

PRESENTED BY



*Bringing Hope  
and Restoration*

# THIRD MAN SYNDROME

A GATEWAY ARTS PRODUCTION

A photograph of two men from behind, standing on a rooftop at night. They are looking out over a cityscape with blurred lights. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red and blue color gradient.

**Why Did You Jump?**

28 Aug – 7 Sep 2025 | Black Box, Gateway Theatre  
Written by Terrance Tan | Directed by Ian Loy



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The script for *Third Man Syndrome* was developed under Gateway Arts' 2022 Artist-In-Residence Programme.

## “Why Did You Jump?”

Albert thought this question could never be answered. His friend, Erwin, had just killed himself. Erwin was completely normal – exceptional even. Not only was he a valedictorian, and a national youth gymnast, but he also had a gorgeous girlfriend. Albert was none of that. They had nothing in common, but their friendship was impenetrable. So, why did he jump? Albert thought this question could never be answered. That is, until he found himself in Erwin's last dream, chasing a ghost that refuses to talk. The deeper he falls into Erwin's dream, the stranger and darker are the secrets he uncovers. His bigger fear, however, is learning the truth about why his friend killed himself, before waking up from the dream.

# SY NOP SIS

*Third Man Syndrome*, written by Terrance Tan and directed by Ian Loy, is a necessary conversation about suicide, a brave dialogue with the people left behind, a shout-out for support, whilst finding one's courage in the face of fear.





Welcome to  
*Third Man Syndrome*

# MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

## How many questions die unspoken between friends?

It's a haunting thought and one that sits at the heart of *Third Man Syndrome*.

This production is very dear to me; it not only confronts an urgent issue but also embodies our commitment to nurturing resident artists. Over the past three years, I've had the privilege of watching Terrance shape this work—from the spark of an idea during his residency, into the deeply affecting story you will see in this performance. His quiet tenacity and unflinching honesty in exploring grief and silence have been profoundly moving.

I'm proud that Gateway Arts could provide the space and trust for him to bring this story to life. This play is a vivid reminder of why live theatre matters—it asks us to slow down, feel deeply, and truly listen.

*Third Man Syndrome* doesn't offer tidy resolutions. It lays bare the spaces between words, the echoes of questions we never voice, and the courage required to truly listen. It holds up a mirror to the everyday moments we overlook especially in a culture that values certainty and speed.



This play slows us down—asking not only whether we notice others' pain, but whether we know how to ask, "Are you okay?"

My hope is that the performance ignites conversations long after the curtain falls—reminding us that healing often begins not with solutions, but with presence: the simple act of holding space for one another, leaning into the unsaid, and offering empathy without hurry.

A heartfelt thank you to our presenting sponsor, Eagles Mediation & Counselling Centre (EMCC), whose belief and support make these conversations possible.

Thank you for walking this journey with us. May we leave renewed in our capacity to listen—and to care for one another.

**Priscilla Khong**

# MESSAGE FROM OUR PLAYWRIGHT

Three years ago, the theatre industry lost a few artists to suicide.

You couldn't tell that those who took their lives were struggling because of how happy they were on the outside. So why did they end their lives? How could their friends and families move on, when the only person who could answer that question is no longer around?

When I was offered a Gateway Arts Artist-In-Residence programme mentored by Chong Tze Chien, I was given the space and time to write *Third Man Syndrome* to explore this question. I put out a short insta-story asking for people with lived experience if they would be keen to talk to me. I thought I would maybe get two replies if I was lucky. Instead, I got 15 replies - within an hour.

What's even more surprising was that some of the people who came forward were some of the most outgoing and carefree people I knew. That's when it hit me that this was such an important conversation to have. So many people were struggling, but couldn't talk about it.



There wasn't just one reason why they wanted to end their lives. Everyone had different backgrounds and reasons. But there was one question that everyone gave me the same answer to: "What did you wish you had to help you when you were suicidal?".

It struck me that no matter how different we are, we all need the same thing to live – I won't spoil the answer to that question – watch the show! But, I hope that after the performance, even if you forget everything, or don't understand anything (yes, I know it's confusing haha), I hope you just take home this one thing:

When you know someone is struggling,

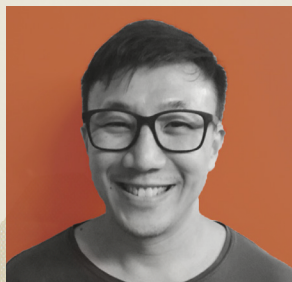
just show up.

**Terrance Tan**

## Special Thanks To:

Samantha Scott-Blackhall, Chong Tze Chien, Alexis Elizabeth Chew, Alvin Richard, Andrew, Andrew Lua DJ, Audrey Goh, Fraven, Jaisilan Sathiasilan, Jeremy Cheong, "Smelly Birds", Evelyn Tan

## MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Many who know my work would recognise my long-standing dedication to theatre for families and young audiences. But fewer know that my journey began in mainstream theatre, long before 2009. Returning to a piece like *Third Man Syndrome* feels like coming full circle.

Terrance's script stirred something in me, an empathic space I couldn't ignore. While not written for very young audiences, it speaks deeply to young adults navigating the quiet complexities of connection, identity, and longing. In today's noisy world, it's easy to miss the silent cries that hold us together. This play is a quiet call to listen more closely.

Directing it has been a tender process of conversations, probing, and experimentation. Through it all, I held one thing close: I wanted to speak to my growing teenagers, Jude and Gwyneth. This play is for them. A reminder that life, with all its valleys and mountain tops, is worth walking through, especially together.

This play is also for Winston and Mario, my friends who are no longer with us. For the words I never said, the 'what-ifs' that linger, and the memories of their presence that still catch me off guard, even years later. Perhaps this production is, in part, an altar—a place to reconcile the past, to finally say what I couldn't, and to honour how deeply they shaped the person I am.

Maybe you're like me, uncertain then, unsure now. I hope this play helps us find the courage to say the things that matter while we still can.

Thank you, Priscilla and Samantha, for your trust. Your belief gives me strength and joy. And to Terrance, thank you for your honesty.

Ian Loy

# Life: A Quest for Answers

Life isn't always straightforward. It can be confusing, painful, and full of questions that don't seem to have clear answers. As you watch the show, you may find yourself asking questions – just like Albert – a suicide survivor in the story. Sometimes, despite our best efforts, the answers don't come easily. And that's okay.



## Supporting Suicide Survivors

Losing someone to suicide can be both devastating and disorienting. Suicide survivors—the loved ones left behind—often experience a complex mix of emotions: grief, confusion, regret, helplessness, and deep isolation. Many search desperately for reasons, struggling with a sense of guilt that's hard to shake.

Healing takes time and support. If someone you know has lost a loved one to suicide, reaching out can make a world of difference. Listen without judgement. Be present. Encourage them to speak to a professional if they feel ready. Sometimes, simply walking alongside them can make the path a little less overwhelming.



# Suicide in Singapore

In 2024, 314\* suicides were reported in Singapore – 202 men and 112 women. Globally, suicide rates are consistently higher among men than women.

One possible reason is the pressure of societal expectations. In many cultures, men learn to suppress emotions, avoid vulnerability, and “be strong”. These beliefs can make it harder for men to seek help or speak about their mental health. Studies also show that men are less likely to reach out for support than women.



## Destigmatising Men's Mental Health

With *Third Man Syndrome*, we hope to break the silence. This production is a call for men to speak about their inner struggles – and for all of us to become more attuned to the quiet signs of distress in the people we care about.

A simple message of care can be powerful. Reaching out to someone and letting them know you're there may be the first step in helping them open up. And that first step could save a life.



\*Figures are provisional.

Sources:

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/singapore/suicide-deaths-lowest-samaritans-sos-help-mental-health-4473201>

<https://behavioralhealthnews.org/the-heavy-burden-of-suicide-survivors-guilt-understanding-coping-and-moving-forward/>

<https://www.healthline.com/health/mens-health/mens-suicide-rate#causes>

# Community Support

## Light in the Dark Support Group

If you are struggling with suicidal thoughts, consider joining Samaritans of Singapore's (SOS) 'Light in the Dark' support group. Here, you will find a community ready to walk alongside you. Reach out at [litud@sos.org.sg](mailto:litud@sos.org.sg).

[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.

[LEARN HOW HERE](#)

## Men's Support Group

Struggling to talk about stress, relationships, or work? You are not alone. Eagles Mediation & Counselling Centre's (EMCC) Men's Support Group offers a safe, guided space for men to explore what they are feeling but find difficult to express. A series of guided sessions will be led by trained counsellors, where participants will have the opportunity to share experiences, reflect honestly, and work towards emotional acceptance and growth.

[JOIN HERE](#)

## Complimentary Individual Counselling Session

If you're feeling overwhelmed or need someone to talk to, EMCC offers a safe space to process what you're going through with a professional. Sign up for a complimentary individual counselling session here.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

1. For the question "Source of Referral", pick "*Third Man Syndrome*" from the drop-down menu.
2. Indicate date of show attended and transaction No. (eg. 20250724-002162)







# MEET THE CAST



## Clement Yeo Erwin

Clement is a Singaporean actor. His recent works include notable productions such as *Titoudao* with Toy Factory Productions, *People by Wild Rice*, and *The Bird Who Was Afraid Of Heights* at the Esplanade. Known for his versatility, Clement connects with audiences through his engaging performances. He is dedicated to the arts and strives to inspire future storytellers, believing in the power of arts to build community and convey meaningful narratives.



# MEET THE CAST



## Krish Natarajan Albert

Krish Natarajan is an actor, writer, director, and creative director of the theatrical agency Strawberries Inc and collective Patch and Punnet. He has acted in multiple works such as SRT's *Midsummer Night's Dream* (2023) as Puck, Checkpoint's *The Secondary: Musical* (2024) and Wild Rice's *National Day Charade* (2024), amongst many others. He has also written and directed multiple experiences and shows such as *The Crack the Case* series with Sightlines, *The Secret Life of Haw Par Villa* (2022), *ChildAid 2024*, and many more.

# VICK LOW

## Musician and Sound Designer

Vick is a Singaporean sound designer/electronic artist. Traditionally trained in the cello, he fuses both organic and electronic sonic elements to create soundscapes heavily influenced by the genres of minimalism, electronica and ambient.

He is a part of Canvas Conversations, an electronic ambient quartet that won the Noise Singapore Award in 2015. They have also performed for Singapore Biennale 2016 and Mosaic Music Series 2017 at the Esplanade. In 2019, he was nominated for Best Sound Design for The Straits Times Life Theatre Awards for *The Watching* (Toy Factory Productions).



Some of his sound design works include *Titoudao* (Toy Factory Productions), *Everything for You* (Nine Years Theatre), *Hutan* (2022 AWESOME Festival, Perth), and *Windward Side of the Mountain* (SCCC Cultural Extravaganza 2022), *I Am Seaweed* (MASHH, M1 Singapore Fringe Festival 2025) and *Bodily Meander: A site-specific movement connection* by Chiew Peishan, presented by The Everyday Museum.

# MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM

## IAN LOY

Director

Ian Loy is a theatre-maker based in Singapore since 1999. He graduated from LASALLE College of the Arts in 2002 with Distinction and was also a recipient of the NAC Georgette Chen Arts Scholarship. In 2009 he founded MySuperFuture Theatrical Productions. Through the company, he involves himself with many community outreach and theatre projects with people of all ages and abilities, coaching or creating theatre art for them, especially for the young audiences. With this passion, Ian Loy was also invited to be an Associate Artist with the Esplanade from 2018 to 2020. He has been creating theatre for our young audiences since 2009.



He was awarded the “Singapore Young Artist Award” in 2014 for his series of accomplished work in theatre for young audiences (TYA). It represents Singapore’s highest award for young arts practitioners, aged 35 years and below in the year of award, whose artistic achievements and commitment have distinguished them among their peers. It encourages him to continue pursuing excellence in the arts, and to look towards inspiring others.



## TERRANCE TAN

### Playwright

Terrance Tan is a multi-disciplinary film and theatre maker. A kinetic director, he specialises in musicals and MVs. He directed Star Awards 2021's Opening Musical 《红星大奖 2021》 *You Are The Brightest Star* MV, the first musical MV concept for Star Awards, and most recently, Mediacorp's 2025 Chinese New Year MV. He also wrote and directed an original musical *The Monster in the Mirror*, presented by Gateway Arts, which sold out its three-week run at the 922-seater Gateway Theatre.



Notable musical credits include *Baby Shark Musical* which was staged in Brunei's Berakas Indoor Stadium Berakas, *Fatimah and Her Magic Socks*, a children's musical staged at Esplanade, and *Miss Julie*, an international co-production with Hong Kong Arts Festival. Other clients include Singapore Food Agency, Singapore Repertory Theatre, Wild Rice and Channel News Asia.



Genevieve graduated from The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, London in 2012 with a BA (Hons) in Theatre Practice, specialising in Lighting and Projection/Video Design. Design credits include *Dear Evan Hansen*, *People Places and Things*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Tango*, *The Effect* (Pangdemonium), *Grounded*, *Lungs*, *The Sound Inside*, *The Lifespan of a Fact* (Singapore Repertory Theatre), *The Commission* (Pangdemonium, SRT & Wild Rice)

## GENEVIEVE PECK

### Lighting & Multimedia Designer

*All the World's a Sea*, *The Soldier and His Virtuous Wife*, *Four Horse Road*, *I Came At Last To The Seas*, *Lao Jiu*, *Liao Zhai Rocks*, *If There're Seasons* (The Theatre Practice), *ubin*, *Both Sides Now 2019*, *Missing*, *With Time* (Drama Box), *Everything For You*, *Between You and Me*, *Lear is Dead*, *Art Studio* (Nine Years Theatre), *Three Years in the Life and Death of Land* (The Necessary Stage), *The Monster in the Mirror* (Gateway Arts), *Burp*, *Imagination Station [1] [2]* (Esplanade Theatres on the Bay), *Origins Cipher* (Siong Leng Musical Association), *Sides 2022* (Frontier Danceland).

<https://genpeck.myportfolio.com>



## Cast

Albert	Krish Natarajan
Erwin	Clement Yeo
Musician	Vick Low



## Creative Team

Director	Ian Loy
Playwright	Terrance Tan
Lighting & Multimedia Designer	Genevieve Peck
Sound Designer	Vick Low

## Production Team

Executive Producer	Priscilla Khong
Production Manager	Juraidah Rahman
Technical Manager	Terence Lau
Assistants to Technical Manager	Nor Syafiqah, Soe Win Tun
Production Coordinator	Abel Koh
Stage Manager	Joshua Gareth Seow
Assistant Stage Manager	Chang Le Shuen
Production Coordinator (Intern)	Aqiilah Iffah



## Gateway Arts Team

Executive Director	Priscilla Khong
Artistic Director	Samantha Scott-Blackhall
Company Manager	Doris Lee
Production Manager	Juraidah Rahman
Production Executive	Joshua Gareth Seow
Production Coordinator (Contract)	Abel Koh
Production Coordinator (Intern)	Aqiilah Iffah
Senior Programme Executive	Toh Wen Fang
Programme Coordinator	Bless Tan
Marketing Manager	Jasmin Loh
Marketing Executive	Ashley Tan
Sales & Marketing Executive	Nadia Affendey
Programme Book Designer	Nana Mahmood
Marketing Designer (Intern)	Ilham Shah
Administrative Executive (Contract)	Lee Ai Leen



## Special Thanks To:

The Costume Pte Ltd & Teater Kami

### To Our Volunteer Counsellors

Charlotte Lee, Dennis Ng, Lanurse Chen, Marta Ciach-Maheswaran,  
Naomi Toh, Ngawang Chime

### To Our Guest Panellists

Aidah, Aishah Alattas, Alex Yeo, Amos Ng, Andrew, Andrew Lua,  
Asher Low, Jared Ng, Narash, Rayner Tan, V.Reshiivarma

# OUR SPONSORS & PARTNERS

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

## Presenting Sponsor



## Corporate Sponsor



## Digital & Venue Sponsor



## Supported By



## Honorary Patron



## Community Partner



## In Support Of



## Official Privilege Card



## Official Card



In Celebration of SG60, we're a proud partner of the SG Culture Pass.





## OUR DONORS

### Guardians

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

#### Protector

Jonathan & June Ow

#### Gold Knight

Cadence Culture

#### Crimson Knight

Meng

Gabriel Lee & Ng Kooi Hoon

Veronica LY Low

#### White Knight

James

Nurture With Love Suzuki Music School

### Friends

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

Desmond Chua

Lily Chu

Cassandra Goh

HengGH

Peter Ho

Vernon Kwek

Sherry Lee

Lew Sin Min

Don Lim

Steffanie Lui

Ming Pang

Mitha Family

Derrick Neo

Ng Bee Ling

Sharon Poh

Stephanie

Sze Kiang

Jordan Tay

The Rosen Family

Sean Too Kai Wen

Gaiatri Vijay

Ws

**We'd Love to Hear From You**  
**Tell us what you thought about the show**

**SHARE YOUR  
FEEDBACKS  
HERE**

# 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 Difference

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, instill 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.



**CLICK HERE  
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/>

# RESTORING HOPE AND SUPPORTING HEALING - WE WILL JOURNEY WITH YOU



As the presenting sponsor of Third Man Syndrome, Eagles Mediation & Counselling Centre (EMCC) is proud to support a production that reflects the silent struggles many carry. Through it, we hope to break stigma and remind one another that healing begins with being heard, and help should never be out of reach.

## WHO IS EMCC

EMCC is a non-profit established in 1997 to bring hope and restoration to individuals and families facing mental, emotional, and relational challenges.



### COUNSELLING SERVICES

#### **Individual Counselling:**

Support for depression, anxiety, trauma, grief, addiction, stress, and life transitions.

#### **Couple & Family Counselling:**

Support for pre-marital preparation, marital issues, parenting, and family relationships.



### MEDIATION SERVICES

Neutral and structured support for resolving family, community, and relational conflicts.



### PROFESSIONAL TRAINING FOR PRACTITIONERS

Workshops and certifications in clinical approaches for Couple Therapy and Trauma Recovery.

## SUBSIDISE A SESSION

**Donations enable us to offer subsidised counselling sessions to those in distress from lower-income households.**

Sarah, a 31-year-old teacher, came to us after struggling with burnout and suicidal thoughts.



*"I used to feel overwhelmed just hearing the MRT jingle that reminded me of work."*

*"Now, I hear it and I'm okay. That happened to me, but I'm not there anymore."*

Despite financial constraints after leaving her job, she was able to receive subsidised support thanks to donations like yours.

### DONATE HERE

Thanks to the Enhanced Fund-Raising (EFR) Programme, every dollar you give will be matched, **doubling your impact!**

Every donation of \$50 and above is eligible for 250% tax deduction.

SCAN HERE





# 'BE A SAMARITAN'

By Samaritans of Singapore  
in support of Gateway Arts

**17 and 18 September 2025**  
**7.30pm – 9.30pm**  
**Gateway Theatre, Dance Studio**

**Complimentary**  
for all tickets  
holders

Suicide is a global issue faced by many communities around the world. In Singapore, there is an average of one suicide death PER DAY.

Gateway Arts is committed to fostering mental resilience in youths through awareness, coping strategies, and resources for seeking help. In our efforts to support our youths, we have partnered with Samaritans of Singapore (SOS) to offer the 'Be A Samaritan' Programme to our audience of *Third Man Syndrome*.

The 'Be A Samaritan' 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.

For programme outline  
and registration, scan here





# SINGAPORE POLO CLUB OUTREACH

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TO  
PUBLIC



Coupon  
Sales Now  
Open!

In collaboration with Dementia Singapore,  
Gateway Arts, PERTAPIS Education & Welfare Centre and  
The Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund

### Guest Of Honour:

Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Senior Minister of Singapore

**SATURDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2025**  
**10AM TO 6PM**

### CARNIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Horse Feeding | Pony Rides | Train Rides |  
Food & Game Stalls | Lifestyle Bazaar

### POLO & SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

**8.45AM - 9.45AM** Atoms Polo Academy Outreach Tournament  
**4.30PM - 6.30PM** SPC Outreach Polo Tournament  
**6.30PM** Showjumping  
**6.45PM** Tent Pegging  
**7PM - 10PM** After Party



Proceeds go towards the four selected  
beneficiaries and SPC Outreach Fund

For enquiries and coupon purchases, contact  
[outreach@singaporepoloclub.org](mailto:outreach@singaporepoloclub.org) or call  
**6854 3999**



A Gateway Arts Production

# BRAINSTORM

*A play that explains why teens act like...teens*



**SG60 Priority Booking  
2 for \$60 (U.P. \$90)**

**Get Your Tickets Now!**



What's going on in a teen's brain? *Brainstorm* dives into the messy, funny, and raw world of adolescence through true stories by Singaporean teens aged 13–17. It's a tumultuous teenage diary packed with memes, dreams, fears, and all the chaos in between!

**Promo Code: IMBACK**

*Original Script by Ned Glasier, Emily Lim and Company Three  
Adapted by Cheyenne Alexandria Phillips  
Directed by Samantha Scott-Blackhall*

**16 – 26 October 2025  
Gateway Theatre, Black Box**

# 2026 Season

## Gateway Arts' 2026 Season



**Scaredy Kat Presents**  
21–31 May 2026

**The Parting Glass**  
3–13 September 2026



**How To Be A Kid**  
5–15 November 2026

The background features a bokeh effect of warm, orange and red lights, likely from a city at night. Overlaid on this are several semi-transparent geometric shapes in various colors: dark blue, brown, orange, purple, and red. A white rectangular card with a torn top edge is positioned in the center, containing social media information.

 gatewayarts.sg

 @GatewayArtsSG

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