



Challenges and Issues in Singapore Arts Education:  
The Question of “Vendors” in Schools  
*By Vicky Gunawan and Elvira Holmberg*

## MUSIC

OneHeartBeat is a well-known pioneer in bringing percussion music to the Schools under the Singapore National Arts Council – Arts Education Programme Scheme. Starting off with educational performances (Arts Exposure), the group eventually moved on to offer workshop programmes (Arts Experience), allowing more students to have hands on opportunities with different types of percussion instruments, while exploring their inner creativity and at the same time, pick up life skills such as team work, respect and arts appreciation. The team prides themselves to be an organization that comprises of all-rounded practicing musicians who perform, teach, facilitate, write and administrate.

Vicky Gunawan is an Arts Manager and Musician with a local music company, OneHeartBeat Percussions. She graduated from LASALLE College of the Arts in 2005 with a Diploma in Arts Management and from the University of Manchester in 2008 with a Degree in Management.

Vicky has a strong belief in the Arts and has developed a great sense of conviction that the Arts played an undeniable role in the holistic, multi faceted development of a student. Vicky is a strong advocate for quality arts education and strongly believes in its ability to inculcate values and skills essential for life. It is this believe and her passion for the arts that has made her a constant driving force behind OneHeartbeat Percussions’ education programmes.

## DRAMA

Elvira Holmberg has been devising and directing for the theatre since 1987. She worked extensively in projects for youth and adult theater with The Necessary Stage [TNS]. She was also involved in various projects with Teater Kami, Theatreworks, SRT and The Practice Performing Arts School before she went abroad in 1998. In The Netherlands, she participated in the development of new work and performances with theatre companies such as Cosmic Theater, DNA, Keizer en van der Mast.

Since her return in 2009, Elvira has directed performances for two junior colleges, was involved in Singapore Arts Festival 2010 Open Studio and continues to be so, and has directed three performances for the Esplanade's SMTP programme.

Elvira is also an experienced educator. Since she began teaching, Elvira has directed performances and taught curriculum drama to primary, secondary and IB level students at various international and local schools. Presently, Elvira is involved in developing theatre arts curriculum and training students and staff as resident artist in three different schools.

Elvira is an active member of the Singapore Drama Educators Association and is currently serving as co-chair of the SDEA Theatre Arts Conference 2013 and SDEA's Vice-President.

# CARE FORUM SERIES

Wed, 29 August 2012  
06:30-8:30pm

NTU @ One-North  
SR907, 11 Slim Barracks  
Rise (Off North Buona  
Vista Road) S138664

Please register by  
28 August at

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?formkey=dDVMVG9BQjI0bGRWQkFYX19za2FtNVE6MQ#gid=0>

This presentation will discuss arts practitioners’ relations with schools and the current challenges and issues of local Arts Education. The speakers (Vicky Gunawan and Elvira Holmberg) will talk about their collaborative work in/with schools, their short-term and long-term work with schools, and the general scene for music and drama “vendors” in Singapore.

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