



*Festival Commission*

The Finger Players

## OIWA – The Ghost of Yotsuya

28–30 May 2020, Thu–Sat, 8pm

Victoria Theatre

Advisory: Some Mature Content

### Synopsis

**With an innovative ensemble of puppeteers and actors, this age-old Japanese ghost story of betrayal and revenge is magically reinvented by Singapore's The Finger Players.**

Based on blood-tingling real-life events and historical figures from the Edo period, the tale of Oiwa – a jilted wife who haunts her murderer – continues to reverberate through its countless adaptations.

Now, one of Singapore's leading theatre companies The Finger Players retells this timeless tale through an innovative ensemble of puppeteers and actors.

Actors simulate the movements of puppets, while shadowy puppeteers manipulate these human puppets, with techniques inspired from Japanese Bunraku – a traditional form of Japanese puppet theatre.

Witness the scorned and powerful figure of Oiwa and the fearsome scavengers and peasants who commit horrific deeds around her, in this riveting tale of revenge, betrayal and heartbreak.

A legend with a contemporary resonance, *OIWA – The Ghost of Yotsuya* promises an enthralling performance with hauntingly beautiful moments that unfold one after another.

### Media Contacts

**Samantha Jong**  
M +65 81634662  
Samantha.jong@huntington.com.sg

**Glenn Huang**  
M +65 9274 7553  
glennhuang@artshouse.sg

**Johann Khairi**  
M +91807776  
johann@artshouse.sg

### Journey with SIFA

Director/Playwright Chong Tze Chien has been working on reimagining a classic Japanese ghost story, *Oiwa*. Yet even as the myth is re-invented, honouring the source material remains a key priority for *OIWA*'s artistic direction.

Chong elaborates: "Today's artists are inspired by world cultures as much as their own. The onus is on us to exercise due diligence in our research and give consideration to the original culture and stories in our adaptations. As such, it's important to me that actors from the culture of the origin tale are involved in adaptations such as *Oiwa*."



Festival Director Gaurav Kripalani remarks: "SIFA showcases artists who push the boundaries of their craft and open new horizons for experimental creation. I've always been a fan of Tze Chien's innovative and masterful work, and this re-telling of the tale of *Oiwa* will certainly be no ordinary adaptation as it redefines our idea of puppetry and theatre."

### Interviews:

Playwright Chong Tze Chien will be available for interviews to share more on the following topics:

- Rehearsal process, staging devices and demonstrate staging and puppetry concepts which the creative team is exploring
- Presenting horror on stage - what are the challenges and approach?
- How different is the adaptation from the original tale? What's new/radical about it?

### About The Finger Players

The Finger Players is one of Singapore's leading theatre companies. Touted as the "hottest local theatre group" and "the company to watch" by the press and media, the company's unique brand of puppet theatre has won awards in Singapore and recognition around the world. To date, the company has taken its productions to Austria, Australia, China, France, Hong Kong, Hungary, Japan, Kenya, Macau, Myanmar, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand and, Turkey,

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## **ANNEX C**

making it one of Singapore's most prolific international touring companies. The Finger Players seeks to fuse traditional and contemporary puppetry with other disciplines to create a theatre which empowers the mind and soul.

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