

SRT Singapore
Repertory
Theatre

POR POR'S
Big Fat Surprise
WEDDING



POR POR'S *Big Fat Surprise* **WEDDING**

CREATIVE TEAM

PLAYWRIGHT

Jo Tan

DIRECTOR

Dick Lee

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Chong Tze Chien

SET DESIGNER

Grace Lin

COSTUME DESIGNER

Yvette Ng

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Michael Chan

SOUND DESIGNER

Hidayat

MULTIMEDIA DESIGNER

Jessy Choo

MUSIC ARRANGERS

August Lum

Daniel Wong

CHOREOGRAPHER

Tan Rui Shan

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear wedding guests,

We are delighted to have you join us for Por Por's wedding (again!).

Our Por Por is full of surprises and loves to keep us on our toes. Including guessing whom the groom might be!

This is a celebration of love, family, and the beautiful blend of traditions that make Singapore unique.

The first time Por Por threw a party for her wedding last year, she captured the hearts of guests with her humour, charm, and reflection on cultural identity.

At its heart, this is a story about family - the joys, challenges, and unexpected surprises that come with it. Por Por's journey reminds us that family is so much more than the ties of blood - it is the experiences, shared traditions, and sometimes a little bit of delightful chaos that bind us together. It's a story that resonates deeply with audiences from all walks of life, and we hope you find moments of laughter and connection in this beautiful tale. Our talented team have worked tirelessly to bring this production to life once again, and I couldn't be prouder of their efforts.

We are also thrilled to bring *Por Por's Big Fat Surprise Wedding* to the OzAsia Festival in Adelaide after a very successful run in Singapore. It is a huge honour to showcase this uniquely Singaporean story on an international stage, and we couldn't be more excited to share it with new audiences abroad.

Thank you for joining us on this wonderful journey. We look forward to bringing you a slew of spectacular shows next year including the fabulous musical, *The Last Five Years*, starring Singaporean music stars Inch Chua and Nathan Hartono, the return of Shakespeare in the Park with the largest production of *Macbeth* ever seen in Singapore, and finally, excitedly returning to Australia for Merlynn Tong's new play, *Congratulations, Get Rich!*, a co-production with La Boite Theatre and Sydney Theatre Company.

GAURAV KRIPALANI

SINGAPORE REPERTORY THEATRE

SYNOPSIS

It's a wedding celebration hosted by the Chan family, but they aren't especially happy. Firstly, the bride is their 70 year-old matriarch, Por Por. Secondly, they've never met the groom. In fact, nobody knows who he is, and Por Por declares he will only be revealed at the wedding dinner itself.

It's all very exciting, but can somebody truly be in love with this sweet old lady, or is this a classic Crimewatch love scam?

It's up to Por Por's righteous insurance agent son, Francis, his hapless civil servant wife, Rainy, and their precocious teen, Prudentia, to save the whole family from possible disgrace... unless her friends - restaurateur Ajeet, KTV king Adam and polymath helper Flordeliza - can keep Por Por's plan on track.

Get ready to be a guest as Por Por is to be married (or not)... it's the wedding celebration of the year!



CAST

(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

ADAM

Ric Liu

AH MOI (POR POR)

Koh Chieng Mun

AJEET

Pavan J Singh

FLORDELIZA

Suhaili Safari

FRANCIS

Edward Choy

PRUDENTIA

Tiara Yap

RAINY

Jo Tan

VIDEOGRAPHER

Andre Chong

ENSEMBLE

Juanita Navas-Nguyen

Nam Hoang

Ranz Custodio

Samuel Lau

Xueqian Zhang





CAST

Edward Choy as Francis



Edward is a Master's graduate from the National University of Singapore's (NUS) Theatre Studies Programme with 24 years of experience as an Actor, while also working as an Events Host, Model, Voice-Over Artist, and Corporate Trainer for MNCs and public institutions. He has voiced over 900 projects on radio, TV and online, and lectures at NUS on a contract basis. He hosted OKTO's *Word Whiz or Slime Pit* on TV as Dr Slime for four seasons and played Dr Goh Keng Swee on stage in Aiwei and SRT's *The LKY Musical*. A former banker, he also regularly hosts events and public forums for financial institutions, conducts financial literacy classes for freelancers and graduating students and wrote and hosted a finance series called *#Adulting* on Yahoo TV.

Koh Chieng Mun as Ah Moi (Por Por)



Koh Chieng Mun is a well-known TV, film and stage actress, starring in two long running and award-winning sitcoms - *Under One Roof* (1995-2003) and *Living with Lydia* (2000-2005). She is a household name in Singapore, known as Dolly to her fans.

In 2000, Chieng Mun was in a Hollywood produced film, *Pavilion of Women*, and recently, in 2018, she had the chance to be in the Warner Brothers film, *Crazy Rich Asians*. On stage, Chieng Mun had her beginnings in stand-up comedy, starting out very humbly in a pub. She has gone on to do stand-up comedy for a larger audience, and in July 2018, was in *Happy Ever Laughter*, a stand-up show with 12 Singaporean comedians. Chieng Mun has been a radio presenter with an emphasis on classical music programmes since 1983.

She has recently qualified as a Chef with a Diploma in Culinary Arts, which lends a professional standing to her lifelong interest in cooking. The role of Por Por in SRT's *Por Por's Big Fat Surprise Wedding* is a godsend to Chieng Mun at this stage in her career, as she gets to practise her craft in a celebratory setting where the two most important aspects of living – LOVE and FOOD reign supreme.

CAST

Ric Liu as Adam



Ric Liu is a Singaporean singer-songwriter, actor, director, playwright, photographer and designer. Ric is the first Singapore Theatre Practitioner to be awarded the National Arts Council & École Philippe Gaulier Residency Award to study Theatre Performance under French Master Clown, Philippe Gaulier, in France. Ric has been active in Singapore's theatre scene for over a decade.

Ric's theatrical credits include: *If There're Seasons*, *The Soldier & his Virtuous Wife*, *Liao Zhai Rocks!*, *Descendants of the Eunuch Admiral*, *The Story After Ah Q*, *Lao Jiu the Musical*, *The Lesson*, *Legends of the Southern Arch*, *BODY X - The Rehearsal*, *Four Horse Road*, *Both Sides Now - The Last Dance*, *The Three Little Pigs*, *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, *The Red Riding Hood*, *The Rubbish Prince* etc.

Ric is one of the founding members of Singapore music group MengFM (formerly Dreamz FM) and the band Lilac Saints. Dreamz FM is the first Singapore pop group to be invited to perform at the United Nations. Ric sang two Singapore's National Day Songs, *Together* and *Stand Up For Singapore*, which are still being played every National Day since. *Should I Stay*, a song sung by Ric (with Dreamz FM) reached number one in Singapore's 98.7FM Music Chart.

Suhaili Safari as Flordeliza



Suhaili Safari is Singaporean actor, writer and musician. She has worked in theatre productions locally and internationally with recent works such as *A Clockwork Orange* (2019), *Animal Farm* (2022) and *Air* (2024). *Kepaten Obor: Igniting A Withered Torch*, her independent work, was nominated for Best Original Script at Singapore's ST Life Theatre Awards in 2023. Musically, she has contributed to improvisation sessions from *Sounding Now's Open Spaces* at YST Conservatory (2019), The Observatory's Playfreely sessions, in particular, *No Man's Land*, an all-women music improvisation (2017) and most recently *Pompeii* (Singapore International Festival of The Arts, 2023).

CAST

Pavan J Singh as Ajeet



Pavan J Singh is an actor and theatre artist with over 20 years of experience.

His credits include Edith Podesta's *Pompeii* (The Public Space, SIFA) Joel Tan's *No Particular Order* (Esplanade Studios), *Fat Kids are Harder to Kidnap* (How Drama), Zenda Tan's *Eat Duck* (Checkpoint Theatre), Jean Tay's *Chinatown Crossings* (Dramabox), Complicité's *A Disappearing Number* (NUS Stage), Joël Pommerat's *The Reunification of the Two Koreas* (TheatreWorks and Centre dramatique national de Tours) and Edward Albee's *The Zoo Story* (Skinned Knee Productions). Most recently, Pavan performed his original award-winning solo show - *Refuge* at the Camden Fringe, London, receiving great reviews.

Jo Tan as Rainy



Jo's unnecessarily eventful life includes quitting lawyering the day after she was called to the bar, training at a clown school (The Ecole Philippe Gaulier in Paris under a National Arts Council Residency), and then acting in films and plays that have been seen in cities from New York to Busan, most notably as the main lead in internationally feted movie, *Tiong Bahru Social Club* (2020). She is also a Dim Sum Dolly (the tall one). Jo is the current writer-in-residence at Centre 42, after she started writing plays in 2016, since then having had several works staged including *Forked* (The Finger Players, 2019; Summerhall Edinburgh, 2024), *King (T:>works*, 2020 and 2023) - which scored her the Best Original Script and Best Actress titles in the ST Life Theatre Awards 2022, *Session Zero* (Checkpoint Theatre, 2021 and 2023) and *Happy Place* (Gateway Theatre, 2023). She also co-created with her husband *Dungeons and Distractions*, the hit live Dungeons and Dragons gameplay experience with the audience controlling actual actors with inflatable dice and interactive choices to enact various outcomes including performing combat stunts.

Jo Tan is also the playwright for *Por Por's Big Fat Surprise Wedding*.

CAST

Tiara Yap as Prudentia



Tiara is a global actor, digital creator and voiceover artist currently based in Singapore.

Recent stage credits include *Secondary: The Musical* (Checkpoint Theatre), *The Wonderful World of Dissocia* (Wild Rice), *Fat Kids Are Harder to Kidnap* (How Drama), and *Quest - The White Hare* (Toy Factory Productions). Recent screen credits include Charlene in AsiaOne's first narrative web series *Shag Sia*, as well as Mabel in

Tomorrow, Today, a short film directed by K. Rajagopal.

Formerly a content strategist and cast member at Singaporean comedy platform SGAG, she now writes and performs wacky song parodies incorporating pop culture and current affairs with her band the Siao Sing Songs.

Tiara is a graduate of Young & Wild (Wild Rice's award-winning youth ensemble led by Edith Podesta), trained in theatre at Northeastern University (Boston), as well as obtained a Bachelor in Communication Studies from Nanyang Technological University, where she also minored in Drama & Performance.

She is excited to reprise her role as Prudentia in *Por Por's Big Fat Surprise Wedding* and hopes you'll have a night you won't forget!

Andre Chong as Videographer



A proud recipient of the David Marshall Young Artist Scholarship, Andre graduated from the School of The Arts, Singapore with the IBCP Excellence Award. Andre first appeared in *Family Outing* (2011) with Wild Rice Productions, subsequently appearing in a range of productions; Starring Hitler as *Jekyll & Hyde* (2016), *Army Daze* (2017), *Acting Mad* (2019), *Mosaic* (2023).

Andre graduated from LASALLE College of the Arts, Bachelor of Arts, Film (First Class Honours), and presently works primarily as a director, producer and art director in film.

CREATIVE

Dick Lee Director

Multi-talented Dick Lee has firmly established himself as a performer and composer, often recognised through his works as the spokesperson for the New Asian generation.

The Dick Lee phenomenon started in 1971 when, at age 15, Dick participated in various talent contests with the group, Harmony, and Dick and the Gang (teaming with his siblings). His first album, *Life Story*, featuring his own compositions, was released in 1974.

Throughout the 70s and 80s, Dick championed the inclusion of Asian elements in pop music. His pioneering album, *Life in The Lion City* (1984), won acclaim for just that but the album that shot him to regional prominence was his 1989 release, *The Mad Chinaman*, which achieved platinum status in Singapore in three months.

In 1990 Dick moved to Japan where he continued to develop the new Asian identity through his solo work, as well as collaborate with top Asian artistes like Sandy Lam from Hong Kong and Japanese group Zoo. He has to date, written countless songs for the top singing talents in Asia including Jacky Cheung, Andy Lau, Sammi Cheng, Anita Mui, Miyazawa of the Boom and Stephanie Sun amongst others.

As SRT's Associate Artistic Director, Dick has written some of Singapore's most iconic musicals – *Sing to the Dawn* (1996), *A Twist of Fate* (1998), *Forbidden City: Portrait of an Empress* (2002) and *The LKY Musical* (2015).

The song he is proudest of writing is one of Singapore's most popular national songs, *Home* composed in 1997, and originally sung by Kit Chan. Besides *Home*, Dick has written two other songs for National Day: *We Will Get There*, and SG50's signature song, *Our Singapore*.

Chong Tze Chien Associate Director

Tze Chien is the Artistic Director of NUS Stage, a core member of The Finger Players and an award-winning playwright/director. Some of the awards he has won include the Singapore Dramatist Award and The Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards. His plays have been staged in Singapore, UK, Budapest, Taiwan and Japan. He has three collections of plays containing critically acclaimed plays such as *Charged* (The Business Times' top ten Singapore play of all time), *PIE* and *Turn by Turn we Turn*, just to name a few. For his contributions to Singapore Theatre, he was awarded the Young Artist Award 2006 by Singapore's National Arts Council.

CREATIVE

Grace Lin Set Designer

Grace Lin is a designer of sets/environments for plays, musicals and film. Arriving at set design from a background in architecture and graphic communication, she has over 10 years of experience working in commercial editorial design and graphic illustration as well as environmental design, and has been working as a full-time theatre freelancer since 2015. Grace holds a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture from the National University of Singapore and a Masters in Design Communication from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.

Yvette Ng Costume Designer

Yvette has worked locally and internationally in Costuming and is a Jewelry Designer. Based in Singapore, she has had the pleasure of collaborating with inspirational people all over the world from Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay to Cirque Du Soleil, SRT, Revolution Media Pte Ltd and more, working on projects in design, styling and creative execution.

Yvette also delights in spending time working on the Y.NG brand, her passion project in upcycling. When she is not busy on her projects, Yvette cooks, games online and travels, leisurely using her time to enjoy the culture, food, museums and everything beautiful of the place.

Michael Chan Lighting Designer

Michael Chan is a lighting designer who has worked on a wide gamut of arts, entertainment and installation projects.

His experience ranges from consultancy in installations and major events, to design and programming for 3D visualisation, musicals, concerts, special events, galleries, exhibitions and architainment.

lightinginsomnia.com

CREATIVE

Hidayat Sound Designer

Noor Hidayat Norzizan, affectionately known as “Yat” to his colleagues, is a seasoned senior stage technician at the Singapore Repertory Theatre. At the heart of Hidayat’s work lies his deep love for sound design. He approaches each project as a canvas, using sound as his paintbrush to create immersive and unforgettable auditory experiences. His meticulous attention to detail ensures that every note, tone, and sound effect resonates perfectly with the production’s narrative, enhancing the audience’s emotional connection to the performances.

Offstage, Hidayat continues to explore the endless possibilities of sound, constantly pushing boundaries and expanding his creative horizons. His dedication to the art of sound design is not just a profession; it’s a lifelong passion that enriches the world of theatre and leaves a lasting impact on all who have the pleasure of experiencing his work. Some of his work includes *Ghostlight*, *Girls Like That*, *A Monster Calls* (SRT) and *It’s SG, It’s So Good!* (Singapore Food Agency).

Jessy Choo Multimedia Designer

Jessy is a freelance theatre practitioner of 15 years. She is seen freelancing as an Assistant Stage Manager, Props Maker and Multimedia Artist. Her works include: Shakespeare in The Park - *Julius Caesar* and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (SRT), *Hotel*, *Grandmother Tongue*, *My Mother Buys Condoms*, *Faghag* (Wild Rice), *Exile or Pursuit* (InArts Collective), *Every Brilliant Thing* (The Finger Players), *Crab Flower Club*, *Kwa Geok Choo* (Toy Factory), *Chestnuts - Sibeh Strange in The Multiverse* (Singapore Street Festival), *The LKY Musical* (Aiwei & SRT), and *Hu木an* (The ArtGround). She is happy to be on this project.

CREATIVE

August Lum Music Arranger

August is a J.O.A.T. — not the sibling of a goat, but a jack.of.all.trades. (perhaps he should have been named “Jack”). He creates original music, as well as arranges (and re-arranges) music of others. It is difficult to pigeonhole August, but that’s not important, because the heart of the creation lies in its ability to carry the story, and to emotionally affect audiences.

Daniel Wong Music Arranger

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), *Disgraced*, *2:22 - A Ghost Story*, *The Almighty Sometimes*, *The Sound Inside*, *Tuesdays with Morrie* (SRT), *Every Brilliant Thing*, *I And You* (Gateway Arts), *G*d is a Woman*, *Cafe* (Wild Rice).

Tan Rui Shan Choreographer

Tan Rui Shan is a dynamic actress, choreographer, and theatre-maker who graduated from LASALLE College of the Arts’ Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Musical Theatre, with First Class Honours under the Future Leader Scholarship. Rui Shan’s portfolio includes a range of noteworthy productions, but is perhaps best known for her outstanding performance as Mrs Lee Kuan Yew in *Kwa Geok Choo* (Toy Factory).

Rui Shan’s choreography credits include *Shakespeare in the Park - A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (SRT), *Fairfield! The Musical* (Fairfield Methodist School), *Company the Musical* (LASALLE), *Behind the Wall* (Gateway Arts) and *Pinkfong and Babyshark Musical* (Brunei, MCC International).

Also a co-founder of Bitesize Theatre Productions, Rui Shan is known for her infectious energy and her tireless drive to push boundaries in the industry.

THE TEAM

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Founded in 1993, **Singapore Repertory Theatre** is one of the leading English-language theatres in Asia. SRT's mission is to enrich, engage and entertain audiences by staging theatrical productions of the highest calibre, collaborating with the best talent in the world.



the
little
company

The Little Company is a professional theatre company producing quality plays for children. The plays are staged for children aged 3 and up.



the
young
company

The Young Company is a two-year actor training programme for 16 to 25 year-olds. Up to twenty young people are selected from open auditions to form the core of the company and receive practical theatre training. In addition, the **Inclusive Young Company** was formed for 16 to 35 year-olds who identify as persons with disabilities.



the
inclusive
young company

SRT's **Centre for Creative Learning** is committed to bringing meaningful and relevant programmes to students, teachers and emerging theatre talents.



centre for
creative
learning



Home of



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SingaporeRepertoryTheatre



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