

MARGARET CHAN - ACTRESS



From top left clockwise: *D'Rama Drama*, 1992; *Masters of the Sea*, 1994, 1995; *Emily of Emerald Hill*, 1985; *The Sword Has Two Edges*, 1977; *Maggie & Me* with Adrian Pang, 2007 (Photo: Kind courtesy of Sean Li-Wen Cheong).



Margaret Chan has a place in the history of Singapore English language theatre. She began her stage career in the early 1970s with pioneering English language theatre clubs the University of Singapore Society and the Experimental Theatre Club.

Margaret has chalked up a number of “firsts” in Singapore English language theatre:

- Margaret represented Singapore in the Commonwealth Festival 1986 with a performance in the role of Emily Gan in Stella Kon’s monodrama *Emily of Emerald Hill* at the prestigious Assembly Rooms venue in Edinburgh, Scotland.
- On the strength of this performance, Margaret was invited back to Edinburgh in the same year to reprise her role for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival at the textbook Traverse Theatre. Margaret became the first Singaporean to perform at the internationally acclaimed Edinburgh Fringe Festival.
- In 1991, Margaret co-wrote the screenplay for, and took a lead role in the first Singapore produced feature film *Medium Rare*.

- In 1994 Margaret played the principal role of matriarch Mdm. Tan Geok Neo in the nation's first English language TV drama series *Masters of the Sea* for the then Television Corporation of Singapore.
- In 1995, she was the first English language actress from Channel 5 to crossover to the Chinese Channel 8 when she took a principal role in the Mandarin drama series, *The Golden Pillow*.
- In 2002, she was the first English language actress to crossover and take a principal role in a Suria Channel Malay drama series. This seminal performance was in *Anak Metropolitan* (Children of the City).

Margaret holds a Master of Arts (Distinction) from the Central School of Speech and Drama and a Doctor of Philosophy with the Royal Holloway, University of London, consistently ranked at the top of the UK university standings in theatre research. She has a University of London Teaching, Higher Certificate (Distinction). Margaret is the recipient of the prestigious Overseas Research Scholarship awarded by the U.K. government and the Thomas Holloway (Royal Holloway, Founder) scholarship.

Theatre Lead Roles:

- *Goa*, University of Singapore Drama Society, 1975
- *The Graduate*, University of Singapore Society, 1976
- *The Sword Has Two Edges*, Experimental Theatre Club, 1977
- *The Seven Ages of Man*, Experimental Theatre Club, 1979
- *Emily of Emerald Hill*, Arts Festival, 1985
- *Emily of Emerald Hill*, Commonwealth Arts Festival, Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh, 1986
- *Emily of Emerald Hill*, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Traverse Theatre, 1986
- *Piaf*, Theatreworks, 1987
- *Beauty World*, Theatreworks, 1988
- *Green Socks*, Theatreworks, 1989
- *The Altar*, Practice Theatre Ensemble, 1991
- *D'Rama Drama*, Substation's Guinness Garden Performances, 1992
- *The Evening Climb* (Mandarin), Practice Theatre Ensemble, 1992
- *Lao Jiu*, Theatreworks, 1993
- *Death in Tuas*, Theatreworks, 1993
- *Emily of Emerald Hill*, President Wee Kim Wee Tribute Performance, 1993
- *The Importance of being Ernest, the musical*, Bob Nimmo Productions, 1994
- *Lao Jiu*, Theatreworks, Festival of Perth, 1994
- *No Parking on Odd Days*, Practice Theatre Ensemble, 1994
- *Death of a Salesman*, Singapore Repertory Theatre, 1994
- *Blithe Spirit*, Wild Rice, 2001
- *Honk*, Singapore Management University, 2009

Television Lead Roles:

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

- *Easy Maths*, educational video series for the Singapore National Productivity Board, 1991
- *The Ra Ra Show*, Singapore Broadcasting Corporation, 1993
- *Mum's Not Cooking Tonight*, Singapore Broadcasting Corporation, 1993
- *Masters of the Seas*, Television Corporation of Singapore, 1994
- *Troubled Water*, Television Corporation of Singapore, 1995
- *The Golden Pillow* (Chinese), Television Corporation of Singapore, 1995
- *Appetite for Asia*, (Presenter) Channel 5, Australia, 1997
- *House of Chow*, Mediacorp Singapore, 2001
- *The Brand New Towkay*, Mediacorp Singapore, 2001
- *Anak Metropolitan* (Malay), Mediacorp Singapore, 2002
- *Aku Hero* (Malay), Mediacorp Singapore, 2004
- *Maggie & Me*, Episodes 1 & 2, Season 2, Mediacorp Singapore, 2007

Feature Films:

- *Homeland*, (Omnimax), 1990
- *Medium Rare*, Singapore, 1991
- *Army Daze*, Singapore, 1996
- *Forever Fever*, Singapore, 1997

Script-writing:

- 1987 Creator, *Deliciously Singapore*, a cooking series in Mandarin telecast over Television Singapore
- 1991 Script Writer, *Medium Rare*, Singapore's first English language feature film
- 1991 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 Script Writer, *Appetite for Asia*, Channel 5, Australia