

# The Arts and Special Education

## “Small Steps” by Shahrin Johry

*The Arts and Special Education* is a series of forums that aim to discuss and investigate teaching methods and strategies in Arts Special Education including but not limited to special needs and the gifted.



As the dance program leader of Down Syndrome Association Singapore (DSAS) since 2005, Shahrin has been pivotal in providing DSAS an avenue for inclusive arts practice. “Small Steps” (2013), one of his pieces with dancers with Down Syndrome, sets as a stepping stone for the dancers to reach their dream by making small steps. It’s a “a heart-warming show with a true sense of inclusion and community...” (The Flying Inkpot, 2013). In March 2017, **Small Steps** was featured in the upcoming Bold Festival in Canberra, Australia.

In 2015, Canberra Dance Theatre, Australia and choreographer Liz Lea invited Shahrin to work with special needs youth from their programme; he choreographed a piece that was performed in ‘Australia’s International Disability Day’. Shahrin also works with ‘Youth at Risk’ from 10sq and local schools through arts education programmes. In this forum, Shahrin will share his

pedagogies, artistic processes, experience, and challenges working with dancers with disabilities.

**Biography:** Shahrin Johry is a dancer, choreographer, dance educator and a founding member and assistant choreographer of Maya Dance Theatre (MDT) since 2007. Shahrin graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Honors degree in dance from Lasalle College of the Arts, Singapore. With MDT Shahrin is trained in Asian dance forms namely, Bharathanatyam under Kavitha Krishnan, Ajith Bhaskaran Dass and Nirmala Seshadri; Balinese dance at the Tri Pusaka Foundation (Bali, Indonesia); Javanese dance under Danang Pamungkas (Solo, Indonesia) and contemporary dance training with Ezekiel Oliveira.

**Awards:** ‘**Most Promising Award**’ in Sprouts All-star 2012 by the National Arts Council, Singapore/ Frontier Danceland, ‘**Singapore Dancing Star**’ in Dance Singapore Dance 2015(Zee TV) and ‘**Best choreography and Artistic merit award**’, Dance Works 2009 (National Council Against Drug Abuse/ Central Narcotics Bureau).

**Artistic works:** *Sweet Lips* (2012), *(in)elegance* (2012), *Small Steps* (2013), *Sense Senseless Gap* (2013), *Unspeakable* (2014), *Embrace* (2014), *Path* (2012 – 2015 ), *The Conference* (2015 – 2016), *KA* (2016), *Empty Space* (2016) . **Re:Path** (2017).

**Date:** Saturday 27 Jan, 2018

**Time:** 5:30 pm — 7:30 pm

**Venue:** Library @ Esplanade, Open Stage, 8 Raffles Avenue, #03-01, S039802

**Please register at:**

<http://bit.ly/2BDu5Ac>

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