

网上学习版 Online Learning edition



四马路

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:

Students in tertiary institutions taking modules in Singapore Theatre.

Using *Four Horse Road* as a case study, this is suitable for students exploring:

- (a) Introduction to the history of English-language and Chinese-language Singapore theatre
- (b) Introduction to Kuo Pao Kun and The Theatre Practice
- (c) Art-making for Promenade Theatre
- (d) Established local theatre practitioners

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)

(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) Nantina Home (1950s)



Aamuktha shares how she defied her husband and joined the Rani of Jhansi regiment. Part of the Indian National Army, the all-woman regiment aimed to overthrow the British with Japanese assistance. After the war ended, the regiment disbanded and the women were sent home. Aamuktha discovered her husband had returned to India, leaving her all alone...

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.

The activities contextualise the unique promenade theatre style of *Four Horse Road* within the canon of Singapore Theatre, and aim to enhance students' understanding of Singapore Theatre history, as well as their critical thinking skills related to both theatre-making and performance analysis.

May Blossom Activity Sheet:

The activity sheet invites students to think in the shoes of a theatre director. By equipping students with the knowledge of staging and audience configuration, actors' proxemics and an understanding of multi-lingual theatre, they are encouraged to imagine their own conceptually sound ideas and mise-en-scène, integrate suitable elements to explore dramaturgical possibilities, and to develop acute semiotic aesthetics in relation to their choices for consistent and coherent staging. They are also invited to critically analyse and reflect based on their substantiation of ideas with theoretical concepts.

Nantina Home Activity Sheet:

The activity sheet invites students to critically engage with multiple perspectives and guides them through the process of how a monologue is prepared, and how professional actors engage with an intimate audience up-close. Through study, debate and conceptualisation, students are encouraged to experiment with confidence and a lively sense of risk and play. There are also opportunities for students to write and/or perform their own monologues.

4. **Teachers' Resource Pack**

This resource pack provides insights into the research and art-making journey of Four Horse Road. Teachers can also delve into the methodologies of local practitioners such as Kuo Pao Kun, and his contribution to Singapore Theatre. Therefore, teachers can extend the discussion on Singapore theatre with a selection of talking points and activities offered in this resource pack.

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 theatre practitioner 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 tertiary institutions.

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 some students to only do activities 1 and 2, while a different level of 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*.

This version 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*, for *May Blossom*, characters speak in Mandarin, English, Japanese and Malay. *Nantina Home* is performed in English.

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.