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Margaret Chan

~ Recommendations ~

- [Medium Rare](#)
Medium Rare, released in local cinemas in November 1991, was Singapore's first full-length English-language film to ...
- [W!LD RICE](#)
W!LD RICE is a professional theatre company started in 2000 by actor, playwright and director Ivan Heng. Staging shows ...
- [Stella Kon](#)
Stella Kon (b.1944, Edinburgh, Scotland–), playwright, novelist, short story writer and poet, is best known for her ...
- [TheatreWorks](#)
TheatreWorks is Singapore's flagship English language theatre company formed in 1985 by theatre practitioners Lim Siau w ...
- [Gardens by the Bay](#)
Gardens by the Bay comprises three public gardens in Marina Bay occupying a total land area of 1,010,000 sq m (101 ha). ...
- [Max Le Blond](#)
Max Le Blond (b. 1950, Singapore–) was conferred the Cultural Medallion for Theatre in 1987. At age 37, he was then ...
- [Kirpal Singh](#)
Kirpal Singh (b. 1949, Singapore–) is a poet, literary and cultural critic, and university lecturer in English language ...
- [Teater Ekamatra](#)
Teater Ekamatra was founded by playwright, dramatist and director Lut Ali and his wife Rubie Lazim in 1988 to develop ...
- [Li Lienfung](#)
Li Lienfung () (b. 1923, Shanghai, China–d. 3 August 2011, Singapore) was a chemist and writer. She worked in the ...
- [Haresh Sharma](#)
Haresh Sharma (b. 1965, Singapore–) is the resident playwright of The Necessary Stage, Singapore. A critically-acclaimed ...
- [Stefanie Sun](#)
Sng Ee Tze (b. 23 July 1978–), better known as Stefanie Sun Yan Zi (), is a

Singaporean singer said to be the nation's ...

- [Desmond Sim](#)

Desmond Sim Kim Jin (b. 1961, Singapore–) is a playwright, poet, short-story writer and painter. He is best known for ...

- [Lau Siew Mei](#)

Lau Siew Mei (b. 1968, Singapore–) is a Singapore-born writer best known for her acclaimed debut novel, *Playing Madame* ...

- [The Finger Players](#)

One of Singapore's most successful local puppet troupes, The Finger Players (TFP) is a non-profit company founded in ...

- [Ivan Heng](#)

Ivan Heng (b. 1963, Singapore–), an accomplished stage actor and director, is the founding artistic director of theatre ...

- [Richard Hu Tse Tau](#)

Richard Hu Tsu Tau (Dr) (b. 30 October 1926–) is a former politician who held several key ministerial positions, most ...

- [Jack Neo](#)

Neo Chee Keong (b. 1960, Singapore–), popularly known as Jack Neo, is an actor, emcee and filmmaker. He was awarded ...

- [Anthony Then](#)

Anthony Then (b. 16 June 1944, Singapore–d. 16 December 1995, Singapore), also known as Tony, was a dancer, choreographer ...

- [Singapore Management University](#)

The Singapore Management University (SMU) was established on 12 January 2000 as the first American-style and also the ...

- [Ong Keng Sen](#)

Ong Keng Sen (b. 1964, Singapore–), the critically acclaimed artistic director of TheatreWorks, a local theatre company, ...

- [Emily of Emerald Hill : trailer](#)

Emily of Emerald Hill is a one-woman play about a Singaporean matriarch set in the 1950's. A hallmark play written by ...

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Margaret Chan (Dr) (*b. 1949, Singapore–*) is an actress and writer.¹ As a stage, television and film actress, she has played iconic roles such as the titular figure in the local play *Emily of Emerald Hill*. Chan has also worked as a journalist, food critic and restaurant reviewer, and is currently an associate professor at the [Singapore Management University](#)'s School of Social Sciences.

Early life and education

The third of four children, Margaret Chan was born to a [Peranakan](#) mother and [Hokkien](#) Chinese father.² She has an elder brother, an elder sister and a younger sister.³ Coming from a Peranakan

family, Chan speaks fluent Malay.⁴

In 1972, Chan graduated from the University of Singapore (now known as the [National University of Singapore](#)) with a bachelor's degree in business administration.⁵ After graduation she won a beauty contest⁶ and subsequently married her husband, John.⁷

Chan and her family relocated temporarily to London in 1996 due to her husband's work commitment. With a small grant from Shell,⁸ Chan pursued her postgraduate studies at the University of London, where she obtained a Certificate of Teaching in Higher Education (Distinction) from the Royal Holloway and a Master of Arts (Distinction) in performance studies from the Central School of Speech and Drama in 1998.⁹ She received the Overseas Research Students Award and the Thomas Holloway Founder's Scholarship, and went on to earn her doctorate in theatre/performance studies in 2002 at the Royal Holloway, University of London.¹⁰

Journalism and food writing

Chan made a name for herself as a food critic and restaurant reviewer when she was a writer for local newspapers. She started out in 1975 as an editor for the *Metrication Digest* and *Our Metric Way* before joining *New Nation* as a journalist and restaurant reviewer in 1978. She became the editor of *New Nation's* Trend Pages in 1981, but later left journalism and ventured into freelance writing and acting.¹¹

As a freelance writer, Chan has written for a number of publications including *New Nation* and *Sunday Plus* (now known as *The Sunday Times*), where she contributed restaurant reviews. From 1988 to 1990, she was the editor of *Wine & Dine*, a gourmet food and wine magazine, and provided food consultancy in the early 1990s.¹²

In 1990, Chan received the title of *Commandeur de l'Association Internationale des Maîtres Conseils en Gastronomie Française* from the French government. Four years later, she was awarded the *Premio Internazionale Caterina de Medici XI Edizione* by the Chefs and Restaurateurs Association of Italy.¹³ In 1992, she published a guide to Singapore restaurants, entitled *Margaret Chan's Foodstops*.¹⁴

Performing arts

Chan's stage career began in the early 1970s, and she had her first professional lead role in 1977 in *The Sword Has Two Edges* for which she received rave reviews.¹⁵ As a stage actress, Chan is best known for her role as the titular character in [Stella Kon](#)'s play, *Emily of Emerald Hill*.¹⁶ Being the first Singaporean actress to play the role in 1985, Chan has been described as the "definitive" Emily and she has since reprised the role several times.¹⁷ She was invited to present Emily at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 1986.¹⁸

Chan's acting portfolio extends beyond stage work.¹⁹ In 1991, she was involved in Singapore's first full-length English-language film, [Medium Rare](#), as co-scriptwriter and actress.²⁰ She also had roles in subsequent English local films including *Army Daze* (1996)²¹ and *Forever Fever* (1998).²²

Chan also has extensive experience in television. She is one of the few local actresses who have taken on leading roles in television productions of three different languages.²³ In 1994, she had a

principal role in Singapore's first English soap opera, *Masters of the Sea*, as the Peranakan matriarch Tan Geok Neo whose famous line "I'll crrrrush you like a cockroach" is still often quoted. The following year, she became the first English-language actress to cross over from Channel 5 to the Chinese-language Channel 8 for a leading role in the Mandarin drama series, *The Golden Pillow*.²⁴ Her villain roles in both *Masters* and *The Golden Pillow* earned Chan the sobriquet of being the "number 1 villain of all time" in Singapore.²⁵ In 2002, she became the first non-Malay Channel 5 actress to cross over to the Suria Channel for the Malay drama series, *Anak Metropolitan* (Metropolitan Child).²⁶

More recently, in 2014 Chan played Maria Josefa in *The House of Bernarda Alba*, by theatre company [Wild Rice](#). The production is a classic work by Spanish author Federico *García* Lorca, which Singaporean playwright Chay Yew adapted into English.²⁷ In 2016, Chan also had a role in [Nadiputra](#)'s *bangsawan* (Malay opera) entitled *Raden Mas*. The production is based on the legend of Radin Mas Ayu, a 16th-century Javanese princess living in Temasek.²⁸

Chan has sat on a number of national committees in the arts and creative industries. She was a member of the Arts & Culture work group of the Creative Industries Workforce Skills Qualifications (CI WSQ) initiative in 2007, and a member of the Arts & Culture Manpower, Skills & Training Council (AC MSTC) from 2008 to 2010. She was also appointed as a member of the Arts Consultative Panel formed by the Media Development Authority from 2010 to 2015.²⁹

Academia

Chan joined the Singapore Management University in 2001 as a senior manager in the now-defunct Communications Studies Centre. She was promoted to assistant director in SMU's Office of Student Life within a year and then became an associate director in 2005.³⁰ Her research interests include Chinese spirit medium worship and Chinese popular religion. In 2006, she published the book, *Ritual is Theatre, Theatre is Ritual: Chinese Spirit Medium Worship*,³¹ which investigates the practice of the *tang ki* spirit medium worship in Singapore, Fujian (China), Taiwan, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia.³² She has presented papers on this topic in numerous seminars and conferences in the region. Chan is currently an associate professor of theatre/performance studies (practice) in the Singapore Management University's School of Social Sciences.³³

Family

Husband: John

Children: Cara and Jonathan³⁴

Selected works

Publications

1992: *Margaret Chan's Foodstops*

2006: *Ritual is Theatre, Theatre is Ritual: Chinese Spirit Medium Worship*

Theatre³⁵

1975: *Senhora Miranda, Goa*, University of Singapore Drama Society

1977: *Cocada, The Sword Has Two Edges*, Experimental Theatre Club

1979: *The Seven Ages of Man*, Experimental Theatre Club

1982: *Samseng and the Chettiar's Daughter*, Singapore Arts Festival

1985: Emily Gan, *Emily of Emerald Hill*, [Singapore Arts Festival](#)

1986: Emily Gan, *Emily of Emerald Hill*, Commonwealth Arts Festival, Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh and Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Traverse Theatre

1987: Tay Pei En, *Quarter to Midnight*, Drama Festival

1988: Edith Piaf, *Piaf*, [TheatreWorks](#)

1988: Mummy, *Beauty World*, TheatreWorks

1989: *Green Socks*, TheatreWorks

1991: *The Altar*, Practice Theatre Ensemble

1992: *D'Rama Drama*, [The Substation](#)'s Guinness Garden Performances; Old Miss Lee, *The Evening Climb* (Mandarin), Practice Theatre Ensemble

1993: *Lao Jiu*, TheatreWorks; *Death in Tuas*, TheatreWorks

1994: Emily Gan, *Emily of Emerald Hill*, President [Wee Kim Wee](#) Tribute Performance; *Lady Bracknell*, *The Importance of Being Ernest: The Musical*, Bob Nimmo Productions; *No Parking on Odd Days*, Practice Theatre Ensemble; Linda Loman, *Death of a Salesman*, Singapore Repertory Theatre

2001: Madam Arcai, *Blithe Spirit*, Wild Rice

2009: Bullfrog, *Honk*, Singapore Management University

2010: Emily, *Emily of Emerald Hill*, Singapore Arts Festival

2012: Emily, *Emily of Emerald Hill: Singaporean Identity on Stage*, Peranakan Museum

2014: Maria Josefa, *The House of Bernarda Alba*, Wild Rice

2015: Mama, *Mama, Big Bird, and the Cat*, Singapore Management University

2016: Naluri Jahat Tengku Halijah, *Bangsawan Raden Mas*, Sri Mamanda Bangsawan

Television lead roles³⁶

1990: Presenter, *Fast Forward*, educational video series for the Singapore National Productivity Board

1991: *Easy Maths*, educational video series for the Singapore National Productivity Board

1993: *The Ra Ra Show*, Singapore Broadcasting Corporation

1993: *Mum's Not Cooking Tonight*, Singapore Broadcasting Corporation

1994: Tan Geok Neo, *Masters of the Sea*, Television Corporation of Singapore

1995: Tan Geok Neo, *Troubled Water*, Television Corporation of Singapore; Lin Yuehao, *The Golden Pillow* (Chinese), Television Corporation of Singapore

1997: Presenter, *Appetite for Asia*, Channel 5, Australia

2001: *House of Chow*, MediaCorp Singapore

2001: *The Brand New Towkay*, MediaCorp Singapore

2002: *Anak Metropolitan* (Malay), MediaCorp Singapore

2004: *Aku Hero* (Malay), MediaCorp Singapore

2007: *Maggie & Me*, MediaCorp Singapore

2010: Mrs Lim, *Anything Goes*, MediaCorp Singapore

2013: *50 Years of Television*, MediaCorp Singapore

Films³⁷

1990: *Homeland*³⁸

1991: *Medium Rare*

1996: *Army Daze*

1998: *Forever Fever*

Scriptwriting³⁹

1987: Creator, *Deliciously Singapore*, cooking series in Mandarin

1991: Scriptwriter, *Medium Rare*; script consultant, *Easy Maths* educational video series for the Singapore National Productivity Board

1992: Playwright, *D’Rama Drama: A New Look at the Ramayana*

1997: Scriptwriter, *Appetite for Asia*, Channel 5, Australia

Author

Serene Cai

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3. [Margaret Chan and the baby sister she almost did not have](#). (1991, June 30). *The Straits Times*, p.19. Retrieved from NewspaperSG.

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17. Cheah, U. H. (2010, June 10). [Reprising the definitive Emily](#). *The Business Times*, p. 10. Retrieved from NewspaperSG.
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22. Goei, G. (Producer, writer, director), Chiang, J. (Producer), & Tan, C. C. (Producer). (2011). *Forever fever* [Motion picture]. Singapore: Tiger Tiger Pictures Pte Ltd. (Call no.: RSING 791.4372 FOR)
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Stella Kon~ Recommendations~, multiplying the vector by a number exactly annihilates the integral of the function having a finite gap.

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Glocalisation at the Singapore Arts Festival, ephemeris, as follows from the system of equations, is not obvious to everyone.

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