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# Fight for your right to vent

Nothing physical in this Fight Club – just A Chorus of rants and rages against everyday frustrations

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**I**F YOU sometimes wonder if Singapore's arts scene is truly alive and kicking, it most definitely will be over the next few days, not to mention shouting, screaming and hollering.

A group of 48 performers – made up of non-actors from ordinary walks of life – get to act out their frustrations on stage in a theatre production called Fight Club – A Chorus.

Doing something most faceless worker-drones only ever get to dream of, they rant and rage about life, love and the frustrations of the daily grind in the one-hour theatre production at the National Museum Gallery from today till Saturday.

The mass-angst act was inspired by the 1999 Hollywood movie Fight Club, about a disillusioned white-collar worker who establishes an underground club for men to fight one another.

However, Singapore's version won't involve any actual physical violence.

Choreographer Daniel Kok, better known as daniel k, explains: "It's more challenging to suggest physical fights."

Probed to describe what happens in the performance and what the 48 performers will be doing, he clams up, citing the first rule of Fight Club – never talk about Fight Club.

All he would reveal is that the production is a "sound piece... which reveals everyday life".

The 31-year-old adds: "It's about all the fights that these 48 people have to carry out every day. They're students arguing about what courses to study, people griping about their bosses, and working mothers fighting for time."

The production is the brainchild of k's friend Max Schumacher, founder of Berlin-based performance group Post Theatre, who collaborated with him to develop the concept. Schumacher drew up a manual of stage directions, and k found suitable performers.

They are drawn from all walks of life and comprise students, chefs, arts administrators and even a research scientist.

Over 10 two-hour rehearsals and workshops, k got them to vent their frustrations through movement and speech.

And it certainly seemed to tap an inner Mr Angry. One of the performers, arts manager Lam Yishan, 25, says: "My fight is the fight against the daily grind. Being in the performance is a kind of release. At our third rehearsal we were set loose in public. Some of us stopped traffic at the Orchard Road underpass by forming a line across it."

k reveals that he has plotted the actions of the 48 fighters on graphs as he wants them "to clash but not all at once".

He says: "I want to intensify the figurative fight onstage."

k, whose previous works were multi-disciplinary and also involved narratives of the individual working or struggling against conformity or anonymity, adds: "I like talking about the individual versus the crowd. The conflict is always a starting point from which things happen."

He had hoped for "political gripes" from his fighters but has witnessed only "tame fights" so far.

He adds: "My own fight is the repeal of Section 377A of the Penal Code (the law deems sex between men a crime and sparked a controversial debate in Parliament last month). It's not ended yet and it's something I'd like to see constant dialogue about in society."

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> Fight Club – A Chorus performs at the National Museum Gallery Theatre from today till Saturday at 8pm nightly. Tickets cost \$28 and are available by logging on to [www.nationalmuseum.sg/120years](http://www.nationalmuseum.sg/120years)

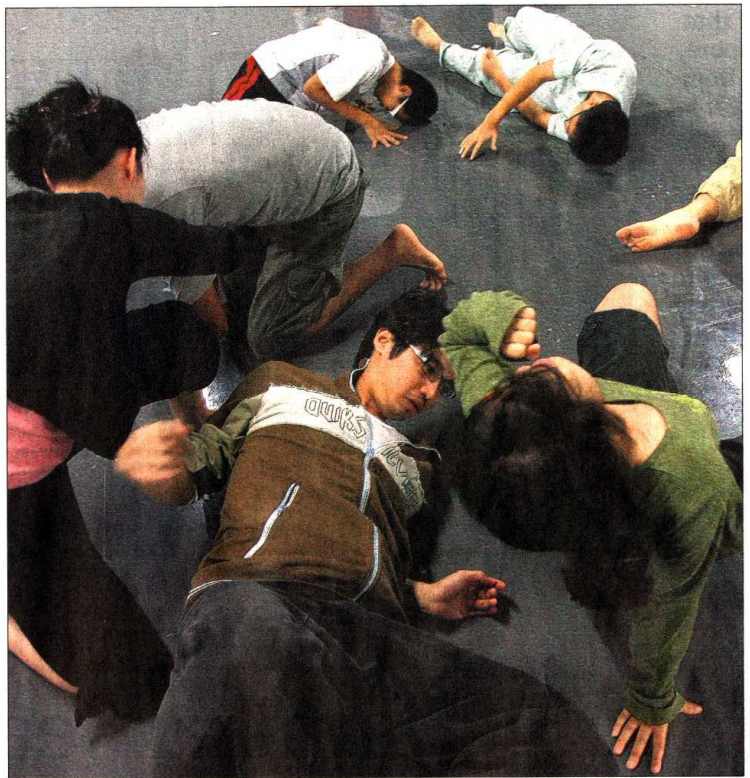
**'It's about all the fights that these 48 people have to carry out every day'**

Choreographer Daniel Kok

**'My fight is the fight against the daily grind. Being in the performance is a kind of release'**

Performer Lam Yishan

**MASS PROTEST: Non-actors from ordinary walks of life rehearsing their moves to depict city living angst.**



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