



## press release

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Esplanade's *Flipside* returns with fun and unconventional works making the arts accessible to all!**

**SINGAPORE, 20 April 2010** – Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay presents its seventh edition of *Flipside*, Esplanade's wacky and offbeat festival, which will thrill audiences by presenting the lighter side of the arts. Taking place from 14 May to 13 June, the festival will present quirky and fun works across comedy, theatre, visual arts, fringe arts performances and more. *Flipside* continues to be a platform for local artists to showcase their creative works with fun, imaginative and accessible productions for everyone. These performances will complement the Singapore Arts Festival by adding to the bustle of festivities taking place around the centre.

Commented Ms Ye Junmin, Programming Officer, The Esplanade Co. Ltd, "With fun and accessible programmes for everyone, *Flipside* is an ideal platform to work with local artists who have the potential to create unconventional and imaginative works to enrich the fringe arts scene in Singapore. A key highlight this year is the special commission with local drumming troupe ZingO for a project featuring 15 youths from the community. We hope to continue to work closely with our local groups and bring even more quirky and fun works to our audiences."

Last year's *Together Together*, featuring students from the School of the Arts (Singapore), marked *Flipside*'s first commissioned work. This year extending beyond the centre as part of Esplanade's community engagement efforts, the festival has engaged rhythm artist and musician Christian von Richthofen from Germany to collaborate with local drumming troupe ZingO for a special project with 15 youths from the community that will culminate in a specially choreographed percussive performance at the Outdoor Theatre from 4 to 6 June. Christian previously performed in *Auto Auto* in *Flipside* 2008, where he first interacted with youths from the community. This performance with the youths is the result of a series of 10 workshops with ZingO and two workshops with

Christian. These workshops will introduce the youths to the arts, while at the same time demonstrate that strong emotions such as anger and frustration can be channeled into the art of producing beautiful music. The festival also features the collaboration between Australian born, USA-based Singaporean - multi-instrumentalist Ong Shueh Li and locally based string quartet Artsylum Quartet. Performing together for the first time, they will bring a unique music performance that combines classical strings with a contactless electronic music instrument - the theremin.

### **Ticketed Programmes**

Upping the ante for the festival are four imaginative works performed for the first time in Singapore by groups from the region and beyond. *Infinity Rock Explosion!* by The Axis of Awesome from Australia is a comedy band of three men who play quirky original songs such as their "4 Chords Song" which has garnered 1.5million hits on YouTube. The trio received the Melbourne *International Comedy Festival's* Moosehead award in 2008 and their catchy parodies of pop tunes, and hilarious banter will have the audience in stitches.

The Charlie-Chaplin like Korean comedy *The Chaser* will feature acrobatics and stunts with impeccable comic timing. A treat for everyone in the family, this comedic piece tells the story of a bungling detective's wild-goose chase after a book is stolen. With sleek dance moves, juggling acts and street magic, this interactive piece will have audience members at the edge of their seats as they could become part of the play at any time.

As the name implies, *Gadgets* by Joel Salom is a spectacular mix of technology, music and acrobatics with scene stealing injections from a little irreverent remote-controlled tin robot dog named Erik. High-tech and hilarious with circus feats and beats, this kooky show which takes audiences through Salom's world also features a bizarre fusion of pop and jazz with gypsy swing artfully delivered by Salom's musical sidekicks Marko Simec and Jim Dunlop.

*The Terrible Infants* from the UK will bring the festival to a close with deliciously dark humour, where scary, funny, sad, silly and twisted tales are told through puppetry, live music and storytelling. It is Roald Dahl meets Tim Burton in this magical performance that also features recorded narration from Dame Judi Dench. This production which has won "Best Entertainment" in the *Fringe Report Awards* and "Best Children's Event" in the *Latest 7 Awards* will be a theatrical extravaganza enjoyed by all.

### **Free Programmes**

A carnival atmosphere will spread throughout the centre with a variety of quirky acts roving outdoors along the waterfront each weekend and performances at the Concourse throughout the festival. *Flipside* opens with the premiere of Starlight Alchemy's newest production *Fires of Eden*. This production will feature an eclectic group of international and local artists who integrate fire, light-bending, original music and choreography. This piece will complement the fire-garden installation at Esplanade Park, which is the opening act for the *Singapore Arts Festival*. Audiences will also be enthralled by a comedic juggling and dance routine by Japanese tappers Tokyo TapDo! and will have the chance to find out more about Disney's hidden fairy tales with Singapore's Dwayne Tan, Judee Tan and Julian Wong as they sing tunes with zany lyrics in *Fairy Tales: The Full Picture*.

Over at the Concourse, singing chef Irene Jansen will entertain with a singing cook show complete with live demonstrations and servings of food. For an evening of spontaneity and comedy, join local artists Vernetta Lopez, Christina Sergeant Ben Ng, Audrey Luo and Tony Quek as they present Singapore's very own version of *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* in their improvisation based show. Audiences can get into the act by throwing suggestions, props and situations at them. Music lovers can also look forward to an interesting live mix of sounds inspired by Asian mythologies as local artist Tze fuses film music, jazz, Chinese music, European classical and more in melodious harmonies, and Korean artist Zack Kim plays video game themes and classical compositions from the likes of Super Mario and Beethoven on his two guitars simultaneously. Lively acts such as the 6 meter long musical puppet train of Mundo Novo Poco Dancers from Japan, high-energy dance workout trio - The Cardio Boys from Philippines and life-size tumble toy Mr Culbutto from France will enthrall those along our waterfront, adding to the mix of wacky acts at the centre.

### **Visual Arts**

Visitors will be treated to fun visual arts pieces on display around the centre. Khalil Chishtee from Pakistan fashions quirky ethereal sculptures from an unlikely material – a plastic rubbish bag! In a work titled *Dreaming of Dreaming*, these whimsical sculptural pieces will be on display at the Concourse and Cones. Patrons strolling through the Esplanade Tunnel will see Hong Kong artist Danny Yung's comic series *Tian Tian Xiang*

*Shang* which uses what is traditionally thought of as funny and simple to question one's perspectives on narrative structures.

*Flipside* is made possible with the generous support from the Australian High Commission for *Infinity Rock Explosion!* by The Axis of Awesome and *Gadgets* by Joel Salom at the Recital Studio; and Embassy of Spain for *Jukebox* by Trukitrek at the Concourse.

Tickets for *Flipside* are available at Esplanade's Box Office and all SISTIC outlets. More information on the festival may also be found at [www.esplanade.com/flipside](http://www.esplanade.com/flipside)

## **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.

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*Issued by The Esplanade Co Ltd.*

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## ANNEX

### ***Flipside***

14 May – 13 June 2010

#### TICKETED PROGRAMMES

##### **Infinity Rock Explosion!**

by The Axis of Awesome

*Australia*

“Their musical lampoons really hit the mark...they had the audience in stitches, hooting for an encore...” -*The Age*

“A sublime hour of musical talent...a superbeast of high energy, high impact comedy” -  
*Chortle.co.uk*

The Axis of Awesome is Australia’s most Awesomest comedy band! They are a trio of human men who sing funny songs. They leave men laughing and women gasping (and also laughing)! LISTEN as they sing hilarious songs! MARVEL as they talk through electrical microphone-machines! APPLAUD as they play musical instruments with nothing but their human hands! Their YouTube video of their awesome *4 Chords Song* has over one-and-a-half million hits and is growing every day!

The Axis of Awesome debuted *Infinity Rock Explosion!* at the 2009 *Edinburgh Fringe Festival* and sold out every single show. Now catch them in Singapore at *Flipside!*

Jordan Raskopoulos, a comedian, Benny Davis, a classically trained musician and Lee Naimo, an *Iron Chef* enthusiast, formed the group in 2006 and have since wowed audiences across the world with their mixture of quirky original songs, catchy pop-parodies and hilarious banter.

The Axis received the Melbourne International Comedy Festival’s Moosehead award in 2008 for their show *The Axis of Awesome Comeback Spectacular*.

Supported by Australian High Commission.

20 – 22 May (Thu – Sat)

Esplanade Recital Studio

7.30pm (60mins, no intermission)

\$35

Concessions for students, NSF and senior citizens: \$27

### ***The Chaser***

by Group Pocha

Korea

When an old book of national importance is stolen, a wild-goose chase ensues between a serious but nerdy detective in charge of the robbery case and two bumbling thieves. Thief One - who actually stole the book - is just a wee bit smarter than Thief Two – who gets caught in the crossfire and is prone to mishaps. The three characters collide onstage and battle it out with hilarious effects.

If you enjoy Korean acrobatic and stunt theatre shows, you will love the comic timing and interactive elements in *The Chaser*. With a more intimate performing space, audience members can let loose and at times, even jump right into the action!

From sleek dance moves, street magic, juggling acts to good ol' slapstick humour, *The Chaser* will be an absolute treat for all in the family.

1 - 3 Jun (Tue - Thu)

Esplanade Recital Studio

7.30pm (80mins no intermission)

\$35

Concessions for students, NSF and senior citizens: \$27

## **GADGETS**

by Joel Salom

*Australia*

“A mad mix of music, juggling and technology, *Gadgets* is fast, furious and completely kooky. Think moments of loud crashing music, maniacal laughing and fire, and you get the picture.” - *Adelaide Advertiser*, Australia

“The irrepressible Joel Salom is an outstanding all-round comic, whether as a skillfully inept acrobat or artfully off-colour juggler...He’s also the genius behind the show’s other stand-up comic, a blithely satiric little robot dog named Erik.” - *The San Francisco Chronicle*, USA

*Gadgets* is non-stop entertainment! Join Joel Salom for an exciting rollercoaster ride through his world of technology with spectacular laser triggering, rhythm juggling and circus tricks that pulsate with energy.

High-tech, dazzling and hilarious, *Gadgets* combines circus feats and beats with Joel’s musical sidekicks, Marko Simec and Jim Dunlop creating a bizarre mix of pop and jazz fused with gypsy swing, sparking moments of hilarious improvisation and audience participation.

You’ll also meet *Erik the Dog* – a sharp, irreverent, smooth talking, remote controlled tin terrier with attitude! He brings the audience to their paws with his antics.

Supported by Australian High Commission.

4 - 6 Jun (Fri - Sun)

Esplanade Recital Studio

Fri & Sat at 7.30pm and 3pm on Sun only (60mins, no intermission)

\$35

Concessions for students, NSF and senior citizens: \$27

## **The Terrible Infants**

by Les Enfants Terribles Theatre Company

UK

“Deliciously dark and very twisted... like giving our inner child an enormous sack of sweets.” - *The Metro*

Tilly loved telling tales, but the tales Tilly told tended to be totally untrue...

Based upon a series of twisted tales, *The Terrible Infants* blends puppetry, live music, performance, storytelling and physicality into a highly sensory theatrical feast suitable for big kids and small grown-ups. Meet Tumb, the boy who eats his mum, Thingummyboy, with a face even his mother forgets, little Linena, the material girl, manky Mingus and of course little Tilly and her terrible tail. Roald Dahl meets Tim Burton in this hugely theatrical, scary, funny, sad, silly, junk-filled, puppetry packed, dark, delicious, musical, magical piece of performance. Featuring recorded narration from Dame Judi Dench, enjoy an evening of deliciously wicked stories of naughty children and dreadful deeds!

Winners of:

“Best Entertainment” - *Fringe Report Awards 2008*

“Outstanding Artistic Merit” - *Argus Angel Awards 2008*

“Best Children’s Event” - *Latest 7 Awards 2008*

“Outstanding Theatre” - *Fringe Review 2008*

“Hairline Highlight” Award 2007

11 - 13 Jun (Fri - Sun)

Esplanade Recital Studio

Fri & Sat at 7.30pm and 3pm on Sun only (80mins, no intermission)

\$35

Concessions for students, NSF and senior citizens: \$27

## **FREE PROGRAMMES**

### **AT THE CONCOURSE**

#### **A Day in the Life of Miss Hiccup by Shoshinz (Japan)**

14 – 16 May, Fri – Sun

7.15 – 7.45pm & 8.15 – 8.45pm

Fri & Sat only 9.15 – 9.45pm

Miss Hiccup lives alone. She wakes up in the morning and starts her day as usual. Miss Hiccup's day is filled with a variety of sounds, music, and joy. She is so busy, never bored nor lonely. Her day is like an odd recital or an absurd adventure. Why don't you take a look at her happy day?

#### **Live & Unplucked! by The Mango Dollies (Singapore)**

17 & 18 May, Mon & Tue

31 May & 1 Jun, Mon & Tue

7.15 – 7.45pm & 8.15 – 8.45pm

The Mango Dollies are Anjana & Pooja. Known for their funny and witty spoken word and music performances, The Mango Dollies are all set to put the 'Flip' in Flipside!

#### **The Singing Chef by Irene Jansen & Friends (Singapore)**

19 & 20 May, Wed & Thu

26 & 27 May, Wed & Thu

7.15 – 7.45pm & 8.15 – 8.45pm

A singing cook show with live demonstrations, wind down with a cup of hot chocolate from the mobile kitchen and 'listen' to recipes sung by lifestyle singing chef Irene Jansen and her kitchen singers, accompanied by Julian Wong on the keyboard.

**Can or Cannot? by Vernetta Lopez, Christina Sergeant, Ben Ng, Audrey Luo & Tony Quek (Singapore)**

21 – 23 May, Fri – Sun

7 – 7.30pm & 9.15 – 9.45pm

Ready for something zany, exciting and totally spontaneous? Join Vernetta Lopez as she whips up a hilarious frenzy with four actors and a keyboardist in *Flipside's* new improv show. Throw in audience suggestions, props and situations that are uniquely Singaporean and you could get a parking attendant super hero, a kachang puteh rapper or even an ERP musical. Come and watch, cannot tar pao, because you get to decide whether the actors 'Can or Cannot' make it. This is one improv show that Singaporeans, PRs and new citizens will find uniquely theirs!

**Doll-making Workshop by Mundo Novo Poco Dancers (Japan)**

22 & 23 May, Sat & Sun

3 – 4pm

Learn to make one of the Mundo Poco Novo Dancers and find out how the puppeteers bring the tiny dolls to life in a great puppet parade!

**Origins by Tze n Looking Glass Ensemble (Singapore)**

2 & 3 Jun, Wed & Thu

8.15 – 8.45pm & 9.15 – 9.45pm

Tze n Looking Glass Ensemble plays original fusion music inspired by Asian mythologies and tales of how the universe came to be. Combining live improvised music, story-telling and traditional art-form inspired visualisations, they bring you epic ancient journeys of love and adventure.

**Guitar Tap by Zack Kim (Korea)**

28 – 30 May, Fri – Sun

7.15 – 7.45pm & 8.15 – 8.45pm

The fact that keeping a band together is difficult led to guitarist Zack Kim's creative approach to making music like it was played by a full piece band – but by himself! Known for his mastery of a technique called “free hands” (tapping the guitar strings with both hands simultaneously), listen to his original works and quirky yet virtuosic arrangements of popular tunes from Beethoven all the way to Super Mario!

**Bounce Time! by The Cardio Boys (Philippines)**

28 & 29 May, Fri & Sat

9.15 – 9.45pm

Armed with the latest songs hitting the airwaves, energetic and colorful comedy trio, the Cardio Boys, invade the dance floor with their signature colourful tights and trademark dance medleys that will make your funny bones dance with their laugh-a-minute sketches!

**Cabaret on Strings by The Fifth Wheel (Germany)**

4 – 6 Jun, Fri – Sun

7.15 – 7.45pm & 9.15 – 9.45pm

A musical marionette show with a colourful combination of music, dance, comedy and even romance. Meet exotic characters like the seductive Belly Dancer, wild Gypsy Tabor, Rock-n-Rollin' skeleton crew, and more!

**Theremin Music by Ong Shueh-Li & Artsylum Quartet (Australia/Singapore)**

7 – 10 Jun, Mon – Thu

7.15 – 7.45pm & 8.15 – 8.45pm

A music performance that combines classical strings with a contactless electronic music instrument, the theremin. Ong Shueh Li is an Australian born Singapore multi

instrumentalist currently based in the USA and Artsylum Quartet is a locally based string quartet.

**Jukebox by Trukitrek (Spain)**

11 – 13 Jun, Fri – Sun

7 – 7.30pm & 9 – 9.30pm

A cabaret show with a surreal troupe of three feet tall dolls that are half puppet and half human. The head of the puppet is the head of the puppeteer who brings life to the characters from behind the stage, and they present songs with a humorous touch!

Supported by Embassy of Spain

**OUTDOOR THEATRE**

**Fires of Eden by Starlight Alchemy (Singapore)**

14 – 16 May, Fri – Sun

7.30 – 8pm & 10 – 10.30pm

In a post apocalyptic garden rendered by elements on fire, stories of two individuals unfold. Their blessing of life in the garden is rudely interrupted when they commit the crime of consuming fruit from the tree of knowledge and are hence banished from the garden forever.

A collaboration with Esplanade - Theatres by the Bay, Asia's premier fire performance troupe Starlight Alchemy brings together a constellation of talented local and foreign fire performance artists. Be inspired by their alchemy of movement in a stunningly visual and theatrical display of light-bending, spinning and manipulation.

**Sandsations by Erika Chen and NUS CAC Guitar Club Band (China/ Singapore)**

21 – 23 May, Fri – Sun

7.30 – 8.15pm & 8.45 – 9.30pm

Fri & Sat only 10 – 10.45pm

Singapore-based sand artist Erika Chen combines her passions of sand painting, stories and singing into a unique and animated performance backed by a live soundscape.

**Sushi Tap Show by Tokyo TapDo! (Japan)**

28 – 30 May, Fri – Sun

7.30 – 8.15pm, 8.45 – 9.30pm & 10 – 10.45pm

Tokyo Tap Do! was formed in 2002 and have appeared regularly in events all over Japan, and also in Edinburgh (UK) and Australia. Their ever comedic tap dance, juggling and dance routine have attracted attention as one of the performance groups in Tokyo. Their *Sushi Tap Show* which premiered at the 2008 *Edinburgh Fringe Festival* offers 'Japanised' tap-dance infused with classical music, baton twirling with tap-dance, comedy with Japanese traditional costumes and many more!

**The Circus of Sound by SMU Samba Masala (Singapore)**

4 – 6 Jun, Fri – Sun

7.30 – 8pm

Immerse yourself in a showcase of rich and energetic rhythm. SMU Samba Masala takes the rhythmic style of Batucada, hailing from Brazil, and adds in a whole lot of wit, spice and flavour to present percussive fusion aimed solely at one thing - to leave the audiences clapping, dancing, smiling and cheering!

**Street Beats by ZingO featuring Christian von Richthofen (Singapore/Germany)**

4 & 5 Jun, Fri & Sat

8.45 – 9.15pm & 10 – 10.30pm

6 Jun, Sun

8.45 – 9.15pm

Germany's highly sought-after rhythm artist and musician, Christian von Richthofen (who brought to us *Auto Auto - A Car Smashing Symphony in Flipside 2008*) and Singapore's foremost drumming group ZingO, collaborate on a special project that culminates in a weekend of imaginative and explosive percussion performances, involving everyday items from barrels to bicycles!

**Fairy Tales: The Full Picture by Dwayne Tan, Judee Tan & Julian Wong  
(Singapore)**

11 – 13 Jun, Fri – Sun

7.30 – 8.15pm & 8.45 – 9.30pm

If you ever wondered what happened to Cinderella's stepsisters or who actually kept The Little Mermaid's room clean, Dwayne Tan, Judee Tan and accompanist Julian Wong will deliver the full picture on our beloved fairytales and movie versions made popular by Disney, with a lot of personality, wit and singing chops!

**WATERFRONT CANOPY / ROVING**

**Circles of Light by Starlight Alchemy (Singapore)**

14 – 16 May, Fri – Sun

8.10 – 9.50pm

Follow Starlight Alchemy into a world of wonder and illusion where juggling, balancing and manipulation manifest a symbiosis of light, movement and sound.

**Tiny Music Circus by Mundo Novo Poco Dancers (Japan)**

21 – 23 May, Fri – Sun

5.30 – 6pm & 7 – 7.30pm

Mundo Novo Poco Dancers means the great parade of a tiny music circus. Join the long, colourful procession lead by two musicians who puppeteer over dolls at once!

**Happy=Healthy! by The Cardio Boys (The Philippines)**

28 – 30 May, Fri – Sun

Fri 7 – 7.30pm & 8.15 - 8.45pm

Sat & Sun 6.30 – 7pm & 8.15 – 8.45pm

Tired from work, or broken-hearted? Then work it out! The Cardio Boys are offering high-energy dance workout sessions along the waterfront. Time to break out in a sweat and move to the groove with these wacky comedians!

**Mr Culbuto by Dynamogène (France)**

4 – 6 Jun, Fri – Sun

5 – 5.30pm, 6 – 6.30pm & 7 – 7.30pm

In Mr Culbuto, we see a life-size tumble toy waiting for audiences to play with him. Pulled along the streets by a delivery man who puts him down every now and again, come and be his friend!

\*All information correct as of 14 April 2010.

Flipside savings packages:

20% savings for all 4 *Flipside* productions

10% savings for 2 to 3 *Flipside* productions

Tickets on sale 5 Mar 2010

Visit [www.esplanade.com/flipside](http://www.esplanade.com/flipside) for more details