

Title: ROUTES: A Singaporean  
Memoir 1940-75

Author: Robert Yeo

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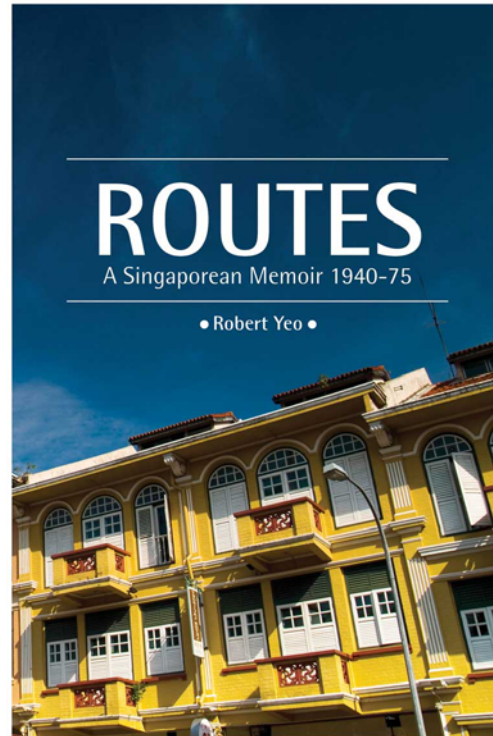
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### **About the Book**

*Routes 1940-75* is both a personal and public memoir; it is personal as it records part of Robert Yeo's life for the first thirty-five years, and it is public as it follows his response to some of the tumultuous events of the period at the local, regional and international levels. In revealing skeletons in the cupboard through letters, diaries, extracts from his poems, plays and fiction, Yeo presents an unvarnished account of one person's story of his country's emergence from third to first world. The inclusion of more than a hundred illustrations enhances the intriguing prose.

"Robert Yeo has given us a quirky, intelligent and delightful coming-of-age story set against the backdrop of a rapidly changing post-World War II Singapore. That he chose to do so in both words and pictures makes his memoir all the more fascinating and inspiring."

— *Gretchen Liu, author of Singapore: a Pictorial History 1819-2000*

"Robert Yeo's *Routes* is a testament to the Chinese proverb: "The journey is the reward." Herein the reader is invited to vicariously share the rewards of travel in time and place and page. The memoir traces the roots of Yeo's ancestry, his acculturation, and the genesis of his work over five productive decades, introducing a host of memorable characters along the way. We discover that the momentous events in the history of Singapore—WW II, independence, separation, communist insurrection in Southeast

Asia, and the economic miracle — are all intimately interwoven with his rich and varied output. Parataxis of the personal and the national imbue the work with varied and piquant levelsof engagement. Yeo’s place in Singaporean post-colonial literature is singular...”

— *George Watt, former Head of Ursula Hall, The Australian National University*

### **About the Author**

**Robert Yeo** has published poetry, a novel, staged plays, written essays on cultural policy and theatre, compiled anthologies on Singaporean literature and co-written books on the teaching of literature for secondary schools. Currently, he teaches Creative Writing in the Singapore Management University and mentors in the MAP programme of the National Arts Council. In 1978, he attended the famous International Writing Program in the University of Iowa and in 1995 was on a Fulbright Program. For more than a decade, from 1977 onwards, he was chair of the Drama Advisory Committee which helped to develop theatre in Singapore’s four languages and for his ‘services to drama’, he was awarded the Public Service Medal in 1991. His selected poems *Leaving Home, Mother* were published in 1999 and his three connected plays were published in 2001 as *The Singapore Trilogy*. The Trilogy is recognized as a seminal work in the development of Singapore Theatre in English.

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