

2020
singapore
international
festival of
arts

15-31
MAY

ANNEX I



Festival Commission

Nine Years Theatre and SITI Company
(Singapore & USA)

Three Sisters

29-31 May 2020, Fri-Sun

Fri & Sat, 7.30pm | Sun, 2pm

Drama Centre

Rating: General. Admission for audience age 7
years and above.

Performed in English, Mandarin, and Japanese

Synopsis

The award-winning ensembles of Singapore's Nine Years Theatre and the SITI Company of NYC join hands to present this multi-lingual retelling of Anton Chekhov's classic play *Three Sisters*.

Three Sisters, by Russian playwright Anton Chekhov, stands as one of the most outstanding plays of his career. Olga, Masha, and Irina – the titular sisters – fritter their lives away in a provincial town, while they dream of returning to the cosmopolitan city where they grew up.

Chronicling their tangled relationships, ordinary frustrations and search for meaning, *Three Sisters* opens a moving window into the human condition, and reveals Chekhov's profound understanding of universal themes.

In this new rendering of this classic play, Singapore Mandarin theatre company Nine Years Theatre (NYT) joins hands with the SITI Company of New York City – backed by a talented multi-lingual cast. Co-directed by NYT's Nelson Chia and SITI's Barney O'Hanlon, these two award-winning theatre ensembles investigate an utterly human story of survival in a changing world.

Don't miss this timeless play that reveals the absurdity, courage, and tenderness of the human condition – now seen through the eyes of contrasting cultures, languages, and the actors' powerful physicality.

Journey with SIFA

Artistic Director Nelson Chia shares: "This work is also about the coming together of two companies who are culturally and linguistically different, but joined in a common language of training and creation. I believe the outcome will be very exciting."



Festival Director Gaurav Kripalani also reiterates that "SIFA is a gathering of finest artists and works from Singapore and around the globe. This production, which sees Nine Years Theatre collaborating with SITI Company established by Anne Bogart and Tadashi Suzuki, celebrates and epitomises that vision. As a milestone in their fifteen-year relationship, I am honoured to present *Three Sisters* in this momentous reunion of two phenomenal theatre companies."

Interviews:

Director Nelson Chia will be available for interviews to share more on the following topics (proposed topics):

- How the two companies met, their training and creative processes, and their decision to

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embark on a work together, to adapt Anton Chekhov's *Three Sisters*

- What embarking on a collaboration crossing language, cultures, geographical space and generations mean to both companies

Chia will be available for interviews in English and Mandarin.

About Nine Years Theatre

Nine Years Theatre is a Singapore Mandarin theatre company co-founded by Nelson Chia and Mia Chee. The company focuses on the re-imagination of classic work and the creation of new work. Their Mandarin productions (with surtitles) have attracted audiences from all language backgrounds with their consistency in quality and a cultural sensibility in translation and adaptation. As the only company in Singapore that works with an ensemble of actors who train regularly on a long-term basis via systematic methods, their works are grounded in the actors' art. In order to engage audiences beyond productions, the company has continuously explored various ways of holding dialogue sessions with them. Their efforts are rooted in the belief that audiences should not merely consume art, but be offered the opportunity to discuss art.

About SITI Company

SITI Company was founded in 1992 by Anne Bogart and Tadashi Suzuki to redefine and revitalise contemporary theatre in the United States through an emphasis on international cultural exchange and collaboration. Built on the bedrock of ensemble, SITI believes that through the practice of collaboration, a group of artists working together over time can have a significant impact upon both contemporary theater and the world at large. Through performances, educational programs, and collaborations with other artists and thinkers, SITI Company challenges the status quo, trains rigorously to achieve artistic excellence in every aspect of their work, and offers new ways of seeing and of being as both artists and as global citizens.

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