

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

Last updated: 20 Apr 2026

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
Gratus Aw

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^{^*}

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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.

About Guy Waerenburgh

Guy has been performing on stage since 2004, both as a visual act and as a juggler-performer with major contemporary juggling companies. His work has taken him around the world to cities such as Shanghai, Casablanca, Macau, Algiers, Hong Kong and Beirut. In 2010 he joined Cirque du Soleil in Macau, where he performed over 700 shows over two years.

Since 2015, Guy has dedicated himself to creating contemporary circus shows in a very unique way. His directorial debut, *Der Lauf*, continues to tour extensively across Europe and internationally.

Admission Age: 8 years and above

55mins, no intermission

\$40^{^^}

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Limited concessions for Students, NSFs, 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

This programme is sold out.

**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 – Peepshow Object Installation

by Marine Boy (South Korea)

29 – 31 May 2026, Fri – Sun, 5.30pm

Esplanade Concourse



Inspired by the performance *Voyage*, this intimate object installation invites audiences to encounter a miniature world hidden inside a box-shaped peepshow. Peer through the box's small viewing holes and watch a poetic landscape unfold—delicate paper boats drift through a vast blue sky, gliding between soft clouds as if sailing across both sea and horizon. The tiny world is brought to life through carefully layered sensory elements: the sound of wind and waves, a subtle ocean scent, shifting light that mimics the sun's soft rays and the gentle motorised movement of the floating boats.

This quiet, contemplative format transforms the simple act of looking into a moment of discovery. Become witnesses to a small yet magical voyage—an intimate echo of the performance itself.

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/>

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

Instagram: <https://www.facebook.com/imarineboy>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/marineboycircus>

4hr 30mins (29 May & 30 May)

2hr (31 May)

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

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YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/marineboycircus>

35mins

Chaos in Rhythm

by Noise Makers

29 – 31 May 2026, Fri – Sun

Fri: 7pm

Sat & Sun: 2.30pm

Esplanade Concourse



What happens when a tap-dancing orchestra has no conductor?

Four tap dancers attempt to come together as a “very serious” orchestra—but with big personalities, clashing rhythms and a lot of chaos, things don’t go quite as planned. Through playful competition, unexpected harmony and plenty of humour, they slowly discover how to listen, collaborate and make music together. Blending tap dance, rhythm and physical comedy, *Chaos in Rhythm* is a lively, interactive performance that invites everyone to join in and find the joy of making music together.

Performers: Rino Junior John, Nicholas Long, Krystal Tan, Deirdre Teo

Choreographer: Rino Junior John

Music Arranger: Eric Lerrah

About Rino Junior John

Rino Junior John is a theatre-trained musical theatre performer and tap dancer, bringing rhythm, storytelling and musicality to every stage. He recently choreographed and performed as a soloist for Chingay 2026, showcasing his skill across singing, acting and tap. Passionate about connecting with audiences, Rino infuses every performance with honesty, heart and a touch of mischief.

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

About Nicholas Long

Nicholas first discovered his love for dance at the age of 17 when he was trained in jazz at Nanyang Polytechnic. He also received intensive training in various genres of dance including contemporary, hip hop, ballet and tap under a full scholarship at Jitterbugs Swingapore.

He was recently invited to choreograph and send a team from Singapore to perform at the Korea Tap Festival 2023 held in Seoul. He was also the organiser for the Singapore Tap Festival from 2023 to 2025.

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

About Krystal Tan

Krystal taps her way through life, letting rhythm be her voice. With performances and competitions spanning national and international stages, she weaves musicality, improvisation and her own signature style into every step.

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

About Deirdre Teo

Deirdre is a Commonwealth Society of Teachers of Dancing-trained tap dancer whose claim to fame is being born on Tap Dance Day. After completing 10 years of tap and ballet training, she continues to choreograph, teach, perform and organise events for the tap dance community in Singapore. She is part of the organising committee for the Singapore Tap Festival, where she performed from 2023 to 2025, and was invited to Seoul to perform at the 2023 IDO Korea Tap Dance Festa.

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

30mins

Sangam

by **Bornfire Circus**

29 – 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*

How do we keep becoming us, together, imperfectly, in a Singapore that never stops changing?

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.

This performance also features recent graduates from Phare Ponleu Selpak. This is part of a cultural exchange initiative between Bornfire Circus and Phare Ponleu Selpak.

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 – 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.

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

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

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

About Hannah (Thailand) — Aerial Hoop

Amitabha Hannah Spires, who prefers to go by Hannah, is a 10-year-old aerialist with Australian and Thai heritage. Her nickname, "Cuddlepie", inspired by the classic Australian book series *Snugglypot and Cuddlepie*, reflects her lifelong love for imagination. Growing up between two cultures has given her a unique perspective and a deep appreciation for diversity. When she is not training, Hannah enjoys rock climbing and camping in nature. Her true passion however, is aerial circus arts. For the past three years, she has dedicated herself to training six days a week in hoop, hammock and silk—developing discipline, perseverance and creativity. Her hard work recently earned her first place in hoop and hammock and third place in silk at the AIR STARS International Competition in Thailand, an achievement that continues to inspire her love for performance.

Hannah's performance captures a stage of life before it fully understands itself—where the body becomes a place of learning rather than achievement. Movements are approached just as life is: with curiosity and openness. In quiet moments, she reflects on the first recognition of self, guided by sensation rather than the outcome—a reminder of one's self before the expectations and pressures of the world took hold.

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/hannah_cuddlepie/

About Angeline and Zheng Hao (Singapore) — Stilts and Aerial Hoop

Angeline and Zheng Hao have been practising duo lyra on and off for the past seven years. They draw inspiration from their everyday lives, creating acts based on ordinary experiences. For instance, their 2023 act was inspired by a caterpillar they found in a cabbage, while their 2022 act was inspired by their cats. Both Angeline and Zheng Hao believe art is essential to help make sense of the world—something uniquely human that AI cannot replicate.

After a three-year hiatus, the duo returns with a new act inspired by the European folk story, *Stone Soup*. Two travellers, hungry from their journey and with nothing on their backs, start a stone soup by boiling water and stones in a pot over a fire. As the soup cooks, villagers come by and share their own ingredients. In no time, the meagre pot of soup turns into a nutritious, tasty stew, big enough to feed an entire village!

Through this performance, Angeline and Zheng Hao hope to highlight the magic of community effort. Even those with little to offer can spark something meaningful when supported by others. Every contribution—big or small—matters, and everyone enjoys the collective result. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts!

Angeline's Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/orangiecat/>

Zheng Hao's Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/choo.zheng.hao/>

About Scott (Thailand) — Aerial Skills

Scott is an aerial artist from Thailand. His journey began 12 years ago, as a student stepping into the studio with curiosity and determination. What started as training gradually became

a lifelong practice—one that shaped not only his body, but his way of thinking, feeling and living. Over time, Scott was given the opportunity to teach and pass on what he had learned. Sharing aerial arts with others became a meaningful extension of his growth. Yet, his path has never been about reaching a final destination. There has never been a sense of completion—only continuous evolution. Today, aerial arts remains his language of expression. Through movement in the air, he draws lines across space, expressing strength, vulnerability and experience. His practice is not about perfection, but about presence—a journey that continues to unfold with every performance.

His performance, *Becoming*, explores a stage of life when identity begins to form through tension, desire and inner conflict. It reflects a moment of growing awareness—of the pressure, roles and gaze of society—yet without certainty about what to accept or resist. *Becoming* is not a destination, but a continuous negotiation between the inner self and the expectations of the world. The aerial silks become a space of aspiration. Climbing, wrapping and suspending the body reflect ambition and the pursuit of clarity. Yet moments of imbalance and hesitation reveal vulnerability beneath that confidence. Throughout the performance, movement shifts between strength and softness, ascent and suspension. *Becoming* does not resolve these contradictions; it allows them to coexist between control and surrender, certainty and doubt—marking the transition from unconscious growth toward self-awareness.

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/scottaerialarts63249/>

About Cheryl (Singapore) — Aerial Chains

Cheryl Charli is a Singapore-based circus arts practitioner. She mainly trains on the chains and the lyra, and has been practising since 2018. As a theatre and visual artist, Cheryl brings circus arts into a larger dialogical artistic landscape rooted in curiosity, conceptual inquiry and a fascination with worldhood and ways of being.

Cheryl's solo aerial chains act will interrogate the undercurrent of hope, juxtaposed with the unforgiving, industrial, cold, cruelty of the world and the attempt to endure it. This act explores what it means for grace to exist—not in opposition to pain, but alongside it. How it is practised, learned, refined and held deliberately in the body. Much like how one carries themselves in an ever-changing and metamodern world that is constantly being redefined.

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

About Cynthia (Singapore) — Aerial Hoop

Cynthia is an aspiring aerialist who discovered the lyra during the pandemic and fell in love with the freedom and strength that aerial art made her feel. She pursued her newfound passion alongside her studies, training in Singapore and Melbourne, and currently juggles her lyra training with a professional career in law. As a lifelong musician and dancer, Cynthia is a firm believer in art as a cornerstone of the human condition and strives to express her most authentic self through performance.

Cynthia's solo lyra piece will explore the freedom and excitement of adulthood, alongside the quiet fear of youth slipping away. What is adulthood but a sobering realisation of the unyielding passage of time? As one matures, age is not just seen, it is felt—in the murmuring of joints which once moved with ease, deteriorating memories and the ebb and flow of relationships. Life feels like an exhilarating whirlwind, interspersed by brief reminders of battles already lost to time: pictures of old friends who have grown distant and relics of past selves, long abandoned. This performance serves as a reminder to be mindful of the seconds passing by, and to hold each authentic self and loved one close, before time and age overtake them all.

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cynnn.li/>

About Debbie Leong (Malaysia) — Aerial Hammock

Debbie is a passionate aerialist whose journey began in 2014 with a simple curiosity that quickly blossomed into a lifelong love for aerial arts. Captivated by the beautiful fusion of dance, acrobatics, strength and storytelling, she discovered not just an art form, but a powerful medium to express courage and creativity.

Over the years, Debbie has performed and competed in various showcases and competitions, continually challenging herself to grow beyond her limits. As the lead coach and founder of an aerial studio in Malaysia, Debbie is dedicated to empowering others to rise—both physically and personally. She believes aerial is more than movement in the air; it is about building confidence, resilience and self-belief. Through supportive and structured training, she strives to inspire her students and cultivate a vibrant aerial community, while continuing to evolve both as an artist and mentor.

Debbie's aerial hammock piece explores life as a journey shaped not by circumstance, but by perspective. Her performance begins in a place of frustration and overwhelm, reflecting moments when life feels heavy, isolating and emotionally demanding. Judgement, exclusion and bullying become invisible weights, pressing the body inward and making each movement feel cautious and restrained.

Through aerial hammock, this act tells this story: life may be a journey filled with weight, but self-love and trust can reshape how that weight is borne.

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/debleo_bb/

About Megan Lau (Singapore) — Aerial Hoop

Megan began her movement journey at the age of five and has not stopped since. Her lifelong passion for dance naturally evolved into an exploration of aerial arts—the dynamic interplay of strength and grace in the air. Currently based in Macau, Megan performs as an aerialist at *House of Dancing Water*, one of the world's largest and most iconic water-based stage productions. The performance demands a high level of versatility, precision and artistry,

allowing her to hone her craft on an international stage. While her career has taken her overseas, Megan remains deeply connected to the Singapore aerial community and is thrilled to be back home to share her art at *Aerial Open Stage*. Her solo lyra performance, *The Spaces Between*, explores themes of uncertainty, courage and the art of letting go.

Megan spent a long time inside the lines. School. Work. The right choices. The safe path. Do this, then that, and everything would be okay. She believed it. She played by the rules, and the rules worked. They kept her steady. They kept her safe. At first, the lyra was the same thing. A clean circle. Predictable moves. Hold here, hook there, spin, release, land—a structure she understood. There was comfort in knowing exactly what came next. But somewhere along the way, safe stopped feeling like enough.

It started small. A moment of stillness where she noticed the space beyond the rim and what the air just outside the circle could provide. What was out there? What would happen if she stopped clinging to the structure and started moving through the space instead of staying inside it? This was not about abandoning the structure. It was about expanding what the structure made possible. The circle still holds—but now it also releases.

The Spaces Between reflects the revelation that the lines of the hoop were never meant to keep Megan in; they were meant to show her where she could go. It is about trusting the swing and leaning into the unknown—choosing exploration over certainty and discovering, mid-air, the relief of finally letting go. This piece is not about arriving anywhere perfect. It is about the courage to leave the circle, even without certainty of land. It is about the hope that the space between—the unknown, the unplanned, the messy middle—might actually be where one learns to fly.

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

About Samantha Francis (Singapore) — Aerial Trapeze

The love for self-expression and thrill is what brought Samantha to her first aerial class more than five years ago and she has been hooked ever since. Journalist by day, her dance training first started with ballet and later in her university days, competitive Latin dancesport. She is also a YTT200 yoga teacher with over eight years of experience under her belt. As an aerialist-in-training and instructor, she spends most of her time on hoop and trapeze.

Samantha's poignant contemporary dance trapeze piece explores the idea of growing up and reconnecting with one's inner child. At the start, the trapeze, swaying freely like a wing, symbolises play and companionship. Her movements mirror the trapeze as she dances along. As an only child, she finds joy in her imaginary friends, reflecting both who she is and everything she is becoming. Later, the ropes cradle her, the same way she cradles herself through heartache and life's challenges. Adulthood comes with its triggers and pains, but she soon learns to unknot her unresolved emotions. As she releases herself from the ropes, she rekindles her self-love and realises that the strength she has been seeking has always been within her. Dancing more freely, she meets her inner child again—the little girl who

once felt small in her ballet classes now performs with courage on a larger stage, and the trapeze that once was a swing, becomes a way for her to take flight.

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

About ST Sammel (Singapore) — Aerial Straps

Sarah-Tabea Sammel, or ST for short, uses narrative craft to unite art and business. An award-winning filmmaker featured and sponsored by Sony with recognition across global film markets, ST is the founder of Biome Entertainment and creator of The Subconscious Narrative™, an enterprise advisory method featured on Nasdaq Trade Talks that helps organisations align strategy, culture and brand perception through a social sustainability lens. Originally from Germany and based in Singapore for ten years, her work spans film and television, interdisciplinary arts, higher education teaching at NUS and multinational advisory. She approaches aerial straps as kinetic storytelling, exploring the same themes of identity, agency and belonging that drive her films and consulting work.

ST's solo aerial straps performance, *Writer's Block Isn't Real*, explores the universal experience of a creative block and the body's intelligence when the mind gets stuck. A writer sits at her desk, but the flow stops. The physical constraint of sitting in front of the page traps her in a strange state between possibility and limitation. What begins as analytical frustration transforms into a physical negotiation of constraint and freedom, ground and air, thinking and doing. Discomfort builds. For the writer, the chair, once a static object, shifts from a productivity tool to an obstacle she must overcome. Rising from the seat, she enters into a vertical dialogue with the aerial straps, where the body speaks what words cannot.

Website: <https://www.sarah-tabea-sammel.com/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/aeriali.st/>

About Bibi Soh (Malaysia) — Aerial Hoop

Bibi is a Malaysian aerialist specialising in aerial hoop, spinning hammock and contemporary aerial performance. Known for her dynamic strength, fluid musicality and expressive artistry, she seamlessly blends technical precision with powerful storytelling in the air. Beyond performing, she is deeply passionate about coaching and mentoring students, guiding them to build strong foundations, confidence and refined performance quality.

Bibi's aerial hoop act tells the familiar story of a clown—someone who smiles for others, even while shouldering emotional burdens that cannot be shared. The work reflects a common adult experience: the need to remain strong and positive in public while carrying unseen pressures. Like a clown, flashing a smile becomes a way to cope, persevere and quietly protect both oneself and others. The aerial hoop itself embodies structure and routine. It supports and elevates the performer, yet also confines their movement within a fixed circle, mirroring the balance between responsibility and personal freedom.

Designed for audiences of all ages, Bibi's performance invites viewers to recognise themselves in the character, empathise with the hidden effort behind a smile, and to acknowledge the quiet strength it takes to keep going with grace.

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

GROUP PIECE

About Shirley Wong

Shirley is one of Singapore's leading aerialists, renowned for her dynamic presence and unique artistic voice. Originally trained in contemporary dance at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, she discovered her passion for aerial arts in 2012. With more than a decade of experience, her work spans aerial rope, silks and multicorde, masterfully blending contemporary dance with circus to create visually striking and emotionally resonant performances. As a full-time aerialist, Shirley has performed and taught internationally across Asia, Europe and Mexico. Driven by a profound love for performance and a commitment to authentic, compelling storytelling in the air, Shirley is the guest choreographer for this year's *Aerial Open Stage* group act.

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

About Nicole

Nicole spent many years exploring a range of dance genres, from ballet to ballroom, and performing and competing at events and venues both locally and overseas. She discovered and fell in love with aerial arts in 2012 and has since performed aerial silks and aerial hoop for various local events.

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

About Sarah-J

Sarah-J started pole in 2016 when she was looking for a new and interesting way to work out. She later dabbled in aerial arts before falling for the dynamic energy of rope in 2022. Her style of movement revolves around flexed feet, comfy pants and flingy things. Through her work, she hopes to convey her immense love of movement and the joy of existing in one's body.

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

About Gregory

Gregory Gan is a former national gymnast with 13 years of competitive experience, which led to a 19-year coaching career, with the last decade dedicated to teaching hand balancing and mobility. Over the past eight years, he has refined his personal practice in the disciplines of hand balancing, contortion and aerial. In 2019, Gregory transitioned to the air, training extensively on hoop, straps and rope. This performance marks his debut aerial

performance—a significant milestone that blends decades of ground-based precision with a new chapter in aerial movement.

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

40mins

When Strangers Meet...

by Grace Kalaiselvi and Tan Weiying

29 – 31 May 2026, Fri – Sun

Fri: 8.30pm

Sat & Sun: 4pm

Esplanade Concourse



Strangers meet all the time, in all kinds of places. A simple encounter can blossom into friendship, ignite a steamy romance, seal a once-in-a-lifetime business deal or even unravel into conflict.

What could possibly unfold when muted characters in larval masks meet in a hospital? Don't miss this hilarious yet moving non-verbal mask performance—an exploration of what happens when strangers meet.

Credits:

Devised by: Grace Kalaiselvi and Tan Weiying

Masks from: Yazid Jalil

Stage Manager & Sound: Sophia Begum

About Grace Kalaiselvi

Grace Kalaiselvi is an independent theatre actor, director, educator and writer. An alumna of the Intercultural Theatre Institute in Singapore, she hopes to create more works representing suppressed and minority groups through her exploration of masks and puppetry. Working in both English and Tamil languages, she creates a range of works suitable for young audiences, teenagers and adults.

Her recent works include *Invisible* for The Necessary Stage, *Liberation - Viduthalai* for the National Gallery Singapore, *For a Better Future* and *Wrap Me Tight* for the Children's Museum Singapore, and *Shapes Dance and Battle* and *What's My Story?* for Esplanade.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/grace.kalaiselvi/>

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

About Tan Weiyong

Weiyong is a theatre artist whose work explores transformations of spaces through movement. Her experiences include performing, directing and education.

Website: <https://www.tan-weiyong.com>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/tan.weiyong/>

30mins

Circus 101

by UWCSEA East Dragons Circus

30 & 31 May, 6 & 7 Jun 2026, Sat & Sun, 5.30pm

Esplanade Courtyard



Be surprised and inspired as the students of the UWCSEA East Dragons Circus take the stage! Aged 12 to 16, these energetic young performers will amaze with dazzling big-top tricks—from juggling and unicycling to globe walking and acrobatics—all in the style of traditional street art.

Feeling inspired after the performance? Join the circus fun and try out tricks with a variety of circus equipment and performers to guide the way. No prior experience needed!

About UWCSEA East Dragons Circus

The UWCSEA East Dragons Circus has been running at the college for over 13 years, giving students the opportunity to learn a wide variety of skills, including juggling, unicycling, stilt walking and aerials. These skills encourage creativity, resilience and teamwork, while also providing entertainment at many community events throughout the year.

The college's annual circus show is a spectacular student-led production that transforms the main hall into a professional looking "big top". Featuring as many as 100 performers, the show showcases a diverse range of disciplines, combining traditional circus skills with drama, dance and gymnastics. It brings the whole community together, with middle school and high school performers providing a wonderful end-of-year treat for younger students in the audience.

More than just entertainment, the circus highlights the school's holistic learning programme, integrating academics, outdoor education and service. A central element of the production is its long-standing partnership with the Blue Dragon Children's Foundation in Vietnam.

This collaboration sees East campus students performing alongside young people from Blue Dragon, many of whom are survivors of trauma or human trafficking. Through ticket sales and community support, the show has raised well over S\$10,000, aiding Blue Dragon's mission of rescuing and empowering street children.

The circus serves as a powerful reaffirmation of purpose for the community, demonstrating how the arts can bridge cultures, build confidence and create a profound sense of belonging for all involved.

1hr 30mins

Trivia Night at Esplanade!

by Miriam Cheong

30 & 31 May 2026, Sat & Sun, 7pm

Esplanade Concourse



Miriam is sick of always losing to her family at trivia nights, especially when her parents are the only ones who know who Nadia Comaneci is. Determined to turn the tables, she is assembling an elite team of trivia buffs at the Esplanade Concourse!

With team leaders Gen and Aricia, Miriam will put participants to the test across topics ranging from literature and video games to sports. But be careful: too many wrong answers could plunge scores into the negatives! Better read up on Nadia Comaneci (hint: perfect 10) beforehand.

About Miriam Cheong

Miriam is an actor, playwright and theatremaker. She has read her plays at the Esplanade Concourse, her prose at the Esplanade Concourse, and now, she could not be more excited to be bringing a game show to the Esplanade Concourse.

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/mims.cheong/>

30mins

Lil' Shake Mixtape

by Patch and Punnet

30 & 31 May 2026, Sat & Sun, 8.30pm

Esplanade Concourse



Patch and Punnet has once again enlisted the swag of the Lil' Shake Crew, a group of performers who spit rhymes about Shakespeare—reimagining the bard and his works through the lens of rap. In this performance, they will bring raps from *McBeat and the Lil' Shake Crew* alongside other pieces that pay tribute to Shakespeare's beloved characters and stories.

About Patch and Punnet

Founded in 2017 by millennials for millennials, Patch and Punnet strives to make original work that is equally playful and irreverent as much as it is reflective and provocative. This bunch of creatives don't take themselves too seriously, and hope to create a welcoming theatre scene that inspires creativity, conversation and change.

The collective staged *Stupid Cupid* (2018), *The Adventures of Abhijeet* (2019) at the M1 Fringe Festival and *Fika & Fishy* (2020) at a quaint unoccupied shophouse in the heart of Little India. During the pandemic, this group of digital natives migrated to the internet and YouTube, with an online sketch show called *The Patch and Punnet Show* (2020), before returning to live experiences with *McBeat and The Lil' Shake Crew* (2022), commissioned by Esplanade.

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

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

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

30mins

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

Musings

By Cheryl Chitty Tan and Jonathan Shin

4 & 5 Jun 2026, Thu & Fri

Thu: 7pm & 8.30pm

Fri: 8.30pm

Esplanade Concourse



Every Christmas, Cheryl and her mother, sister and helper bake 100 loaves of extremely technical bread. Because of how difficult it is to bake bread—both physically and emotionally—she thinks more people should know about it. She also wants everyone to hear how jealous she gets listening to her good friend Edward Choy on the radio every day. There may also be some sort of time machine. And cake.

Fresh off their first foray into songwriting teamhood for *There's a Dinosaur in the Concert Hall*, Cheryl Chitty Tan and Jonathan Shin present an evening of musical theatre originals, featuring selections from previous works such as *The Monster in the Mirror* and new songs from concepts-in-progress.

About Cheryl Chitty Tan

Cheryl is an actor and singer best known for playing Yehenara in *Forbidden City* (Life! Theatre Award nomination), Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* for *Shakespeare in the Park* and Ivy Chan in *Beauty World* on stage. On screen, she has starred in *Faculty*, *Derek*, *Code of Law V*, *Veil* and more. She has a Boh Cameronian Arts Award for Best Lead Performer in a Musical.

As a creative, Cheryl wrote lyrics to songs in the pop musical *The Monster in the Mirror*, which will be restaged next year, and produced and directed Nick Choo's Christmas musical *Follow the Light*. She has received Best Director, Librettist and Overall Production awards from the Short + Sweet KL Festival.

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

TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@cherylchittytan>

About Jonathan Shin

Jonathan Shin performs extensively as a pianist, composing and improvising across multiple genres and styles. His music has been described by *The Straits Times* as “supremely confident and comfortable in its own skin”.

Jonathan began composing professionally at 22, where his first commissioned work, the song cycle *The Other Merlion and Friends*, was critically reviewed as “probably the most compelling and worthwhile new work from any Singaporean composer in recent years”. He has since been commissioned by many performing arts centres, ensembles, opera companies and orchestras in Singapore such as Esplanade, Orchestra of the Music Makers and the Singapore Symphony Orchestra.

Recently, he has turned his focus towards the operatic genre. His latest foray into the genre is *Beacon*, composed in collaboration with playwright Joel Tan as a commission by The Opera People that will continue to be developed in the coming years.

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

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 Spendel

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

Juggling Combat

by Various artists, produced by Bornfire Circus

6 Jun 2026, Sat, 4pm & 7pm

Esplanade Concourse



Juggling Combat returns this season with a new champion to be crowned. Inspired by the one-on-one, three club juggling combat sport held at juggling conventions and festivals, competitors start by juggling three clubs each—and then battle it out to break each other’s juggling rhythm. The last person left juggling wins! With the tempo constantly in flux, competitors must adapt and apply their unique styles to achieve victory.

About Aqeel Sidek

Aqeel began his circus arts journey in 2018, spending four years playing unicycle hockey before discovering a local circus group. Today, he utilises circus as a medium for both entertainment and education for the community. With his energetic nature, be sure to watch closely for his impressive combat juggling moves.

About Chia Xin Fang

Xin Fang has been juggling for more than half her life—and she’s still not done figuring it out. She loves passing and combat juggling, where timing is everything, trust is optional... and chaos is guaranteed. Best not to stand too close!

About Choo Zheng Hao

Zheng Hao has been using juggling as an excuse to throw things around since he was ten years old. To the dismay of his downstairs neighbours, he has never stopped practising. He enjoys teaching and sharing the art of juggling with everyone, with the exception of his combat juggling rivals.

About Ong Zihao

Zihao’s juggling journey began after a chance encounter with a circus street performer sparked his passion for the art. He has since explored a wide range of props, including cigar

boxes, diabolo, clubs and balls. In the past year, he developed his own juggling show and has been performing it on the streets, sharing his craft with live audiences.

About Reuben Teoh

Reuben has been juggling since 2021, working mainly with balls and clubs. He enjoys challenging himself with new tricks and developing his solo skills. He also likes passing and combat juggling, especially the coordination and teamwork it involves. Overall, he finds juggling very fun and exciting.

About Robin Curtis

Robin remembers seeing juggling for the first time in primary school when he was just seven years old. He never imagined that 20 years later, juggling would be his full-time job. Robin enjoys club juggling, especially at night with LED props. Although he has not had much experience combat juggling, he will be sure to put up a good fight!

About Tay Di Hong

Di Hong has spent over a decade juggling and teaching hundreds of beginners along the way. He believes juggling is the ideal hobby—fun, challenging and surprisingly addictive—and that anyone can learn with the right approach. Whether passing in groups or battling it out in combat, he enjoys the social side of juggling.

30mins

It's Time to Play Jenga!

6 & 7 Jun 2026, Sat & Sun, 4.30pm & 8pm
Esplanade Concourse



Jeng Jeng Jeng... It's time to play *Jenga*! How steady are your hands? Put them to the test with the *World's Smallest Jenga* or a bigger-than-average *Jenga* at this game station!

2hrs

hello risk hello reward

by deførmed

6 & 7 Jun 2026, Sat & Sun, 8.30pm

Esplanade Concourse



He greets risk with a hello, but is unsure of his reward. The first step is always the scariest. Doubts run freely in his head, untamed. His judgement of foresight is veiled by irrational fears. Despite this, he maintains a cool composure on the outside. He forcibly silences the noise in his head, while diving headfirst into the aforementioned risk.

Join deførmed as he performs his first ever soliloquy, of which the narrative is guided by his songs.

About deførmed

deførmed is a Singaporean music producer who is a sandbox of curiosity. Knowing he has the power to turn an idea into something tangible no matter how absurd, he sets on a mission to cover all that music has to offer. Having performed at festivals like Singapore International Festival of the Arts, *Baybeats* and Singapore Art Week, deførmed wants to discover and uncover more fog in the sonic seas.

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

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

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUNsXEXysVGKl02z4uhwMdg>

Soundcloud: <https://soundcloud.com/def-o-med>

bandcamp: <https://defrmed.bandcamp.com/>

30mins

Mission Improvables: ImprovSports!

7 Jun 2026, Sun, 4pm & 7pm

Esplanade Concourse



Mission Improvables: ImprovSports! is a high-energy, improvisational comedy show where teams of improvisers go head-to-head in popular short-form improv games such as Half Life, Two Line Vocabulary and more—using suggestions from the audience!

Which troupe will emerge victorious and claim the ultimate prize of bragging rights over their rivals? There is only one way to find out. Join Singapore's most active improv comedy troupe for an utterly chaotic, hilarious and off-the-cuff evening—and see who will be crowned the champion, live!

About Mission Improvables

Mission Improvables is Singapore's most active improv comedy troupe, performing regularly all over Singapore and the region. Officially formed in 2024, they are known for their high-energy, fast-paced formats, and independent sold-out shows that are ridiculous, utterly chaotic and wildly absurd from start to finish. Whether they're playing for a crowd of 50 or 500, Mission Improvables is dedicated to pushing the boundaries of unscripted storytelling and humour, one suggestion at a time.

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/mission.improvables/>

30mins