

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Get up close and personal with Asian artists
at *ConversAsians***

Programmes for the public to benefit local artists, practitioners and students

SINGAPORE, 27 April 2010 – Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay presents a series of public programmes comprising talks, workshops and masterclasses to allow local artists, practitioners and students to come face to face with established and emerging Asian artists featured at the inaugural *ConversAsians* from 26 to 29 May 2010.

Said Ms Jobina Tan, Assistant Director of Programming, The Esplanade Co. Ltd: “Members of the public can participate in selected programmes at *ConversAsians* where they can hear the inspirational stories of Asian artists and experience their artistry through masterclasses and workshops. Such up close and personal sessions will be particularly useful to local practitioners and students as they will be able to interact with artists whom they may not otherwise have access to.”

Held at the Esplanade Concert Hall, the *In Conversation With...* sessions will feature public talks by dance doyen and founder of the renowned Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan, Lin Hwai-Min on 26 May; experimental arts pioneer and founding artistic director of Hong Kong’s *Zuni Icosahedron*, Danny Yung on 28 May, and world-class producer, songwriter, DJ, multi-instrumentalist, orchestral composer, and cultural pioneer, Nitin Sawhney (UK) on 29 May. The artists will be sharing their personal perspectives on art and life as well as their fascinating experiences and creative journeys.

For a more intimate and hands-on experience, there will be workshops helmed by *ConversAsians* artists. Music lovers can choose from a masterclass on musical composition and performance by Nitin Sawhney or a workshop on introduction to Nankuan and Liyuan music by Chen Mei-O (Taiwan) from the Han Tang Yuefu ensemble. Dance practitioners can participate in masterclasses in body and movement conducted by dancer and choreographer Aditi Mangaldas (India) or

contemporary dance by Jecko Siompo (Indonesia), as well as workshops on the introduction to Cambodian classical dance by Amrita Performing Arts (Cambodia) or training principles of Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan by Lee Ching-Chun.

In addition, the public will be able to catch showcases of full-length works presented by the *Singapore Arts Festival* in conjunction with *ConversAsians*, namely *Wind Shadow* by Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan, *Acoustic Evening* and *Sound System* featuring Nitin Sawhney and his band, *Lady Macbeth* by Theatre Moollee, and the premiere of *Nijinsky Siam* by Pichet Klunchun.

In addition to the ticketed programmes, a free visual arts symposium will be open to the public. Entitled *Making History: How Southeast Asian Art reconquers the past to conjure the future*, the event will feature exhibiting artists Alwin Reamillo (Philippines), Green Zeng (Singapore), Khanh Bui (Vietnam), Mella Jaarsma (Indonesia), Nge Lay (Burma), Tang Da Wu (Singapore) and Vasan Sittihiket (Thailand). Moderated by Iola Lenzi, a Singapore-based Southeast Asian art critic and curator, the symposium will assemble these seven regional artists who will articulate ideas about history, personal and national, as well as give form to their vision of our region's evolving place in the world.

To further benefit arts students based in Singapore, a student fellowship programme will offer selected candidates a chance to attend *ConversAsians*, where they can meet, observe and learn from the artists and arts industry practitioners while being mentored by Esplanade's programming officers. Interested parties may submit a 500-word essay on the reasons why he / she would like to be part of *ConversAsians* by 30 April 2010.

ConversAsians 2010 is produced by Esplanade and made possible with the generous support from Sponsors: British Council, OSIM International Ltd and PaperOne; Official Beer: Stella Artois, and Official Hotel: Marina Mandarin Singapore.

Tickets for the *In Conversation With...* sessions, workshops and masterclasses, and the public showcases of full-length works are available through the SISTIC Hotline (Tel: +65 6348 5555) and authorised agents. More information on *ConversAsians* and the registration details can be found at www.conversasians.com.sg. (Please refer to the Annexes for the artists' line-up, event schedule and public programmes).

About ConversAsians

Held from 26 to 29 May 2010, *ConversAsians* puts the spotlight on 20 established and emerging Asian artists hailing from different disciplines in dance, theatre, music and visual arts. The inaugural event will go beyond featuring artists' works to delve deeper into the creative process to encourage dialogue and interaction that can facilitate content development. The new platform moves away from a traditional buyer-seller arts mart to allow delegates to gain a deeper insight that can further their understanding of Asian artists and their work. It brings the artists to the forefront through insightful panel discussions, masterclasses and workshops, as well as showcases of new-works-in-progress and performances so that presenters and producers may better understand not just the work but also the artists and their process. *ConversAsians* is produced by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay and held in conjunction with the Singapore Arts Festival. For more information, log on to www.conversasians.com.sg.

About Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay is one of the world's busiest arts centres, officially opened on 12 October 2002. This architectural icon with its distinctive twin shells is sited within Singapore's civic district, just by Marina Bay at the mouth of the Singapore River.

Esplanade aims to be a performing arts centre for everyone, and its programmes cater to its diverse audiences. Its programme line-up spans all genres to encompass music, dance, theatre and visual arts, with a special focus on Asian culture.

Esplanade houses world-class performance spaces, supported by a comprehensive range of professional support facilities and services. Its two main venues are the 1,600-seat Concert Hall, with acoustics by the late Russell Johnson of ARTEC Consultants, and a theatre with a capacity of 2,000 adapted from the traditional European opera houses in horseshoe form.

In the past year, Esplanade welcomed over seven million visitors and hosted over 2,400 performances.

About Singapore Arts Festival

Established as one of Asia's leading arts festivals since 1977, the Singapore Arts Festival gathers internationally acclaimed and local artists annually for a month-long celebration of cultural diversity and artistic innovation. Characterised by a bold, progressive and innovative spirit, the Festival is committed to commissioning new works as well as offering an infusion of performances and events that inspire and capture the public imagination of the city. The Singapore Arts Festival 2010 will be held from 14 May – 13 June. For more information, log on to www.singaporeartsfest.com

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Issued by The Esplanade Co Ltd.

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ANNEX A

ConversAsians 2010 – Public Programmes

In conversation with...

Join us at these sessions where we spotlight the artists. Get to know them as artists and individuals, listen to their personal perspectives on art and life, and gain an appreciation of their fascinating creative journeys.

26 May 2010, Wed: Lin Hwai-Min (Taiwan)

28 May 2010, Fri: Danny Yung (Hong Kong)

29 May 2010, Sat: Nitin Sawhney (UK)

10.30am (90 mins), Esplanade Concert Hall

\$20 each session

Package: \$25 for 3 sessions

Music Composition Masterclass by Nitin Sawhney (UK)

26 May 2010, Wed

9am (90 mins), \$20

Esplanade Rehearsal Studio

Nitin Sawhney will demonstrate different techniques, perspectives and diverse possibilities of musical composition and performance.

Participants should have prior experience in music composition and performance.

Body & Movement Masterclass by Aditi Mangaldas (India)

27 May 2010, Thu

10am (150 mins), \$20

Esplanade Rehearsal Studio

Aditi Mangaldas shares with participants her methods of working with the body using kathak techniques.

Recommended for dance practitioners, dance students or those with dance / movement experience.

An Introduction to Nankuan and Liyuan Music by the Han Tang Yuefu ensemble (Taiwan)

27 May 2010, Thu

4.30pm (90 mins), \$20

Esplanade Rehearsal Studio

Chen Mei-O, artistic director of the Han Tang Yuefu Ensemble, together with a musician and a dancer, will give a demonstration and talk for participants who are keen to know more about Nankuan music and Liyuan dance traditions.

No experience in playing Chinese music instrument required

Introduction to Cambodian Classical Dance by Amrita Performing Arts (Cambodia)

28 May 2010, Fri

2pm (90 mins), \$20

Esplanade Rehearsal Studio

Cambodian classical dance, a UNESCO world heritage treasure, has four main roles – male, female, the giant (or demon) and the monkey – all performed by female dancers except for the monkey. The class will be led by senior master Sam Sathya, along with dancers of Amrita Performing Arts, including one of the great monkey dancers in Cambodia, Phon Sopheap. An

overview and demonstration of court dance and the male version of the classical dance, *Lakhaon Kaol*, will be followed by a practical session covering basic gestures and movements of the male, female and monkey roles.

Recommended for dance practitioners and dance students though prior dance experience is not necessary

Contemporary Dance Masterclass by Jecko Siompo (Indonesia)

28 May 2010, Fri

4.30pm (90 mins)

Esplanade Rehearsal Studio

Jecko Siompo's choreographic style is influenced by his deep roots in Papuan tribal dance culture, the behaviour of animals and nature, the repetition of human habit, as well as Jakarta's modern hip-hop subculture. Jecko will share with participants his techniques and methods of working with the body based on his unique style.

Recommended for dance practitioners, dance students or those with dance / movement experience.

Training Principles of Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan by Lee Ching-Chun

29 May 2010, Sat

9am (90 mins), \$20

Esplanade Rehearsal Studio

Conducted by Cloud Gate's Associate Artistic Director, Lee Ching-Chun, this workshop takes participants through explorations in contemporary dance and some of the company's training techniques including breathing, Tai Chi Tao Yin (an ancient form of Chi Kung), meditation and martial arts.

Requirements: At least 1-2 years of body training (dance, theatre or movement).

Making History: How Southeast Asian Art reconquers the past to conjure the future

Alwin Reamillo (Philippines), Green Zeng (Singapore), Khanh Bui (Vietnam), Mella Jaarsma (Indonesia), Ngs Lay (Burma), Tang Da Wu (Singapore) and Vasan Sithiket (Thailand). Hosted by Iola Lenzi

27 May 2010, Thu

10.30am (90 mins), Free admission

Esplanade Bay Room

The 21st century has been dubbed the Asian Century. But if the first decade of the new millennium has been dominated by China and India's dazzling economic and social transformations, Southeast Asia, though less familiar, is changing rapidly too. Indeed, as one of the most culturally, religiously and linguistically diverse regions in the world, Southeast Asia and its distinctive pluralism uniquely embody a functioning globalised framework for local concerns. No surprise then that Southeast Asia's complex history, evolving identity and national stories are often the focus of the region's sophisticated and dynamic contemporary art.

This symposium will assemble seven regional artists who will articulate ideas about history, personal and national, as well as give form to their vision of our region's evolving place in the world.

Advisory: Meeting point will be at Jendela (*Visual Arts Space*). Doors open at 10am. Seating is limited and admission is on a first-come-first-served basis. Please come early to avoid disappointment. Reservation of seats is not allowed.

ANNEX B

ConversAsians 2010 – Artists Line-up

Performance artists:

1. Aditi Mangaldas (India)
2. Amrita Performing Arts (Cambodia)
3. Chen Mei-O (Taiwan)
4. Danny Yung (Hong Kong)
5. Edwaard Liang (USA/Taiwan)
6. Han Tae-Sook (Korea)
7. Huang Ruo (China/USA)
8. Jecko Siompo (Indonesia)
9. Lin Hwai-Min (Taiwan)
10. Nitin Sawhney (UK)
11. Pichet Klunchun (Thailand)
12. Shantala Shivalingappa (India/France)
13. Xing Liang (China)

Visual Artists:

14. Alwin Reamillo (The Philippines)
15. Green Zeng (Singapore)
16. Khanh Bui (Vietnam)
17. Mella Jaarsma (The Netherlands)
18. Nge Lay (Burma)
19. Tang Da Wu (Singapore)
20. Vasan Sitthiket (Thailand)

ConversAsians 2010 – Artists Bios

Performance Artists:

Aditi Mangaldas (India)

Aditi Mangaldas is a dancer and choreographer in both the classical Indian dance form of Kathak and the contemporary idiom. With extensive training under the leading exponents of Kathak, Shrimati Kumudini Lakhia and Pandit Birju Maharaj, Aditi is today recognised for her artistry, technique, eloquence and characteristic energy that mark every performance. She has broken new ground by using her knowledge and experience of Kathak as a springboard to evolve a contemporary dance vocabulary, infused with the spirit of the classical yet goes beyond its form and content. Her solo performances and group ensembles, both traditional and contemporary, have received critical acclaim at leading festivals all over the world. She is the principal dancer and choreographer of the Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company – The Drishtikon Dance Foundation.

Amrita Performing Arts (Cambodia)

Amrita Performing Arts is an international NGO based in Phnom Penh, with US non-profit status. Its mission is to promote, preserve and sustain Cambodia's ancient heritage of dance and theatre, while encouraging contemporary creativity. It also emphasises national capacity-building in production and administration. Amrita collaborates with the Royal Cambodian Ministry of Culture and freelance artists in researching and mounting professionally staged performance of traditional classical work both locally and internationally, while developing contemporary creative expression in music, dance and theatre through regional workshops, exchange programmes and international tours. Amrita has contributed significantly to transforming Cambodia's performing arts scene as part of a community-driven process which has proven the country's propensity for cultural regeneration.

Chen Mei-O (Taiwan)

Chen Mei-O, founder and artistic director of the Han Tang Yuefu Ensemble, is among the foremost masters in Nankuan, one of the most ancient forms of music in China that can be traced back to Quanzhou City in the Fujian province. A leading champion of the music, Chen

made it possible for it to be heard in Europe for the first time in 1982. Over the years, she toured internationally with her troupe and Nankuan gained even wider attention. Chen is equally an innovator and has introduced new ideas to the art form. In 2009, collaborating with French music and vocal group Douce Mémoire, Chen created and directed a classical dance drama, *Mémoire des vents du sud*, that premiered in Taipei to a rousing reception and will tour China and France in 2010. She also established the Han Tang Yuefu Arts Centre in 1994 and has served as artistic director since. In 1995, she completed a voiced archival project, recording 64 great pieces in *The Complete Nankuan Instrumental Music*, which was followed by a sequel. Her productions of CDs and stagings of musical theatre pieces have won many major awards. In 1997, Chen received the Global Chinese Culture and Art Award for Ethnic Music.

Danny Yung (Hong Kong)

An experimental arts pioneer since the 1970s, director, producer, curator and playwright Danny Yung is one of the most influential artists and dynamic cultural figures in Hong Kong and Asia. He is also founder of Zuni Icosahedron, internationally recognised as the epitome of experimental theatre in Asia. Always at the forefront of the arts, Yung is a multi-disciplinary artist who has created and participated in more than a hundred productions, many of which often provoke controversy and censorship, and has been involved in a myriad of cross-cultural projects. A keen advocate of new art forms, Yung curated many early video arts programmes when video art in Hong Kong was in its infancy. His own experimental films, video arts and installation works have been shown at festivals in Copenhagen, Berlin, London, Edinburgh, Tokyo, Los Angeles and New York. Since the 1990s, Yung began to seek the next stage in the evolution of Chinese opera and, through his exploratory projects, encouraged traditional performing arts practitioners to reinvent themselves and bring fresh creativity to the development of traditional arts. Yung is equally tireless in his advocacy for the establishment of arts and cultural policies, international cultural exchanges and creative education through his roles in numerous institutions. He received the Merit Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany in 2009.

Edwaard Liang (USA/Taiwan)

Born in Taipei, Taiwan and raised in Marin County, California, Edwaard Liang began his ballet training at the age of five at Marin Ballet. In 1989, Liang entered the School of American Ballet. He joined New York City Ballet (NYCB) in the spring of 1993, and that same year he was a medal winner at the Prix de Lausanne International Ballet Competition and the Mae L. Wien Awards, the first of many distinguished accolades to come. He was promoted to soloist in 1998. Liang later became a member of acclaimed Nederlands Dans Theater I, where he danced, choreographed and staged ballets, before returning to NYCB in 2004. The premiere of Liang's *Distant Cries* for NYCB in 2005 earned high praise and he was soon hailed by critics as a choreographer with great promise. His new ballet, *Age of Innocence*, "has all the hallmarks of a newly minted masterpiece", notes *Chicago Tribune*. Named one of the "Top 25 to Watch" in 2006 by *Dance Magazine* for choreography, he has also created works for many companies and projects such as the Hamburg Ballet, the Joffrey Ballet, the San Francisco Ballet, the Shanghai Ballet, the Washington Ballet. Liang is now dancing with MORHOSES/The Wheeldon Company and works as a freelance choreographer.

Han Tae-Sook (Korea)

Playwright and director Han Tae-Sook stands unrivalled in her ability to analyse human nature and translate this into subtle and sensitive theatrical portrayals. Seeking to unveil the human psyche and burrow into its darkest aspects, she is known for her compelling psychodramas that feature characters in extreme circumstances. A major force in Korea's theatre scene who constantly seeks to break conventions, Han is of the view that "a new departure is always exhilarating". She has created and directed highly controversial yet superbly inventive works that have won awards and drawn much attention from the international theatre community. *Lady Macbeth* has continued to receive critical and popular acclaim wherever it is staged ever since its premiere in 1998 while *Train for Xian* swept almost every major Korean theatre award in 2003, including Best Play of the Year and Best Director. Founder of Theatre Moollee, Han established the company to explore new formats and subjects, and develop experimental cultural content and work to train new artists. This spirit of experimentation is what she believes will contribute to the diversity of drama in Korea.

Huang Ruo (China/USA)

Huang Ruo has a vibrant and inventive musical voice that draws equal inspiration from Chinese folk, Western avant-garde, rock and jazz, while his writing spans from orchestra, chamber music, opera, theatre and modern dance, to sound installation, multi-media, experimental improvisation, folk rock and film. It is no wonder he is regarded by *The New Yorker* magazine as “one of the most intriguing of the new crop of Asian-American composers”. His collaborators include New York City Ballet’s principal dancer Damian Woetzel and choreographer Christopher Wheeldon, as well as kinetic painter Norman Perryman. Huang is also a conductor and Chinese folk-rock singer, releasing commercial recordings on Naxos and Albany Records. Born in Hainan Island, China, in 1976, he received both traditional and Western education at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. As a result of the Cultural Revolution and changes that followed, his education expanded from Bach, Mozart, Stravinsky and Lutoslawski to include the Beatles, rock and roll, heavy metal and jazz. As part of the new generation of Chinese composers, Huang does not just aim to mix both Western and Eastern elements, but to go beyond that to create a seamless integration and a convincing organic unity, drawing influences from various genres and cultures.

Jecko Siompo (Indonesia)

Jecko Siompo is unique for his choreographic style that embraces his deep aboriginal roots and love of hip-hop. A native of Papua in Irian Jaya, he believes traditional Papuan dance and hip-hop share something in common – they both draw their strength from the earth. Jecko began learning traditional dance at a young age and further trained at IKJ (Jakarta Institute for the Arts). He went on to learn hip-hop in the USA and spent some time at Folkwang Tanz Studio in Germany. He has received several accolades for youth achievement, as well as awards for choreography, including for Best Choreographer from the Jakarta Office for Culture in 2000. His works have been performed mostly in Asia. His recent work, *Terima Kost*, featured at the Singapore Arts Festival 2009, was lauded as “a force to be reckoned with” by *The Straits Times*.

Lin Hwai-Min (Taiwan)

Internationally renowned choreographer Lin Hwai-Min is almost synonymous with Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan, the company he founded, where he is artistic director. Lin studied Chinese opera movement in his native Taiwan, modern dance in New York and classical court dance in Japan and Korea. In his signature style, he often draws from traditional Asian culture for inspiration to create works with innovative forms and contemporary relevance, which receive critical acclaim wherever they were staged. Lin has also directed operas and is a published writer. A two-time winner of the National Award for Arts in Taiwan, he has also received numerous awards from around the world and was celebrated by the *Time* magazine as one of the “Asia’s Heroes” in 2005. In 2009, he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Movimentos Dance Prize, Germany. Lin, who holds honorary doctorates from five universities in Taiwan and Hong Kong, is also dedicated to education and founded the Department of Dance at the Taipei National University of the Arts.

Nitin Sawhney (UK)

Highly regarded as a cultural pioneer and a latter-day Renaissance man in the worlds of music, film, video games, dance and theatre, Nitin Sawhney is an influential and versatile creative talent. He is firmly established as a world-class producer, composer, multi-instrumentalist and DJ. An acclaimed flamenco guitarist and classical/jazz pianist, Sawhney is recognised for his musical ability to transcend cultural barriers. He has released eight studio albums, been commissioned to perform with and write for many of the world’s leading orchestras, as well as scored over 40 films for cinema and television. In performing arts, he has composed for renowned dancers Akram Khan and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui. He has been a regular DJ with London club Fabric and performed around the world with leading orchestras and his band. His career spans production and composition work with Sting, Cirque du Soleil, Shakira, Paul McCartney, Jeff Beck, Tao Cruz, Imogen Heap, Anoushka Shankar and many others. Recently he has also scored for videogames, including Sony Playstation’s number one game, “Heavenly Sword”, and the forthcoming “Enslaved”. A recipient of four honorary doctorates from separate universities as well as fellowships from LIPA and Southbank University, he also acts as a patron to many educational establishments.

Pichet Klunchun (Thailand)

Pichet Klunchun bridges traditional Thai classical dance language with contemporary sensibility, while keeping the heart and wisdom of the convention. He trained in the Thai classical mask dance, Khon, from age 16 with Chaiyot Khummanee, one of the best Khon masters in Thailand, and has a degree in Thai classical dance from Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. He became a dancer and choreographer in major productions, including the opening and closing ceremonies of the 1998 Asian Games in Bangkok. He later pursued his interest in contemporary dance and earned domestic notoriety for his efforts in contemporising Khon. Founder and artistic director of Pichet Klunchun Dance Company, he is known for his intercultural projects in Asia and Europe, characterised by his innate sensitivity and understanding. He received the first-ever European Cultural Foundation Routes Princess Margriet Award for Cultural Diversity in 2008. The award honours artists and thinkers for their contribution to an affirmative understanding of cultural diversity, and for helping to combat fear and disrespect of the 'other'.

Shantala Shivalingappa (India/France)

Born in Madras, India, brought up in Paris, Shantala Shivalingappa is the child of East and West. She was initiated to Indian classical dance at a tender age by her mother, dancer Savitry Nair. Deeply moved and inspired by Master Vempati Chinna Satyam's pure and graceful style, Shantala dedicated herself to Kuchipudi, and received an intense and rigorous training from her master. Acclaimed as a rare dancer by artists and connoisseurs in India and Europe, Shantala combines a perfect technique with flowing grace and a very fine sensitivity. *Dancer* magazine notes, "Her jumps have the aesthetic code of classical Indian while projecting an energy derived from her Western influence." Beginning at the age of 13, she has worked with some of the greatest artists of our time: Maurice Béjart, Peter Brook, Bartabas and Amagatsu. She counts Pina Bausch as a major influence and continues to collaborate with Tanztheater Wuppertal founded by Bausch. Such experiences make her artistic journey a truly unique one. Today, Shantala shares her time between touring, expanding her choreographic work in the Kuchipudi style, and collaborating with various artists in the exploration of dance, music and theatre.

Xing Liang (China)

Born in Beijing, Xing Liang graduated from the classical dance division at the Beijing Dance Academy in 1991. He joined the Guangdong Modern Dance Company in March 1993 and has won numerous awards including the Gold Award in the male solo class at the 6th Paris International Dance Competition in 1994, the Gold Award in the modern dance section at the 8th Paris International Dance Competition in 1998, the Silver Award in the modern dance section at the 1st Italy International Dance Competition. He was named Outstanding Young Artist in the dance category by the Hong Kong Arts Development Awards in 2007. Xing, whom *LA Times* described as "a star dancer of inexhaustible energy and fabulous pliancy", is fast gaining international recognition for his choreography. Currently the Resident Artist of City Contemporary Dance Company in Hong Kong, his first full-length work with the company, *Nijinsky*, in 2006 and its subsequent DVD release in the Greater China region met with enthusiastic reception. He has also participated in residencies and choreographed dance works for leading festivals. At Dance Salad 2008, he choreographed and performed the solo piece, *Existence*, which was applauded by *Dance Europe* for its "simplicity of form and conceptual depth...structured in amazingly fluid movements punctuated by finely detailed gestures".

Visual Artists:**Alwin Reamillo (The Philippines)**

Manila-born and Australia-based Alwin Reamillo was educated at the University of the Philippines, College of Fine Arts, Quezon City. He is an internationally-exhibited multi-media artist who has successfully transcended the straight narrative genre that has dominated the Filipino art scene for much of the last century. Producing conceptually sophisticated work, Reamillo uses visually and plastically arresting form to harness ideas about local social history interwoven with his own personal stories. Sometimes interactive, the artist's three-dimensional pieces resonate with audiences everywhere.

Green Zeng (Singapore)

Born in 1972 in Singapore and educated at LASALLE College of the Arts, Green Zeng is a multi-disciplinary artist whose works encompass visual arts, theatre and film. Zeng's practice

revolves principally around Singaporean life, as well as issues that relate to history and society. He was a member of the experimental company Metabolic Theatre Laboratory, performing with the group in Singapore and Japan. He is currently the creative director of Singapore film production company Mirtillo Films, which he co-founded. He has directed many short films, some of which have been selected for international festivals including the Cannes Film Festival. His film *Passenger* was awarded the Encouragement Prize at the Akira Kurosawa Memorial Short Film Competition in Tokyo in 2006.

Khanh Bui (Vietnam)

Both a performance artist and visual arts practitioner, Bui Cong Khanh (also known as Khanh Bui) was born in 1972 in Danang and educated at the University of Fine Arts, Ho Chi Minh City. He produces work that centres on contemporary Vietnamese society and its rapid transition as it develops socially and economically. Operating to engage visually as well as to provoke audiences through social criticism, Bui's paintings, installations and performances can be universally understood despite their primary focus on Vietnamese realities. Characterised by its humour and aesthetic lyricism, Bui's oeuvre has been exhibited internationally, most recently at the 2009 Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art at the Queensland Art Gallery.

Mella Jaarsma (The Netherlands)

Yogyakarta-based Mella Jaarsma first studied visual arts in the Netherlands, her country of birth, and later continued her education in Indonesia at the Art Institute of Jakarta, and subsequently at the Indonesia Institute of the Arts. Jaarsma is an internationally exhibited multi-media artist who places cultural issues at the heart of her practice. The artist's European/Asian viewpoint allows her a privileged and insightful perspective on Indonesia's ethnic, religious and social paradoxes. Exploiting 25 years of keen cultural observation, Jaarsma negotiates and tests the identity politics of contemporary Java. Stemming from a deeply felt humanism and a belief in pluralism, her pieces question hierarchies and all manner of conformity, both historically rooted and recently made. Jaarsma is also a curator and co-founded Yogyakarta's seminal Cemeti Gallery, now Cemeti Art House.

Nge Lay (Burma)

Nge Lay is a Yangon-based multi-media artist with a particular interest in performance and photography. Using everyday imagery and settings to translate her ideas about life, her country and her own identity, she creates photographs that hover between the descriptive and the spiritual. When photographing her subjects, Nge Lay plays with light and shadow in new ways to create the quiet but expectant tension that characterises her colour prints. Nge Lay showed photographs in the exhibition 'Transportasian- Visions of Contemporary Photography from Southeast Asia' at the Singapore Art Museum in 2009.

Tang Da Wu (Singapore)

Tang Da Wu was educated at Thomson Chinese Secondary School, Singapore, and worked at the People's Association until 1969, before going to Birmingham College of Art in England, and later Goldsmith College of Art, University of London. As the founder of Singapore's seminal The Artists Village and a prominent Southeast Asian performance artist, Tang is amongst the most distinguished figures of contemporary art in Singapore. A highly independent artist, Tang uses a broad array of media in tandem with locally familiar references and iconography to engage his public in a sometimes playful but always profound dialogue about society and cultural history.

Vasan Sitthiket (Thailand)

Social and cultural concerns have been at the heart of Vasan Sitthiket's work for over a generation. An artist working in all media, a poet, singer and leader of the registered political party The Artist Party, Sitthiket is a champion of people's causes, believing in personal empowerment as the way to collective responsibility. Questioning orthodoxies, his is the most established anti-establishment artistic voice in Thailand today. Internationally exhibited, Sitthiket's works are of particular relevance in the region today as they tackle so many of Thailand's and Southeast Asia's shared contemporary concerns – urbanisation, gender politics, environmental issues, political instability – with a universally understood expressive language. Born 1957 in Thailand, Sitthiket was educated at the College of Fine Arts, Bangkok.

Annex C

ConversAsians 2010 – Programme Line-up & Registration Details

25 May 2010, Tue

2pm – 8pm	Registration	Esplanade Mezzanine level Opposite Esplanade Box Office
From 8pm	SAF Ticketed Performances*: - <i>Wind Shadow</i> by Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan	Esplanade Theatre

26 May 2010, Wed

8.30am – 6pm	Registration	Esplanade Mezzanine level Opposite Esplanade Box Office
9am – 10.15am	Music composition Masterclass* by Nitin Sawhney (UK)	Esplanade Rehearsal Studio (meet at Theatre Studio entrance)
10.30am – 12pm	Public talk: In conversation with Lin Hwai-Min (Taiwan)	Esplanade Concert Hall
12pm – 2.30pm	Table Talk & Opening Lunch	Esplanade Concert Hall Foyer
2.30pm – 3.10pm	Performance (Work-in-progress): <i>Khmeropédies II</i> by Amrita Performing Arts (Cambodia)	Esplanade Recital Studio
3.20pm – 4.20pm	Presentation & Discussion by Amrita Performing Arts (Cambodia) & Pichet Klunchun (Thailand) hosted by Lim How Ngean (Malaysia)	Esplanade Recital Studio
4.20pm – 5pm	Tea Break	Esplanade Theatre Studio Foyer
5pm – 5.30pm	Performance: <i>VOID</i> excerpts by T.H.E. Dance Company (Singapore) and Davit (Indonesia)	Esplanade Rehearsal Studio (meet at Theatre Studio entrance)
5.30pm – 8pm	Dinner (free & easy)	
From 8pm	SAF Ticketed Performances*: - <i>Wind Shadow</i> by Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan - <i>Nijinsky Siam</i> by Pichet Klunchun Dance Company	Esplanade Theatre Victoria Theatre

27 May 2010, Thu

10am – 12.30pm	Body and Movement Masterclass by Aditi Mangaldas (India)*	Esplanade Rehearsal Studio (meet at Theatre Studio entrance)
10.30am – 12pm	Visual Arts Symposium - Making History: How Southeast Asian Art reconquers the past to conjure the future Hosted by Iola Lenzi (Singapore) with Alwin Reamillo (The Philippines), Green Zeng (Singapore), Khanh Bui (Vietnam), Mella Jaarsma (Indonesia), Nge Lay (Burma), Tang Da Wu (Singapore) and Vasan Sitthiket (Thailand)	Esplanade Bay Room (meet at Jendela entrance)
12pm – 1pm	Backstage Tour (Optional)	Meeting point at Esplanade Concert Hall information counter
12pm – 2pm	Visual Arts Reception	Jendela Gallery, Esplanade
2pm – 3pm	Presentation/Talk by Han Tae-Sook (Korea) hosted by Kyu Choi (Korea)	Esplanade Recital Studio
3.10pm – 3.50pm	Performance (Work-in-progress): Refractions – A double bill by Singapore Dance Theatre (Singapore).	Esplanade Rehearsal Studio (meet at Theatre Studio entrance)

	Choreography by Edwaard Liang (USA) and Xing Liang (China).	
4pm – 5pm	Presentation & Discussion with Edwaard Liang (USA) & Xing Liang (China)	Esplanade Recital Studio
4.30pm – 6pm	An Introduction to Nankuan and Liyuan Music Workshop by Han Tang Yuefu Ensemble (Taiwan)*	Esplanade Rehearsal Studio (meet at Theatre Studio entrance)
5.20pm – 6pm	Performance (work-in-progress) & Post-perf talk: <i>Beta Max to DVD</i> and Presentation/Talk by Jecko Siompo (Indonesia) hosted by Tang Fu Kuen (Singapore)	Esplanade Recital Studio
6pm – 8pm	Dinner (free & easy)	
From 8pm	ConversAsians presents: <i>Flee By Night</i> by Danny Yung Experimental Theatre (Hong Kong) (Not part of SAF. Only for delegates) SAF Ticketed Performances* - <i>Nijinsky Siam</i> by Pichet Klunchun Dance Company	Esplanade Theatre Studio Victoria Theatre

28 May 2010, Fri

10.30am – 12pm	Public talk: In conversation with Danny Yung (Zuni Icosahedron, Hong Kong)	Esplanade Concert Hall
12pm – 1pm	Backstage Tour (Optional)	Meeting point at Esplanade Concert Hall information counter
12pm – 2pm	Lunch (free & easy)	
2pm – 3.15pm	Performance: <i>Written on the Wind</i> and other works by Huang Ruo (China/USA), Min Xiao Fen (USA) and T'ang Quartet (Singapore)	Esplanade Recital Studio
2pm – 3.30pm	An Introduction to Cambodian Dance Workshop by Amrita Performing Arts (Cambodia)*	Esplanade Rehearsal Studio (meet at Theatre Studio entrance)
3.15pm – 3.45pm	Tea Break	Esplanade Theatre Studio Foyer
3.45pm – 4.15pm	Performance: <i>Xiangsining</i> (Song of Mutual Longing) and <i>Mantanchun</i> (Hall Aburst with Springtime) by the Han Tang Yuefu Ensemble (Taiwan)	Esplanade Recital Studio
4.30pm – 5.30pm	Presentation & Discussion by Huang Ruo (China/USA) and Chen Mei-O (Taiwan)	Esplanade Recital Studio
4.30pm – 6pm	Contemporary Dance Masterclass by Jecko Siompo (Indonesia)*	Esplanade Rehearsal Studio (meet at Theatre Studio entrance)
6pm – 8pm	Dinner (free & easy)	
From 7.30pm	SAF Ticketed Performances* - Acoustic Evening by Nitin Sawhney	Esplanade Concert Hall

29 May 2010, Sat

9am – 10.30am	Training Principles of Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan by Lee Ching-chun (Taiwan)*	Esplanade Rehearsal Studio (meet at Theatre Studio entrance)
10.30am – 12pm	Public talk: In conversation with Nitin Sawhney (UK)	Esplanade Concert Hall
2pm – 3pm	Performance. <i>Timeless</i> by Aditi Mangaldas (India)	Esplanade Theatre Studio

3pm – 3.30pm	Tea Break	Esplanade Theatre Studio Foyer
3.30pm – 4.30pm	Lecture-Demonstration and Performance by Shantala Shivalingappa (India / France)	Esplanade Recital Studio
4.30pm – 5pm	Tea Break	Esplanade Theatre Studio Foyer
5pm – 6pm	Presentation & Discussion by Aditi Mangaldas (India) & Shantala Shivalingappa (India/France)	Esplanade Recital Studio
6pm – 8pm	Dinner (free & easy)	
From 8pm	SAF Ticketed performances* - Lady Macbeth by Theatre Moollee (Korea) - O Sounds by T.H.E. Dance Company (Singapore)	Esplanade Theatre Victoria Theatre
9.30pm – late	Special Night Out! 10.30pm Sound System by Nitin Sawhney (UK) (tickets provided for <i>ConversAsians</i> delegates)	Bus departs at Esplanade taxi stand Supperclub

Please note that pre-booking is required to secure a seat on a first-come-first-serve basis.

*These activities require additional ticketing.

Information correct at time of printing. Schedule subject to changes.

Full Registration

Registration Fees (inclusive of Opening Lunch, Special Night Out and GST)

Normal (After 16 April 2010) : \$810

Daily Rate : \$270

Registration Form can be downloaded at www.conversasians.com.sg.

Table Talk (subject to availability)

For registered delegates (overseas): \$110

For registered delegates (local arts company – as defined by the National Arts Council, Singapore scheme): \$55