

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# VISION

**The critically acclaimed and world-class illusion act by Singapore's only professional illusionist duo, Lawrence and Priscilla, returns to Singapore with a grander production and more mystifying magic than ever before!**

**03 March 2015, Singapore** – This summer, Gateway Entertainment will be bringing VISION back to the Esplanade Theatre from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> July, after its sell-out, successful China run last year, in time to celebrate the nation's Golden Jubilee.

Singapore's only professional illusionist duo Lawrence Khong and Priscilla Khong will once again bring to the audience a world-class performance that promises to be even bigger and grander on all fronts than ever before.

As the largest illusion-theatre show in Asia, the creation of VISION took two years in the making before its sell-out debut performance in 2011, earning high praises among audiences in Singapore. Four years since its inception, VISION has performed throughout the region, and will be presenting an enhanced version that is its finest yet.

*VISION 2015* promises to fascinate its audience through complex and visually stunning acts, presented in a grander scale while introducing numerous new illusions and an expanded storyline.

Home-grown award-winning professional illusionist, Lawrence Khong says, "Being the highest form of artistic expression of our craft, this new rendition of VISION pays tribute to our nation and the significance of its historic milestone".

Priscilla, the first in Asia to be named Female Magician of the Year by the International Magicians Society continues, "This is the perfect opportunity to celebrate with the rest of Singapore as one nation, and also to showcase to the world what Singapore's talent are capable of".

Besides the illusionist duo, this spectacular production is also the genesis of the brightest creative talents in the industry, both internationally and locally: from

the Emmy Award winning Don Wayne, principal magic creator for David Copperfield and Paul Kieve, Drama Desk Award recipient for Ghost The Musical, to Kenn C, Singapore's own Music Director for the World Concert Tours for Stephanie Sun 2014.

## **About VISION**

*VISION* is the largest and most elaborate illusion-theatre spectacle not just in Asia, but also in the world. From gigantic and elaborate props to an international dance troupe of 16 dancers, 100 costumes and more than 35 illusions, Lawrence and Priscilla have made *VISION* an iconic theatre piece. A \$2-million dollar production two years in the making, *VISION*'s production and elaborate stagecraft have been helmed by the best minds in the business - Don Wayne Magic, former magic consultant to Britney Spears, Michael Jackson and television specials such as *The Magic of David Copperfield* and Paul Kieve, winner of the New York Drama Desk Award 2012 for *Ghost, the Musical*; Academy of Magical Arts Creative Fellowship Award 2013 and an Honorary Lifetime member of the Magic Castle, Hollywood.

*VISION* garnered more than 16,000 ticket sales (92.5%) when it made its debut at Singapore's iconic Esplanade Theatre in July 2011. It remains one of the biggest illusion and theatre shows ever staged in Asia.

## **Praises for VISION**

"Spectacular sets and good magic make for a great show." – The Straits Times Life!

"We all feel proud that a world-class production can come from an island-state Singapore" – Cheong Kok Leong, President, Shanghai-Singapore Business Association

"The production is impressive – the dramatic show starts off with a bang, shimmies into nostalgia, and dives headlong into the psyche." – CNNGo International

"VISION is an amazing production. So much thought has gone into the artistic side of showing magic. I really love it." – Stephanie Sun

"This is a world-class production from Singapore. The story of father and daughter makes us think." – Li Yi Shyan, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ministry of National Development

## **Fast Facts**

Title : VISION 2015

Director : Samantha Scott-Blackhall

Choreographer : Lisa Keegan

Producer : Felina Khong  
Gateway Entertainment

Illusionists : Lawrence Khong  
Priscilla Khong

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### **COMPANY PROFILE**

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#### **Gateway Entertainment**

Gateway Entertainment is a production entertainment company dedicated to creating spellbinding experiences for illusion theatre, movies, community/social ventures and corporate events.

Since 2000, Gateway Entertainment has established its reputation as a multidimensional entertainment powerhouse with the ability to produce original works that captivate audiences across the region and around the globe.

Drawing on the universal power of magic to move, enchant and delight, Gateway Entertainment has created and staged mega illusion theatre productions that have confounded and enthralled audiences from Las Vegas to Seoul. Its productions have been staged in more than 40 cities, and its five touring shows have been enjoyed by millions of people around the world. As part of its vision to shape and positively influence popular culture, Gateway Entertainment has produced 22 movies and television specials that have been enjoyed all over Asia.

In the social and community realm, Gateway Entertainment's projects have reached out to over 11,000 disadvantaged beneficiaries in day care centres, homes and hospitals. Its numerous social initiatives have garnered the company national recognition, including consecutive nominations for SIP-Schwab Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2007 and 2008 for company founder Lawrence Khong. Gateway Entertainment's flagship social initiative is Project SMILE – Sharing Magic In Love Everywhere – a programme that seeks to advance magic literacy by merging magic learning and social volunteerism.

Additionally, Gateway Entertainment has staged hundreds of corporate events that have mesmerised some of the biggest names in the corporate world. Fusing creative vision with an outstanding ability to mount elaborate mega shows, Gateway Entertainment is an experienced maestro that works magic every time. Whether for an audience of 1,000 or 15,000, all of Gateway Entertainment's productions have received critical acclaim from theatre goers, critics and magic aficionados.

In particular, Gateway Entertainment's ability to craft unforgettable experiences that speak to a wide spectrum of audiences makes it the perfect partner for those seeking access to those who are hungry for world-class entertainment.

Gateway Entertainment is helmed by Lawrence and Priscilla Khong, who are the first in Asia to win the highest honour of the magic community - the coveted Elite Diamond Merlin Award for Magician of the Year and Female Magician of the Year in 2010. With this Oscar of magic bestowed by The International Magicians Society, Lawrence and Priscilla join the ranks of fellow luminaries David Copperfield, Siegfried and Roy, Penn and Teller and Criss Angel.

Gateway Entertainment: Simply Magic.

## APPENDIX II

### BIOGRAPHIES

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**Lawrence Khong, PBM**

*Founding Chairman, Gateway Entertainment Founding Chairman, TOUCH*

*Community Services Illusionist*

*Magic Consultant*

*Asia's First Elite Diamond Merlin Award Recipient Magician of the Year 2010*

Lawrence is the first in Asia to receive the Elite Diamond Merlin Award for Magician of the Year. This award conferred by the International Magicians Society in 2010 is the equivalent of the Oscars in the magic community and industry.

A passionate innovator in the field of magic, Lawrence founded Gateway Entertainment in 2000 to realize his vision of creating magic theatre productions that go beyond mere magic shows. Together with creative director and daughter Priscilla, Lawrence conceptualized and staged mega illusion theatre productions that meld extraordinary illusions with great stories and compelling theatre under the label Magic of Lawrence and Priscilla. The label's successful productions have confounded and enthralled audiences from Las Vegas to Seoul, and have been enjoyed by millions of people around the world.

Lawrence's passion for innovation led him to collaborate with some of the most acclaimed maestros of magic such as master illusionist Jeff McBride, a three-time award winner at the International Grand Prix of Magic, who contributed to the highly acclaimed production Magic of Love.

Other collaborators include Don Wayne, who served as David Copperfield's principal magic creator and director for over 18 years; Jim Steinmeyer, credited for defining illusions for David Copperfield; Joanie Spina who was principal performer, choreographer, and artistic consultant to David Copperfield for 11 years and John Thomson who was the consultant for MindFreak, Criss Angel's hit television series.

Apart from magic, Lawrence is also a pioneer in public service. Lawrence founded and chairs TOUCH Community Services, a registered not-for-profit charitable organisation that serves the underprivileged and needy in Singapore. TOUCH Community Services was named Outstanding Non-profit Organisation in 2007.

In 2002, fuelled by a desire to do more for the community with his magic talent, Lawrence set up Project SMILE, or Sharing Magic In Love Everywhere, with Priscilla. This one-of-a-kind community initiative teaches and trains volunteers in the art of performing magic to spread joy and wonder among the less privileged in society.

For his contributions to public service, Lawrence was conferred the prestigious Pingat Bakti Masyarakat (Public Service Medal) title in 1998. He was also twice

nominated for the SIP-Schwab Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award (2007 and 2008) for his work on Project SMILE.

The multifaceted Lawrence is also a world-class polo player. He was part of the national polo team in the Southeast Asian Games in Thailand in 2007 where the team bagged the silver medal. He has been voted by Singaporeans as one of Team Singapore's Top 20 Sports Idols.

### **Priscilla Khong**

*Creative Director, Gateway Entertainment Principal Trainer and Motivator, Project SMILE Illusionist*

*Asia's First Elite Diamond Merlin Award Recipient – Female Magician of the Year 2010*

Priscilla is the first in Asia to be named Female Magician of the Year. Conferred by the International Magicians Society in 2010, this award is the equivalent of the Oscars in the magic community and industry.

Priscilla's professional magic career officially began in 2000 when she helped conceptualise from Illusion to Reality, which she co-starred with her father Lawrence. The production went on to tour Taiwan, and Priscilla continued to perform worldwide with her father, including the highly acclaimed Magic of Love tour from 2001-2006, at some of the most prestigious theatre venues in the world.

In truth, Priscilla has been doing magic onstage even before she was born; Priscilla's mom Nina was performing on stage with Lawrence all the months that she was pregnant with Priscilla. Inheriting her father's love for magic, Priscilla has trained under the grandmasters of magic, including The Great Tomsoni, Jeff McBride, Haruo Shimada and Jonathan Pendragon.

Besides magic, Priscilla is also a trained jazz, hip-hop and ballet dancer, which has greatly shaped the look and feel of Gateway Entertainment's productions. As Creative Director, Priscilla designs the visuals of each performance - crafting and refining each routine before enhancing it with the right music and props. Her dance background allows Priscilla to infuse choreography and precision of movement into each magic act, making each performance worthy of a music video.

Priscilla is a fervent believer in magic being a powerful and universal communication tool that transcends all ages and cultures. This conviction led Priscilla to set up her school of magic, Magic Circle of Lawrence & Priscilla, where she conducts magic classes for aspiring young magicians.

She also takes time off from the stage to mentor and help youths through magic. In 2002, she spearheaded Project SMILE (Sharing Magic In Love Everywhere), a community arts project that allows aspiring magicians to learn their craft and



perform to bring joy to the less fortunate. As principal trainer and key driver behind every project at Project SMILE, Priscilla combines magic with life lessons with her teachings. Project SMILE has trained hundreds of youths and adults in Singapore, China, Japan and Malaysia.

## APPENDIX III

## IMAGES

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