

PRESENTED BY



Bringing Hope
and Restoration

The **PARTING** *Glass*

Based on the play by Chris O'Connor

With adaptations by Krish Natarajan

Directed by Samantha Scott-Blackhall



Here's to us,
to love, and to
all that could
have been.

2 – 13 September 2026
The Blackbird Singapore
(Gillman Barracks)

www.gatewayarts.sg

A man and a woman are standing against a dark, textured background. The man on the left is wearing a black t-shirt, blue jeans, and a black cap. The woman on the right is wearing a black top and blue jeans. The image is decorated with several gold confetti pieces. Overlaid on the image is the text "Here's to us, to love, and to all that could have been." in a white, handwritten font.

Here's to us,
to love, and to
all that could
have been.

Synopsis



Jim is the life of the party. He's the joker, the storyteller, the one who always knows what to say. But when his eyes meet Sarah's for the first time, something shifts. For the first time, words fail him. No matter how hard he tries to compose himself and make a good impression, he comes across as flustered and clumsy. But that's okay, because Sarah finds him cute. It might even be love at first sight.

It's Jim's 30th birthday—a night for celebration and laughter, held at his favourite bar in town. But something doesn't feel right. Jim has always felt out of place, like there's a cloud in his mind that is hard to clear. Today, he wants to tell you his story.

Directed by Samantha Scott-Blackhall, based on the play by Chris O'Connor, with adaptations by Krish Natarajan, *The Parting Glass* is an immersive theatrical experience that invites you into Jim's world—at live music bar The Blackbird. From the team behind *Third Man Syndrome* and *Every Brilliant Thing* comes a poignant exploration of mental health and masculinity that poses the question: how well do we ever really know someone—and what are we missing when we don't ask?

Step in, join the party, and raise a glass to Jim.



A Message from our Executive Producer

Sometimes what we cannot yet say, finds another way to be heard.

Welcome to *The Parting Glass*, and thank you for joining us.

Some stories meet us before we have the words to explain what we are feeling. They invite us to notice what may be living beneath the surface: in the pauses, the humour, the habits and the things left unsaid.

This is what drew me to *The Parting Glass*. Men may be surrounded by friendship, family and community, yet still lack the language or feel they have permission, to speak vulnerably about what they are carrying.

I recognise something of the “cloud” in this play: the instinct to retreat, distract ourselves or step away from feelings that seem too difficult to hold. I suspect many of us may recognise some part of that instinct, whether in ourselves or in someone we care about.

Theatre offers us a rare opportunity to sit with another person’s experience before deciding what we think about it. For a little while, we are invited simply to watch, feel and listen, to encounter lives that may be different from ours, yet not entirely unfamiliar.

That is also why we hope the evening does not end when the performance does. We warmly invite you to stay for the post-show conversation. It is a space to hear different perspectives, reflect on what the story has stirred, and perhaps find a starting point for a conversation beyond the theatre.

Thank you for making room for this story and for the people beside you. I hope tonight leaves us a little more open, attentive and willing to begin.

Priscilla Khong

A Message from our Director



I love that, at its heart, *The Parting Glass* is a love story.

It's the love between Jim and Sarah, but also between a son and his mother, and a son and his father. It's about the relationships that shape us, sustain us, frustrate us and, ultimately, define us. Like all love stories, it is also a story about loss—not only the loss of a person, but of the ordinary moments we so often take for granted.

As we delved deeper into rehearsals, I found myself thinking not only about Jim's mental struggles, but also about what it means to be human. I think most of us carry a cloud.

For some, that cloud may be depression. For others, it might be grief, anxiety, loneliness, burnout, or simply the quiet exhaustion of trying to hold everything together. Whatever shape it takes, it deserves to be seen, acknowledged, and met with compassion. Especially, in a society that values efficiency, it can be easy to mistake coping for being "okay". Sometimes what we need isn't another solution, but someone who notices and pursues if we're really okay. Someone who listens without rushing to fix. And sometimes, when the cloud becomes too heavy to carry alone, someone who gently encourages us to seek help.



If this play leaves you with anything, I hope it is a renewed appreciation for the people in your own life, and an awareness of the people around you. Treasure the ordinary conversations. Send that text. Stay a little longer. Listen more carefully.

Perhaps that's why the title *The Parting Glass* feels so fitting to me. A parting glass is more than a final drink before saying goodbye. It is a moment of gratitude—a chance to honour the people who have shared our journey and to recognise that the measure of a life lies not simply in how it ends, but in the love it leaves behind.



Finally, my heartfelt thanks to our extraordinary company: to Juliana and Rishi, for carrying this story with such sensitivity and heart; to our designers, Petrina and Daniel—my partners in creative crime—for bringing its world to life; to Krish, for giving the story resonance here in Singapore; to Abel, Joshua, Mirra, Ann, Juraidah, Alvin and costume guru Theresa, the team that holds everything together; to Wen Fang, for scouting this script and championing its potential; and to our dedicated team at Gateway Arts—thank you for showing me every day what it means to be human.



Samantha Scott-Blackhall

A Message from our Presenting Sponsor

At EMCC, we believe that stories are powerful, not just because they move us, but because they invite us to see ourselves and one another more clearly.

We are honoured to partner with Gateway Arts once again to present *The Parting Glass*. Like *Third Man Syndrome* before it, this production opens a space for conversations that are often difficult to begin.

Through the arts, we can explore complex themes such as grief, depression, and suicide in a way that feels human, relatable, and deeply personal.

Theatre has a unique ability to reach hearts before minds. It allows us to sit with emotions, ask difficult questions, and reflect on the experiences of those around us. In doing so, it becomes more than a performance, it becomes an invitation to listen, to understand, and to care.

Last year, we witnessed the impact of this firsthand. Audience members stepped forward to seek help for the first time through our complimentary counselling sessions, while others found connection and support through initiatives such as our Men's Support Group.

These moments reminded us that meaningful change begins with a conversation and the courage to take a first step.

This year, we hope to build on that momentum through *The Parting Glass* and our *It's Not You* campaign. More than a mental health awareness campaign, *It's Not You* is our commitment to creating lasting change: helping people recognise that their struggles do not define them, encouraging more open conversations, and equipping communities to support one another with empathy and understanding.

We hope today's performance sparks reflection, connection, and perhaps even a conversation that continues long after you leave the theatre. And we look forward to seeing many of you again at *Let It Go, Let It Grow*, the flagship event of our *It's Not You* campaign, in January 2027.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we can help ensure that no one has to face life's struggles alone.

With gratitude,
Elaine Tan, Executive Director
Eagles Mediation & Counselling
Centre (EMCC)

A cloud that Lingers

If your mind were a kind of weather, what would it be? For some, it might feel bright and sunny; for others, grey with passing rain.



For people experiencing depression, it can feel like a heavy cloud that lingers—sometimes dull and distant, sometimes overwhelming, and often slow to pass. It's not simply a matter of “waiting for the sun” or trying harder to feel better. The cloud may shift in intensity, but it can be difficult to ease without time, support, and care.

Depression in Singapore

A 2025 study by the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) found that:

26%

of adults in Singapore

Experience mild depressive or anxiety symptoms

19%

of adults in Singapore

Experience moderate depressive or anxiety symptoms

7%

of adults in Singapore

Exhibit severe depressive or anxiety symptoms



Yet despite how common these experiences are, a separate study found that 77% of surveyed adults with symptoms of anxiety or depression had not sought care from mental health professionals.

One possible reason is the stigma surrounding mental health.

Many individuals worry about being misunderstood, labelled, or seen as “weak”, which can make it difficult to open up, even to those closest to them. This can be particularly true for men, where unspoken expectations around masculinity may discourage emotional vulnerability.



In *The Parting Glass*, this tension is reflected in how men connect with one another. Moments of loud celebration—shouting, laughing, even crying over a football match—become socially acceptable outlets for emotion. Yet outside of these spaces, expressing fear, sadness, or insecurity can feel much harder. Struggles are often hidden behind humour, silence, or a quiet “I’m fine”, even among the people who matter most.

Creating Space for Conversations

Creating safe spaces for conversations about mental health begins with listening—without judgement, assumptions, or the need to fix things immediately. It means recognising that vulnerability is not weakness, but a form of courage. For men especially, this may start with small shifts: checking in on a friend beyond surface-level banter, allowing space for honesty, or being willing to say “I’m not okay.”

The Parting Glass reminds us that behind every outward persona, there may be struggles we cannot see. By fostering openness and compassion in our everyday interactions, we can begin to break down stigma and create a culture where everyone feels safer to be seen, heard, and supported.

Sources:

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/community/1-in-4-adults-in-singapore-experience-mild-symptoms-of-depression-and-anxiety-study>
<https://www.news-medical.net/news/20260622/Most-adults-with-depression-favor-informal-community-peer-support.aspx>
<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/singapore/mental-health-study-adults-anxiety-depression-help-6207251>

Support for Mental Health Concerns



IF YOU ARE STRUGGLING

Acknowledge Your Feelings:

It's okay to not be okay. Recognising this is the first step to healing.

Lean for Support:

Talk to someone you trust. Sharing helps lighten the burden and reminds you that you're not alone.

Prioritise Basic Needs:

Sleep well, eat nourishing food, and stay hydrated—these small steps boost mood and energy.

Do What Brings You Joy, Even a Little:

A favourite song, a funny show, or some time outside can lift your spirits.

Seek Professional Help:

Therapists offer a safe space and tools to manage tough emotions and challenges.

IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS STRUGGLING

Check In:

A simple "Hey, you okay? I've noticed you seem off," can start a conversation.

Listen Without Judgment:

Be present. You don't need answers or to fix anything. Just listen and make them feel safe.

Be Patient and Consistent:

Recovery is a journey, not a quick fix. Keep checking in and showing you care.

Set Your Boundaries:

Supporting someone can be emotionally draining. Take care of your own mental health too.

Encourage Professional Help:

Suggest seeing a therapist and offer to help find resources or even accompany them.



After the Loss:

Grieving a suicide loss is uniquely painful. It brings not only sorrow, but also shock, confusion, anger, and guilt.

Survivors of suicide loss (often referred to as "suicide loss survivors") may struggle with the "why" and feel a strong sense of responsibility or failure.



Common Reactions After a Suicide Loss

1

Blaming yourself or others

2

Avoiding memories of the person

3

Feeling numb and/or overwhelmed

4

Isolation: "no one gets it"

Coping With the Loss

Feel What You Feel.

There's no right or wrong way to grieve. Allow all emotions, even the hard ones.

Express Your Grief.

Write, create, or talk to someone you trust to process your feelings.

Find Support.

Speak to a grief trained therapist who can offer guidance and coping tools.

Keep Some Routine.

Structure can bring comfort, even when it's hard.

Honour Their Memory.

Remember the love and meaning they brought, not just their death.

For resources on suicide and grief, you can access a digital booklet by EMCC [here](#). Printed copies of this booklet are available in limited quantities at the EMCC counter for a small donation. If you would like to explore a wider range of mental health topics – including anxiety, depression, and other concerns – you may also consider picking up a second resource booklet, also available for a small donation.

community support

Suicide Bereavement Support

If you are coping with the loss of a loved one to suicide, Samaritans of Singapore's (SOS) provides specialised support services, including counselling and support groups like Healing Bridge and Healing Within.

Reach out here

Light in the Dark Support Group

If you are struggling with suicidal thoughts, you may consider joining SOS's Light in the Dark support group. It offers a safe space to connect with others and be supported in a community that understands.

Find out more

If you are in immediate distress, please contact SOS at:

24-hour Hotline: 1767

24-hour CareText (WhatsApp): 9151 1767

Complimentary Individual Counselling Session

If you are feeling overwhelmed or would like someone to talk to, EMCC offers a safe and confidential space to process your experiences with a professional counsellor. A limited number of complimentary sessions are available, offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Sign up here

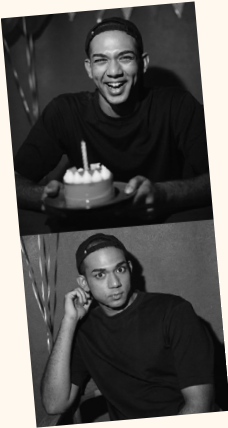
For "Source of Referral", please select ***"The Parting Glass"***. Kindly indicate your **Date of Show Attended** and **Transaction Number. (eg. 20260801-000123)**



Meet the Cast



Rishi Vadrevu
Jim



Rishi Vadrevu is a Singaporean stage and screen actor, formally trained in Mumbai.

Past stage credits include Claudio in Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* (2025) and a standout performance as Philip Lombard in Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None* (2026).

Rishi made his feature film debut as Ikmal in *Elevator* (2024), and was recently Harish in Anthony Chen's *We Are All Strangers* (2026)—the first Singaporean film to premiere at the Berlinale.

He currently plays Joshua on the long-form English television show *Yes Captain!*, currently airing on Channel 5 and MeWatch.

Off-stage and screen, Rishi is an MMA practitioner, aspiring writer and football fan (though Liverpool, not Leeds; sorry Jim!)



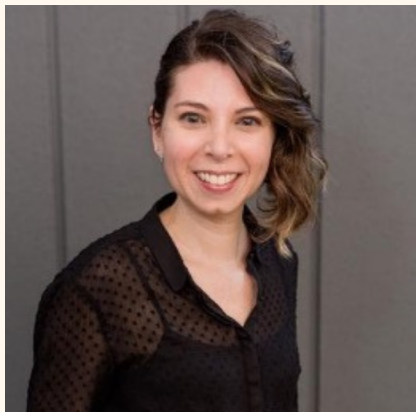
Juliana Kassim Chan
Sarah



Juliana Kassim Chan is a theatre and film actor based in Singapore. Most recently seen in *Constellations* by Nick Payne, presented by The Winter Players, her theatre credits include *Much Ado About Nothing* by The Winter Players, *The Thieves* by Toy Factory Productions, and Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. She holds a BA (Hons) in Acting from LASALLE College of the Arts and was nominated for Most Promising Actor at Pesta Perdana 2023.

Drawn to emotionally rich stories, Juliana is interested in work that explores contradictions, vulnerabilities, and complexities of human relationships. Beyond performing, she creates original devised works as a writer, director, producer, and collaborator. Her projects include *91.3FM*, presented at *SCAPE Comma Arts Festival, and *A World Without Eggs*, presented at the NUS ExxonMobil Campus Concerts. Outside theatre, she works as a catsitter and hosts Match & Make, a monthly theatre play date for artists and theatre lovers.

Meet the Director



Samantha Scott-Blackhall
Director

Samantha has worked in Singapore's theatre industry for the last 20 years, and achieved critical acclaim as a Theatre Director, Artistic Director and Educator. Along with over 50 productions under her belt, she won Best Director at the Life! Theatre Award in 2005 for *The Physicist* by Luna-id Theatre, and has received numerous nominations over the years for the productions she has helmed. Highlights include *Tuesdays With Morrie* by SRT; *A Novel Idea* by Arts House; *Souvenir* and *8 Women* by Sing Theatre; *Agnes of God*, *Popcorn*, *The Lover* and *The Dumb Waiter*, and *Quills* by Luna-id Theatre; *Doubt* and *The Car* by Action Theatre.

Samantha founded Blank Space Theatre in 2007, which received excellent audience reviews and awards for productions including *Lord of the Flies*, *Das Experiment: Black Box*, as well as *Freud's Last Session* and *Red* (both collaborations with Esplanade Presents series: "The Studios").

Samantha works continually as a theatre educator at LASALLE College of the Arts, and has also taught at SOTA (School of the Arts) and NAFA (Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts). In 2020, she took on the role of Artistic Director of Gateway Arts, steering the theatre company that draws attention to social issues faced by children and youth, using theatre as a vehicle to encourage conversations and inspire change. Directorial credits under Gateway Arts include *Smartypants* and *the Swordfish* (2019/2024), short musical film *Behind The Wall, I and You* (2022/2024), and *Brainstorm*.



Meet the Creative Team



Petrina Dawn Tan
Set Designer &
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 across theatre, music festivals, circus acts, and participatory installations. She won Best Set for *The Truth* (Singapore Repertory Theatre) at the 2020 Straits Times Life Theatre Awards, and has received multiple nominations, including for *Hard Mode* (Checkpoint Theatre), *A Dream Under The Southern Bough: Existence* (Toy Factory), and *Manifesto* (Drama Box and The Necessary Stage). Her work has toured internationally, including *Recalling Mother* (Checkpoint Theatre).



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 and Science.

Sound design credits include *Singapore, Michigan*; *Doubt: A Parable*; *People Places & Things*; *Muswell Hill* (Pangdemonium), *Disgraced*; *2:22 - A Ghost Story*; *The Almighty Sometimes*; *Tuesdays with Morrie* (Singapore Repertory Theatre), *Brainstorm*; *Every Brilliant Thing*; *I And You*; *The Monster in the Mirror* (Gateway Arts), *G*d is a Woman*; and *Cafe* (Wild Rice).

Cast

Jim Rishi Vadrevu
Sarah Juliana Kassim Chan

Creative Team

Director Samantha Scott-Blackhall
Playwright Chris O'Connor
Adapter Krish Natarajan
Set & Lighting Designer Petrina Dawn Tan
Sound Designer Daniel Wong

Production Team

Executive Producer Priscilla Khong
Production Manager Abel Koh
Technical Manager Alvin Chai
Stage Manager Joshua Gareth Seow
Assistant Stage Manager Mirra M Z
Production Intern/Sound Operator Ann Yeo
Wardrobe Coordinator & Mistress The Costume Pte Ltd
Lighting Programmer & Operator Noven Mok
Lighting Crew Asim Zayaan
Lighting Crew Suhaila Sharip
Lighting Crew Tan Yi Kai
Sound Engineer Usaid Abdul Rashid
Radio Frequency Operator Estella Lee
Staging Crew Hanafi Rohani
Staging Crew Syairah Khamis

Special Thanks

Sharon Quek, Elizabeth Samosir,
Huilin Trading, The Therapy Room

Our Moderators and Guest Panellists: Alex Yeo, Andrew,
Darren Tan, Devan, Gerard Das, Geraldine Tan, Jaisilan
Sathiasilan, Jared Ng, Martha Ciach-Maheswaran, Narash,
Rayner Tan, Tan Rui Qi, Sandra Wee, V. Reshiivarma

Gateway Arts Team

Management & Artistic

Executive Director	Priscilla Khong
Artistic Director	Samantha Scott-Blackhall

Production

Production Manager	Juraidah bte Rahman
Production Manager (Contract)	Abel Koh
Production Executive	Joshua Gareth Seow
Production Coordinator (Intern)	Ann Yeo

Programming

Senior Programme Executive	Toh Wen Fang
Programme Coordinator	Trixie Teo

Sales & Marketing

Sales & Marketing Executive	Nadia Affendey
Sales & Marketing Executive	Jesslyn Lye
Sales & Marketing Executive	Tan Zi Qin
Marketing Designer (Intern)	Atikah Binte Mohamad Faiz
Marketing Designer (Intern)	Nadiah Syukriyah Binte Mohamed Noor

Administration

Company Manager	Doris Lee
Administrator	Lee Ai Leen

Our Sponsors & Partners

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In Support Of



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Proud Partner Of



Our Donors

Guardians

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

Protector

Jonathan & June Ow

Gold Knight

Cadence Culture

White Knight

Nurture With Love Suzuki Music School

Friends

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

Cassandra Goh
Stephanie Goh
HengGH
Don Lim

We'd Love to Hear from You

Tell us what you thought about the show!

About Gateway Arts

Gateway Arts is a not-for-profit, Singapore-registered charity and an Institution of a Public Character (IPC), with IPC status from 25 March 2026 to 24 March 2027. 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.





Gateway Hearts 2026

At Gateway Arts, we believe theatre is a powerful catalyst for positive change. Through stories that reflect the realities and challenges faced by children, youth and young adults, we create opportunities for conversation, reflection and growth. Each production is thoughtfully developed to nurture empathy, build resilience and develop lasting change in individuals and communities.

This past July, we welcomed supporters to **Gateway Hearts 2026**, our annual fundraising gala. Guests experienced an evening of immersive learning, meaningful conversations and inspiring performances centred on **The 5 Cs of Mental Wellness—Character, Coping, Confidence, Connection and Caring**. While the gala has concluded, our fundraising campaign continues until **31 October 2026**.

The need to support the emotional well-being of children and young people continues to grow. Every donation enables us to continue creating productions and arts programmes that empower young people, strengthen communities and use the performing arts to address important social issues.

Your support today is an investment in the next generation. Together, we can nurture young people of character, equip them with healthy coping skills, build their confidence, foster genuine connections and cultivate a more caring and compassionate society.



The Gateway Hearts 2026 fundraising campaign closes on 31 October 2026. We warmly invite you to make your donation today. All eligible donations of \$50 and above made via the donation form below qualify for a 250% tax deduction, in accordance with IRAS guidelines.



Take Action Now!

A GATEWAY ARTS PRODUCTION

HOW TO BE A KID

For every child carrying big
feelings — and every family
learning how to hold them.



5-15 November 2026

Black Box, Gateway Theatre



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RESTORING HOPE AND SUPPORTING HEALING - WE WILL JOURNEY WITH YOU

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.

SCAN HERE



Scan here to book
your session!



***Follow us on social media to stay updated on
our upcoming events and resources!***



emccsg



EMCC.There.Is.Hope



EMCC

(Eagles Mediation & Counselling Centre)



It's Not You

It's Not You is EMCC's inaugural mental health campaign, launched in 2024 to challenge stigma and remind us: struggles like depression, stress, and trauma **don't define who we are**.

In 2026, It's Not You hopes to turn awareness into action through **"Let it go, Let it grow"**, a reflective gallery experience filled with meaningful activities that invite you to pause, express, and make space for growth. Follow our socials for updates!



Let it go, Let it grow

See life in a different lens through an immersive gallery of real stories.



Coping Superpowers

Is yours "Your Grandfather Clock", "Flame of the Hotpot", or something else?



Nobody asked, but...

Normalise conversations about mental health through a short film series on our socials.

Scan to find out
your coping
superpower!



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