How have you been coping with the pandemic?

At the start of 2021, with more flexibility while working from home, I decided to commit to a healthier lifestyle and joined a fitness programme. Each 45-min session of High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) left me totally exhausted. But I persevered. Three months later, I found that the dopamine released at the end of every session made me feel cheerier and increased my optimism. I lost some weight in the process too! To keep ourselves going in this pandemic, we have to each find our own way to stay strong—not just physically but mentally.

For those working in the creative and performing arts industries, this pandemic has brought about many “what ifs” and uncertainties: from reduced seating capacities, changing audience priorities, to the lack of resources and restrictive safe management guidelines that complicate the creative process. But we persevered. We must.

Arts institutions and artists persevere not only because creating and presenting the arts is what we do. We are also cognisant that the arts can sensitively and critically reflect the times we live in, and play a part in bringing inspiration, optimism and strength amidst the difficulties. Or at the very least, the arts can entertain and make one laugh, even after a hard day.

And so for this 20th edition of Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts, we bring to you new, original works by Singapore artists (five commissions and a co-production) that delve into what really matters in our lives in times like this.

First and foremost, family bonds. In the original play, Between You and Me, written and directed by Nelson Chia of Nine Years Theatre and featuring a strong cast, a long-buried family secret is unveiled when a celebrated actress and a mother of three daughters come under the spotlight once again after winning a prestigious film award. It is timely that as Nine Years Theatre celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2022, they are commissioned to stage their
first large-scale production at the Esplanade Theatre. Or join Tuan Tuan as she hosts an interactive virtual reunion dinner for family, friends and strangers alike in You’re Invited, a digital production by Artwave commissioned for the festival.

Next, it’s about staying healthy. What would a music concert inspired by traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and Chinese philosophy be like? Hear it for yourself in the newly commissioned work, 5lements by Ding Yi Music Company, Singapore’s leading Chinese chamber music ensemble commemorating its 15th anniversary in 2022.

What’s a healthy lifestyle without mental wellness? Experience the powerful story of a man who keeps a list of all the things that make him happy in his life, in Every Brilliant Thing, written, directed and performed by the talented Oliver Chong and co-produced with The Finger Players. In the newly commissioned Get in Touch – A Theatrical Music Concert featuring pipa artist Gildon Choo and ruan musician Leah Lo, amongst others, we bring audiences on a musical journey that shines a light on mental issues and the importance of feeling connected.

Besides looking from within, we also need to be more aware of our environment and the struggles others are facing in our society. Veteran Singapore theatre practitioner Tan Beng Tian revives Karung Guni Boy, an original production for children, first presented in Esplanade’s PLAYtime! series, that teaches all of us to look out for the people around us. Experience the bittersweet stories of women from different eras fighting against traditional female stereotypes told through the language of dance in If It’s Now, co-produced with Singapore Chinese Dance Theatre.

In addition to these exciting live performances, audiences can also look forward to film screenings of Read Sing Eileen Chang and Reading Dreams, Talking Narratives by Zuni Icosahedron (Hong Kong). In our second iteration of the Dance en Scene series, Esplanade is commissioning well-known Singapore filmmaker Royston Tan to produce a new dance film co-choreographed by Zhuo Zihao and Yarra Ileto.

As we commemorate 20 years of Huayi, we look forward to the festival growing stronger and more meaningful year on year. Our heartfelt thanks go to our Principal Sponsor Knife Cooking Oil, Supporting Sponsor Berries 百力果 and Supporters Polar Premium Drinking Water and The Silent Foundation. We remain grateful to all those who have journeyed with us including our artists and audiences who have supported us and believed in our aim for Huayi to be the pinnacle festival for Chinese artists around the world.

May we inspire and lift each other’s spirits as one community in the Year of the Tiger! WOOHU!

Delvin Lee
Senior Producer
Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts

Last updated: 13 Jan 2022
About Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay

Esplanade is Singapore’s national performing arts centre. It hosts a year-round line-up of about 3,500 live performances and activities presented by Esplanade, its partners and hirers. 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.

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.

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.

Turning 20 in 2022, Esplanade marks the occasion with a year-long celebration themed 20 and Beyond: Keeping the Lights On. In addition to the presentations of its year-long festivals, programme series, and special initiatives and events, there will also be a season of new works by Singapore and Asian artists specially commissioned for the arts centre’s 20th anniversary and official opening of its newest venue, Singtel Waterfront Theatre.

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. Esplanade is Singapore’s first Dementia-Friendly Arts Venue and a certified Dementia Go-To Point, as well as a Guide-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 for more information.

~ End ~

Issued by The Esplanade Co Ltd.

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Annexe

Esplanade Presents

Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts
11 Feb – 6 Mar 2022
www.esplanade.com/huayi

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay invites everyone to explore ways to cope with the pandemic through the arts at its 20th edition of Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts. Held from 11 Feb – 6 Mar 2022, this pinnacle arts 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

Between You and Me
Nine Years Theatre (Singapore)

A long hidden secret rises to the fore—and with it, cracks begin to appear in the familial ties between a mother and her three daughters. Are the bonds between them strong enough to weather this impending crisis?

Forced into retirement due to her ailing health, a veteran film and TV actress finds herself missing the glitz and the attention. These days, actress Lin Li Qing occupies her time thinking up ways to battle boredom, and nagging at her three daughters for not spending enough time with her. The eldest, Shi Qi, is embroiled in a secret divorce; the second daughter, Shi Lin, is a respected stage actress fighting self-doubt and a stagnating career; and the youngest, Shi Jie, tires of her mother’s constant nagging to find a life partner.
In a bolt from the blue, Li Qing wins a prestigious acting award, thrusting her back into the spotlight and also onto the theatre stage with Shi Lin. Staged conflicts become reality as mother and second daughter clash time and again, dredging up decades of hurt and dragging Shi Qi and Shi Jie into a whirlpool of suppressed emotions.

Not long after, the family gathers to celebrate Li Qing’s 70th birthday. Outside, the rain clouds converge ominously…

Celebrating 10 illustrious years, Nine Years Theatre joins hands with Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts once again, to commemorate the festival’s 20th anniversary with the company’s debut production in the Esplanade Theatre. An original play written and directed by award winning local theatre stalwart, Nelson Chia, and featuring a stellar cast of actors such as Goh Guat Kian, Sharon Au, Mia Chee, Jean Ng, Johnny Ng, and Liow Shi Suen, Between You and Me tells the secrets inherent in every family.

(2hr, no intermission)
Performed in Mandarin with some English and Chinese dialect, with English surtitles.

About Nine Years Theatre
Nine Years Theatre (NYT) is a Mandarin theatre company embedded in multicultural Singapore, and it regards Chinese culture as the foundation of its work rather than the centre of its practice. NYT presents mainly Mandarin productions, as well as multilingual and interdisciplinary works occasionally, all with English supertitles. NYT’s work is recognised for being artistically grounded, culturally challenging, for touching on universal themes and care for humanity. Therefore, it has always connected with audiences from diverse backgrounds through its work.

NYT believes in entertaining its audience, but in ways that are honest and meaningful. It hopes to engage audiences beyond performance, and to share knowledge with the larger community. It is invested in engaging in challenging and dialogic partnerships with local and international collaborators in meaningful ways.

A charity with IPC status, Nine Years Theatre is supported by the National Arts Council under the Major Company Scheme for the period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2022.

11 – 13, 18 & 19 Feb 2021, Fri – Sun
Fri & Sat, 8pm | Sun, 3pm
Esplanade Theatre

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

^Esplanade&Me Special
Black: 15% savings  
White: 10% savings  
Discover: 5% savings (limited tickets)

Esplanade&Me Priority Booking: 20 Dec 2021, Mon, 9am onwards.  
Public Booking: 21 Dec 2021, Tue, 9am onwards.
As tiredness takes hold of him, playwright Tang Xianzu wanders into his dreams and encounters his younger self, and the stories of his classic work *Four Dreams in the Camellia Hall*.

*Reading Dreams, Talking Narratives* is an intimate and illuminative film on Kunqu Opera that delves deep into the delicate art and its impassioned artists. Co-produced by iconic Hong Kong theatre company Zuni Icosahedron and the acclaimed Jiangsu Kunqu Opera Theatre, the film documents Jiangsu Kunqu Opera Theatre’s journey in getting *Tang Xianzu’s Dream on Dreams* ready for the stage.

Wandering through the four dreams with Tang Xianzhu—the Ming dynasty playwright hailed as the Shakespeare of the East—and speaking with the Kunqu Opera artists in the production, director Mathias Woo enters the delicate and intricate world of Kunqu Opera, gaining access and familiarity with its impassioned artists.

*Reading Dreams, Talking Narratives* is a film screening presented at the Esplanade Theatre.

(2hrs, no intermission)
Performed in Mandarin and Cantonese, with Traditional Chinese and English subtitles.

Rated PG (Parental Guidance)
Please note that this is a film screening, and not a live performance.
Admission for ages 13 and above.

**About Zuni Icosahedron**
Zuni Icosahedron is an international experimental theatre company and a non-profit charitable cultural organisation. Founded in 1982, it is one of Hong Kong’s nine major professional performing arts companies, with the Hong Kong Cultural Centre as its venue partner since 2009.
As a premier experimental theatre company, Zuni Icosahedron sports an extensive repertoire of more than 200 original alternative theatre productions and multimedia performances. Its team has also been invited to more than 80 cities around the globe for showcases and cultural exchange.

Zuni Icosahedron’s experimental spirit was the catalyst behind its pioneer role in the integration, inheritance and innovation of Chinese and Western art. Strengthened by efforts to promote intercultural and cross-disciplinary collaborations, the company has been supporting generations of new talents who eventually form the backbone of Hong Kong’s creative sectors. This includes cinematography, design, comics and popular media.

The Z Innovation Lab is Hong Kong's first performing arts project to realise creative ideas using the latest theatre technology. This initiative provides a dynamic platform where new talents are nurtured, interdisciplinary insights are shared, and Hong Kong's creative industries are propelled towards sustainable development.

**About Mathias Woo**
As the co-artistic Director cum Executive Director of Zuni Icosahedron, Mathias Woo wears several creative hats as a scriptwriter, director, producer and curator. His theatre productions delve into a wide range of subjects such as literature, history, architecture, religion and ongoing political affairs. Realised through outstanding visuals on stage, they have captured the imaginations of diverse audiences during international tours.

Since 2017, Mathias has been curating and designing the Z Innovation Lab—an initiative that executes innovative ideas using the latest stage technology. The project won the Red Dot Design Award in 2020 and the DFA Design for Asia Awards in 2021.

**20 Feb 2022, Sun, 1.30pm**
Esplanade Theatre

Ticket Price: $18
Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: $14

**Esplanade&Me Special**
Black: 15% savings
White: 10% savings
Discover: 5% savings (limited tickets)

**Esplanade&Me Priority Booking:** 20 Dec 2021, Mon, 9am onwards.
**Public Booking:** 21 Dec 2021, Tue, 9am onwards.
“I am a weird girl. I have always wanted to become a genius.
There was nothing I wanted other than becoming a genius.”

One of China’s most celebrated and influential literary icons of the 20th century, Eileen Chang was a keen observer of modern Chinese urban life who chronicled an era through her passionately unique and progressive writing.

Read Sing Eileen Chang premiered at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre in 2020 as acclaimed Hong Kong theatre company Zuni Icosahedron’s debut live-streaming experiment. Transmuted from page to stage, the production features selections of Eileen Chang’s essays and novels presented through storytelling and song, integrated with creative stage technology.

Read Sing Eileen Chang is brought to life by director Mathias Woo and a team of performers and musicians from Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Beijing, all engaging in a creative experiment of sound, acting and technology. The production combines live performance and technology, blending various traditional and modern forms of storytelling and singing.

Read Sing Eileen Chang is a film screening presented at the Esplanade Theatre.

Texts, photos, illustrations from Eileen Chang’s works
© Roland Soong and Elaine Soong through Crown Culture Corporation

(1hr 40mins, no intermission)
Performed in Mandarin and Cantonese, with Traditional Chinese and English subtitles.

Rated PG (Parental Guidance)
Please note that this is a film screening, and not a live performance.
Admission for ages 13 and above.
There will be a post-show discussion conducted in Chinese after the screening.
This screening is a recording of the performance of *Read Sing Eileen Chang* which was livestreamed in 2020.

**About Zuni Icosahedron**

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Since 2017, Mathias has been curating and designing the Z Innovation Lab—an initiative that executes innovative ideas using the latest stage technology. The project won the Red Dot Design Award in 2020 and the DFA Design for Asia Awards in 2021.

**20 Feb 2022, Sun, 5pm**  
Esplanade Theatre

Ticket Price: $18  
Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: $14

**Esplanade&Me Special**  
Black: 15% savings  
White: 10% savings  
Discover: 5% savings (limited tickets)

**Esplanade&Me Priority Booking: 20 Dec 2021, Mon, 9am onwards.**  
Public Booking: 21 Dec 2021, Tue, 9am onwards.
Singapore’s Mandarin pop music scene has flourished over the years, with many local artists rising to the ranks of regional and international household names. Celebrate this heartening growth with XingPop 2.0—a sequel to the first XingPop concert held as part of Esplanade’s Opening Festival in 2002.

Similar to how its predecessor paid homage to iconic tunes from the ‘80s xinyao era until the early 2000s, XingPop 2.0 traces the creative journeys and innovations of musical trailblazers in the past two decades. Catch the performances of homegrown talents including Olivia Ong, Nathan Hartono, The Freshman, Hong Junyang, Desmond Ng, Ruth Kueo, StellaVee, Nat Wu, Tingzhi Hz and Isaac Yong.

Apart from featured artists, the spotlight will also be cast on “unsung heroes” who have played a pivotal role in placing Singapore on the regional map for Mandarin pop music. These include songwriters, music directors and producers like Lee Si Song, Goh Kheng Long, Jim Lim and Ruth Ling, who will share their experience and insights to shine a light for a new generation of Mandarin pop music talents.

Whether you are an aspiring musician, an ardent supporter of Mandarin pop or a curious observer, hop on the musical bandwagon at XingPop 2.0!

A programme of PopLore, in celebration of Esplanade’s 20th anniversary.
Discover and relive the epic, storied and exhilarating journeys of different generations through homegrown popular music and culture.

(2hrs 15mins, no intermission)
Performed in Mandarin.

12 Feb 2022, Sat, 7.30pm
Esplanade Concert Hall

Ticket Price: $48*, $68^, $88^  
*Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: $40  
Concession for PWDs: $40

^Esplanade&Me Special  
Black: 15% savings
White: 10% savings
Discover: 5% savings (limited tickets)

*Esplanade&Me* Priority Booking: 20 Dec 2021, Mon, 9am onwards.
Public Booking: 21 Dec 2021, Tue, 9am onwards.
An Esplanade Commission

5Elements – A Confluence of Chinese Chamber Music and the Five Elements
Ding Yi Music Company (Singapore)

Ding Yi Music Company presents a world premiere of 5Elements, a Chinese chamber music piece specially written for this concert by renowned composer Tang Jianping, featuring guest cellist Leslie Tan.

The Chinese philosophy of the Five Elements—consisting of Fire, Water, Wood, Metal and Earth—pervades all things in the world we live in. In traditional Chinese music, it is found in the five core musical tones of Gong, Shang, Jiao, Zhi and Yu, which make up the basic pentatonic scale. Similarly, the five elements in Traditional Chinese Medicine correspond to the spleen, lungs, liver, heart and kidneys, affecting our mind and body.

5Elements – A Confluence of Chinese Chamber Music and the Five Elements explores this shared connection between music and the human mind and body in a bold and ground-breaking style. Experience Chinese chamber music in a new way through the Five Elements, showcasing a tightly woven relationship that governs how art can influence us.

This concert is presented under the baton of Creative Director Quek Ling Kiong, and features narration by Bai Ying Wen and direction by Goh Boon Teck.

(1hr, no intermission)
Narrated in Mandarin, with English surtitles.

About Ding Yi Music Company
Established in 2007, Ding Yi Music Company is Singapore’s most prodigious Chinese chamber music ensemble. Its coterie of accomplished Chinese instrumentalists has captivated audiences with their distinctive approach to music-making and dedication to showcasing a vast repertoire that ranges from traditional Chinese music to contemporary interpretations and cross-genre works.
For more information, please visit www.dingyimusic.com.

19 Feb 2022, Sat, 7.30pm
Esplanade Concert Hall

Ticket Price: $38*, $48^  
*Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: $30  
Concessions for PWDs: $30

^Esplanade&Me Special
Black: 15% savings  
White: 10% savings  
Discover: 5% savings (limited tickets)

Esplanade&Me Priority Booking: 20 Dec 2021, Mon, 9am onwards.  
Public Booking: 21 Dec 2021, Tue, 9am onwards.
A theatrical music experience that explores mental wellness and the importance of feeling connected, through a fusion of contemporary jazz and Chinese folk music, and dramatic narration.

In her 30s, despite a passion for singing and playing the lute, B wishes fervently to feel like she’s part of something bigger. She cannot help but feel aimless; opportunities to be connected keep eluding her. As her world comes apart and she faces her inner demons, her life becomes intertwined with the deeply intimate stories of five complete strangers.

As she finds solace, the path to wellness gets more and more illuminated...

Conceptualised by Gildon Choo, *Get in Touch – A Theatrical Music Concert* is an attempt to shine a light on mental health issues, to acknowledge that the mental unravelling of a loved one can be an intensely emotional and confusing journey. This concert features original music and lyrics, lead performers Leah Lo (vocals and *ruan*) and Jiu Jian (vocals and guitar), and an ensemble led and directed by Kailin Yong, with dramaturgy by Jeremiah Choy.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)
Performed in Mandarin, with English surtitles.

**Notice (Updated on 31 Dec 2021)**
Due to personal reasons, Jeremy Koh is unable to perform for *Get in Touch* at Esplanade on 12 & 13 Feb. Jiu Jian will be performing on vocals & guitar instead.

**12 & 13 Feb 2022, Sat & Sun**
**Sat: 2pm & 8pm | Sun: 2pm**
Esplanade Recital Studio

Ticket Price: $38
Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: $30

**Esplanade&Me Special**
Black: 15% savings  
White: 10% savings  
Discover: 5% savings (limited tickets)

**Esplanade&Me Priority Booking:** 20 Dec 2021, Mon, 9am onwards.  
**Public Booking:** 21 Dec 2021, Tue, 9am onwards.
An Esplanade Co-production

Every Brilliant Thing
by Duncan Macmillan, with Jonny Donahoe
Translated, Directed and Performed by Oliver Chong
The Finger Players (Singapore)

“If you live a long life and get to the end of it without ever once having felt crushingly depressed, then you probably haven’t been paying attention.”

When I was seven
I made a list of all the good in the world
Every brilliant thing worth living for
It was a gift for my mother
I hoped she would find a reason to live

A man, a list, a million brilliant things.
A healing journey with me, navigating the struggles of life with abundant laughs.

Following Roots and A Fiend’s Diary, Every Brilliant Thing is Oliver Chong’s next one-man show.

In this new year of 2022, The Finger Players celebrates all that is sweet in the everyday with you.

Synopsis
Following his award-winning Roots and A Fiend’s Diary, Core Team Member of The Finger Players, Oliver Chong’s next one-man show of the year – Every Brilliant Thing.

Every Brilliant Thing follows the journey of a boy’s relentless attempt at preventing his mother from committing suicide with all the good in the world. He shares with an open heart, leading audiences into his life. At times, the audience will be invited to participate by taking on different characters in his story. It is an invitation to its audience to laugh with him, with the weight of life.

Created by contemporary British playwright Duncan Macmillan, with comedian Jonny Donahoe, Every Brilliant Thing has since embarked on a world tour after the nomination for a
Drama Desk Award at its premiere in 2013, and a rapturous reception from audiences and critics alike at the Edinburgh Festival in 2014.

Playwright  Duncan Macmillan (UK)
Translator  Oliver Chong
Director  Oliver Chong
Actor  Oliver Chong

(1hr 20min, no intermission)
Performed in Mandarin, no surtitles.

Admission for ages 16 and above.
Advisory: Contains some references to mental illness and suicide.

Pre-show Important Notice
The performance of Every Brilliant Thing has varying degrees of audience engagement, while still keeping to safe distancing measures. By purchasing a ticket to this performance, you confirm that you agree to being part of this experience. Please arrive 30 minutes before the show for a pre-performance briefing.

About The Finger Players
The Finger Players is Singapore’s leading theatre company, best known for its inventive fusion of puppetry elements into visually arresting productions and its strong advocacy of puppetry.

Founded in 1999, The Finger Players strives to be a centre of research and development for the creation and performance of puppetry in Singapore. The company became the country’s first arts collective to operate on a rotating artistic director model. Each Artistic Director helms the fort for a stipulated tenure, with support from a team of core members who have been integral to The Finger Players since its inception.

The company currently operates three branches, namely the:
1) Main Season
2) International Season
3) Outreach Season.

The Finger Players is a non-profit organisation with Institution of Public Character (IPC) status. The company is also a recipient of the National Arts Council’s Major Grant for the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023, and a member of the Singapore Chinese Language Theatre Alliance.

https://fingerplayers.com/

11 – 13 Feb 2022, Fri – Sun
Fri, 8pm | Sat & Sun, 3pm & 8pm
Esplanade Theatre Studio

Ticket Price: $38
Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: $30

Esplanade&Me Special
Black: 15% savings
White: 10% savings
Discover: 5% savings (limited tickets)

Tickets on sale 13 Jan 2022, Thu, 9am onwards.
Karung Guni Boy
Directed by Tan Beng Tian
Adapted for the stage by Jean Tay (Singapore)

Things come alive around Karung Guni Boy! With the awesome power of his imagination, he can transform everyday objects into fantastical items.

One day, his friendly neighbour gets hurt and cannot get around as easily as before. Can Karung Guni Boy invent something to help her out?

Follow the adventures of Karung Guni Boy, a heart-warming story about learning to care for the world and people around us.

Performed for the first time in Mandarin, with some English, Malay, Tamil and Hokkien. All performances will be interpreted in Singapore Sign Language by a narrator and will have English closed captions. Karung Guni Boy is a theatrical adaptation of Karung Guni Boy by Lorraine Tan and Eric Wong, published by Epigram Books.

This production of Karung Guni Boy, as part of Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts 2022, was created in consultation with The Singapore Association for the Deaf.

Directed by Tan Beng Tian
Adapted for the stage by Jean Tay
Translated by Neo Hai Bin
Produced by Zhang Mingying, Adeline Lee
Production Manager Amy Wee
Set Design by Wong Chee Wai
Lighting Design by Gabriel Chan, assisted by Tai Zifeng
Composition and Sound Design by Stan x Soap
Costume Design by Glenna Ng
Original Puppets and Props by Loo Anni
Puppets and Props by Wabi Metta
Performed by Evelyn Chye, Hang Qian Chou, Padma Sagaram, Sugie Phua & Suhaili Safari
Stage Manager: Ruth Au
Assistant Stage Manager: Patricia Gabriel

All performances of Karung Guni Boy are relaxed. A relaxed performance is a performance that has been adapted in particular ways which make it more accessible for children, including those who are on the autism spectrum, as well as children with sensory or communication conditions or learning disabilities. For more information on relaxed performances, please visit https://www.esplanade.com/accessibility.
An original production by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, presented as part of PLAYtime! in 2021.

(40mins, no intermission)
Performed in Mandarin, English, with some Malay, Tamil and Hokkien. All performances will be narrated in Singapore Sign Language, with English closed captions.

Admission for ages 4 and above.
Recommended for ages 4 to 8.

19 & 20 Feb 2022, Sat & Sun
11am, 2pm & 4pm
Esplanade Theatre Studio

Ticket Price: $25
Tickets have to be bought in pairs.

**Esplanade&Me Special**
PIP’s Club: 10% savings (Limited)
Enjoy savings for 2 or 4 tickets. Terms & conditions apply.

**Esplanade&Me Priority Booking:** 20 Dec 2021, Mon, 9am onwards.
**Public Booking:** 21 Dec 2021, Tue, 9am onwards.
An Esplanade Co-production
If It's Now
Singapore Chinese Dance Theatre (Singapore)

If we were to traverse the paths of the past, would we be happier?
If we were to attempt what was done in the past, would things turn out differently?

If It’s Now by Singapore Chinese Dance Theatre (SCDT) is inspired by the many bittersweet stories of women from different eras and the labels that they have borne, and the work explores the journey of women through time.

Co-choreographed by acclaimed dance practitioners Neo Jenny and Benedict Soh, Artistic Director and Creative Director respectively of SCDT, If It’s Now reflects on the role and identity of a woman through an exploration of traditional female stereotypes and a celebration of femininity. The past and present meet in a showcase of classical Chinese dance and an evolving contemporary style that is a hallmark of SCDT.

(45mins, no intermission)
Narrated in Mandarin, no surtitles.
Admission for ages 13 and above.
No latecomer entry or re-entry for this performance.

About Singapore Chinese Dance Theatre
Singapore Chinese Dance Theatre (SCDT) was incorporated in 2014 as a professional dance company, with the mission to promote Chinese dance of artistic and creative excellence. Led by Artistic Director Neo Jenny, SCDT plays a vital role in developing and exploring Chinese dance identity in Singapore.

In addition to local performing arts events, the company also showcases its works and participates in exchange opportunities on overseas platforms. Its performances are met with acclamation in countries such as China, South Korea, Vietnam and Indonesia.
SCDT is also committed to presenting engaging performances, nurturing promising talents and making Chinese dance more accessible to the broader community. These efforts contribute to a vibrant performing arts scene in Singapore.

About Singapore Chinese Dance Theatre Artistic Director Neo Jenny
Neo Jenny began her dance journey at the Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan Arts and Cultural Troupe under her mother’s tutelage. She received a training grant and scholarship from the National Arts Council and the Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan to further her professional training at the Beijing Dance Academy. This is followed by a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Dance at LASALLE College of the Arts in 2009.

Jenny currently leads Singapore Chinese Dance Theatre as the Artistic Director to promote Chinese dance through artistic and creative excellence. She also teaches Chinese dance modular classes and choreographs works in Lasalle – College of the Arts and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. She was appointed as the Principal Tutor of the National University of Singapore (Chinese dance) in 2020. One of her best works include The Wilderness — a 35-minute dance drama that won the Gold award at the 2017 Vietnam International Dance Festival. Her recent work Phases – Within our control was presented at the Esplanade in 2021.

About Singapore Chinese Dance Theatre Creative Director Benedict Soh Kian Leng
Benedict is trained in both Chinese classical and contemporary dance under the mentorship of renowned dance choreographer and educator Ng Chay Kuang. He continues to hone his choreographic skills with acclaimed dance practitioners like Helen Herbertson and Don Asker throughout his career as a performer, educator and choreographer.

He holds a Master of Fine Arts with First Class Honours majoring in Choreography from the University of Melbourne (Victorian College of the Arts).

With more than 20 years of professional experience, Benedict has a flair for creating works that are original, visually arresting and resonating with the audience. A notable work of his is the 2008 Metamorphosis, which won the first place and Best Choreography and Contemporary Dance title at the 12th Europe New Prague Dance Festival. He has also been credited as the Creative Director and Resident choreographer of Dance Horizon Troupe since 2001, contributing more than 20 works and two full-length features to the company’s repertoire.

18 – 20 Feb 2022, Fri – Sun
Fri, 5pm & 8pm | Sat, 2pm, 5pm & 8pm | Sun, 2pm & 5pm
Esplanade Annexe Studio

Ticket Price: $38
Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: $30

Esplanade&Me Special
Black: 15% savings
White: 10% savings
Discover: 5% savings (limited tickets)

Esplanade&Me Priority Booking: 20 Dec 2021, Mon, 9am onwards.
Public Booking: 21 Dec 2021, Tue, 9am onwards.
Step into the shoes of both contemporary and traditional artisans, by making your own rubber stamps at this beginner-level workshop with Drool Stamps!

As the illustrator and maker behind Drool Stamps, Rachel Ma is known for her enthralling ability to transform the seemingly mundane yet richly nostalgic snapshots of our lives into thoughtful rubber stamps. Workshop participants can look forward to learning about traditional seal carving elements inspired by her conversations with veteran seal carver Lee Boon Chye.

Capture the magic of daily life with your personalised rubber stamp in this therapeutic craft workshop!

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)
Conducted in English.
Admission for ages 13 and above.

About Huayi’s documentary-workshop series, Rekindle
This craft workshop is part of Huayi’s inaugural documentary-workshop experience, which delves into traditional Chinese crafts and their surprising connections to the more familiar contemporary trends of today.

A short documentary was commissioned to uncover the stories of traditional artisans and the sunset industries that they have dedicated their lives to. Depicted through the lens of a young contemporary artist, it aims to invoke dialogue on how we can rekindle the legacy of traditions that have laid dormant or remain unknown. This line of inquiry is strengthened by the complimentary onsite workshop.
Enrich your stamp carving workshop experience by tuning in to the conversations between Rachel Ma and Lee Boon Chye in Rekindle: Carving the Self. The former is the illustrator and rubber stamp maker behind Drool Stamps, and the latter is a veteran seal carver of Chinatown Seal Carving Souvenir – the last seal carving shop in Singapore.

Watch the short documentary, premiering 13 Jan 2022, 4pm on Esplanade Offstage.

About Drool Stamps
Rachel Ma is the illustrator and stamp maker behind Drool Stamps. What began as a childhood interest in carving images out of erasers eventually evolved into an artistic haven and online business where she designs, draws and carves her own rubber stamps. Drawing inspiration from her faith, conversations with people and beauty of the everyday, Rachel’s creations reimagine a better world and introduce a sense of playfulness into the humdrum of daily life.

12 & 13 Feb 2022, Sat & Sun, 1pm & 5pm
Esplanade Rehearsal Studio
(Meet at Theatre Studio entrance, Level 4, 15mins before start time.)

Ticket Price: $28
Esplanade&Me Priority Booking: 20 Dec 2021, Mon, 9am onwards.
Public Booking: 21 Dec 2021, Tue, 9am onwards.
Chinese Traditional Motifs Stencilling Workshop with tobyato
(Singapore)

What is the significance behind the dragons, phoënixes and tigers that adorn the backdrops and panels of traditional Chinese street opera? Uncover their symbolism through time as they continue to appear in art murals and fashion of today, and incorporate them within your own tote bag design in this workshop with tobyato!

Tobyato will be sharing the compelling stories of traditional motifs gleaned from his conversations with veteran Chinese street opera backdrop painter Leong Fong Hwa. These insights and inspirations will be integrated within his Huayi-exclusive stencil designs, which you will get to complete and personalise your own tote bag with. Bring home a design that celebrates the old and new, and one that represents you!

About Huayi’s documentary-workshop series, Rekindle
This craft workshop is part of Huayi’s inaugural documentary-workshop experience, which delves into traditional Chinese crafts and their surprising connections to the more familiar contemporary trends of today.

A short documentary was commissioned to uncover the stories of traditional artisans and the sunset industries that they have dedicated their lives to. Depicted through the lens of a young contemporary artist, it aims to invoke dialogue on how we can rekindle the legacy of traditions that have laid dormant or remain unknown. This line of inquiry is strengthened by the complimentary onsite workshop.

Join contemporary illustrator and street artist Toby Tan (tobyato) as he chats about traditional Chinese motifs with Leong Fong Hwa in Rekindle: Enters the Dragon. Leong Fong Hwa is a second-generation owner of Leong Shin Hwa Art Studio — one of the last few shops that produces backdrops and panels for Chinese street opera performances in Singapore.
Watch the short documentary, premiering 18 Jan 2022, 4pm, on Esplanade Offstage.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)
Conducted in English.
Admission for ages 13 and above.

**About tobyato**
Toby Tan, better known as tobyato, is an illustrator and visual artist of many mediums. From sprawling murals to digital graphics to brand collaborations, his artworks often depict bold renderings of traditional Chinese motifs which reflect his personality and roots. A lover of street culture, he has been building a portfolio of works commissioned by the likes of G-SHOCK, Shake Shack, Levi’s and Asics among others.

**19 & 20 Feb 2022, Sat & Sun, 1pm & 5pm**
Esplanade Rehearsal Studio
(Meet at Theatre Studio entrance, Level 4, 15mins before start time.)

Ticket Price: $28

*Esplanade&Me Priority Booking: 20 Dec 2021, Mon, 9am onwards.*
*Public Booking: 21 Dec 2021, Tue, 9am onwards.*
“Behind each face in the theatre are decades of struggle and searching. These four stories faced the past with a warmth, humour and grace that could only have been derived from a lifetime on the stage.” – The Straits Times

Revisit the trials and triumphs of four veteran actors in *All the world is one’s stage*. First presented live during *Huayi 2021*, this year’s digital screening enriches the experience of the original through illuminating camera angles and exclusive backstage footages. Familiar faces on stage and screen, Yong Ser Pin, Liow Shi Suen, Johnny Ng and Ong Teck Lian have dedicated their lives to their art, wrestling with their dreams and struggles. Yet they have always exuded the values of love, respect, passion and resilience. What keeps them going all these years, and what inspiring stories can we unearth from their lives, both in and outside of the theatre?

From the humble back stages of school productions, to the centrestage of roaring applause in grand halls, a veteran actor recounts how his love for the arts was ignited, and steadily kindled through the different chapters of his life.

An advertising apprentice stumbles into a theatre; it is love at first sight – what makes him want to dedicate his entire being to pursue a new career of performing?

A university schoolgirl daydreams of perfection, or is she in truth yearning for peace of mind? As she looked into her heart for guidance, others around begin to lean in to listen to her soulful voice.

A teacher’s passion for acting shines through, she cherishes each moment she lives on stage. It is a dream she yearns for all her life, as she constantly struggles to find a balance between her love for her work, family expectations and the magic created on stage.
All the world is one’s stage is an Esplanade Commission, directed by Goh Boon Teck alongside co-directors Alvin Chiam and Ric Liu. Produced by Toy Factory Productions, this captivating performance of heartfelt life-stories features a celebrated cast of acclaimed veterans Yong Ser Pin, Liow Shi Suen, Johnny Ng and Ong Teck Lian, together with talented actors Timothy Wan, Neo Hai Bin, Jodi Chan and Liew Li Ting. It is a window into Singapore’s past, and a look at what the future might hold, off and on the stage.

(1hr 40mins, no intermission)
Performed in Mandarin, with English subtitles.

Premieres on 13 Jan 2022, Thu, 5pm (Available online until 6 Mar 2022, Sun, 11.59pm)
Online: SISTIC Live
Log in to SISTIC Live to watch video up to 3 times only.

Ticket price: $15

Esplanade&Me Special
Black: 15% savings
White: 10% savings
Discover: 5% savings

Esplanade&Me Priority Booking: 20 Dec 2021, Mon, 9am onwards.
Public Booking: 21 Dec 2021, Tue, 9am onwards.
The Universe According to Niu – Puppetry Production for Children

Paper Monkey Theatre (Singapore)

The Universe According to Niu returns to inspire the little ones on screen! Featuring an array of lively characters captured from different camera angles, this digital screening makes for a memorable adventure for all in the family.

There was once a corrupt kingdom where rich fools can become court officials through bribery. An intelligent young man, Niu, realised this injustice when he failed his exam despite getting all the answers right.

One day, the country was attacked by a neighbouring land but none of the officials had any solutions to thwart this invasion. Will Niu be disheartened by his failure to become a court official or will he use his intelligence to turn the tide in favour for his beloved kingdom?

Follow Niu as he learns about courage, resilience and the importance of doing the right thing at the right time. The Universe According to Niu is told through a mix of modern and traditional Chinese puppetry and keeps young audiences enthralled as they find out what it takes to soldier on. The young ones will also learn more about Ox-related Chinese idioms in a fun and engaging way.

Psst! Can you spot three Ox-related idioms hidden in the illustration?

(45mins, no intermission)
Performed in Mandarin, with English subtitles.

About Paper Monkey Theatre
Nestled in the lush greenery of Goodman Arts Centre lies Paper Monkey Theatre, where we create theatre productions and workshops infused with puppetry for children and family entertainment, encourage artistic development and enrich learning experiences. The company is formed in April 2008 and helmed by well-known puppeteer/playwright in Singapore, Benjamin Ho, with a vision to create a platform for lasting, meaningful theatrical experiences for both children and adults in Asia.

Premieres on 13 Jan 2022, Thu, 5pm (Available online until 6 Mar, Sun, 11.59pm)
Online: SISTIC Live
Log in to SISTIC Live to watch video up to 3 times only.

Ticket price: $10

**Esplanade&Me Special**
Black: 15% savings
White: 10% savings
Discover: 5% savings

**Esplanade&Me** Priority Booking: 20 Dec 2021, Mon, 9am onwards.
Public Booking: 21 Dec 2021, Tue, 9am onwards.
FREE PROGRAMMES

Celebrate the Chinese New Year with us as Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts brings you a host of free performances and activities both online and live at Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay. Join us for a huat opening with spirit-lifting drums and energetic lion dance performance at our festival opening on 11 Feb 2022!

Online Programmes

An Esplanade Commission
You’re Invited
Artwave (Singapore)

Like everyone, Tuan Tuan lives in a world of constant change. All facets of her life – including the physical, social and environmental – is in flux. Amidst these disorientating changes, she has now decided to host a virtual reunion dinner for family, friends, and strangers alike.

Explore how traditions can adapt to the tides of change in a mindful, connected and sustainable way in Artwave's interactive online experience You’re Invited. From sitting through her aunt's persistent questions about her relationship status to learning about sustainability sourced ingredients from the wet market, let Tuan Tuan invite you into her world, and share yours at this virtual reunion dinner table.

(40mins, no intermission)
Performed and conducted in English, Mandarin with some dialects.
Recommended for ages 12 and above.

About Artwave
Artwave is an audio content house that creates meaningful encounters in sustainability, wellness and the arts. The team comprises creative writers, voiceover artists, sound designers and audio engineers assembled to produce original podcasts and novel audio-first experiences.
Notable projects by Artwave include Podscape made in collaboration with Shophouse and Co for National Arts Council’s Arts in Your Neighbourhood, A Call Away for Singapore Writers Festival 2020 and a creative guide to soulful reset for frankie’s seven-day virtual retreat. Their latest immersive audio adventure series Blind Diving gathers the stories of Southeast Asian divers in partnership with Coastal Natives.

Advisory:
- Due to the nature of the performance, each individual can register for only 1 ticket per transaction. For group registrations, please have individual members register for their own ticket on SISTIC.
- This performance will be hosted on video chat platform Gather Town. Gather Town is best viewed on a desktop using Chrome or Firefox web browser.
- Please arrive and enter Gather Town at least 15 minutes before the start of the show.
- Late comers will be admitted at a suitable break in the performance.
- Make sure your microphone and webcam are working and are turned on at the start of the performance.
- Earpieces/headphones are recommended.
- If you encounter technical difficulties, please email hello@artwave.studio or Telegram @studioartwave for assistance.

13, 16 – 19 Feb 2022, Sun, Wed – Sat, 8.30pm
Online: SISTIC Live

Free, by registration (Fully Registered)

*Esplanade&Me Priority Registration: 20 Dec 2021, Mon, 9am onwards.*
*Public Registration: 21 Dec 2021, Tue, 9am onwards.*
Debuting at Huayi last year, *Dance en Scene* returns with commissioned films from Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan, featuring dance journeys that explore our multifaceted identities and renewed traditions.

**About Dance en Scene**

Dance films, a coming together of two art forms that empowers dance artists and filmmakers alike to rethink movements and transform storytelling. For the second year in running, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay joins hands with various arts centres in the region through *Dance en Scene*, an initiative to partner art centres who are dedicated to commissioning dance films that invite artists to find inspiration from sites or themes of meanings and significance, celebrating the diversity of culture and artmaking of Chinese artists living in different cities.

*Dance en Scene* features four films:

- *Half*, commissioned by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay (Singapore)
- *The Body of Forking Paths*, commissioned by National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) (Taiwan)
- *To Whom It May Concerned*, commissioned by National Taichung Theater (Taiwan)
- *A Long Walk*, commissioned by Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts (Hong Kong)

**An Esplanade Commission**

**Half**

Director: Royston Tan
Co-choreographer & Dancer: Zhuo Zihao
Co-choreographer: Yarra Ileto
Composer & Sound Design: Chong Li-Chuan
Producer: Chuan Pictures
Duration: Approximately 10mins

What happens if your reflection breaks free from you? What will it do and where will it go?

*Half* is an explosive and intimate dance portrait of a dancer and his reflection. The film offers a fusion of film and dance by incorporating movements within the image. Through this, it also explores the idea of having multi-faceted layers within the self.

*Half* is directed by critically acclaimed local director Royston Tan and produced by Chuan Pictures, in collaboration with co-choreographer and dancer Zhuo Zihao, co-choreographer Yarra Ileto as well as composer and sound designer Chong Li Chuan.

*Half* is a dance film commissioned by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay. It is presented as part of *Dance en Scene* by Esplanade, in partnership with National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) (Taiwan), National Taichung Theater (Taiwan) and Tai Kwun - Centre for Heritage and Arts (Hong Kong).

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**The Body of Forking Paths**
Commissioned by National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) (Taiwan)
Curator: Miru Xiumuyi
Choreographer: Chou Shu-yi
Director: Maurice Lai
Music Designer: Wang Yu-jun

One is bound to face many unknown “forks” of fate along the path of life, hence the body manifests in multiple forms in this journey. At this moment, the paths of “contemporary Taiwanese indigenous people”—whether dwelling in their tribes or in cities—are caught in the fractures and disassociation of this era.

In addition to preserving traditions and legends, new narratives are also being constructed. This is much like the native seeds of mountain flora, which take root and sprout locally before dispersing to blossom in different places. Some are even replanted to grow in distant foreign lands. Their stems and leaves mingle and interlace, forming maps of the body that are conflicting yet harmonious and enriched with life.

*The Body of Forking Paths* is a dance film commissioned by National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) (Taiwan). It is presented as part of *Dance en Scene* by Esplanade, in
partnership with National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) (Taiwan), National Taichung Theater (Taiwan) and Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts (Hong Kong).

To Whom It May Concern
Commissioned by National Taichung Theater (Taiwan)
Producer/Choreographer: Peculiar Man
Film Director: Good Things Happening Film Studio / Wu Hsiao-Lu
Producer: Les Petites Choses Production
Duration: Approximately 15mins

To Whom It May Concern can be likened to a note that records fragments of life and is thrown into the river of time. It travels toward the future, waiting for someone to pick it up and read it to connect other chapters of the story.

Peculiar Man observed the daily lives of Les Petites Choses Production members from the perspective of a creator. This collaborative process, which took place both in-person and online, enabled Peculiar Man to compose each person’s passions, frustrations and idiosyncrasies into portraits and respond to the surroundings via body movement. Through the reinterpretation of Good Things Happening Films Studio and director Wu Hsiao Lu, a poetic and detached approach is adopted to portray intimate moments that are either absurd and noisy or lonely and quiet.

To Whom It May Concern is a dance film commissioned by National Taichung Theater (Taiwan). It is presented as part of Dance en Scene by Esplanade, in partnership with National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) (Taiwan), National Taichung Theater (Taiwan) and Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts (Hong Kong).
A Long Walk
Commissioned by Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts (Hong Kong)
Co-directors: Elysa Wendi and Lee Wai Shing
Artist: Ong Yong Lock
Producer: Unlock Dancing Plaza

“This is a long winding road of darkness, where light only shines at the very end—as it is with creative forces; as it is in life.”

Since his arrival in the 1980s, Ong Yong Lock has taken root in Hong Kong and grown inseparable with dance. The ebbs and flows of his 30-year career are always met with intense dedication to performances, choreography and teaching. In spite of the long winding road in the long dark night, he starts racing on this path again—perhaps for the very last time.

A Long Walk is a dance film commissioned by Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts (Hong Kong). It is presented as part of Dance en Scene by Esplanade, in partnership with National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) (Taiwan), National Taichung Theater (Taiwan) and Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts (Hong Kong).

Premieres on 11 Feb 2022, Fri, 5pm (Available online until 6 Mar 2022, Sun, 11.59pm)
Online: Esplanade Offstage

Free
Sway along to music by emerging singer-songwriters and tune in to their candid conversations at in::music online!

Presented in partnership with UFM 100.3 and hosted by DJs Cheng Yao and Wei Long, get acquainted with newcomers in the regional scene on Facebook Live. This includes Taiwanese band Bestards, China indie-pop princess Cacien, homegrown singer-songwriter Ben Hum and Penang-born singer-songwriter Colbie Ong.

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

About Bestards
Bestards is a Taiwanese band comprising four members: lead vocalist Kidding Chiu, drummer and vocalist Look Lu, as well as guitarists Dillion Lee and Jerry Kuo. Formed in 2017 as a campus band, the Taipei-based group hopes to spread positivity and encourage people to chase their dreams through music. Their guitar-led ballad Rain or Shine garnered an impressive 9 million views on Youtube. Later, their 2020 debut album The Fool topped the charts at various digital streaming platforms and received positive reviews by music critics. The band has also been invited to perform at prominent music festivals such as Simple Life Festival, Roving Nation Festival and KKBOX Turn Up Fest. The band is currently preparing for their second album which is slated to launch in early 2022.

About Cacien
Cacien, who also goes by the moniker Garlica Princess, is a 22-year-old singer-songwriter and rapper. Born and raised in Shenzhen, China, she began making and releasing music on different music streaming platforms as a teenager. The performance of her original song Spiicy on Chinese reality show Girls Like Us left the public dazzled. Infusing twisted pop, funky jazz, and hip hop, Cacien unlocks her own Garlicky world while asserting unapologetic charisma and confidence.

About Ben Hum
Hailing from Singapore, Ben Hum is a singer-songwriter with a penchant for telling genuine stories through his music. An avid music performer since 2013, the artist has performed at numerous notable venues in Singapore and garnered a significant following. Greatly inspired
by real life experiences, he graces every live performance with a strong stage presence and charisma that draw first time listeners back. Armed with big dreams and plenty of energy to spare, Ben seeks to positively influence society and connect with like-minded individuals. He is no doubt well on his way to becoming one of the most exciting up and coming acts in Asia.

**About Colbie Ong**

Born in Penang, Colbie Ong participated in the televised talent show *The Ultimate Song 2* at the age of 22, and won the runner-up position with her first original *Pinky Swear*. One of her competition songs *D2B* was also favoured by Taiwanese singer-songwriter Evan Yo, who eventually included it in his album. In the same year, Colbie became a singer-songwriter under the agency Super Fun Entertainment, serving as a production assistant in many televised talent competitions and learning music production from industry veterans Al Kuan and Clement Siow. Her original works were successively adopted by singers such as Z-Chen, Mei Sim and Lim Wen Suen. At the end of 2020, she released her first debut album *C for Cat*.

(1hr 30min)
Performed in Mandarin.

**Live stream on 13 Feb, Sun, 8.30pm**
(Available online until 6 Mar 2022, Sun, 11.59pm)
Huayi Huat Opening!
Yiwei Athletic Association, Jonathan Rao, Calista Liaw and Gin Lam (Singapore)

Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts 2022 kicks off with a breathtaking lion dance performance on high poles by the award-winning Yiwei Athletic Association! This is followed by an exuberant showcase of contemporary arrangements with traditional instruments, paired with the dynamic moves of street dance.

(45min)

11 Feb 2022, Fri, 7.15pm
(Also livestreamed, available online until 6 Mar, Sun, 11.59pm)

Esplanade Outdoor Theatre & Online
Strings Meet Street  
Jonathan Rao, Calista Liaw and Gin Lam (Singapore)

Be intrigued by the exciting crossover between Chinese strings and street dance! Follow the multifaceted conversations between traditional instruments and pop music, contemporary movements and time-honoured steps.

(30mins)

11 Feb 2022, Fri  
7.30pm* & 9pm  
(*7.30pm: As part of Huayi Huat Opening! Also available online until 6 Mar, Sun, 11.59pm)

Esplanade Outdoor Theatre & Online
Where is Spring?
The Shanghai Jazz Club (Singapore)

Spring—the harbinger of hope for better times returns again. But where is it really? Join The Shanghai Jazz Club as the band sings away the wintry blues and ushers in the good times for Chinese New Year with classic Shanghai jazz tunes.

About The Shanghai Jazz Club
The Shanghai Jazz Club, with its dedication to the nostalgia of yesteryear inspired by the original Shanghai Peace Hotel, performs special arrangements of tunes popularised by the golden voices of 1930s China. Since its founding in 2013 by Singaporean composer Felix Phang, the band has played to full houses at the former Sing Jazz Club, Montreux Jazz Cafe, Esplanade along with festivals across Singapore and abroad. The band performs as a quintet fronted by Jazz Association Scholar, LASALLE Award for Academic Excellence recipient and Mandarin Pop-Jazz crossover vocalist Dawn Wong.

(45mins)

Performed in Mandarin.
12 Feb 2022, Sat, 7.30pm* & 9pm
(*Also livestreamed, available online until 6 Mar, Sun, 11.59pm)
Esplanade Outdoor Theatre & Online
Blossom by blossom, spring awakens. As fresh green buds unfurl from beneath the soil, the dancers of Hwa Chong Alumni Association – Dance Club bring you Songs of Spring—a celebration of new beginnings and hope through seven items in a variety of dance styles.

About Hwa Chong Alumni Association – Dance Club
Established in 2019, Hwa Chong Alumni Association – Dance Club aspires to bring together and connect Hwa Chong Alumni through a shared passion for dance. Under the Artistic Direction of Mdm Chen Lili, Hwa Chong Alumni Association – Dance Club’s repertoire ranges across traditional, contemporary and ethnic Chinese Dance and continues to expand to other genres.

(45mins)

13 Feb 2022, Sun, 7.30pm* & 9pm
(*Also livestreamed, available online until 6 Mar, Sun, 11.59pm)
Esplanade Outdoor Theatre & Online
Groove with Morse
Morse Percussion (Singapore)

Dive into a world of rhythm, sound and groove with Morse Percussion. Let the group captivate you with their exhilarating performance of Chinese, Western and ethnic instruments.

About Morse Percussion
Morse Percussion is a contemporary classical percussion group formed by like-minded percussionists with an adventurous and eclectic taste for the instrument.

Having recently performed to a sold-out audience at the Esplanade Concert Hall during the Singapore Festival of Arts 2021, Morse Percussion is also an ardent supporter of commissioning Singaporean works. The organisation has worked with award-winning local composers such as Phang Kok Jun, Cheng Jin Koh, along with five more commissioned works that will be premiered in 2022.

Through exquisite and exhilarating performances, Morse Percussion hopes to inspire, educate, and cultivate interest in classical percussion, and become Singapore’s first professional percussion group characterised by musical diversity and excellence.

(45mins)

18 Feb 2022, Fri, 7.30pm* & 9pm
(*Also livestreamed, available online until 6 Mar, Sun, 11.59pm)
Esplanade Outdoor Theatre & Online
We are Singer-songwriters! • Chen Yi
(Singapore)

Experience an evening of songs revolving around the theme of love, separation, reconciliation, hope and beauty in different musical styles. Audiences will get to hear emotional ballads and fusion music that marries classical western opera with popular music in Chen Yi’s composition featuring poetic text.

About Chen Yi
Chen Yi has over a decade of experience as a professional musician and choir director before her transition to a singer-songwriter pop star and entrepreneur. Her classical foundation is both apparent yet surprising in versatility, as she tells her story of acceptance and empowerment through music.

(40mins)
Performed in Mandarin.

19 Feb 2022, Sat, 7.30pm
(Also livestreamed, available online until 6 Mar, Sun, 11.59pm)
Esplanade Outdoor Theatre & Online
We are Singer-songwriters! • Zadon
(Singapore)

Catch Zadon in this special showcase where he performs his R&B-tinged hip hop bangers and a few of his upcoming singles. Don’t miss the electrifying performance by this multi-talented singer-songwriter and music producer!

**About Zadon**
Zadon is a Singaporean Mandarin R&B and hip hop recording artist, producer and songwriter. He has written and produced songs for numerous campaigns and artists in the region. A notable example is his role as one of the composers for *Frontline Soldiers*—the theme song for Singaporean hit movie *Ah Boys to Men 4*. He also composed *Fix You & Me*, which was performed by Filipino songstress Kayla Alvarez and won the 2019 Wish 107.5 Music Awards’ R&B SONG OF THE YEAR. Some of the artists whom he has produced and written for include Tosh Rock, Wang Weiliang, Sam Rui, Li Shuo, Jayley and Hayley Woo.

Zadon released his Mandarin single *Adios* in July 2017. This was followed by a red-hot collaboration *You’re Perfect* with rapper Tosh Rock in 2018 which picked up steam on Singapore’s Chinese radio stations and music streaming platforms.

(40mins)
Performed in Mandarin.

**19 Feb 2022, Sat, 9.15pm**
(Also livestreamed, available online until 6 Mar, Sun, 11.59pm)
**Esplanade Outdoor Theatre & Online**
Trending Hits
Juni Goh & Khim Ng (Singapore)

Let vocal powerhouses Juni Goh and Khim Ng from Music & Drama Company dazzle you with trending Mandopop hits! Backed by the E Sharps—with Ann Gie on keys, Bom on drums, Matin on guitar and Xanthus on bass—expect hits from regional artists like A-Lin and GEM, as well as homegrown talent like Huang Yida.

About Juni Goh & Khim Ng
Passionate and professional, Juni is an all-rounded entertainer. He is a vocalist, stage actor and bilingual emcee best known for his role as the lead singer of award-winning Singaporean vocal band MICappella. In 2017, Juni stepped out of his comfort zone to participate in the Singapore-Malaysia edition of singing reality competition television show The Voice and was mentored by coach Sky Wu. From Singapore Indoor Stadium to international stages in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Juni is no stranger to the media, and has seen and sung it all.

Known as a powerhouse singer, Khim started performing at a young age of 13 when she participated in Singapore reality television singing competition Campus Superstar in 2006. Despite being the youngest contestant, her husky and powerful voice left a great impression on the judges. In 2017, Khim joined China’s reality television talent show Sing! China, where her powerful vocal caught the attention of coaches—Eason Chan and Na Ying. She eventually chose the former as her coach.

Both Juni and Khim joined the Music & Drama Company as full-time artists and participated in various events such as the 2020 IMC Online Charity Concert and 2021 NDPeeps livestream show. They were also talent-spotted by 883JIA to be the main hosts for the radio programme Backstage Pass with MDC.

(45mins)
Performed in Mandarin.

20 Feb 2022, Sun, 7.30pm* & 9pm
(Also livestreamed, available online until 6 Mar, Sun, 11.59pm)
Esplanade Outdoor Theatre & Online
Enjoy an evening of festive, emotive and virtuosic music presented by a trio with a shared dedication to musical and cultural integration. Featuring Rit Xu on flute, Mohamed Noor on percussions and Nicholas Lee on bass, be inspired by their friendship and common passion for shaping spontaneous music into coherent and beautiful sounds.

**About Rit Xu**
Singapore-based flautist, composer, educator and recording artist Rit Xu is a leading light of his generation. He is slowly gaining international recognition for his lyrical, introspective and distinct performances on the flute. His passionate, wholehearted and at times highly energetic showcases have won the admiration of fans and fellow musicians worldwide. In 2014, Rit’s finesse as a flautist and improviser was recognised when he became the first Southeast Asian to win the solo NFA Jazz Artist Competition in the United States.

**About Mohamed Noor**
Mohamed Noor is a drummer, percussionist and composer. As one of the most recognised and sought-after percussion performers in the region, he has collaborated with many artists on both a local and international scale over his decades-long career.

**About Nicholas Lee**
Nicholas is an active session bass player in the Singapore music scene, playing all genres from pop to funk to jazz fusion. A few of the notable artists whom he has played with include Mark Lettieri, Adam Hawley, Henk Kraaijeveld, Q-sound, Rit Xu, The Sam Willows and Andrew Chen. Nicholas is part of experimental fusion band ColdCut Quartet, and released an EP with the band in 2018. He is also part of the SMSband, which was recently formed to create awareness on the vast talent in Singapore’s music scene whilst putting their own spin on it.

(30mins)
Performed in English and Mandarin.

**11 Feb 2022, Fri, 7.15pm, 8.15pm & 9.15pm**
Esplanade Concourse
Gather Your Kakis!
Chamber Kakis (Singapore)

Friends share an indescribable bond, and what better way is there to showcase such camaraderie than through music? Follow this group of kakis as they present a diverse repertoire of Chinese music classics and reimaginings of them. Be inspired by their compelling synergy!

About Chamber Kakis
To the members of Chamber Kakis, the joy of music extends beyond explorations of different sounds and textures. The art form is also a common thread that interweaves memories of their youth, and a harbour that they can retreat to in times of flux.

Formed in 2014 by a team of Chinese music enthusiasts, Chamber Kakis is united by its members’ love of merrymaking and ensemble music. The group has performed in venues such as Esplanade Outdoor Theatre, Singapore Conference Hall and Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre. It has also premiered multiple works from local youth composers.

(30mins)

12 Feb 2022, Sat, 5.15pm, 6.15pm & 7.15pm
Esplanade Concourse
Poetic Harmony  
Liong Kit Yeng & Friends (Singapore)

Join composer Liong Kit Yeng and singers Eleanor Tan, Sunny Yang, Andy Yew and David Tao for an evening of evergreen tunes sung in harmony, as well as original art songs based on the works of Singaporean poets Dan Ying and Tan Chee Lay.

**About Liong Kit Yeng**

Liong Kit Yeng’s career spans the arts, broadcasting and education. As a composer, her works have been commissioned and performed by Singapore Chinese Orchestra, Ding Yi Music Company, Singapore Youth Festival’s Arts Presentations as well as choirs in Malaysia and Taiwan. Her position as the Assistant Conductor and Composer-in-Residence for The Purple Symphony has also seen her leading Singapore’s largest inclusive orchestra ensemble for musicians with and without disabilities at the 2017 National Day Parade, the 2018 True Colours Festival and Esplanade’s *In Youthful Company 2021*. A familiar face at Esplanade’s *Beautiful Sunday*, she has been a bilingual emcee at the monthly concert series for more than a decade.

(30mins)
Performed in Mandarin.

**13 Feb 2022, Sun, 5.15pm, 6.15pm & 7.15pm**
Esplanade Concourse
This concert by talented musicians from the group 25 Strings spotlights two instruments under the Chinese Orchestra's plucked string family—the guzheng and the zhongruan. The ensemble comprises winners from the Singapore Chinese Music Competition and Nanyang International Music Competition (Guzheng and Zhongruan Solo Category). Look forward to stirring renditions of various hit songs such as *Upwards to the Moon*, *Don't Ask To Return* and more!

**About 25 Strings**

25 Strings was formed in 2017 by Tan Su-Min, Clara and Tan Su-Hui, Sophy, who aim to raise awareness of Chinese instrumental music through education and performance. They believe in providing a well-balanced and holistic education that nurtures passionate learners with strong fundamentals, creative thinking and individualism. Equipped with a strong background in classical training, they also strive to promote and recreate the style, genre and presentation of this traditional artform whilst retaining the traditional and classical aspects of Chinese music. The group comprises winners from the Singapore Chinese Music Competition and Nanyang International Music Competition (Guzheng and Zhongruan Solo Category).

(30mins)
Performed in Mandarin.

**14 Feb 2022, Mon, 7.15pm & 8.15pm**
**Esplanade Concourse**
Set the mood for Yuan Xiao with Sam Lee’s heart-warming repertoire of ballads about love, kinship and friendship. This includes May We Be Together Forever, You Are the Only One for Me, Friends and more.

About Sam Lee
Sam Lee is the lead vocalist and composer of xinyao musical group Ya Yun Xiao Zu. His early days are characterised by active singing and composing, which yielded many awards. After a hiatus of 30 years, Sam makes a comeback to the stage in many local and overseas singing competitions. His noteworthy appearances include clinching the overall championship at Mediacorp’s 2015 Golden Age Talentime and First Runner up at Malaysia’s 2016 Astro Classic Golden.

(30mins)
Performed in Mandarin.

15 Feb 2022, Tue, 7.15pm & 8.15pm*
(*Also livestreamed, available online until 6 Mar, Sun, 11.59pm)
Esplanade Concourse & Online
Uncover Shanghai Yue Opera presents a fusion of abstraction and realism to showcase the beauty, versatility and adaptability of this art form. Audiences get to experience yue opera in both its traditional and contemporary forms.

About Tang Renaissance
Tang Renaissance was established with the mission to create a fertile land for the germination of creative talents and enduring relationships, honouring opera as a multi-disciplinary skill. The group hopes to inspire talented individuals to perform with excellence and use the arts as a channel to promote the learning and appreciation of traditional Chinese culture and moral values.

(30mins)
Performed in Mandarin and English.

16 Feb 2022, Wed, 7.15pm & 8.15pm*
(*Also livestreamed, available online until 6 Mar, Sun, 11.59pm)
Esplanade Concourse & Online
Our Theme Songs
Yun Ensemble (Singapore)

Music has played an important role in enhancing Singapore television drama and leaving a lasting impression on audiences through the years. Often, when a certain theme song is played, scenes from the respective drama hit us like waves, allowing us to recall our childhood memories.

Travel back in time with Yun Ensemble's repertoire of nostalgic theme songs that defined Chinese television drama. Enjoy familiar tunes such as Like a Swallow, Kopi-O, I Can Endure Hardship and more!

About Yun Ensemble
Yun Ensemble, previously known as The QI Ensemble, is a female fusion band comprising both Chinese and Western instruments. The band features Joyce Poh on dizi, Xueqi Cheah on the pipa, Jacelyn Soh on the zendrum and Sarah Chong on the keyboard. By presenting popular works in a style both playful and dynamic, Yun Ensemble shares its vision of nurturing a Singaporean sound.

(30mins)

17 Feb 2022, Thu, 7.15pm & 8.15pm
Esplanade Concourse
Bask in a night of beloved tunes from local Mandarin musicals and pop music. This includes a sneak peek into original soundtracks from Bitesize Theatre Productions’ first Mandarin musical that is currently under incubation.

**About Bitesize Theatre Productions**
Bitesize Theatre Productions consists of four local musical theatre artists who graduated from LASALLE College of the Arts and have a passion for creating original and accessible local musical works. They are driven by the belief that the story, music and movement of musicals can touch hearts, inspire minds and educate people in a profound way. Bitesize Theatre Productions seek to challenge, inspire and redefine what musical theatre can be in Singapore. The company has produced its first original musical *The Monster in the Mirror* last year, and will be staging a live version in 2023.

**About Tan Rui Shan**
The mastermind behind Bitesize Theatre Productions, Tan Rui Shan is the producer, actress and choreographer in the group. Her theatre credits include *The Amazing Celestial Race, Forbidden City Musical, Lim Boon Keng Musical* and many more. Her choreography credits include *The Complete Works of Shakespeare (Abridged)* by Singapore Repertory and *Behind the Wall* by Gateway Arts.

**About Tanya Ang**
As a performer, writer and co-producer of Bitesize Theatre Productions, Tanya Ang is a well-rounded artist who understands the work needed for a production to happen. Her theatre credits include *Forbidden City Musical, Chicken Little, Bukit Merah Musical, Lim Boon Keng Musical* and *The World of Our Own*. Tanya is currently writing for the company’s upcoming Mandarin musical and finishing her last semester as a Masters candidate for Museum Studies and Curatorial Practices at Nanyang Technological University.

**About Michelle Ler**
Michelle Ler is a performer, musician and composer of the team. She was a keyboardist for *The Great Wall: One Woman’s Journey* along with *AIDA* and assisted in the music direction of *Urinetown* and *A Spoonful of Sherman*. Michelle will be performing at the upcoming fundraising musical *An Undefeated Mind* by NUS MindScience Centre, which will be staged...
at Esplanade Concert Hall in March 2022. She is the composer for Bitesize Theatre Production’s upcoming Mandarin musical *The Monster in the Mirror*.

**About Terrance Tan**
Terrance Tan is a graduate of the Directing Residency programme at Singapore Repertory Theatre. A filmmaker, theatre director and writer, his directing credits include *The Monster in the Mirror*, *TLC Christmas Classics* starring Julie Wee, as well as *Baby Shark Musical Tour*. His assistant directing credits include *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, *Lungs*, *Tuesdays with Morrie*, *Fly High*, *Upstairs in the Sky* and *Little Red Riding Hood*. Terrence has recently directed the *Star Awards Opening Musical - You are the Brightest Star* and *The Commission* video on demand.

(30mins)
Performed in Mandarin.

**18 Feb 2022, Fri, 7.15pm, 8.15pm & 9.15pm**
*Esplanade Concourse*
We are Singer-songwriters! • J2S
(Singapore)

J2S uses the cathartic art of song to share their personal stories and journeys. Expect to form a connection and musical conversation with the band as they deliver a heartfelt performance of their originals at the Esplanade Concourse.

About J2S
J2S is a Singapore singer-songwriter band formed in 2019 with the desire to write and produce original works for the local music scene. The band is a trio of passionate musicians—Jeremy Chin, Sash Wong and Shane Heng. Their past experiences include performing in notable competitions like Yamaha Asian Beat and Project Aloft Star, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, live gigs at Starker's bistro bar and Shuffle bistro bar, as well as street busking. J2S also took part in the SG:SW 2020 songwriting competition, and emerged as the top 20 amongst the 322 entries!

(40mins)
Performed in Mandarin.

19 Feb 2022, Sat, 5pm
(Also livestreamed, available online until 6 Mar, Sun, 11.59pm)
Esplanade Concourse & Online
We are Singer-songwriters! • Relyne Ban
(Singapore)

Come journey with singer-songwriter Relyne Ban as she shares her award-winning tracks. This includes *Hand in Hand* which won the 2014 Singapore NEA Eco Music Challenge, *Symphony of Love* which clinched Best Theme Song in the 2018 Singapore Asian Academy Awards, as well as other originals like *4 AM* and *You Are* which have been released on all online music platforms. On top of that, she will also be bringing some songs that have not been released to the public.

About Relyne Ban
Relyne Ban is a singer-songwriter who started her music journey in 2009. Her co-written original track *Hand In Hand* won the 2014 Singapore NEA Eco Music Challenge, and her original track *Symphony of Love* won the Best Theme Song category in the 2018 Singapore Asian Academy Awards.

Relyne’s first original track *4 AM* was selected to publish by Touch Music Beijing in both English and Chinese. This is followed by singles such as *Ban Ying (Penumbra)* and *You Are*, which were released in December 2019 and August 2020 respectively. Aside from being a resident singer at Simply Live by Tinbox Group, she has also been a concert backing vocalist of the ALIVE concert series since 2021.

(40mins)
Performed in Mandarin.

19 Feb 2022, Sat, 6.30pm
(Also livestreamed, available online until 6 Mar, Sun, 11.59pm)
Esplanade Concourse & Online
We are Singer-songwriters! • Broken Pieces and Mending
(Singapore)

Broken Pieces and Mending will be introducing songs from their upcoming EP, including three originals *Reboot*, *To Be Continued* and *Homo Sapiens*. The duo will be rearranging their songs specially for this performance, introducing a brand-new listening experience!

**About Broken Pieces and Mending**
Formed in 2018, Broken Pieces and Mending (BPM) started off by uploading covers, and eventually released original works in 2020. The colleague-turned-best friend duo seeks to spread positivity, hope and love through their music—providing a little bit of warmth and consolation that it’s okay to be imperfect or broken. BPM hopes to mend the broken pieces together with its listeners, one note at a time.

(40mins)
Performed in Mandarin.

19 Feb 2022, Sat, 8.30pm
(Also livestreamed, available online until 6 Mar, Sun, 11.59pm)
**Esplanade Concourse & Online**
Harmonica Romance
Singapore Broadway Harmonica Ensemble (Singapore)

Singapore Broadway Harmonica Ensemble presents a series of love songs with heartfelt and soulful tunes. Classic love songs across generations and cultures are reimagined and performed in a variety of harmonica playing styles and techniques. Let the melodic sounds of harmonica take you back to fond memories of bliss, love and happiness!

About Singapore Broadway Harmonica Ensemble
Formed in 1980, Singapore Broadway Harmonica Ensemble (SBHE) specialises in performing oriental and western evergreen oldies over the past 40 years. Being active in both local and international performance, SBHE won championship in the 2005 International Harmonica Competition in Hang Zhou, China and the 2006 Singapore National Harmonica Competition. It also clinched the excellence award in the 2017 World Harmonica Festival and Competition held in Germany.

(30mins)
Performed in Mandarin.

20 Feb 2022, Sun, 5.15pm, 6.15pm & 7.15pm
Esplanade Concourse
How can waste be repurposed to create something useful with a dash of our imagination? Learn how to make your own zodiac animal stick puppet or document peg using upcycled beverage cartons in this workshop. Discover waste can take on another life when redesigned, deconstructed and reconstructed with simple alternatives.

*Note: For each workshop, participants will only get to make one item (either the stick puppet or document peg which will be alternated according to the workshop schedule).

**About Terra SG**
Terra SG is an action-oriented social enterprise that believes in encouraging sustainability improvements through the power of education. As the appointed organisation to manage and run the flagship Sustainable Singapore Gallery at Marina Barrage, it looks extensively into eco-education, green spaces, sustainable events, upcycling workshops, gallery management and programmes. These initiatives aim to advance sustainability approaches by working with schools and the general public. The workshops at PIP’s PLAYbox are led by Terra SG in-house artists Tung Joey and Nur Nadhirah.

(1hr)
Conducted in English.

**12 & 13, 19 & 20 Feb 2022, Sat & Sun**
11.15am, 2.15pm & 4.45pm

**PIP’s PLAYbox**

Recommended for ages 4 and above with accompanying adult. Accompanying adults must be above 16.

**Free**
Pre-registration is required for admission into PIP’s PLAYbox. Registration can be done at the entrance of PIP’s PLAYbox. For more information, please read the visitor’s guide to PIP’s PLAYbox.