RESTAGING *THE MOON IS LESS BRIGHT* BY GOH POH SENG:
THE SECOND BREAKFAST COMPANY CONTINUES THE CONVERSATION ON
CLASS DIVIDES IN SINGAPORE

March 2018 - The Second Breakfast Company (2BCo) will re-stage *The Moon Is Less Bright*, written in 1963, the first play by Singapore’s literary pioneer and Cultural Medallion recipient Goh Poh Seng. 2BCo’s production of *The Moon Is Less Bright* is a poetic drama revived for the modern stage to examine current concerns of privilege and inequality in Singapore, 55 years since it was first written. The play will be staged at the Drama Centre Black Box, from 31 May to 3 June 2018.
In 2016, 2BCo debuted with Leow Puay Tin’s *Family* (written in 1996) to sold-out crowds, choosing to stage the script 20 years after it was first staged by TheatreWorks (directed by Ong Keng Sen) in 1996. The Company gave the script a contemporary update, while keeping true to the text through a reconstruction of the plot and reimagining of the themes in the play. Kathy Rowland, Author at ArtsEquator, reviewed that “there was not any sense of hesitation with the direction (of the play) and it was very clearly crafted” adding on that “for an inaugural production for a young theatre company, it was extremely self assured.”

Last year, the Company presented a double bill of two entirely new plays by debuting playwrights Chelsea Cheo and Myle Yan Tay. Titled *Lemmings and The Wedding Pig: A Double Bill*, 2BCo shifted its spotlight onto young writing talents who, through their plays, held meaningful discourses on religion, tradition and relationships. These conversations provided a fresh perspective for young audiences in Singapore, and proved to be a warmly welcomed production with sold-out runs as well. Theatre reviews website Bakchormeeboy commended that “The Second Breakfast Company is doing good work in attempting to nurture and showcase these new talents, and we’re hopeful that what we’ve seen tonight is a precursor to even better things to come.”

Moving on to their third production, 2BCo returns to tackling one of its three tenets, the revival of works within the Singapore canon with *The Moon Is Less Bright*. Through this production, the Company seeks to adopt a different entry point into the conversation of inequality and privilege, by examining how the psychology of class can skew our outlook on life and the people around us. Adeeb Fazah, artistic director of 2BCo and of the newest staging of *The Moon Is Less Bright*, hopes that the production will rejuvenate an older Singapore play with a voice that is relevant and topical. He explains, “Rather interestingly, the play brings up the discussion of class and privilege in a time where Singapore as a society is re-examining its social make-up. The debate on privilege and class have recently surfaced on a national level, with research statistics being scrutinised and analysed. With *Moon*, we hope to generate meaningful reflection about how class makes us think and act.”
The original staging of Goh Poh Seng’s play by the Lotus Club was in 1964 at the National University of Singapore, while the second staging was a revival by TheatreWorks in 1990. For its third staging, 2BCo takes on a different approach. Whereas Ong Keng Sen, director of the 1990 revival, wrote in his Director's Notes of his faith in Singapore becoming a “classless society” in the 1990s, we cannot say the same in present-day Singapore. The recent Study on Social Capital in Singapore conducted by the Institute of Policy Studies (National University of Singapore) suggests that Singapore has shifted from a society based on race to one based on class. In response to questions surrounding these findings, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong stressed that "The issues of mitigating income inequality, ensuring social mobility and enhancing social integration are critical."

In light of these developments, 2BCo hopes for Moon to provide space for introspection and discourse. Mark Benedict Cheong, Second Artistic Director of 2BCo and assistant director and designer for Moon related how the company approached the discussion: “We deliberated on how class divisions in today’s world could skew our judgement of others outside our comfort zones, and beyond our class. In crafting Moon, we decided to look not just on the material differences in class, but how our perceptions arising from the divides threaten to tear us apart.”

To find out more about 2BCo and to follow the production process of The Moon Is Less Bright, visit: www.2bcoblog.wordpress.com

For high-res marketing images, please click here. 
Marketing videos and trailers are available upon request.

For rehearsal images, please click here.

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Synopses

**Concise version**

February 14, the Japanese troops are approaching.

The Tay’s household, rural Singapore. A welcoming offer of shelter from certain danger in the city turns into an uneasy living arrangement between two families worlds apart in class. Will their convictions and world-views hurt or help each other? Will they bother seeing past their trappings? Or rather, can they?

**Long version**

February 14, the Japanese troops are approaching.

The Tay’s household, rural Singapore. A welcoming offer of shelter from certain danger in the city turns into an uneasy living arrangement between two families worlds apart in class. Will their convictions and world-views hurt or help each other? Will they bother seeing past their trappings? Or rather, can they?

*The Moon Is Less Bright* presents a provoking look at our instinctive class consciousness, how we carry ourselves and judge others. When we resent privilege in others and insist on our set of values: are they well-founded or misguided, for better or worse?

The Second Breakfast Company’s re-staging of Singapore literary pioneer and Cultural Medallion recipient Goh Poh Seng’s first play is a poetic drama revived for the modern stage to examine current concerns of privilege and inequality in Singapore, 55 years since it was first written.
**Creative Team**

Playwright          Goh Poh Seng  
Dramaturg/Adaptation  Dominic Nah  
Director             Adeeb Fazah (2BCo)  
Assistant Director    Mark Cheong (2BCo)  
Lighting Designer     Jim Chan  
Set/Sound Designer    Mark Cheong (2BCo)  

**Show Times**

Thursday, 31 May    8pm (Preview)  
Friday, 1 June       8pm  
Saturday, 2 June     3pm and 8pm  
Sunday, 3 June       3pm  

**Venue**

Drama Centre Black Box  
National Library Building, Level 5, 100 Victoria St, Singapore 188064  

**Ticketing**

Rating: General  
Standard Ticket: $28.00 (Free Seating)  
Tickets are available on SISTIC here: [https://www.sistic.com.sg/events/cmoon0518](https://www.sistic.com.sg/events/cmoon0518)  

Early Bird Sales       $21.00 (valid till 31 March 2018)  
Student Discount       15%  (valid from 1 April 2018 onwards)  
Group Discount          20%  (minimum 5 tickets purchased, valid from 1 April 2018 onwards)  

For SCHOOL and GROUP BOOKINGS*, please contact Kristine Ng at **9843 9746** or email [thesecondbreakfastcompany@gmail.com](mailto:thesecondbreakfastcompany@gmail.com)
About The Second Breakfast Company

The Second Breakfast Company (2BCo) is a not-for-profit theatre company founded by youths, for youths. 2BCo envisions to become a leading youth theatre company advocating for an inclusive theatre culture built by young people for young people.

Mission

- Cultivating youth audiences through programmes and initiatives that engage a wider network of youths and deepens their appreciation of the performing arts.

- Empowering the next generation of creatives by providing platforms and safe spaces to express their creativity on stage.

- Challenging young people with fresh perspectives through revisiting old stories and telling new ones.

Past Projects

2015  Playreading of *Everything but the Brain* (Jean Tay) at Geylang East Library
2015  Co-Creation workshop and performance of Devised Play: *Interchange*
2016  Dramatised Reading of *TENacity* for NLB’s National Reading Movement
2016  2BCo. Playwriting Circle [Pilot phase]
2016  *Family*: The 20th Anniversary Production
2017  *The Wedding Pig* (part of Asian Youth Theatre Festival)
2017  *Lemnings and The Wedding Pig: A Double Bill*
Upcoming Projects

2018  *The Moon is Less Bright* by Goh Poh Seng (May-June)
2018  *The Old Woman and the Ox* (December)