

THE NAC ARTS SCHOLARSHIP AND 2023 RECIPIENTS

The National Arts Council (NAC) Arts Scholarship aims to nurture outstanding individuals to contribute to the arts and cultural development in Singapore. As future leaders of the arts and culture sector, scholarship recipients will embrace the challenge of pushing artistic boundaries and lead their peers to create a positive impact on the Singapore community through the arts. The recipients will fulfil a service commitment of up to three years in the arts sector upon graduation.

S/N	Scholarship recipients	Brief background of recipients
1	<p>Jazlyn Tan Jia Yu</p> <p><i>Bachelor of Fine Arts (Dance), Temple University (United States)</i></p>  <p><i>Image credit: Jazlyn Tan Jia Yu</i></p> <p><i>“I hope to be a bridge between the contemporary and street dance scene. I believe this scholarship will give me the space to enhance my physical and creative abilities to excel in my future role as an artist and educator.”</i></p>	<p>Jazlyn Tan Jia Yu is pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Dance) at Temple University. Jazlyn is a dancer with a strong and varied portfolio in performing and teaching. Graduating from LASALLE College of The Arts with a Distinction in her Diploma in Dance in 2022, she has evolved her dance style to incorporate Ballet, Contemporary, Jazz and Street Dance.</p> <p>She has also participated in performances locally and overseas such as <i>Allocentric</i> at Battery Dance Festival 2022 in New York. She also participated in competitions such as Super 24 under the Secondary and Open Category and managed to clinch the top 3 places in her years of competing.</p> <p>Jazlyn is interested in African diasporic dance and its links to samba, tap dance and street dance forms. She hopes she can be the bridge between the contemporary and street dance scene and hopes to integrate these genres with local culture and ethnic dance forms. With the knowledge gained from her course of study, Jazlyn hopes to push artistic boundaries and create unique art works, as well as share this knowledge with the next generation of dancers. She also aspires to be a dance lecturer and bring dance to the wider community.</p> <p>Through the NAC scholarship, Jazlyn hopes to enhance her physical and creative abilities to propel her future role as an artist and educator.</p>
2	<p>Muhammad Ammar Nasrulhaq Bin Abdul Karim</p> <p><i>Bachelor of Arts in Performance in British Sign Language and English</i></p>	<p>Muhammad Ammar Nasrulhaq will be pursuing a Bachelor of Arts Performance in British Sign Language and English at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Ammar is a deaf performing artist, an Associate Artist</p>

*(Performance), Royal
Conservatoire of Scotland (United
Kingdom)*




*Image credit: Muhammad
Ammar Nasrulhaq*


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with Access Path Productions and a strong advocate for artists with disabilities, especially the d/Deaf community. Ammar has performed, directed, choreographed and acted in more than 20 events and productions including National Day Parade, Aliwal Festival, Singapore Night Festival, Singapore Design Week and Purple Parade. He is also the resident choreographer and instructor of Redeafination, Singapore's first independent deaf dance group, which he has been part of over the last 12 years.


As a mentor and trainer, Ammar has adapted training approach to coach other disabled artists such as wheelchair users, and persons with autism and visual impairment, finding creative ways to help them overcome challenges with their craft. Ammar currently leads the Movement Creation segment of the Affective Performance-Making programme with Deaf students from Beatty Secondary School under Access Path's education and outreach platform.

Ammar's work is focused primarily on the relationship between his body, disability, and music. Ammar hopes to create and lead more workshops that can upskill and empower artists with disabilities to nurture their craft, especially towards the d/Deaf community. He also aspires to create works that will bridge relations between the d/Deaf and hearing people to work collaboratively towards a more inclusive and accessible arts and cultural landscape.

<p>3</p>	<p><i>Cheng Seow Wee (Michael)</i> <i>Master of Arts in Arts Pedagogy and Practice, LASALLE College of the Arts (Singapore)</i></p>  <p><i>Image credit: Cheng Seow Wee (Michael)</i></p> <p><i>"I envision a dynamic and inclusive Singapore where arts and culture occupy a central position in enhancing people's lives from infancy to old age."</i></p>	<p>Cheng Seow Wee (Michael) will be pursuing a Master of Arts in Arts Pedagogy and Practice at LASALLE. Michael is an applied drama practitioner and educator engaged in participatory arts-based methods of community dialogue. In recent years, he has collaborated with organisations, such as the Lions Befrienders, Drama Box, and the Singapore International Foundation, in participatory theatre and social-engaged community arts projects.</p> <p>He also serves as Artistic Director of Tapestry Playback Theatre, an ensemble that improvises personal stories from the audience. An accredited trainer of Playback Theatre, he delivers training internationally at all levels of the curriculum.</p> <p>Michael teaches applied drama as an adjunct lecturer at Singapore Polytechnic. He delivers drama programmes for socio-emotional learning in special schools, and trains teachers to facilitate drama lessons.</p> <p>Beyond Singapore, Michael was the immediate past-Chair (Board of Directors) for the Centre for Playback Theatre (United States). Before he stepped down in 2022, he was responsible for strategic direction, policy implementation, and regular operations.</p> <p>Michael envisions a dynamic and inclusive Singapore where arts and culture occupy a central position in enhancing people's lives from infancy to old age. In his view, the arts also provide a platform for meaningful conversations and dialogue on important and complex issues. Pursuing this Masters programme will empower Michael to develop a critical and reflective approach to his craft, contribute to local research endeavours, and inspire future generations. Michael dedicates himself to employing his skills and talents to effect positive change in Singapore and beyond. Just as the arts have transformed his life, he is determined to contribute to the transformation of others' lives as well.</p>
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<p>4</p>	<p>Ho Wei-Jie, Lucas</p> <p><i>Master of Fine Arts in Writing for Stage and Broadcast Media, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama (United Kingdom)</i></p>  <p><i>Image credit: Andre Chong</i></p> <p><i>“I hope to expand my writing beyond the stage and explore screenwriting and other forms of dramatic storytelling. I also hope to learn how to better scaffold the creative writing journey and process for others.”</i></p>	<p>Ho Wei-jie, Lucas will be pursuing a Master of Fine Arts in Writing for Stage and Broadcast Media at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. Lucas Ho is a writer, director, educator, and Associate Artist with Checkpoint Theatre since 2013.</p> <p>As a playwright, his debut play <i>FRAGO</i> was presented by Checkpoint Theatre in 2017 to critical acclaim. In 2020, his stage play <i>The Heart Comes to Mind</i> premiered as an audio experience. In 2023, Checkpoint Theatre presented his third play, <i>Tender Submission</i>.</p> <p>Lucas has previously taught playwriting at the National University of Singapore and was part of the Faculty of Literary Arts at School of the Arts, Singapore.</p> <p>Aside from playwriting, he was Assistant Director for <i>The Last Bull: A Life in Flamenco</i>, which was a commission of the Singapore International Festival of the Arts in 2016. Lucas continues to direct and facilitate Checkpoint Theatre’s NAC-AEP programmes. He has also edited numerous play anthologies.</p> <p>Lucas applied for the Master of Fine Arts programme hoping to immerse himself in the rigour of writing and critiquing in a multidisciplinary context. As a practitioner, he hopes to expand his writing beyond the stage, and explore screenwriting and other forms of dramatic storytelling. He also hopes to learn how to better scaffold the creative writing journey and process for others.</p> <p>Lucas would eventually like to create a structured platform and space for writers and playwrights to explore and hone their craft through shared resources and support from the community. He feels that he can help by cultivating relationships and giving others the space to try and try again.</p>
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<p>5</p>	<p>Laetitia Keok Yu Qi</p> <p><i>Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, New York University (United States)</i></p>  <p><i>Image credit: Vivien Yap</i></p> <p><i>“I look forward to delving deeper into my creative practice and discover possible intersections with my community work. I envision an arts and cultural landscape that centres the development of young, underrepresented, and marginalised writers in Singapore.”</i></p>	<p>Laetitia Keok will be pursuing a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (Poetry) at New York University. Laetitia is a writer, editor and recent graduate of Nanyang Technological University with a BA in English and a minor in Creative Writing.</p> <p>Laetitia’s writing practice explores personal and collective grief as frameworks of care. Her poetry has been shortlisted for the Oxford Poetry Prize, nominated for the Pushcart Prize and the Nina Riggs Poetry Award, anthologised in <i>New Singapore Poetries</i>, and published in <i>Diode Poetry Journal</i>, <i>Wildness Journal</i>, and <i>Peach Magazine</i>, amongst others.</p> <p>As an editor committed to the needs of her writers, Laetitia’s editorial praxis is rooted in collaboration, generosity and curiosity. Currently Senior Editor at international print-based sino creative arts magazine, <i>Sine Theta Magazine</i>, and Assistant Editor at NYC-based literary press, Gaudy Boy, Laetitia also holds/has held editorial positions at local publishing house, Ethos Books, local food magazine, <i>The Slow Press</i>, and poetry.sg, an archive of Singapore poetry. Across her various roles, Laetitia remains committed to the development of our writers both locally and globally.</p> <p>Through the NAC Arts Scholarship, Laetitia looks forward to delving deeper into her creative practice, and to discover more ways it may intersect with her community work. Envisioning for Singapore an arts and cultural landscape that centres the development of young, early-career, underrepresented and marginalised writers, Laetitia is particularly interested in learning from successful workshop, teaching and advocacy models in the US, incorporating their practices towards equitable, accessible, and healthy mentorship models for Singapore. Laetitia also hopes to learn from the approaches of international publishing houses and literary festivals, gathering possibilities for what sustainable publishing and a flourishing arts community might look like in Singapore.</p>
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<p>6</p>	<p>Liu Yixin, Jonathan</p> <p><i>Master of Arts (Fine Arts), LASALLE College of the Arts (Singapore)</i></p>  <p><i>Image credit: Liu Yixin, Jonathan</i></p> <p><i>“I believe my postgraduate education will help me articulate and position my practice critically within the burgeoning digital creative economies as well as ultimately furthering my journey as an educator for the arts.”</i></p>	<p>Jonathan Liu will be pursuing a Master of Arts (Fine Arts) at LASALLE College of the Arts. Jonathan Liu is a visual artist and adjunct lecturer experimenting primarily with photographic processes within his practice.</p> <p>He is also a founding member of NFT Asia - an artist-led digital-native collective aimed at uplifting Asian artists within the Web 3.0 ecosystem. His past working experiences include positions at NTU Centre for Contemporary Arts Singapore (NTU CCA Singapore) and SERIAL Communication. Jonathan has run courses and spoken on NFTs, On-Chain Art and the emerging technology of Web 3.0 at Y-Lab / National Gallery Singapore, NTUCCA Singapore and LASALLE College of the Arts. Jonathan holds a BA (Hons) in Photography from London College of Communication with work exhibited in the United Kingdom, China, Japan, United Arab Emirates and Singapore.</p> <p>Jonathan is interested in the dialogue between the Human and the Non-Human, the collaborative potential of dissolving the objective form (of the mechanical eye) into a subjective experience (from the machine). By manipulating various forms of photographic mediums, he questions the approach of contemporary photography and its dialogic relationship with technology.</p> <p>He aspires for Singapore to be positioned centrally within the global discourse surrounding arts and technology, especially with the recent impact of Artificial Intelligence on creatives and artists and their art-making in the future. Reaching beyond the boundaries of traditional mediums, Jonathan hopes to explore how art-making will be transformed in the years to come.</p> <p>Through the NAC Arts Scholarship, Jonathan will further his research in machine learning and generative processes. He believes his postgraduate education will help him articulate and position his practice critically within the burgeoning digital creative economies as well as ultimately further his journey as an educator for the arts.</p>
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<p>7</p>	<p>Muhammad Adib Bin Kosnan Siran</p> <p><i>Master of Arts in Arts Pedagogy and Practice, LASALLE College of the Arts (Singapore)</i></p>  <p><i>Image credit: Muhammad Adib Bin Kosnan Siran</i></p> <p><i>“I am particularly interested in seeing how theatre can be used as a tool to open up conversations in the Malay Muslim community, and to bring about further understanding.”</i></p>	<p>Muhammad Adib Bin Kosnan will be pursuing a Master of Arts in Arts Pedagogy and Practice at LASALLE College of the Arts. Adib is a multi-faceted theatre practitioner; actor, playwright and director as well as educator. He is an Associate Artist with Checkpoint Theatre.</p> <p>Adib was the lead artist in curating socially engaged work for Both Sides, Now: Mengukir Harapan (2021-2023). He conceptualised and designed the programme and scaffolded facilitation with the Malay Muslim community.</p> <p>He has received awards for his work as a playwright, actor and director. He was named Best Supporting Actor at the Straits Times Life Theatre Awards 2020 for his role in ANGKAT: A Definitive, Alternative, Reclaimed Narrative of a Native. He was nominated for the Best Original Script at The Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards for his play 28.8 (2017) and Keluarga Besar En. Karim [The Karims, 2021].</p> <p>Adib has also been involved as an arts educator, having created the curriculum for Checkpoint’s arts education programmes, and being Adjunct Lecturer at Singapore Polytechnic.</p> <p>Citing the influence of his mentor, Kok Heng Leun, Adib is constantly reminded that theatre is a “rehearsal for life”. Adib has always been inspired by teaching artists who blend artistic and pedagogical practices in their work.</p> <p>Following the completion of his studies, Adib would like to apply his knowledge in his work with community. He is particularly interested in theatre as a tool to facilitate conversations for the Malay Muslim community. Adib would like to dive deeper into these issues through research and discussion to further understand the theatre community and the Malay Muslim community at large.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Seet Yun Teng</p> <p><i>Master of Arts (Material and Visual Culture), University College London (United Kingdom)</i></p>	<p>Seet Yun Teng will be reading a Master of Arts (Material and Visual Culture) at University College London. Yun Teng is a curator, producer and writer based in Singapore. Trained in Fine Art and Art History, her work is rooted in a twofold approach between theory and practice. As a curator, a keen alignment to the material world and embodied processes underlies her practice. She is committed to developing exhibitions and projects which equally centre the artistic process and create interfaces for audiences to understand, experience and</p>



Image credit: Seet Yun Teng

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meaningfully engage with artworks and contexts. She has worked curatorially and produced across a range of exhibitions, events and platforms.

For her Masters programme, Yun Teng will be returning to a dedicated pursuit of research and boosting her capabilities in object-based and materially-sensitive curation. She aims to develop her research in the study of textiles and weaving practices across the region, entangling material, and historical concerns with contemporary urgencies, and exploring the role of craft and material culture in our age of technology, de-materiality and informative cultures. She will connect these ideas with artistic practices that engage with tensions between the material-corporeal and the immaterial, virtual, and affective. Additionally, she plans to bolster her professional skills in the museum and cultural industry, learning from best practices to apply to local contexts.

Following her studies, Yun Teng will return to Singapore to work as a curator. Through her work, she aims to promote greater participation and engagement in the arts through engaging, thoughtful, experimental, and interdisciplinary exhibitions and programmes, as well as nurture cross-industry partnerships and a diversity of platforms for the arts. The NAC Scholarship will be invaluable in providing Yun Teng with the support to fully dedicate herself to building knowledge and strengthening her curatorial practice to make a lasting impact on Singapore’s contemporary art scene.