

ANNEX C: BIOGRAPHIES OF FESTIVAL DIRECTOR AND CEO

Gaurav Kripalani

Gaurav Kripalani is currently the Festival Director of the Singapore International Festival of Arts (SIFA) for 2018 – 2020.

Prior to taking on this role, Gaurav was the artistic director of Singapore Repertory Theatre (SRT), and produced over 100 plays during his 21-year history with the company. Under Gaurav's artistic direction, SRT was the first Singaporean theatre company on Broadway in 1998. This was for *Golden Child*, which went on to earn three Tony Award nominations. SRT has presented work by several renowned international artistes including Ninagawa, Complicite, Peter Brook, Yael Farber and the Royal Shakespeare Company to name a few.

SRT was also a co-commissioning partner on the Bridge Project - a three-year, Sam Mendes-directed collaboration between The Old Vic in London and BAM in New York. Gaurav has commissioned and produced several original Singaporean plays and musicals, including the highly successful *Forbidden City*. Known for his bold artistic vision, Gaurav was one of the first to champion the use of outdoor spaces, and originated productions of Singapore's own Shakespeare in the Park - where local and international actors, producers and set designers come together annually to bring Shakespeare to life.

Gaurav also recognises the importance of education with SRT being one of the biggest commissioners and producers of children's theatre in Southeast Asia. He will continue to be involved with SRT and will remain as director of SRT during his three-year tenure with SIFA.

Sarah Martin

Sarah Martin brings a wealth of experience in organising large scale international events. Her illustrious career includes 19 years of operations and leadership experience in the arts and entertainment industry, a large part of it at WOMAD (World of Music, Arts & Dance). There, she drove the festival's delivery across Asia Pacific where it attracted audiences as large as 100,000.

She has been a pioneering key figure in the promotion of cultural awareness through music and artistic presentation in Singapore. Over the past decade, Martin has been instrumental in bringing some 160 artists from all continents to Singapore where they have performed to a total of 160,000 WOMAD attendees since 1998. For her achievements, she was nominated by The Straits Times in its 38th National Day Special in 2003 as an outstanding individual under the age of 38.

From WOMAD, Martin moved on to launch the inaugural Formula One event in Singapore as its Director of Operations, a role which also oversaw the entertainment programming alongside the overall event delivery. She broke new ground with an unprecedented event experience that featured a mix of classical, opera, rock, pop, jazz as well as outdoor theatre from 400 entertainers on 10 stages in the race circuit park, raising standards in event delivery for Formula One events worldwide.

Martin is currently the CEO of Arts House Limited (AHL), which manages two key landmarks located in the heart of Singapore's Civic District -- [The Arts House](#) and the [Victoria Theatre &](#)

[Victoria Concert Hall](#) and artists enclaves such as Aliwal Arts Centre and Goodman Arts Centre as well as performance arts space, Drama Centre. AHL also presents the [Singapore International Festival of Arts](#), the annual pinnacle celebration of performance and interdisciplinary arts in Singapore.