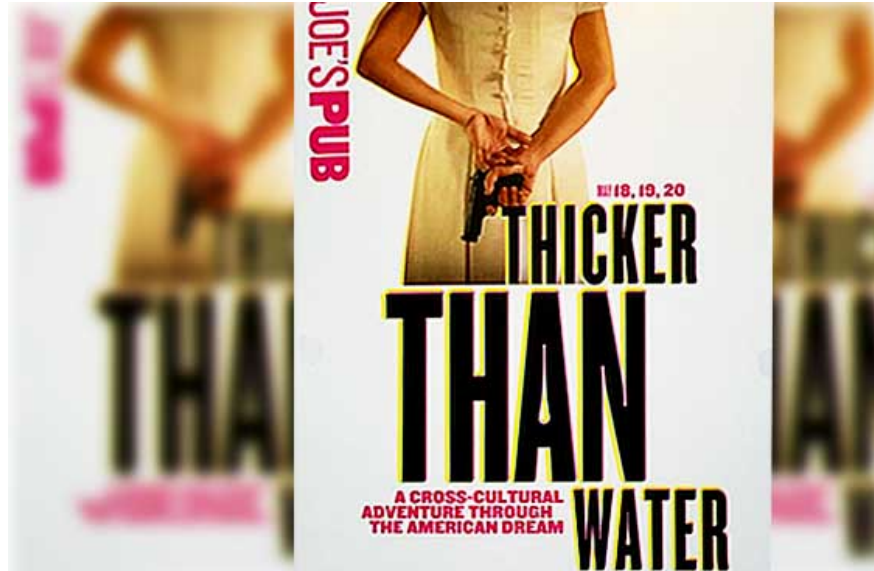


# Malaysian director makes debut on New York stage

By **Bernama** - April 29, 2018 9:00 PM

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*Ruben, who left Malaysia in 2003 to study in Melbourne, holds a degree in production design from College of the Arts of Melbourne University.*

NEW YORK: A Malaysian stage director and production designer is making his debut in New York with

It will be staged on May 18 at the Public Theater's iconic Joe's Pub.

The 35-year-old Kuala Lumpur-born Govin Ruben, who divides his time between Kuala Lumpur and his company "Terryandthecuz" for the directorial and designing work he carries out in his stage plays.

Ruben, who left Malaysia in 2003 to study in Melbourne, holds a degree in production design from the Melbourne University.

TerryandTheCuz, formed in 2004 by Terrence Conrad and Govin Ruben (aka The Cuz), has designed, v

almost every genre of art – theatre, dance, art installations and even puppetry.

Conrad is a Kuala Lumpur-based accountant-cum-film buff.

In an interview with Bernama in New York, Ruben recalled that he had actually started to study law but at the advice of his mother who perceived that he was more suited to production designing.

The stage play called "Thicker Than Water" is a Malaysian-Australian collaboration with support from (Malaysian Development Agency) in the Malaysian Prime Minister's office, and the Australia Council for the Arts. ] Pub.

"Thicker than Water" will have four shows, all of which will be at Joe's Pub, which can accommodate s

Joe's Pub, one of the six performance spaces within the Public Theater, is a music venue and restaura genres and arts, ranging from cabaret to modern dance to world music.

It is named after Joseph Papp, the theatrical producer who established the New York Shakespeare Fes Shakespeare in the Park programme in New York's Central Park.

Ruben said that the George Town Festival in Penang had also offered to stage his play during the festi

"TerryandtheCuz" has already staged plays in Malaysia such as My Lingam Speaks, Klu,do!, The Bee F SK!N, etc.

Explaining the central idea of his play, Ruben said that "Thicker than Water" offers a new look at the / of those aspiring to come to the US.

But what exactly is the American dream? The play takes a lighter view of the initial grind or struggle \ through before achieving the much-touted American dream.

"'Thicker than Water' is the story of two Malaysian film-makers trying to make it to Hollywood by writ original idealist liberal rhetoric.

"Can these two Malaysians find acceptance in America and be convincing enough that they are more /

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