

v2.020

**singapore
international
festival of
arts**

MEDIA ALERT

ANNEX A – Programme Details for Digital Traces: The Year of No Return

Digital Traces: The Year of No Return

Digital Traces presents various characters inhabiting the universe of *The Year of No Return*. Through film, sound, movement and text presented over four vodcast episodes and one Zoom reading of a key strand in the narrative, Digital Traces invites the audience to experience various facets of the play, and poses the question: How far are you willing to go to save the planet?

Su & Luis *Play Reading, 15 August 2020*

Su, a young Singaporean volunteer for environmental causes, travels to the Philippines in the hopes of educating Filipinos on climate change. She meets Luis, a villager who was initially resistant to her efforts to reach out to him. They become friends, but as they embark upon their individual journeys as activists, they discover how far each would go for their cause—even if it means taking the route fraught with conflict and danger.

Featuring Lian Sutton as Luis and Siti Khalijah Zainal as Su.

Solitude/Solidarity *Vodcast, 15 August 2020*

An interdisciplinary interpretation of a climate protest choreographed remotely. Can collective power in solidarity be formed even when we are apart?

Actors' Confessions *Vodcast, 15 September 2020*

In the process of creating *The Year of No Return*, we asked the actors to step out of their characters, to offer their own inner thoughts about the climate crisis and how the work has affected their own relationship with the environment.

Maya's Dream *Vodcast, 15 October 2020*

Maya, a discredited marine biologist, finds herself in a dreamscape amidst animals who can communicate with her. As she revisits her fall from grace due to her exposing companies for their role in bleaching coral reefs, she ruminates on humanity's relationship with a disintegrating natural world.

A Breakdown of Nature *Vodcast, 15 November 2020*

A digital impression of humanity's devastating impact on nature in the Anthropocene.

v2.020

**singapore
international
festival of
arts**

MEDIA ALERT

About The Year of No Return *Festival Commission*

Rising sea levels. Melting polar ice caps. Biodiversity loss. Food shortages resulting in war, strife and refugee crises... Every day, we are inundated with dire consequences of the climate emergency.

In the face of this threat to humanity, what do we do? Recycle? Switch to environmentally-friendly products? Be a vegan? Stop having children? What can we do?

But, despite evidence of our rapidly changing environment, why do we have such different responses to climate change? What makes one a denialist, or compels another to commit acts of civil disobedience in the name of climate justice?

What are our personal stories and struggles? Can we as individuals, and collectively, affect change? Or will politics and profit dictate the fate of this planet—our only home?

A groundbreaking interdisciplinary collaboration with artists from Japan, Malaysia, The Philippines and Singapore, *The Year of No Return* by Singapore theatre company The Necessary Stage seeks to unravel the complications and contradictions in humanity's responses to climate change, to question whether we live in an age of despair—or one of hope in the dark.

About The Necessary Stage

Established in 1987 by our Artistic Director Alvin Tan, The Necessary Stage (TNS) is a non-profit theatre company with charity status, with a mission is to create challenging, indigenous and innovative theatre that touches the heart and mind. TNS is supported by the National Arts Council under the Major Company Scheme for the period from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2020, and is also the organiser and curator of the annual M1 Singapore Fringe Festival. TNS also has the honour of being the only arts company in Singapore helmed by two Cultural Medallion recipients: Artistic Director Alvin Tan and Resident Playwright Haresh Sharma.