

press release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Super Singapore August with the Arts at Esplanade



SINGAPORE, 30 Jul 2020 – This August, audiences can celebrate Singapore’s National Day from the comfort of home, as Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay presents a power-packed line-up of free online programmes featuring Singapore artists and various art forms, with something to suit all interests.

Red Dot August will feature performances streamed online by Singapore and Singapore-based artists, performing original works across different art forms. Two of Esplanade’s well-loved music programmes—alternative music festival **Baybeats** and the **Coffee Morning & Afternoon Tea** concert series which features veteran Singapore artists performing evergreen favourites—will also be making online debuts. In **little red comma**, a project that fuses literary arts with digital media, audiences can explore homegrown fiction and diverse literary voices. And as part of the **Raga** series, there will be screenings of two dramatised readings featuring new works by Singapore playwrights.

Amy Ho, Head, Music, The Esplanade Co Ltd, said, “The arts allow us to better understand who we are as individuals, as a community and a society. As we commemorate Singapore’s National Day in August, we hope that the diversity of our online programmes at Esplanade will give everyone the opportunity to celebrate, experience and embrace the richness of what it means to be a part of Singapore.”

To add to the festive mood, Esplanade will also be donning red and white on its twin domes till the end of August and Singapore’s Lion Head symbol will be added on to the domes’ lighting design on National Day. At the Esplanade Forecourt Garden facing the Padang, parts of the garden will be lit in red and white in the first three weeks of August, and will end off with

calming shades of blue and lavender from the last week of August till Moonfest, Esplanade's festival in celebration of the mid-autumn season in September.

Online programmes featuring #SGartists

From 1 to 30 Aug, celebrate Singapore's birthday and the things that make Singapore unique with [Red Dot August](#), the month's theme for Esplanade's year-round series of free programmes. The series will bring together Singapore's different communities and feature performances of original work across a diverse range of art forms. Beyond our artists, *Red Dot August* also engages people in underserved communities—migrant workers, people with special needs and people who deserve a second chance in our society—and provides a stage for them to express themselves creatively through the arts. Highlights include an improvised theatre performance by ASAP Improv, a poetry play by Migrant Writers of Singapore and storytelling performances by MoonShadow Stories and Kamini Ramachandran. The programmes will be streamed on [Esplanade Offstage](#), with all videos available until 7 Sep, 12pm.

Fans of alternative music can look forward to a special online edition of Esplanade's well-loved annual music festival, *Baybeats*, from 21 to 23 Aug. As the live festival, which usually takes place in Aug, has been postponed to Nov, ***Baybeats Online*** was put together to still support and to give Singapore's music community something to look forward to at this time of the year. In keeping with the character of the live festival, *Baybeats Online* will feature music across a range of different genres, from unplugged sets by artists like Forests and Annette Lee, to performances by metal bands like Every Rage I Seek. The line-up will include a mix of live and pre-recorded sessions, featuring both new content and content from the festival's archives. Its full line-up will be announced on 6 Aug at www.esplanade.com/baybeats. Recording and post-production editing for the new works and editing of archival works for *Baybeats Online* is supported by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth's [Arts and Culture Resilience Package](#).

[Coffee Morning & Afternoon Tea](#), Esplanade's popular concert series that offers a burst of nostalgia, also returns in a stripped down version online. The six acoustic performances will feature Singapore artists including Mel Ferdinands, Donnie Chan & Shuk Fong, Skye Sirena and more, performing evergreen English, Cantonese and Mandarin hits. The performances will be live streamed from the Esplanade Concourse every first and third Monday of the month from Aug to Oct at 3pm, on *Esplanade Offstage* and [Esplanade's Facebook page](#). Each video will be made available online for 72 hours after the livestream, in case viewers may have missed it. Audiences who watch all six performances online may participate in a giveaway and

stand a chance to win a \$50 Esplanade Mall voucher. More details at www.esplanade.com/cmat.

Under the **Raga** series, screenings of two recorded dramatised readings by Brown Voices will be published on *Esplanade Offstage* on 11 and 25 Aug respectively. The two works featured are *Between 5 Cows and the Deep Blue Sea* by playwright A. Yagnya and directed by Rebekah Sangeetha Dorai, and *Shakuntala* by playwright Hemang Nandabalan Yadav and directed by Grace Kalaiselvi. Both works are performed in English. These dramatised readings were recently filmed in the Esplanade Annexe Studio and are to be screened online, in place of the [live performances](#) which were cancelled due to COVID-19.

Finally, written word lovers can explore homegrown works of fiction and diverse literary voices in **little red comma**, a project commissioned by the National Arts Council and part of the #SGCultureAnywhere campaign to bring together the best of Singapore's arts and culture digital offerings to be enjoyed and experienced, anytime and anywhere. It is produced by creative agency Tusitala and Esplanade is its presenting partner. Fusing the literary arts with digital media and original soundscapes and illustrations, *little red comma* will feature six interactive digital works of Singapore poetry and short stories in English or English translation and three audio recordings of works in their original Mandarin, Malay and Tamil text. The writers featured are Arthur Yap, Latha, Melissa De Silva, Mohamed Latiff Mohamed, Samuel Lee and Yeng Pway Ngon. From 31 Aug to 9 Nov, a new work will be released on *Esplanade Offstage* every fortnight, starting with Latha's *Kavadi*.

About Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay

Esplanade is Singapore's national performing arts centre. It has a year-round line-up of about 3,500 performances presented by Esplanade, its partners and hirers. As an arts centre for everyone, Esplanade also creates opportunities for seniors, youth, children and underserved communities to experience the arts. More than 70% of the shows that take place each year at the centre are non-ticketed. The centre works in close partnership with local, regional and international artists to develop artistic capabilities and content, push artistic boundaries and engage audiences. Esplanade supports the creation of artistic content by commissioning and producing new Singapore and Asian work for the international stage. It also develops technical capabilities for the industry nationally.

To bring even more of the arts to a wider audience and provide more platforms to support Singapore's next generation of artists, Esplanade is building a new theatre along its busy waterfront. Named Singtel Waterfront Theatre, the 550-seat venue will open in 2021.

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay is operated by The Esplanade Co Ltd (TECL), which is a not-for-profit organisation, a registered Charity and an Institution of a Public Character. The Charity Council awarded TECL the Charity Governance Award – Special Commendation for Clarity of Strategy in 2016, and the Charity Transparency Award for four consecutive years since 2016.

TECL receives funding support from Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and its Community Programmes are supported by Tote Board Family, comprising Tote Board, Singapore Pools and Singapore Turf Club.

Visit Esplanade.com for more information and Esplanade.com/Offstage for an all-access backstage pass and insider's guide to Singapore and Asian arts and culture.

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Issued by *The Esplanade Co Ltd*.

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Esplanade Presents

Red Dot August

1 Aug – 7 Sep 2020

www.esplanade.com/reddotaugust



Red Dot August is the August theme of Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay’s series of free programmes, which are presented all year round. As we celebrate our nation’s birthday and the things that make us uniquely Singapore through diverse art forms, we also bring together the different communities and provide a platform for Singapore artists to feature their original works and build an audience base for their works.

Through *Red Dot August*, Esplanade also seeks to embrace and include the underserved communities in providing them a stage to express themselves creatively through the arts. The communities we are engaging this year include the migrant workers, people with special needs, and people who deserve a second chance in our society. We hope that this provides an opportunity and outlet for them to explore and refine their talents and art-making.

The programmes will be streamed on Esplanade Offstage, with all videos available until 7 Sep, 12pm.

Tales of Resilience
MoonShadow Stories
Directed by Kamini Ramachandran
1 Aug, Sat, 8pm



What can we learn from the animals in the forest? Some are fierce and strong and terribly scary. Others are small and light and extremely witty. Travel through the forest and meet the mousedeer, monkey, dragon and a giant pumpkin! Be inspired by little boys and clever old ladies who are brave enough to face their fears. Listen to these fables and discover how we can overcome difficulties and conquer challenges by using our intelligence and wit. Directed by master storyteller Kamini Ramachandran, these storytelling videos celebrate Asian values through Southeast Asian folklore.

About Kamini Ramachandran

Master storyteller Kamini Ramachandran founded MoonShadow Stories with the aim of promoting the art of oral narrative tradition. She strongly believes that if the beauty and wonder of storytelling can be reintroduced to adults, then children will benefit as well. Through Ramachandran's mentorship of emerging talents, the art of storytelling is passed on to the next generation supported by her work at The Storytelling Centre Ltd.

Two Siblings
By Bennett Bay & Krish Natarajan
2 Aug, Sun, 8pm



Following the release of his first three-song EP *Little Old Town*, Bennett Bay returns with a collection of short stories in this collaboration with long-time friend Krish Natarajan.

Originally written as a series of three worlds, each with their own short stories, Bay and Natarajan will explore the lives of two siblings from the first world; a place where they know nothing but the ocean and the comfort of one another. The siblings travel on the back of an unknown animal, in search of land and the home of their forebears.

It is said that at the end of the ocean, endless fields of paddy and enormous mountains litter the vast acres of land. And thus they set out, forcing themselves towards the edge of creation, with every breath they inch closer to their goal, though it may never come in sight. Accompanied by Bay's guitars, Natarajan evokes a magical world of two siblings with his voice.

About Bennett Bay & Krish Natarajan

Bennett Bay and Krish Natarajan have worked together on countless occasions, most recently performing at Esplanade's *Four by Four* in Jun-2019, where they brought to the stage the song *Memoirs*, which follows the life of a family of orcas. The pair have just wrapped up on a theatre production in *Fika and Fishy*, a play by Patch and Punnet, where Natarajan serves as co-founder and director.

Ralph Alvern
4 Aug, Tue, 8pm



Photo by Melvin Tham

Ralph Alvern will be performing songs from his EP *About Your Love*, with tunes about the white, the black and the grey areas of love. The ups and downs. The happiest and saddest points of life that he's experienced, learnt and understood from those closest to him.

About Ralph Alvern

Ralph Alvern is a Singapore singer-songwriter who started out busking in the streets of Orchard Road. He has since gone on to perform on the same stage as the likes of Nathan Hartono, Shigga Shay and many more. His single *Over The Phone* has reached 130,000 streams on Spotify. Ralph is currently working on an EP which will be out late-2020.

Between Friends

By ExtraOrdinary Horizons, Julian Wong & Vic Veerappan (DrumsterVic)

5 Aug, Wed, 8pm



In this performance, musicians Julian Wong and Vic Veerappan (DrumsterVic) will be joined by Deaf arts and music practitioner Lily Goh (Director and Founder of ExtraOrdinary Horizons). Wong and Veerappan will present original compositions that are personal to them, while Goh will interpret these songs through facial expression, body movement and sign language. The artists will also raise awareness for the Deaf community.

About ExtraOrdinary Horizons

ExtraOrdinary Horizons (EO Horizons) is a social enterprise whose vision is to create an inclusive society where deaf people can gain confidence in their own abilities. They aim to promote deaf awareness through sign language courses, workshops, and performances. EO Horizons also aims to help the deaf better integrate into mainstream society and to be accepted for who they are. Their Deaf music (formerly song-signing), percussion and acting/pantomime performances contribute to the development and support of the deaf performing arts scene in Singapore.

About Julian Wong

Julian Wong is a composer, arranger, music director and accompanist. As a composer, he is most proud of his collaboration with playwright/lyricist Joel Tan. Wong is excited to share the stage with Lily Goh for the third consecutive year, along with his friend of 22 years, Vic Veerappan.

About Vic Veerappan (DrumsterVic)

Vicknes Vinayak Veerappan (also known as DrumsterVic) is an internationally-renowned musician from Singapore. He is a performer, songwriter, arranger, and music educator. After graduating from LASALLE College of the Arts, Veerappan created his YouTube channel to share his passion for drums and percussion.

What's up with Glen Wee (IG Live)
(Singapore, based in Australia)
6 Aug, Thu, 8pm



Ever wondered what is it like for Singapore artists living overseas and how their experience residing overseas have impacted their experiences and artmaking? Join us in this series of Instagram live chats to find out!

About Glen Wee

Glen Wee first saw his music career take flight when he joined and made it to Top 4 of the nation-wide singing competition *The Final 1*. It was during this time that he wrote his first original song *Untitled*, which was soon showcased on the soundtrack of the film *Three Peas In A Pod*, directed by Michelle Chong. Wee has since developed his passion for song-writing, having written some of the songs for his band, stillsunrise, who have launched their first EP *Colours In Black*.

He hopes that through his music, he can not only entertain his audience but also open a gateway that links them to their own experiences and emotions. With the successful release of singles *Send me an Angel* and *Walking on the Side*, followed by the release of his first full-length solo album *Sounds in the City*, Wee boasts a variety of ambient and festival sounds that explores his versatility as a singer-songwriter.

Shueh-Li
7 Aug, Fri, 8pm



“Shueh-li is a truly amazing talent; informed, professional, warm, diverse, exciting, inspiring...”
– *Art Monthly*.

Shueh-li Ong is a composer, producer and world-renown thereminist. *The Straits Times* called her “Singapore’s first and only diva of the theremin”, while the *Nashville Scene Magazine* has crowned her “queen of the theremin”.

Ong’s performances are entertaining and educational, especially if you wonder how an instrument invented in World War One that is played without contact could be performed musically and expressively. In this performance, she has prepared a variety of jazz classics, along with her own material.

Sing-Kopi-Ra
By Kopi Katz
8 Aug, Sat, 8pm



Photo by Jazzfrey Loek

With three original compositions and two renditions of popular Singapore-themed songs, Kopi Katz celebrates their home country and her unique multi-cultural history on her 55th birthday. Putting different elements from Malay, Indian, Chinese and Western music together, Kopi Katz aims to explore the musical "fireworks" in *Home Coming*, *Om Shanti* and *Celebratory Canon.*, as well as two renditions of beloved National Day songs. If you have wondered how these songs would sound like in the style of jazz, this performance will satisfy your curiosity!

About Kopi Katz

Kopi Katz is a multi-ethnic instrumental group comprising four musicians with different instruments. Chin Yen Chien is an award-winning *pipa* performer with years of experience in performing internationally. Ismahairie Putra is a classical violinist and *gambus* player who has a passion for world music. Raghavendran Rajasekaran is a high-energy and multi-faceted *bansuri* performer and winner of the Flute Open Category in the National Indian Music Competition (2011). Rachma Lim is a pianist-composer who has been active in the Singapore jazz scene. They are all brought together by their love and passion for locally produced music.

Screening: A Zubir Said Tribute (2017)
9 Aug, Sun, 2pm
Performed in Malay



Relive the moment from *Red Dot August 2017* and join an ensemble of musicians who have come together specially for these performances to celebrate Zubir Said's 110th birthday and his 30th death anniversary. Hear popular favourites like *Semoga Bahagia*, *Sayang di Sayang* and *Selamat Hari Raya*, as well as lesser-known film songs spanning his prolific career. The ensemble of some of Singapore's best-known young musicians is led by Malaysian guitarist Az Samad, who has also rearranged many of the songs on this programme specially for these performances.

Zubir Said is best known as the composer of Singapore's national anthem, *Majulah Singapura*. His career as a composer stretches back to the 1940s when he became a music composer for the film production companies Shaw Brothers and Cathay Keris. Despite his lack of formal music education, the prolific songwriter wrote over 1,500 songs.

Arranger/Guitarist: Az Samad
Vocalist: Syakirah Noble
Violin: Tan Jun Qi Eric
Violin: Li Aiyu
Viola: Syed Ridwan Bin Ahmad
Cello: Gan Ying Ying
Alto Saxophone: Sean Hong Wei
Keys: Audrey Stafanie Tengkey
Double Bass: Felix Phang (double bass)
Drums: Anson Koh
Percussion: Muhammad Ridzman

Talk Cock Sing Song 2.0
By ASAP Improv
10 Aug, Mon, 8pm



The Kok family is back! This time, they'll *Stand Up for Singapore* with pride in this special National Day improv gameshow. "Count on Me!" was what the Koks shouted at their grassroots leader from afar, as the man combed their HDB estate for an average Singaporean family to be a part of this government-commissioned programme. They'll be playing games (musical or otherwise) like the ones on *Whose Line Is It Anyway*, as they celebrate *One People One Nation One Singapore*, in this country that they call *Home*.

Based off your suggestions, they'll have to come up with original songs and create never-before-seen sketches on the spot. Laugh along with them (or at them) and host cum maestro Joel Chua as they talk cock, sing song and maybe play *mahjong* for your entertainment in this entirely improvised and unscripted show of epic proportions.

About ASAP Improv

ASAP specialises in improvised theatre, putting on fully improvised plays based off suggestions from audiences, complete with heart-stopping music.

Red Dot August: To: You (___ Miles Away)

By Yokez & Isaac

11 Aug, Tue, 8pm

Performed in Mandarin



2020 is a year we'll never forget. A year where the world has been hit by a severe pandemic, where many are suddenly separated from their loved ones, where the future is uncertain. Yet amid all this chaos, music is the bridge that connects one to all. COVID-19 may have kept us apart, but with music as a universal language, let us come together again as one!

From sweet love songs to funky vibes to sad ballad numbers, expect an interesting performance of Mandopop originals brought to you by Singapore singer-songwriters Yokez 叶玉棣 and Isaac 杨征宇. Look out for unreleased songs, including a co-written original 《一万里外的你》, a bittersweet love song that explores the troubles of lovers separated by distance.

About Yokez

With sweet vocals and a bright personality, Singapore Mandopop singer-songwriter Yokez sparkles every performance with her positive energy.

In June 2018, she released her debut five-track Mandopop EP, with her duet love song 《你的出现》 entering the Spotify Top 50 Viral Tracks in Malaysia. To date, the EP has been streamed over 1.5 million times on Spotify.

Yokez's sweet sound and vocal abilities have also opened doors for collaborations with top-notch producers in the industry. She has featured in several tracks, including 《如果你爱我》 in 《爱●制作试验专辑》 and 《鸿鹄叹》 in 《音乐合 VIII 落意赋 CD 国风精选合辑》. Her own composition 《等待》, was also released as part of the 《音乐合 III》 album. In 2019, she sang 《你有没搞懂》, the official soundtrack for Chinese web drama 《我的盖世英雄》. In 2020, she released her latest co-written single 《爱蒸发》.

About Isaac

Isaac Yong is a singer-songwriter who has received recognition through various competitions, most notably the Champion of the Music Xpress Songwriting Competition (2015). He released his first single 《深夜》 in 2019.

Yong has actively arranged, produced and performed covers with a touch of fingerstyle guitar, garnering over 3 million streams on Spotify and 5 million streams in China across QQ Music and Bilibili. With a soothing voice and a unique sense of humour, he hopes that performances will bring joy and warmth to the hearts of many.

Let Love be Love
By Migrant Writers of Singapore
12 Aug, Wed, 8pm



Let Love Be Love is a poetry play by Migrant Writers of Singapore. Join us in this performance as artists from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Philippines and Singapore reminisce about the past, ponder about the present and hope for the future through spoken word, music and dance. Through this performance, the Migrant Writers of Singapore aims to build a bridge between migrants and non-migrants by highlighting our shared human experiences.

Produced by Migrant Writers of Singapore, Supported by Sing Lit Station

Script and direction by Zakir Hossain Khokan

Performed by

Ar Celyn (Poet, Philippine)

Theo (Poet, Singapore)

Erma Stefhany (Poet, Indonesia)

Mohar Khan (Poet, Bangladesh)

Uchie Mujiyati (Dancer, Indonesia)

Jay Ong (Musician, Singapore)

About Ar Celyn (Poet, Philippine)

Ar Celyn is poet, foreign domestic worker who has been in Singapore for seven years. After graduating from Aidha, she became a student ambassador and motivational speaker for her fellow foreign domestic workers. Her hobbies include poetry, photography and arts.

About Theo (Poet, Singapore)

Theophilus Kwek's poems, essays and translations have appeared in *The Guardian*, *Times Literary Supplement*, *The London Magazine*, and *Mekong Review*. Two of his previous collections in *Giving Ground* and *Circle Line* were shortlisted for the Singapore Literature Prize. His latest collection *Moving House* is published in the UK by Carcanet Press.

About Erma Stefhany (Poet, Indonesia)

Erma Stefhany was born in Lampung, Indonesia. She has been working in Singapore since Oct-2016 and considers photography and poetry as her hobbies.

About Mohar Khan (Poet, Bangladesh)

Mohar Khan was born in Munshiganj, Bangladesh and first came to Singapore in 2007. He works in construction sector. Khan primarily writes sonnets, but has also written short stories and non-fiction. He was runner-up in the inaugural Migrant Works Poetry Contest in 2015. Khan's poems and articles have appeared in journals and anthologies in Singapore.

About Uchie Mudjiyati (Dancer, Indonesia)

Uchie Mudjiyati has been working as a foreign domestic worker in Singapore for the past 13 years. She loves to dance, especially traditional Javanese dance.

About Jay Ong (Musician, Singapore)

Jay Ong is the resident composer for Xin Saxophone Quartet, one of Singapore's leading professional saxophone quartets. His most recent projects include a collaboration with the National Gallery Singapore, a new composition for the Xin Saxophone Quartet and writing original music for the Hwa Chong Centennial Musical.

What's up with Alan Choo (IG Live)
(Singapore, based in USA)
13 Aug, Thu, 8pm



Ever wondered what is it like for Singapore artists living overseas and how their experience residing overseas have impacted their experiences and artmaking? Join us in this series of Instagram live chats to find out!

About Alan Choo

Singapore violinist Alan Choo has established himself on the global stage as a leading soloist, chamber musician and historical specialist. He made his solo debut with the Grammy Award-winning baroque orchestra Apollo's Fire at the Tanglewood and Ravinia Music Festivals (2017). Choo currently serves as Artistic Leadership Fellow for the ensemble, where he takes on soloist, concertmaster and guest director roles. He is also Founder and Artistic Director of Red Dot Baroque, Singapore's first professional period ensemble, which has enjoyed multiple sold-out concerts and critical acclaim since their formation in Aug-2018. In May-2019 he was invited as guest concertmaster and soloist with Chinese baroque ensemble Shanghai Camerata.

As a modern violinist, Choo has appeared as a soloist with the St. Petersburg Symphony Orchestra, Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Singapore Chinese Orchestra, Orchestra of the Music Makers and more. A proponent of contemporary music, he is co-founder of SG Inspirations, a project dedicated to performing works by Singapore composers. In 2015, Choo recorded the SG Inspirations commemorative album with pianist Lin Hengyue as a gift to the nation on Singapore's 50th anniversary.

Choo's achievements in all areas of performance have earned him awards such as Early Music Award (2016) from Peabody Conservatory, Paul Abisheganaden Grant for Artistic Excellence (2015), Goh Soon Tioe Centenary Award (2014), Grace Clagett Ranney Prize in Chamber Music 2014 and 1st Prize in the National Piano and Violin Competition (2011).

A Spot of Sunshine with Miss Lou
14 Aug, Fri, 8pm



Fresh songs of hope, reflection and lamentations emerge from this difficult period, where past works are revisited with brand new perspectives. Miss Lou will be joined by keyboardist Daniel Chia and cellist Tang Jia for this performance on the release date of her new single *Spot of Sunshine*. She will also be debuting other new songs and rearrangements of released tracks.

About Miss Lou

Miss Lou (also known as Lou Peixin) is Singapore's Glamour Vintage Songbird—a vocalist and songwriter who blends old-school vocal stylings with modern sensibilities. Described as a reborn jazz soul, her songs are snapshots of 21st century life told in the language of doowop, swing and soul. She uses music as a platform to talk about things that matter, such as self-empowerment, body positivity and independence.

The winner of the Noise Award from the National Arts Council's Noise Music Mentorship in 2016, she has worked with British producer Mikal Blue, who is known for his work with Colbie Caillat, Jason Mraz and OneRepublic. Miss Lou has also been mentored by 16-time Grammy Award-winning producer David Foster and her songs have been enjoyed by audiences from around the world.

In 2020, she has created her own weekly live stream show series on YouTube titled *It's Live! with Miss Lou*, started her monthly *Inner Circle* subscription service for fans, and continues to persist in the face of adversity.

Poems of Local Landmarks
by Lee Yong Tick & Rachma Lim
15 Aug, Sat, 8pm
Performed in Mandarin, with English subtitles



What are some Singapore landmarks that have been eternalised in our literature? Singapore veteran voice-over artist Lee Yong Tick will recite poems that depict the rich history and culture of familiar places that we know of, with music accompaniment from Rachma Lim on piano.

About Lee Yong Tick

Lee Yong Tick was the former deputy programme director and music director of Radio Singapore International (Chinese section). He started his career as a voice-over artist at the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in the 1980s and was involved in the establishment of Radio Singapore International (RSI) in 1994.

Lee is currently a freelance voice artist and the leader of Char Yong (Dabu) Association's Hakka Melody Group, which actively promotes Hakka culture and traditions.

About Rachma Lim

Rachma Lim is a pianist-composer who has been active in the Singapore jazz scene since 2009. She has released an EP *Her Nocturnal Chapters*, which includes original jazz compositions.

An Intimate Performance with Amni Musfirah
16 Aug, Sun, 8pm



Photo by Yuwei Huang

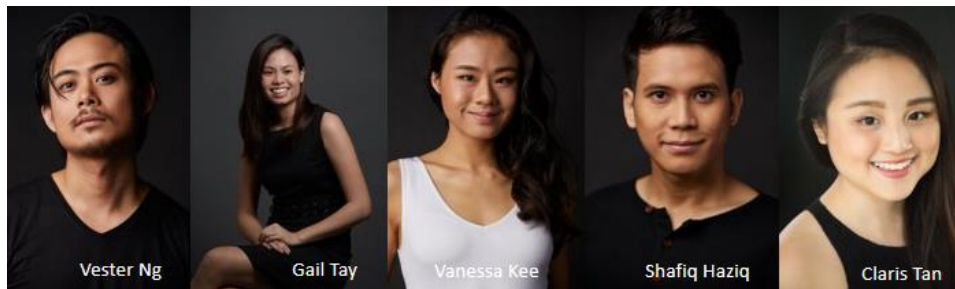
Spend the evening with Amni Musfirah as she shares all the songs that she has written and the stories that come with them. The pop singer-songwriter and producer will be playing songs that speak about women power and love and all the emotions we feel as women.

About Amni Musfirah

Born in Singapore, Amni Musfirah began performing at the tender age of 10. After being talent spotted by Singapore's well-known composer Iskandar Ismail, she embarked on a journey as a performer and composer. Amni is also the ambassador for two beneficiaries The Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund and The Business Times Budding Artist Fund.

After graduating from Berklee College of Music, the pop singer-songwriter and producer has released six singles. Currently, she is working on her debut album that is slated for release in 2021. As a strong advocate of female empowerment, Amni hopes to be an example to women all around the world.

Musicals from Our Shores
By LASALLE Musical Theatre BA(Hons) Alumni
18 Aug, Tues, 8pm



Musicals from Our Shores is a collaborative project between alumni from LASALLE College of the Arts' BA(Hons) in Musical Theatre and BA(Hons) in Music.

Representing LASALLE College of the Arts' BA(Hons) in Musical Theatre are graduates Claris Tan, Shafiq Haziq, Vester Ng and Vanessa Kee. All four are Singapore-based performers who are actively involved in the theatre scene, with companies such as Pangdemonium, Singapore Repertory Theatre and The Theatre Practice. Representing the BA(Hons) in Music programme is piano accompanist, arranger and musical director Gail Tay.

Music for the Soul – Beyond Second Chances
By Intune Music X Yellow Ribbon PAC Alumni
19 Aug, Wed, 8pm



Original and inspiring songs with the Yellow Ribbon PAC Alumni and musicians from Intune Music.

About Intune Music

Intune Music was founded in 2007 by pianist Peng Chi Sheng and vocalist Aaron Matthew Lim. Striving to inspire musicians from all walks of life, Intune Music has conducted music and performance lessons for inmates in Changi Prison since 2014. Lim and Peng continue to keep in contact with students even after their release from prison. This year, they founded the Yellow Ribbon PAC Alumni. It is their hope that through these regular music jamming sessions and performance opportunities, the alumni members can continue to stay grounded and begin to believe in themselves again.

About Yellow Ribbon PAC Alumni

The Yellow Ribbon PAC Alumni comprises Mohamed Razif Bin Haron, Affandi Bin Meskam, Zulkifli Abd Rahman, Tan Wil Khiam and AM Yusoff Bin Saharom. They are a group of aspiring musicians determined to make a difference in their lives and those around them. With the support of close friends and mentors, they are ready to share their voice and inspire lives.

Talk: A Passage of Life to Art
By Global Cultural Alliance
19 Aug, Wed, 9pm

This entire endeavour was inspired by a French philosopher who once said that artists don't create the way they live; they live the way they create.

For people with prior experiences of incarceration—the passage is just a passing point in their life—and if they become artists from their experience, then perhaps they were artists all along and somehow, they each take a different journey to reach that point.

This talk is an interview session with director of Global Cultural Alliance Phan Ming Yen and features Barry Yeow, who was an ex-offender turned artist, along with his mentee Rahman bin Sanip, an ex-offender who is currently pursuing education in the arts.

About Global Cultural Alliance

A non-profit organisation that is a subsidiary of The RICE Company Ltd, which focuses on arts education for children from lower income families. The parent company manages The Business Times Budding Artists Fund and provides free arts education for underprivileged children at two centres run by the organisation. Global Cultural Alliance has focuses on cross cultural exchange and work with ex-offenders.

What's Up with Kent Chan (IG Live)
(Singapore, based in Netherlands)
20 Aug, Thu, 8pm



Ever wondered what is it like for Singapore artists living overseas and how their experience residing overseas have impacted their experiences and artmaking? Join us in this series of Instagram live chats to find out!

About Kent Chan

Kent Chan is an artist, filmmaker and curator based in Netherlands and Singapore. His practice revolves around encounters with art, fiction and cinema, exploring the links between aesthetic experience and knowledge production. He holds an interest in the tropical imagination and relationship between moving images and the modern city. The works and practices of others often form the locus of his works, which have taken the form of film, text, conversations and exhibitions.

A Bitesize of Singapore's Musicals
By Bitesize Theatre Productions
25 Aug, Tue, 8pm



Bitesize Theatre Productions consists of four Singapore musical theatre artists who believe that musicals have the ability to touch hearts, inspire minds and educate people through story, music and movement. Our aim is to challenge, inspire and redefine what musical theatre can be in Singapore. Bitesize first staged *The Monster in the Mirror* at Changi General Hospital in 2019 for World Mental Health Day.

About Bitesize Theatre Productions

The brainchild of Bitesize Theatre Productions, Tan Rui Shan is the producer-actress in the group. Her theatre credits include *Forbidden City Musical*, *Fly High*, *Upstairs in the Sky*, *Lim Boon Keng Musical*, *Here and Beyond* and many more. She is the assistant choreographer for *Snow White 2020* and associate choreographer for *Treasure Island 2021*.

Co-producer Tanya Ang is a well-rounded artist who understands the work needed for a production to happen. Her theatre credits include 《守护海洋的神岛》, *Forbidden City Musical*, *Chicken Little*, *Bukit Merah Musical*, *Lim Boon Keng Musical*. Ang is also a Museum Educator for MINT Museum of Toys.

Actress-composer Michelle Ler Jing Yi has performed in *The Gingerbread Man* and *Chicken Little*, also performing as a keyboardist for *The Great Wall: One Woman's Journey* and *AIDA*. She also assisted in the Music Direction for *Urinetown*, *A Spoonful of Sherman* and *The Last Five Years*. Ler is the composer for *The Monster in the Mirror* and award-winning Mandarin original song 《下场》.

Currently Resident Assistant Director at Singapore Repertory Theatre, Terrance Tan is also a writer and an actor. Through Bitesize Theatre Productions, he aims to expose the socio-political power structures of society, questioning the nature of information and knowledge, as well as understanding mental health through theatre making. His assistant-directorial works include *The Lifespan of a Fact*, *Little Red Riding Hood* and *Upstairs in the Sky*.

Songwriting for Hope Showcase
By Crystal Goh & weish
26 Aug, Wed, 8pm



Crystal Goh

weish
Photo by Afiq Omar

Sometimes, songs can give us the courage to face the future...

Join artists weish and Crystal Goh, as they perform original songs by youths from Singapore Girls' Home who participated in Esplanade's *Songwriting for Hope* programme. The girls have courageously used the songwriting process to explore themes like the loss of loved ones, regrets and self-worth, while finding transformation, gratitude and hope in the process.

About Songwriting for Hope

Songwriting for Hope is a community engagement programme by Esplanade –Theatres on the Bay, in partnership with Diamonds On The Street. The programme seeks to provide youths-at-risk with an opportunity for deeper engagement through songwriting as a form of creative expression. Through a series of workshops, participants learn skills of song craft, with the aim of turning their crises into hope.

About Crystal Goh

Crystal Goh is the founder of Diamonds On The Street, a social enterprise that works with at-risk youths to uncover narratives of hope through creative learning experiences. Her journey of hope began in 2011, when she woke up one day to discover that she had lost her voice to a rare neurological condition called spasmodic dysphonia. As a young singer-songwriter who was building up her career, Goh was devastated. Simple tasks like having a conversation with friends and ordering food in a noisy hawker centre all became very difficult and embarrassing.

Since 2015, Diamonds On The Street has partnered with Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay to design and run creative learning experiences for at-risk youths. Through guided reflection on their circumstances—exploring themes such as hope, gratitude and resilience—participants learn to derive meaning from crises and craft new narratives about their lives and possibilities.

About weish

weish is a multidisciplinary artist with a unique approach to composition. Using live looping as her primary form, she creates layered soundscapes with a mixture of singing, vocal percussion and synths.

With electronic duo .gif and experimental group sub:shaman, weish has performed around the world—from Japan to Europe, Australia and across Southeast Asia. She has also gone on to collaborate with esteemed artists across many disciplines, working with the likes of Charlie Lim, Bani Haykal, Huzir Sulaiman, Ng Yi-Sheng and more.

What's up with Dawn Ho (IG Live)
(Singapore, based in Australia)
27 Aug, Thu, 8pm



Ever wondered what is it like for Singapore artists living overseas and how their experience residing overseas have impacted their experiences and artmaking? Join us in this series of Instagram live chats to find out!

About Dawn Ho

Currently residing in Melbourne, singer and composer Dawn Ho is a veteran in the Singapore music scene who is known for her sophisticated and sensuous vocal approach to jazz and Brazilian music.

She has released two albums in [All In Good Time](#) with her project band, and *The Shadows of Paraguay* and [Hush Now](#) (2016), an intimate duet album with acclaimed Cuban jazz pianist Gabriel Hernandez. Ho is currently embarking on a new project consisting of her own original works that investigates genre-blending within contemporary music and traditions in jazz and improvised music, tinged with electronic vocal effects and soundscapes.

She has served as the co-director of Singapore-based arts non-profit organisation We Love Jazz SG since 2016 and is currently Development Manager for the Melbourne International Jazz Festival.

The Island
By The MadHatter Project
28 Aug, Fri, 8pm



There are many kinds of islands—both physical and abstract. Cut off from the mainland and bearing distinct borders, islanders evolve in isolation, adapting to the unique vulnerabilities and strengths afforded by their situation. They balance this tension between their flight or fight instincts, with the process giving a glimpse of the unique world of the islander. Journey with The MadHatter Project through a compilation of new and old (revisited) musical works, as they reveal their vulnerabilities in this period of isolation.

This performance is based off an essay submitted by the band, titled *The Island*, which contains observational notes on Singapore, the island we have come to love and have come to call home. The work is published by The Birthday Collective as part of *The Birthday Book* in Aug- 2020.

About The MadHatter Project

Since its debut in 2014, The MadHatter Project has shown an ability to develop shows that fit the diversity of stages it has performed on through their distinctive storytelling style. Since winning the 2015 Noise Singapore Award under the mentorship of Bani Haykal, they have gone on to stage original productions, including *For the Time Being* in 2017, and *Sarong Party* in 2019 in support of the Singapore Bicentennial as part of The Future of Our Pasts' Festival.

The band spends most of its time offstage moaning about the travails of the football clubs they support and arguing over what food to eat. The only thing they can agree on is *sambal kangkong*.

Finding the Light Again
By Christiane Mikaela
29 Aug, Sat, 8pm



Photo by Alex at Heritage Pictures

Finding the Light Again is a manifestation of Christiane Mikaela's heartfelt desire for her music to be a light in the darkness. These uncertain times have caused us to confront many oft-neglected yet key questions like "what am I doing with my life?" and "why do I exist?".

An award-winning singer-songwriter with trademark "sultry-pipes" (*The Straits Times*) and a "formidable voice that comes entwined with meaningfully written compositions" (*JUICE Magazine*), Christiane hopes that through her music, people will realise that there is an unspoken open call for all to look beyond mere survival and instead use their innate gifts to help others.

Join Christiane as she guides you through this daring yet exciting adventure from darkness back to the light, using original songs that illuminate common struggles, sustain relationships and connect people in this era of major disruption.

About Christiane Mikaela

Christiane Mikaela is a professional singer-songwriter, live band coordinator, music consultant and vocal instructor. Armed with a mission to inspire those lost in the darkness and to develop meaningful values through music, her originals are a unique blend of R&B/soul and Latin/African influences.

Mikaela has previously showcased her music at Singapore Jazz Festival and Singapore Night Festival.

Recipe for Sweet Sounds
by Artwave Studio
30 Aug, Sun, 8pm



Photo by Artwave Studio

What stories do recipes tell?

Embedded in recipes are cultures, indigenous ingredients, seasonings or the lack thereof. Celebrating all things Singapore, join Sze Min and Zai'En as they tell these untold stories of recipes in the style of a cooking show. *Recipes for Sweet Sounds* is a 30-minute discourse about food, looking at music-making as a way to share and interpret cooking experiences. Listen in as they dig up cookbooks of old served with a side of sweet sounds.

About Artwave Studio

Artwave Studio collaborates and produces fresh experiences through music and sound. Their work can be found in installations and performances across Singapore. Recent projects include *Podscape* for National Arts Council's *Arts in Your Neighbourhood* and *Poems on Air* for #buysinglit2020.

Esplanade Presents

Coffee Morning & Afternoon Tea Online

Aug – Oct 2020

www.esplanade.com/cmat



Coffee Morning & Afternoon Tea is a series of concerts that offer a burst of nostalgia every first Monday of the month. We are **bringing the first digital edition of the series to viewers from August to October 2020**, with English and Chinese evergreen favourites presented by veteran Singapore artists.

Livestreamed on the following dates, viewers can watch the performances on [Esplanade Offstage](#) and [Esplanade's Facebook](#) page. In case viewers missed it, the videos will also be made available online for 72 hours after the livestream.

Programme	Lang	Premiere Date	Event Page
Evergreen Love Songs Mel Ferdinands	English	3 Aug, Mon, 3pm	www.esplanade.com/festivals-and-series/coffee-morning-and-afternoon-tea/2020/evergreen-love-songs
Cantopop Unplugged Donnie Chan & Shuk Fong	Cantonese	17 Aug, Mon, 3pm	www.esplanade.com/festivals-and-series/coffee-morning-and-afternoon-tea/2020/cantopop-unplugged
'60s Pop Hits David & Lebbeus of Dimension5	English	7 Sep, Mon, 3pm	www.esplanade.com/festivals-and-series/coffee-morning-and-afternoon-tea/2020/60s-pop-hits
Classics of Old Shanghai Skye Sirena	Mandarin	21 Sep, Mon, 3pm	www.esplanade.com/festivals-and-series/coffee-morning-and-afternoon-tea/2020/classics-of-old-shanghai
Back to the 70s Shili & Adi	English	5 Oct, Mon, 3pm	www.esplanade.com/festivals-and-series/coffee-morning-and-afternoon-tea/2020/back-to-the-70s
Timeless Ballads Lawrence Chen	Mandarin	19 Oct, Mon, 3pm	https://www.esplanade.com/festivals-and-series/coffee-morning-and-afternoon-tea/2020/timeless-ballads

More information can be found at www.esplanade.com/cmat

Evergreen Love Songs by Mel Ferdinands



Duration: 45mins

The first of many virtual performances will feature the ever-popular Mel Ferdinands. Sing along to timeless tunes by Collin Raye, Dan Fogelberg, Roy Orbison and many more.

Mel Ferdinands is best known for being a member of one of Singapore's top bands, Gypsy, in the 1980s. He achieved early success at the age of 12 after performing with his younger brother Joe Ferdinands on *Talentine* in 1971. Mel also plays Mr. Shelley on the Channel 5 series *Kin*.

Performed in English.

Premieres on 3 August (Mon) at 3pm. Available until 5 August (Wed), 3pm only.

Cantopop Unplugged 《粤语金曲》

by Donnie Chan and Shuk Fong 陈国荣与陈信方



Duration: 45mins

Let Donnie Chan and Shuk Fong charm you with their soothing vocals in this acoustic set of Cantopop favourites made popular by the likes of Sam Hui, Danny Chan, Paula Tsui and more.

As versatile performers in both the Mandopop and Cantopop scenes, Chan and Fong have performed actively at a wide variety of venues and events.

Performed in Cantonese.

Premieres on 17 August (Mon) at 3pm. Available until 19 August (Wed), 3pm only.

演出时长：约 45 分钟

让歌手陈国荣与陈信方以他们温暖的歌声带你回到 70 与 80 年代，为大家演唱多首许冠杰、陈百强、徐小凤等巨星的粤语金曲。

陈国荣与陈信方拥有多年的表演经验，演唱风格多元化。擅长演绎粤语歌曲的他们在餐厅驻唱之余，也经常受邀参与商业演出活动。

以粤语演出。

本节目将于 8 月 17 日（星期一），下午 3 时开始播放；8 月 19 日（星期三），下午 3 时下线。

'60s Pop Hits

by David and Lebbeus of Dimension5



Duration: 45mins

Returning to the *Coffee Morning & Afternoon Tea* stage are David and Lebbeus of Dimension5. The dynamic duo will perform popular songs by The Bee Gees, Cliff Richard, The Eagles and many more.

While Dimension5 has been performing since 2015, band leader-vocalist-guitarist David has been playing in the Singapore music scene since the 1980s. It was through teaching music that he met lead guitarist Lebbeus, kicking off a musical partnership that continues to this day.

Performed in English.

Premieres on 7 September (Mon) at 3pm. Available until 9 September (Wed), 3pm only.

Classics of Old Shanghai 《老上海时代金曲》

by Skye Sirena 陈乐洋



Duration: 45mins

Travel back to old Shanghai with Skye Sirena as she presents classic hits made popular by divas such as Zhou Xuan, Li Xianglan, Bai Guang and more.

Starting her professional singing career in the English scene, Sirena has since expanded her repertoire and wowed audiences with her Mandarin, Cantonese, English, Korean and Japanese songs, establishing herself as one of the most versatile and sought-after singers in Singapore.

Performed in Mandarin.

Premieres on 21 September (Mon) at 3pm. Available until 7 October (Wed), 3pm only.

演出时长：约 45 分钟

本地歌手陈乐洋将带领大家回到 30 与 40 年代的老上海，为你演唱周璇、李香兰、白光等歌后百听不厌的时代金曲。

陈乐洋虽在英语乐坛开展她的专业歌唱生涯，其表演经验并不限于此。多才多艺的她将会演唱华语、粤语、韩语和日语等歌曲，成为新加坡最广受欢迎的歌手之一。

以华语演出。

本节目将于 9 月 21 日（星期一），下午 3 时开始播放；9 月 23 日（星期三），下午 3 时下线。

Back to the '70s by ShiLi and Adi



Duration: 45mins

Get ready to boogie at this 1970s disco-themed show, where dynamic duo ShiLi and Adi will be covering works by the likes of Boney M, Village People, ABBA, Bee Gees and Earth, Wind & Fire.

ShiLi and Adi are known for their fresh piano arrangements, smooth vocal harmony and unmistakable chemistry. The duo has performed at notable events such as *Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix*, *Singapore Arts Festival* and *Mosaic Music Festival*, among many others.

Performed in English.

Premieres on 5 October (Mon) at 3pm. Available until 7 October (Wed), 3pm only.

Timeless Ballads 《爱.琴歌》

by Lawrence Chen 陈俊宏



Duration: 45mins

Join Lawrence Chen as he presents a repertoire of evergreen love ballads by Tsai Chin to sweeten your day.

Known for his mellifluous voice, Lawrence is a versatile performer who has performed at *Beijing Variety Festival* (2019), *Astro International Classic Golden Melody* (2017) and *Mediacorp's Golden Age Talentime*. Last year, he made his Esplanade debut on *Coffee Morning & Afternoon Tea* with three sold-out performances at the Recital Studio.

Performed in Mandarin.

Premieres on 19 October (Mon) at 3pm. Available until 21 October (Wed), 3pm only.

演出时长：约 45 分钟

被誉为‘新加坡天籁之声’的陈俊宏将献上一场充满浓浓爱意的演唱会，献上多首蔡琴的经典情歌温暖大家的心房。

陈俊宏是首位参与《咖啡早晨与下午茶》节目的《黄金年华》歌唱比赛选手。短短四年内，俊宏除了得到了公众的认同，各大媒体平台也纷纷以“黄金年华的传奇”，“震撼人心”与“天籁之声”等赞美来形容他的音色。

以华语演出。

本节目将于 10 月 19 日（星期一），下午 3 时开始播放；10 月 21 日（星期三），下午 3 时下线。

Esplanade Presents

Raga series

www.esplanade.com/raga

Screening: Between 5 Cows and The Deep Blue Sea (Dramatised Reading)

by Brown Voices (Singapore)



Performed in English. Some mature content. Recommended for 16 years and above.

Premiere on [Esplanade Offstage](#) and [Kalaa Utsavam Facebook](#) on 11 Aug, Tue, 4pm.
Available online till 11 Sep, Fri, 4pm.

Playwright: A. Yagnya
Director: Rebekah Sangeetha Dorai
Cast: Sajini and Kewel Kartik

In search for answers, Girl struggles for her identity in a grapple between traditional arranged marriages and modern dating culture.

What is the best path to finding my “happily ever after”? Can Tamilmatrimony.com really find me “the one”?

In search for answers, Girl explores the tensions between traditional arranged marriages and the modern dating culture, and struggles to come to terms with her identity. Where will this internal tug of war take her?

In real life, there are no rehearsals and no second takes.

Screening: Shakuntala (Dramatised Reading)

by Brown Voices (Singapore)



Performed in English. Some mature content. Recommended for 16 years and above.

Premiere on [Esplanade Offstage](#) and [Kalaa Utsavam Facebook](#) on 25 Aug, Tue, 4pm.
Available online till 25 Sep, Fri, 4pm.

Playwright: Hemang Nandabalan Yadav

Director: Grace Kalaiselvi

Cast: Mumtaz Maricar, Pramila d/o Krishnasamy, Aiswarya Nair, Shafie Bada Jabari and Hasisha Nazir

Shakuntala's life takes a mysterious and exciting turn as an enigmatic artist uses her for a portrait of Shakuntala.

An ordinary woman, Shaku, is constantly taken for granted and forgotten by her family and friends. When an enigmatic artist wants to use her as a model for a portrait of the legendary Shakuntala, Shaku is filled with new purpose and joy.

Soon, it comes to light that both artist and model have strange connections to the story of Shakuntala, and the tragedies of the original Shakuntala just might revisit her current-day namesake.