



ART:DIS
ARTS & DISABILITY
SINGAPORE

PRESENTS

MONSTRESS

The reclaiming of Medea and Medusa

Written by Jean Tay and Claire Teo



PRE-SHOW GUIDE

HELLO,

Thank you supporting our performance of MONSTRESS - The reclaiming of Medea and Medusa. This visual story helps prepare you for the experience.

The performance will be held at ART:DIS Bukit Merah Centre Black Box located at 3779 Jalan Bukit Merah, Bukit Merah Community Hub, #03-02 Singapore 159462.



HOW TO GET TO THE VENUE



CAR/ PRIVATE HIRE

Recommended Carpark:

BM31 (Multi-storey Car Park)

119 Bukit Merah Central, Singapore 150119

Recommended Drop Off:

161 Bukit Merah Central, Singapore 150161



MRT

Nearest MRT station:

Redhill MRT & 10 mins walk



BUS

Nearest Bus stops (Code):

Bukit Merah Town Ctr (10091)

Opp Bukit Merah Town Ctr (10099)

Blk 161 (10651)

HOW TO GET TO THE VENUE

Once you arrive, please enter the Bukit Merah Community Hub building and take the lift up to Level 3. A friendly staff will be at the entrance to guide you to the Black Box.



TOILETS

Toilets are available at the centre, including an accessible washroom.



WELCOME TO THE BLACK BOX!

When you enter, you will see the sides of the theatre space covered with black curtains, which help create the performance area and keep the space dark when needed. Some parts of the seating area are covered with yellow blankets to relate to the story.



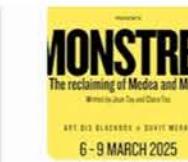
SEATING

You are welcomed to seat at the row of theatre seats, the seats at the sides with the backrest or floor seating on the yellow blankets. The first row will be given priority for wheelchair users or visually impaired audiences. If you require Captioning, it is recommended to seat in Rows 2 and 3.



TICKETS

Remember to bring your tickets and present it to the staff at the registration counter before entering the Black Box. You can show the e-copy on your mobile phone, or print it out before coming.



MONSTRESS - The reclaiming of Medea and Medusa



XXXXXXXXXX Ticket 1 of 1
General Admission



Add to Apple Wallet

Date

Sat, Mar 8, 2025

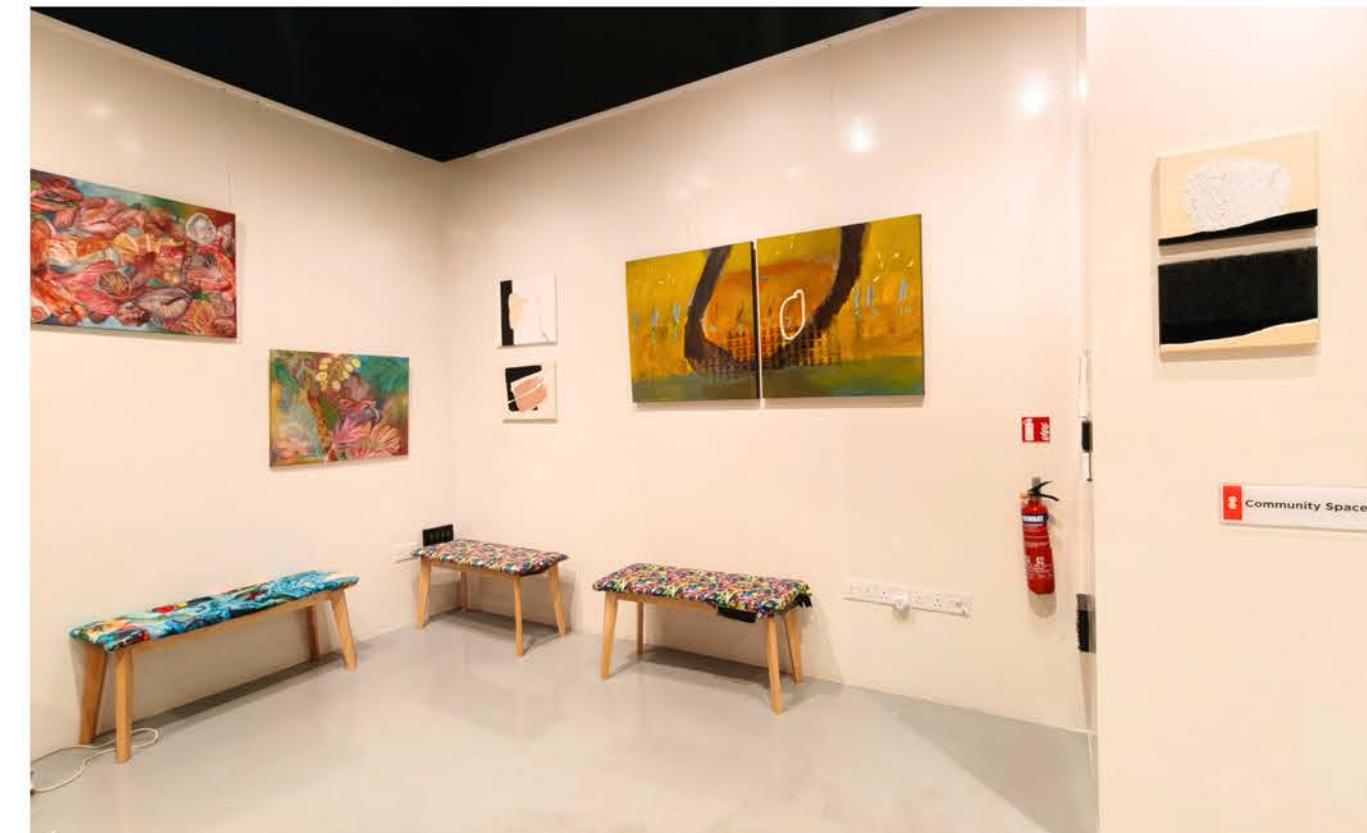
Time

3:00-4:30pm

[Add to calendar](#)

CALM ROOM & RESTING AREA

You can take a break here anytime or outside at the Community space.





TRIGGER WARNING & RELAXED PERFORMANCE

This show is suitable for 18 years old and above.

There are references to death, physical violence and sexual assault which may be distressing to some viewers. Viewer discretion is advised.

You may leave and enter as and when required. If needed, you may exit through the door at the back on your right. A staff member will also be present to assist.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



“What do I see?”

I see a show called **MONSTRESS**, a truly monstrous production that has been a privilege to stage.
Named from the combination of ‘monster’ and ‘-ess’, i.e., a female monster.

I see two greek mythological characters whose stories have been used to vilify women for centuries,
Medea & Medusa.

And I see a re-interpretation of those stories into a modern context, speaking to issues of sexual assault, the
murder of disabled children & the systemic failure on those individuals.

Yvan Karlsson
Director

**I see monsters. Many of them.
But maybe not the ones you think.**

“What do you see?”

ABOUT THE SHOW

“MONSTRESS” is about Mei, a young blind girl who moves to a new neighbourhood. She forms an unexpected friendship with Melissa, a mother struggling to care for her son, Sam, who has high support needs. As their lives connect, they find comfort in each other, understanding the unseen struggles they both face. Together, they navigate a world that often ignores the most vulnerable.



DURATION

The show will be 75 minutes long without a break.



LIGHTING AND SPECIAL EFFECTS

The overall lighting themes has contrast of warm and cold tones to show emotional shifts, expressing reality and being in the dreamscape world. There are uses of faint naturalistic shadows and shadow play with silhouettes to stimulate certain scenes like in the playground or home. A bright overhead light will also be used for interrogation scene.



MUSIC AND SOUND

There will be sound effects and background music. Some moments may be quiet and intimate, while others may have sudden loud sounds like shouting, swooshing and thumping. If sudden noises startle you, you can bring ear defenders or headphones.



MOVEMENTS

Characters frequently enter and exit marking transitions between time periods and emotional states. There are physical struggles like pushing and pulling as well as gestures of care, such as embracing and shielding. Other movements include water-inspired movements like floating and sinking.

LIVE CREATIVE NARRATION

Live creative narration guides the audience through different times, emotions, and perspectives. A narrator describes key moments, setting the mood and helping audience understand what is happening. The narration brings the story to life by showing what the characters feel, see, and experience. It connects past and present, giving insight into their thoughts and actions. Light, sound, and movement are also described to create atmosphere and focus attention.

CREATIVE CAPTIONING

Creative captioning displays dialogue, describe sounds, music, and tone, helping the audience experience the emotions and atmosphere. Captions provide additional emotional cues where sudden shifts in expression and tone are crucial. The use of captioning also helps to structure the performance, guiding audience focus between past and present timelines.

THE CHARACTERS/ACTORS

MEI LING played by Claire Teo



Claire Teo

This is Claire. She plays the character Mei at ages 10, 14, and 20. Mei is a visually impaired girl who moves into her uncle's house with her mother. Mei is fierce, independent and determined to be heard. She struggles with trauma from abuse and distrusts authority figures. She forms a close bond with Sam.



Mei at 10 years old



Mei at 14 years old



Mei at 20 years old

SAM played by Syarifuddin Sahari



Syarifuddin Sahari



Sam

This is Syarifuddin. He plays the character Sam, aged 10 and 14. Sam is neurodivergent, struggles with communication, and finds comfort in repetitive actions and tactile sensations. Sam is loving and expressive in his own way but misunderstood by society. He will be seen wrapped in a yellow blanket in some scenes. He develops a deep bond with Mei and dependent on his mum, Melissa.

MELISSA played by Oon Shu An



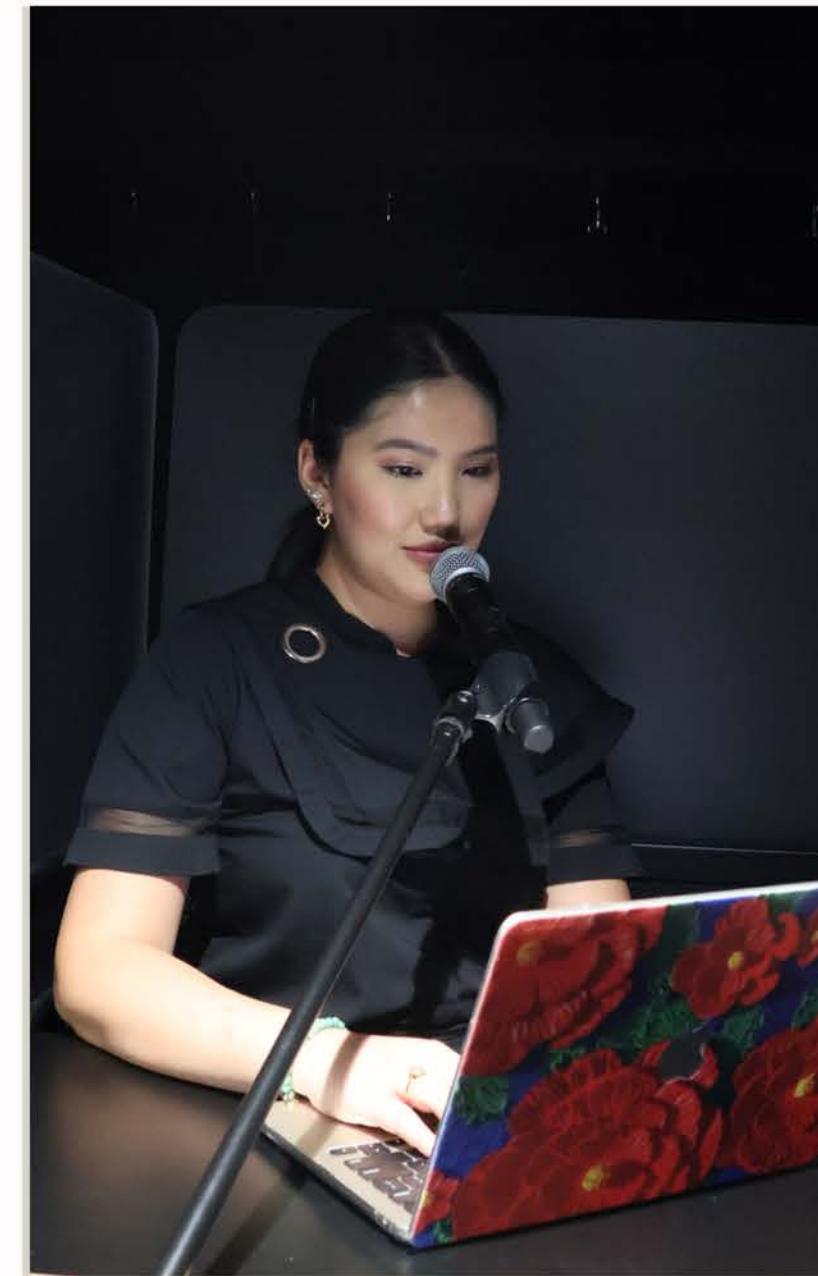
Oon Shu An



Melissa

This is Oon Shu An, who plays Melissa, Sam's mother. Melissa is a single mother to Sam who struggles with societal judgement and lack of support for raising a neurodivergent child. She is fiercely protective of Sam, yet carries guilt and frustration. Her relationship with Sam is strained and faces conflicted feelings about being judged as a mother.

Creative Narrator and Investigation Officer Su Paing Tun



Su Paing Tun plays a dual role in the play. She is the **Creative Narrator** who functions as a guide throughout the play, providing live audio descriptions and scene transitions. Unlike other characters, the narrator does not actively participate but offers insight into visual elements, moods and critical moments.

Su also portrays the **Investigation officer** and represents a detached figure that questions **Mei** and **Melissa** in their respective interrogations.

Props and Set

Throughout the performance, some of the props or set pieces will be used and repositioned to create different scenes efficiently. For example:



The Arch is used to represent part of the playground, windows and when overturned, becomes part of a plaque.



The grey cubes are used as furniture such as chairs, tables, platform to stand on and scene transitions.



THE STORY

The play begins with an interrogation. Melissa, the mother of Sam, and Mei, a young woman, are questioned separately about past events. It becomes clear that the story revolves around Sam's tragic death and Mei's unresolved trauma.

ACT I: 10 YEARS AGO - CHILDHOOD

ACT I: 10 YEARS AGO - CHILDHOOD



Mei, a 10 year old visually impaired girl moves into her uncle's home with her mother. She feels ignored and lonely, struggling to adjust to her new surroundings.



Mei meets Sam, who is neurodivergent and has trouble speaking but loves drawing turtles and repeating words. Their first meeting at the playground is awkward. Mei doesn't understand him at first but realizes that they can communicate through touch and sound. The playground dome becomes their safe place.

ACT I: 10 YEARS AGO - CHILDHOOD



Melissa, Sam's single mother is stressed and overworked. She tries to get Sam into school but no one will accept him. She feels trapped and alone, trying her best but receiving no support from society.



Sam pulls Mei's hair not realizing it hurts her. Melissa scolds Sam thinking he is hurting Mei but Mei defends Sam saying she understands her better than adults do.

ACT I: 10 YEARS AGO - CHILDHOOD



At home Mei feels unheard and dismissed by her family. She is being abused by her uncle but when she tries to speak up, no one listens to her. She learns that adults don't protect or believe her.



Mei and Sam finds comfort in each other even though they struggle to fit into the world around them.

ACT 2: 6 YEARS AGO - REBELLION

ACT 2: 6 YEARS AGO - REBELLION



Mei, now 14, tries to report her uncle's abuse but authorities don't believe her. They question her memories and doubt her because she is blind. Mei feels trapped and unheard like when she was younger.



Melissa, now 35, is exhausted and struggling to care for Sam alone. Sam, now a teenager, is harder to manage, and public judgement grows stronger. A police incident happens and Sam accidentally hits an officer.

ACT 2: 6 YEARS AGO - REBELLION



Mei cannot take her home life and tries to escape. She asks Melissa for help, hoping to stay with her and Sam but Melissa refuses. Mei confesses her abuse but Melissa doesn't know how to react and calls Mei's mother instead of helping her. Feeling betrayed, Mei calls Melissa a "monster".



Melissa reaches her breaking point. Feeling like she has failed as a mother. She takes Sam to the beach, their favourite place. Sam drowns. Was it an accident or, did Melissa let him go? Melissa is arrested and interrogated accused of killing her son.

ACT 3: PRESENT DAY

ACT 3: PRESENT DAY



Mei, now 20, is still trying to get justice for the abuse she suffered. The authorities tell her there isn't enough evidence because too much time has passed. Melissa's witness statement gives her hope to move forward.



Mei and Melissa reunite at the playground, six years after Sam's death. Melissa is filled with regret and apologizes for not helping Mei when she needed her the most. Mei does not forgive her easily, reminding Melissa that ignoring the truth made it worse.

ACT 3: PRESENT DAY



Mei now works as a teacher for children with high-support needs honouring Sam's memory. She has found strength in her survival but still carries the pain of the past.



Mei places a yellow flower at the overturned arch, a symbol of remembrance, grief and moving forward.

END OF SHOW



Black Box curtains will be drawn and actors will leave the stage together through main exit and the performance ends.



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ENJOY THE SHOW!