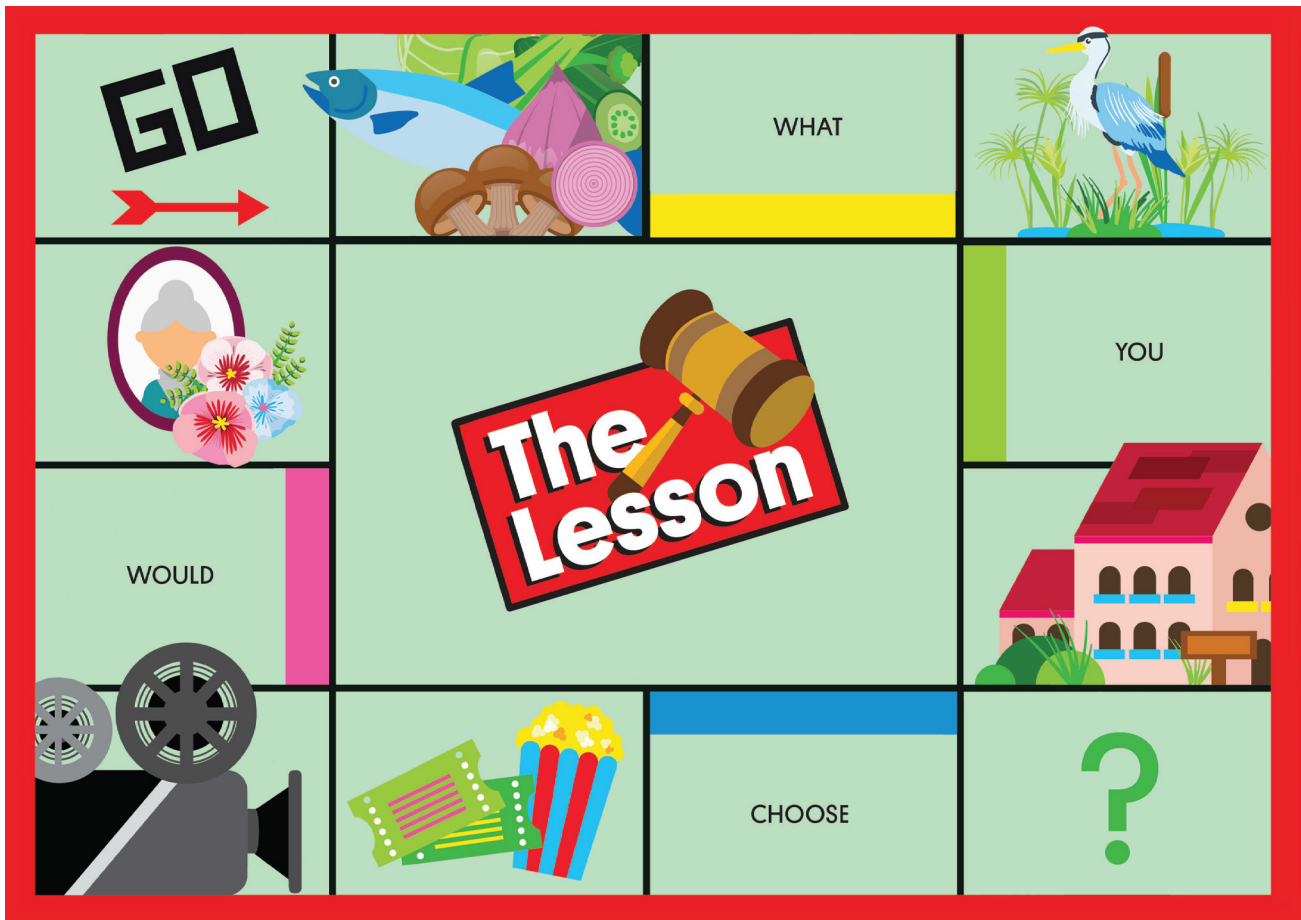




**Esplanade
Presents**

**Feed Your
Imagination**



By Drama Box (Singapore)

**17 - 19 Jul, Wed - Fri
23 - 25 Jul, Tue - Thu
Esplanade Annexe Studio**

PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer: Lim Ailing

Playwright: Li Xie

Director: Han Xuemei

Set Designer: Wendy Chua, Gustavo Maggio (*Forest & Whale*)

Sound Designer & Engineer: Jeffrey Yue (*Ctrl Fre@k*), Lee Yew Jin

Lighting Designer: Genevieve Peck

Facilitators: Adib Kosnan, Michael Cheng, Chng Yi Kai,
Ghazali Muzakir, Han Xuemei, Liew Jia Yi & Md Muazzam (Zam)

Educational Resources Content: Koh Hui Ling, Han Xuemei

Production Manager: Celestine Wong

Stage Manager: Ang Cheng Yan

Assistant Stage Manager: Chong Wee Nee

Crew: Ng Bi Yu

Marketing & Publicity: Amanda Leong

TO OUR YOUNG AUDIENCE:

You have often been told that you are the leaders of the future but what does it mean to be a good leader? What role do you play in society?

In a few years, it will be your time to vote and play a part in shaping the environment we live in. We hope *The Lesson* is a good chance for all of us to rehearse and learn how to listen and engage in meaningful dialogue as we consider these difficult questions:

- **How should important decisions concerning society be made?**
- **Whose voices are heard and valued?**
- **Whose needs are prioritised?**
- **How are these values and priorities decided?**
- **What are our responsibilities and rights as citizens?**
- **How much do we understand about the current voting system(s) in Singapore and around the world?**

Your time in theatre with us may be limited, but we hope that this experience will stay with you for a long time.

**Han Xuemei & Koh Hui Ling
Co-Artistic Directors, Drama Box**

WHAT IS SOCIALLY ENGAGED ART?

Drama Box calls itself a **socially engaged theatre company**. What does that mean?

Socially engaged practice, also referred to as social practice or socially engaged art, can include any art form which **involves people** and **communities** in **debate**, **collaboration** or **social interaction**. This can often be organised as the result of an outreach or education programme, but many independent artists also use it within their work.

The participatory element of socially engaged practice, is key, with the artworks created often holding equal or less importance to the collaborative act of creating them. As Tom Finkelpearl outlines in his book *What We Made: Conversations on Art and Social Cooperation*, social practice is 'art that's socially engaged, where the social interaction is at some level the art'.

Socially engaged practice can be associated with activism because it often deals with political issues. Artists who work within this field will often spend much time integrating into the specific community which they wish to help, educate or simply share with.

Source: Art terms on TATE UK



ACTIVITY 1: LEARNING POINTS

Having gone through *The Lesson*, are there questions you have that were not addressed and reflections that may have emerged?

Pen your thoughts in the table below:

QUESTIONS

Here are some suggestions to get you started:

- Were there any moments during the process where you felt uncomfortable, or choice was difficult, or you were undecided? Why? What were some of the questions you had during these moments?
- Did anyone question the choice of the five sites? Why? Who should decide what these five sites are?

REFLECTIONS

Here are some suggestions to get you started:

- What were your thoughts when the site you voted for was selected / not selected?
- How did it feel to be involved in making decisions that would affect the community?
- How did you come to your vote? What factors did you consider? If you followed others, why?
- What would you do when someone has a different view from you?
- If an eviction happened, what were your thoughts having seen the last eviction process happen?

WHAT IS THE LESSON?

Created by Drama Box and Li Xie, *The Lesson* was first presented as part of *It Won't Be Too Long* at the Singapore International Festival of Arts in 2015 to critical acclaim. Lauded by local media as one of the best productions of 2015, it was praised for effectively engaging the public in the discussion on land use issues in Singapore.

Drama Box has since brought the piece overseas to audiences in Taiwan (December 2016), the International Community Arts Festival in Rotterdam (March 2017) and Macau (March 2019). *The Lesson* also travelled with Drama Box's very own *GoLi – the Moving Theatre* to three local public spaces (Bugis, Toa Payoh and Hougang) in 2017.



Since 2016, the piece has also been adapted for schools and piloted as a theatre programme for youths at more than 20 local secondary and tertiary institutions. In 2019, we partnered with Esplanade to bring students into the theatre space to experience *The Lesson*, as part of their *Feed Your Imagination (F.Y.I.)* series. The version you participated in has been adapted specially to connect with the youths of today.



ACTIVITY 2: CONNECTING WITH REALITY

There were five fictional sites mentioned during *The Lesson* that faced eviction. They are based on actual sites and incidents here in Singapore, where similar places had to move in the name of progress.

Can you identify and think of some real-life parallels?

SITES	REAL-LIFE REFERENCES			
	References	Dilemmas	Outcome	What would you have done differently & why?
Columbarium				
Halfway House				
Wet Market / Food Centre				
Cinema: Foreign Workers' Social Space				
Marsh				



ACTIVITY 3: MOVING AHEAD

Refer back to Activity 2. Which community / group of people would you like to understand more about? List down some questions you have about them.

COMMUNITY

Who are they?

Where are they found?

Why this community?

QUESTIONS FOR THEM

What would you like to find out about them?

Now that you have identified the community and gone through the thought process of reaching out, if there's a Values in Action project you might design with them, what would that be?

PROJECT IDEA

OBJECTIVE / INTENTION

ABOUT 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 2023 and March 2026.

www.dramabox.org | www.facebook.com/dramabox | www.instagram.com/drama_box_

Interested to learn more about the arts? Check out www.esplanade.com/schools for more resources.



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