

NAFA Alumni Solo Spotlight Series

Research, Plan, Try, Repeat

DARREN GUO

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Theatre Arts, 2020

Diploma in Theatre, 2011

Actor, Director, Drama Coach



1.Thanks for accepting this interview! Share with us how was your NAFA experience like?

It was one that set the foundation of my theatre career. It allowed me to try, fail, learn, and try again, in a safe environment.

2. Share with us some of the differences you have observed in the English and Mandarin Theatre scene in Singapore?

There's actually a lot more similarities. When it comes to differences, I will say it depends on the production company's style and culture.

3. What were some challenges you faced starting out and how did you overcome them?

Finding a footing in the industry was definitely not easy. At the beginning, there were a lot of cold calls to make and auditions to attend, followed by tons of rejection. However, once people know you work hard and have a great attitude, one door leads to another. The important thing is to stay true to yourself and be grounded.



*Do you have an interesting alumni story to share?
Send us your stories & photos to alumni@nafa.edu.sg to
be featured on our Facebook/Instagram/Linkedin pages!*

4. Share 3 pointers to your juniors who are about to graduate soon?

The industry is small. Everyone knows everyone or at least knows someone who knows someone else. This would mean that people in the industry talk and share resources. My three pointers would be:

- 1) Make sure to work hard and have a great attitude.
- 2) Persevere because you will get beaten down many times.
- 3) Take care of your instrument (body, voice, mind).

5. What do you enjoy most about your job?

That I get to be a vessel of empathy and shine light on perspectives.

Nominated for the "Best Actor" award on Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards 2022, Darren played the role of "Jia Ming" in the play, Straight Acting by Wild Rice.

In his own words:

"Jia Ming is moulded by society and brought up to never question the status quo. But he is also the one who struggles quietly to find his piece of the world. His selfless attitude is something that resonates with me."



6. What are some of your upcoming productions that we can look forward to?

Straight Acting is coming back this June – July!

7. Congratulations on getting nominated for 'Best Actor' at the Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards. How did you prepare for the role that you were nominated for?

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