

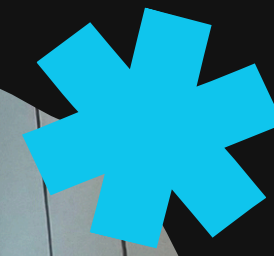


The Lesson

A participatory theatre experience for
Secondary/ Tertiary students

By Drama Box





A new train station is planned for the estate, but there is little space left and something must be demolished.

What should stay and what should go?

First commissioned by the 2015 Singapore International Festival of Arts, "The Lesson" has since been performed in various places to diverse audiences (theatre, community and public audience, students).

About The Lesson

“The Lesson” is a participatory theatre experience about the issue of land contestation. Through the experience, participants explore and reflect on themes including **development and sustainability**, as well as **governance and citizenry** as they learn about the **costs, risks, stakes and sacrifices** that come with **creating a healthy and sustainable society**.





Learning Objectives

Not just a play.

Through the use of facilitated activities, "The Lesson" transforms passive receiving of knowledge into a participatory, interactive experience where participants become a co-agent in the learning experience.



Autonomous Critical Thinking

Participants are **independent in the process of thinking and decision making**. The experience is designed to allow individuals the autonomy and power to **form their own critical opinions, while sharing and reflecting upon others'**.



Reflecting on the Value of Space

Given the opportunity to **explore how they value the different spaces in their own country**, participants uncover what their personal priorities and concerns are.



Power of Choice

What is democracy really about? The work allows participants to explore the **power and choice of their vote**, as well as their role and responsibility as an individual living in our society.



*"I feel that each of our actions [are] responsible for everything. **Our actions are very important.** A small thing can create a very big change."*

- Student's post-show reflections from The Lesson (2017)

View more students' feedback [here!](#)

A participatory experience for the students

+ Critical Thinking, Empathy, and Agency

Provide a broader understanding and approach to the understanding around **ecology and sustainability**, while framed in a local and relatable context.

+ Participatory Theatre as an Education Tool

Using **facilitated participatory theatre as a scaffold and tool**, we invite students to contemplate, critique, and voice their opinions on pertinent social and environmental issues.



Enquire for bookings

Suitable for: Secondary/ Tertiary students

Language: English or Mandarin

Audience size: 80-120pax

Duration: 120mins

Venue: est 225m² unblocked space
(i.e., school hall/ function room)

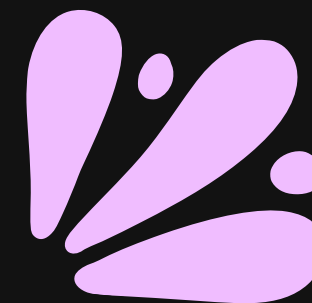
Cost per show:

Please enquire with Fervyn (fervyn.kate@dramabox.org)



 **Ideal for students!**

In 2017, the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) commissioned Drama Box to tour "The Lesson" to 20 schools!



About Us



* Drama Box

Founded in 1990, Drama Box is a socially-engaged theatre company known for creating works that inspire dialogue, reflection and change. By shining a spotlight on marginalised narratives and making space for the communal contemplation of complex issues, it seeks to tell stories that provoke a deeper understanding of Singapore's culture, history and identity.

Drama Box is a charity and Institution of Public Character (IPC) registered in Singapore, supported by the National Arts Council under the Major Company Scheme for the period of April 2026 and March 2029.



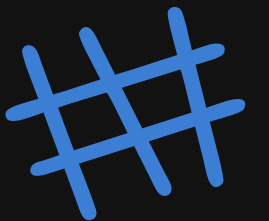
* Han Xuemei (Director)

Han Xuemei is a theatre director, facilitator, educator, designer and Co-Artistic Director of Drama Box.

Xuemei believes that theatre can inspire growth. She creates different forms of artistic experiences that engage with audiences from all walks of life. Her works seek to deepen reflection and dialogue about pertinent issues so that we can grow our individual and collective capacity to contribute to a better society. Since 2012, she has conceptualised, directed, designed and facilitated numerous projects about issues such as development and displacement, domestic violence, as well as violence in school. She is specifically interested in the possibilities of theatre in youth engagement and education. She has consistently created performances for youths, and continues to study and explore different ways of engaging and co-creating with youths.

Notable projects include Camp_Q (2023), A Young Person's Guide to Surviving in Singapore (Seeing the Obvious, 2023), Re: Assembly (2023), and FLOWERS (2019).

In recognition of her artistic endeavour and development, she received the Young Artist Award from the National Arts Council of Singapore in 2021.



Technical requirements

The performance requires the following provisions:

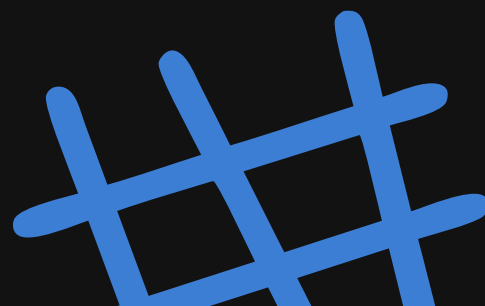
Venue:

- Est **225m² unblocked space** (i.e. school hall/ function room)
- Minimum of **6 hours** access to venue, inclusive of set up, tech run, 1 performance and strike.

Technical equipment:

- Venue technician(s) for the provision and set up of tech requirements
- Multimedia projection for multimedia projections from laptop*
- Sound -
 - Basic system for audio playback from laptop*
 - Lapel mics x 5
 - Wireless handheld mics x 4
- Lighting – not required, general stage/house lights would suffice
- Staging – not required
- Audience Seating – not required

*Laptop can be provided by Drama Box.





Thank You

For more information, please reach out to

Fervyn Kate Tan | Producer
fervyn.kate@dramabox.org

