



DICK LEE

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b. 1956 –

Multi-talented Dick Lee has firmly established himself as a performer and composer, often, recognized through his works as the spokesperson for the New Asian generation.

MUSIC

The Dick Lee phenomenon started in 1971 when, at the age of fifteen, Dick participated in various talent contests with the group, **Harmony**, and **Dick and the Gang** (teaming with his siblings). His first album, **LIFESTORY**, featuring his own compositions, was released in 1974.

Throughout the 70s and 80s, Dick championed the inclusion of Asian elements in pop music. His pioneering album, **LIFE IN THE LION CITY** (1984), won acclaim for just that. But the album that shot him to regional prominence was his 1989 release, **THE MAD CHINAMAN**, which achieved platinum status in Singapore in 3 months.

In 1990, Dick moved to Japan where he continued to develop the new Asian identity through his solo work, as well as collaborate with top Asian artistes like **Sandy Lam** from Hong Kong and Japanese group Zoo. He has to date, written countless songs for the top singing talents in Asia including **Jackie Cheung**, **Andy Lau**, **Sammi Cheng**, **Anita Mui**, **Miyazawa of The Boom** and **Stephanie Sun** amongst others.

The song he is proudest of writing is one of Singapore's most popular national songs, **HOME**, composed in 1997, and sung by all Singaporeans to this day, being unofficially chosen as the song that represents Singapore most. Besides **HOME**, Dick has written two other songs for National Day: **WE WILL GET THERE**, and SG50's signature song, **OUR SINGAPORE**.

Dick celebrated his 60th birthday with a special concert at Star Performing Arts Centre in 2016, and continues to give special concerts in Singapore and Japan.

THEATRE

Dick is passionate about musicals. He has written many staged musicals including **BEAUTY WORLD** (1988), **FRIED RICE PARADISE** (1991, 2010), **KAMPONG AMBER** (1994), **SING TO THE DAWN** (1997), **FORBIDDEN CITY** (2003), which opened the Esplanade in Singapore, and **Jacky Cheung's** acclaimed **SNOW.WOLF.LAKE** (1997), which toured Asia in 2005. **NAGRALAND** (1992) toured Japan, Singapore and Hong Kong in a sold-out season. In 2015, Dick wrote the music for the acclaimed musical production **LKY: THE MUSICAL**, which celebrated the life of one of the modern Singapore's founding fathers.

Plays he has written include **DEATH IN TUAS**, **BEAUTY KINGS**, and the first part of his **FAMILY TRILOGY**, **RISING SON**, which is also his first serious dramatic work.

Recently, Dick has turned to directing, and has led revivals of his musicals, **HOTPANTS** in 2014, and the fifth production of **BEAUTY WORLD** in 2015.

FASHION

Apart from music, Dick's other passion is for fashion, having studied fashion design at **Harrow School of Art in London** (1977-1982). His interest began at the early age of 16 when he designed for his mother's boutique **Midteen**. His fashion career has taken him to **Carrie Models**, where he later became a partner. He also designed for his boutique **Ping Pong**, as well as in Singapore departmental stores. He has worked with Singapore label **Celia Loe** and **Island Shop**.

Other forays in the fashion world include Display Director for **Tangs** departmental store in 1984, Fashion Editor of **Female Magazine** in 1986. Dick was also one of the founders of the **Society of Designing Arts (SODA)**, which in 1984 spearheaded the formal introduction of Singapore designers to the local fashion market. The success of SODA led to Dick setting up Singapore's first young designer "market", **Hemispheres** in 1986.

OTHER PROJECTS

From 1982 to 1990, Dick ran his own event company **Runway Productions**, which specialized in fashion and tourism events, including tours of the USA and Europe, convention opening presentations and even a fashion parade on Orchard Road. Via Runway Productions, Dick was instrumental in the success of the early national fashion events in Singapore, like **Fashion Connections**, and **Singapore Fashion Week**.

On the entertainment scene, Dick founded talent management company **Music & Movement** with partner Lim Sek, and also had a hand in the creation of **Boom Boom Room**, a successful cabaret, which launched the career of popular comedian Kumar. In 1998, Dick moved to Hong Kong where he was appointed **Regional Vice-President of Artiste and Repertoire at Sony Music Asia** where he stayed till the end of 2000.

Dick celebrated the 30th anniversary of his career in 2004 with the release of a 5-CD compilation as well as his autobiography **THE ADVENTURES OF THE MAD CHINAMAN**. He also created **Dick Lee's Sunshine Project**, a charity for handicapped children and youth counselling centers, in

conjunction with the **Community Chest of Singapore**. He has also participated in 3 seasons of the highly-rated television show, **Singapore Idol**, where he was a judge.

Dick has been Artistic Director of **People's Association Talents**, where he formed the **Singapore Pop Orchestra**, and also continues his love of theatre by being Associate Artistic Director of **Singapore Repertory Theatre**, an appointment he has held since 1998.

He also held his first solo exhibition of paintings "**Imperfect Memory**" at **Galerie Belvedere** in October 2013.

Other business ventures include advertising agency **Dick Lee Concepts** (2007-2015), restaurant chain **Dancing Crab** (in participating with the **Tung Lok group**), and **Dick Lee Entertainment**, in association with film producer **MM2**.

CREATIVE DIRECTION

As Creative Director, Dick has designed the annual **Christmas Light-up** on Orchard Road and the Marina Bay area several times.

He has also directed the **National Day Parade** four times, in 2002, 2010, 2014 and the landmark 2015 celebrations which marked **Singapore's 50th Anniversary**.

Throughout his career, Dick has directed many major events, including the gala show for the **APEC conference 2009**, and the **Economic Development Board's 50th anniversary celebrations, Singapop** in 2010, and also the **Home Team Gala Show**, which also marked the 50th anniversary of national service (**NS**) in Singapore.

Dick has directed **Peranakan Love Story**, a multi-media installation at the new Changi Airport Terminal 4 for **Changi Airport Group**, and another visitor experience installation for **Ion Shopping Centre**.

2017 also sees Dick directing the 13th edition of **ChildAid**, a fund-raising concert organized by **Singapore Press Holdings**, featuring 150 child performers.

FILM

In 2017, Dick co-directed his first movie, **WONDER BOY**, with Daniel Yam, which is set during 3 years of Dick's teen years, when he released his first album in 1974. The movie was well-received and has begun screenings in international festivals in Fukuoka and Taipei, amongst others.

AWARDS

As a member of **COMPASS**, Singapore's composer's society, Dick has won numerous awards in recognition of his prolific work. These include several Top English/Chinese & Malay Songs of the Year, Artistic Excellence Award, Wings of Excellence Award, and most recently, the Lifetime Achievement Award (2017).

He has received the **Hong Kong Film Academy Award** twice for his theme songs for the **leslie Cheung** movie, **SHE'S A MAN, HE'S A WOMAN** (1994), as well as the **Leon Lai** vehicle, **CITY OF GLASS** (1998)

Dick has also been honoured with the **Fukuoka Arts and Culture Prize** in 2003, and the first to receive one for works in the popular music genre.

In 2004, Dick received the highest cultural award in Singapore, the **Cultural Medallion**, and in 2013, Dick was conferred the honour of being named a **Steinway Artist**, by the world-renown piano company **Steinway & Sons**, joining the ranks of the top practitioners of the piano, and the first Asian artiste in the pop genre to be honoured.

LIST OF AWARDS

1995: Perfect 10, The Perfect 10 Music Achievement Award for outstanding contribution in the Singapore Music scene
1995: Hong Kong Film Awards, Best Original Movie Theme Song in the 1994 film, "She's A Man, He's A Woman" (《金枝玉葉》) for (《追》) Search of my Life
1998: Composers and Authors Society of Singapore (COMPASS) Award, Top Local English Pop Song
Composers and Authors Society of Singapore (COMPASS) Award, Top Local Composer of the Year
1999: Hong Kong Film Awards, Best Original Movie Theme Song in the 1998 film, "City of Glass" (《玻璃之城》) for (《今生不再》)
1998-2001, 2005-2006: COMPASS, Composer of the Year Awards
1999: COMPASS, Artistic Excellence Award
1999: COMPASS Award for Top Local Chinese Pop Song
2003: Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize –Arts & Culture Prize
2004: COMPASS Award for Best Malay Pop Song "Sandarkan" LIFE! Theatre Awards, Best Music for "Forbidden City"
2005: Singapore Cultural Medallion
2006: Community Chest Silver Award for Individual Fund-raiser
2007: Boh Cameronian Arts Award, Best Music for "Puteri Gunung Ledang"
2008: Boh Cameronian Arts Awards, Best Music for "P. Ramlee the Musical"
Community Chest Silver Award for Individual Fund-raiser
2009: COMPASS Wings of Excellence Award
COMPASS Award for Top Local English Pop Song
2010: Singapore Tatler Leadership Award for Culture Community Chest Bronze
Award for Individual Fund-raiser
2011: Elle Magazine Lifetime Achievement Award Community Chest Bronze Award
2012: COMPASS Award for Top Local English Pop Song
2013: COMPASS Award for Top Local English Pop Song
Named a Steinway Artist by Steinway & Sons.
2014: COMPASS Award for Top Local English Pop Song
2017: COMPASS Lifetime Achievement Award

DISCOGRAPHY

1974: Life Story
1979: Internationaland (Single)
1984: Life in the Lion City

Suriram (Single)
1985: Return to Beauty World
1986: The Songs from Long Ago
The Songs of Christmas (Christmas album) Fried Rice
Paradise (Compilation)
1987: Connections
1989: The Mad Chinaman
When I Play (Compilation)
1990: Asia Major
1991: Orientalism
1992: The Year of The Monkey
Peace, Life, Love (Christmas Album)
1993: Hong Kong Rhapsody (Instrumental) Life
Story (Compilation)
1994: Secret Island
Compass (Cantonese)
1995: Singapop
1999: Transit Lounge
2000: Everything
2003: Rice (Instrumental)
2004: Life/Stories (Compilation)
2010: Life Deluxe
2014: 40th Anniversary Collection
2015: Rasa Sayang feat. Shigga Shay (single)
2016: Bittersweet (single)
2017: Songs From Wonder Boy (EP)

THEATRICAL WORKS

1988: Beauty World (Singapore, also 1993, 1998, 2008, 2015)
1991: Fried Rice Paradise (Singapore)
1992: Nagraland (Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan)
1993: Hong Kong Rhapsody (Japan);
Fantasia (Singapore, Japan)
1994: Kampong Amber (Singapore)
Mortal Sins (Singapore)
1996: Sing to the Dawn (Singapore); Death
in Tuas (play, Singapore)
1997: Hotpants (Singapore, also 2014);
A Twist of Fate (Singapore, also 2005)
1998: Snow.Wolf.Lake (Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, China, also 2004, 2005)
2001: Re:mix (Singapore)
2003: Forbidden City (Singapore, also 2004, 2006, 2017)
2004: The Good Citizen (play, Singapore)
2006: Puteri Gunung Ledang (Malaysia, Singapore) Man
of Letters (Singapore)
2007: P. Ramlee The Musical (Malaysia, Singapore)
2010: Fried Rice Paradise (New version - Singapore)
2011: Beauty Kings (play, Singapore)
2013: Lightseeker (Singapore)

2014: Rising Son (play, Singapore)
2015: LKY: The Musical (Singapore)