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SINGAPORE



POOLS

For Community
Purpose and Benefit

A GATEWAY ARTS PRODUCTIONS

EVERY BRILLIANT THING

BY DUNCAN MACMILLAN
WITH JONNY DONAHOE

*Directed by
Oliver Chong*

*Performed by
Sharon Sum*



BLACK BOX, GATEWAY THEATRE
6 - 14 SEPT 2024



'Every Brilliant Thing' was first produced by Paines Plough and Pentabus Theatre, on 28 June 2013 at Ludlow Fringe Festival.

Duncan Macmillan is an acclaimed writer for theatre, television, and film. His notable plays include 'Lungs', 'People, Places and Things', 'Every Brilliant Thing', and adaptations of '1984' and 'Rosmersholm'. His work has been performed worldwide at prestigious venues like the National Theatre, the Old Vic, and Broadway. Macmillan's screenwriting credits include BBC, HBO, and Netflix productions. '1984' and 'People, Places and Things' were nominated for Best New Play at the Olivier Awards, and 'Rosmersholm' was nominated for Best Revival.

SYNOPSIS

‘Every Brilliant Thing’ begins with the Narrator recounting a childhood memory. At seven years old, her mother had “done something stupid”.

To uplift her mother, she starts compiling a list of all the brilliant things worth living for:

1. Umbrella Motorbike Ice Cream.
2. Zero Point.
3. The Colour Yellow.
4. Rollercoasters.
5. Polly Pocket.

As the list grows, so does the Narrator. We follow her journey into womanhood and realise the list is more than just a compilation of everything that makes her happy. Instead, it has become a source of comfort and resilience that helps her to navigate the complexities of life.

Presented by Singapore Pools and produced by Gateway Arts, ‘Every Brilliant Thing’ is a delightful and arresting one-person play by Duncan Macmillan with Jonny Donahoe, directed by multi-award-winning and published playwright, director, actor, and designer, Oliver Chong. It is as much about depression, anger, and heartbreak as it is a story of joy, forgiveness, and a celebration of the resilient spirit of man. An encouraging nudge towards finding brilliant things in the everyday.

This play is performed in a unique format, engaging the audience in a participatory manner and making them an integral part of the storytelling process.

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Priscilla Khong



Welcome to ‘Every Brilliant Thing’, a production that resonates deeply with the core of who we are at Gateway Arts. Directed by the immensely talented Oliver Chong, this show is more than just a performance—it’s a conversation starter on a subject that may be difficult for many.

At Gateway Arts, we believe in the power of theatre to extend beyond the stage, engaging with the community in meaningful ways. That’s why we are proud to collaborate with the Samaritans of Singapore to offer panel discussions and first responder workshops as part of this production. These engagements are designed to create a safe space for dialogue about mental wellness, a cause that is incredibly important to us.

This initiative is made possible by the generous support of Singapore Pools, our presenting sponsor. Their commitment to not only the arts but also the mental well-being of our community has been instrumental in bringing this vision to life.

For me, this work is more than just a professional endeavour - it reflects a personal belief in the transformative power of the arts to heal, connect, and inspire change. I hope ‘Every Brilliant Thing’ leaves you with a renewed sense of hope and a reminder that, even in the darkest times, there are countless reasons to find joy.

Thank you for being a part of this journey.

MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Oliver Chong



This year marks the 10th anniversary of ‘Every Brilliant Thing’. Having had two very well-received and successful stagings of the play in 2022 and 2023, this is another adaptation where I am directing someone else performing it. A notable difference in this edition is the female perspective of the same story with new songs and an updated list of brilliant things, offering fresh nuances and emotional depth.

When Gateway Arts’ Artistic Director, Samantha, invited me to restage ‘Every Brilliant Thing’ with myself as the performer, as in previous stagings, I had to turn down the offer. Performing this challenging piece for two consecutive years was an incredibly rewarding yet emotionally exhausting experience. I wasn’t sure if my heart could endure another wrenching journey so soon. Thus, I took on the role of director for two very talented actresses, Sharon and Johanna, this time.

A big thank you to Priscilla, Samantha, and the folks at Gateway Arts’ for giving me another opportunity to work on this brilliant and meaningful piece of work again. Their support and collaboration have been invaluable.

As we celebrate this milestone, I hope ‘Every Brilliant Thing’ continues to inspire us to be attentive and appreciative of every brilliant thing in our lives, however small and insignificant, because they truly are the meanings of our otherwise meaningless existence.

LIFE: A COLLECTION OF BRILLIANT AND NOT-SO-BRILLIANT THINGS

Life is a mix of ups and downs. Sometimes, the challenges can feel overwhelming and intense, making it hard to see the brilliant things that make life worth living.

During these times, feelings of hopelessness or despair might take over, leading to thoughts that can be difficult to manage, especially when one feels alone.

It is important to remember that these feelings, though intense, can get better. Reaching out for support can be the first step towards healing. If you're struggling, please know that help is available, and you're not alone. Speaking openly about your feelings can be a crucial step towards finding light in the darkness.

SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

We all play a role in supporting those around us. If you notice someone in distress, reaching out can make all the difference. Sometimes, knowing someone cares is enough to bring hope back into their lives.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Light in the Dark Support Group:

If you're struggling with suicidal thoughts, consider joining SOS's 'Light in the Dark' support group. Here, you'll find a community ready to walk alongside you.

Reach out at litd@sos.org.sg

To find out more:



Suicide Bereavement Support:

For those coping with the loss of a loved one to suicide, SOS offers several services, including specialist counselling, emotional support, and support groups like Healing Bridge and Healing Within.

Reach out here:



BE A LIFELINE

If a friend confides in you about suicidal thoughts, stay calm, listen, and show genuine concern. Encourage them to seek help, and most importantly, be there for them. Learn how to support others by joining SOS's 'Be A Samaritan' Programme.

'Be A Samaritan' Programme

Details

Date: 2 and 3 October 2024

Time: 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Venue: Gateway Theatre, Gallery, Level 7

\$70

U.P. \$50 per pax

Gateway Arts is committed to fostering mental resilience in youths through awareness, coping strategies, and resources for seeking help.

To support this, we have partnered with Samaritans of Singapore Limited (SOS) to offer the 'Be A Samaritan' (BAS) Programme to our audience of 'Every Brilliant Thing'.

The BAS programme aims to equip the community with the knowledge and skills to be a first responder to anyone facing a suicide crisis by engaging and encouraging distressed individuals to seek help and providing them with emotional support in an empathetic manner.

This two-part programme comprises:

Part 1: Suicide Prevention 101

In this one-hour asynchronous e-learning on SP101, be equipped with the basic knowledge of suicide prevention and how to better support your loved ones who are facing a crisis.

1. Articulate local statistics and the impact of suicide
2. Identify facts and myths about suicide
3. Identify suicide warning signs
4. Explain the suicidal mind
5. Articulate the “3A” approach in responding to someone suicidal

Part 2: #HowRU Workshop

In this two-hour workshop, learn the practical skills on how to demonstrate the “3A” approach through role plays and assessments to help someone in distress.

1. Identify suicide distress (Alert)
2. Use empathy and suicide question when approaching someone in suicide distress (Approach)
3. Match community resources or help available to person-in-distress (Assist)

REGISTER AT:



About SOS

Samaritans of Singapore Limited (SOS) is a secular, non-profit suicide prevention centre. Since its establishment in 1969, SOS has developed into a professionally run and managed organisation. It adopts a holistic approach to suicide-related topics, focusing on prevention, intervention and postvention, an intervention conducted after a suicide for loved ones and friends.

With the mission to be an available lifeline to anyone in crisis, SOS offers emotional support to people in crisis, thinking of suicide, or affected by suicide. All information shared with SOS is treated as confidential and people can choose to remain anonymous.

Terms & Conditions:

- The minimum age for this workshop is 16 years old.
- Participants below the age 18 years old will require a consent form, which will be provided after registration.
- Participants will be required to present their ‘Every Brilliant Thing’ ticket on the day of the workshop to enjoy the special rate.

MEET THE CAST

Sharon is a bilingual actor, singer, and dancer who graduated with a BA (First Class Honours) degree in Musical Theatre from LASALLE College of the Arts and has since performed in various musicals and theatre productions. Some of her theatre credits include Wild Rice's 'Momotaro and the Magnificent Peach'; Toy Factory's 'TITOU DAO', 'Crab Flower Club', and 'A Dream Under the Southern Bough: Existence'; Bitesize Theatre Production's 'The Monster in the Mirror'; Esplanade's PLAYtime! 'Fatimah and her Magic Socks'; Singapore Chinese Orchestra's 'Infinite Island'; Singapore Repertory Theatre's 'Three Little Pigs', 'Goldilocks & the Three Bears', 'Gretel & Hansel', 'Fantastic Mr Fox' and 'Red Riding Hood'; The Theatre Practice's 'Liao Zhai Rocks!' and 'Four Horse Road'; Tiny Feat's 'Annie Ting and the Dragon'; and Dream Academy's 'Detention Katong'.

She has also lent her voice to productions such as Double Confirm Production's 'Hossan-AH 50!' and sung for The Theatre Practice's 'Nursery Rhymes Project'. She enjoys how theatre has allowed her to expand the human experience and looks to bring that experience to her audience.

Sharon Sum
- Narrator



Johanna is an actress, musical theatre performer and vocal coach. Having graduated from LASALLE'S Musical Theatre course, she continues to explore other ways of theatre-making including devising and physical theatre.

Her stage credits include being a Swing in 'Secondary: The Musical' (Checkpoint Theatre), 'SmartyPants and the Swordfish' (Gateway Arts), 'The Prisoner' (Toy Factory Productions), 'The Missing Pages' (Chewy Collective) and 'The Critic' (The Necessary Stage).

She is also a co-founder of A Mouthful Productions, a musical theatre collective, which performed their first show, 'Where's the Rice' - a mukbang cabaret, at Singtheatre's Musical Theatre Fringe Festival 2022.

Johanna Van

- Narrator Understudy



The scent of rain.



Falling in love.



*Telling you how I feel
about you, with this list.*

A genuine hug.



*Completing an
enormous task.*



Hide and Seek.



Watching planes take off.

Having dessert as the main course.



The colour yellow.



*Gifts that you actually want
and didn't ask for.*

MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM

Oliver Chong is a multi-award-winning and published playwright, director, actor, puppeteer; and set and puppet designer. Some of his memorable works include 'Every Brilliant Thing', 'A Fiend's Diary', 'Roots', 'I'm Just A Piano Teacher', 'Cat', 'Lost & Found', 'The Book of Living and Dying', 'Citizen Pig and Citizen Dog'. His numerous wins and nominations at The Straits Times Life Theatre Awards include Production of the Year, Best Director, Best Script, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor, Best Ensemble, and Best Set Design.

To date, Oliver's works have been presented at international arts festivals in Paris, Myanmar, Barcelona, Budapest, Ankara, Bangkok, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan and Malaysia. He has conducted playwriting, directing, and acting Masterclasses in Hong Kong and Singapore, and has been committed to helping practitioners fine-tune their crafts since 2014. Oliver was the Resident Director of THE FINGER PLAYERS (2004–2018), currently the Artistic Director of the company. He is also the founding member of A GROUP OF PEOPLE (2008–2012) and the founder of ODDCROP Productions (2019–present). His published works include 'Roots', 'The Book of Living and Dying', 'I'm Just A Piano Teacher' and 'Cat, Lost & Found'. 'Roots' was also read and staged in New Zealand by Proudly Asian Theatre in 2018.

Oliver Chong

Adaptation, Director
and Set Designer



Petrina Dawn Tan

Lighting Designer

Petrina Dawn Tan holds a Master of Art in Collaborative Theatre Production and Design from Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. She practises scenography and conceptualised a range of projects, including music festivals, circus acts, and installations with elements of audience participation.

She won Best Set for 'The Truth' (STC - Singapore Theatre Company, formerly Singapore Repertory Theatre) at the 2020 The Straits Times Life Theatre Awards. She was nominated in 2022 for Best Set in 'A Dream Under The Southern Bough: Existence' (Toy Factory Productions) and in 2017 for Best Lighting for her work on 'Manifesto' (The Necessary Stage & Drama Box). Her work for 'Recalling Mother' (Checkpoint Theatre) has been seen internationally, travelling from Singapore to Brisbane and Adelaide. Designs for theatre performances include 'Electrify My World' (Nine Years Theatre), 'I and You' (Gateway Arts 2022) and 'The Son' (Pangdemonium).

Other credits: Co-Artist for public art 'YELLOW' and Associate Lighting Designer for 'From Singapore to Singaporean - The Bicentennial Experience'.



Daniel Wong

Sound Designer

Daniel Wong is a sound designer, composer and music producer. He graduated from Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music with a B.Mus (Hons) in Recording Arts & Science. Sound design credits include 'Doubt', 'People', 'Places & Things', 'Muswell Hill' (Pangdemonium), '2:22 - A Ghost Story', 'The Almighty Sometimes', 'The Sound Inside', 'Tuesdays with Morrie' (SRT), 'I and You' (Gateway Arts), 'G*d is a Woman', and 'Cafe' (W!LD RICE).

Outside of theatre, Daniel produces songs for various artists and organisations, including lewloh, JAWN, Vivien Yap, HubbaBubbas, Lorong Boys, and Voices of Singapore. He recently produced the main theme song for 'Sunny Side Up' with his band, Oakē.

CREDITS

CAST

Sharon Sum	Narrator
Johanna Van	Narrator Understudy

CREATIVE TEAM

Director and Set Designer	Oliver Chong
Lighting Designer	Petrina Dawn Tan
Sound Designer	Daniel Wong

PRODUCTION TEAM

Executive Producer	Priscilla Khong
Technical Manager	Thien Boon Bing
Production Manager	Juraidah Rahman
Production Coordinator	Abel Koh
Stage Manager	Joshua Gareth Seow
Rehearsal Assistant Stage Manager	Li Lin
Assistant Stage Manager	Amethyst

LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT

Learning and Engagement Partner	Samaritans of Singapore Limited
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GATEWAY ARTS TEAM

Executive Director	Priscilla Khong
Artistic Director	Samantha Scott-Blackhall
Company Manager	Doris Lee
Marketing Manager	Jasmin Loh
Production Manager	Juraidah Rahman
Administrator	Sharon Goh
Programme Executive	Toh Wen Fang
Marketing Executive	Ashley Tan
Production Coordinator (Contract)	Abel Koh
Production Coordinator (Contract)	Joshua Gareth Seow
Marketing Coordinator (Intern)	Zhang Shiman

Special Thanks to:

The Finger Players

Samaritans of Singapore

Charlene Heng, Naomi Toh, Ngawang Chime, Sandra Wee and Shantini Sathiyanesan

Guest Panellists

Alex Yeo, Alvin Arvind, Daphne Lin, Eric Sng, Jaisilan Sathiasilan, Jared Ng, Kevin Wee and Lyon Koh

SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

Gateway Arts would like to thank the following
Sponsors, Partners, and Donors
for their generous support.

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GUARDIANS

With the help of our Guardians, we continue to nurture the next generation of artist and audiences through the performing arts in Singapore.

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CRIMSON KNIGHT

Meng
Veronica LY Low

WHITE KNIGHT

James

FRIENDS

With the help of our Friends, we continue to develop meaningful programmes that champion social causes.

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Vernon Kwek
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Mitha Family

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Jordan Tay
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Ws

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written by
Michelle Tan

directed by
Ian Loy

26 Oct - 3 Nov 2024

A hopeful story of navigating transitions, overcoming uncertainty and finding courage.

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About SOS

Samaritans of Singapore Limited (SOS) is a secular, non-profit suicide prevention centre. With its mission, “To be an available lifeline to anyone in crisis” SOS offers emotional support to people in crisis, thinking of suicide, or affected by suicide. All information shared with SOS is treated as confidential and people can choose to remain anonymous.

Our Helplines



24-hour
Hotline:
1767



24-hour CareText
(via WhatsApp):
9151 1767

SOS's Programmes
& Services



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@SamaritansOfSingapore

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL SINGAPOREANS

Singapore Pools provides a safe and trusted betting environment to divert demand away from illegal operators, while channeling funds to benefit and uplift the community.

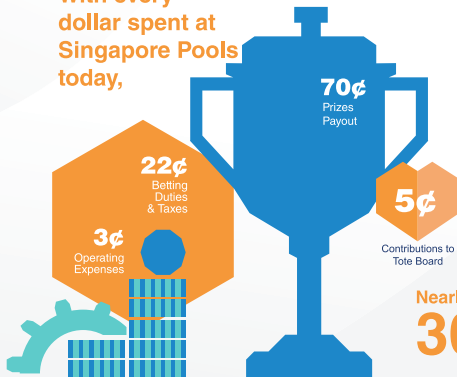
We help to create a more inclusive Singapore by giving to the community, leveraging our strengths to enhance the quality of life for Singaporeans through synergistic local collaborations and community initiatives with our partners.

Since inception, Singapore Pools' staff have a long-standing commitment to doing good and giving back to the community through volunteer activities. We have completed more than 5,404 staff volunteerism hours by 437 unique staff volunteers and achieved 56% staff volunteerism rate over the past 3 years.

Our annual charity fundraiser, Football With A Heart, has raised more than \$5 million for over 45 charities and social enterprises in the past 9 years.



With every dollar spent at Singapore Pools today,



Community
at the Heart
of All We Do

Nearly 30%

goes to all Singaporeans through Betting Duties & Taxes and Tote Board funding of worthy causes.

Our partnership with Gateway Arts as a homegrown organisation is deeply meaningful, enabling us to champion mental wellness through their impactful productions like Every Brilliant Thing. It not only provokes thought, but encourages conversations and tackles social issues to inspire change. In conjunction with World Suicide Prevention Day, we hope to raise awareness and promote a deeper understanding of mental health, reinforcing our commitment to community support. We proudly stand alongside Gateway Arts, and are excited to witness the positive impact of this collaboration.

Mr Lam Chee Weng, CEO of Singapore Pools



@SingaporePoolsInTheCommunity
www.singaporepools.com.sg



WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Tell us what you thought about the show!



Thank You!

ABOUT GATEWAY ARTS

Gateway Arts is a not-for-profit Singapore-registered charity. As a theatre company for young people, our mission is to provoke thought, encourage conversations, and inspire change through productions that tackle current social issues amongst children and youth. We believe in nurturing emerging artists, attracting new audiences, and providing underserved communities with meaningful arts programmes.

MAKE A BRILLIANT IMPACT

Donate Now



Our mission to 'Nurture Performing Hearts' seeks not only to encourage and support the next generation of performing artists in their creative expression, ideas, and ideals, but also to shine a light on current social issues amongst children and youth, through works produced by Gateway Arts that encourage conversation, provoke positive thought, and inspire change for the better.

If you believe, as we do, in the ability of the performing arts to strengthen social relationships and community, fuel conversation, instil values and imbue young people with self-expression, confidence, and charisma, we invite you to become a Friend or a Guardian of Gateway Arts. In so doing, you will be supporting artistic youth who have important things to say, the talent to say it well, and a burning ambition to make a difference.

Gateway Arts is a not-for-profit Singapore-registered charity.
UEN Number: 201605922E
Effective Date of Registration: 06 July 2023

<https://gatewayarts.sg/support-us/>

