

# PASTCARING

## A collaboration between Tony Yap Company (Australia) & The Necessary Stage (Singapore)

*"...Through childbirth, sickness, hurt, and blight, and nervousness an' scarin',  
through bein' left alone at night, I've got to be past carin'..."*

*An excerpt from Henry Lawson's poem, Past Carin'*

PAST CARING will premiere at The Necessary Stage Black Box Singapore on the 25<sup>th</sup> February and will run until the 8th March 2009. Past Caring is an inter-disciplinary theatrical collaboration involving artists from Australia, Singapore and Malaysia. The work is inspired by the title of a poem by Australian writer Henry Lawson and is an original script written by critically-acclaimed Singaporean playwright Haresh Sharma. He is the winner of the Singapore Literature Prize in 1993 for *Still Building*. In 1997, he was conferred the Young Artist Award by the National Arts Council for his literary contribution. The work is directed by Alvin Tan who is the Founder and Artistic Director of The Necessary Stage and co-Artistic Director of the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival. It stars LeRoy Parsons (Australia), Glynis Angell (Australia), Siti Khalijah (Singapore) and Sukania Venugopal (Malaysia).

Bringing the element of movement to the piece through physical dance is Tony Yap, Artistic Director of the Tony Yap Company. Tony has collaborated with many companies and artists in Australia, Indonesia, Italy, France, Malaysia, Denmark, Japan and South Korea. Multimedia Artists Loo Zihan (Singapore) and Kim Lawler bring their own touch to the project interlacing digital media with live-action and adding through their creations a visceral dimension to the work. Zihan is an emerging Director and Screenwriter, and has received critical acclaim for his movie *Solos*. Kim Lawler worked closely with Maya Haviland, Principle Consultant of Side By Side Community Project consulting, in the development of the *Photo Me!* Project in the Kimberley region of Western Australia which commenced in 2005. Sound Artists Tim Humphrey and Madeleine Flynn have been traveling around Australia and Asia collaborating with international artists as well as producing their own unique work the acclaimed Megaphone project. They previously worked with The Necessary Stage on the award-winning production *Good People*.

The seed for creation began when the Tony Yap Company presented a showcase at the Asian Arts market in Singapore in June 2007. The creative process then began in January 2008, when a small group of the artists met in Singapore to share their personal stories. This created a dialogue which brought to light much of the issues tackled in *Past Caring*. In the second phase, all the artists gathered in Melbourne for research and improvisations, culminating in a 45-minute public presentation. The team will meet again in Singapore in February 2009 to develop the final phase of the project, with its world premiere on 25 February 2009.

Past Caring raises questions about issues of adoption, displacement, family, land and journey in a contemporary production of text, music, multimedia and movement. The work looks at how we embrace contemporary society, investigating how the communities around us are changing right now. The production is inspired by Asian, Australian and Indigenous intercultural dialogue. Through this process, there is more in-depth layering from which the artists are able to draw and the audience is able to experience.

If you are in Singapore the production runs from 25 Feb to the 8th March with a total of 11 performances. The collaboration has been supported by Multicultural Arts Victoria and Arts Victoria and the AICC