

# NUS DANCE ENSEMBLE

*A member of NUS Centre For the Arts*


*In Collaboration with*  
REPUBLIC POLYTECHNIC

## S H A D E S   O F G R E Y E V O C A T I O N 2019



**NUS**  
National University  
of Singapore

**NUS**  
CENTRE  
FOR THE  
ARTS

A person with curly hair, wearing a light-colored long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, stands in a dark, empty space. They are leaning forward slightly with their arms extended. A single, bright light source is visible in the upper center of the frame, casting a long shadow of the person onto the floor. The floor is a light, neutral color, and the walls are dark and indistinct.

In the sea of grey, that seemingly  
stateless and transient space;

It is all that we have yet to,  
ought to, and possibly be.

# NUS CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

Established in 1993, NUS Centre For the Arts (CFA) is a vibrant space for the appreciation of the arts and nurturing of the creative and inquiring spirit. We support student engagement with the arts and the integration of the arts into the life of the University.

CFA includes the NUS Museum, NUS Baba House and a Talent and Development arm that oversees 22 student arts excellence groups. Through our myriad of programmes, practices, exhibitions, workshops and outreach, such as NUS Arts Festival and the ExxonMobil Campus Concerts, we enrich the university experience and contribute to the building of knowledge and transformation of students.

CFA also manages facilities such as the University Cultural Centre, with its 1700-seat Hall and 425-seat Theatre, and rehearsal spaces in Runme Shaw CFA Studios and University Town.

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## NUS DANCE ENSEMBLE

NUS Dance Ensemble (NUS DE), a member of NUS Centre For the Arts, was founded in 1992 by Resident Choreographer and Artistic Director, Zaini Mohd Tahir. As a group, NUS DE comprises of mostly NUS undergraduates, together with a strong base of extremely dedicated alumni.

NUS DE has a unique style of Asian Contemporary dance that is rooted in Asian tradition and also seamlessly incorporates western jazz, ballet and contemporary techniques. Through its dynamic style and modern interpretations of ethnic elements, NUS DE has earned wide recognition for its unconventional repertoire.

Since its first concert at Kallang Theatre in 1992, NUS DE has been staging two major annual productions - *Evocation* and *The Next Wave*, and has a total annual audience of at least 3,000, including students, adults, dancers and corporate companies. NUS DE has also been active at external events such as Republic Polytechnic's *Momentum*, the National Arts Council's *Got To Move* and ITE's *Emblazon*. NUS DE also regularly performs for various NUS events such as *HERE!* and the Student Life Fair.

# NUS DANCE ENSEMBLE

NUS DE has not only established itself locally but has also expanded its reach to neighbouring Asian regions including Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Philipphines, and Cambodia.

NUS DE also represented Singapore at the China-ASEAN Youth Arts Festival in Guizhou in 2008. At the New Prague Dance Festival held in Prague in 2009, NUS DE bagged the awards of Best Choreography and Special Personal Award of the Director amongst some 400 over reputable contestants worldwide. In 2012, in collaboration with De La Salle University-College of San Benilde, NUS DE presented its works at ObservAsian in Manila and in Singapore. In July 2016, NUS DE also participated in the International Youth Dance Festival 2016 in Macau.

Ultimately, NUS DE aims to be a platform for collaborative work between dance companies and institutions in South East Asia.





# PROGRAMME

*Being One*

by Amanda Sim Wei Shan

*Kaali*

by Taufiq Rosly (ET)

*静动之间*

*(Between Stillness and Motion)*

by Peter Teo

*(ME)ntal*

by Ukasyah Bin Zulkifie

*#conversations*

by Rebecca Koh Qing Fang

*Solitary*

by Syarul Haffyan (Gray)

*Heartsleeves*

by Subastian Tan Bo Hern

*Trepidation*

by Muhammadinil Mustafar

“ ” “ ”  
... ...

by Danielle Marie V. Patayan & Stefanie Teo Shi Wen

*Equilibrium*

by Chester Lim & Kwan Chan Kit Sean

*Resonance*

by Muhammad Lutfil Hadi & Noor Effendy Bin Abdul Razak

*Matilah Kau*

by Zaini Mohd Tahir

# EVOCATION 2019 : SHADES OF GREY

## SYNOPSES

### NUS DANCE ENSEMBLE

## *Being One*

by Amanda Sim Wei Shan

### **The comforts and anxieties of being alone.**

*In her item, Amanda explores the concepts of solitude and loneliness, and the way in which they can co-exist.*

*Amanda has been working with DE for 5 years, ever since she joined DE as a freshman in 2014.*

*"Choreographing a full-length item was a milestone I set for myself in my dance journey with NUS Dance Ensemble, after putting it off for about 2 years. I learnt so much more on the artistry of dancing, beyond just movements, and how to mould a piece by exploring different aspects of a choreography from the music to lighting to a dancer's frame of mind."*

### **DANCERS**

Charmayne Lim Rong Su

Chew Yu De

Chiew Kai Yin, Iris

Chng Kah Gim Bernard

Clara Koh Kai Ting

Deepakrishna Tangarajan

Ellie Tay Jia Yi

Grace Seetoh Xing Yi

Keely Robin Sim

Kenneth Soon Wei Xuan

Nicolette Teo Mu Ling

Peh Chin Min Kathleen

Peh Adelia

Sebastian Tan Jun Pin

Sheryl Lim Jing Yi

Tan Mazie

Tan Xue Hui

Thng Boon Leong Daniel

Teo Zhi Yi

Wee Yong Geng, Eldric

# EVOCATION 2019 : SHADES OF GREY

## SYNOPSSES

REPUBLIC POLYTECHNIC

### *Kaali*

by Taufiq Rosly (ET)

**Whatever was held dear to you was taken away. When one is at their lowest, pushed to the limit, forced to relive their mistakes while struggling to keep afloat in the harsh currents of their past decisions- clutching desperately at even the slightest hint of salvation.**

*Taufiq's item explores the concept of vulnerability and how it is a necessary part of our being.*

*Taufiq joined Style Groovaz Crew in 2013 as a freshman in RP. His first experience with DE was in Evocation 2017, as a dancer for Syafiq (Spyro).*

*"This year's Evocation is the most mature one that I've seen so far. It's very evident to me that this is the direction that Evocation has been growing towards."*

### DANCERS

Ahmad Fikri Bin Ahmad Fahmi

Alanna Tang Pey San

Ashley Seah Ser Min

Chester Lim Zheng Han

IlliYana Wong Xue Min

Kwan Chun Kit Sean

Lian Long Xuan

Lim Zhixuan Jean

Mohamad Shahadan Bin Mohamad Anuar

Muhammad Syafiq Bin Muhammad Faddly

Muhammad Syahmirul Bin Azman

Muhd Faizz Firdaus

Seah En Ci Benedict

Shahizman Bin Muhammad Sulaiman

Sim Yu Xuan Ignatius

Siti Nur Haslinda Bte Slammat

Tang Yi Ling





# EVOCATION 2019 : SHADES OF GREY

## SYNOPSSES

### NUS DANCE ENSEMBLE

## 静动之间

*(Between Stillness and Motion)*

by Peter Teo

静与动之间的一种对比，互动，交流。。。

**The contrasts, interactions and exchanges between stillness and motion.**

*Peter's item is inspired by Tai Chi, as well as the elements of Yin & Yang.*

*Peter joined DE in its early years, back in 1998 when the classes were held in NUS LT13. Peter is currently the Resident Instructor of SIM Dance Art (Jazz/Contemporary) and the Director of Xin Yi Dance Company (Chinese Dance). He has choreographed abroad for artistes such as Derrick MacDonald, Xiao Xiao and Fan Yi Cheng.*

*"It was a challenge because the dancers are of different standards and backgrounds, and most have not done my style of movement before. Despite that, I love the challenge, and I love my cast more."*

### DANCERS

Adrian Foo Min Sheng

Amanda Goh Hui Yi

Ang Wen Qi

Chee Yi Wen Serene

Clarissa Ng

Dawne Chua Yun Xi

Lee Mun Yee

Low Wei Zheng

Natalia Tan Jing Wei

Ng Ca Lin

Nicole Lim Shu Qi

Peh Chin Min Kathleen

Pheh Adelia

Tong Kah Mun

Yin Jun Hao

# EVOCATION 2019 : SHADES OF GREY

## SYNOPSIS

REPUBLIC POLYTECHNIC

### *(ME)ntal*

by Ukasyah Bin Zulkifie

**Every negative occurrence in one's head snowballing into something bigger - creating an avalanche of exasperating thoughts & release.**

*Ukasyah's item is inspired by his past experience of anger and stress that led to an undesirable outcome.*

*Ukasyah has been dancing in DE productions for a year as a dancer. This is his first time as a choreographer in a DE production.*

*"Choreographing for Evocation is quite stressful at times because of the high standards set by previous years. However, this experience is a blessing for me, especially for my first ever item."*

### **DANCERS**

Chester Lim Zheng Han  
Ezra Iskandar Bin Md Pauzi  
Fikri Ahmad Fahmi  
Loo Jun Kai, Jarren  
Matyn Nail Qamara Bin Azli  
Muhammad Haziq Bin Ilyas

Muhammad Illiaza Bin Alias  
Nathanil Kai Shun Ravikumar  
Nursyahidah Binte Rahim  
Nurul Ashikin Bte Abudol Ramin  
Stanton Soh  
Ukasyah Bin Zulkifie

# EVOCATION 2019 : SHADES OF GREY

## SYNOPSES

NUS DANCE ENSEMBLE

### #conversations

by Rebecca Koh Qing Fang

#### **If everyone is talking, who is listening?**

*Rebecca's item is a response to social media, and questions how and why we communicate.*

*Rebecca joined DE as a freshman in 2014. She has recently choreographed for Evocation 2018, with her piece 'Suspended Dreams'.*

*"I think it's always exciting to choreograph because you find out more about yourself as a Dancer, and you get a chance to either develop or break from certain habits. As a choreographer you constantly have to look at a piece from different perspectives - be it the audience or the dancers, while keeping your own voice, which is difficult but rewarding. Especially when you go through it with a supportive and understanding cast, like the one I've been blessed with!"*

#### **DANCERS**

Charmayne Lim Rong Su

Cheong Shu Yan

Darren Tan Jia Wei

Fong Si Hwee

Gan Yu Xuan

Jillian Colombo

Joey Seah Wen Xin

Kaelynn Soh Hwee Sin

Lau Yu Tong

Low Wei Zheng

Rachel Ong Rei Chi

Tan Su Yan

Thng Boon Leong Daniel

Tng Yue Lin Geraldine

Wee Yong Geng, Eldric

Yin Jun Hao

# EVOCATION 2019 : SHADES OF GREY

## SYNOPSES

REPUBLIC POLYTECHNIC

### *Solitary* by Syarul Haffyan (Gray)

**As humans, as much as we are sincere in giving to others, we need to receive back the same sincerity to carry on with life. This item is meant to show how a person who is sane and genuine can go crazy when they are alone with their thoughts and has no one to reach out to.**

*Syarul's item was based on his personal experience during crisis, and explores how loneliness can affect a person's mental state.*

*After joining SGC in his first year in RP, Syarul was able to perform in many platforms including DE in Evocation 2017, under Lutfil's item.*

*"It is an honour to be choreographing for this year's Evocation 2019 as it is my first time choreographing for a big show like this. I feel grateful to have been given this opportunity."*

### **DANCERS**

Abdul Hafiz Bin Abdul Hamid

Al-Asyraf Bin Azman

Calista Choong Qi

Chai Jin Er, Jingle

Fithri Afini

Jewel Tan

Mohamed Nor'Ridzwan Bin Mohamed Zaini

Muhammad Adam B Tukiran

Muhammad Fairuz Ahlam Bin A J

Muhammad Isa Chia

Muhammad Khairullah Bin Mohamed Iqbal

Muhammad Shairazi bin Suhaimi

Muhammad Zuhairi Bin Zainal

Ng Wan Xuan Klaire

Nicole Lim Yuxin

Nur Raudhah Binte Jamaludin

Nur Zarifah Binte Muhammad Sazali

Sara Alyssa Norhisam

Siti Mahirah Binte Razali

Tan Zi Yi Crystabel



# EVOCATION 2019 : SHADES OF GREY

## SYNOPSES

### NUS DANCE ENSEMBLE

## *Heartsleeves*

by Subastian Tan Bo Hern

**They say that blood is thicker than water, yet we don't get to choose which family we are born into. With our many expressions of love, how do we navigate our way around the relationships we have in our families?**

*Subastian's item is based off his personal experiences with familial love, and how love and sincere communication starts from vulnerability.*

*Subastian was a member of DE since 2013, joining the company when he was 18.*

*"Every choreography I create with DE is always a brand-new experience. It was a challenge to balance relatability and self-indulgence, but hopefully, I have managed to connect with some of you out there while connecting to myself as a choreographer and person as well. Thank you DE for being a place I can come home to, and thank you Zaini for creating a safe space for us to express."*

### DANCERS

Avril Brenda Chan

Chang Kai Wen

Cheong Yin Min

Germain Toh Zhi Ning

Guan Rui Qi Rachel

Isabelle Marie Elodie Pere

Keely Robin Sim

Lam Jun Yuan

Lau Yu Tong

Ng Ca Lin

Seng Yu Heng (Arthur)

Tan Mazie

Tan Ying Pin Kester

Yap Jia Xin

# EVOCATION 2019 : SHADES OF GREY

## SYNOPSES

REPUBLIC POLYTECHNIC

### *Trepidation* by Muhammadinil Mustafar

**Fear is a hindrance in our lives which prevents us from maximising our true potential. It can make us grow to become someone better or else, we remain stagnant. In the end, if we don't overcome our fear now, then when?**

*Mustafar's item is inspired by his personal journey of growth in the face of unease and fear.*

*This is the first time RP Silat is participating in a DE production. This will be Mustafar's largest and most aspiring item yet.*

*"I was elated and in awe that RP Silat was given a chance to perform with DE. My personal takeaway is the exposure to how DE creates their items, in terms of the design, composition and technique."*

### DANCERS

Balqiis Dzaakirah Binte Rosli

Muhammad Azhar Bin Mohamed  
Azhad

Muhammad Danial Hakim Bin Salihin

Muhammad Nabil Bin Ab Rashid

Muhammadinil Mustafar Bin Mohd Isa

Nabilah Bte Herman

Noor Helmi Bin Johar

Nur Aqilah Anisah Bte Azahar

Nur Atiqah Binte Mohammad Suffian

Nur Kamiliah Binte Mohamed Hashim

Nur Lyana Adlina Bte Rozali

Nur Shoofiyah Binte Mohamad Sahftee

Nur Syafiqah Bte Abdul Aziz

Nurul Azhari Bin Naaim

Nurul Syazwana Binte Iwan Saleh

Qaidah Dhabitah Binte Mas Nawi

Siti Noordiyana Bte Azaman

Siti Umairah Mohamad Shah

Tanti Nur Mutiara Bte Zainal

Tuah Azaleigh Bin Mohamed Hanif

# EVOCATION 2019 : SHADES OF GREY

## SYNOPSSES

### NUS DANCE ENSEMBLE

// // // //  
... ..

by Danielle Marie V. Patayan & Stefanie Teo Shi Wen

#### **How do you resolve an argument?**

*Danielle and Stefanie's item explores conflicts in relationships, and the consequences of not listening to the other party.*

*Both Danielle and Stefanie joined DE back in 2016, and have since then been active members.*

*"Working with our friends and fellow DE batch mates in itself was a challenge; we knew what their strengths were and wanted to showcase them, but we also felt like they could be pushed even further to be better dancers. We are very thankful for this opportunity to test our creative boundaries, and we hope that the dancers did take away something from this experience."*

#### **DANCERS**

Anne Wang  
Avril Brenda Chan  
Camy Cheng Jia Yi  
Chan Yew Wei  
Cheong Yin Min  
Chew Yu De  
Chng Kah Gim, Bernard  
Chua Zile  
Deepakrishna Tangarajan  
Ho Tsung Wen, Owen

Kermeu Koh Yee Ting  
Natalia Tan Jing Wei  
Ng Qi Lin Elliot  
Savanna Gan Shue-Anne  
Sebastian Tan Jun Pin  
Shanon Kua Yan Yu  
Sheryl Lim Jing Yi  
Yap Jia Xin  
Yin Jun Hao

# EVOCATION 2019 : SHADES OF GREY

## SYNOPSES

REPUBLIC POLYTECHNIC

### *Equilibrium*

by Chester Lim & Kwan Chun Kit Sean

**Everyone yearns freedom, but not everyone knows what to do when they have it. So what will be the path that one takes when they do?**

*Chester and Sean's item is a reflection of their dance journey, as well as a statement of vindication.*

*The first time Chester and Sean danced with DE was in Evocation 2018 under Lutfil and Fendy. This will be their first time working with DE as choreographers.*

*"Most of our dancers have never met each other before, let alone danced together, but after these few months, our dancers now have a high level of understanding between each other and most importantly, forged a strong bond not just as dancers, but as people."*

### **DANCERS**

Adriel Rhys Lancaon Odiada  
Ahmad Fikri B Ahmad Fahmi  
Annisa Senen  
Celine Tan Qian Ling  
Chai Yen Sim  
Chester Lim Zheng Han  
Choo Jia Min, Jasmine  
City Amaliya Bte Ramdan  
Dylan Wong Jian Yong  
Joshua Pulvera Seah Jiah He

Katherine Teo Ke Ying  
Koh Man Ling  
Kwan Chun Kit Sean  
Muhammad Hafiz Bin Abdul Shahri  
Muhd Deen Raiyan Bin Musa  
Nadia Ferina Binte Kamarudin  
Paula Grace Orallo Formantes  
Roy Lee Ming Han  
Tang Hannah  
Winnie Liew Hui Ying



# EVOCATION 2019 : SHADES OF GREY

## SYNOPSSES

REPUBLIC POLYTECHNIC

### *Resonance*

by Muhammad Lutfil Hadi & Noor Effendy Bin Abdul Razak

**Music is an important factor in different individuals' lives for various reasons.**

*Lutfil and Fendy's item is an appreciation of music, and how there is no dance without music.*

*This is the second time both Lutfil and Fendy are choreographing for Evocation, the first being last year. Their crew received 3rd place in last year's World Supremacy Battlegrounds (WSB) Competition.*

*This year, we wanted to focus more on improvisation and less on choreography, and we tried combining various styles into one seamless item. We did a lot of exploring this time round, expanding our vocab and experimenting with composition.*

### **DANCERS**

Luqman Nur Hakim b Zulkifli

Mohamed Amsyar Bin Hazli

Muhammad Lutfil Hadi Bin Mohd Taufik

Muhammad Nur Haqeen Bin Rashid

Muhammad Shairazi bin Suhaimi

Muhammed Daniel Bin Anuar

Noor Effendy Bin Abdul Razak

Noor Izzahar Bin Noorazzaman

Syarul Haffyan Bin Hamzah

Wira Satria Bin Mohammed Ismail

Zainatul Putra Bin Mohd Arman

# EVOCATION 2019 : SHADES OF GREY

## SYNOPSIS

NUS DANCE ENSEMBLE

### *Matilah Kau*

by Zaini Mohd Tahir

**Cherrilynn :** When the love you give is repaid with bitterness and betrayal - will you stay or be brave enough to walk away?

**Anne :** Of all the wounds one can feel, love is the scariest and most painful to heal.

**Zaini :** Go and die

### DANCERS

Anne Wang  
Cherrilynn Chia  
Chua Yi Zhen  
Diana Loh Jing Wei  
Gynette Ng Min Yi  
Jillian Colombo  
Joey Seah Wen Xin  
Kermeu Koh Yee Ting

Long Li Jing, Cheryl  
Loo Ying Ern  
Rebecca Koh Qing Fang  
Savanna Gan Shue-Anne  
Seet See Kim  
Tan Xue Hui  
Tang Hannah





## About **Zaini Mohd Tahir**

Zaini is the founder and Artistic Director of NUS Dance Ensemble since 1992 and has led the company of over 120 dancers to great acclaim, evident in their annual concerts, Next Wave and Evocation, as well as exchanges in Indonesia, Cambodia, Macau, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines and Hong Kong. His other choreographic/directorial works include CABARET (Toy Factory, 2006). Singapore Day in New York (2007), National Broadway Company (TheatreWorks, 2012), MIDEM Music Festival at Cannes (2012), Samarpaana Festival (Bangalore and Singapore, 2013), Beauty World (2015), As One (Nanyang Poly, 2015), Momentum Dance Festival (Republic Poly, 2008-2019) and Emblazon Dance Concert (Institute of Technical Education, 2013-2019).



His last cross-border projects include choreographing Osman Ali's latest musical film, 'Sinaran' with Malaysian star Lisa Surihani and Sheila Majid, and being the Singapore judge for Zee TV's reality dance show, Dance Singapore Dance, which was televised all over Asia. He has also been invited to be in the panel of adjudicators for numerous dance competitions including The Royal Dance Off (O School, 2011-2017) and Singapore Youth Festival Presentation (Ministry of Education, 2013-2019). He was the Chief Choreographer of National Day Parade 2014, 2015, 2018 and 2019.

At the New Prague Dance Festival held in July 2009, he received two accolades – Best Choreographer Award and a Special Award by the Festival Director and in 2010, he was presented the Commendation Medal at the National Day Awards for his contribution to the youths through the arts.



# EVOCATION 2019 : SHADES OF GREY

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND CHOREOGRAPHERS

**Zaini Mohd Tahir**

Artistic Director &  
Resident Choreographer

**Amanda Sim Wei Shan**

**Chester Lim**

**Danielle Marie V. Patayan**

**Kwan Chun Kit Sean**

**Muhammad Lutfil Hadi**

**Muhammadinil Mustafar**

**Noor Effendy Bin Abdul Razak**

**Peter Teo**

**Rebecca Koh Qing Fang**

**Stefanie Teo Shi Wen**

**Subastian Tan Bo Hern**

**Syarul Haffyan (Gray)**

**Taufiq Rosly (ET)**

**Ukasyah Bin Zulkifie**

Choreographers

# EVOCATION 2019 : SHADES OF GREY

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### PRODUCTIONS

**Eunice Yap**

Producer/CFA Group Manager

**Jeremy Leow**

RP Group Manager

**Jacyntha Tan Jia Min**

Stage Manager

**Toh Mei Xing Cheryl**

Assistant Stage Manager

**Roberts Chanel Christine**

**Herna Herriana Bte Herman**

Assistant Stage Managers (RP)

**Intan Nurliana Bte Yusli**

Chief Artist Liaison Manager (RP)

**Rebecca Fong Xian Shi**

Assistant Chief Artist Liaison Manager (RP)

**Darwisyah Bte Rosman**

**Nur Jannah Bte Mohammad Rafi**

Front of House Managers (RP)

**Gan Zhiting**

Lighting Designer (RP)

**Kuang Jingkai**

**Tan Ee Tong**

Photographers

# EVOCATION 2019 : SHADES OF GREY

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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**Loo Ying Ern**

Vice-president (Productions)

**Tay Jia Yi**

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Dance Captain

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Production Manager

**Anne Wang**

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Welfare & Logistics Heads





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