

Discover the Wit, Imagination and Curiosity of Leading Chinese Artists at *Huayi 2020*!

*Leading Chinese artists,
Boundless arts experiences!*



Dear Friends of the Media,

Those born in the Year of the Rat are often described as witty, imaginative and curious. The Rat, after all, had out-witted the other 11 animals in the race to become the first animal featured in the Chinese zodiac calendar. As Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay ushers in the Year of Rat in 2020 with the 18th edition of *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts*, we present a specially curated programme line-up that showcases the wit, imagination and curiosity of leading Chinese artists from Singapore and beyond.

Held from the seventh day of the Chinese New Year on 31 Jan till 9 Feb 2020, *Huayi* presents some of the most dynamic forms of artistic expression that cut across a wide spectrum of works, from traditional to contemporary, and mainstream to cutting-edge. Esplanade also continues to commission and co-produce new works by Singapore arts companies and artists such as Toy Factory Productions, newly formed theatre company GroundZ-0, Singapore Chinese Orchestra and established *sanxian* player Jessica Lu.

A Battle of Wits

Huayi 2020 kicks off to a great start with a commissioned work, **7 Sages of the Bamboo Grove** by Toy Factory Productions which will take place at the 2,000-seat Esplanade Theatre. You may have heard of the seven sages from the three kingdoms era, but what if they were alive today? How would they use their wit and artistry to save the people in a dystopic world ruled by an authoritarian organisation?

Or take matters into your own hands and pit your wits against the cast in **Prism of Truth**—a commissioned work by GroundZ-0. In this participatory theatre experience inspired by *Rashomon*, you get to figure it out and decide who the real murderer is.

In another new work—**Unspoken Melodies: Silent Film Classics**—co-produced by Singapore Chinese Orchestra and Esplanade, audiences will hear how Chinese orchestra music is ingeniously scored and arranged for scenes from four Western classic silent films.

Next up, we bring the *sanxian*—a Chinese lute usually played as an accompanying instrument in ensembles and orchestras—to the forefront where it will be skillfully played in a new light in **Strings of Time – A Sanxian Concert**. In this East-meets-West concert commissioned by Esplanade, highly sought-after *sanxian* player Jessica Lu will lead a group of Singapore musicians to bring you an extraordinary audio-visual experience.

Revel in the clever wordplay and enjoy a lighthearted evening at **Storyteller's Wisdom – A Crosstalk Production** by Comedians Workshop of Taiwan, which highlights the brainiest war strategies and stories from *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, *Justice Bao* and other Chinese classics.

Power of Imagination

The power of the arts lies in its ability to transport audiences into an imaginary world where anything and everything is possible. Travel back in time and imagine living in the world where the four legendary beauties—Xi Shi, Wang Zhaojun, Diaochan, and Yang Guifei—reigned supreme in **The Four Beauties**, an elegant and melodious performance of traditional *pingtan* (storytelling and ballad singing) by Shanghai Pingtan Troupe.

Enter the imaginary world of a child in this non-verbal children's theatre production, **Gullinkambi** by Taiwan's Bon Appetit Theatre, where those young and young-at-heart go on a quest with little Sonna to bring her friend, Gullinkambi the polar bear back to her village.

Even when the worlds and issues explored cut close to reality, the power of the arts is still in the sparks of imaginative empathy between stage and audience. In **Principle** by the reputable Hong Kong Repertory Theatre, put yourself in the shoes of a newly appointed Principal who is met with opposition from all angles and needs to find ways to survive a crisis in her school without compromising on her principles.

Find out how a family copes when their loved one is diagnosed with dementia through this moving and heart-warming theatre production, **The Long Goodbye** by Taiwan's Story Works, who brought much intrigue and laughter to audiences with *The Way of Zhuang Zi* at *Huayi 2019*. Have tissue paper and hankie on standby for this one!

Veteran dancer of Hong Kong's City Contemporary Dance Company, Qiao Yang reflects on her life as a professional dancer in this solo autobiographical work, **Almost 55**, where she proves to us that age is not a number to be feared.

Out of Curiosity

Step into our intimate studio spaces and (re)discover some of the best young, independent and award-winning musicians who tell their stories through music.

- *in::music* – ØZI (Best New Artist, Golden Melody Award 2019)
- *in::music* – Eve Ai (Best Mandarin Female Vocalist, Golden Melody Award 2017)
- *in::music* – Ann Bai (widely known for her unique vocals and quiet charm)
- *in::music* – Tizzy Bac (back at Esplanade after 12 years with new material)
- *Firebird – Piano Sensation Tony Yike Yang Solo Recital* (young and up-and-coming Chinese-Canadian pianist)

In addition to all these performances, there are also **Parent-Child Workshops** for families to learn more about music, drama and craft together, as well as a diverse range of free performances and activities for everyone to enjoy throughout the 10-day festival.

We would like to give our heartfelt thanks to our Principal Sponsor **Knife Cooking Oil**, Supporting Sponsors **Berries 百力果**, **Hong Leong Foundation** and **Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple** for their generous support of *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts 2020*.

As we kickstart a brand new 12-year cycle of the Chinese zodiac with the Year of the Rat, let us take stock of our life, reflect a little and look around us, discover the joy and positivity that the arts bring into our lives, and then take a big step forward with greater confidence to live life to the fullest in the coming year.

Happy *Huayi*-ing!

Delvin Lee

Producer

Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts

About Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay

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

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

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

TECL is funded by Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and its Community Programmes are supported by Tote Board Family, comprising Tote Board, Singapore Pools and Singapore Turf Club.

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

~ End ~

Issued by *The Esplanade Co Ltd*.

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Annexe

Esplanade Presents

HUAYI – CHINESE FESTIVAL OF ARTS

31 Jan – 9 Feb 2020

www.esplanade.com/huayi

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay invites everyone to explore new arts adventures at its 18th edition of *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts*. Held from 31 Jan – 9 Feb 2020, this pinnacle cultural festival that celebrates Chinese New Year with the community will feature an exciting line-up of theatre, dance, and music programmes by outstanding Chinese artists from Singapore and beyond, for all to enjoy during the festive period.

TICKETED PROGRAMMES

An Esplanade Commission

7 Sages of the Bamboo Grove

Toy Factory Productions (Singapore)



This is a surveillance state.

The Organisation reigns supreme over the governance of the known world. Led by Cao Shuang, it controls the basic free will of all men using technology as its weapon—impelling everyone to wear a specially-programmed headset that instructs, controls and eavesdrops. A new law is implemented, forbidding artistic endeavours like music, entertainment, poetry or prose. Acts of disobedience lead to immediate arrest, imprisonment without trial, or worse—execution.

Everyone obeys, with the exception of The Organisation's arch-nemeses, seven revolutionaries who are artists by nature — Ji Kang, Ruan Ji, Shan Tao, Xiang Xiu, Liu Ling, Ruan Xian and Wang Rong. Placated neither by the lure of wealth nor the promise of power, their resistance soon captures the attention of their cagey government. Under the watchful eyes of The Organisation's Head of Surveillance, Ma Siyi, the painter loses possession of his brush, the poet is prohibited from writing, the dancer no longer moves freely and the musician is forbidden to compose. Unbeknownst to all, Ma is planning to wield absolute control over the entirety of human civilisation through body-implanted microchips.

Can the seven break free and liberate mankind from the grasp of The Organisation? In this dystopic era, can they trust each other enough to work together towards a common good?

Inspired by the real-life historical figures of the Seven Sages, this new and riveting work traces the artists' tireless and relentless search for the elusive bamboo grove, an oasis of freedom for humanity. Can the arts ultimately be the force that saves mankind?

7 Sages of the Bamboo Grove is an Esplanade commission, directed by Goh Boon Teck, co-written by Goh Boon Teck and Koh Teng Liang, starring Sharon Au, Nelson Chia, Tang Shao Wei and Loh Jun Hong, and presented in conjunction with Toy Factory Productions' 30th Anniversary celebrations.

(2hrs, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin, with English surtitles.

31 Jan & 1 Feb 2020, Fri & Sat, 8pm

Esplanade Theatre

Ticket Price: \$38*, \$58, \$88^**

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$30*, \$46**

^Esplanade&Me Special

Applicable on all *Huayi* 2020 programmes except *Gullinkambi* and workshops.

Black card: 15% savings

White card: 10% savings

The Long Goodbye

Story Works X Dreamland (Taiwan)



When we lose our way between the past and the present, can we still dream? Can we still love?

When the one you love no longer remembers you, can you still care for them?

An accomplished author is diagnosed with dementia. He only remembers the events of the bestseller book he wrote about being a father to his youngest son. The youngest son in the book has now matured into a professional, seeking his footing in the corporate world and trying to make a mark for himself instead of living in his well-known dad's shadow and being labelled as just the boy in the book. As his father's memory fades, the son has to learn to care for his father, even though his father cannot remember him any longer. Through recollections of happier times from his childhood written in the book, the son eventually regains the capacity to love and dream.

Adapted from the heartwarming essay collection *My Little Boys* by Taiwanese writer Luo Yijun, and featuring a talented cast led by award-winning thespian Lee Tien-Chu, *The Long Goodbye* takes us into the heartbreaking world of a father with dementia and his family.

Following the successful run of *The Way Of Zhuang Zi* at *Huayi* 2019, gain a little dose of positivity and cement your bonds with your family through this moving theatre production at *Huayi 2020* with Story Works' *The Long Goodbye*, which has touched thousands of audiences across Taiwan since 2018.

#pleaserememberme

About Story Works

Story Works was established in December 2013, with a focus on innovative theatre and original play productions. Apart from cultivating theatre professionals, the theatre company also develops a vibrant educational programme to attract young talent and spark imagination. With its dedication to become the best platform for Taiwan's young theatre professionals on and off stage, Story Works seeks to bring entertaining and thought-provoking plays to every corner in Taiwan and beyond.

Since its establishment, Story Works has produced and presented 10 original plays. The company's mission is to recapture the joy and sorrow and represent the beauty of moments to the audience.

(2hrs 45mins, including 20min intermission)
Performed in Mandarin, with English surtitles.

The role of the son will be played by Lan Jun Tian and Wu Ting Chien.
7 & 9 Feb: Wu Ting Chien | 8 Feb: Lan Jun Tian

7 – 9 Feb 2020, Fri – Sun

Fri & Sat, 8pm

Sun, 2.30pm

Esplanade Theatre

Ticket Price: \$38*, \$58, \$78^, \$98^**

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$30*, \$46**

^Esplanade&Me Special

Applicable on all *Huayi* 2020 programmes except *Gullinkambi* and workshops.

Black card: 15% savings

White card: 10% savings

David Tao “DT in Harmony”

(Taiwan)



With seven albums to his name, this six-time Golden Melody Award-winning singer’s name is synonymous with Mandopop of the 21st century. He is the godfather of Mandarin R&B, David Tao.

Since his debut in 1997, the multi-talented singer-songwriter has made waves with his signature style of R&B tunes crossed with rock beats, rejuvenating the Mandarin music scene with songs such as *Airport 10.30*, *Blue Moon*, *Close to You* and *Black Tangerine*.

Regarded as one of the most versatile and creative artists in the Mandopop scene, Tao returns to Singapore with a brand-new showcase that is unlike any before. Going back to the basics with renowned music director Goh Kheng Long and backed by a band of established musicians, hear Tao at his best in the full harmonic splendour of the Esplanade Concert Hall as he presents an immersive performance exemplifying his musicality and vocal prowess.

Feel the Tao of music as he delivers a one-of-a-kind intimate sound experience featuring his best hits.

Singapore pop-duo The Freshman will be the opening act for this performance.

Tickets to *David Tao “DT in Harmony”* will go on sale from 8 Nov 2019, 9am.

(1hr 15min, no intermission)
Performed in Mandarin.

1 Feb 2020, Sat, 7.30pm
Esplanade Concert Hall

Ticket Price: \$68*, \$98, \$128, \$158^, \$188^**

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and senior citizens: \$58*, \$84**

^Esplanade&Me Special

Applicable on all *Huayi* 2020 programmes except *Gullinkambi* and workshops.

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Storytellers' Wisdom – A Crosstalk Production

Comedians Workshop (Taiwan)



What does Detective Conan and Justice Bao have in common? Can the capable Sun Wukong with his endless transformations survive in the modern society? What can Jin Yong's stories tell you about the philosophy of 'three'?

With a focus on the *Empty Fort Strategy* from the classic Chinese military directives *Thirty-Six Stratagems*, *Storytellers' Wisdom* is a lighthearted crosstalk production that enacts the various chapters of Chinese culture and history through an engaging performance filled with clever dialogue and witty humour.

An original creation by the renowned Comedians Workshop from Taiwan, *Storytellers' Wisdom* features a selection of the group's best works performed by established theatre practitioners including Feng Yi-Gang and Sung Shao-Ching. Discover wise anecdotes about life told through stories from *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, Justice Bao, Sun Wukong and classics from famed Chinese martial arts novelist Jin Yong!

About Comedians Workshop

Established in 1988 by renowned crosstalk artists Feng Yi-Gang and Sung Shao-Ching, Comedians Workshop have been actively promoting appreciation for Chinese culture through witty dialogues and have been credited for modernising crosstalk presentations in Taiwan. Notable works presented include "*Kuai Le Kuai Le*", "*Sha Shi Ba Le*" and "*Mai Ju Zi De*".

(2hrs 20min, including 20min intermission)
Performed in Mandarin, no surtitles.

4 Feb 2020, Tue, 8pm
Esplanade Concert Hall

Ticket Price: \$38*, \$48, \$68^**

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and senior citizens: \$30*, \$39**

^Esplanade&Me Special

Applicable on all *Huayi* 2020 programmes except *Gullinkambi* and workshops.

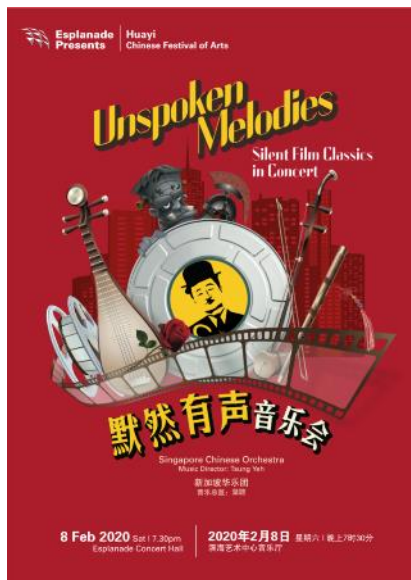
Black card: 15% savings

White card: 10% savings

An Esplanade Co-Production

Unspoken Melodies – Silent Film Classics in Concert

Singapore Chinese Orchestra (Singapore)



Silent films are always accompanied by lush Western orchestral music, and endearing classics by Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton are still adored and enjoyed by many today.

What if these films are now accompanied by Chinese orchestral instrumentation, with the unique timbre of *erhu* that adds on to the layers and sophistication of emotions, and the pounding percussion that creates the dramatic effect? How will this rejuvenate a Western classic and bring forth new life?

Led by Music Director Tsung Yeh, come experience classic silent films as you have never before, with original music specially composed and arranged by Cultural Medallion winner Law Wai Lun, and Hong Kong musical talent Lincoln Lo.

From surviving in a lion pit during ancient Rome, to a love story between a poor violinist and a lady, to an escaped prisoner creating comic mayhem and havoc, and the story of scientist Frankenstein's monstrous creation, rediscover the cinematic beauty of these silent film classics through original music performed by the Singapore Chinese Orchestra. This concert

is brought to you by the artistic team behind the wildly successful silent film concert of *Ruan Lingyu's The Goddess* in *Huayi 2014*.

The concert takes the audience on a music rollercoaster with the screening of four classic silent film excerpts, including *The Adventurer* and *The Vagabond* starring the iconic Charlie Chaplin; silent film pioneer Buster Keaton in the comedic segment *Rome* from *Three Ages*, as well as the original 1910 film *Frankenstein*.

Co-produced by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay and Singapore Chinese Orchestra.
(1hr 30min, no intermission)

8 Feb 2020, Sat, 7.30pm
Esplanade Concert Hall

Ticket Price: \$38*, \$58, \$88^**
Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$30*, \$46**

^Esplanade&Me Special
Applicable on all *Huayi 2020* programmes except *Gullinkambi* and workshops.
Black card: 15% savings
White card: 10% savings

Principle

Hong Kong Repertory Theatre (Hong Kong)



If everyone condemns you for the decisions you make, would you continue to stay true to it?

A new principal is installed in a school, and she immediately establishes a host of new rules and espouses an authoritarian leadership where everything must be carried out by the book. Her rigid approach stands in stark contrast to that of the vice-principal, an advocate for compassion. Gossip soon swirls around in the school that the top brass is at loggerheads and murmurs about a possible transfer of the long-serving vice-principal upset the students and teachers. A campus crisis is about to erupt, as parents and the school's board are also hurled into the vortex. How will the school management respond? Will the principal stand by her principle?

A thought-provoking theatrical production that pulls the audience into a conundrum created by two opposing views, *Principle* is a performance that echoes the reality of education in our modern society and will challenge your beliefs.

Featuring a strong ensemble of veteran actors, *Principle* has performed 13 sold-out shows in its initial Hong Kong run and will be making its overseas premiere at Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay as part of *Huayi* in 2020. It was nominated for Best Script at The Hong Kong Theatre Libre in 2018 and was also named one of the Outstanding Production of the Year at the 28th Hong Kong Drama Awards. Most recently, lead actor Ko Hon Man received Best Actor of the Year at the 2019 Shanghai One Drama Awards for his outstanding performance.

About Hong Kong Repertory Theatre

Artistic Director: Anthony Chan

Hong Kong Repertory Theatre is the longest standing and largest professional theatre company in the city, established in 1977 and incorporated in 2001. Financially supported by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Hong Kong Repertory Theatre operates under the guidance of its Governing Council and employs a team of over 80 full-time professionals including the artistic director, assistant artistic director, actors, technical and stage management staff as well as administrators.

Since its establishment, it has presented more than 300 productions, many of which have become classics of the Hong Kong theatre canon.

(1hr 40min, no intermission)

Performed in Cantonese, with English and Mandarin surtitles.

There will be a post-show talk after the 8pm performances on 31 Jan and 1 Feb.

Advisory: This performance contains some coarse language.

31 Jan – 2 Feb 2020, Fri – Sun

Fri, 8pm

Sat & Sun, 3pm & 8pm

Esplanade Theatre Studio

Ticket Price: \$38^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and senior citizens: \$27

^Esplanade&Me Special

Applicable on all *Huayi* 2020 programmes except *Gullinkambi* and workshops.

Black card: 15% savings

White card: 10% savings

Almost 55

City Contemporary Dance Company (Hong Kong)
Choreographed by Chou Shu-yi, performed by Qiao Yang



“This full-length solo piece tells her story, celebrates her talent and showcases her extraordinary longevity.”

- *South China Morning Post*, Hong Kong

“Watching her dance, I am overwhelmed with emotions and I just want to keep this moment close, like how I gingerly held fireflies in my palm in my childhood.

Never have I seen such a unique expression, and I have no idea if I will have the fortune to witness something as stirring as this again.”

- Lin Hwai-min, Founder of Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan

I remember it was 1987

Such a long journey, 40 hours on the train

All the way, from the north to the south

Eventually, I arrived in Hong Kong

Almost 55 is a full-length autobiographical solo created by award-winning Taiwanese choreographer Chou Shu-yi for Qiao Yang, one of Hong Kong’s most distinguished dance artists and a pioneer contemporary dancer from China. Interspersing physically challenging dance solos with monologues, Qiao Yang shares her ongoing journey in dance as she reflects on her purpose in life at her age of 50s. Through the ebb and flow of Qiao’s movements, this intimate work imprints her years of unwavering dedication to dance, and spotlights the power that comes from daily discipline and ordinariness.

Crystallised after a 400-day creative and research journey, this production traces Qiao’s dance career, from performing traditional Chinese dance in her home town in Shaanxi in the early 1970s, to studying contemporary dance in Guangzhou in the 1980s, and moving to Hong Kong in the 1990s, and explores notions of identity and home.

Featuring a stellar creative team with lighting designer Lee Chi-wai, video designer Maurice Lai, composer Steve Hui and costume consultant Lin Ching-ju – its premiere in Hong Kong in January 2019 received critical acclaim.

About City Contemporary Dance Company

“The artistic soul of contemporary Hong Kong” – *South China Morning Post*

Under the leadership of Founder and Artistic Director, Willy Tsao, City Contemporary Dance Company (CCDC) has inspired and elated audiences in Hong Kong and around the world with superb modern dance performances for 40 years. Founded in 1979, CCDC has presented more than 200 original works to critical acclaim, including productions by Tsao and leading choreographers such as Helen Lai, Mui Cheuk-yin, Pun Siu-fai and Yuri Ng. CCDC has also staged innovative collaborations with outstanding artists from other media and with artists from around the world.

CCDC is renowned for reflecting the vigour and creativity of Hong Kong's vibrant, multifaceted contemporary culture, presenting works to an audience of more than 50,000 people annually. The Company has accepted 269 overseas invitations to represent Hong Kong in performance at the world's foremost dance stages and festivals in over 30 major cities around the world.

About Chou Shu-yi

Born in Taiwan, Chou Shu-yi started his dance training at the age of 10 and began his artistic career as an independent choreographer in his twenties. Through dance, he re-examines his own life, connecting dance and body with environment and society. He has performed at Fall for Dance Festival in New York; Internationale Tanzmesse in Germany; Sadler's Wells Theatre in London; Festival d'Avignon OFF and Le Collectif Essonne Danse in France. Chou has also created commissioned work for Hong Kong Arts Festival and Taiwan National Theater and Concert Hall. He co-founded Horse Dance Company (Taiwan) in 2004 and established Shu-Yi & Dancers (Taiwan) in 2011 to further explore the connections between art and society. Chou focuses on exploration of vocabulary in Asian bodies in recent years and his work, *BREAK & BREAK!* won the annual Performing Arts Award of the 17th Taishin Arts Award (Taiwan) in 2019.

About Qiao Yang

Born in Shaanxi, Qiao Yang started learning Chinese dance at the age of 12. In 1987, she attended Guangdong Dance School where she first encountered modern dance and later joined Guangdong Modern Dance Company as a founding member. She received the Gold Award in the Modern Dance Duet Class at the Paris International Dance Competition in 1990. She joined CCDC in 1996; with her performance in *The Tragedy of Mr O*, she won the 2003 Hong Kong Dance Awards and was listed in the Hong Kong Dance Hall of Fame. She has also won the 2011 Hong Kong Dance Awards "Outstanding Performance by a Female Dancer" for *Tales of Two Cities - Hong Kong-Shanghai-Eileen Chang*; and received a nomination for the same prize at the 2016 Hong Kong Dance Awards for *Soledad*.

(1hr 15min, no intermission)

Performance monologue in Cantonese and Mandarin, with English and Mandarin surtitles.

7 – 9 Feb 2020, Fri – Sun

Fri & Sat, 8pm

Sun, 2.30pm

Esplanade Theatre Studio

Ticket Price: \$38^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$27

^Esplanade&Me Special

Applicable on all *Huayi* 2020 programmes except *Gullinkambi* and workshops.

Black card: 15% savings

White card: 10% savings

An Esplanade Commission

Strings of Time – A Sanxian Concert

Jessica Lu (Singapore)



Known for her ability to display the expressive potential of the traditional Chinese instrument, *sanxian* musician Jessica Lu debuts her milestone concert *Strings of Time* at Esplanade, as she celebrates two decades of performing!

One of the rare few virtuosos of the *sanxian*, the much sought-after musician will present a programme that will take us on a journey through time and open our ears to the versatility of this instrument with new compositions inspired by classic works such as *Spring South of the River*, *Night Thoughts*, and fusion jazz piece *Shakti's Dance*.

From traditional sounds to world music and even new compositions, witness and hear how Lu innovates and revitalises the *sanxian's* characteristic resonant tones with her band at *Huayi 2020*!

Lu fell in love with the *sanxian* under the influence of her *sanxian* professor father. She was accepted into Shanghai Conservatory of Music at the age of 14. Lu subsequently graduated from the China Conservatory of Music with a Bachelor's Degree in Sanxian Performance. Lu has since then captivated audiences in the region and around the world with her energetic presence and has represented Singapore at various music festivals including WOMAD Festival, Chicago Jazz Music Festival, Japan Asia Music Market and Edinburgh International Music Festival.

(1hr 15min, no intermission)

31 Jan & 1 Feb 2020, Fri & Sat, 8pm

Esplanade Recital Studio

Ticket Price: \$38^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$27

^Esplanade&Me Special

Applicable on all *Huayi 2020* programmes except *Gullinkambi* and workshops.

Black card: 15% savings
White card: 10% savings

The Four Beauties

Shanghai Pingtan Troupe (China)



With a history dating back to the late Ming dynasty, come experience a performance of elegant storytelling set to music as traditional *pingtan* makes its debut at Esplanade.

Originating in Suzhou over 400 years ago, *pingtan* is a genre of musical storytelling. Performed in the Suzhou dialect, which is famous for its melodious and lilting qualities, *pingtan* is a combination of two Chinese narrative folk art forms—*pinghua* (narration without music) and *tanci* (narration with music accompaniment).

For one night only, the renowned Shanghai Pingtan Troupe will perform stories of The Four Beauties of ancient China—Xi Shi, Diao Chan, Wang Zhaojun and Yang Guifei. Beyond waxing lyrical about the allure of the four beauties, the performance will creatively narrate the touching sacrifices the four made for their country and its people.

What is Pingtan?

Two chairs flanking a small table, a woodblock for creating sounds and rhythm to draw attention, a folding fan and a stringed musical instrument (either *sanxian* or a *pipa*)—this simple stage set-up coupled with melodic narration evokes the listeners' imaginations as the performers tell stories about battle tales and heartrending romances. The art of *pingtan* was listed as one of China's intangible cultural heritage by the Ministry of Culture of China in 2006.

About Shanghai Pingtan Troupe

Founded in 1951, Shanghai Pingtan Troupe is the first national *pingtan* troupe of China and widely regarded as one of the best. Over the last few decades, the troupe has made significant contributions to the cultivation and development of this traditional art form. The renowned troupe has received many accolades for its exquisite performances. The troupe presents over 4,000 performances yearly in China and has been invited to showcase this intangible cultural heritage to audiences around the world including Europe, America and parts of Asia.

(2hrs, including 15min intermission)

Performed in Suzhou dialect, with English and Chinese surtitles.

3 Feb 2020, Mon, 7.30pm

Esplanade Recital Studio

Ticket Price: \$38^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$27

^Esplanade&Me Special

Applicable on all *Huayi* 2020 programmes except *Gullinkambi* and workshops.

Black card: 15% savings

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Firebird – Piano Sensation Tony Yike Yang Solo Recital

Tony Yike Yang (Canada/ China)



“...an absolute revelation...he combines the characteristics of a true virtuoso and an artist.”
- *Chopin Chronicle*

“There’s little Yang cannot do technically.”
- *The Boston Musical Intelligencer*

Regarded as one of the foremost pianists of the younger generation, 21-year-old piano whiz Tony Yike Yang makes his Southeast Asian debut at Esplanade! Yang will be performing Stravinsky’s breakthrough piece, *Firebird*, amongst a specially curated programme that features pieces by Chopin and more.

Since the age of 16, the talented Chinese-Canadian pianist has captivated the world by storm with his virtuosic playing when he became the youngest-ever laureate at the prestigious 2015 Chopin International Piano Competition in Warsaw. He has received numerous accolades including top prize at the Thomas and Evon Cooper International Piano Competition and the Jury Discretionary Award at the 15th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

A gifted pianist who is able to balance technique and musicality in his playing, Yang has performed extensively in Canada, USA, Europe and Asia, including Festival de Lanaudière. He has also made appearances with the Cleveland Orchestra, Warsaw Philharmonic and Orchestre Métropolitain. In recognition for his exceptional talent and contribution to classical music, Yang was also most recently appointed as the youth cultural ambassador to Guangzhou, China.

A graduate from Juilliard Pre-College School, Yang is currently pursuing a dual-degree in Economics and Piano Performance through the Harvard University-New England Conservatory of Music Joint-Degree Programme.

(1hr 30mins, including 15min intermission)

2 Feb 2020, Sun, 2pm
Esplanade Recital Studio

Ticket Price: \$38^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$27

^Esplanade&Me Special

Applicable on all *Huayi* 2020 programmes except *Gullinkambi* and workshops.

Black card: 15% savings

White card: 10% savings

Gullinkambi – Puppetry Theatre for Children

Bon Appétit Theatre (Taiwan)



In a small town near the North Pole, there lived a little girl named Sonna and her best friend, the polar bear Gullinkambi. One night, Gullinkambi is nowhere to be found. Unable to trace the whereabouts of her best friend, the heartbroken Sonna musters her courage and decides to embark on a solo adventure to bring her friend home, bidding farewell to her warm home and her beloved grandmother.

Through this unknown journey, faced with threatening weather conditions, a mountain of challenges await her. Will little Sonna brave through these obstacles and bring her friend safely home? What awaits them upon their return?

An original production by Bon Appétit Theatre, *Gullinkambi* is a tale of love and courage told through a multi-disciplinary showcase of puppetry, physical theatre, lights and music. Open your mind to a world of imagination as you follow Sonna's search for Gullinkambi in this heartwarming non-verbal puppetry production, bound to touch anyone and everyone, from the young to the young-at-heart.

About Bon Appétit Theatre

Bon Appétit Theatre is a Taiwanese theatre troupe with a focus on original stories and devising acting approaches at its core of creation. The name of Bon Appétit Theatre refers to “taste” and “appetite”, where the artists are the chefs and the audience partakes their creations. Every original theatre production is a discussion on contemporary issues, natural environment and observation in humanity through the artforms of physical theatre, puppetry, music narration

and other diverse devising methods. Through creative presentations, Bon Appétit Theatre hopes to continue to share their stories and with audiences from all over the world.

(1hr, no intermission)

This is a non-verbal performance.

Advisory: Recommended for ages 3 and above. No admission for ages below 3.

7 – 9 Feb 2020, Fri – Sun

Fri, 11am

Sat & Sun, 2pm & 5pm

Esplanade Recital Studio

Ticket Price: \$30^

^PIP's Club Special:

10% savings

Enjoy savings for 2 to 4 tickets.

Limited tickets. Terms & conditions apply.

An Esplanade Commission
Prism of Truth
GroundZ-0 (Singapore)



It's Friday night. Everyone is out painting the town red. A car in a secluded spot near a bar quietly holds a bloodied corpse. This looks like a murder, but nothing is as it seems.

A high-ranking police officer, a dedicated educator and an award-winning entrepreneur cross paths in the bar. The chance encounter leads these three individuals down a rabbit hole that ends in blood. Was it a murder or a suicide? An act of self-defence or a retaliation to a rape?

As everyone presents their testimony to the jury, the audience navigates the maze of unreliable accounts and conflicting evidence, and sifts its way through an influx of news footage and social commentary. You are left to decide what exactly happened. Can you discern fact from fiction? Can you really know the truth?

A multilingual production directed by Zelda Tatiana Ng, co-written by Zelda Tatiana Ng and A Yagnya, and inspired by *Rashōmon*, *Prism of Truth* is a mixed-media participatory experience that takes the audience on a journey to examine and challenge the nature of truth.

[Note: 《眾相》 = 《众相》. The traditional Chinese character of 眾 is a pictogram that depicts a pair of eyes looking at the crowd.]

(2hrs, no intermission)

Performed in a mix of Mandarin, English, and some Chinese dialects with no surtitles. No latecomer entry or re-entry for this performance.

Advisory: Some mature content - coarse language and sexual references. Recommended for 16 years and above. Admission only for 13 years and above.

Floor seating only. This is a participatory work — please dress comfortably as audiences may be expected to walk or stand during parts of the performance.

**31 Jan – 2 Feb, 4 & 5 Feb 2020, Fri – Sun, Tue & Wed
Fri, Tue & Wed, 8pm**

Sat, 3pm & 8pm

Sun, 3pm

Esplanade Annexe Studio

Ticket Price: \$38^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and senior citizens: \$27

^Esplanade&Me Special

Applicable on all *Huayi* 2020 programmes except *Gullinkambi* and workshops.

Black card: 15% savings

White card: 10% savings

in::music – ØZI “Forbidden Paradise”

(Taiwan)



Get down with the unique hip hop sound of ØZI in this Singapore debut at *in::music*!

Since the release of his self-titled debut album *ØZI: The Album* in 2018, he has been making waves in the industry with his signature urban hip hop and R&B sound. His collaboration with Taiwanese singer 9m88 on the party anthem track *B.O.* is a heady meld of R&B and jazz, receiving much acclaim.

Named Best New Artist at the 2019 Golden Melody Awards and Singapore’s Freshmusic Awards, ØZI has received acclaim from fans and industry insiders, including The Association of Music Workers in Taiwan, which named his album as one of the top 10 albums of the year.

Born in Los Angeles and raised in Taipei, the rapper has also been making serious inroads into the world of high fashion and has quickly established himself as one of this generation’s most influential music-makers.

in::music showcases some of the most inspiring Chinese singer-songwriters and bands performing their original compositions.

(1hr, no intermission)
Performed in Mandarin.

7 Feb 2020, Fri, 8pm
Esplanade Annexe Studio

Ticket Price: \$35^
Limited concessions for students, NSFs and senior citizens: \$28
Standing room only.

^Esplanade&Me Special
Applicable on all *Huayi* 2020 programmes except *Gullinkambi* and workshops.
Black card: 15% savings
White card: 10% savings

in::music – Eve Ai “The Names”

(Taiwan)



With four albums and two Golden Melody Awards under her belt, Taiwanese soul songstress Eve Ai is Mandopop’s undisputed Queen of Blues.

The singer-songwriter got her start when she won the fifth season of reality singing competition *Super Idol* in 2010 with her raspy, sultry vocals. Over the course of her music career, Eve has wowed audiences and fans time and again with her inimitable ability to write songs that tug at your heartstrings, including hits such as *Forever Young*, *The Sum of Us*, as well as A-Mei’s *Story Thief* and Lala Hsu’s *The Prayer*.

A recipient of numerous industry accolades including Best Female Mandarin Singer at the 2017 Golden Melody Awards and Best Composer at the 2019 Golden Melody Awards, Eve invites you to sing, listen and reminisce your past loves at her latest solo showcase at *in::music*.

in::music showcases some of the most inspiring Chinese singer-songwriters and bands performing their original compositions.

(1hr 30min, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin.

There will be a post-show autograph session.

Standing room only.

8 Feb 2020, Sat, 8pm

Esplanade Annexe Studio

Ticket Price: \$35^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and senior citizens: \$28

^Esplanade&Me Special

Applicable on all *Huayi* 2020 programmes except *Gullinkambi* and workshops.

Black card: 15% savings

White card: 10% savings

in::music – Ann Bai “Our Time”

(Taiwan)



A toast to who we were in the 1990s and to who we are now. This is our time.

Indie chanteuse Ann Bai burst onto the scene in 2012 with her distinctive vocals with *What Brings Me to You*, which has since crossed over 112 million views on YouTube. Despite critical and popular acclaim, the petite singer retreated from the glare and took her time to write, only releasing her third and latest album *1990s* in December 2018 after four years of creative development. Born in 1991, Ann espouses the importance of happiness, family and love through her music, and dedicates her latest work to all the young people who grew up in the 90s.

While working on her latest album, Ann calibrated her musicality through mini showcases at live houses and cafes, as well as took the opportunity to busk on the streets of New York. She most recently appeared on China’s reality music programme *I Am A Singer-Songwriter* where she captured the heart of the audiences with her heartfelt renditions.

Bringing along the experiences that has moulded her into who she is today, let Ann take you away from the monotony of life as she returns to Singapore with a brand-new showcase featuring popular hits *Our Time* and *Escaping the Mediocre Life*.

in::music showcases some of the most inspiring Chinese singer-songwriters and bands performing their original compositions.

(1hr, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin.

There will be a post-show autograph session.

Standing room only.

9 Feb 2020, Sun, 3pm

Esplanade Annexe Studio

Ticket Price: \$35^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and senior citizens: \$28

^Esplanade&Me Special

Applicable on all *Huayi* 2020 programmes except *Gullinkambi* and workshops.

Black card: 15% savings

White card: 10% savings

in::music – Tizzy Bac “Sing Like You Mean It”

(Taiwan)



Twenty years on, every song by this indie rock group still tells of a fascinating tale from their storied lives. After a successful tour in Taiwan, Tizzy Bac brings its much anticipated *Sing Like You Mean It* showcase to Singapore!

Founded in 1991 by singer/keyboard player Chen Hui Ting, drummer Lin Chien Yuan and forever bassist Hsu Che Yu, the eclectic band has pioneered piano-rock hits such as *Tie Zhi Bei Ke* and *This Is Because We Feel Pain*. Through music and lyrics that explore the problems and dilemmas of modern people, many have sought solace in the band's compositions.

After a five-year hiatus, Tizzy Bac returned stronger than ever with their latest album *Him* in 2018. Widely regarded as one of their most mature and moving full-length albums to date, it earned them a nomination for Best Band at the 2019 Golden Melody Awards and the album's single *The People I Love* was also named as one of the Top Ten Singles of the year at the 2019 Freshmusic Awards.

Singing through life's curves and edges, join Tizzy Bac for an inspiring evening as we search for answers to the great unknown.

in::music showcases some of the most inspiring Chinese singer-songwriters and bands performing their original compositions.

(1hr, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin.

There will be a post-show autograph session.

Standing room only.

9 Feb 2020, Sun, 8pm

Esplanade Annexe Studio

Ticket Price: \$35^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and senior citizens: \$28

^Esplanade&Me Special

Applicable on all *Huayi* 2020 programmes except *Gullinkambi* and workshops.

Black card: 15% savings

White card: 10% savings

Parent-Child Workshop – “Who Is The Fastest Of Them All?” Acting Workshop

Renee Chua (Singapore)



Do you know the story of the 12 zodiac animals? Which animal is the mightiest of them all?

Conducted in a fun and engaging way, parent and child will bond through a series of craft activities, roleplay and storytelling as we learn the tricks and traits of the 12 zodiac animals. The little ones will have the opportunity to learn Mandarin, explore creative verbal and physical expressions as well as build their confidence as they present their version of who won the race in this interactive workshop!

About Renee Chua

Renee Chua has been an actress, director and drama educator since 2004. A notable stage actress, her works include *Magic Lantern* (Paper Monkey, won ST Life! Award for Best Production for Young), *11* (The Theatre Practice, nominated for ST Life! Award for Best Ensemble), and *David the Best* (Drama Box).

(2hrs)

Conducted in Mandarin.

Advisory: Recommended for ages 5 to 8 with accompanying adult. Accompanying adults must be above 16. No admission for ages below 5.

1 & 2 Feb 2020, Sat & Sun, 1.30pm & 4.30pm

Esplanade Rehearsal Studio

(Meet at Theatre Studio entrance, Level 4, 15mins before start time.)

Ticket Price:

\$30 (1 adult + 1 child)

\$45 (1 adult + 2 children)

\$45 (2 adults + 1 child)

Tickets have to be bought in pairs or 3s.

Workshop: Treasure Dish-Making Workshop

WahSoSimple (Singapore)



Let's get together for a creative hands-on afternoon to make our very own colourful marbled clay treasure dish. Participants will be guided to knead, sculpt, marble and shape pieces of polymer clay into gorgeous marbled clay dishes. Make your very own treasure dish and customise it by stamping it with your name or with auspicious Chinese characters!

About WahSoSimple

WahSoSimple is a Singapore craft outfit that believes that crafting should be simple, fun and satisfying not only for first-timers but also for experienced crafters.

(1hr 30min)

Conducted in English and Mandarin.

Advisory: Admission for ages 10 and above.

8 Feb 2020, Sat, 1.30pm & 4.30pm

Esplanade Rehearsal Studio

(Meet at Theatre Studio entrance, Level 4, 15mins before start time.)

Ticket Price: \$15

Parent-Child Workshop: “Let’s Create Some Sounds” Theatre Workshop

Bon Appétit Theatre (Taiwan)



How do you tell a story without using any words? What kind of sounds and noises would you use to tell your tale?

Discover the beauty and wonder of soundmaking in this fun workshop! Broaden your five senses and partner with your child to create your very own story through everyday sounds such as raindrops, footsteps, whistles and more!

About Bon Appétit Theatre

Bon Appétit Theatre is a Taiwanese theatre troupe with a focus on original stories and devising acting approaches at its core of creation. The name of Bon Appétit Theatre refers to “taste” and “appetite”, where the artists are the chefs and the audience partakes in their creations. Every original theatre production is a discussion on contemporary issues, natural environment and observation in humanity through the artforms of physical theatre, puppetry, music narration and other diverse devising methods. Through creative presentations, Bon Appétit Theatre hopes to continue to share their stories and with audiences from all over the world.

(1hr)

Conducted in Mandarin.

Advisory: Recommended for ages 6 and above with accompanying adult. Accompanying adults must be above 16.

8 & 9 Feb 2020, Sat & Sun, 11am

Esplanade Bay Room

(Meet at Concert Hall entrance, 15mins before start time.)

Ticket Price:

1 Adult + 1 Child: \$30

1 Adult + 2 Children: \$45

2 Adults + 1 Child: \$45

Tickets have to be bought in pairs or 3s.

Parent-Child Workshop: Traditional Paper Making

How to Ink (Singapore)



We use paper every day for many purposes but have you ever created your own paper?

Discover the century-old technique of papermaking! Learn the history and experience the process of making paper as it was done during ancient times with your little one. Find out how you can give old scraps of paper a new life through recycling, and create your very own sheet of handmade paper at this educational workshop.

About How To Ink

How To Ink is a printmaking studio based in Singapore with a name that is a literal translation of the Chinese characters 凹凸印 (Āo Tú Yìn). It is inspired directly by the art of printmaking that works on a yin and yang principle, by utilising negative and positive moulds to produce certain impressions on paper.

(2hrs)

Conducted in English and Mandarin.

Advisory: Recommended for ages 6 and above with accompanying adult. Accompanying adults must be above 16.

9 Feb 2020, Sun, 1.30pm & 4.30pm

Esplanade Rehearsal Studio

(Meet at Theatre Studio entrance, Level 4, 15mins before start time.)

Ticket Price:

1 Adult + 1 Child: \$30

1 Adult + 2 Children: \$45

2 Adults + 1 Child: \$45

Tickets have to be bought in pairs or 3s.

FREE PROGRAMMES

Esplanade Outdoor Theatre

***Huayi* Huat Opening! (Starting from Esplanade Courtyard)**

Yiwei Athletic Association & A Bigger Bang Percussion (Singapore)

31 Jan 2020, Fri, 6.45pm

Rousing drumbeats and energetic lions! Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts opens with a lively, breath-taking performance by the award-winning Yiwei Athletic Association on high poles, followed by a spirit lifting percussion presentation by A Bigger Bang Percussion. Here's a jubilant toast to the Chinese New Year and the start of a new zodiac cycle!

(45mins)

A Celebration Of Drums

A Bigger Bang Percussion (Singapore)

31 Jan 2020, Fri, 8pm & 9.30pm

Usher in the year of the Rat with heart-thumping beats and rhythmic melodies by percussion ensemble A Bigger Bang Percussion. With their energetic and modern approach to percussive arrangements, enjoy the performance as they rejuvenate your festive favourites into catchy numbers!

(45mins)

Sax It Up with Mandopop!

Daniel Chia (Singapore)

1 Feb 2020, Sat, 6.45pm, 8pm & 9.15pm

Known for his melodic and soulful lines, saxophonist Daniel Chia is one of the most versatile and in-demand players in Singapore and the region. Daniel has also toured around the world extensively, performing with a wide range of artists like Larry Carlton and Kit Chan. Get ready to hear your favourite songs from Jay Chou, David Tao, Wang Lee Hom, Stefanie Sun, JJ Lin, A-Mei and more.

(45mins)

We are Singer-songwriters!

2 Feb 2020, Sun

(45mins for each performance)

Performed in Mandarin.

Shelby Wang (Singapore)

6.45pm

Are you ready for a groovy R&B night? Join Shelby Wang as she brings you into her world of originals. Not only that, she will also share unreleased songs and cover songs that have

inspired her through her music journey. Influenced by Taiwanese band Mayday, Sodagreen and Hong Kong Pop star Khalil Fong, multi-talented singer-songwriter Shelby's music infuses modern elements, old-school funk/jazz elements, and Mandopop into her own unique style.

Cheryl Lee (Singapore)
8pm

Taiwan-based singer-songwriter Cheryl Lee returns to Singapore to present her debut Mandarin solo show featuring feel-good originals showcasing a fusion of R&B, soul and funk. Cheryl graduated from Berklee College of Music with double majors in Film Scoring and Electronic Production & Design. She started performing with Singapore Lyric Opera since the age of 13 and was also part of the opening act for Grammy-nominated band Hoobastank's Fort Canning performance in 2007. She is currently preparing for her debut Mandarin solo album which will be released in 2020.

Huang Tingzhi (Singapore)
9.15pm

After releasing her first double single *Welcome* and *Miss You Crazy* in 2017, Huang Tingzhi held her first mini showcase concert at the Esplanade Concourse in 2018. At the end of the same year, she ventured overseas and conducted a series of mini showcases across Taiwan. Her next single *My Dear Brother*, a sentimental piece dedicated to her brother, touched the hearts of many audiences. 2020 brings her full circle back to Esplanade, now a brand new Tingzhi with her latest single *Apprehensive Lover*, which shows a totally different side of her that has not been seen before. Be prepared to be surprised!

Everlasting Hits

Tallin Ang (Singapore)

3 Feb 2020, Mon, 7.30pm & 8.45pm

Catch songbird Tallin Ang performing familiar Chinese evergreen hits made popular by Teresa Teng, Fong Fei Fei and more, bringing you on a trip down memory lane. An avid fan of the late Teresa Teng, Tallin has performed extensively in Singapore and Malaysia. Her singing endeavours began in 2009 when she first won the Best Teresa Teng Image Award in the Songs of Teresa Teng Singing Competition 2009. The following year, she went on to win the national Search for the Teresa Teng competition and was invited to sing at the Chingay Parade in 2011.

(45 mins)
Performed in Mandarin.

Dancing Maidens

Nanyang Girls' High School, Singapore Chinese Girls' School, St. Margaret's Secondary School & St. Nicholas Girls' School (Singapore)

4 Feb 2020, Tue, 7.15pm & 8.45pm

Welcome the arrival of spring with a group of maidens as they dance by the river and be mesmerised by their elegant and graceful movements. This showcase is performed by students from Nanyang Girls' High School, Singapore Chinese Girls' School, St. Margaret's Secondary School and St. Nicholas Girls' School.

(45 mins)

In Between Stars

Teresa Tseng (Singapore)

5 Feb 2020, Wed, 7.30pm & 8.45pm

A *Campus Superstar* alum, Teresa Tseng returns to Singapore with her latest album. She presents a showcase with top Singapore musicians, sharing original songs and special renditions of popular Mandopop hits.

(45 mins)

Performed in Mandarin.

The Mystical Rat

SMU Chinese Orchestra (Singapore)

6 Feb 2020, Thu, 7.30pm & 8.45pm

This Chinese New Year, the SMU Chinese Orchestra will be presenting a rat-themed concert, in celebration of the Chinese Year of the Rat. Recounting the common legend of how the rat outwitted the ox to become the first animal in the Chinese Zodiac, SMUCO will be performing classic pieces such as *Marriage of the Lady* and *Ushering The Spring By The Golden Rat*.

(45mins)

The Bands We Chased

Too Much Drama (Singapore)

7 Feb 2020, Fri, 7.30pm, 8.45pm & 10pm

Let local six-piece band Too Much Drama brings you nostalgic songs from familiar bands and groups from the '90s and 2000s including Xiao Hu Dui, Wu Yin Liang Pin, PowerStation, 5566, F4 and more!

(45 mins)

Performed in Mandarin.

Skaraoke

(Taiwan)

8 Feb 2020, Sat, 6.45pm, 8pm & 9.15pm

Skaraoke is one of the few ska bands to rock the Taiwan scene!

Formed in April 2007, Skaraoke has participated in numerous events and shows all over the island of Taiwan. Skaraoke's music blends island-style ska, rock steady, reggae, Latin, swing and rock into a cocktail of danceable rhythms and catchy chorus lines.

Grab you dancing shoes because this is an act you don't want to miss!

(45mins)

Performed in Mandarin.

Best of Cantopop

Jason Chung & Jessie Yeong (Singapore)

9 Feb 2020, Sun, 6.45pm, 8pm & 9.15pm

Widely recognised as vocal powerhouses and winners of Mediacorp's *Getai Challenge 2018*, Jason Chung and Jessie Yeong presents familiar Cantopop classics spanning across the decades, with songs from Alan Tam, Leslie Cheung, Beyond, Jacky Cheung, Sandy Lam, Priscilla Chan and more!

(45 mins)

Performed in Cantonese.

Esplanade Waterfront Canopy

Exquisite String Puppetry

Quanzhou Marionette Art Inheritance and Protection Center (China)

7 Feb 2020, Fri, 6.45pm, 8pm & 9.15pm

8 Feb 2020, Sat, 6pm, 7.15pm & 8.30pm

9 Feb 2020, Sun, 6.45pm & 8pm

Be in awe with the skilled artistry of Quanzhou Marionette Art Inheritance and Protection Center as they present a traditional string puppetry performance.

(45mins)

Performed in Mandarin.

Esplanade Forecourt Garden

Springy Steps

Singapore Chinese Dance Theatre

1 & 2 Feb 2020, Sat & Sun, 5pm & 6pm

Head over to Esplanade Forecourt Garden and be invigorated by the energetic performances of Singapore Chinese Dance Theatre! Learn some basic steps from the dancers with your family as we welcome Chinese New Year.

(30mins)

Performed in Mandarin.

The Wedding of the Rats

collide.o.scope collective (Singapore)

8 & 9 Feb 2020, Sat & Sun, 5pm & 6pm

It's the Year of the Rat and there's going to be a big wedding for Rat Princess!

Alas! The big cat came along and disrupted the wedding preparation. Can you help to find a strong husband for Rat Princess so that the rats can defend themselves against the cat?

Inspired by a Chinese folk tale, we invite everyone to join in this joyous celebration where the audience participates in telling the story with the actors, wishing the rats a blissful marriage and hoping to spread good cheer to everyone in the Year of the Rat.

(30mins)

Performed in Mandarin.

Esplanade Concourse

Hua Yi Tio Ho!

Dan, Van & August (Singapore)

31 Jan 2020, Fri, 7.30pm, 8.30pm & 9.30pm

Using creative dynamic wordplay and music, Dan, Van & August present Chinese New Year in ways you don't expect! Be prepared to hear songs about flowers, seasons and rats brought to you by boy-next-door Daniel Ong and the ever fun and spontaneous Vanessa Phang, as they bring the genius of August Lum's arrangements to life in the most unforeseen way!

(30mins)

Performed in Mandarin.

Our Dream?

Nan Hua High School Chinese Drama Society (Singapore)

1 Feb 2020, Sat, 4pm & 5pm

What are dreams? Why do we need to study? How can we balance our aspirations and academic success? Nan Hua High School Chinese Drama Society presents *Our Dream?*, an original short play that seeks to explore the relationship between dream and reality, personal aspiration and family commitments.

(30mins)

Performed in Mandarin.

Oriental Classics

Incursion Trio (Singapore)

1 Feb 2020, Sat, 7.15pm, 8.30pm & 9.30pm

Join Incursion Trio as they present their take on Chinese classical pieces and folk tunes such as *The Butterfly Lovers*, *Jasmine Flower* and more, specially arranged for a piano trio.

Formed by pianist Beatrice Lin, violinist Siew Yi Li and cellist Lin Juan, Incursion Trio has performed extensively in Singapore over the past 10 years and has garnered positive reviews. *The Straits Times* has described their music as one of "polish, confidence and [a] lovely sound," calling the trio "a force to be reckoned with".

(30mins)

We are Singer-songwriters!

2 Feb 2020, Sun

(45mins for each performance)

Performed in Mandarin.

Sherman Zhuo (Singapore)

3.15pm

Catch up and coming singer-songwriter Sherman Zhuo in his Esplanade debut as he presents an evening of acoustic originals and popular favourites. A semi-finalist of Mediacorp's *SPOP Sing! Competition* and the winner of Stärker Music Jams 2019, Zhuo is known for his heartfelt singing and warm vocals. His 2017 cover of Ed Sheeran's *Dive* captured many eyeballs and achieved over 300,000 views on YouTube.

See Kai Zheng (Singapore)

4.30pm

Sway along to Singapore singer-songwriter See Kai Zheng's intimate set as he shares his self-penned songs including *Goodbye, My Love* the theme song of Mediacorp drama *Walk With Me*. His vocals was featured in the theme song of the latest movie *One Headlight*. See was in the Top 8 of Channel U's *Project Superstar* in 2014 and won the Best Melody award at SG:SW in 2018 for his song *Goodbye, My Love*.

Aly Koh (Singapore)

7.15pm

In this intimate showcase, homegrown singer-songwriter Aly Koh shares a selection of her Mandarin originals including *Please Leave*, *Where is Happiness* and more. She had covered *Regret* and *Qing Yi Cang Xin Di* which were featured in Mediacorp drama *Crescendo*. Koh has been performing since 2013 and was the demo singer for Taiwanese singer Rainie Yang's *Scared*.

Marcus Lee (Singapore)

8.30pm

Beaming through this year's *Huayi* festival is up-and-coming singer-songwriter, Marcus Lee, who will be lighting up your evening with his bright and warm voice. He will be performing his debut Mandarin single *My Confession* as well as other self-penned songs and personal favourites. Lee is a bilingual singer-songwriter, actor and model who took part in *Campus Superstar* at the age of 15 and emerged as the second runner-up.

Passion in Strings

Yvonne Tay and students (Singapore)

3 Feb 2020, Mon, 6.45pm, 7.45pm & 8.45pm

Join Yvonne Tay and her students, Trinice Tan, Megan Neo, Chua Yee Ting, Kerina Lim, as well as Woodlands Ring Secondary School Guzheng Ensemble in this production that showcases the beauty of the 21-string *guzheng*.

(30mins)

Fusion Winds

Jacky Ng & Bennett Bay (Singapore)

4 Feb 2020, Tue, 6.45pm, 7.45pm & 8.45pm

Jacky and Bennett both began their musical journeys playing the *suona* as their first instrument. As students of both Eastern and Western music, Jacky and Bennett will present a performance of new original compositions, as well as new arrangements of Chinese tunes, accompanied by a small fusion ensemble of Western and Chinese instruments.

(30mins)

Embrace The Tiger And Return To Mountain

Planeswalker & Dr. Chow Jun Yan (Singapore)

5 Feb 2020, Wed, 6.45pm, 7.45pm & 8.45pm

Inspired by the pugilistic legends and folklore of ancient China, sonic whiz Planeswalker join forces with composer and *erhu* musician Dr Chow Jun Yan on an exploration of the mythological world of *wuxia* through a mesh of sonic, visual and spatial elements, creating in a multi-dimensional journey.

(30mins)

Where Love Belongs

The JumpStart (Singapore)

6 Feb 2020, Thu, 6.45pm, 7.45pm & 8.45pm

Indulge in an evening of familiar Singapore tunes with The JumpStart as they make their debut *Huayi* performance. Get ready for their strong vocals, tight harmonies, and infectious energy in a night of songs we love by Singapore songwriters such as Liang Wenfu, Chen Jiaming, Roy Li, Li Weisong, Li Sisong, JJ Lin, Tanya Chua, Jim Lim, Xiao Han, and more!

(30mins)

Performed in Mandarin.

Kopi Tiam TIME

Kopi Katz (Singapore)

7 Feb 2020, Fri, 6.45pm, 7.45pm & 8.45pm

The *kopitiam*, or the coffeeshop, is a place where Singaporeans gather to have their meals, mingle, and create memories. Just like the variety of cuisines found in a *kopitiam*, Kopi Katz is made up of four very different musicians playing different ethnic instruments. Through casual banter and a little “music-drama”, their performance brings you your favourite Chinese New Year songs, popular Malay tunes and Indian folk tunes in a brand-new way!

(30mins)

Performed in Mandarin.

Crosstalk Fun!

Dunman High School & Maris Stella High School (Singapore)

8 Feb 2020, Sat, 3pm & 4pm

Enjoy witty and humorous crosstalk performed by students who scored top prizes at the 2019 National Crosstalk Competition for secondary schools.

(30mins)

Performed in Mandarin.

Unveiling Kun Opera: Four Dreams in the Camellia Hall – Demo and Performance

Shanghai Kunqu Opera Troupe (China)

8 Feb 2020, Sat, 7.15pm & 9pm

Four Dreams in the Camellia Hall is a collection of four outstanding Chinese Opera classics written by influential Ming dynasty playwright Tang Xianzu. Don't miss this rare chance to catch performances and demos by award-winning first grade Kun Opera actors from China, Li An and Shen Yili, as they bring you excerpts from *The Peony Pavilion* and *A Pair of Purple Hairpins*.

The full-length performances of these four masterpieces will be presented at the Esplanade Theatre from 26 – 29 Mar 2020, paying homage to one of the oldest opera genres in the world.

(30mins)

With English and Chinese surtitles

Zhangde Primary School Choir

(Singapore)

9 Feb 2020, Sun, 3pm & 4pm

Stealing hearts as everywhere they perform with their melodious and stirring voices, the choir from Zhangde Primary School presents an afternoon of Chinese folk songs, children's songs as well as popular hits such as *Fairytale* and *Jasmine Flower*.

(30mins)

Performed in Mandarin.

Huayi U Sing – Live Singing Competition

9 Feb 2020, Sun, 7.15pm (Result announcement at 9.45pm)

Are you the king and queen of karaoke? Or do you thrive when singing with a partner instead? The popular *Huayi U Sing* is back this year with a twist—the competition now includes duets and ensemble singing!

Level up from bathroom singing and join us in this live singing competition at *Huayi 2020*! You may participate as a solo singer, as a duo or in an ensemble. Take the opportunity to sing in front of an audience accompanied by professional musicians and pit your singing skills amongst the best!

(2hrs 45mins)

Esplanade Concourse Workshops

Zodiac Bodypainting

MagicPainters (Singapore)

1 & 2 Feb 2020, Sat & Sun, 3 – 7pm

Ready to show off your Chinese Zodiac animal? Get your Chinese Zodiac animal painted on you in this workshop. Limited to the first 150 participants each day.

Zodiac Shrink Art Keychains

SeniKraf (Singapore)

8 & 9 Feb 2020, Sat & Sun, 3 – 7pm

Carry your Chinese Zodiac animal with you as a personalised keychain! Select your own template, colour it and watch it shrink into a keychain right in front of you. Limited to the first 150 participants each day (one keychain per person).

Esplanade Roof Terrace

Rooftop Reads

Chang Chengyao, Ah Guo, Tan Liyi (Singapore)

1 & 2 Feb 2020, Sat & Sun, 5.30pm

Sat: Chang Chengyao & Ah Guo

Sun: Chang Chengyao & Tan Liyi

Let's grow our love for reading in the new year! Hosted by UFM 1003 radio DJ Chengyao, hear from well-loved Singaporean illustrator Ah Guo as well as established radio personality and published author Tan Liyi about their favourite books and listen to their stories!

(1hr)

Performed in Mandarin.

Tales of Olden Times

Chen Zhaojin (Singapore)

8 Feb 2020, Sat, 7.30pm & 8.45pm

9 Feb 2020, Sun, 6.15pm & 7.30pm

What are the stories related to Chinese New Year that you know of? Enjoy some interesting Chinese New Year folk tales as told by renowned storyteller Chen Zhaojin in his unique style!

(30mins)

Performed in Mandarin.

Free Talks

An Introduction to the Seven Sages

Bok Zhong Ming (Singapore)

1 Feb 2020, Sat, 1pm

library@esplanade

The Wei and Jin dynasties was a tumultuous era. While life seemed bleak, the historical Seven Sages were said to have retreated into a bamboo grove where they sought solace in the arts. Surrounded by mountains and rivers, they revelled in the freedom of leisure—their days were spent discussing philosophical concepts —finding peace within and with the world around them.

Using brick painting of *The Seven Sages and Rong Qiqi* from the Southern Dynasties mausoleums, as well as written records in ancient books, this talk explores the lifestyle, ideals and principles of the Seven Sages.

(1hr 30mins)

Conducted in Mandarin.

The Secret World of Children's Songs

Dr Kang Ger-Wen (Singapore)

1 Feb 2020, Sat, 3pm

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Do you still remember the songs you used to sing as a child? We keep these songs close to our hearts and pass it on to the next generation, but do you know about the special meanings of some of these songs? Come unearth the treasures that can be found in these children's

songs with Dr Kang Ger-Wen, head of Ngee Ann Polytechnic's Chinese Studies, delivered in his trademark humorous style that has won him many fans.

(1hr 30mins)

Conducted in Mandarin.

TCM Insights on Dementia

Physician He Xiafen (Singapore)

2 Feb 2020, Sun, 12pm

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Learn how traditional Chinese medicine, acupuncture, a healthy diet and emotional balance can help one prevent the onset of cognitive decline and aid in the treatment of dementia.

(1hr 30mins)

Conducted in Mandarin.

Laughter on Stage, Laughter in Life

Feng Yi-Gang (Taiwan)

2 Feb 2020, Sun, 6pm

Esplanade Recital Studio

For centuries, in the art form of Chinese Opera, the cunning Cao Cao was often depicted with a white face while the heroic Guan Yu was known for his red face in various artistic interpretations. Through writers and artists, the exploits and valour of history's different characters were brought to life, thus forming the pillars of Chinese culture.

Theatre provides a platform for creating dazzling performances and crosstalk in particular, is an art form that focuses on the language. Join renowned thespian Feng Yi-Gang as he shares more about crosstalk, sheds light about his creative journey in developing witty crosstalk productions, his love for Chinese Opera and how it has influenced him. Come discover his journey to self-fulfilment and his attitude towards life based on his passion in performing and making people laugh.

(1hr 30mins)

Conducted in Mandarin.

Pingtán & Modern Society

Gao Bowen (China)

2 Feb 2020, Sun, 2pm

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Discover the history of *pingtan* and the role it plays in modern society in this talk by Gao Bowen, president of the Shanghai Pingtan Troupe. A genre of musical storytelling, traditional *pingtan* is a popular artform within China's Jiangnan region. Originating from Suzhou about four centuries ago, the development of *pingtan* has evolved over the years as it absorbed influences from various cultures. The rise of media and expansion of performing halls have

also helped to popularise the art of *pingtan*, winning fans from businessmen, artists and city dwellers alike.

(1hr 30mins)

Conducted in Mandarin.

Connect with Mandarin in Story Wonderland

Angela Xu (Singapore)

8 Feb 2020, Sat, 1pm

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Author Angela Xu shares how an immersive storytelling experience can help engage children and pique their interest in learning Mandarin. Angela Xu's passion and desire to instil a love of the language in her children led her to first set up a facebook page sharing her recommendations of Chinese story books and tips on reading to children and subsequently becoming a volunteer storyteller, amateur writer of children books and speaker engaged frequently by various institutions here in Singapore.

(1hr 30mins)

Conducted in Mandarin.

Selamat Taon Baru! The Peranakans' Celebrations of the Lunar New Year

Baba Ronney Tan, based on personal stories by Baba Andy Gwee (Singapore)

8 Feb 2020, Sat, 3pm

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Are the Lunar New Year celebrations of the Chinese Peranakans different from the Chinese community in Singapore? Find out more in this talk presented by Baba Ronney Tan Koon Siang, Honorary Secretary of The Peranakan Association of Singapore. Information for this talk was prepared by Andy Gwee who collaborated with his father William Gwee, author of *Baba Malay Dictionary* and *Mas Sepuloh: Baba Conversational Gems*.

(1hr 30mins)

Conducted in English.

Understanding Dementia and Using Arts to Connect

Alzheimer's Disease Association (Singapore)

8 Feb 2020, Sat, 5pm

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Play your part in making Singapore a dementia-inclusive community as you learn the signs and symptoms of dementia in this talk. Discover ways to reduce the risk and how art can be used as a communication channel with persons with dementia.

(1hr 30mins)

Conducted in Mandarin.

Tales from Singapore Maps

Mok Ly Yng (Singapore)

9 Feb 2020, Sun, 1pm
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Through significant historical maps, learn more about the development of Singapore from 1819 to the present and discover interesting information about the presence of the Chinese community as recorded in maps and mapping activities in this talk.

(1hr 30mins)
Conducted in Mandarin.

***Qiaopi* – An Untold Story**

Kua Bak Lim (Singapore)

9 Feb 2020, Sun, 5pm
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Early migrants from China went overseas to look for opportunities and to seek a better life, leaving behind families in their home villages. How did they support their loved ones at home and keep in constant contact with them? Through a unique service known as *qiaopi*.

Overseas Chinese remittance houses dealing in the *qiaopi* business reached its prime during the post-war period. What were the historical reasons for the demise of the *qiaopi* industry in Singapore? How is it that *qiaopi* was recognised and registered in the Memory of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) with world heritage status? Let renowned Singapore historian Kua Bak Lim walk you through the untold stories of *qiaopi* through historical images and documents in this talk.

(1hr 30mins)
Conducted in Mandarin.

Esplanade PIP's PLAYbox

Fortune Koi Fish

31 Jan – 9 Feb 2020, 11am – 6pm (Closed for cleaning: 2pm – 3pm daily)

The Koi fish symbolises good fortune and prosperity! Make and bring home your very own Koi fish using craft materials and bring your family good luck!

The Runaway Chopsticks

Brocolily (Cheryl Kjm, Zeeaura & Sharon Sum)
(Singapore)

1 & 2, 8 & 9 Feb 2020, Sat & Sun
11.45am & 4.45pm: Conducted in Mandarin
3.15pm: Conducted in English

What does the legend of the monster Nian have to do with the Chinese New Year? Why do some continue using the chopsticks when there are forks? Cheryl, Zeeaura and Sharon from Brocolily gather over a feast of delicious food and remind each other of the significance behind stories and traditions associated with the festivities. Join Brocolily in *The Runaway Chopsticks*, a musical storytelling session about the true meaning of the Chinese New Year.

(30mins)

PIP's Meet & Greet

1,2,8,9 Feb 2020, Sat & Sun
3.45pm & 5.30pm
Esplanade Concourse

Our ever-lovable PIP will make a special appearance on both weekends, come meet and take photos with PIP!

Esplanade Festival Corner

Meow! Where's the Cat?

Cathy Toi (Singapore)

24 Jan – 9 Feb 2020

Have you ever wondered why the cat is not one of the 12 zodiac animals? Unravel this mystery through a colourful and whimsical installation at the Esplanade Festival Corner!