

THE FINGER PLAYERS

Annual Report for Year Ended 31 March 2022



NAME OF ORGANISATION

The Finger Players Ltd

ADDRESS

One-Two-Six Cairnhill Arts Centre
126 Cairnhill Road #03-01/02
Singapore 229707

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Contact Person: Myra Loke Lay See
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CHARITY STATUS

Charity Regn No: 199905145W
Charity Regn Date: 14 Apr 2005

Constitution: Company Limited by Guarantee
Date of Establishment: 28/08/1999
UEN Number: 199905145W

IPC STATUS

Effective Date : 01/07/2021 to
30/06/2023

BOARD MEMBERS (as of 30 September 2022)

- 1) Tan Beng Tian (Chairperson)
(Date of Appointment: 28 August 1999)
- 2) Kwek Hongwei, Luke
(Date of Appointment: 31 August 2019)
- 3) Goh Chin Hou
(Date of Appointment: 10 August 2022)
- 4) Yeo Whay Nee
(Date of Appointment: 10 August 2022)

KEY EMPLOYEES (as of 30 September 2022)

Co-Artistic Director - Myra Loke Lay See
Co-Artistic Director - Ellison Tan Yuyang
Interim General Manager - Myra Loke Lay See
and Ellison Tan Yuyang

COMPANY SECRETARY

Messrs Tricor Evatthouse
Corporate Services

AUDITOR

Verity Partners

BANKER

OCBC Bank

About The Finger Players



The Finger Players is one of Singapore's leading theatre companies, best known for inventively fusing puppetry elements into its visually-arresting productions, and its strong advocacy of puppetry.

Founded in 1999, The Finger Players strives to be a centre of research and development for the creation and performance of puppetry in Singapore.

In 2019, The Finger Players became the first arts collective in Singapore to operate on a rotating artistic director model, with each Artistic Director helping the fort for a stipulated tenure.

The company currently operates four branches:

- (1) Main Season:** Through constant invention and innovation, and the fusion of traditional and contemporary puppetry forms, our main season aspires to be the maverick in employing puppetry through our edgy and original theatre offerings.
- (2) International Season:** Promoting Singapore's brand of Puppetry internationally, the company is one of Singapore's most prolific international touring companies, and has actively been touring its productions since 2000.
- (3) Outreach Season:** Puppetry gives voice to the silenced, and is a medium to connect and engage. The company reaches out to an average of 25,000 students and members of the public annually, through puppetry performances and workshops with schools, communities and institutions.
- (4) Capability Building:** Through creating meaningful programmes that respond to the needs of the industry, we commit to make our processes and our art better, by empowering everyone we work with.

VISION

To be recognized internationally as a center for the research and development of puppetry.

MISSION

The Finger Players is a group of artists and managers who have a vested interest in extending the philosophy of puppetry in theatre-making, through the following objectives:

- Adopting an interdisciplinary approach
- Advocating for puppetry in all communities
- Research and developing the possibilities through which puppetry can be created and performed

VALUES

1) Artistic Rigour

Artistic Rigour to us, is excellence and humility. We strive to create work of exceptional quality, while prioritizing innovation, learning, and the advocacy of puppetry. Every aspect of our work will be grounded in research and the power to uplift and expand imagination.

2) Openness

We will always champion a culture of openness. Our ideas, hopes, and dreams will always hold possibility for ourselves, and for others, and our spirit will always be inviting and giving.

3) A supportive community

We believe in creating a supportive and respectful community in all the work that we do. We endeavour to always be transparent and sincere in all exchanges with all our partners, and to empower them in every way we can.

PHILOSOPHY OF PUPPETRY

Every object has a life, and it is our commitment as a puppetry company to hold unwavering belief in the inanimate. Through sharing our belief with others, we unlock worlds and possibilities, extending and expanding imagination for stories to come alive.

YEAR IN REVIEW

1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

FINANCE AND FUNDING

The company is currently under National Arts Council's Major Grant Company Scheme and receives funding / donations from other government bodies, foundations, arts-related institutions and members of the public.

The company also generates income from ticket sales and arts education programmes and engagements.

STAFFING

There is a total of 5 employees, as of 31 March 2022.

PROGRAMMES / ACTIVITIES (Highlights)

Note that the audience reach is relatively lower due to the Safe Distancing measures.

Main Season



Every Brilliant Thing 《每一件美好的事》

By Duncan Macmillan, with Jonny Donahoe
Translated, Directed and Performed by Oliver Chong

A co-production by Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay and The Finger Players

Presented in Huayi Chinese Festival of Arts in February 2022 to a live audience of 300 pax.

Click [here](#) for more information.

International Season



OIWA - The Ghost of Yotsuya

An international collaboration between Singapore and Japanese artists.

Presented as part of Singapore International Festival of Arts 2021 in May 2021 to a live audience of 300 pax, and approximately 800 pax via Video-On-Demand.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Outreach Season



The Big World of Little Puppets

A puppetry exhibition presented by The Finger Players, organized by National Arts Council and supported by National Library Board Artseen. Woodlands, Jurong and Tampines Regional Libraries are part of the National Arts Council's Arts and Culture Nodes Network.

The exhibition reached out to approximately 36,000 patrons of Jurong Regional Library and Cheng San Public Library between September to December 2021.



The World of Our Own

A non-verbal puppetry performance catered for young people of ages 7 and up, reflecting on the isolation and disrupted routines in the world we are living now, and the world that we can create. Presented with the support from Qualcomm Foundation at Give2Asia.

The programme reached out to 10 organizations, a live audience of 128 pax and 210 pax via Video-On-Demand.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Industry Development



The Maker's Lab and The Maker's Project

The Maker's Lab aims to nurture a team of Singaporean puppet makers and designers, as well as research and develop puppetry and puppet-making in Singapore.

The Maker's Project is the contemplative culmination of The Maker's Lab 2021 cycle, exploring the relationship between puppetry and sustainability.

The programme reached out to approximately 210 members of the public and industry practitioners and makers.

Click [here](#) to more information about The Maker's Lab.

Click [here](#) for more information about The Maker's Project.

ACHIEVEMENTS

8 nominations and 5 wins for The Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards 2022:

Award Category	Nominees	
Production Of The Year	<i>OIWA - The Ghost of Yotsuya</i>	Won
Best Director	Chong Tze Chien (for <i>OIWA - The Ghost of Yotsuya</i>)	Won
Best Actor	Liu Xiao Yi (for <i>Citizen X 大国民</i>)	Nominated
Best Ensemble	<i>OIWA - The Ghost of Yotsuya</i>	Won
Best Costume	Max Tan (for <i>OIWA - The Ghost of Yotsuya</i>)	Won
	Max Tan and Loo An Ni (for <i>Peepbird</i>)	Nominated
Best Set	Wong Chee Wai (for <i>OIWA - The Ghost of Yotsuya</i>)	Won
Best Lighting	Lim Woan Wen (for <i>OIWA - The Ghost of Yotsuya</i>)	Nominated

FUTURE PLANS

In 2019, The Finger Players became the first arts collective in Singapore to operate on a rotating artistic director model, with each Artistic Director helming the fort for a stipulated tenure. The first cycle of Artistic Directorship under this new model will end on 30 March 2023.

The incoming Artistic Director, Oliver Chong, will begin his tenure from 1 April 2023.

MANAGEMENT AND AVOIDANCE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The company has established Conflict of Interest policy and Declaration form for Board of Directors. Board of Directors are required to make full disclosure of interests, relationships and holdings that could potentially result in a conflict of interest, and abstain from discussions, and decisions making when faced with conflict-of-interest situations.

DISCLOSURE AND TRANSPARENCY

Number of board meetings in the financial year (1 April 2021 - 31 March 2022): 3

Attended by:

- 1) Tan Beng Tian (Chairperson)
- 2) Kwek Hongwei, Luke
- 3) Chang Cher Shen

(Resigned as of 10 August 2022)

4) Lim Juliana Patricia

(Resigned as of 10 August 2022)

There is no governing board member remunerated for their services to the Board.
There is no paid staff receiving more than \$100,000 each in annual remuneration.
There is no paid staff, being a close member of the family belonging to the Executive Head or a governing board member of the charity, who has received remuneration exceeding \$50,000 during the financial year.

As the Co-Founder of The Finger Players, Tan Beng Tian continues to serve on the board after having served for 10 consecutive years, to ensure continuity in identity and operations as the company goes into the second cycle of the rotating Artistic Director model.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Statement of accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2022 is attached.