

Esplanade Presents

## Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts

27 Jan – 5 Feb 2023

[www.esplanade.com/huayi](http://www.esplanade.com/huayi)



Dear friends of the media,

As a young boy I was very much taken by the ancient Greek myth of Daedalus and his son Icarus. I marvelled at how a man can fashion a pair of wings, by just using feathers and wax, and take flight. I wished so much I could have the same wings as Daedalus once had (but told myself to remember not to fly too close to the sun!).

These days, there are easier ways to travel, but in fact you do not even have to leave Singapore to be transported beyond your wildest imagination. At Esplanade, you can discover new worlds, make memories and have a good laugh for a moment's relief from the stresses of life. For *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts 2023*, we have specially curated performances by outstanding Chinese artists with this sense of lightness and adventure. This is in keeping with the heady spirit of the Year of the Rabbit, a creature full of positivity and wit. It is also a great tonic for these somewhat disorienting, post-pandemic times.

The festival kicks off with **ART**, Godot Theatre Company of Taiwan's humorous and thought-provoking adaptation of Yasmina Reza's celebrated play. Popular TV personalities Pu Hsueh-liang, Chu Chung Heng and Tseng Kuo Chen step into the shoes of three long-time friends who are in danger of falling out over an expensive 'artwork'. A more poignant look at friendship is the dance production **Two men, ten years later**, featuring Taiwan dance artists Chen Wu-kang and Su Wei-chia who have been friends and working partners for over 30 years. Laughter masks some bittersweet home truths in the acclaimed one-man show **Every Brilliant Thing** by Singapore's Oliver Chong, which we are pleased to bring back following its premiere to a smaller audience amidst COVID-19 restrictions at the last *Huayi*.

Music lovers will delight in multi-talented Hong Kong artists Yuri Ng, Anna Lo and Rick Lau, who share funny stories and explore their cultural identity in **Tri Ka Tsai – A uniquely trilingual Hong Kong cabaret**. Not to be missed too is **Earl Grey Teh C – Gah Dai!**, a fun

concert by Singapore's very own Lorong Boys and world champion Hong Kong harmonicist Gordon Lee, who deliver original musical arrangements of popular Chinese favourites. Completing the eclectic musical line-up are **An Evening with Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra**, Taiwanese indie darlings **ANPU** (formerly known as Deserts Chang), **Accusefive** and **Elephant Gym** and **SINMAHUI "Hip Hop Night"** featuring Mandarin hip hop artists from Singapore and Malaysia such as ShiGGa Shay, Tosh Rock, Dato' Maw and more. Check out their swag!

Travel with the famed Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan to the bustling Bangka district of its artistic director Cheng Tsung-lung's Taipei childhood in **13 Tongues**. And with the opening of Esplanade's newest mid-sized venue, the Singtel Waterfront Theatre, we take the opportunity to present **The Drought Goddess · Dream of the World**, a contemporary theatrical take on the creation of the world told through Nanguan and Beiguan music, dance and puppetry by La Cie MaxMind from Taiwan. After fighting an exhausting battle, the mythical goddess Han Ba searches for a way to return to her home Kunlun. Just like how all our travels must bring us home too eventually, hopefully more enriched through new experiences.

Through *Huayi*, Esplanade has been celebrating the lunar new year with the presentation of the best of Chinese arts and culture from Singapore and around the world since 2003. It has been close to three years since we last presented overseas artists physically at the festival and we warmly welcome them back. Our heartfelt thanks also go to our Principal Sponsor **Knife Cooking Oil**, Supporting Sponsor **Berries** 百力果 and Supporters **Bowen Enterprises (Pte) Ltd** and **Polar Premium Drinking Water**.

On behalf of the *Huayi* team, I wish each and every one of you the strength of mind and character to embrace *huatever* the new year may bring!

**Delvin Lee**

Senior Producer, The Esplanade Co Ltd  
*Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts*

*Last updated: 13 Jan 2023*

## 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 2022, and the Charity Transparency Award from 2016 – 2019 and 2022. 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](https://www.esplanade.com) for more information.

~ End ~

Issued by *The Esplanade Co Ltd*.

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## Annexe

Esplanade Presents

### **Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts**

27 Jan – 5 Feb 2023

[www.esplanade.com/huayi](http://www.esplanade.com/huayi)

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay invites everyone to explore ways to discover new worlds, make memories and have a good laugh for a moment's relief from the stresses of life at *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts 2023*. Held from 27 Jan – 5 Feb 2023, this pinnacle arts festival that celebrates the Lunar 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

### **ART**

Godot Theatre Company (Taiwan)



Are you who you think you are? Or are you who your friends think you are?

Taiwan's Godot Theatre Company considers the beauty and savagery of friendship in *ART*, a humorous and thought-provoking satirical play that has been captivating audiences and critics alike.

Money is no object for the man who splurges on a piece of modern art. But this extravagant purchase triggers bewilderment—resentment even—in his friend who cannot believe that anyone would even want such a thing. A mutual friend intervenes, attempting to soothe and placate, failing tragically and hilariously. The trio's longstanding and unexpectedly fragile friendship is put to a treacherous test that challenges the strength of their bond.

*ART*, by French playwright Yasmina Reza, is a woman's keen observation on the complexities of friendship between men. The intricacies and complexities of human nature are put on stark

display in this brightly brilliant and critically acclaimed play, which has won numerous awards in London and New York, making it Reza's best-known work.

Following the successful run of 2018's *Tuesdays with Morrie* and 2019's *Love ya Mom!* at Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, Godot Theatre Company returns with another widely acclaimed play *ART*, starring well-loved celebrities Pu Hsueh-Liang, Chu Chung Heng and Tseng Kuo Chen and directed by Godot Theatre Company's Artistic Director Liang Chi-Ming. After a tour of six cities in Taiwan to rave reviews in 2022, now they present *ART* at *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts*.

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

**27 – 29 Jan 2023, Fri – Sun**

Fri & Sat, 8pm

Sun, 3pm

Esplanade Theatre

Ticket Price: \$38\*, \$68\*\*, \$88\*\*\*, \$118^, \$138^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$30\*, \$55\*\*, \$75\*\*\*

Limited concession for PWDs: \$30

**^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials**

Available from 15 Dec – 21 Dec. Limited tickets.

Black: 20% savings

White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2)

**^Esplanade&Me Specials**

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## 13 Tongues

Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan (Taiwan)



“13 Tongues is a sensationally big, indulgent, and visually arresting expression of cultural memory.” – *The Times*

“13 Tongues demonstrates beautifully the extraordinary, elemental quality of the Cloud Gate dancers, energy coursing through their butter-soft, titanium-strength bodies, limbs curling like tendrils of smoke.” – *The Guardian*

“Cheng’s movement language is remarkable, showing exceptional range and masterful structure, . . . Each dancer is of soloist standard and when given their spotlight opportunity they leap into action with lithe, flexible, and powerful bodies. It’s magic.” – *SeeingDance*

Taipei’s oldest district is brought to brilliant life in *13 Tongues*, Cloud Gate Artistic Director Cheng Tsung-lung’s deeply personal yet unabashedly celebratory dance lover letter to Bangka.

Beginning and ending with the sound of a single bell, the realms of the spiritual and human coalesce in a visually and sonically arresting spectacle. Against a bizarre projection reminiscent of temple lights, dancers move and travel in serpentine patterns, chanting mysterious mantras as they stomp, stagger and tremble like enchanted shamans against music that ranges from Taiwanese folk songs to Taoist chants to electronica. As the lights dim, striking fluorescent patterns emerge on their costumes and flow across space, evoking the wandering spirits of Bangka.

As a child in the 1980s, Cloud Gate Artistic Director Cheng Tsung-lung helped his father sell slippers on the streets of Bangka, a vibrant district in Taipei, known for its diverse and bustling street scene that embraced the religious and the secular, the lawful and the illicit, and the rich and poor. In particular, he was transfixed by his mother’s accounts of how the legendary 1960s street artist and storyteller known as Thirteen Tongues would effortlessly concoct tales and vividly conjure up the many inhabitants of Bangka in all their shapes and forms. From this fascination birthed the inspiration for *13 Tongues*, for which Cheng transformed his childhood memories of Bangka into dance.

Part real, part dream, *13 Tongues* takes you on a journey that mesmerises just like the stories told by Thirteen Tongues. As you journey through Bangka, what separates deities, spirits and humans slowly fades away.

(1hr 5mins, no intermission)

Songs will be performed in Taiwanese dialects for a few sections.

There will be a post-show dialogue conducted in Mandarin with choreographer, Cheng Tsung-lung after each performance.

#### About Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan

Cloud Gate is the name of the oldest known dance in China. In 1973, choreographer Lin Hwai-min adopted this classical name and founded the first contemporary dance company in the greater Chinese-speaking community. In 2020, Cheng Tsung-lung succeeded Lin as the company's Artistic Director, bringing together his creative works with traditional roots and excitingly innovative perspectives from the digital and globalised world.

Cloud Gate dancers receive training in meditation; *qi gong*, an ancient breathing exercise; internal martial arts; modern dance; and ballet. Under the direction of Cheng, training has expanded to encompass other contemporary elements. Manifesting in choreographies, the company transforms ancient aesthetics into a thrilling and modern celebration of motion.

Cloud Gate has toured worldwide with frequent engagements at the Next Wave Festival in New York, the Sadler's Wells Theatre in London, the Moscow Chekhov International Theatre Festival in Russia, the Movimentos International Dance Festival, and the Internationales Tanzfest NRW directed, then by Pina Bausch in Germany. The international press acclaim the company as "Asia's leading contemporary dance theater" (The Times), and "One of the best dance companies in the world" (FAZ). Cloud Gate has been honoured as an "Outstanding Company" in the UK National Dance Awards.

#### About Cheng Tsung-Lung, Artistic Director / Choreographer

From street hawker selling slippers to internationally recognised choreographer, Cheng Tsung-lung succeeded Lin Hwai-min as Artistic Director of Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan in 2020. Cheng took his first dance class at the age of eight. Upon graduation from the Dance Department, Taipei National University of the Arts, he joined Cloud Gate in 2002 and became the Artistic Director of Cloud Gate 2 in 2014.

Cheng has been awarded prestigious prizes for his choreography internationally as well as at home, such as the No Ballet International Choreography Competition (Germany), the Premio Roma Danza International Choreography Competition (Italy), the MASDANZA Choreography Competition (Spain) and the Taishin Arts Award (Taiwan). He has also worked with companies from all over the world including Sydney Dance Company, the Transitions Dance Company at the Laban Centre, London, Expressions Dance Company, Brisbane, and the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.

Cheng's work is deeply rooted in both ancient and modern Taiwanese culture—he is a strong supporter of Cloud Gate's extensive engagement with grassroots audiences across Taiwan—yet it also embraces global influences. His work, *13 Tongues* (2016) integrates folk dance, religious rites, and Taoist chant to vividly conjure the streets where he worked as a child. *Lunar Halo* (2019) is performed to an ethereally haunting soundtrack by Icelandic musicians Singur Rós and explores the complex area of human connection and technology. *Sounding Light* (2020) was written in response to COVID pandemic-induced isolation and reflects on the precariousness of both human and the natural world. Visually stunning, *Send In A Cloud* (2022) displays in shifting colors a panorama of dancers' life journeys.



Cheng has been a fixture of Routledge's respected annual survey of dance practitioners, Fifty Contemporary Choreographers (2020), alongside the likes of William Forsythe, Akram Khan, Hofesh Shechter and leaders of this form.

**3 & 4 Feb 2023, Fri & Sat, 8pm**  
Esplanade Theatre

Ticket Price: \$38\*, \$58\*\*, \$88^, \$108^  
Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$30\*, \$46\*\*  
Limited concessions for PWDs: \$30

**^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials**

Available from 15 Dec – 21 Dec. Limited tickets.

Black: 20% savings  
White: 15% savings  
Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2)

**^Esplanade&Me Specials**

Available from 22 Dec, 9am.

Black: 15% savings  
White: 10% savings (Limited tickets)  
Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2) (Limited tickets)

## An Evening with Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra



One of the world's top Chinese orchestras, the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra (HKCO) returns to the Esplanade Concert Hall to herald the arrival of spring.

Led by its world-renowned Artistic Director and Principal Conductor for Life, Yan Huichang, a Singapore Cultural Medallion recipient, the orchestra presents a joyous evening that begins with the jubilation of *The Chorale of Spring*, celebrating the arrival of Chinese New Year and depicts the grand celebrations enjoyed by households from all over the world. This is followed by excerpts from Maestro Peng Xiuwen's pleasantly idyllic *Suite Twelve Months*. The rest of the evening features acclaimed composer Zhao Jiping's *Pipa Concerto No. 2* with soloist Zhang Ying (*pipa*); Wang I-Yu's *Reeds* featuring Chen Yi-wei (*sheng*) and Jonathan Scott (organ), and ends off with Tan Dun's *Northwest Suite No. 1*.

Founded in 1977, the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra has won the accolades as "a leader in Chinese ethnic music" and "a cultural ambassador of Hong Kong". It is often invited to perform at famous venues and festivals all over the world, having performed in Europe, North America, Asia, Australia and the Arctic Circle to date. The Orchestra is set up in four sections: bowed-strings, plucked-strings, wind and percussion. In particular, the bowed-string section has been using the Eco-Huqin series developed by the Orchestra since 2009. The HKCO performs both traditional Chinese music and contemporary full-length works, which includes commissioning over 2,400 new works to date.

(1hr 40mins, with 20mins intermission)

**28 Jan 2023, Sat, 7.30pm**

Esplanade Concert Hall

Ticket Price: \$38\*, \$58\*\*, \$88^, \$108^

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

Limited concessions for PWDs: \$30

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## in::music – Accusefive “Lost And Found”

(Taiwan)



What was the first song by Accusefive that you heard?

Was it *Miss You Day and Night* in 2015,  
*Wanna Eat Hami Melon* in 2017,  
*Somewhere in Time* in 2019,  
*Where I Lost Us* in 2020,  
Or *Finally* from the show *Light The Night* in 2021?

These chart-topping numbers represent the hard work of Accusefive over the past seven years, songs which have catapulted this trio into the forefront of Taiwanese music. Formed by lead singer and guitarist Yun An, female lead singer Quan Qing and drummer Richard Lin, Accusefive has accumulated nearly 30 million views on their music videos on YouTube, thanks to the rare yet potent pairing of the male and female voice, alongside their masterful and poetic songwriting style.

The band's sound is hard to pin down, with a variety of genres making up their sound including rock, Mandopop, synthpop, new wave, and more. Accusefive has received many awards, including Taiwan's Golden Indie Music Awards, Singapore's Freshmusic Awards and China's Best Newcomer and Best New Group Award at the Southern Music Festival, and even the Best Asian Newcomer at the popular Mnet Asian Music Awards in 2021. They have also been recognised multiple times for their songwriting prowess and musical abilities, earning nominations at the Golden Melody Awards including Best Musical Group, Song of the Year and Best Composer, among others.

Having toured more than 20 cities and staged more than 40 shows for the *Lost And Found* tour series, Accusefive now brings their music to Singapore for a stunning debut at the Esplanade Concert Hall. Don't miss out!

(1hr 30min, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin.

**4 Feb 2023, Sat, 7.30pm**

Esplanade Concert Hall

Ticket Price: \$50\*, \$80^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$45\*

Limited concessions for PWDs: \$45

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**^Esplanade&Me Specials**

Available from 22 Dec, 9am.

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings (Limited tickets)

Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2) (Limited tickets)

**in::music – ANPU “the way to you: Singapore”  
(Taiwan)**



In 2013, while still performing under the name Deserts Chang, ANPU presented *The Song of Tea and Wine* at *in::music*. The tickets for the first two nights sold out very quickly, resulting in the addition of another show, making her the first singer-songwriter to do so at *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts*.

Now, ten years have passed. People we loved and those who loved us in return are no longer there. Many things have changed, and so has the world during this ongoing pandemic. The name Zhang Xuan has been retired, and now the real ANPU is on stage with her music, filled with more possibilities.

Yet, something will always remain unchanged. The world is still round. We can still love and be loved. ANPU’s songs are still the songs of the times, works about you, her, life, and society.

In this upcoming concert, ANPU returns with songs from her new album *9522*, as well as previous releases which have accompanied her—and you—through the years. If you missed her show ten years ago, then you can’t miss her performance at Esplanade Concert Hall this time. If you missed the show ten years ago, then now is the time to seize the opportunity to see her on stage. If you have known ANPU in the last ten years, she invites you to experience her music once again, and appreciate how she has evolved.

Let ANPU help you find a voice closer to your hearts.

(1hr 30min, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin.

About ANPU

ANPU, under the pseudonym Deserts Chang, has released four full-length Chinese albums. She won the Golden Melody Award for Best Lyrics for her work *Rose-Colored You*. As a producer and director, she produced two personal concept concerts *Tidewater Proverbs* and *Lianyun*, both of which received great acclaim both in the box office—all performances were sold out—and in audience response. ANPU has a distinctive performance style, a singular and unique grammar of music filled with a diversity of profound imagery and metaphors, delivered with refined diction. She is an iconic figure of alternative rock and folk in the

contemporary Chinese music scene. Anchored by a deep belief and philosophy in the craft of stage art, ANPU's work presents the breadth and possibility of connecting with people's hearts.

**5 Feb 2023, Sun, 7.30pm**

Esplanade Concert Hall

Ticket Price: \$50\*, \$80^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$45\*

Limited concessions for PWDs: \$45

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Available from 22 Dec, 9am.

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White: 10% savings (Limited tickets)

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## in::music – Elephant Gym “Dreams” (Taiwan)



“... KT’s fluid basslines, Tell’s evocative guitar riffs and Chia-Chin’s unshowy precision have given rise to an expressive and joyous artistic voice.” – NME Asia

Conjure new dreams with the kaleidoscopic sounds of acclaimed Taiwanese math-rock trio, Elephant Gym. The band’s latest album, *Dreams*, features several collaborators that enrich the band’s jazz and funk-influenced sounds, with the inclusion of wind instruments, traditional folk drums and vocal contributions by pop singer 9m88 and Hakka singer-songwriter Lim Sheng Xiang.

Having graced the stages of top music festivals like Fuji Rock (Japan) and Pentaport Festival (Korea), Camp Flog Gnaw and SXSW (USA), the trio now returns to Singapore with their latest body of work. Fans can also expect tracks from past releases such as *Underwater* and *Work*.

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

Standing room only.

### About Elephant Gym

Based in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, Elephant Gym comprises siblings KT and Tell alongside drummer Chia-Chin, whom they met in a high school music club. After discovering that they share similar tastes in music, they formed Elephant Gym, solidifying their shared affinity for all varieties of math- and post-rock. The band is known for building soundscapes driven by bass, with distinct jazz and funk influences that translate into their writing style. While technically skilled, Elephant Gym’s music is filled with smooth melodies and unique rhythms that’s easy on the ears, appealing to a wide range of audiences.

**4 Feb 2023, Sat, 4pm**  
Esplanade Annexe Studio

Ticket Price: \$50^



Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$45

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## in::music – SINMAHUI “Hip Hop Night”

by Various artists (Singapore/Malaysia)



The first of its kind in Singapore, the inaugural SINMAHUI 新马会 is a yearly gathering produced by DRINK Entertainment, showcasing the top Mandarin hip-hop artists from Singapore and Malaysia.

At the show's helm is Singapore rapper ShiGGa Shay, recognised for his earworm bangers. On the roster as well are recognisable Mandarin hip-hop acts, Tosh Rock and Zaton. Rounding off the line-up are promising newcomers, J.M3 and Cykko.

Dato' Maw, a key proponent of Malaysia' Chinese hip-hop scene and the representative of Malaysia in Rap of China 2019, crosses the border for his debut performance in Singapore. Adding on to the line-up are Malaysian hip-hop crews S.A.C and Ringgit Mob, who bring their own brand of trap-inflected songs and R&B music.

Get hyped and relish in the distinctive sounds and styles of hip-hop unique to SINMAHUI 新马会!

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

Admission for ages 13 and above.  
Advisory: Contains infrequent use of coarse language. Recommended for ages 16 and above.

Standing room only.

### About ShiGGa Shay (Singapore)

ShiGGa Shay's earworm bangers and body of work encompassing self-explorations have become synonymous with Singaporean hip hop. His artistry is influenced by a wide range of sounds, owing to his Asian roots and heritage. His most recent work, *I AM U*, a five-track EP, has received almost two million streams across all platforms. Additionally, his single *uRight* features internationally renowned Korean-American rapper Jay Park. ShiGGa Shay's presence on multiple stages and festivals—Singapore's National Day Parade, Singapore Day, Ultra Singapore, Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix Concert—attests to his influence on local

culture. ShiGGa Shay also has performed internationally, notably at the White House State Dinner Afterparty in Washington.

#### About Tosh Rock (Singapore)

Tosh Rock first broke into the YouTube scene in late 2010, building a loyal cult following with his vlogs. In 2012, he was discovered by director Jack Neo to star in the movie *Ah Boys To Men*, which made him a household name. Having been part of the B-boy community since he was 13, Tosh has represented Singapore at international B-boy competitions with his crew Radikal Forze. In 2018, he released the rap single *Wihayo*, followed by his 2019 viral hit *Berry The Vulgar*, which has 631k views on YouTube and 446k streams on Spotify to date.

#### About Zaddon (Singapore)

Zaddon is a Singaporean Mandarin R&B hip hop recording artist, producer and songwriter. He was one of the composers for *Frontline Soldiers*, the theme song for Singaporean hit movie *Ah Boys to Men 4*. Zaddon has also composed *Fix You And Me*, a song performed by Filipino songstress Kayla Alvarez. Some of the artists he has produced and written for include Tosh Rock, Wang Weiliang, Sam Rui, Li Suo, Jayley and Hayley Woo. Zaddon released his debut Chinese single *Adios* in July 2017, followed by a collaboration *Harley* in 2018 with Tosh Rock.

#### About J.M3 (Singapore)

Embodying silent strength with a rebellious spirit, J.M3 (pronounced as Jamie) is fiery, inventive, and playful, as evident in her energetic, rapid verses. With a strong vocal presence, J.M3 was selected to represent Singapore at the inaugural ASEAN Music Festival 2020. Originally releasing her repertoire in English, her bilingual abilities shone through with her SingVoice track, *Lady*, which was also her first foray into Mandopop. J.M3 is set to pursue her own unique sonic representation and versatility with her major label releases *Hot Sauce*, *Castle* and *don't lmk* with Warner Music Singapore.

#### About Cykko (Singapore)

A fresh face on the hip hop scene, Cykko began his rap career in 2019, focusing on emo and melody-based rap performances and music production. He has released 14 singles in the past 18 months and has published works with other young rappers such as TE, 100 Muda, etc. In 2020, he collaborated with other singer-songwriters to write the theme song *Go for a Drive* for Delusion Carnival's anime-style mobile game. Having released his debut EP on 27 May 2022, the young rapper is set to release more future classics in 2023.

#### About Dato' Maw (Malaysia)

Dato' Maw was known for starting a wave of "Cina" hip hop music, a genre that utilise Malaysian Chinese slang, infusing multiple languages and dialects into rap music. His very own unique interpretation has also been celebrated by multiple international brands, being signed by Tiger Beer as Tiger Roar 2019 campaign artist, being one of four of Levi's Music Project 2020 artist, #TEAMLIN-ING campaign artist, Jameson Whiskey campaign artist, and more.

#### About S.A.C (Malaysia)

Comprising four rappers born and raised in Johor, Malaysia, S.A.C/东南亚 CINA' is a rap crew that was founded in the middle of 2019. The group pairs irreverent lyrics with cheeky delivery to create catchy earworms, with a sound influenced by trap and infused with Malaysian slang and languages. The crew's name means "Southeast Asia Cina", to represent their own identity as Malaysian Chinese. At the end of 2020, S.A.C signed to Ban Huat Sdn. Bhd., a collective and label at the forefront of pushing Malaysian Chinese hip hop forward to regional and global stages.

About Ringgit Mob (Malaysia)

Formed in 2018, Ringgit Mob comprises Yung Flexx, Buddha Joe, Boomit and FR. With the Malaysian currency 'Ringgit' in the group name, Ringgit Mob hopes to shape the local hip hop scene, setting their eyes to place Malaysia on the world stage of Chinese hip hop. With the abbreviation 'RM', which is the same as the Malaysian currency abbreviation, the crew shows an unwavering spirit and determination to represent Malaysia in the world of hip hop.

**3 Feb 2023, Fri, 8pm**

Esplanade Annexe Studio

Ticket Price: \$35^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$28

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## Two men, ten years later

HORSE (Taiwan)



How often in life can you make and keep a friend for over 30 years?

One suave yet boorish, the other stout yet refined, Chen and Su met as dance students in National Taiwan University of Arts, without knowing that it would be the start of their 30-plus years of friendship and artistic collaborators.

Embarking on their individual creative paths a decade ago after co-founding dance company HORSE in 2004, they have each advanced to differing stages in their personal and professional lives. Through it all, faced with the noise and turmoil from the outside world, their mutually competitive yet honest relations with dance and with each other have always been a refuge. Now, nearing mid-life, and with wives and kids in tow, they confront and cross-examine their relationship with stark honesty and reconsider the ways their lives have crossed and ran parallel with each other.

Following their dance collaboration *2 Men* in 2012, Chen Wu-kang and Su Wei-chia come together once again for *Two men, ten years later*. Featuring a text-based dramatic structure and variable sounds of piano, *Two men, ten years later* is a poignant and compelling chronicle of their personal and professional lives as dance artists and friends for life, set against an atmospheric score by pianist Lee Shih-yang.

(1hr 40mins, with 15mins intermission)

Performed in Mandarin, no surtitles.

Advisory: Contains infrequent use of coarse language. Recommended for ages 13 and above

There will be a post-show dialogue conducted in Mandarin after each performance.

### About Chen Wu-kang | Choreography, Performer

Chen Wu-kang was born and raised in Taiwan. He began studying dance at the age of twelve and graduated from the Taiwan University of Arts. In 2001, Wu-kang danced with Ballet Tech and Peridance and became the soloist, starting his long-term collaboration with choreographer Eliot Feld. He was also the guest dancer in Diamond Project of New York City Ballet in 2006.

In 2004, he co-founded HORSE as an artistic director. Some significant works include *Velocity* (2007), *Bones* (2008), *2 Men* (2012) which toured in Asia, US and Europe. He started to collaborate with artists in different fields in 2011, including *Exhibition X Performance Successor* (2011), and curatorial project *Dance X Sounds* as well as seasonal improvisation platform *Primal Chaos* since 2016, a year where he also began an intercultural-dance dialogue with renowned Thai choreographer and performer Pichet Klunchun. Their work, *Behalf*, premiered in 2018 and toured in 2019. Meanwhile, they also worked on a three-year project, *Rama House*. Chen was also the stage director of *The show must go on* by Jérôme Bel in Taipei Art Festival in 2019, and co-created as well as performed in *Dances for Wu-Kang Chen* (2020). Chen is a recipient of the Taishin Performing Arts Award 2021.

#### About Su Wei-chia | Choreography, Performer

Born in Kaohsiung, Su Wei-chia co-founded HORSE in 2004. His numerous choreographies and collaborations include the group-created work *Velocity*, a winner of the 6th Taishin Arts Awards, and the autobiographical *2 Men*, a collaboration with Chen Wu-kang, which also won the 1st prize and Audience's Choice Award at the 2013 Kurt-Jooss-Preis.

From 2009 to 2013, he was invited by Eliot Feld to join the Ballet Tech Dance Company in New York as a guest dancer. His ongoing *FreeSteps* project, launched in 2013, explores the relationship between contours, movements, characters, rhythm, music, and light; a performance at Les Hivernales - CDCN d'Avignon was described as "a succession of shocks that drive the imagination into obscure and delicious depths." He was the Artist-in-Residence of the National Theatre & Concert Hall (NTCH) in 2016. In addition to continuous dancing and creation in recent years, he has also started to focus on his social responsibility as a dancer and sharing the joy of dancing everywhere.

#### About HORSE

The visual identity of HORSE is a Chinese character made of three horses, indicating the strong motivation and explosive energy. Founded in December 2004, HORSE has established a distinctive profile with delicate physical movements and unrestricted creativities. In 2008, *Velocity* won the Taishin Arts Award Taiwan's grand arts prize. In 2013, their work *2 Men* won the 1st prize and Audience Award in Kurt Jooss Preis, PACT Zollverein, Essen, Germany.

In recent years, Chen Wu-Kang, the artistic director, and Su Wei-Chia, the general director, have developed a unique art praxis. They continue to advance the company into the bright future, a period of metamorphism for them in the Taiwanese contemporary dance scene.

HORSE is active in international collaboration, outreach programmes and curatorial projects. Their practice include the platforms *Primal Chaos Dance x Sounds Improvisation*, *Back to the moment Dancing Talking Bar*, a dance cinema in which creators and commentators have a live sharing, *We Island Dance Festival* and, *Inclusive Arts Programme*.

Note: The character 羴 is pronounced as "biao", refers to horses galloping in herd.

**27 & 28 Jan 2023, Fri & Sat, 8pm**

Esplanade Theatre Studio

Ticket Price: \$38^

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

#### **^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials**

Available from 15 Dec – 21 Dec. Limited tickets.

Black: 20% savings

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**^Esplanade&Me Specials**

Available from 22 Dec, 9am.

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White: 10% savings (Limited tickets)  
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An Esplanade Commission

## Every Brilliant Thing

The Finger Players (Singapore)

Original Script by Duncan Macmillan, with Jonny Donahoe

Translated, Directed and Performed by Oliver Chong



“Chong is used to directing actors, and he proves a dab hand at coaxing audience members into entertaining exchanges. Despite some nerves and awkward pauses from those unused to being in the limelight, Chong smoothes over the raw edges with his quick improvisations and easy rapport.” – The Straits Times

*“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 a sold-out run during *Huayi 2022*, Oliver Chong returns to *Huayi 2023* with a renewed staging of *Every Brilliant Thing*.

A one-man show with interactive segments, *Every Brilliant Thing* is a unique production that invites audiences to shape the protagonist’s journey, with warmth and spontaneity. Co-created by audience members, every show is vastly different and promises to uplift spirits and accord brilliance.

This year, let The Finger Players journey through and celebrate *Every Brilliant Thing* with you.



## Synopsis

A boy embarks on a relentless attempt to create a list – a list of all things brilliant about the world. Perhaps this list would lift his mother's spirits, perhaps this list would stop her from doing something drastic, perhaps it might prevent her from yet another suicide attempt.

A weighty story told with an open heart and plenty of levity, audience members will be invited to participate by taking on various characters, embarking on a journey to uplift one another.

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 13 and above.

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

Pre-show Important Notice:

The performance of *Every Brilliant Thing* has varying degrees of audience interaction. 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 Main Season, International Season and 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.

## About Oliver Chong

Oliver Chong is a multi-award-winning and published playwright, director, actor and designer. Some of his memorable works include *Every Brilliant Thing*, *A Fiend's Diary*, *Roots*, *I'm Just A Piano Teacher*, *Cat*, *Lost & Found*, *The Book of Living and Dying*, *Citizen Pig* and *Citizen Dog*. His numerous nominations at The Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards include Production of the Year and Best Director for *I'm Just a Piano Teacher*, Production of the Year for *Off Centre*, Best Director and Best Script for *Citizen Pig*, Best Actor for *Roots*, *Invisibility/Breathing* and *Art*, Best Supporting Actor for *Itsy – The musical*, *Flare*, Best Ensemble for *Senang*, *Shit*

*Hole, First Family, Rashomon, and A Cage Goes in Search of a Bird* respectively, and Best Set Design for *Twisted, Citizen Dog* and *A Fiend's Diary*.

Oliver was the Resident Director of The Finger Players (2004 – 2018), and is currently a core member of the company, as well as a founding member of A Group Of People (2008 – 2012). He is the founder and Artistic Director of Oddcrop Productions (2019 – present). His published works include *Roots, The Book of Living and Dying, I'm Just A Piano Teacher* and *Cat, Lost & Found*. Oliver will be the next Artistic Director of The Finger Players, for a three-year term from 2023 to 2026.

**2 – 5 Feb 2023, Thu – Sun**

Thu & Fri, 8pm | Sat, 3pm & 8pm | Sun, 3pm  
Esplanade Theatre Studio

Ticket Price: \$38^

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

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Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2)

**^Esplanade&Me Specials**

Available from 22 Dec, 9am.

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White: 10% savings (Limited tickets)

Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2) (Limited tickets)

## Tri Ka Tsai – A uniquely trilingual Hong Kong cabaret

by Yuri Ng X Anna Lo X Rick Lau (Hong Kong)



*/traɪˈka tsei/ noun.*

*Definition: A trilingual Gen X or millennial living in post-colonial Hong Kong who speaks Cantonese, English and Putonghua (Mandarin).*

In Singapore we have “Ang Moh Pai”, in Hong Kong they have “Tri Ka Tsai”!

What is the strangest English name you have ever heard? Why is a tall-sized *latte* not tall at all? The multitalented artists Yuri Ng, Anna Lo and Rick Lau are going to tell you the funniest part of the languages in their city.

Decades ago, English was king, and mastering the language was a ticket to success. With that goal in mind, Hong Kong groomed generations of “English speakers” who spiced up the colonial language with unique Cantonese phrases, accents and cadences. But then came the day when Hong Kongers were faced with the realisation that they had to master Putonghua (Mandarin) as well! What new flavours would be created with this new ingredient?

Proud *tri ka tsais* themselves, Yuri Ng, Anna Lo and Rick Lau bare their hearts and explore their cultural identities as they try to come to terms with their homeland’s bittersweet struggle with three languages and its inspired creations of Chinglish and “Cantonghua”—Hong Kong-style Mandarin. Unashamedly multilingual and multicultural, *Tri Ka Tsai* is a laughter-filled cabaret that is surprisingly relatable to people on the little red dot.

Come and learn Chinglish or Honglish or Cantonghua or Mantonese (whatever!) with us! *Fai di* come and see see *lah!*

Commissioned by Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts and premiered in 2019.

(1hr 15mins, no intermission)

Performed in Cantonese, English and Mandarin, with some English and Chinese surtitles.

Admission for ages 13 and above. This performance contains some mature content.

## About the Artists

### Yuri Ng

Born in Hong Kong and an experienced dance artist, Yuri Ng has been involved with ballet, contemporary dance, drama, classical music and a cappella, as well as stage setting and costume design. He began classical ballet training with Jean Wong at the age of six, and going on to receive professional dance training in Canada and the United Kingdom on scholarships. He was awarded the Adeline Genée Gold Medal from the Royal Academy of Dancing (RAD) in 1983 before joining The National Ballet of Canada as a dancer.

Cooperating with various companies, Yuri Ng has received numerous awards, including the Artist of the Year Award – Choreographer from Hong Kong Artists' Guild (1997 and 1998), the Prix d' Auteur at the Sixth Rencontres Choreographiques Internationales de Seine-St-Denis (Bagnole), the Hong Kong Dance Awards (Choreography) (2008), Distinguished Achievement Award at the Hong Kong Dance Awards (2012), Outstanding Choreography and Outstanding Large Venue Production at the Hong Kong Dance Awards (2019).

Yuri Ng was the Hong Kong Sinfonietta's Artist Associate from 2011-2013. He is currently the Artistic Director of CCDC and Artistic Advisor of Yat Po Singers.

### Anna Lo

Anna Lo is a composer, songwriter, arranger, singer, conductor, performer and a cappella artist. She graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Berklee College of Music.

Anna has worked with Hong Kong Sinfonietta, Hong Kong Dance Company, Hong Kong Repertory Theatre, Hong Kong String Orchestra, City Contemporary Dance Company, Actors' Family, Theatre Ronin, Mr. Wing Theater Company, and more. Anna made her first foray into film composing for the documentary *She Objects*, winner of the Scientific & Education Award at Nice Film Fest International 2017. Her second film project *Apart* was released in 2021. She also wrote and performed the film's theme song. Her third film *Pretty Heart*, produced by famed director Fruit Chan was released in July 2022. In 2019 Anna was commissioned to create the extremely well-received original cabaret *Tri Ka Tsai* for the Tai Kwun Theatre Season, for which she acted as co-creator, composer, lyricist, and performer, followed by a sold-out rerun at WKCD's Lau Bak Livehouse in 2021. She was again commissioned by Tai Kwun in 2021 to create cabaret *LauZone* for its Spotlight Performing Arts Season, followed by a dance version *Home Sweat Home* for CCDC's West Kowloon 2021 residency Danzation and a sold-out rerun in 2022 at Tai Kwun.

Anna is an avid a cappella artist and prolific a cappella arranger/composer. She is currently the Music Director of professional a cappella group VSing and Associate Artistic Director of Yat Po Singers, the first professional a cappella choral theatre company in Hong Kong. VSing has performed in cities all around the world and represented Hong Kong in multiple a cappella/arts festivals. They released their first original track *Hear My Voice* in Sep 2020, followed by *Hear Me Out* in Nov 2022.

Anna is also active in the pop music scene, and has worked with singers such as Leon Lai, Kelly Chen, Miriam Yeung, Andy Hui, Anthony Lun, Janice Vidal, Justin Lo, Jason Chan, Hins Cheung, Gin Lee, Alfred Hui, Rubberband, Collar, among others. She is currently one of the hosts and music directors of RTHK 31's Cantopop Power.

### Rick Lau

Rick Lau graduated from NIDA (National Institute of Dramatic Art, Australia) in Musical Theatre.

His main professional theatre credits in Australia include *Miss Saigon* (Engineer, 1st understudy), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Hair The Musical*.

In Hong Kong, his credits include The Great Pretender – Freespace x HK Repertory's *The Impossible Trial*; Yat Po Singers' *Our Immortal Cantata*, *Om Encounter*, *Save the Next Song for Me* and *Pica Pica Choose*; Leon Ko's *The Originals*, Hong Kong Sinfonietta's *The Passage Beyond in Concert* and *The Amazing Filmphony*; City Contemporary Dance Company's *Home Sweat Home*; Actors' Family's *Cinematic Memories on Train No.5*, *The Good Person of Szechwan*; Chung Ying Theatre's *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and *The Underpants*; Hong Kong City Chamber Orchestra's *Bug Symphony*; Hong Kong Arts Festival's *June Lovers*; 3AMI's *Smokey Joe's Cafe* and *The Pajama Game*; Hong Kong Ballet's *Cinderella*, *Swan Lake*, *Carnival of the Animals* and *Sleeping Beauty*.

Rick's cabaret shows include Tai Kwun's commissioned works *LauZone* (nominated for Best Actor at the 2021 Hong Kong Theatre Libre Awards) and *Tri Kai Tsai*, *Rick Lau's Lonely Hearts Club Hour*, *My Queer Valentine*, *When Rick Met Marsha...*, *The 3 Singing Bitches*, *My Generation*, *Men In Love*, *SunRice*, *I know where I'm going... I think*, and *How Now Rick Lau* (commissioned by the Sydney Opera House).

**27 & 28 Jan 2023, Fri & Sat, 7.30pm**

Esplanade Recital Studio

Ticket Price: \$38^

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

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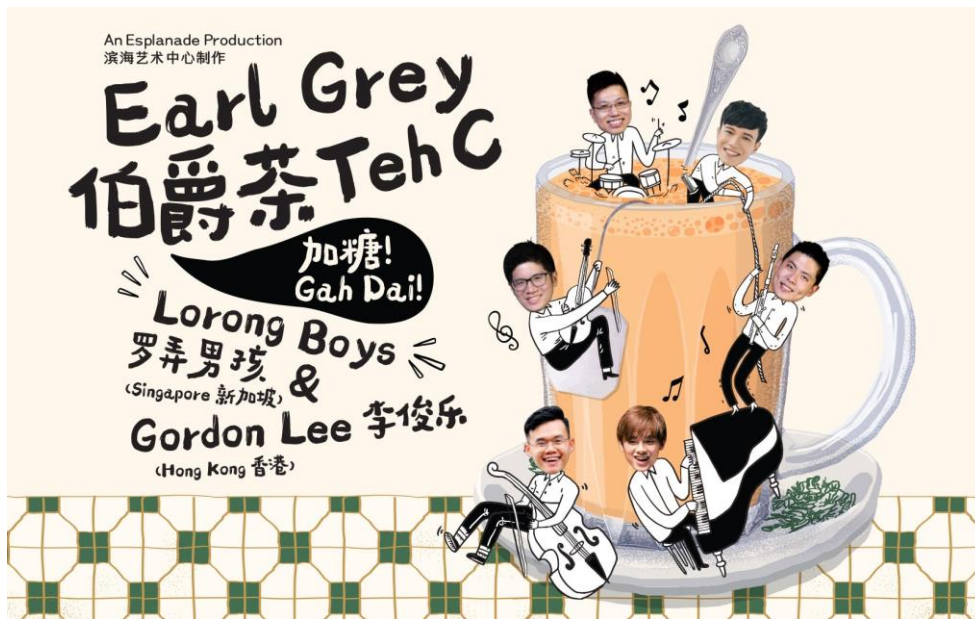
Available from 22 Dec, 9am.

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings (Limited tickets)

Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2) (Limited tickets)

An Esplanade Production  
**Earl Grey Teh C – Gah Dai!**  
Lorong Boys (Singapore) & Gordon Lee (Hong Kong)



*Sio ah* (Watch out)! Local darlings Lorong Boys have literally and figuratively *gah dai*-ed (levelled up)!

Having risen to fame and favour for their easy and accessible Western classical musical mashups and covers, Lorong Boys now step up their game and stride confidently out of their comfort zones to enter the world of original music arrangements. They are joined by world champion Hong Kong harmonicist Gordon Lee, who has performed with Chinese and Western orchestras, as well as with pop stars such as Eason Chan and Jacky Cheung.

The boys and Lee showcase their musical chops and join forces to serenade you with their specially curated selection of popular Chinese traditional and pop favourites such as *Ambush From All Sides* in the style of a jazz waltz, and a samba-influenced rendition of *Silence Is Gold!* It is an evening of fusion music that promises to be full of pleasant and familiar surprises that are just what the concert's title—*Earl Grey Teh C – Gah Dai!*—promises!

(1hr 15mins, no intermission)

### About Lorong Boys

The Lorong Boys are a group of Singaporean musicians who are equally at home playing on the hallowed stage of a concert hall or on the streets of the Singapore heartlands. Founded in 2014, the band was born out of a deep friendship and a common love for music while they were schoolmates at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory (YST) of Music at National University of Singapore.

Coming from a classical music background, the group loves to experiment with genres, always finding new sounds to incorporate into their music. They are adept at a range of styles, including classical, Broadway, Top 40 pop hits, jazz standards and more. The group frequently performs original compositions and reimagined classics, and are often sought out for their innovation as well as their energetic performances.

The Lorong Boys have toured Indonesia and have also appeared on almost every television channel and radio station in Singapore. They were also featured in the SG50 *The Gift of Song* music video, and have worked with homegrown artists such as Inch Chua, Nathan Hartono, and The Sam Willows. They also recently performed as soloists at the Singapore Symphony Orchestra's *National Day Concert 2022*.

The Lorong Boys are currently serving at YST as one of the Ensembles-in-Residence. Their first album is currently in the works.

#### About Gordon Lee

“World-class soloist” IATC

Harmonica player Gordon Lee garnered international attention when he won the champion prize at the prestigious World Harmonica Festival 2017 in Germany. As a Hong Kong native, he has performed at Carnegie Hall in New York, MuTh Concert Hall in Vienna, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay in Singapore and at the International Harmonica Festival in Seoul. He has appeared as soloist with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, the City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra and the Asian Youth Orchestra. Some of his repertoire includes Spivakovsky's *Concerto for Harmonica*, Lobos's *Concerto for Harmonica*, Benjamin's *Concerto for Harmonica*, among others.

In addition, he has performed on stage with the renowned classical music comedy duo Igudesman & Joo and pop singers such as Eason Chan, Jacky Cheung, Hins Cheung, Alan Tam, Hacken Lee and Leon Lai. Often invited as a guest soloist in live concerts, he appeared in Hunan Television's 2016 reality show *I Am a Singer* as a harmonica soloist. He has also recorded various television programmes, albums and DVDs. Gordon Lee's mentors include Franz Chmel, Sigmund Groven and the two-time Grammy Award Winner Howard Levy. He also studied under Sheng master Cheng Tak-wai.

His latest album, *Gordon Lee and his Encore Trio*, was released in 2018 and received worldwide international acclaim and recognition. Gordon is also the founder of the Hong Kong Harmonica Academy and currently teaches at the University of Hong Kong and The Education University of Hong Kong. He is often sought after to host talks and workshops on modern harmonica techniques. He was invited to be the member of the panel of jury for the Asia Pacific Harmonica Festival, the Seoul International Harmonica Festival and the World Harmonica Festival. In 2022, Lee became the first Hong-Konger to hold a solo harmonica recital in the Hong Kong City Hall concert hall. Having a full house, Lee played seven encores to add a magnificent finishing touch to the concert. The recital was critically acclaimed and received overwhelmingly positive response from the public.

**3 & 4 Feb 2023, Fri & Sat, 7.30pm**

Esplanade Recital Studio

Ticket Price: \$38^

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

#### **^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials**

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#### **^Esplanade&Me Specials**

Available from 22 Dec, 9am.

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings (Limited tickets)

Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2) (Limited tickets)



## The Drought Goddess · Dream of the World

La Cie MaxMind (Taiwan)



Exhausting her divine power in battle and unable to return to the heavens, the Drought Goddess wanders the world in search of a place to call home.

Although the world seemed vast and wide, there was nowhere that could accommodate the Drought Goddess as drought followed her wherever she went. And as she journeyed, her encounters with elves, humans and deities along the way helped her understand why she never could remain still when she ended up on an island at the edge of the world.

Inspired by the ancient Chinese myth of Hanba, the goddess of drought, La Cie MaxMind presents a contemporary theatrical take on the creation of the world told through Nanguan music, dance, puppetry and an invented mythological language. A reflection and rumination of contemporary life, *The Drought Goddess · Dream of the World* is an original mythological story developed from the Chinese classic text *Classic of Mountains and Seas*. It looks through the lens of ancient mythology to examine modern conflicts between humans and the environment, and individuals and their communities.

Written and directed by Lee Yi-Hsiu, *The Drought Goddess · Dream of the World* features live music composed by Hsu Shu-Hui that showcases its critically acclaimed fusion of Nanguan and Beiguan music, and a physical performance guided by contemporary Taiwan dance choreographer Eddie Lin.

(1hr 15mins, no intermission)

Performed in specially invented Mythological Language, with English and Chinese surtitles.

### Creative Team

Playwright & Director: Lee Yi-Hsiu

Composer: Hsu Shu-Hui

Producer & Surtitlist: Tsai Ching-Fang

Cast: Shih Pi-Yu, Hsiao Chen-Chieh, Wang Shih-Chun

Musicians: Hsu Shu-Hui, Liao Han-Yu

Stage Manager & Technical Director: Huang Shih-Ping

Lighting Designer & Master Electrician: Hsu Yu-Ling

Rehearsal Assistant & Sound Effects: Tseng Pei-Tzu

Movement Coach: Eddie Lin

About La Cie MaxMind

Artistic Director Lee Yi-Hsiu and Nanguan/Beiguan composer Hsu Shu-Hui are the central creative forces of La Cie MaxMind. It is the company's mission to inject diverse sources of creative energy into traditional Nanguan and Beiguan music with material garnered from the rich multicultural grounds of Taiwan; and through this process, to establish an affecting new paradigm of theatrical form. The company's work is often inspired by Taiwanese culture; the team is convinced that only when rooted in explorations of and reflections upon Taiwanese culture, can their work find its own unique way of conversing with the world. With local culture and global perspective, and a merging of traditional and contemporary artistic forms and elements, works by La Cie MaxMind have seen critical and popular success on both regional and international stages.

**4 & 5 Feb 2023, Sat & Sun**

Sat, 3pm & 8pm | Sun, 3pm

Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade

Ticket Price: \$45^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$36

**^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials**

Available from 15 Dec – 21 Dec. Limited tickets.

Black: 20% savings

White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2)

**^Esplanade&Me Specials**

Available from 22 Dec, 9am.

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings (Limited tickets)

Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2) (Limited tickets)

## My Mulan Mission: A Parent-Child Activity

Traditional Arts Centre (Singapore)



Celebrated for her courage and devotion to her family, the legendary Hua Mulan overcame various obstacles and emerged as a brave and selfless heroine. How can we build strength and courage like her?

This fun-filled workshop interweaves Chinese opera appreciation, theatre and simple craftwork, encourage self-discovery and an exploration of courage in its myriad forms. Understand the symbolism of basic opera movements, get hands-on experience with props, create shared memories with your loved ones and build resilience together. Embark on this mission and bond through play!

(1hr 30mins, with no intermission)  
Conducted in Mandarin.

Admission for ages 6 and above.

Recommended for ages 7 to 10 with an accompanying adult. Accompanying adult must be above 16.

Note: There will be some physical activity involved in this workshop, please dress comfortably.

### About Traditional Arts Centre (Singapore)

Traditional Arts Centre (TAC) of Singapore was founded in 2012 by Cai Bixia, a recipient of the Young Artist Award. Funded by Singapore's National Arts Council as an arts education charitable organisation, TAC is committed to nurturing young Chinese opera performers and audiences. Besides teaching in schools, it also provides a platform for young performers with the annual Singapore Youth Opera Showcase and encourages cultural and academic exchanges with large scale Chinese opera events, conferences and seminars. TAC is also the only overseas teaching unit of China National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts. Through training curriculum development, research, performances and international exchanges, it aims to establish a Singapore cultural brand.

### About Judy Ngo, Director

Judy Ngo graduated from NUS Theatre Studies programme. She is currently the Artistic Director of 1N THE ACT, a theatre company which focuses on education through the use of

theatre sports and forum theatre. When she is not teaching, running workshops or directing, she more than happy to act for other theatre companies. Judy cherishes every opportunity to be in the theatre because she firmly believes that theatre is life and life is for living.

**28 & 29 Jan 2023, Sat & Sun, 11am & 3pm**

Esplanade Annexe Studio

Ticket Price:

1 Adult + 1 Child: \$60

2 Adult + 1 Child: \$90

1 Adult + 2 Children: \$90

Tickets must be purchased as an adult-child package.

**Esplanade&Me Specials**

PIP's Club: 10% savings (Min. of 2)

**My Mulan Mission: Watch, Learn, Play** (Schools exclusive)  
Traditional Arts Centre (Singapore)



Celebrated for her courage and devotion to her family, the legendary Hua Mulan overcame various obstacles and emerged as a brave and selfless heroine. How can we build strength and courage like her?

This fun-filled workshop interweaves Chinese opera appreciation, theatre and simple craftwork, encourage self-discovery and an exploration of courage in its myriad forms. Understand the symbolism of basic opera movements, get hands-on experience with props, create shared memories together. Embark on this mission and bond through play!

Learning objectives:

- Understand the elements and features of Chinese opera through the story of Hua Mulan
- Learn the values of filial piety and courage
- Appreciate symbolic meanings behind basic hand and leg movements in Chinese Opera

(1hr 30mins, with no intermission)  
Conducted in Mandarin.

Recommended For:  
Lower Primary – Upper Primary

Note: There will be some physical activity involved in this workshop, please dress comfortably.

**27 Jan 2023, Fri, 10am & 2.30pm**  
Esplanade Annexe Studio

Ticket Price: \$23

## Dance Masterclass (Intermediate)

by Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan



Explore the dance practice and methodology of the famed dance company Cloud Gate Dance Theatre in this intermediate masterclass. Cloud Gate's training covers not only modern dance and classical ballet, but also *tai chi dao yin*, meditation and internal martial arts, combining the dynamism of western dance with the subtlety of eastern movement. This masterclass will let dancers explore their physical capabilities so that they may create their own movement styles.

Limited availability. Pre-registration is required and applicants should meet one of the following criteria:

- Practicing dance professionals in ballet, contemporary dance or Chinese dance,
- Full-time dance students, aged 15 and above, or
- Dancers with minimum of four years of ballet/contemporary/Chinese dance experience and regular training (at least thrice a week)

Successful applicants will be contacted within five working days to purchase tickets for this masterclass.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)

Conducted predominantly in Mandarin. English translation is available upon request.

Admission for ages 15 and above.

Please dress comfortably for this masterclass.

### About the Instructors

#### **Huang Li-chieh**

Born in Taipei, Taiwan, Huang Li-chieh learned capoeira and kendo from a young age. After graduating from the Taipei National University of Art, Huang joined Cloud Gate in 2014. He performed at Cloud Gate in the works *Bamboo Dream*, *Songs of the Wanderers*, *Moon Water*, *Smoke*, *Pine Smoke*, *White Water*, *Dust*, *12*, *13 Tongues*, *Sounding Light* and *Send in a Cloud*. His fighting duet in the work *Formosa* astonished audiences worldwide.

#### **Fan Chia-hsuan**

Born in Taipei, Taiwan, Fan Chia-hsuan graduated from the Dance Department of the University of Taipei and joined Cloud Gate in 2013. She was the 2013 winner of Taiwan

Champion in Experimental items of the Juste Debout hip-hop competition. Fan performed at Cloud Gate in the works of Songs of the Wanderers, Moon Water, Smoke, Pine Smoke, How Can I Live Without You, Rice, Dust, Formosa, 12, 13 Tongues, Sounding Light and *Send in a Cloud*. Her agile solo in White Water is acclaimed for being impressively eye-catching.

**1 Feb 2023, Wed, 7pm**

Esplanade Rehearsal Studio

Ticket Price: \$28

Pre-registration required.

## Rattan Weaving Workshop with ATINYMAKER

(Singapore)



In recent years, furniture made of rattan has surged in popularity. But do you know that rattan can be woven to be part of crafts or products such as jewellery, bags, coasters? Find out more about the art of rattan weaving in this workshop by ATINYMAKER Ng Si Ying.

The workshop will be inspired by the craft of traditional Chinese knots, the learnings of which are shared by artisan Ai Geok ([@wearablecraft](#)). During the workshop, Si Ying will introduce rattan as a weaving material, share her exchanges with Ai Geok, as well as the inspiration behind the craft piece, which participants will get to make and take home.

(2hrs, no intermission)  
Conducted in English.

Admission for ages 13 and above.

### About ATINYMAKER

ATINYMAKER by Ng Si Ying is a research attempt that originated from a desire to discover more about a material that was, and still is, very dear to Singapore and Southeast Asia—rattan. Through exhausting rattan and pushing its materiality in aesthetics and function, every work and exploration with rattan is an ongoing dialogue to rediscover the old and new relationships—between man, other materials, and rattan's purpose in our time.

**4 & 5 Feb 2023, Sat & Sun, 10am, 1.30pm & 4.30pm**

Esplanade Bay Room

Ticket Price: \$28

### Esplanade&Me Specials

Black, White & Discover: Enjoy 50% savings for up to 2 tickets in *Rattan Weaving Workshop*. Limited to 4 Feb, 1.30pm and 5 Feb, 10am sessions only.



## FREE PROGRAMMES

### **Dance en Scene**

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay (Singapore), National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) (Taiwan), National Taichung Theater (Taiwan), Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts (Hong Kong)



Returning for a third iteration, *Dance en Scene* presents commissioned films from Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan, featuring dance journeys that explore 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. 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.

#### **27 Jan – 19 Feb 2023, Online**

Premieres on 27 Jan, Fri, 5pm. Available online until 19 Feb, Sun, 11.59pm  
Esplanade Offstage  
Free

*Dance en Scene* features four films:

***Am I Here***, commissioned by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay (Singapore)

***Swash***, commissioned by National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) (Taiwan)

***tiaen tiamen***, commissioned by National Taichung Theater (Taiwan)

***Presence***, commissioned by Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts (Hong Kong)

#### **Am I Here?**

An Esplanade Commission

Director: Eva Tang

Choreographers & Dance Artists: Chiew Peishan & Lim Chin Huat

Movement Collaborators & Performers: Jo Kwek, Kimberly Long, Ng Mun Poh & Wendy Toh  
Music & Sound Designers: Ferry & Vick Low

Home, is it permanent or fluid?

Home, a place that seemingly calls for one's return. What remains of the traces of connection between people and spaces amidst the evolving environment spurred by development?

Perhaps, the moment of one's birth begins the exploration of an inextricable web of connections. Embarking on an introspective journey, *Am I Here?* reimagines childhood memories to ponder on presence and absence in exploring the notions of home and familial relationships.

### **Swash**

Commissioned by National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) (Taiwan)

Creator: Luo Sih-wei

Creation Partner: Chou Shu-yi

Choreographer: Wang Yeu-kwn

Dancers & co-choreographers: Lee Yin-ying & Tien Hsiao-tzu

Music & Sound Designer: Hsu Yen-ting

Humans are spray and sand.

Did he affect you? Did you change him?

What's left? What's taken?

Inspired by how waves hit the beach, this work reflects the mutual and ever-continuing influence humans exert in relationships. Zooming in on the process of how influence occurs, the artist translated this into physical movements and stories.

### **tiaen tiamen**

Commissioned by National Taichung Theater (Taiwan)

Choreographer: Bulareyaung Pagarlava

Director: Mon Cher Ho

Music Director: ABAO

Music Arranger & Mixer: Wenna

Producer: Bulareyaung Dance Company

Zoning out, I plummet into a dream. All things thus become possible.

Hunters, hundred-pacer, water elves, and eagles are woven into this fantasy world, in which nothing needs to be defined as before. Dancers slither like a snake, dive like an eagle, and gather and disperse like water—the boundary between dream and reality melts away, and only connections between the two remain.

Choreographer Bulareyaung Pagarlava joins hands with music director Aljenljeng Tjaluvie (ABAO) and graphic designer reretan pavavaljung for an otherworldly and transcendent experience through movement on film. ABAO uses electronic noises to scramble into an ambience of mountains and forests, constructing another world where reality and illusion constantly intersect each other. Graphic designer reretan pavavaljung utilises the imagery of glass beads to portray a recycling view of life, in which all beings are interconnected.

### **Presence**

Commissioned by Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts (Hong Kong)

Concept/Director/Composer/Musician: Wan Xing

Tap Dance: Eric Huynh

Contemporary Dance: Natalie Mak  
Videographer/Post-production: Thomas Wong, Joshua Cheung  
Lighting Designer: Victor

Life is a constant change. We cannot change the past nor predict the future, whether in the fortune or the adverse, we can only live in the moment and gain the peace of mind.

A contemporary dancer is injured and can no longer dance freely. A tap dancer has lost all performance opportunities due to the pandemic. They are each facing a struggle of their own, but the sorrow is the same. What confines our mind is not the challenges we face, but how we weigh these difficulties and allow them to burden ourselves.

Focus on the present and listen deeply. Embrace and release.

## Dance of the Golden Lions

Singapore Chin Woo (Athletic) Association



Join us as we start *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts 2023* on a high note with an exciting lion dance, *taichi* and *wushu* performance at the Esplanade Outdoor Theatre! The rarely seen Northern Lions will take over the stage and showcase their fluid moves. The performance ends off with both northern and southern lions performing together. (15mins, no intermission)

### Singapore Chin Woo (Athletic) Association

Singapore Chin Woo (Athletic) Association is one of the earliest martial art schools in Singapore with 100 years of history. The first pair of Northern Lions were brought in from He Bei province in 1932. The lion head is made of yellow clay, with a cape of green hemp. Weighing 10kg each, those lions were heavy and resulted in lion dance moves that looked clumsy, lacked agility and fell short of perfection. The lion dancers had to be strong and muscular to maneuver the movements and dance with it. Through many years of transformation, it now weighs a total of 6kg, including both the lion head and cape. This vast improvement enabled the troupe to portray an elegant Golden Lion. These techniques of the Golden Lion Dance were fused with the art of Peking Opera on stage. Since then, the Golden Lion Dance was integrated with gongs, drums, and the *suona*.

The Chin Woo Lion Dance team has performed in many countries. They were previously invited by Singapore Airlines to perform in inauguration flights to new destinations like Darwin, Christchurch, Durban, Johannesburg, Cape Town and more. Besides that, they were also invited by Singapore Tourist Board to perform in Pasadena Rose Parade, Osaka Rose Parade, ITB Berlin Fair, 1988 World Expo, ASEAN Tourism Forum, among others.

**27 Jan, Fri, 7.15pm**

Esplanade Outdoor Theatre

## Festive Favourites

The CO Peeps



Soak in the festive atmosphere with The CO Peeps as they bring you a repertoire of joyous and light hearted Chinese classical tunes such as *Full of Joy*, *Spring Flowers*, *Spring Blessings*, *Winds of Affinity* and many more!

(30mins, no intermission)

### The CO Peeps

The CO Peeps is a non-profit arts organisation dedicated to building an inclusive and vibrant Chinese Orchestra (CO) community for youths in Singapore to learn, explore and collaborate through music. Its community comprises youths of different ages from across Singapore, connecting youths through digital platforms such as Discord, Instagram, Tik Tok and Facebook. The community prides itself in being an inclusive space where all are welcomed, no matter their skill level or background, providing everyone with a safe and supportive environment to share, explore and learn from each other.

**27 Jan, Fri, 7.15pm & 8.15pm\***

Esplanade Concourse & \*Online

## Sonance

DiAbolution (Malaysia)



Malaysia's acclaimed diabolo troupe DiAbolution presents two original works, *Knight* and *Immortal*, which express their adherence to traditional culture despite contemporary trends and regardless of future shifts. Through the shuttle of time and space, with elements of ancient chivalry and futuristic cyberpunk; innovative possibilities and artistic value are incorporated into costumes, music, and props, bringing the audience a combination of surprises and a visual feast for senses.

(45 mins, no intermission)

### DiAbolution

DiAbolution was founded by Ryn Mah and his team members in April 2018, with Ryn leading as the group's artistic director. DiAbolution aims to promote the culture and art of diabolo performance, adhering the belief of "inheritance and innovative diabolo performing art culture". DiAbolution is committed to using modern performing methods, integrating new elements into diabolo performance culture and deepening the audience's understanding and potential of diabolo. In October 2019, DiAbolution held Malaysia's first locally produced diabolo theatre production, *DiAbolution 0.1* in Damansara Performing Arts Centre. During 2021, the troupe developed and launched the world's first LED light diabolo sticks, which are now widely used in DiAbolution performances.

**27 Jan, Fri, 7.30pm & 9pm**  
Esplanade Outdoor Theatre

## Admiring Lanterns – A Children’s Teochew Opera Performance

Nam Hwa Opera



See the young talents of Nam Hwa Opera show off their skills in this showcase! An excerpt from the popular story *Chen San & Wu-niang*, *Admiring Lanterns* tells the story of how the two lovers met each other. Chen-San attended the Yuan-xiao lantern festival at Chaozhou and met Wu-niang by coincidence. Love blossomed between the two. Wu-niang subsequently met the wealthy Lin Da. She disliked his uncouth, frivolous personality. However, Lin Da was enchanted by the beauty of Wu-niang and conspired with Zhuo Er to marry her.

(30 mins, no intermission)

Performed in Teochew, with Chinese and English Surtitles.

### Nam Hwa Opera

Founded in 1963 by avid fans of Teochew Opera, Nam Hwa Opera (NHO) has grown into one of Singapore’s most prominent and prolific Teochew opera companies, with a mission to preserve, develop and promote traditional Teochew opera as part of Singapore’s rich heritage.

In 2020, NHO was conferred the inaugural The Stewards of Intangible Cultural Heritage Award by the National Heritage Board. In 2022, Guangdong Chao Opera Theatre from China invited NHO to jointly establish the Guangdong Chao Opera Institute Singapore Teochew Opera Heritage Centre.

NHO is also home to the Nam Hwa Teochew Music Ensemble and the Yeo Khee Lim Teochew Culture Research Centre.

**28 Jan, Sat, 2.30pm & 3.30pm\***

Esplanade Concourse & \*Online

## Songs of Spring

Tango's Harmonica Trio



Celebrate spring and soak in the festive atmosphere with Tango's Harmonica Trio as they present familiar spring-themed classics including *Spring Breeze*, *In the Spring* and more!

(30 mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin

### Tango's Harmonica Trio

Tango's Harmonica Trio is an established and National Arts Council-endorsed performance group that is deeply involved with music education and performance. It endeavours to promote the musical union of the harmonica and classical guitar, a combination that has been popular in Singapore for many decades. Led by veteran harmonica player Tang Yuen Wai, the group comprises Balraj Gopal on the guitar and Jean Low on vocals.

**28 Jan, Sat, 7.15pm & 8.15pm\***  
Esplanade Concourse & \*Online



## Gifted

The Wanted (Taiwan)



Experimenting with vocal effects and electronic elements, The Wanted brings a cappella music to the next level through their creativity in vocal expression. Come check out The Wanted as they are ready to bring their songs and energy as a gift to people all around the world.

(45 mins, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin

### The Wanted

The Wanted is a Taiwanese a cappella group. They won numerous international a cappella championships in their debut year (2014), and are the first band of the genre to release an original Mandarin album titled *Dear Adult*. With this album, The Wanted won the 32nd Golden Melody Award for the Best Vocal Group. Their latest EP *1% theory* was released in 2021, fully produced and composed by the band's members.

**28 Jan, Sat, 7.30pm & 9pm**

Esplanade Outdoor Theatre

## DIY Festive Origami



Celebrate the festive season with us and take home your very own origami masterpiece! Join us at our DIY Festive Origami station for a self-guided activity that teaches you how to create a paper rabbit, fish, and more using red packets.

Self-guided

**28 & 29 Jan, 4 & 5 Feb, Sat & Sun, 3pm – 6pm**  
Esplanade Concourse

## PIP's Meet and Greet



Our ever-lovable PIP will make a special appearance during *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts 2023*, come meet and take photos with PIP!

(15 mins)

**28 & 29 Jan, Sat & Sun, 2pm, 3pm & 4pm**  
Esplanade Concourse

## We are Singer-songwriters! • Eiva Qian

(Malaysia)



Eiva Qian is an indie-folk singer-songwriter who sees songwriting as a healing art that allows people to connect with themselves, nature and the universe. While her lyrics are simple, they display a deeper meaning and understanding of life's philosophy. Her unique voice is able to transport the audience freely, across mountains, rivers and even the moon. Let Eiva bring you closer to a place called home with her original compositions, telling stories to warm your soul.

(45 mins, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin

### Eiva Qian

Eiva Qian is an indie-folk singer-songwriter from Malaysia. In 2021, she took part in Golden Frontier Award Song Composing Competition and clinched the Silver Award, Best Melody and Best Performance. She also clinched first runner up at Taiwan's New String Award in 2019. Eiva has released four singles thus far, namely *où est la Lune*, *seven little stars*, *Balik Kampung* and *This is Enough*.

**29 Jan, Sun, 5pm**

Esplanade Concourse

## **We are Singer-songwriters! • LINGBRANDON**



As an artist, LINGBRANDON tries to ensure the most sincere form of his art, both in his writing and performance. He hopes to convey all his thoughts through the most authentic self and let everyone hear and understand him through his music. LINGBRANDON's first show of 2023 will not only include works that the singer-songwriter has put out, but also upcoming, unreleased songs.

(45 mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin

### LINGBRANDON

LINGBRANDON places soul and sincerity above everything else when it comes to the world of music, motivated by a deep belief that art can be found everywhere. A singer-songwriter whose lyrics and melodies are always expected to be genuine and derived from within himself, he finds inspiration from everything and anything. Through personal experiences, environments and surroundings, he adapts all details into his world of writing.

**29 Jan, Sun, 6.15pm**  
Esplanade Concourse

## We are Singer-songwriters! • Chen Yu Xuan



Widely known by her moniker “Little Flower”, Chen Yu Xuan has released her debut EP *Unbloomed*, a collection of tracks that tell a story about an artist’s musical journey. Apart from her popular originals like *Matchsticks* and *Letters to Heaven*, the budding singer-songwriter will also perform a handpicked selection of Mandarin songs that she holds close to heart.

(45 mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin

### Chen Yu Xuan

Recognised for her unique husky vocal tone, Chen Yu Xuan has officially debuted as a singer-songwriter after being introduced to the local music audience through UFM100.3’s Radio Singer Competition in 2020. Yu Xuan’s vocal performance received unanimous critical acclaim from both the judges and public, however, she chose not to reveal her face. Shortly after the competition, Yu Xuan was signed to Haha Music & Entertainment, owned by her mentor, local singer-songwriter Lin Si Tong. Chen Yu Xuan has since released four singles and an EP titled *Unbloomed*.

**29 Jan, Sun, 7.30pm**  
Esplanade Concourse

## We are Singer-songwriters! • Ah5ive The Band



Ah5ive The Band's songs convey life experiences through music—laughing at the unpleasantness of life, satirising the contradictions of feelings, acknowledging their own maturity as they face up to realities of life. The band's music is like a balm that heals emotions and strengthens the soul. In this showcase, the band will be performing songs from their latest album *Slow Motion* and their recent Cantopop single, *One Second*.

(45 mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin

### Ah5ive The Band

Ah5ive The Band was formed in 2007. The band has released three studio albums, three singles and two compilations thus far, performing internationally in cities such as Taipei, Kuala Lumpur and Hong Kong.

**29 Jan, Sun, 6.30pm**  
Esplanade Outdoor Theatre

## We are Singer-songwriters! • Quis



Following their 2015 debut album *Transition*, Quis released their sophomore EP, *Hello, Strange New World* in 2022, a reflection of their growth and perspective on the "new world" we live in today.

In this performance, Quis presents the original songs from their prior albums, along with a preview of their unreleased material and their take on some of the most popular Mandopop songs today. Look forward to Quis' unique rock sound peppered with pop sensibilities, as they bring you stories from our strange, new world.

(45 mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin

### Quis

Quis is a pop-rock outfit from Singapore which tells the stories of their generation through music. The world today is faced with multifarious challenges—a harsh economy; an unyielding pace of life; disengaged society; complicated interpersonal relationships. The band addresses these relatable themes through their music, acknowledging the emotions and conflicts we face into, yet with the belief that we can press on and emerge stronger.

**29 Jan, Sun, 7.45pm**  
Esplanade Outdoor Theatre



## We are Singer-songwriters! • Cold Cut Duo



Always full of energy, The Cold Cut Duo is a Mandopop hip-hop and R&B singer-songwriter duo comprising Gwendolyn and Wilson. The charismatic pair always strives to deliver fun, fresh and entertaining performances. Accompanied by a full band, the duo will present their hit songs such as *Light bulb*, *I'll Keep Loving You*, *Reborn* and many other original and cover songs by their favourite artists.

(45 mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin

### The Cold Cut Duo

Always full of energy, The Cold Cut Duo is a Mandopop hip-hop and R&B singer-songwriter duo comprising Gwendolyn and Wilson. The charismatic pair always strives to deliver fun, fresh and entertaining performances. Accompanied by a full band, the duo will present their hit songs such as *Light bulb*, *I'll Keep Loving You*, *Reborn* and many other original and cover songs by their favourite artists.

**29 Jan, Sun, 9pm**

Esplanade Outdoor Theatre

## Resonates

yì Zheng Ensemble



Immerse in the resonating sounds of the guzheng as yì Zheng Ensemble present familiar festive tunes such as *Spring Festival Overture*, *Jubilance*, *Harvest Drums* and more!

(30 mins, no intermission)

### yì Zheng Ensemble

Established in 2016, yì Zheng Ensemble aspires to promote a deeper appreciation for *guzheng* ensemble pieces. Led by Jobain Lee, the ensemble clinched the Gold with Distinction Award at the 3rd Nanyang International Music Competition 2021 as well the First Prize Gold Award at the 3rd Liang Jiang Cup Music Competition in Xi'an, China in 2021.

**30 Jan, Mon, 7pm & 8pm**  
Esplanade Concourse

## Choral Pop of Yesterday & Today

Chordinate Singers



Ever heard Chinese pop music presented in a chorus? Well, now's your chance: Come listen to the Chordinate singers belt out their choral renditions of familiar Chinese pop hits such as the Taiwanese campus folk song *Cicada in Autumn*, Jay Chou's *Rice Field* and more. The group will also present their catchy original Chinese New Year song *Dawn of Blessing* to usher in this spring season!

(30 mins, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin

### Chordinate Singers

Chordinate Singers was founded in 2019 with the mission to promote choral singing through Chinese pop music. The group presented its first self-produced virtual choir project, *Moonlight in the City* in 2020. More projects soon followed including their collaboration with Equaver performing *Dedication of Love*. The group was also awarded third in the Choir with Accompaniment category at INTERKULTUR Video Award. The group also released two original Chinese New Year songs *Dawn of Blessing* and *You are My Solace* in 2021 and 2022 respectively.

**31 Jan, Tue, 7pm & 8pm**

Esplanade Concourse

## Spring Eternal

PipaCAN!



This performance titled *Spring Eternal* derives from the English idiom “hope springs eternal”. Mark the new year with the music of spring as PipaCAN! presents a selection of *pipa* chamber works with spring as its central theme, including *The Spring Snow*, *Spring of Tianshan*, *Spring Rain* and more!

(30 mins, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin

### PipaCAN!

PipaCAN! is a Singapore-based music collective that specialises in telling local stories through modern *pipa* music. Led by NAC Young Artist Award winner Chua Yew Kok and Gildon Choo, and with the support of the National Arts Council, the collective made its debut with a digital presentation of new *pipa* compositions, from quartet to solo works. The production was artistically directed by Yan Yu, mentor and advisor to the collective. PipaCAN! hope to expand by having other *pipa* musicians join in her efforts, and to commission and perform new chamber works for the *pipa*.

**1 Feb, Wed, 7pm & 8pm**

Esplanade Concourse

## Classic Art Songs

Felicia Teo



Singapore soprano Felicia Teo showcases her rich and colourful voice in this charming performance, accompanied by Benjamin Lim on the piano, where she demonstrates a classical take on a mix of modern and classic tunes including *Song of the Yue Boatman*, *Jasmine Flower* and more!

(30 mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin

### Felicia Teo

A distinguished artist with a voice of distinct colour, Soprano Felicia Teo Kaixin's engagements have included performances with The Opera People in *Femme X: Baroque Heroines*, *Penelope*, *Alcina* as Bradamante, in *Idomeneo Refracted* as Idamante, Leonore in *Fidelio*, *In Our Manner of Speaking: The Clara Schumann Project*, and as Clara in *Dwarf*. Other recent engagements include Fiordiligi in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Soprano soloist in Dvorak's *Stabat Mater* and Lady in Chen Zhangyi's *Window Shopping*.

Her credits include her Singapore Lyric Opera debut in the lead role of Adina in Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore* (2017), soloist in Durufle's *Requiem* (A Tapestry of Sacred Music 2017); Dick Lee's *Nyonya Journey* with the Singapore Chinese Orchestra, Euridice in Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld* and the title role in Donizetti's *Rita* with New Opera Singapore (2016) and Suor Dolcina in Puccini's *Suor Angelica* with New York City Opera (2015). She is a recipient of the 2018 Richard Wagner Stipendium.

Felicia received her Master's degree at Manhattan School of Music and her Bachelor's degree in Music from University of Wales (Singapore).

### Benjamin Lim

Benjamin Lim studied piano performance at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music with Sanford Margolis. He also received training on the fortepiano and harpsichord from David Breitman and Webb Wiggins. Prior to Oberlin, he studied locally with Timothy Ku and Dr. Wong Joon Hwang. He has performed extensively as a soloist and collaborative pianist in the US and Singapore, and also curates various recital programs locally.

**2 Feb, Thu, 7pm & 8pm**

Esplanade Concourse

## Best Competition Hits

Gao Mei Gui



Winner of Chinese singing reality competition SPOP WAVE!, Mediacorp YES 933 DJ Gao Mei Gui takes center stage to bring you songs frequently heard and sung in singing competitions! From competitions like The Voice China, Call Me by Fire, to SPOP WAVE!, these songs will surely get you singing along!

(30 mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin

### Gao Mei Gui

Gao Mei Gui is a DJ at Mediacorp Radio station YES 933FM. With a burning passion for singing, Mei Gui entered the entertainment scene in 2006 when she participated in Channel U's reality singing competition Campus Superstar Season 1, where she emerged as a Top 10 female finalist. After completing her studies at NTU Wee Kim Wee School of Communications and Information in 2012, she joined Mediacorp as a staff member and became a part-time DJ with YES 933. Over the years, Mei Gui has had the opportunity to host and sing for various events, from Chinese orchestra concerts to live singing performances. In 2021, she was crowned the Grand Winner of the Singapore singing reality television show SPOP WAVE! She likes to pen down lyrics and tunes in her free time, hoping to find the music that can best represent herself.

**3 Feb, Fri, 7.15pm & 8.15pm\***  
Esplanade Concourse & \*Online

## Dancing in Spring

Singapore Chinese Dance Theatre



This Chinese New Year, Singapore Chinese Dance Theatre present a series of captivating Chinese dance performances! Audiences will be treated to a variety of traditional and folk dances that will allow you to immerse yourselves in Chinese culture during this festive season.

(45 mins, no intermission)

### Singapore Chinese Dance Theatre

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

Apart from producing innovative and original works that remain relevant to our traditional roots, SCDT is also committed to developing Chinese dance as an accessible art form to the broader community through its Outreach and Education division (OnE).

**3 Feb, Fri, 7.30pm & 9pm**  
Esplanade Outdoor Theatre

## Let's Sing Nursery Rhymes!

3 o'Hearts



Most nursery rhymes have been passed down through generations. Come join 3 o'Hearts to continue this tradition and relive these lovely tunes with your little ones with songs such as *Two Tigers*, *The Good Little Rabbits*, *Pull The Radish* and more!

(30 mins, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin

### 3 o'Hearts

3 o'Hearts is an up-and-coming local band that aims to spread joy and touch hearts wherever they play. Comprising Vanessa Phang on vocals, Daniel Ong on guitar and Dominic Cai on saxophone, the band will most certainly add to sparkle any event.

**4 Feb, Sat, 2.30pm & 3.30pm**

Esplanade Concourse



## Folk Reimagined

Kailin Yong Trio



Kailin Yong, also known as the “fiddler for peace”, will bring his unique style of fiddle music to *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts*. Together with Sebastian Ho on guitar and Felix Phang on bass, this string trio will present a repertoire of familiar Chinese folk songs and popular classics, giving these timeless tunes a harmonic and rhythmic makeover.

(30 mins, no intermission)

### Kailin Yong

Kailin Yong is a violinist, multi-instrumentalist, composer and educator. Known to friends and peers as the “fiddler for peace”, he was the recipient of the Daniel Pearl Memorial Violin in 2004 for his efforts in building cultural bridges through music. Trained in Austria at the Vienna Academy Of Music, Kailin spent 20 years in the US and Europe, exploring music from around the world. Since returning to Singapore, Kailin has been sharing his gift as a music director and composer with theatre and dance groups like Checkpoint Theatre, Flamenco Sin Fronteras, Maya Dance Theatre and DADC. He is also the founding member of several pan-cultural musical groups including the Kailin Yong Peace Project, NuMundo, Y Quartet, Qilin Group, Straits Ensemble, DoReFaSohLah and PLUS Trio.

**4 Feb, Sat, 7.15pm & 8.15pm\***

Esplanade Concourse & \*Online

## A Nanyang Jazz Fest

The Shang Sisters (Malaysia)



Sit back and enjoy a fun and vivid ride of Nanyang jazz with The Shang Sisters, accompanied by the renowned Malaysian jazz quartet WVC Jazz. Presenting a kaleidoscope of multilingual Southeast Asian tunes in a mix of musical styles, coupled with choreography and theatrics, this is a show for all ages and all walks of life. The performance repertoire will include household numbers like *Rose Rose I Love You*, *Love And Passion*, *Nona Nona Zaman Sekarang*, and their original *Yolala*.

(45 mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin

### The Shang Sisters

The Shang Sisters are Asia's leading Chinese female jazz trio comprising Janet Lee, Winnie Ho and Mian Tan. Originally formed in 2014 as The Shanghai Sisters, the group presented reinterpretations of Shanghai classics through songs and dances, and garnered much recognition from the music industry. The trio performed in Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia, and released a self-titled album in 2019 and the album has sold well in the region. In 2021, the group re-emerged with the new name and new vision to promote Nanyang jazz—Chinese jazz in Southeast Asia. The Shang Sisters are long-time collaborators with WVC Jazz, Malaysia's leading jazz ensemble. Their partnership offers exquisite excitement to sublime music-making and set to send their music to corners of the world.

**4 Feb, Sat, 7.30pm & 9pm**  
Esplanade Outdoor Theatre

## Chinese Period Dramas OST

A Flutey Affair



Are you a huge fan of Chinese period dramas? Let flutist Sin Jin How and harpist Sarah Wong present instrumental renditions of familiar theme songs from Chinese period dramas such as *Eternal Love*, *The Untamed*, *Story of Yanxi Palace* and more!

(30 mins, no intermission)

### A Flutey Affair

Since its formation in 2010, A Flutey Affair has delighted audiences with music ranging from classical to anime music. It is led by Singapore flute player Sin Jin How, who hopes to promote local music and musicians along the way. The ensemble has performed at The Arts House, Istana, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay and Gardens by the Bay.

**5 Feb, Sun, 5.15pm, 6.15pm & 7.15pm\***

Esplanade Concourse & \*Online

## Jubilance

NUS Chinese Orchestra



Immerse yourselves in the jubilant sounds of NUS Chinese Orchestra as they perform an array of orchestral classics such as *A Well-Matched Fight*, *Capriccio Taiwan* and other familiar tunes to accompany you this Chinese New Year!

(45 mins, no intermission)

### NUS Chinese Orchestra

Since its inception in 1973, NUS Chinese Orchestra (NUSCO) has progressed to become an active amateur orchestra in the Singapore Chinese music scene and is presently under the auspices of NUS Centre For the Arts (CFA). Under the baton of conductor Moses Gay and the tutelage of professional instructors, the Orchestra continually explores musical boundaries and enhances members' standards through performance opportunities local and overseas.

**5 Feb, Sun, 7pm & 8.30pm**  
Esplanade Outdoor Theatre