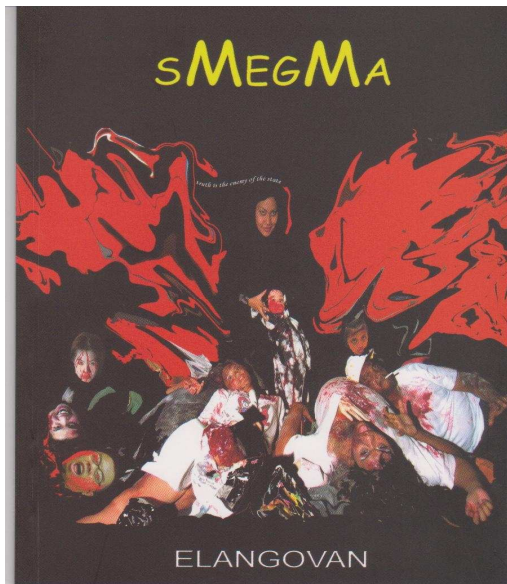


# SMEGMA



SMEGMA was supposed to be staged by Agni Kootthu (Theatre of Fire) on Sat 5 and Sun 6 Aug 2006 at the Guinness Theatre, The Substation, with support from the Arts Fund. The performance was given an Arts entertainment Licence with RA18 (Restricted Artistic 18 years and above only) rating and advisory: 'The play contains strong language and adult themes that may be objectionable to some members of the public' by the Media Content Division (Publication and Arts) of the Media Development Authority (MDA) on Tue 1 Aug 2006. The licence was 'ridiculously' cancelled on Fri 4 Aug 2006, the eve of the production by the same MDA. So SMEGMA was not staged but banned.

## Performed by

Ahamed Ali Khan  
Dew M. Chaiyanara  
Max Ling Sun Ginn  
Nina Mareta Kosasih  
Shaiful Risan  
Sugiman Rahmat  
Theresa Chan  
Umi Kalthum binte Ismail

Lighting Design: Paw Sorensen (Denmark)  
Sound Design & Technical Manager: Andre Danker  
Set Design: Elangovan  
Stage Manager: Regina Chua  
Production Manager: S Thenmoli

Written & Directed by Elangovan

Excerpt from SMEGMA:-

## **PRAYER FOR PEACE**

*[Two men are thrashing a mentally disabled Chinese kid. Male 1 – Ali AHamed Khan. Male 2 – Sugiman Rahmat. Chinese Kid and Chinese Interrogator – Max Ling.]*

Kid: Uncle! Uncle! Don't beat me. I scared. I scared. No!

Male 1: I don't believe in reaching Allah through the use of terror, force and slaughter.

Male 2: I don't believe in reaching Allah through the use of terror, force and slaughter.

Kid: *[Kid transforms into Interrogator and stands up. Male 1 and Male 2 are kneeling in prayer position.]* Then why did you do that?

1 & 2: Because what he did is punishable by death.

Interrogator: Are you trying to build an Islamic empire here?

Male 1: The ultimate goal of the Islamic terrorists is to create a Pan-Islamic world ruled by a Caliph. The mandatory qualifications of an Islamic Caliph are: One – he must be a Muslim.

Male 2: Two – he must be a male.

Male 1: Three – he must be from the Qurayah tribe of the Arabs.

Male 2: Four – he must be a freeman and not a slave.

Male 3: Five – he must be of sound mind.

Interrogator: Sound mind? Are you both of sound mind?

Male 1: I am of sound mind.

Male 2 – I am of sound mind.

Interrogator: Do you think it is your basic right to terrorize one whom you consider an infidel?

Male 1: We didn't terrorize anyone. *[To Male 2]* Did we?

Male 2: We didn't terrorize anyone. *[To Male 1]* Did we?

Interrogator: I put it to you that you are intolerant to any idea or faith which does not endorse your religious belief and because of this fascistic and imperialistic nature of your belief, both of you have unleashed the violence.

Male 1: You are not one of us.

Male 2: You don't understand our belief and faith.

Interrogator: I am well-versed in your religion and history and language. My interpretations are highly respected and trusted. My final say helps to formulate the verdict and policies of this nation.

Male 1: Yes. I know that you will not hesitate to use your authority and media power to frame and project us as terrorists for this petty incident.

Male 2: I don't think it is a petty incident. It is a serious offence. Insult. But it could start a riot and destroy our fragile harmony.

Interrogator: *[Applauds Male 2 sarcastically]* I appreciate your concern and sensibility. But then, *[pushes them down by the neck]*, why did you do it?

Kid: *[Becomes Kid]* Uncle! Don't beat! Uncle! I die!

Male 1: How dare you enter our place? What are you all waiting for? Kill this stupid animal for desecrating our holy place. We have sold our freedom and become dogs. Are you all going to be silent witnesses to the sale of our dignity?

Male 2: *[To Kid]* Who have gave you this? Kill this animal. What? You want to hand him over to the authorities? They will not punish him. They will put him in a home. And our neighbouring countries will laugh at us for being cowards. Must respect authority? Whose authority? Allah's authority or Kafir's authority?

Male 1: Allah's authority.

Male 2: Allah's authority.

Male 1: You like football?

Male 2: You like football?

Kid: Uncle! I like ... I like football! Give me football.

Male 2: Give him football! *[Kicks and Kid screams.]* I will let you go if you tell me the truth. Who gave you this packet?

Kid: One uncle! He give me money. He tell me he give some more money wait I throw packet inside. I don't know him. I come. I throw. Uncle! Don't beat me.

1 & 2: The rice packet fell on our head. It scattered all around. Blasphemy.

Interrogator: *[Kid becomes Interrogator.]* It was a packet of rice thrown by a mentally disabled moron. Some irresponsible idiot had played a prank on that innocent Kid. You cannot justify his death. Both of you have no right to kill that kid.

1 & 2: Not just rice. Chinese *Char Siew* (roast pork) rice. *Haram!* Firbidden meat rice. Which you eat. We did not kill him. Have you identified the other thousand legs which stepped on him? We are as innocent as the Kid. He was at a wrong place at a wrong time. Or was it an ...exercise by your intelligence to test us? Go and muzzle your lapdog media. Go and distort truth as usual. Let us pray for peace. *[Both raise their arms in prayer.]*

Interrogator: And harmony for this country?

*[Lights fade out.]*