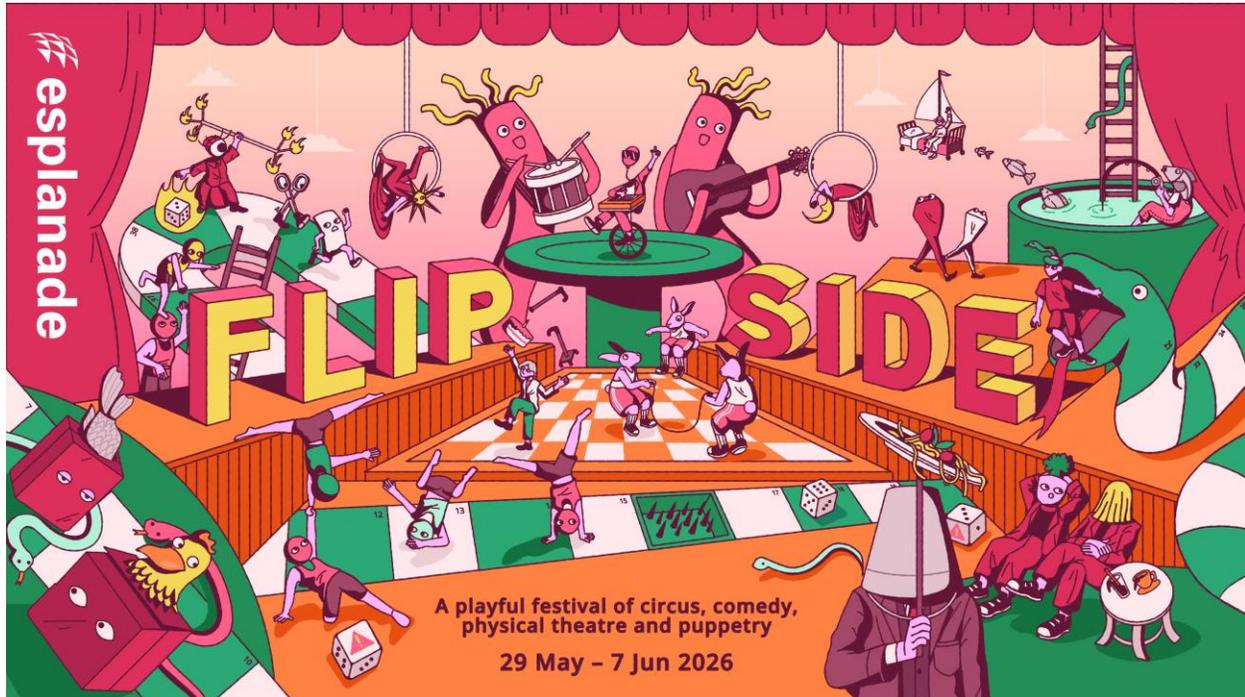


Esplanade Presents

Flipside 2026

29 May – 7 Jun 2026

www.esplanade.com/flipside



Everybody loves a little bit of risk.

There is a thrill in stepping into the unknown—that quickening pulse, that sharp intake of breath—and then emerging safely on the other side. It unsettles us, pushes us off balance, nudges us beyond the familiar and opens the door to something unexpected—perhaps even transformative.

Flipside, presented by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay is built on risk. We work with circus practitioners who perform extraordinary physical feats that take our breath away. We collaborate with artists who mine their personal histories, using their bodies and voices to tell intimate stories, crafting comedy and vulnerability for rooms full of strangers. And our audience take a risk too, choosing curiosity over certainty, arriving at the festival without knowing what to expect.

But risk is only half the story.

Risk exists because of trust. Trust is the quiet foundation beneath every leap, every catch, every moment of stillness before a fall. Behind every performance is a web of trust between artists, technicians and crew, holding each other with care so that the impossible becomes

possible. Artists trust their instincts, sharpened by years of training and honing their craft; they know that when they take that leap, they will land.

This year is no different. From high-octane physicality to surreal absurdity, from deeply personal storytelling to communal spectacle, *Flipside* invites you into worlds that are daring, playful and deeply human. Across Esplanade from 29 May – 7 Jun 2026, artists test their limits, reimagine boundaries and draw us into shared moments of wonder.

At the Esplanade Theatre Studio, Australian circus company Gravity & Other Myths bring us into **A Simple Space**, an exhilarating, visceral experience watching acrobats push their physical limits to the extreme. In surrealistic **Der Lauf (The Way Things Go)** by Les Vélocimanes Associés, the audience must help a juggler with a bucket on his head navigate a series of absurd experiments. Local multi-hyphenate Dwayne Lau takes over the Esplanade Recital Studio for his first full-length performance at the festival with **Snakes and Ladders!**, sharing personal and heartfelt stories in his journey as an actor.

Taking the risk outdoors, Singapore's very own **Bornfire Circus** returns with *Sangam* at the DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade, tracing the journeys of diverse individuals overcoming daunting challenges in their search of new life. The ever-popular **Aerial Open Stage** returns for its seventh edition, welcoming 10 aerialists from Singapore and the region. We also meet charming **Claudette**, who teaches us that age is never a reason to stop taking risks or having fun. Lai Yee shares his story as a street artist in Hong Kong, bringing the audience on a meditative journey through the flow circus arts, including a fiery dragon staff. **Gabez** returns to *Flipside* after 14 years; masters of comedic alchemy, they create hilarity out of nothing but themselves. And all women circus from the UK, **Circo Rum Baba**, brings their *Box* of curiosities and surprises at unexpected corners of Esplanade.

We are grateful to Polar Premium Drinking Water for their generous support of the festival. This is only a taster of what to expect at *Flipside 2026!* Since 2004, we have had the privilege of being a place where risk and trust meet—the collective gasps, the delighted laughter, the joy and playful spirit that resurfaces here year after year. We are deeply grateful for the artists, technicians, crew and audience who have taken that leap with us.

Please join us again. Take a risk, and we promise to catch you.

Lynn Yang

Assistant Head, Theatre
The Esplanade Co Ltd

About Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay

Esplanade is Singapore's national performing arts centre. It hosts a year-round line-up of about 4,000 live performances and activities 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 free for all to enjoy.

Esplanade also brings the arts virtually to audiences in Singapore and beyond, through its diverse range of digital programmes on [Esplanade Offstage](#), an all-access backstage pass to the performing arts and guide to Singapore and Asian arts and culture, with videos, podcasts, articles, quizzes and resources.

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.

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. TECL received the Charity Governance Award – Special Commendation for Clarity of Strategy in 2016 and 2022, the Charity Transparency Award from 2016 – 2023, and the Charity Transparency Dedication Award in 2024. Esplanade is Singapore's first Dementia-Friendly Arts Venue and a certified Dementia Go-To Point, as well as a guide/assistance dog friendly centre.

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](https://www.esplanade.com) for more information

~ End ~

Issued by *The Esplanade Co Ltd*.

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Annexe

Esplanade Presents

Flipside 2026

29 May – 7 Jun 2026

www.esplanade.com/flipside

Flipside celebrates playfulness and creativity through accessible encounters with circus, puppetry, physical theatre, visual theatre and comedy. Expect performances and curated experiences presented in surprising and thought-provoking ways. Taking place over 10 days and coinciding with the school holidays, the festival offers an exciting range of both free and ticketed programmes for families and curious adults—featuring a mix of Singapore, regional and international artists.

TICKETED PROGRAMMES

A Simple Space

by Gravity & Other Myths (Australia)

29 – 31 May 2026, Fri – Sun

Fri: 8pm

Sat: 3pm & 8pm

Sun: 3pm

Esplanade Theatre Studio



Photo Credit: Steve Ullathorne

“This award-winning piece is never short of thrills. A total triumph.”

– *The Guardian*

“Cirque du Soleil with a fistful of grit.”

– *UK Express* ★★★★★

A single human body becomes a skipping rope. Handstands, climbs, flips, and twists, all atop towers of hands, shoulders and heads. Playful, good-natured one-upmanship.

Watch seven acrobats challenge the limits of the human body in a gravity-defying spectacle performed to the rhythm of a dynamic live drumbeat.

Since its premiere as part of the 2013 Adelaide Fringe Festival, *A Simple Space* has become an award-winning favourite, touring 34 countries and captivating more than 300,000 audience members worldwide.

Thrilling, frantic, visceral, and a little bit cheeky, this mesmerising stripped-down circus leaves behind the makeup, glittering costumes and elaborate circus rigs in favour of an intimate and interactive encounter with the audience. Up close, the troupe's display of breathtaking power, high-energy athleticism and suspense is nothing short of delightful.

A Simple Space is an invitation to admire the extraordinary in its simplest form.

Gravity & Other Myths is supported as an organisation by Create SA. *A Simple Space* has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body. Gravity & Other Myths is supported as an organisation by the Sydney Myer Fund.

Created by: Martin Schreiber, Lachlan Binns, Jascha Boyce, Jacob Randell, Triton Tunis-Mitchell

Composer: Elliot Zoerner

Musician: Yuk Afella

Performers: Emily Gare, Ashley Youren, Hamis McCourty, Georgia Webb, Léann Gingrass, Skip Walker-Milne, David Trappes

About Gravity & Other Myths

Gravity & Other Myths is a circus company with roots in Adelaide, Australia. They utilise an honest approach to performance to create work with a focus on human connection and acrobatic virtuosity. Through this, they hope to maintain an exceptional and diverse artistic programme. After forming in 2009 as a group of young Adelaide artists with a passion for circus and physical theatre, they have spent the past 13 years growing steadily and creating six critically acclaimed main stage works.

A Simple Space, their first work, achieved huge international success, receiving multiple awards and having performed close to 1,000 times across 34 countries. Their subsequent work, *Backbone*, has been touring for the past five years, receiving awards (including three Helpmann Awards nominations) and critical acclaim worldwide. *Out Of Chaos...* premiered in the 2019 Adelaide Festival, receiving the 2019 Helpmann Award for Best Physical Theatre.

Their most recent creations *The Pulse* and *MACRO* are the company's largest and most ambitious works thus far, and likely the largest contemporary circus productions in Australian history! These works have elevated their artistic profile worldwide.

Alongside their onstage work, Gravity & Other Myths deeply value engaging with both their immediate and wider community through workshops and education.

Website: <https://www.gravityandothermyths.com/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GOMcircus>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/gomcircus/>
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/GOMcircus>
X: https://x.com/GOM_Circus

Admission Age: 6 years and above

1hr, no intermission

Advisory: Contains brief rear nudity, latecomers will only be admitted at suitable breaks

There will be a post-show dialogue with the artists for the performances on 29 May, 8pm and 30 May, 3pm.

\$40^{^*}

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials

Available 19 Mar – 1 Apr 2026 (limited tickets)

Black: 20% savings

White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (min. 2 tickets)

^Esplanade&Me Specials

Available from 2 Apr 2026 (limited tickets)

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Fun Package

Available from 2 Apr 2026 (limited tickets)

15% savings with min. 4 tickets to the same show or across applicable shows: *A Simple Space*, *Snakes and Ladders!*, *Der Lauf (The Way Things Go)*

Limited concessions for Students, NSFs, Seniors and PWDs: \$33*

An Esplanade Commission Snakes and Ladders!

by Dwayne Lau

29 – 31 May 2026, Fri – Sun

Fri: 8pm

Sat: 3pm & 8pm

Sun: 3pm

Esplanade Recital Studio



Photo credit: Crispian Chan

Master the game of life, one roll at a time.

Come play a real-life game of *Snakes and Ladders*, live on stage with Singaporean actor Dwayne Lau. Part storytelling, part music and part game, this interactive show gives the audience just 90 minutes to get Dwayne to square 100—by rolling two giant dice on a larger-than-life game board.

When Dwayne lands on a square, anything can happen. He might tell a story, sing a song or reenact a moment in time that corresponds to the number indicated. Nothing is planned and everything is by chance. Just like life, Dwayne rolls with the punches and turns lemons into lemonade as he improvises his way across the board.

Join in and find out if Dwayne will shoot up the ladders to success or slide down the snakes to face obstacles. His fate rests entirely in the audience's hands.

With a supporting cast, live musicians and plenty of tricks up his sleeve, this musical-comedy is a heartwarming, hilarious and absolutely wild ride through the ups and downs of life.

Writer and Director: Dwayne Lau
Dramaturg: Julian Wong
Music Director: August Lum
Choreographer: Charmaine Ho
Lighting Designer: Alvin Chai
Set and Props Designer: Wong Chee Wai
Costume Designer: The Costume Pte Ltd

Cast

Dwayne Lau
Beatrice Jaymes Pung
Eugenia Lee
Victoria Lam

Live Musicians

August Lum
Jamie Lee

Production Manager: Irabu Jeannette and Xu Xin'en
Stage Manager: Goh Xin Yi
Assistant Stage Manager: Shermin Chia
Producer: Tan Rui Shan

About Dwayne Lau

Dwayne graduated from the National University of Singapore in 2007 with a BA (Hons) in Theatre Studies.

He has been a drama coach at local high schools and colleges for over 15 years and has written and directed plays and musicals for various school events, such as the Singapore Youth Festival, Human Values Drama Festival, school anniversaries, and Founder's Day celebrations. He has won many distinction awards at bi-annual nationwide competitions with schools such as St. Anthony's Canossian Secondary School, Fairfield Methodist School, Loyang View Secondary School, and Meridian Junior College.

Dwayne is no stranger to passion plays and Christmas musicals. For over 20 years, he has written and directed musicals and plays for his church, Eternal Life Assembly, and for other churches that have engaged his services.

Some of his career highlights include two sold out musicals with one of Singapore's leading theatre companies, WILD RICE. These include *The Amazing Celestial Race*, which was so well received it was restaged the following year, and *Momotaro and the Magnificent Peach*, WILD RICE's annual pantomime that played to full houses over the holiday season.

His other writing credits include *A Date With Dwayne – Let’s Go Steady!*, a Valentine’s Day-themed cabaret, *#GOALS*, a comedy-musical presented as part of *Flipside 2019*, *Snakes and Ladders: Life Edition!*, a solo cabaret about life’s ups and downs as a performer, *Unforgotten*, a jukebox musical to raise awareness and funds for people living with dementia, as well as *Brave Maeve*, an original docu-musical about a three-year-old’s successful fight with cancer. *Brave Maeve* played to sold-out audiences and raised funds for the Children’s Cancer Foundation.

As a performer, Dwayne also regularly takes the stage in comedies and musicals. Some of his shows include *Chestnuts*, *Broadway for Suakus*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Treasure Island*, *Charlotte’s Web*, as well as the epic musical, *Forbidden City*, in which he played the Record Keeper. He has also performed in WILD RICE’s *Own Time Own Target*, *HOTEL*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, their annual pantomime, *A Singapore Carol*, *Peter Pan in Serangoon Gardens*, *Animal Farm*, and in *Cabaret* as the Emcee.

Dwayne has also written several jukebox musicals for the Singapore Armed Forces to commemorate Singapore’s independence. In 2018 and 2019, he wrote and directed two National Day-themed jukebox musicals for MINDEF’s *National Day Observance Ceremony*, performed by the artists of the Music and Drama Company.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dwayne.lau.18>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/dwaynelau/?hl=en>

Admission Age: 6 years and above

1hr 30mins, no intermission

Performed in English and Mandarin, with English surtitles

There will be a post-show dialogue with the artists for the performances on 29 May, 8pm and 30 May, 8pm.

\$40^{^*}

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials

Available 19 Mar – 1 Apr 2026 (limited tickets)

Black: 20% savings

White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (min. 2 tickets)

^Esplanade&Me Specials

Available from 2 Apr 2026 (limited tickets)

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Fun Package

Available from 2 Apr 2026 (limited tickets)

15% savings with min. 4 tickets to the same show or across applicable shows: *A Simple Space*, *Snakes and Ladders!*, *Der Lauf (The Way Things Go)*

Limited concessions for Students, NSFs, Seniors and PWDs: \$33*

SG Culture Pass

This event is eligible for SG Culture Pass credits, starting from 25 Mar 2026, 12pm.

Der Lauf (The Way Things Go)
by **Les Vélocimanes Associés (Belgium)**
6 & 7 Jun 2026, Sat & Sun, 2pm & 5pm
Esplanade Theatre Studio



Photo credit: Irving Villegas and Natalia Ogłoszka

“It is daft, delirious, edge-of-your-seat stuff.”
– *The Guardian*

“A hypnotic and very strange creation, in which the absurd rubs shoulders with skill, precision and performance”
– *Télérama*

Precariously perched wine glasses, heaps of broken plates and an uncountable number of buckets—a juggler and his doppelgänger compete in a series of absurdist experiments. Oh, and they can’t see. With the audience invited to join in by throwing balls of their own, what could possibly go wrong?

Welcome to the wonderous world of *Der Lauf (The Way Things Go)*. This interactive, delirious and utterly unpredictable performance hurtles a juggler headlong through an avalanche of mind-boggling and very strange games. Will the spinning plates fall? Will a fragile tower of glasses, stacked while wearing boxing gloves, stay upright? Or will everything come crashing down? Nothing can change the course of things... except the audience’s shouts to guide him. In a genre of its own, this sharp and edgy cabaret invites audiences to witness a hypnotising ballet of buckets, balance and body memory—where even knives can be used for juggling. Dark, joyful and absolutely thrilling, *Der Lauf (The Way Things Go)* will have everyone on the edge of their seats. One thing is certain: destruction awaits!

Credits

Creation by: Guy Waerenburgh

Performers: Guy Waerenburgh and Baptiste Bizien

Lighting design: Julien Lanaud

Outside eye: Éric Longeuel

Tour Manager: Anne-Agathe Prin

Der Lauf is supported by la Fédération Wallonie Bruxelles, la DRAC, la Région Hauts-de-France, le Département du Pas-de-Calais, la Communauté d'Agglomération Hénin-Carvin, la Ville de Carvin et la Ville de Lille.

Admission Age: 8 years and above

55mins, no intermission

\$40^{^*}

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials

Available 19 Mar – 1 Apr 2026 (limited tickets)

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White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (min. 2 tickets)

^Esplanade&Me Specials

Available from 2 Apr 2026 (limited tickets)

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Fun Package

Available from 2 Apr 2026 (limited tickets)

15% savings with min. 4 tickets to the same show or across applicable shows: *A Simple Space, Snakes and Ladders!*, *Der Lauf (The Way Things Go)*

Limited concessions for Students, NSF's, Seniors and PWDs: \$33*

Introduction to Contact Juggling Workshop

by **Bornfire Circus**

31 May 2026, Sun, 1pm

Esplanade Rehearsal Studio

(Meeting Point: Esplanade Theatre Studio Entrance, Level 4, 15mins before start time)



Ever seen the mysterious illusion of a crystal ball floating in place? Often described as gravity-defying crystal ball manipulation, contact juggling is a form of object manipulation which uses balance to create the magical appearance of lightness with a single ball.

In this workshop, learn a short sequence featuring rolling, isolations and balances—designed to introduce the fundamentals of this mesmerising art form.

About Bornfire Circus

Bornfire is a circus collective dedicated to bridging differences through the joy of circus in Singapore. Since its inception in 2006, Bornfire has partnered with arts groups locally and internationally to facilitate cross-disciplinary exchange between passionate practitioners of various art forms by hosting industry talks and panel discussions.

Website: <https://bornfire.sg/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Bornfire/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/bornfiresingapore/>

About Choo Zheng Hao (Workshop Facilitator)

Ever since he was 10 years old, Zheng Hao has been using juggling as an excuse for throwing things around. To the dismay of his neighbours, he never stopped practising this skill, occasionally even adding more props to his repertoire. He enjoys teaching and sharing his skills, and believes that juggling is an ideal hobby to learn. In his free time, Zheng Hao is a slave to his cats and definitely has not thought of juggling them.

Admission Age: 10 years and above
1hr 30mins

Advisory: Children below the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult aged 18 and up.
Each attendee requires one ticket.

\$25

Introduction to Unicycling Workshop

by **Bornfire Circus**

6 Jun 2026, Sat, 11am

Esplanade Annexe Studio



Looking for a fresh and unique one-wheeled experience? For beginners or those new to unicycling, this workshop is the perfect place to start. The skill of unicycling is a perfect mix of challenging and fun, and a great opportunity to build core strength, improve concentration and work on balance.

With the help of Vee, an experienced unicyclist, participants can practise their first pedal strokes in a safe and relaxed environment.

No prior experience or fitness level is required, this course is open to everyone.

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Website: <https://bornfire.sg/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Bornfire/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/bornfiresingapore/>

About Vee (Workshop Facilitator)

Vee discovered his passion for unicycling as a teenager, drawn to its perfect mix of challenge and fun. Over the years, he has taken his unicycle across Singapore, Johor and

the Riau Islands—playing unicycle hockey and pushing his limits in long-distance rides. Now, Vee is taking his craft to the next level by evolving his endurance-style riding into dynamic, circus-inspired performance skills.

Admission Age: 10 years and above

1hr

Advisory:

- Children below the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult aged 18 and up. Each attendee requires one ticket.
- Please arrive 15 minutes before the start of the workshop as patrons who arrive after the workshop has started may not be admitted into the venue.
- You are encouraged to wear covered shoes and pants, ideally covering the knees for a more comfortable experience.
- You may wish to bring your own protective gear as they will not be provided.

\$25

**Between the Catch and the Throw:
Creating a Movement Language for Juggling Workshop
by Maleta Company and Compagnie Balancetoi (Ireland, Spain)**

7 Jun 2026, Sun, 10am

Esplanade Rehearsal Studio

(Meeting Point: Esplanade Theatre Studio Entrance, Level 4, 15mins before start time)



Discover how objects can become a language of movement in this hands-on workshop with juggler extraordinaire Alex Allison of Maleta Company. Participants will explore different aspects of juggling, expression, storytelling and creation, and develop their own unique juggling vocabulary.

The workshop will be taught with one ball, but the concepts and techniques learned can be applied to any object. Some prior juggling experience is recommended.

About Maleta Company

Maleta Company is a contemporary circus company based in Ireland, established in 2013. Focused on juggling, manipulation and the body as means of expression, the company produced two shows, *Boa Noite* and *Put a Spell On You*. Later, they began working with German artist Jonas Schiffauer under a new identity, Hippana.Maleta, and produced the shows *Tunnel* in 2019—awarded the TAC! Festival prize for Best Circus Show in 2022—and *Runners* in 2021.

Dedicated to experimentation and the exploration of juggling, Maleta Company’s motto, “Juggling is a language,” reflects the idea that juggling can transcend mere technical skill to become its own artistic language.

Website: <https://www.hippanamaleta.com/en/>

Instagram: [instagram.com/maletacompany](https://www.instagram.com/maletacompany)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@maletacompany>

About Compagnie Balancetoi

Balancetoi is a Belgium-based company founded in 2016 by Valentin Stalins, Charlotte Cornet and Sara Martínez, who met in Brussels after training at the International School of Circus and Theater in Granada. Their first production, *Trois têtes et un chapeau*, was completed in 2018, followed by two more productions, *Km13* and *Ceci n'est pas un spectacle*. Balancetoi explores the boundaries between circus and theatre, constantly seeking new forms of artistic creation.

In 2023, Balancetoi premiered a new creation, *Le syndrome du bourdon (The Bumblebee Syndrome)*, with the support of the Walloon-Brussels Federation. The company is currently collaborating with Maleta Company on the show *Claudette*. This initiative reflects their joint commitment to pushing artistic boundaries and creating new and captivating experiences for their audience.

Website: <https://ciebalancetoi.eu/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ciebalancetoi>

Admission Age: 16 years and above

2hrs

\$25

FREE PROGRAMMES

Voyage

by Marine Boy (South Korea)

29 May – 31 May 2026, Fri – Sun

Fri & Sat: 6.30pm & 9pm

Sun: 6.30pm

Esplanade Forecourt Garden



Photo credit: Goguma

“A voyage of a being in search of dreams.”

A solitary man climbs aboard his moving bed and begins a voyage through a surreal landscape, drifting between dreams and reality. The bed—the most peaceful of spaces—becomes his entire world. Within it, he has lived innumerable moments, encountered countless people and made promises he could not keep.

He begins to speak to the world and its people—not with words, but through gestures. The wind carries him through memories: meeting an old friend, basking in the warmth of the sun, and feeling the breeze between his fingers. Can he ever return to these simple joys?

In this dreamlike object theatre adventure, Marine Boy presents a breathtaking homage to life’s fleeting, tender moments.

Direction & Performance: Sunghyung Lee

Puppeteer: Hyejin Cho

Movement Director: Jaekyung Ko

Music Director: Yonrimok

Lighting Director: Gukgun Yeo

Executive Producer: Jaeyong Kim
Tour Manager: Jin Yim
Props Design & Making: Hyejin Cho
Set design: Marine Boy
Photograph: Goguma

About Marine Boy

Marine Boy has been active as both a performer and art technician for circus and street arts since 2003. Continuously integrating technology into his art, he focuses on the phenomena and reactions that emerge through this process. Collaborating widely with circus and street arts companies, Marine Boy works as a creator who embeds technology within art rather than exposing it outright. Representative works include *Circus Alone*, *Grandma's Cart*, *Breath*, *Voyage* and *Circus Playground*.

Website: <https://www.marineboycircus.com/>
Instagram: <https://www.facebook.com/imarineboy>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/imarineboy>
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/marineboycircus>

35mins

Sangam

by **Bornfire Circus**

29 May – 31 May 2026, Fri – Sun

Fri: 7pm

Sat & Sun: 7pm & 9.45pm

DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade



Photo credit: Rogan Yeoh, photo from *Flipside 2024*

Bornfire Circus returns to *Flipside* with their latest production, *Sangam*—a piece that traces the journey of diverse individuals overcoming daunting challenges in their search for a new life.

Through resilience, solidarity and the strength found in their differences, they rise above adversity—demonstrating tenacity, cooperation and a shared vision for the future.

Sangam blends acrobatics, juggling and theatrical storytelling to portray the struggles and triumphs of those who shaped Singapore.

About Bornfire Circus

Bornfire is a circus collective dedicated to bridging differences through the joy of circus in Singapore. Since its inception in 2006, Bornfire has partnered with arts groups locally and internationally to facilitate cross-disciplinary exchange between passionate practitioners of various art forms by hosting industry talks and panel discussions.

Website: <https://bornfire.sg/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Bornfire/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/bornfiresingapore/>

30mins

Aerial Open Stage

by Various artists (Various countries)

29 May – 31 May 2026, Fri – Sun

Fri: 8.15pm & 9.45pm

Sat & Sun: 8.15pm

DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade



Photo credit: Rogan Yeoh

The *Aerial Open Stage* returns for its eighth year, showcasing artists from Singapore and the wider region. Produced by Bornfire Circus, this year's performances will feature apparatus including straps, hoop, hammocks and silks, with a special group act created by guest choreographer Shirley Wong.

The *Aerial Open Stage*, which welcomes both full-time professionals and ardent enthusiasts, has grown into an annual celebration of talent and originality among local and regional aerialists since its debut at *Flipside 2019*.

Enjoy an enchanting evening where stories take flight through aerial artistry.

About Bornfire Circus

Bornfire is a circus collective dedicated to bridging differences through the joy of circus in Singapore. Since its inception in 2006, Bornfire has partnered with arts groups locally and internationally to facilitate cross-disciplinary exchange between passionate practitioners of various art forms by hosting industry talks and panel discussions.

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Bornfire/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/bornfiresingapore/>

40mins

LIVE MANGA

by Gabez (Japan)

4 – 7 Jun 2026, Thu – Sun

Thu & Sat: 7pm

DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade

Fri: 7pm

Esplanade Concourse

Sun: 8.30pm

DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade



Witness a *manga* come to life in this whirlwind comedy experience by pantomime comedy duo Gabez. Enjoy a show packed full of high-energy dance performances, interactive call-and-response and mind-boggling pantomime skills—simple yet side-splitting physical comedy guaranteed to entertain all!

Like characters jumping straight out of a *manga*, the duo take on a variety of comical personas, instantly transforming the venue into a space full of laughter, surprise and even shrieks. Experience the ultimate “Made in Japan” hilarious entertainment.

About Gabez

Gabez gained worldwide attention in 2021 as the performers behind the *Pictogram Performance* at the Tokyo Olympics Opening Ceremony. In 2024, they were honoured with Best Male Performer at Asian Arts Awards of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the world’s largest arts festival in Scotland.

Most recently, in 2025, they were awarded Best Artistic Work at the Shanghai International Children’s Art Festival, further solidifying their reputation as world-class entertainers.

Website: <https://gabezofficial.wixsite.com/website>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/masa.masa.5095>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/gabez_pantomimecomedy/reels/

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/GABEZ>

30mins

The Flow

by Lai Yee (Hong Kong)

4 – 7 Jun 2026, Thu – Sun

Thu: 8.15pm

Fri: 8.30pm

Sat & Sun: 9.30pm

DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade



Multidisciplinary flow artist Lai Yee takes the stage in a captivating solo performance. Blending the grace of circus artistry with fluid storytelling, the show features a mesmerising fusion of magical water spinning, contact juggling, fire dance and the cyr wheel. Through seamless transitions between control and release, discipline and surrender, Lai Yee invites audiences into an enchanting exploration of balance, beauty and emotion—in a performance that is as hypnotic as it is unforgettable.

About Lai Yee

Lai Yee is a flow artist from Hong Kong specialising in flow arts, LED performances and fire dance, and is the founder of FlowSpaceStudioH.

He is proficient in a variety of circus skills such as contact juggling, cyr wheel, *poi* and dragon staff, and has trained at numerous international flow arts festivals in Czech Republic, Germany, Israel, Australia, Nepal and Cambodia.

An experienced flow artist, Lai Yee has performed around the world in countries across Asia, Europe, Oceania and South America. He has won numerous awards, including the Gold Prize at the Busan International Performing Arts Festival 2024, Best of Street at Adelaide Fringe 2025 and Champion of the Tai Kwun Circus Fest TKJ Battle 2021.

His recent performances include appearances at the Festival des Artistes de Rue (Switzerland), Ferrara Buskers Festival (Italy), Al Ain Mall Street Theatre Festival (United Arab Emirates), Sinaia Forever (Romania), Suwon Theatre Festival (South Korea), and Waves Festival (Denmark).

Website: <https://www.flowlaiyee.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/flowlaiyee/mentions/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/flowlaiyee/?hl=en>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@yeelai7061>

30mins

BOX

by Circo Rum Ba Ba (UK)

5 – 7 Jun 2026, Fri – Sun

Fri: 6.30pm & 8pm

Sat & Sun: 4.30pm, 6.30pm & 9pm

Various locations around Esplanade



A curious brown Box sits in the street. Music seems to awaken whatever lurks inside. The Box sprouts limbs, big eyes appear and surreal creatures erupt from within. Then, a flurry of tap-dancing bird feet. The Box ejects its innards and a euphoric half-bird, half-human contortionist climbs out. But is that all, or is this just the beginning of what this bottomless Box has to reveal?

A Hieronymus Bosch-inspired, dreamlike little show of dance, acrobatics, shadow puppets, and music—that starts and ends with... a Box.

About Circo Rum Ba Ba

Circo Rum Ba Ba is a well-established, highly experienced women's circus theatre company which fuses spectacular theatre with a diverse range of circus skills, comedic characters and narratives to bring extraordinary shared experiences to communities and audiences. The company is committed to developing wonderfully bizarre, offbeat shows, promenades and walkabout characters for free to the public arts and community events. They bring theatre and circus to unexpected places, to engage incidental audiences who may not always have access to the arts. From the subtle cameo to the grand parade, Circo Rum Ba Ba combines the surprising with the impossible, to produce a thrilling phenomenon of spectacle and show.

About Marianne Grove

Marianne Grove trained with Imegi Circus in Japan and at the National Centre for Circus Arts (formerly Circus Space), London UK, gaining a wide range of circus and performance skills. She comes up with all the ideas for Circo Rum Ba Ba and always has more floating around in her wonderfully imaginative brain, making her the ideal person to create something unique for any event. Marianne also designs all the costumes and sets for all the acts.

About Jennifer Webster

Jennifer Webster trained in Musical Theatre at The Musical Theatre Academy, London UK. Upon graduating she started training in aerial circus trapeze at The Hanger London. Her first professional circus theatre work was with Circo Rum Ba Ba where she learnt other circus skills such as acrobatic balance, globe walking, stilt walking and slapstick comedy. Jenny worked as a full-time performer and co-creator of several large scale Circo Rum Ba Ba productions for 12 years.

In addition to her circus work, she is also a personal trainer and has worked for various London-based gym companies such as Gymshark. She has an incredible singing voice and has performed as Princess Fiona with the touring Shrek Rave Company. Jenny is currently on a life-changing adventure travelling and living in Australia.

30mins

Claudette

by Maleta Company and Compagnie Balancetoi (Ireland, Spain)

5 – 7 Jun 2026, Fri – Sun

Fri & Sun: 7pm

DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade

Fri: 9.45pm

DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade

Sat & Sun: 2.30pm

Esplanade Concourse

Sat: 8.15pm

DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade



Photo credit: Ger Spindel

Claudette tells the story of a playful grandson and his tender, dreamy and slightly cantankerous grandmother, who grows melancholic as she approaches her 90th birthday. Tired of being alone and fed up with drinking soup day after day, she just wants to feel alive again. After all, it's not every day that you turn 90!

An ode to intergenerational connection, *Claudette* is a street performance that blends juggling and puppetry to give a voice and visibility to older people—a heartfelt tribute to an entire generation of grandmothers.

Performers and Directors: Sara Martínez Lázaro and Alex Allison

Assistant Director: Fabian Kestrel

Dramatic and Performance Assistance: Jonathan Gunning

Knowing Eye: Charlotte Cornet and Valentin Satlins
Puppet Construction and Handling Assistance: Natacha Belova
Music and Sound Creation: Moisés Más García

About Maleta Company

Maleta Company is a contemporary circus company based in Ireland, established in 2013. Focused on juggling, manipulation and the body as means of expression, the company produced two shows, *Boa Noite* and *Put a Spell On You*. Later, they began working with German artist Jonas Schiffauer under a new identity, Hippana.Maleta, and produced the shows *Tunnel* in 2019—awarded the TAC! Festival prize for Best Circus Show in 2022—and *Runners* in 2021.

Dedicated to experimentation and the exploration of juggling, Maleta Company's motto, "Juggling is a language," reflects the idea that juggling can transcend mere technical skill to become its own artistic language.

Website: <https://www.hippanamaleta.com/en/>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/hippana.maleta>

About Compagnie Balancetoi

Marianne Grove trained with Imegi Circus in Japan and at the National Centre for Circus Arts (formerly Circus Space), London UK, gaining a wide range of circus and performance skills. She comes up with all the ideas for Circo Rum Ba Ba and always has more floating around in her wonderfully imaginative brain, making her the ideal person to create something unique for any event. Marianne also designs all the costumes and sets for all the acts.

Website: <https://ciebalancetoi.eu/>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ciebalancetoi>

Approx. 30mins

Circus in Singapore: Post-war to Present Day (Talk)

by Xyn Foo

6 Jun 2026, Sat, 2pm

Esplanade Black Room



Photo credit: Rafael Ben Ari

Join arts and cultural worker Xyn Foo as she examines contemporary circus as a renewed art form by tracing its historical roots, analysing its current practices and considering both its challenges and its accessibility. This talk draws from Xyn Foo's thesis research to challenge the prevailing belief that circus is dead in Singapore and will cover the development of circus in Singapore from the post-war period to the present day.

About Xyn Foo

Xyn Foo is an independent arts and cultural worker with a passion for circus arts. She works primarily as a producer, director and researcher, and also serves as artistic director and an organising member of the circus collective Bornfire.

Her practice is centred on advocating for Singaporean circus, creating platforms for both artistic development and community engagement.

Website: <https://www.xynfoo.com>

1hr

Free, registration is required

Registration begins 8 May 2026, Fri, 10am