

SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2005
ARTS AND CULTURE (INDIVIDUAL)

MR GOH BOON TECK



*"Only by realizing how small you are,
you then enjoy the quest for bigness."*

In the local theatre scene, Mr Goh Boon Teck is viewed as one of the best in his generation. He has won the hearts of many who have seen his works, and the respect of those who have worked with him.

Despite having good grades, Boon Teck did not follow the usual academic path. He followed his heart instead, immersing himself into the world of arts. As a multi-talented artist, he is a director, playwright, set designer, visual artist and actor. He was the first recipient of the VISA international arts scholarship to study theatre in London.

At the young age of 19, he founded the Toy Factory Theatre Ensemble, a bilingual theatre company. As Chief Artistic Director, he spearheaded more than 60 productions since 1990, including Posteterne, K, Shopping & F***king, Firewall and Dangerous Liaisons.

Highly versatile and bilingual, Boon Teck has directed text-based play, physical theatre, musical and opera. He has directed several Mandarin productions, including I Have A Date With Spring, A Midsummer Night's Dream and Thunderstorm. These innovative works garnered rave reviews amongst critics and audiences.



In 1994, he conquered the theatre world with his multi-lingual play, *Titoudao*, based on the life of his mother, a well-known Chinese opera actress. This masterpiece won the Best Play of the Year. It represented Singapore in Cairo International Festival for Experiment theatre in the same year. In 2001, it won five out of nine awards at the inaugural LIFE! Theatre Awards. That same year, Boon Teck won the National Arts Council Young Artist Award.

Boon Teck's fame is not restricted to Singapore. In 2003, he was commissioned by the Kageboushi Theatre of Japan, to write and direct the international production, *Prism*, which toured six countries.



In spite of his achievements and talents, Boon Teck has remained humble and attentive to every detail. His advice, “be answerable to your heart and soul” has made him a role model and inspiration to young people.

For his unending energy and creative contribution to the arts, Mr Goh Boon Teck is conferred the Singapore Youth Award 2005.