

Online Learning edition



呈献 presents
第350部作品
350th production



四馬路
2020

Four Horse Road™

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实践剧场 thetheatrepractice

The Theatre Practice presents: Four Horse Road (Online Learning edition)

As Singapore's longest-standing professional bilingual theatre institution, The Theatre Practice continues to shape Singapore's cultural landscape as the definitive voice in Singapore theatre.

Four Horse Road (Online Learning edition) is a resource for teachers and educators who wish to inspire curiosity and bring Singapore theatre into their online curriculum. With this resource, teachers can continue to conduct classrooms that engage students meaningfully.

It is a complete lesson plan* that is highly modular, so teachers can allocate hours dependent on their needs.

Students will gain an insight into the entire world of *Four Horse Road*. However, they will only watch three selected scenes out of the entire eleven scenes of the play. Activities will also be based on the selected scenes.

Who is *Four Horse Road (Online Learning edition)* for:

This curriculum is designed for Secondary 1 to Secondary 3 students who are either engaged in Social Studies or History. This is also suitable for CCAs that have an interest in drama, who would like to conduct CCA sessions online.

In summary, this is suitable for students exploring:

- (a) Singapore during World War II
- (b) Singapore History
- (c) Diversity in Singapore and what it means to live in a diverse society
- (d) Theatre/Arts

Why study World War II through Theatre?

World War II in Singapore was a pivotal event that shaped our nation's history. More importantly, by excavating the past, one hopes that we do not repeat the events in the present. By studying history, students will be able to develop a sense of the world around them, hence contributing to their overall intellectual and personal development.

The study of history should not be limited to facts. Rather, by anchoring it in theatre and in storytelling, it allows students to consider the complexities of history, which also touches on other academic disciplines such as humanities and languages. Therefore, this approach enriches a student's overall learning experience across a spectrum of subjects.

What is *Four Horse Road*:

The fictional worlds of *Four Horse Road* are inspired by real historical events. The production employs theatre as archaeology to celebrate Waterloo Street's diverse communities across 150 years. Some stories feature real historical figures, events or locations. Others imagine fictional encounters between different communities and beliefs.



Synopsis:

Travel across time and space, and inhabit forgotten worlds.

The gates of Four Horse Road are open once again.

Spanning over 150 years of Singapore history, *Four Horse Road* is an intimate experience on an epic scale. Rediscover our present through the lens of the past and journey across three heritage buildings along Waterloo Street.

This time, it's bigger and better. The Theatre Practice's unforgettable promenade theatre experience returns with a mix of brand new stories and crowd favourites.

Welcome back to *Four Horse Road*.

Artistic Director's Message:

Dear Fellow Traveller,

Like many before you, I've discovered that travel truly broadens the mind and unlocks new lenses to look at the world. Sometimes all it takes is a different viewpoint to reveal our assumptions and how little we question them.

Filled with forgotten stories and imagined realities, the worlds of *Four Horse Road* looks beyond history painted in broad strokes, to offer a different perspective.

As we travel across time and space, we see a spectrum of experiences and circumstances play out. The human experience is complex. Within a single event — there are people who've suffered and people who've thrived. At the same time, human nature is simple. Joy, anger, fear, hope...our choices have always been ruled by our base instincts. Faced with this complexity, how can we say there is a single version of history?

Back in the present, we appear to be in the middle of a major event ourselves. Ten years later, how will we look back on this period? Amidst the panic and uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, what were the choices we made? It's times like now where the importance of history and art reveals itself. Author Toni Morrison said it best:

"This is precisely the time when artists go to work. There is no time for despair, no place for self-pity, no need for silence, no room for fear. We speak, we write, we do language. This is how civilisations heal."

As storytellers and world builders, it is our nature to imagine and play. What is the future we have envisioned? How close are we to it? What can we learn from the past? As we re-examine our relationship to the rest of the world, it is more important than ever to travel. Be open-minded. Ask questions. Remain curious.

Thank you for journeying with us.

Best wishes,

Kuo Jian Hong

Artistic Director of The Theatre Practice

What *Four Horse Road* (Online Learning edition) includes:

1. e-Programme Booklet

Prior to watching the plays, students can gain insight into the historical context that *Four Horse Road* is built on. These programme booklets contain the synopsis as well as research on the events in the play.

2. “Four Horse Road” (30 minutes) – an insight into Singapore during World War II (Scenes contain English subtitles)

Scenes include:

(a) Prologue



Catch a glimpse of *Four Horse Road 2020* in its intended theatrical setting.

(b) May Blossom (1943)



Reiko, wife of Major Onishi of the Kempeitai East District Branch is hosting a banquet for Sunita Saghal, an Indian society matron. Also present are singer Hitomi, photographer Tanaka Daisuke, his assistant Zikri, restaurant manager Annie and two MPAJA resistance fighters, disguised as a server and a guest.

Both Reiko and Sunita give speeches affirming their support against the British. Midway, Reiko is captured by the resistance fighters, who plan on using her to free arrested MPAJA leader Lai Teck. They are interrupted by An Nguyet, who came earlier to petition for her husband Chang Hong's release. She is shocked to learn that Lai Teck and Chang Hong are the same man. During this confrontation, Daisuke slips away to find help. As soldiers approach, Reiko urges the rebels to abandon their plan and flee...

(c) Fuji-Go (1945)



It is the vigil of the late Bishop Adrien Devals. Shinozaki Mamoru, the Chief Welfare Officer of the Syonan Municipal Office, arrives to pay his respects but is accosted by Susan, an Eurasian widow. Susan blames Mamoru for the sufferings of the Eurasians living in Fuji Village while Mamoru challenges Susan's lack of faith. The two continue to argue until...

3. Activity Sheets

After watching the plays, students are encouraged to proceed with an inquiry-based activity. The length required to complete these activities is based on the individual teacher's needs. For example, students may be required to only complete activities 1-3, followed by activity 5.

The activities are suitable for students with mixed abilities. Options for advanced activities will be indicated.

May Blossom Activity Sheet:

The activity sheet invites students to imagine the circumstances of wartime Singapore through a series of investigation and analysis exercises. By equipping students with the knowledge of past historical events, they are invited to draw connections between past and present by understanding how people can contribute differently to the development of Singapore society.

Fuji-Go Activity Sheet:

The activity sheet invites students to critically engage with multiple perspectives and prompts them to examine the complexities of human experiences, both in the past and today. This series of comprehension and creative writing exercises trains the students' argumentation and discussion skills.

4. Teachers' Resource Pack

This resource is more "theatre-specific". Teachers can extend the discussion with a selection of activities offered in this resource pack. From a discussion on promenade theatre, to fascinating information about Waterloo Street, this resource pack can address your needs!

5. [BONUS] Opportunity for "Post-show discussion" (15 minutes)

Each activity sheet is hosted on Google Forms. The final activity on the activity sheet includes questions that students may have for the creators of *Four Horse Road*.

The Theatre Practice Education Project (TTPEP) will follow-up with a 15-minute video interview with a Key Creative of the production, based on the submission of these questions.

In summary, the proposed time allocation for students experiencing *Four Horse Road* (Online Learning edition) can be broken down into:

- (a) Read the e-programme booklet (10 - 15 minutes)
- (b) Watch the play (30 minutes)
- (c) Complete the activity sheets (30 minutes - 1.5 hours)
- (d) Watch the "Post-show discussion" (15 minutes)
- (e) Complete activities in Teachers' Resource Pack

You may also adjust the lesson plan according to your needs.

For bookings and enquiries, contact us:

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Four Horse Road (Online Learning edition) FAQs

1. Can I watch the play prior to purchasing the Online Learning (OL) programme?

Unfortunately, we are not able to show you the entire video. You may, however, request for a preview. Otherwise, we have included a very detailed synopsis of both scenes in the brochure. In addition, to facilitate the students' understanding of the play, all videos will have subtitles.

2. Can I see the activity sheet prior to purchasing the OL programme?

Yes. If you request for the activity sheet, our team will send you an example to view.

3. How do I determine this programme's suitability for my students prior to purchase?

The Theatre Practice Education Project has advised that the play content, i.e. watching the show, is suitable for ALL students from all streams.

Regarding the activity sheets, they are designed for a range of abilities.

After you have purchased the OL programme, you can scan through all the questions and decide based on your students' ability. For example, you may choose for Secondary 1 students to only do activities 1 and 2, while Secondary 3 students can complete the entire activity sheet.

4. Do I or my students need to download anything to access this OL programme?

No. As long as you have wifi, you can easily access all materials online. Depending on the students' internet connectivity strength, the videos are available in High, Medium and Low resolution.

5. Will I be watching the entire *Four Horse Road* show?

No. Each version of the programme includes 3 out of the 11 scenes of *Four Horse Road*.

Version 1 (Social Studies, English language, History) includes: *Prologue*, *May Blossom*, *Fuji-Go*.

Version 2 (Chinese language) includes: *Prologue*, *May Blossom*, *Nantina Home*.

6. Can I purchase this OL programme if I just want my students to watch the play?

Yes. All other resources will still be made available to you, even if you decide that you want to divide the students such that some ONLY watch the play, while others watch the play and complete the activity sheets.

7. How many languages does *Four Horse Road* have?

In line with the multilingual spirit of *Four Horse Road*, Version 1 and Version 2 include *May Blossom*, where characters speak in Mandarin, English, Japanese and Malay.

Fuji-Go is performed in English. *Nantina Home* is performed in Mandarin.

If you would like more clarifications, please contact our team for more information.

8. What is the cancellation policy? Can I change my start date after receiving the e-invoice?

Once the e-invoice has been issued to the school, no cancellation is allowed.

Changes in the start date can be adjusted as long as the request is made before the start date.