

## **SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2008** **ARTS AND CULTURE (TEAM)**

### **THE FINGER PLAYERS**



*“The Arts is food for the soul and mind. Healthy minds and souls inspire hope, empathy and compassion, all of which define our humanity. Let’s not raise a generation that is spiritually and culturally bankrupt.”*

Starting out in 1999 as a children’s puppet theatre, The Finger Players has since evolved into one of Singapore’s leading theatre companies. Its innovative theatre style – a fusion of puppet theatre and other art disciplines – is widely recognised in the local arts scene.

From 2004 to 2007, it staged a total of 12 multidisciplinary productions, delighting both adult and young audiences. As a testament to the artistic quality of its productions, the company has won a total of 10 Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards. These include Production of the Year (2005) for “Furthest North, Deepest South”, and Best Ensemble (2007) for “I’m Just A Piano Teacher”. In 2007, its ingenious theatre design was given the highest recognition when it won the prestigious President’s Design Award, conferred by the Design Singapore Council, for its production of “0501”.



The Finger Players has performed in 19 festivals around the world, including Europe's biggest performing arts festival, the Sziget Festival 2006 in Budapest, and Festival Asia 2007 in Barcelona.

It has also actively encouraged arts appreciation in Singapore by cultivating new audiences through its Reach Out! Arts Education Program, which has an average outreach of 85,000 students and members of the public a year.



The Finger Players' "Pay It Forward" charity scheme has also enriched the lives of beneficiaries and volunteers through the arts. Started in 2006, the scheme enables volunteers trained in puppetry and drama to perform as well as conduct workshops for orphanages, old folks' homes and charity organisations. To date, it has reached out to 26 charity organisations and over 2,800 beneficiaries.

For pushing the conventions of theatre in the pursuit of greater artistic excellence, and for effectively using drama to connect with different segments of society, The Finger Players is conferred the Singapore Youth Award (Team) 2008.