 Cities change. People die. Everything you know goes away.

She’s A Great Way to Fly
A theatre variety show produced by Tan Kheng Hua

Singapore, 9 Oct 2018 — Is our national celestial icon still relevant? She’s as old as the merlion, a seemingly immortal fixture of the national parade, and a bygone subject of social criticism. But what does this generation make of the Singapore Girl?

On weekends from 26 October to 4 November, The Substation co-presents She’s A Great Way to Fly with veteran actress and producer Tan Kheng Hua, a theatre variety show featuring new works by a medley of young artists who dissect the national brand representative. “Women of my generation grew up aspiring to be the Singapore Girl. But I wanted to hear from young women (and men) of this generation.” says Tan Kheng Hua.

A part of The Substation’s year-long interrogation of heritage-making in Singapore, She’s A Great Way to Fly is the headliner in a month of programmes revolving around the Singapore Girl, titled Singapore Girl, or Heritage Deployed. The spread of programmes include an interactive exhibition, an alternative runway, and now a variety show.

Produced by Tan Kheng Hua, the variety show explores the commodification of nostalgia through the celebrated icon, and questions what she means to artists of this generation through an offbeat and experimental medley of performances, which includes kebaya-clad yoga, a dance adapting from movements permitted by the kebaya, performance lectures, three monologues, and a short film.

Some of the highlights of the night include filmmakers André Chong and Lim Zeharn’s short film about Sarah, a newly inducted Singapore Airlines (SIA) flight attendant, and the difficulties of living up to the strictures and standards expected of the Singapore Girl. Her disillusionment is explored through stories of in-flight encounters shared with her Indonesian helper, Liz. Both individuals bond over the struggle of being away from home.

Photographer Jacqueline Chang, whose series of photographs are currently on display in The Substation foyer, approaches the national icon by giving her an individual voice. The portraits compile quotes and anecdotes from SQ girls and boys, past and present. Of her work, “I picked these subjects to best answer the question I had at the start of this anthropological project—How do people seem to know when someone’s a SQ girl? And how does one identify the stereotype or ‘pedigree’ that makes her up?”

On the artists she’s chosen to work with, Tan Kheng Hua says, “I chose the people to collaborate with in She’s A Great Way to Fly in the same way I choose all my collaborators in other projects. I respect them as artists; I like their work ethic; they are very fun people to work with and be around; my instincts tell me they will be good for my show; they have talent I want to showcase and am proud to support.”
Ticketing information

She’s A Great Way To Fly
26, 27 & 28 October
2, 3 & 4 November
8pm
The Substation Theatre
$25/$30 (Afterparty at Timbre on 26 October & 3 November)
Tickets at greatwaytofly.peatix.com

Summary of works and artists in She’s A Great Way to Fly

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Artist</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keba-Yoga Flow</td>
<td>Yen Then</td>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>A one-hour-long advanced yoga flow sequence in a kebaya.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Singa-rella</td>
<td>ScRach MarcS</td>
<td>Interpretive Dance</td>
<td>5 mins</td>
<td>A dance interpretation adapting from gestures a Singapore Girl makes while in the kebaya and ‘performing’ service on board.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah</td>
<td>André Chong &amp; Lim Zeharn</td>
<td>Short Film</td>
<td>10 mins</td>
<td>A short portrait on Sarah, a newly inducted Singapore Airlines (SIA) flight attendant, and her unusual relationship with her Indonesian domestic helper, Liz.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three Songs Which Should be On Air</td>
<td>Joie Tan, Jana Ann &amp; Joy Ng</td>
<td>Live Music</td>
<td>9 mins</td>
<td>Songs written about the Singapore Girl by Joie Tan, and performed by Jana Ann &amp; Joy Ng.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Kebaya 101</td>
<td>Leonard Choo</td>
<td>Costume Performance Lecture</td>
<td>15 mins</td>
<td>An exploration of the sarong kebaya as seen through the eyes of a tailor. This performance lecture will break down the specific construction elements of the garment as a text, and through that, explore the ways in which the iconic uniform straddles the boundaries of “eastern” and “western” clothing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Singapore) Girls</td>
<td>Audrey Teong, Shirin Keshvani &amp; Alysha Chandra</td>
<td>Theatre</td>
<td>15 mins</td>
<td>Three theatre graduates write, direct, and perform a piece on what the iconic Singapore Girl means to young Singaporean women. They perform in the sarong kebaya.</td>
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<tr>
<td>It’s Like That</td>
<td>Jacqueline Chang</td>
<td>Performance Lecture</td>
<td>intermittent</td>
<td>A performance lecture of SQ Girl portraits and essays that are projected intermittently through the show.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SQ Girl, The Reroute</td>
<td>Syndicate SG’s KIAT &amp; Cherry Chan</td>
<td>Afterparty at Timbre (only on 26 October &amp; 3 November)</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>A themed-party and DJ set, featuring vintage SQ clips. Tickets to the afterparty include one free drink.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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For more information and the latest updates, please

Website: citieschange.sg
Facebook: @thesubstation
Instagram: @the_substation

High res and more information on programme partners can be found here.

Sarah, André Chong & Lim Zeharn, 2018. Short Film.

She’s A Great Way To Fly, Produced by Tan Kheng Hua, 2018. The Substation.

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About The Substation

The Substation is Singapore’s first independent contemporary arts centre. Established in 1990 by the late Kuo Pao Kun, it is known for its pioneering and experimental arts programming. Over the years, The Substation has worked with some of Singapore’s most critically acclaimed artists, writers and intellectuals including Alvin Tan, Goh Boon Teck, Amanda Heng, Lee Wen and Kok Heng Leun. The Substation is a recipient of the National Arts Council’s Major Grant from April 2017–March 2020.
www.substation.org

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