

**Title: A Performance that Involves Children's Feedback**

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**Reporter: Farid Hamzah**

**Translated by: Nur Salshabila**

To instill harmony between communities - regardless of race, religion or different expectations. That is the message a theater group is advocating through their performance at the Ace Festival which will start tomorrow.

What is interesting is that the performance by I Theatre will take into account feedback from about 20 underprivileged children who are beneficiaries of CARE Singapore. The children were invited to watch one of the performance practices and were later asked for their opinion on whether the performance is suitable for those as young as two and a half to eight years old.

After the session on May 17, I Theatre will make changes to their performance based on the feedback gathered. The result is a performance titled 'Spot The Difference' lasting for 45 minutes involving three actors.

Writer, Mr Brian Seward, said the play was focused on visuals with little dialogue to entice children. "What is important is that the audience understands that every one of us is different, and we all have to accept that," says the Permanent Resident (PR) who is also the Artistic Director of I Theatre. He said the concept of staging based on feedback from viewers has long existed in the United Kingdom (UK) but it is quite a new phenomenon here.

According to him, there is an arts group in the UK who has made such staging in schools to gather feedback. If the feedback received were negative, the group will not continue with the performance.

**Tan Chin Tuan Foundation, which helps involve the children in the pre-public performance, said art, music and plays encourages discussions and reflections.**

**Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the foundation, Ms Yap Su- Yin said: "By encouraging the children to express their views in helpful and constructive ways, we want them to know that their 'voices' and their views are also taken into account."**

However, would it not be difficult for an actor to make a change after months of practice? An actor who is involved in the play, Mr Joshua Lim, 28, said: "That is the challenge that must be undertaken. In fact, as a theater actor, we know that anything can happen before or during a performance. So we should always be prepared and adapt to whatever unexpected changes there might be."

The performance tells a story of three characters that have different tastes and preferences. Soo (a character played by Ms Fervyn Tan, 23 years old) loves all circles or ovals and curves. Vik (a character played by Mr Lim) prefers everything that is straight like triangles or squares with no curves or rounded edges. Another character that is played by another theater actor, Mr Mohamed Farez Najid, 26 years old, as Ziggity dislike both Soo and Vik's preferences.

So how do they come together and overcome all these differences? How about you visit the Drama Centre Black Box Theatre, located at the National Library building in Victoria Street from tomorrow till May 31 to know the full story of this performance?

The performance starts at 9.15 am, 11.15 am and 2 pm (Monday to Friday), while on Saturday it runs at 10.30 am, 12.30 pm and 2.30 pm. The entrance fee is \$30 (not inclusive of booking fee).

