



IMPACT
2023

10 NOVEMBER 2023
7:30 PM
SOTA DRAMA THEATRE

ZUBIR SAID DR

RAISING FUNDS FOR THE
SOTA ENDOWMENT FUND

Director's Message



It's been such a delight to work on our second instalment of *Impact*.

Here's why.

1. Raising funds to support our young people so they can be free to enrich their lives, expand their minds, free their bodies and strengthen their voices — that is work worth doing, and money worth spending.
2. It's always an honour to stop and look closely at the lives of great artists who have gone before us and paved the way for us. Zubir Said was an inspiring and influential artist and arts educator. He was so creative and prolific and really bold and visionary. His story is so inspiring.
3. It's a great joy to spend all this extra time with students, staff and alumni to create in an interdisciplinary fashion, and come up with something we could never come up with on our own.

It's been important that we really try to find authentic inspiration and influence from Zubir Said. Having said that, it's not the aim to create a comprehensive biography of him, but rather a meaningful compilation of responses to his life and work. What you see in today's show is an assembly of songs, scenes, poems, images and dances that stem from a very personal place. We have let Pak Zubir's life and music touch our hearts and spark inspiration.

I think one of the most valuable things we offer our SOTA students is community. A creative community of like-minded individuals. The artistic journey can be a tough and lonely one, but life is made so much better when we have collaborators and friends to join us for the ride. I trust that friendships and creative partnerships that are forged between our students and alumni, on projects like this, will last us a long long time.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us in any number of ways. It takes a great deal of faith, collaboration and hard work. Thank you to the audience for being here to share in this heartfelt work and tribute to a great Singapore icon. May all your financial contributions go a long way to encourage and support our students, especially to those who really need extra help in covering important costs.

Enjoy the show.

Sean Tobin
Faculty of Theatre



PHOTO FROM IMPACT 2022 BY JOHANNIS JEFFREY

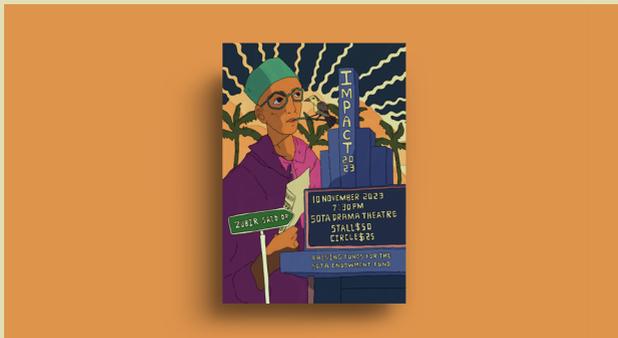
The SOTA Endowment Fund

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With a vision to nurture creative citizens for the future who positively impact Singapore and the world, the School of the Arts, Singapore (SOTA) believes in providing a conducive and vibrant learning environment that is anchored in the arts.

Like the roots of a tree, the SOTA Endowment Fund was set up in 2019 to serve as a strong foundation towards growing a self-sustainable source of funds for the school in providing our students with bursaries, scholarships and other financial assistance. The fund ensures that SOTA's unique arts education remains accessible so that no child gets left behind due to financial disadvantage.

About the Artwork



The artwork for *Impact 2023* was designed by Year 6 Visual Arts student, Zhu Di. Zhu Di wanted her artwork to tell the story of Zubir Said's lifetime dedication to music. Zhu Di was drawn to the relationship Zubir Said had with his pet bird, so she chose to capture the iconic image of the bird resting on his pipe in her artwork. His hand clutches a musical score while gazing towards the horizon. In the backdrop, the setting sun rays symbolise the passing of his torch to young aspiring artists.

Ashurst



A DECADE LONG DEDICATION TOWARDS SUPPORTING ARTS EDUCATION

Since 2012, Ashurst LLP has been displaying works by School of the Arts, Singapore (SOTA) Visual Arts students in their office space, providing an authentic setting to expand opportunities for students beyond the school campus. Ashurst LLP also graciously hosted the SOTA community made up of students, teachers and parents with a lovely tea reception in celebration of the partnership and to provide students with a platform to share more about the meaning behind their works. As an avid supporter of the arts, Ashurst extended the partnership with SOTA as a Silver Donor for *Impact 2023*.

Programme

Speaking Roles

ZUBIR SAID – SHARED BETWEEN THREE ACTORS

Irsyad Dawood (Class of 2017, Theatre)

Nabil Jasmani (Class of 2012, Theatre)

Putra Harris Benjamin Bin Ismail
(Year 2, Theatre)

TOK SAID – ZUBIR SAID'S FATHER

Nabil Jasmani (Class of 2012, Theatre)

TARMINAH – ZUBIR SAID'S WIFE

Raiya Basalamah (Class of 2017, Theatre)

ISKANDAR – PROMINENT STUDENT OF ZUBIR SAID

Nabil Jasmani (Class of 2012, Theatre)

ENSEMBLE

Farah D/O Haja Nazemuddeen (Year 6, Theatre)

Shanti Eliza Solomon (Year 3, Theatre)

Band

(Year 4, Music)

Keyboard Josh Teoh

Flute and Guitar Natalie Renee Lim Zhi Xuan

Accordion Rishab Vijaykumar

Bass San Juan Majesty Ferdinand Talines

Drums Shadrach Johanan Yankaya

Cello Yeo Kai Yue, Cadee

Keyboard Mervyn Lee (Teacher, Music)

Programme

Scene Breakdown

SCENE 1 – OPENING

Eulogy of a Flute (Part 1) ballad by Ong Xin Yan
(Year 3, Literary Arts)

Overture arrangement by Gu Wei
(Teacher, Music)

A Toast For A Man Who Loved Music written by
Tan Minzhen Meagan Rae (Year 4, Literary Arts)
and Sab (Class of 2015, Theatre)

Animation by Loong Zu'er (Year 5, Visual Arts)

Performance of Zubir Said's *Semoga Bahagia*
by Syakirah Noble (Class of 2017, Music)

SCENE 2 – CHILDHOOD

Child's Play written by Dia Bansal
(Year 4, Literary Arts) and Sab
(Class of 2015, Theatre)

Choreography Ho Hui Yuan Emily
(Year 5, Dance) and performed together with
Regina Tan Ruiqi (Year 5, Dance)

Composition by Teo Kang Lee, Kenny
(Year 5, Music)

Violin duet performed by Teo Kang Lee, Kenny
and Goh Shi Qin (Year 5, Music)

Multimedia projection by Joan Dwiartanto
(Class of 2017, Dance)

Animation by Kang Yuan Ting
(Year 5, Visual Arts)

SCENE 3 – ILLNESS

Written by Sab (Class of 2015, Theatre)
Composition by Shadrach Johanan Yankaya
(Year 4, Music)

Choreography by Tang Ngiang Sam Carina
(Year 5, Dance) and performed together with
Chloe Chee Pei Yi (Year 5, Dance)

SCENE 4 – LEAVING

Written by Sab (Class of 2015, Theatre)

Eulogy of a Flute (Part 2) ballad by Ong Xin Yan
(Year 3, Literary Arts)

Animation by Tong Sheau Min
(Year 5, Visual Arts)

SCENE 5 – WAR

Silver Bullets Over the Sea by Wong Jun Yi
(Year 3, Literary Arts)

Performance of Zubir Said's *Sayang Disayang*
by Syakirah Noble (Class of 2017, Music)

Multimedia projection by Joan Dwiartanto
(Class of 2017, Dance)

Dance by Eunice Teo Kah Yu, Tan Xuan Hui
Janelle, Tham Kai Yi Jamie, Kristen Sara Wong
Rui En (Year 4, Dance)

Programme

Scene Breakdown(con't)

SCENE 6 – FILM

Written by Sab (Class of 2015, Theatre)

Composition by Natalie Renee Lim

(Year 4, Music)

Multimedia projection by Joan Dwiartanto

(Class of 2017, Dance)

SCENE 7 – ANTHEM

Confessions of an Immigrant, a Teacher and a Dreamer written by Quek Chi-E

(Year 4, Literary Arts)

All I've Ever Wanted written by Sophie Ang Jia

Shuen (Year 4, Literary Arts)

Composition by Josh Teoh (Year 4, Music)

Dance by Tham Kai Yi Jamie, Kristen Sara Wong

Rui En (Year 4, Dance)

Animation by Chua Yun Xuan

(Year 5, Visual Arts)

SCENE 8 – CLOSING

The Final Refrain written by Tan Minzhen

Meagan Rae (Year 4, Literary Arts),

Wong Jun Yi (Year 4, Literary Arts) and

Sab (Class of 2015, Theatre)

Eulogy of a Flute (Part 3) ballad by Ong Xin Yan

(Year 3, Literary Arts)

Performance of Zubir Said's *Pulang Merantau*

by Syakirah Noble (Class of 2017, Music)

Animation by Loong Zu'er (Year 5, Visual Arts)

Alumni Biographies

As much as it is rewarding to see our Alumni thriving beyond SOTA, it is always as heartening to welcome them home to SOTA. Thank you for giving us your time and for making an Impact in one way or another through art.



IRSYAD DAWOOD

Irsyad plays an older Zubir Said in *Impact 2023*. Irsyad is a performer/theatre-maker. His practice centres around various forms of performance including, but not limited to, acting, puppetry, and performance art.

Irsyad co-founded NAYA, an art collective that specialises in curating art workshops and experiences for children & young people, with three other SOTA Visual Arts alumni.

His recent performance credits include *T0701* (Zeugma), *Bangsawan Gemala Malam* (Teater Ekamatra) and *Pan-dance-mic* (Singapore Art Museum). He is currently playing the Cat in *Cat in the Hat* staged by the Singapore Repertory Theatre's The Little Company.

Irsyad dedicates each performance to his mother and late father who have been supportive of his passion for theatre since young.



JOAN DWIARTANTO

Joan Dwiartanto is a dance alumna from the class of 2017. This is her second time participating in *Impact* and created the multimedia featured in *Impact 2023*. A multifaceted artist who enjoys growing both as a dancer and as a choreographer and filmmaker. She graduated from The Juilliard School Dance class of 2022, where she was able to nurture her love for dance and her newfound love for choreography and dance filmmaking.

In 2020, Joan co-directed a collaborative film for The Park Avenue Armory's *100 Years | 100 Women* event in New York City, and in 2021 worked with the principal dancer of the American Ballet Theatre, James Whiteside as the creative videographer and editor in creating his own Ballet film, *Marilyn's Funeral*. She then went on to direct and produce her own dance film, *Crying On The Island They Own* which premiered in early 2022 and has since won multiple festival awards.

Alumni Biographies



NABIL JASMANI

As one of the pioneer Theatre students of SOTA from the class of 2012, Nabil ventured onto a diverse pathway as a firefighter upon graduation. A thespian and arts patron at heart, Nabil continues to pursue his passion for the arts when presented with the opportunity.

Playing multiple characters in *Impact 2023* such as a younger Zubir Said, Zubir Said's father and student, Nabil has been a positive and radiant presence for the show, sharing his knowledge and experience to mentor his juniors. Nabil's natural ability to bring people together carries on into his full-time job as a community involvement officer at Singapore Civil Defence Force.

Nabil is ever-ready to give back to the school and has returned on numerous occasions such as performing in the production, *Body of Land* as part of SG50 in 2015, or giving career talks to his juniors.



SAB

Sab (they/them) is a freelance writer (when they can find the time for it). A recipient of both the National Arts Council Arts Scholarship and the Singapore Unbound Fellowship, their work has been performed in Singapore, London and Perth.

Sab is also a member of Main Tulis Group, Singapore's first playwright collective focusing on English and Malay texts. As part of their practice, Sab is committed to championing the voices of the minority. They are also interested in finding new ways to tell old stories.

Alumni Biographies



SITI SYAKIRAH NOBLE

An acclaimed singer-songwriter based in both Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, Syakirah has performed in a wide variety of events ranging from high profile performances to live shows on national television. Notably, she emerged as the first runner-up in Mediacorp Suria channel's reality singing competition, "Anugerah Mengejar Impian" in 2017. She is currently also teaching at The Voice Company and the Singapore Raffles Music College.

Syakirah will be performing songs composed by Zubir Said, allowing the audience to experience the depth and emotion behind his timeless creations. Her heartfelt renditions promise to be a poignant tribute to Zubir Said's enduring legacy.

In the future, she aspires to set up a music school to make lessons accessible to children with financial difficulties, as she believes that music is a gift that should truly be accessible to all.



RAIYA BASALAMAH

Raiya is an artist and drama educator who graduated from SOTA in 2017. She plays Zubir Said's wife, Tarminah in *Impact 2023*. In 2022, Raiya wrote an audio play titled *Beautiful*, in response to Theatre of Others' theme, *Fifty Years From Now* for their Audio New Play Festival that year. The play focused on the impact of beauty standards, cosmetic surgery, and how that might escalate in our technologically advanced society.

As of now, she has taught drama to young people for almost three years, and they include secondary school students who earned a Certificate of Distinction for their 2023 SYF Arts Presentation.

Student Voices



JOSH TEOH
(YEAR 5, MUSIC)

"I was inspired by the touching story of Zubir Said's father travelling from Indonesia to Singapore to meet him. I wanted my music to paint that scene of a father and son reuniting. This opportunity has allowed me to expand my range as a composer by writing with a narrative in mind. Through my piece, I hope that I am able to convey the emotions of longing, regret and eventually happiness and peacefulness."



TANG NGIANG SAM CARINA
(YEAR 5, DANCE)

"Being a part of *Impact 2023* has significantly benefited me as a performer and a dance student by pushing me to explore and expand my creative boundaries. My piece illustrates a delicate balance between fragility and resilience, which has been a profound journey of artistic expression. I hope for the audience to leave our performance with a renewed appreciation for the beauty and impact of dance as an art form and as a medium for storytelling and self-expression."



FARAH D/O HAJA NAZEMUDEEN
(YEAR 6, THEATRE)

"This opportunity has allowed me to work with other art forms and see how we can come together and complement each other in creating a well-rounded performance. This performance tells the story of an important figure in our society, his hardships and persistence and how this has contributed to our roots as Singaporeans; bringing pride and recognition to our history."



TAN MINZHEN MEAGAN RAE
(YEAR 4, LITERARY ARTS)

"My participation in *Impact* last year involved me as a performer. This year, I worked in the writing team and will be watching my writing being showcased instead. For a long time, I wondered how I could use my artistic skills to aid others. *Impact* to me is that and more."

Behind-the-scenes

At SOTA, we often ask ourselves why we create and for who do we create?

We create to tell a story of our shared heritage

We create to add on to that heritage

We create to build a source of sustainable funds for students for the future

In short, we create for Impact!

— Mrs Mary Seah, Principal (SOTA)



Behind-the-scenes



Our Appreciation

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Mr Sean Tobin

PROJECT MANAGER

Ms Valerie Pereira

TEACHER MENTORS

Ms Aswani Aswath (Literary Arts)

Ms Foo Yun Ying (Dance)

Mr Gu Wei (Music)

Mr Soh Ee Shaun (Visual Arts)

PRODUCTION/STAGE MANAGER

Ms Alycia Finley

SET DESIGNER

Mr Mohd Fared Bin Jainal

SOUND ENGINEER

Mr Joseph Chian

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Arielle Jasmine Van Zuijlen

PROPS/COSTUME MASTER

Eli Ismail (Year 6, Theatre)

RADIO MIC

Uma Devi Urmila (Year 4, Theatre)

SOUND ASSISTANT

Khin Sandi Tun (Year 4, Music)

STAGE HANDS

Cheah Yan Ni (Year 4, Dance)

Uthara Vivek (Year 4, Theatre)

Vera Hung Chee Yee (Year 4, Dance)

SURTITLE OPERATOR

Eliana Binte Ismail (Year 2, Dance)

LIGHTING DESIGN

Reuben Ong

PUBLICITY ADAPTATIONS

Lim Zeherng

VIDEO FEATURED IN SHOWCASE

Loaf Labs

SOTA FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

POEMS

Rachel Tan Ru En (Year 3, Literary Arts)

Sarah Yeo Shu En (Year 3, Literary Arts)

Shanice Peh Yu Xin (Year 3, Literary Arts)

PORTRAITS

Na Byungha (Year 6, Visual Arts)

Student Performers and Creators
(see Programme for names)

Student Volunteers who helped in various ways behind the scenes including photography, set painting, usher duties and production

And all who have contributed in one way or another to *Impact 2023*

Special Thanks

PRESENTED BY

Mr & Mrs Chan Wing To

DIAMOND DONOR

Mr Oei Hong Leong

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SBS Transit

SILVER DONOR

Ashurst

Dr Lee Boon Yang

Patron, SOTA Endowment Fund

Dr Rohana Zubir

Zubir Said's Daughter and Author of *Zubir Said:
The Composer of Majulah Singapura*

Mr Julian Wong

Wild Rice

impact
SOTA Fundraising Show

The Impact logo was designed by Visual Arts students Clariss Tan and Emma Grace Sung. The students used two triangles replacing the 'a' to represent a fast-forward icon that illustrates how the SOTA Endowment Fund is forward-looking. The students also wanted to capture the idea of a blank canvas similar to the SOTA logo, to demonstrate that despite the different environments the logo may be placed in, it is able to adapt. Much like the adaptability of artists such as themselves, and their ability to make an Impact in any environment.

The background features a stylized sunset scene. The top portion is dominated by dark blue, wavy, horizontal bands representing clouds. Below these is a large, bright orange sun with a soft, glowing aura. The bottom of the image shows dark green palm trees and other tropical foliage silhouetted against the lighter orange sky.

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ARTS SINGAPORE