



DEBORAH EMMANUEL

POET . PERFORMER . MUSICIAN . SPEAKER .

I AM...

a four-time TEDx speaker and multidisciplinary artist with a background in theatre, poetry, music and performance art. I have released music albums with my bands Wobology, The Ditha Project and Mantravine. I have published three books. My current work puts poetry in the physical body to facilitate more abstract image-making. This has also led me to explore the realms of illustration and visual art.

WORK

INTERNATIONAL FEATURE POET,
WORD TRAVELS STORY-FEST 2018, *October 2018*

Invited to perform the world premiere of my second one-woman show *Alien Flower In Fundamentalist Fields*. The show was written, directed and performed by me using a language of theatre, poetry, music and visual projection.

COMMISSIONED PERFORMER, BARCELONA INTERNATIONAL
POETRY FESTIVAL 2018, *May 2018*

Invited to prepare and perform a 50-minute show with my collaborator Kiat for the opening night of the Barcelona poetry week. Rave reviews.

SINGAPORE WRITERS FESTIVAL KEY COMMISSION 2017,
November 2017

Invited to make the Singapore Writers Festival Key Commission work for 2017 with my collaborator Kiat.

INVITED SPEAKER, Q BERLIN QUESTIONS CONFERENCE,
October 2017

Invited to present at the inaugural Q Berlin Questions Conference in Berlin. I spoke about how human beings are capable of overcoming biological programming and that this sets us apart from other animals.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE, THE WATERMILL CENTER,
July 2017-August 2017

Selected out of more than 600 applicants for a residency under the guidance of Robert Wilson. I was then invited to exhibit my first performance art piece "Hush" (pictured above) for The Watermill Center Summer Benefit and Auction.



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EDUCATION

Griffith University

*BA in Contemporary and Applied
Theatre, 2014 – 2015*

How do I push the boundaries of
theatre?

How do we abandon the
conventional?

How do I use theatre to inspire?

Singapore Polytechnic

*Diploma in Applied Drama and
Psychology, 2009 – 2012*

How do I use psychology in my
practice?

How do I conduct scientific research?

How do I intervene using theatre?

How do I make theatre?

CONTACT ME



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REFERENCES

Marc Nair

Colleague and YAA Winner 2016

marcnair@gmail.com

JOAVIEN NG

Dancer and Choreographer

joavien@joaviennng.com

Deborah Emmanuel is one of the most exciting, challenging voices to have emerged in the Singaporean scene. To listen to her work is to listen to an artist who wears vulnerability like armour and uses poetry like courage. Her writing is tender and tough, lyrical and unapologetic. She's one of the most important writers we have for young people who are confronting issues of diversity, identity and experience.

- Pooja Nansi

WORK

CLOSING ADDRESS SPEAKER, THE PERFORMANCE THEATRE 2017: INVISIBLE REALITIES, *June 2017*

Invited to deliver the 'apostrophe' at The Performance Theatre 2018, a conference of 150 global decision-makers and leaders like co-founder of Upworthy, Eli Pariser, former minister of trade for Indonesia, Mari Pangestu and former president of Mexico, Felipe Calderon.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE, THE MARPHA FOUNDATION, *June 2016-July 2016*

Selected for a 5 week residency at The Marpha Foundation in Marpha, Nepal. During this time I will write my first solo performance show *InterStates*. The show was a multidisciplinary work of performance and ritual. Later I toured the show and my poetry around 5 cities in the UK and Germany, funded by the National Arts Council Singapore.

FEATURED AUTHOR,

MAKASSAR INTERNATIONAL WRITERS FESTIVAL, *May 2016*

Invited to feature at MIWF 2016 on 3 panels, perform at the opening and launch my prison memoir *Rebel Rites*.

PERFORMER IN 'INCARNATION OF THE BEAST', *October 2015*

One of nine performers selected to devise experimental dance theatre under direction of choreographer and dancer Joavien Ng. The show played sold-out nights at TheatreWorks.



Deborah Emmanuel

is a Singaporean writer, performer and educator. Her aim as an artist is to make work that is profoundly personal, provocative and passionate while exploring universal questions and her ever-evolving ethics. She does this with her powerful vocal, theatrical and improvisation abilities, developed with deep roots in the written word and metaphor.

Her formal training (if you're into that stuff) was with courses in applied theatre and performance in institutions like Lasalle-SIA College Of The Arts (Singapore), the Singapore Repertory Theatre and Griffith University (Brisbane). Her writing and dialogue has featured at festivals like the [Makassar International Writers Festival](#), the [Barcelona Poetry Festival](#) and the [Queensland Poetry Festival](#). As a slam poet, she has won competitions in Singapore, Germany and Australia. Her performance work has seen places like Melbourne, Berlin, London, Bali and Kathmandu, and she has toured alongside poets like [Anthony Anaxagorou](#) and [Sarah Kay](#).

Her most recent projects have been -

- A practice in body poetry; an original recreation method of moving poetry into the physical body, performed without words
 - Making her second one-woman show Alien Flower In Fundamentalist Fields to premiere at Story-Fest 18' in Sydney
- Practicing visual art like painting and illustration as a different way to experience metaphor
- Radical experiments in improvisation and looping with Randolph Arriola

Deborah is the author of three books: [When I Giggle In My Sleep \(2015\)](#); her first collection of poetry, [Rebel Rites \(2016\)](#); a creative non-fiction work about her imprisonment as a teenager and [Genesis \(2018\)](#); a spoken word collection accompanied by illustrations. When not with poetry, she makes work for stage and screen, or makes music with [Mantravine](#), [Wobology](#), [The Ditha Project](#) and the producer Kiat. Deborah also is trained as a facilitator and has worked with clients looking for all sorts of guidance; be it how to write poetry, how to develop more confidence as a performer or how to express stories physically. Sharing her knowledge to help people heal and explore their inner world is a fundamental part of her journey as an artist.

PRESS



A WOMAN WALKS INTO A ROOM, THE CATALAN NATIONAL, MAY 2018

https://www.elnacional.cat/lallanca/ca/actualitat/a-woman-walks-into-a-room-deborah-emmanuel_267270_102.html

INTERNATIONAL WOMENS' DAY: 10 WOMEN TO INSPIRE YOU,

HONEYCOMBERS SINGAPORE, MARCH 2018

<https://thehoneycombers.com/singapore/international-womens-day-in-singapore-20-women-who-truly-inspire-us-leaders-entrepreneurs-artists-designers-musicians-bartenders>



7 WOMEN DISCUSS THEIR COMPLICATED RELATIONSHIP WITH BEAUTY,
BURO 24/7, JANUARY 2018

<https://www.buro247.sg/culture/insiders/walking-in-beauty-m1-singapore-fringe-festival.html>

20/20 VISION, THE A LIST SINGAPORE, JUNE 2016

<http://a-list.sg/2020-vision/>

VIDEOS

Preservation (collaboration with UltraSuperNew released on World Mental Health Day) October 2018

<https://www.facebook.com/UltraSuperNew.SG/videos/1056329724531965/>

Deconstruction Of The Self (techno track produced by The Beat Usagi featuring poetry and melody) July 2018

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cH4inFfbC-U>

One Sound (poem performed live at Kult Kafe with Stew Bamrah on didgeridoo) March 2018

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8ihjH5KTsc>

Sin City (commission for Kult Gallery to promote their Sin City product range) August 2017

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gXI9CWshHmY>

She (poem performed live at the Gaslight Café Kuala Lumpur) June 2017

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3Oc0RWd8U0&t>

Reaching Your Inner Tipping Point (TEDx talk delivered at National University of Singapore) July 2016

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eK4r0fVPFrM&t>

I Love You (poem shot by Jeremy Keegan) March 2016

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87-jTWvuC6Y>