



Feed Your  
Imagination

esplanade

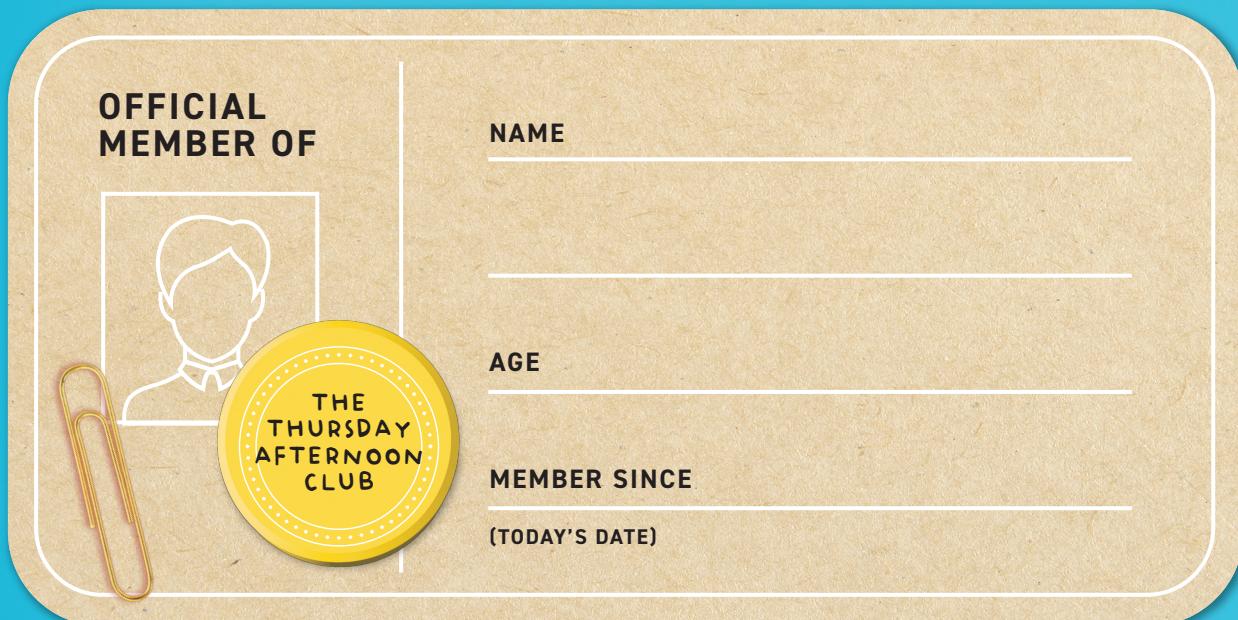
# THE THURSDAY AFTERNOON CLUB



THE LIGHT OF TIME

By Drama Box  
An Esplanade Commission

9 – 11 Jul 2025, Wed – Fri  
14 – 18 Jul 2025, Mon – Fri

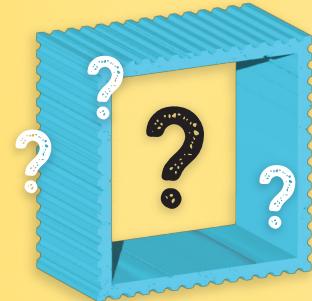


# MESSAGE TO STUDENTS

Dear audience,

Welcome to ***The Thursday Afternoon Club: The Light of Time***.

Here, we follow the journey of Zul who is trapped in a never-ending race against time as he works towards a secure future. This journey, as we discovered during our research conversations with youths, might be a familiar one many of you find yourselves on.



**WHAT WOULD MY FUTURE LOOK LIKE?**

**HOW WOULD I KNOW IF I MADE THE RIGHT CHOICES?**

**WHAT IF I REGRET MY DECISIONS?**

**IS IT WORTH SPENDING SO MUCH TIME PREPARING FOR A FUTURE THAT IS UNCERTAIN, IN A WORLD THAT IS INCREASINGLY UNSTABLE?**

These are questions many of you share, and you are not alone. People around you, including adults, struggle with them as well. We pin so much hopes and expectations for a better and brighter tomorrow that we rarely have time to ask—how should we spend our time today?

***The Thursday Afternoon Club: The Light of Time*** is an invitation to respond to our fears with courage and hope as we reimagine how to live with a future that is uncertain, in a world that is increasingly unfriendly.

**THANK YOU FOR (TIME) TRAVELLING TOGETHER.**

**MAY WE ALL (RE)DISCOVER OUR UNIQUE RAYS OF LIGHT ALONG THE WAY.**

*Han Xuemei, Tan Wei Ting & Lim Ce Xuan*

Director

Playwright

Assistant to Director



**WHAT IS MY HAPPY PLACE?**

## SYNOPSIS

On the eve of the Physics pre-pre-pre-pre-Prelims, a group of students and their teacher are pulling an all-nighter at an ice cream cafe. In this world where schools prepare students for every possible scenario in life, the students often feel as if time is slipping through their fingers, leaving them anxious and overwhelmed.

On this night, something strange happens—they find themselves in inexplicable situations where time does not move in the usual way. As they try to unravel this mystery, each one of them is forced to confront the compromises they've made, their true desires and deeper purpose in life.

## CHARACTERS



"I know how the world works. It is going to be taken over by AI and the jobs we are going to be doing and the skills we need to survive isn't even being invented now."

- Yoyo

Name YOYO

What did he want?

What were his fears?

How did he deal with his concerns?

Other thoughts/ questions?

Name ZUL

What did he want?

What were his fears?

How did he deal with his concerns?

Other thoughts/ questions?

Name ANDREA

What did she want?

What were her fears?

How did she deal with her concerns?

Other thoughts/ questions?

Name MRS LUMENS

What did she want?

What were her fears?

How did she deal with her concerns?

Other thoughts/ questions?

# HOW DO WE FEEL ABOUT THE FUTURE?

*hand*

"I'm going to be graduating in a year, and there's still like so many things I have to figure out. Like, where I should study, like money, like parents, friends, school, everything. There's just so much to think about. Like, it's starting to feel real."

- U, 16yo



"I'm scared about my job in the future. I mean, it could be a job that pays a lot of money, but what if I'm not happy? Then I don't want to be unhappy in the future, so I want to do something that I love, but I also want it to be able to provide me a lot of money."

- B, 14yo

*hand*

"A lot of the things I'm interested in can be easily overtaken."

- S, 14yo



AS PART OF THE RESEARCH FOR THIS PLAY,  
A GROUP OF YOUTHS AGED 14 TO 18 YEARS OLD  
WERE ASKED HOW THEY FELT ABOUT  
THE FUTURE IN A FOCUS GROUP ACTIVITY.

*hand*

"Like, you don't know what to anticipate, and you don't know how to prepare yourself for it."

- YT, 15yo



"what if, I feel like, what if I waste three years of my life at school doing something I thought I'd be interested in, but then the job isn't as great as I thought it would be?"

- C, 16yo



"... it's a maze right? You don't know where you're going. You don't know the details of something until you actually try it. You won't know just how much you enjoy it until you try it. From afar, I could go, oh, that looks like something I want to do. But when you actually do it, is it really something you want to do? And I feel like from there, like what A said, it's hard to turn back. You know, you can't really just go back and find your way out again. You're stuck and just move on."

- M, 16yo

*hand*

# WHAT IF IT WAS ME?

WHAT IS MY TOP CONCERN  
ABOUT THE FUTURE?

HOW DO I FEEL ABOUT THE FUTURE?

HOW DO THESE CONCERNS AND FEELINGS ABOUT THE FUTURE AFFECT ME IN THE PRESENT?  
DO I BEHAVE IN A CERTAIN WAY?  
DO I HAVE CERTAIN THOUGHTS AND/OR FEELINGS THAT KEEP COMING BACK?

## ACTIVITY: COURAGE COMPASS

THE FUTURE IS NEVER CERTAIN. HOW DO WE RESPOND  
TO THIS UNCERTAINTY WITH COURAGE AND HOPE?

FILL IN THIS "COURAGE COMPASS"  
WITH WORDS OR DRAWINGS:

WHAT I'VE  
ALREADY  
OVERCOME

WHAT  
GIVES YOU  
COURAGE?

DREAMS I  
CARE ABOUT

PEOPLE WHO  
SUPPORT ME

THINGS I  
BELIEVE IN

# THEATRICAL ELEMENTS

The basic elements that make a theatre performance can be understood as actions on stage supported by a combination of set, lighting, sound, costume and sometimes video.

These elements help to:

- indicate time and place
- make actions visible
- bring attention to / away from things
- create mood
- create symbolic meaning

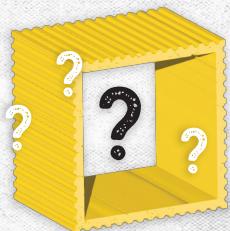
WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MEMORABLE ELEMENTS YOU REMEMBER FROM *THE THURSDAY AFTERNOON CLUB: THE LIGHT OF TIME*?

*Answer*

## SYMBOLS AND MOTIFS

### SYMBOL

A thing that represents or stands for something else; especially a material object that represents something abstract.



### MOTIF

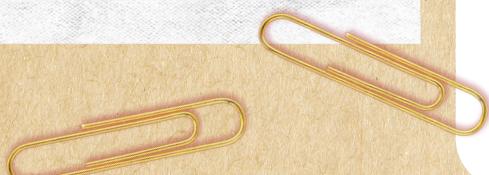
Recurring or repeated symbol(s).

### THEME

A central topic, subject or question explored through the story.

The motifs help to express the themes of the story. What symbols and/or motifs did you see in *The Thursday Afternoon Club: The Light of Time*?

WRITE OR DRAW THEM IN THE SPACE PROVIDED.



## CREDITS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

### CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer	LIM AILING (Drama Box)
Director	HAN XUEMEI (Drama Box)
Assistant to Director	LIM CI XUAN
Playwright	TAN WEI TING
Set Designer	LIM WEI LING
Lighting Designer	GENEVIEVE PECK
Sound Designer	LYNETTE QUEK
Costume Designer	MAX TAN
Movement Director	NORHAIZAD ADAM
Props Coordinator	GERALYN TOH
Cast	YAZID JALIL, BENJAMIN LYE, FARAH ONG & AUDREY TEONG
Voice Actor	ELLE CHENG LI LING (Drama Box)
Educational Resources Content	LIIEW JIA YI
Production Manager	CELESTINE WONG
Technical Manager	HUANG XIANGBIN
Stage Manager	GILLIAN ONG
Stage Manager (Workshop)	GERALYN TOH
Assistant Stage Manager	VOON YUEQI
Crew	CHONG WEE NEE

### MARKETING & PUBLICITY

Marketing	AMANDA LEONG (Drama Box)
Key Visual Design	& DIMITRA MEGHAWATY (Drama Box)
Education Guide Designer	LYNETTE QUEK THREEQUART DESIGN STUDIO

### PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH

Research Design Team	HAN XUEMEI (Drama Box), TAN WEI TING & LIM WEI LING
Research Assistant & Coordinator	TEO PEI SI
Project Manager	LIM CI XUAN
Facilitators	HAN XUEMEI (Drama Box), TAN WEI TING & LIM WEI LING
Installation Design & Production	LIM WEI LING

**SPECIAL THANKS TO CHIJ KATONG CONVENT, CANBERRA SECONDARY SCHOOL, TAK TAKUT KIDS' CLUB, 10 SQUARE, CARE CORNER, AND ALL THE YOUTH FOR THEIR INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS IN HELPING US SHAPE THIS PERFORMANCE.**



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 regularly creates programmes for youths, stemming from the belief that the arts can seed habits of critical thinking during this formative age, and provides a safe space for delving into complex issues such as mental wellness and bullying.

[www.dramabox.org](http://www.dramabox.org)  
[www.youtube.com/dramabox](http://www.youtube.com/dramabox)  
[www.instagram.com/drama\\_box\\_](http://www.instagram.com/drama_box_)

### FEEDBACK ON PERFORMANCE GUIDE

To help us improve on future resource guides, we would greatly appreciate your feedback on this post-show performance guide. Kindly scan this QR code and fill in the short feedback form.



Interested to learn more about the arts?  
Check out [www.esplanade.com/schools](http://www.esplanade.com/schools) for more resources and content!

Principal Sponsors

**A&O SHEARMAN**   **Bloomberg**   **Deloitte**



#EsplanadeSG #WonderHere