020

For more information, visit www.adf2020.sg

“

It is not my purpose to 'fix' what is broken, but to empower beauty in the vulnerable and unseen.

DAWN JOY-LEONG

*Researcher and Multi-Artist
(Singapore)*



Arts & Disability
Forum 2020

For more information, visit www.adf2020.sg

“

The future of arts and disability lies in the use of emerging technologies that enable creation, access and greater outreach of arts by disabled artists.

PARTHO BHOWMICK

*Founder, Blind with Camera and Beyond Sight Foundation
(India)*



Arts & Disability
Forum 2020

For more information, visit www.adf2020.sg

“

Access is not an afterthought, but a laboratory for innovation.

ALECIA NEO

*Artist and Co-Founder of Brack
(Singapore)*



Arts & Disability
Forum 2020

For more information, visit www.adf2020.sg