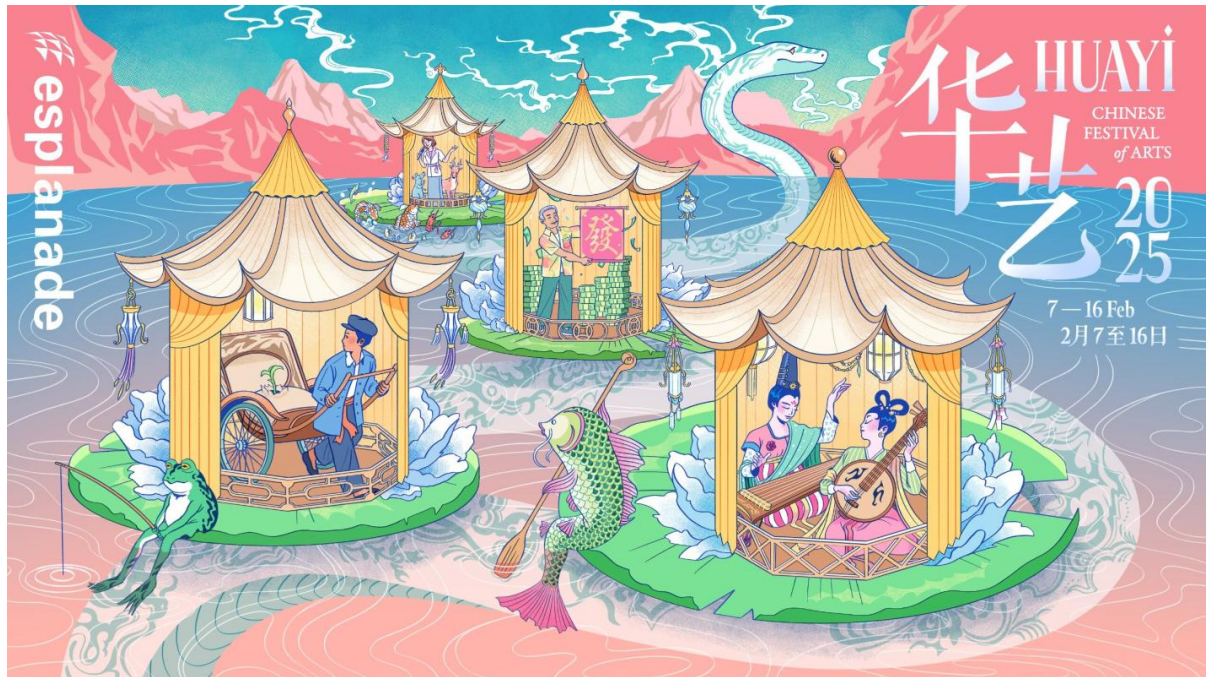


Esplanade Presents

## Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts

7 – 16 Feb 2025

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



Dear friends of the media,

In the early days of my career, I had a hard time describing my work to my parents and relatives. With the job title “Programmer”, they inevitably thought I was an IT guy. Over the years, I would find opportunities to take them to performances and explain what I do. Today, my relatives not only attend *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts*, they are even more anxious than I to be the first to hear about the line-up! If there were a simple way to describe what it is to put together this festival, it is this: to connect top-notch performances and themes with various groups of people and their desires or needs. The 23rd edition of *Huayi*, held from 7 – 16 Feb 2025, reinforces the festival’s tenet to have something engaging and meaningful for everyone.

Our two productions in the Esplanade Theatre will appeal to anyone who loves a good story. Even though Lao She wrote the story of *Rickshaw Boy* in the 1930s, modern day rickshaw boys are everywhere – the ubiquitous food delivery guys on their bikes trying their best to make a good and honest living. Arriving in Singapore on the back of a hugely successful tour of major cities in China, *Rickshaw Boy* is helmed by award-winning director Fang Xu. And in acclaimed Taiwanese theatre company Greenray’s *Human Condition VIII*, the main protagonist dreams of winning the lottery – isn’t that a wish many people can identify with?

How does one stay active and mobile in the sunset years? What do friendships—or the dearth of them—look like? These are the themes explored in the dance production *Dance with Me* by choreographer Low Mei Yoke, recipient of the Cultural Medallion. These themes are also explored in *Last Luncheon*, the solo play directed, written and performed by Singapore theatre stalwart Alvin Chiam.

At a time where AI is poised to take over the world, traditions and how to keep them relevant are explored in three riveting music productions *What is Qin* by Zi De Guqin Studio of China, *The Temple of Resonance* by Taiwan’s Uni Percussion, and *The Heart of Jun: Memoirs of*

*Zhaojun* by Singapore *nanyin* ensemble Siong Leng Musical Association in collaboration with Taiwanese director Lee Yi Hsiu.

Songwriters are the poets of everyday life. *Huayi 2025's in::music platform* presents a bumper crop of excellent songwriters, beginning with Taiwan's Golden Melody Award winner and indie darling ANPU, followed by Hong Kong's Yoyo Sham, Taiwan's GoodBand and Singapore's Boon Hui Lu.

As for the little ones, don't they love to be able to indulge to their hearts' content in sweets, gummies and chocolates? Adapted from the tale of Hansel and Gretel, *Candy House in the Mountain* by Bon Appétit Theatre of Taiwan is a fusion of storytelling and foley. This production encourages children to listen to the Chinese language and the many sound effects, as well as to activate their imagination. Another storyteller who will have audiences eating out of the palm of her hand is Malaysian artist Cheryl Lee, well known across the Causeway for her hilarious brand of Cantonese stand-up comedy.

Aside from a wide spectrum of works that will move you deeply or have you rolling with laughter, *Huayi* also seeks to put the 'festive' in 'festival'. Held during the Chinese New Year period every year, it gives us an opportunity to wish everyone who comes to Esplanade for the festival a bounteous year ahead, filled with luck, good health and prosperity. As producers and programmers behind the festival, we set the stage for celebration.

Our heartfelt thanks also go to our Principal Sponsor **Knife Cooking Oil**, Supporting Sponsor **Berries** 百力果 and Supporter **Polar Premium Drinking Water**.

Happy Year of the Snake!

**Delvin Lee**

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

*Last updated: 28 Jan 2025*

## About Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay

Esplanade is Singapore's national performing arts centre. It hosts a year-round line-up of about 4,000 live performances and activities presented by Esplanade, its partners and hirers. As an arts centre for everyone, Esplanade also creates opportunities for seniors, youth, children and underserved communities to experience the arts. More than 70% of the shows that take place each year at the centre are free for all to enjoy.

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

The centre works in close partnership with local, regional and international artists to develop artistic capabilities and content, push artistic boundaries and engage audiences. Esplanade supports the creation of artistic content by commissioning and producing new Singapore and Asian work for the international stage. It also develops technical capabilities for the industry nationally.

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay is operated by The Esplanade Co Ltd (TECL), which is a not-for-profit organisation, a registered Charity and an Institution of a Public Character. TECL received the Charity Governance Award – Special Commendation for Clarity of Strategy in 2016 and 2022, the Charity Transparency Award from 2016 – 2023, and the Charity Transparency Dedication Award in 2024. Esplanade is Singapore's first Dementia-Friendly Arts Venue and a certified Dementia Go-To Point, as well as a guide/assistance dog friendly centre.

TECL receives funding support from Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and its Community Programmes are supported by Tote Board Family, comprising Tote Board, Singapore Pools and Singapore Turf Club.

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

~ End ~

Issued by *The Esplanade Co Ltd*.

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## Annexe

Esplanade Presents

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

7 – 16 Feb 2025

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

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay invites everyone to an unforgettable experience in the arts at *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts* which will run from 7 – 16 Feb 2025. Into its 23rd edition, this pinnacle arts festival that celebrates the Chinese New Year with the community will feature an exciting line-up of theatre, dance, and music programmes by outstanding Chinese artists from Singapore and beyond, for all to enjoy during the festive period.

## TICKETED PROGRAMMES

### **Rickshaw Boy**

by Beijing Artists Management Corp., Ltd (China)



Lao She's classic *Rickshaw Boy* tells the story of Xiangzi, a rickshaw puller in Beiping who lived during the Republic of China era. A strong and ambitious young man from the countryside, Xiangzi works hard to build his ideal life. However, fate repeatedly thwarts his aspirations, and despite his hard work and determination, his circumstances remain unchanged, and his life never gets better.

*Rickshaw Boy* offers a compelling psychological portrait of Xiangzi, delving into the conflict between his ideals and the harsh realities, alongside the confusion, frustration, and helplessness that permeate his inner world—a struggle that remains profoundly relatable even today.

Lao She is widely celebrated as a "Master of Language", and *Rickshaw Boy* is among his most renowned masterpieces. Featuring the Beijing dialect and local expressions, *Rickshaw Boy* presents a tragic story laced with humour to vividly portray the resilience, pride, and underlying pain of its characters. Director Fang Xu, often regarded as a "Lao She specialist," has adapted Lao She's works for the stage numerous times with his distinctive expressive and interpretative



style. With *Rickshaw Boy*, Fang reimagines the original text through a contemporary lens, incorporating modern aesthetics into the stage design, lighting, music, and visual composition.

Another standout feature of this adaptation is its all-male cast, which boldly challenges traditional gender roles while employing a non-linear, visually driven narrative structure to depict Xiangzi's tragic journey. This innovative approach departs from a straightforward retelling, offering a rich and layered interpretation.

One of the female characters, Tigress, is portrayed by Zhao Zhen, a nationally acclaimed Chinese actor with extensive theatre experience, who brings the role of to life with a commanding portrayal of her domineering and sharp-tongued personality. Another female character, Xiao Fu Zi, is portrayed by Ren Yubin, who is trained in traditional opera Dan roles. He delivers a poignant performance, capturing the character's sorrow and timidity with nuance. Siqin Gaowa, an actress renowned for her iconic portrayal of Tigress in the film adaptation of *Rickshaw Boy* (1982), serves as the artistic advisor for this production.

This marks the first-ever staging of *Rickshaw Boy* in Singapore and Fang's Esplanade debut. The critically acclaimed all-male cast, which has captivated audiences in China, will perform in this groundbreaking production, making it a must-see event!

Chief Producer:	Guan Jixin
Literary Advisor:	Shu Ji
Artistic Advisor:	Siqin Gaowa
Screenwriter and Director:	Fang Xu
Main Cast:	Fang Xu
	Zhao Zhen
	Ren Yuebin
	Sun Ning

(2hrs 50mins, including 20min intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin, with English and Chinese surtitles.  
Recommended for ages 12 and above.

#### About Beijing Artists Management Corp., Ltd

Founded in 1958, Beijing Performance Arts Group Co., Ltd. is one of the most influential and largest cultural performance organisations in Beijing. With its expertise in planning, production, and execution, it has created numerous stage masterpieces such as *Rickshaw Boy*, *Lao She Goes to the Market*, *Monsters in the Forbidden City*, and *Canal 1935*, and has won numerous major drama awards in China.

#### About Fang Xu

Fang Xu, a graduate of the Directing Department of the Central Academy of Drama (Directing), is a multi-talented writer, director, and actor. Since 2011, he has adapted many of Lao She's works into plays, earning the title of "Lao She's Specialist". Fang has developed a distinctive "daxieyi" (expressive and spontaneous) Peking-style theatre, offering a fresh perspective on Lao She's legacy. His notable works include *The Life of Mine*, *Mr Ma and Son*, and *Heaven Sent (Niu Tianci)*. In addition to directing his own productions, Fang collaborates with renowned theatre groups such as the Lin Zhaohua Theatre Studio, the National Theatre Company of China, and the Beijing People's Art Theatre.

**7 & 8 Feb 2025, Fri & Sat, 7.30pm**  
Esplanade Theatre

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

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

*^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials*

Available from 5 Dec – 22 Dec 2024. Limited tickets.

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

*^Esplanade&Me Specials*

Available from 23 Dec 2024, 10am.

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

## Human Condition VIII

by Greenray Theatre Company (Taiwan)  
Written & directed by Wu Nien-jen



After a more than two-decade long domestic run, celebrated Taiwanese arts icon Wu Nien-jen brings his acclaimed *Human Condition* theatre series to *Huayi* for its Singapore premiere. The well-loved series has been enjoyed by over half a million Taiwanese theatregoers so far, and *Human Condition VIII* is the latest eagerly anticipated instalment.

*Human Condition VIII* tells the story of Mingcan, a retiree who finds himself adrift and without a purpose in life. His status as a respected patriarch has long disappeared as his adult children have their own families and lives to deal with. Unable to contribute to the economy and unneeded by his family, Mingcan questions his self-worth as his dignity slowly fades with each listless, monotonous day. Just as he feels that he has struck rock-bottom, he instead strikes the lottery jackpot, and immediately finds himself to be of interest to his family once more. Mingcan feels respected, needed, wanted. But is this unexpected windfall a stroke of luck or a harbinger of misfortune?

Starting in 2000, the *Human Condition* series shines an empathetic spotlight on the day-to-day stories of everyday Taiwanese people who strive to make the best out of what they have in their lives. Presented by Greenray Theatre Company, the series has continued to garner enthusiastic support and enjoy great appeal since its inception. It has become the first taste of theatre for many across Taiwan, with each instalment of the series rapidly selling out within days of their launches.

The first comedy of the series, *Human Condition VIII* is a humorous and poignant tale of masculine self-worth that features an acclaimed cast that includes theatre multi-hyphenate Chen Hsi-Cheng, and Golden Bell Award winners Wang Juan and Yang Li-yin.

Playwright and director Wu Nien-jen is one of the most prolific and respected names in Taiwanese cinema. Debuting in 2001, the *Human Condition* series is his blockbuster foray into theatre, which had been seen and loved by over half a million Taiwanese theatregoers, and earned him the prestigious National Cultural Award.

Artistic Director:

Wu Nien-jen, Ko I-cheng

Produced by: Greenray Inno-Art Inc.  
Written / Directed by: Wu Nien-jen  
Executive Director: Denny Wu  
Main Cast: Chen Hsi-sheng  
Wang Juan  
Yang Li-yin  
Sam Yang  
Crystal Lin  
Frog

Key Visual Photographer: Chen You-wei  
Key Visual Graphic Designer: Hsu Ming-wen

(3hrs, including 20mins intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin and Minnan dialect, with English and Chinese surtitles.  
Advisory: Contains some coarse language. Recommended for ages 12 and above.

#### About Greenray Theatre Company

Since its establishment in 1993, Greenray Theatre Company has produced many theatre works, categorised into five series: "Original Musical", "National Theatre", "World Theatre", "Taiwan Literary Theatre", and "Urban Life Theatre", which features more than 40 works. In 2021, episodes one to six of the *Human Conditions* series were broadcast online and received a record 2.8 million views.

In 2022, Greenray Theatre Company announced the establishment of Greenray Inno-Art Inc., with Wu Nien-jen as the chairman, to diversify the IP of stage plays and to convert them into different forms of cultural entertainment—literature, film and television, theatre, music, and video games—in order to promote the interconnection and integration of the multicultural entertainment market.

#### About Wu Nien-jen

Wu Nien-jen is a Taiwanese director, playwright, actor and writer, who was the first to win all four Golden Awards—the Golden Melody Award, Golden Bell Award, Golden Horse Award, and Golden Tripod Award. He is currently the chairman of Greenway Inno-Art Inc. His signature works include *Daughter of the Nile*, *A Borrowed Life*, *Osmanthus Alley*, *A City of Sadness*, and *Dust in the Wind*.

Wu joined the Greenray Theatre Company in 2001 and created the *Human Condition* series, which has been staged more than 400 times since. His works are reflections of the daily lives of everyday people, with plots that are simple and sincere, successfully attracting first-time theatre audiences.

#### **15 & 16 Feb 2025, Sat & Sun**

Sat, 2pm & 7.30pm | Sun, 2pm  
Esplanade Theatre

Ticket Price: \$38\*, \$58\*\*, \$88^, \$108^, \$128^  
Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$30\*, \$46\*\*  
Limited concession for PWDs: \$30

#### ^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials

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White: 15% savings



Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2)

^Esplanade&Me Specials

Available from 23 Dec 2024, 10am.

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

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

## ANPU 'Awake – from Somnolence'

(Taiwan)



During ANPU's Somnolence tour, she said "It's really great that we haven't lost our way". This short sentence encapsulates the spirit of the tour. Indeed, audience felt nothing but a deep sense of reunion and personal growth, both in terms of the artist's evolution and their own individual journey. The warmth and emotional depth of ANPU's music as always, offers comfort, healing, and the opportunity to re-interpret the past.

Join us at ANPU's concert, let her emotive and captivating music continue to be a source of inspiration, for us to reflect and get comfort, marking significant moments in our lives.

*in::music* showcases some of the most inspiring Chinese singer-songwriters & bands performing their originals.

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

**11 Feb 2025, Tue, 7.30pm**  
Esplanade Theatre

Ticket Price: \$58\*, \$88\*\*, \$118^, \$138^  
Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$46\*, \$76\*\*  
Limited concessions for PWD: \$46

**^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials**  
Available from 5 Dec – 22 Dec 2024. Limited tickets.

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Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2)

**^Esplanade&Me Specials**  
Available from 23 Dec 2024, 10am.

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

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

An Esplanade Co-production

## The Heart of Jun: Memoirs of Zhaojun

by Siong Leng Musical Association (Singapore)



A tale of 20th-century voyagers seeking their destinies, set against the elegant beauty of traditional Nanyin music. Co-produced with Siong Leng Musical Association, *The Heart of Jun: Memoirs of Zhaojun* presents a musical experience of discovery, courage and determination.

Three women leave China and set sail for Southeast Asia in the early 20th century, their voyage echoing the journey of Wang Zhaojun, one of the legendary Four Beauties of ancient China. Finding themselves on a cargo ship, they are inescapably embroiled in sinister struggles for power as a mysterious man reveals secrets they have yet to understand. What will their destinies hold? What connection exists between these three women braving a tumultuous sea and Wang Zhaojun, who rode beyond the borders of Western Han into the Xiongnu empire? Do the fragments of loss and sorrow in Nanyin music symbolise the life stories of these modern women, or do they inspire courage to explore new horizons?

This fusion of traditional Nanyin music and contemporary theatre will delight both Nanyin purists and new audiences. Siong Leng breaks new ground in this collaboration with celebrated Taiwanese playwright Katherine Hui-ling Chou and Taiwanese director Lee Yi Hsiu, who is known for his innovative direction of traditional music performances.

*The Heart of Jun: Memoirs of Zhaojun* features authentic traditional Nanyin music harking back half a millenium that narrates the legend of Wang Zhaojun, with additional music composed by Siong Leng's music director Ng Kang Kee. The production showcases the principal artists of Siong Leng, and a skilled ensemble of Eastern and Western classical musicians performing together with Singapore actors Ang Xiao Ting, Jodi Chan and Hang Qian Chou.

(1hr 20mins, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin and Minnan dialect, with English and Chinese surtitles.

Advisory: Contains some coarse language.

[About Siong Leng Musical Association](#)

Siong Leng Musical Association was established in 1941 and owes its success to its late chairman, Teng Mah Seng. Under his guidance, Siong Leng has become an arts company that preserves and promotes Nanyin. Teng received the Cultural Medallion in 1987 due to his passion and love for Nanyin. As Siong Leng's chairman, he continuously worked to reform and revive Nanyin. He revitalised Nanyin by writing new lyrics and music that were livelier and more relatable. With his hard work and perseverance, Nanyin was given a new life.

In 1983, Siong Leng participated in the 37th Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod and won third place in the folk solo category with Teng's work *Reminiscence*, and fourth place in the folk ensemble category with the traditional Nanyin piece *Trotting Horse*. In 2010, Siong Leng took part in the same competition and won the first prize in the folk solo category with Teng's work *Facets of Life*.

Siong Leng organised the inaugural Southeast Asia Nanyin Conference in 1977, the International Nanyin Concert & Symposium in 2000, the International Youth Nanyin Concert and Symposium in 2015, as well as the International Youth Nanyin Festival in 2018. To ensure that the musicians maintain close relations with other Nanyin musicians around the world and keep up with the development of Nanyin, the company actively participates in international Nanyin symposiums held in Asia, to contribute to the efforts of promoting and developing the ancient artform. Siong Leng has also toured and performed in major cities and countries in Europe, Asia, and the US.

In 2017, Siong Leng was the recipient of the inaugural Singapore Chinese Cultural Contribution Award, awarded by the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre. In 2021, Siong Leng was awarded The Stewards of Intangible Cultural Heritage Award by The National Heritage Board. Siong Leng is also the recipient of the National Arts Council Major Grant (2022–2025).

**14 & 15 Feb 2025, Fri & Sat, 8pm**

Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade

Ticket Price: \$45<sup>\*</sup>^, \$60<sup>^</sup>

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$36<sup>\*</sup>

Limited concessions for PWD: \$36

<sup>^</sup>Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials

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Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2)

<sup>^</sup>Esplanade&Me Specials

Available from 23 Dec 2024, 10am.

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

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

An Esplanade Co-production

## **Dance with Me**

by Frontier Danceland (Singapore)

Artistic Director: Low Mei Yoke



Do you stop dancing because you grow old?

Four friends who share a passion for dance reunite after more than 40 years. They reminisce about their youthful days, recalling the reckless pursuit of their dreams and the fearless dedication of their younger selves. What did they believe in? What did they hold onto? In the end, how have they changed?

Now, with their wealth of experience, they learn new steps as they once again dance together, rediscovering one another through their shared movements. They embrace their differences, welcome spontaneous participation, and respect those who choose to step away. Perhaps dance is more than just dance; it is a reflection of life. Through their dance together, they aim to reveal the traces of their life journeys, showcasing the many possibilities of body and dance.

In *Dance with Me*, Artistic Director Low Mei Yoke invites her longtime friends Selina Tan, Thong Meng Lan and Jean Lee—who danced together with her in their youthful days—to explore the essence of life and dance in this brand new work. They are also joined by a regional creative team, comprising Ong Yong Loke (Hong Kong), Ng Chor Guan (Malaysia), and Gabriel Chan and Tung Ka Wai (Singapore) in this collaboration.

(1hr 15mins, no intermission)

Performed in English & Mandarin, no surtitles

### About Frontier Danceland

Founded in 1991 by Low Mei Yoke and Tan Chong Poh, Frontier Danceland is a professional non-profit contemporary dance company in Singapore that became full-fledged in 2011. Committed to cultivating versatility in expression through the body, Frontier Danceland's dynamic range of innovative works craft unique experiences that heighten sensibilities and evoke introspection.



Frontier Danceland has worked with both local and international dance-makers including Noa Zuk, Ohad Fishof and Shahar Binyamini (Israel); Richard Chappell and Deborah Nightingale née Galloway (United Kingdom); Stephanie Lake and Luke Smiles (Australia); Edouard Hue and Thomas Lebrun (France); Sita Ostheimer (Germany); Sascia Pellegrini (Italy); Matej Kejzar (Belgium/Slovenia); Liu Yen-Cheng and Tung I-Fen (Taiwan); and Victor Ma Choi-Wo (Hong Kong).

Throughout the years, Frontier Danceland has represented Singapore internationally, including three sold-out shows at Batsheva Dance Company in Tel Aviv, Israel; Kuandu Arts Festival in Taiwan; the 25th and 30th Quinzena De Dança De Almada – International Dance Festival in Portugal; Festival Tour d'Horizons in France; and Dance in the City in Belgium and Germany.

#### About Low Mei Yoke, Artistic Director

Low Mei Yoke is the co-founder of Frontier Danceland (Singapore) and one of the pioneer Singapore choreographers who had the vision of creating a unique blend of contemporary dance with a distinctive Singaporean style. Fusing Eastern aesthetics with Western movement vocabulary, Low's choreography focuses on honest portrayals of human emotions, zeal and relentless drive. Her works are contemplative, evoking reflection and introspection, and are often celebrated for being bold, imaginative and thought-provoking. She also enjoys creating works that represent Singapore's vibrant and diverse society. In recognition of her contributions to the arts in Singapore, the National Arts Council conferred her with the Cultural Medallion Award in 2018.

Low's choreographic works have been performed to great success and favourable reviews. Her work *Cloud* was showcased to much acclaim at 2000 Feet – A Celebration of World Dance, a dance festival held in Philadelphia, USA. Dance critic Brenda Dixon Gottschild praised it as a first-rate performance in America's foremost dance publication *Dance Magazine*. In 2015, her work, *Fade*, portrayed an obscure historical feature of Singaporean culture, "Ma Jie" (妈姐), and won high acclaim and enthusiastic applause from the audience. Other notable works include *Abortion*, *Asking Dance*, *Crying Earth*, *Grandmother's Tale*, *Refuges*, *The First Emperor*, *In the Moment*, and *White*. Excerpts of her works have toured internationally to Portugal, Belgium, Germany, France, Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Philippine, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, and Malaysia, bringing a uniquely Singaporean narrative not just to other Asian countries, but also to the Western frontiers.

Low's expertise in contemporary dance has led her to receive invitations to be part of the distinguished panel of judges in Malaysia National Chinese Cultural Dance Open Competitions, the Hong Kong Bauhinia Cup Dance Championship, and at Tanzolymp Asia 2018 in Seoul, South Korea.

#### **7 & 8 Feb 2025, Fri & Sat**

Fri, 8pm

Sat, 3pm & 8pm

Esplanade Theatre Studio

Ticket Price: \$40<sup>^</sup>

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$32

#### <sup>^</sup>Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials

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^Esplanade&Me Specials

Available from 23 Dec 2024, 10am.

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White: 10% savings

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

An Esplanade Commission

## Last Luncheon

by Le Jeu Studio (Singapore)

Written, directed & performed by Alvin Chiam



“The soul that sees beauty may sometimes walk alone.”

– Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

A man,  
a table,  
a pack of instant noodles,  
a can of luncheon meat,  
a cassette tape recorder.

This is a journey of life, about reflection and acceptance.

When the present meets the past, perhaps the future becomes clear.

Every day, an elderly man eats a can of luncheon meat, to keep a promise to his wife. Alone and adrift, he revisits past moments and memories, in search of meaning and closure. As the days pass, he gets closer to his last can of luncheon meat.

After decades in the scene honing his craft, Singapore theatre practitioner Alvin Chiam writes, directs, and performs in his first solo work, a rumination on the meaning of solitude.

Inspired by *Krapp's Last Tape* by Samuel Beckett, Chiam invites the audience on this groundbreaking journey with him. Choosing a minimalist approach, Chiam compels the audience to focus on him, to delight in his exterior actions, but more importantly, to look beyond that and see his character's inner world.

Alvin Chiam: “It has been an unconscious goal to explore solitude since the very beginning of this creation; the sheer realisation that loneliness is ubiquitous, is silently by our side since the day we were born...When change hits us, there is grief, remorse, or emptiness...Solitude will

take us into her arms. A quiet world as such, some remain vanquished, some are redeemed, while some may still be waiting...”

There will be a post-show dialogue with Alvin Chiam after the performance on 15 Feb, 8pm.

*Last Luncheon* is a commission by the inaugural Huayi Brewery, an incubation programme that aims to provide support for and cultivate deeper relationships with independent artists creating works in the Chinese language.

Writer, Director and Performer: Alvin Chiam

Dramaturg: Robin Loon

Script Editor / Documenter / Archiver / Researcher: Neo Hai Bin

Sound Designer / Music Composition: Jing Ng

Lighting Designer: Liu Yong Huay

Scenographer / Production Design: Ian Tan

Graphic Designer: Ric Liu

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)

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

Advisory: Contains some mature content.

Admission for ages 13 and above. Recommended for ages 16 and above.

#### About Le Jeu Studio

Founded by Alvin Chiam, Le Jeu Studio is dedicated to crafting a stage that sparks imagination and embodies pleasure and playfulness. Through each creative narrative and heartfelt performance, we embark on a journey of exploring and sharing the beauty of humanity.

#### About Alvin Chiam

Alvin Chiam is a vibrant presence in Singapore's theatre landscape, with over 25 years of experience shaping the Singapore theatre and arts scene. Throughout his career, Chiam has taken on diverse roles as an actor, director, and acting coach. His productions and training sessions have captivated audiences in Paris, London, China, Macau, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. Chiam has also had the privilege of collaborating with esteemed directors across Asia such as Stan Lai (Taiwan) and Fredric Mao (Hong Kong).

In 2001, he joined The Theatre Practice, a leading bilingual theatre company founded by the late Kuo Pao Kun, a pioneer of Singaporean theatre, and played a vital role in his six years at the company. In 2007, he was awarded the Arts Professional Development Grant from the National Arts Council of Singapore, enabling him to hone his performing skills under the mentorship of the renowned Philippe Gaulier in Paris. Graduating with distinction from École Philippe Gaulier in 2009, Chiam then served as a movement teacher and Assistant Professor at the school.

In 2013, he received the Arts Scholarship from the National Arts Council Singapore, allowing him to pursue an MA in Ensemble Theatre at Rose Bruford College in London. He graduated with a master's degree in 2014 and continued to contribute to the academic community as a part-time lecturer at Rose Bruford College.

Currently, Chiam makes significant contributions as a full-time lecturer at LASALLE College of the Arts in Singapore. His unwavering dedication to theatre, combined with his extensive experience and training, continues to inspire audiences and aspiring artists alike.

**14 – 16 Feb 2025, Fri – Sun**

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

Esplanade Theatre Studio

Ticket Price: \$40^

Limited concessions for students, NSF's, seniors and PWDs: \$32

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials

Available from 5 Dec – 22 Dec 2024. Limited tickets.

Black: 20% savings

White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2)

^Esplanade&Me Specials

Available from 23 Dec 2024, 10am.

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

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

# Candy House in the Mountain

by Bon Appétit Theatre (Taiwan)



You've heard sound effects before, but have you *seen* how sound effects are created live during a theatre performance? That's what a foley artist does, and *Candy House in the Mountain* features a foley artist!

Let your imagination take flight through the beauty of Mandarin storytelling and captivating live music and sound effects!

Bon Appétit Theatre brings you on an enchanting and eye-opening journey through a reimagining of beloved children's classic *Hansel and Gretel*, told through an enchanting blend of storytelling with music and sound effects created live on stage. Family audiences with young children can expect a fun and unique experience that harnesses the power of language and sound to explore the emotional depths of the classic tale. Audience members also get to participate in creating sound effects during the show!

Presented with young audiences in mind as an engaging and easy-to-follow Mandarin story, *Candy House in the Mountain* makes meaningful connections between the enduring themes of *Hansel and Gretel* and the current issues of today, creating a sense of shared understanding and empathy.

(1hr, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin, no surtitles.

Admission for ages 6 and above. Recommended for ages 7 to 12.

## About Bon Appétit Theatre

Founded in 2018, Bon Appétit Theatre integrates sound, music, puppetry, objects, and physical performance to explore contemporary issues and environmental themes, creating unique sensory experiences for family audiences. Since 2020, the company has collaborated with foley artist Chen Yen-Ju to develop "foley performance techniques", focusing on original stories that convey universal values.

In 2024, its non-verbal puppetry production, *Little Drops of Rain*, was selected for the Taiwan Season at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and received a four-star review from *Edinburgh*



*Festival Magazine*, which described it as “a feast for the ears”. Bon Appétit Theatre also works closely with domestic and international organisations, including the Taipei Children’s Arts Festival and the Umay Theater at Huashan 1914 Creative Park in Taiwan, and Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay in Singapore.

**7 – 9 Feb 2025, Fri – Sun**

11am & 3pm

Esplanade Recital Studio

Ticket Price: \$35^

^Esplanade&Me Specials

PIP’s Club: 10% savings (Min. of 2) (Limited tickets)

## What is Qin

by Zi De Guqin Studio (China)



Ancient China comes to spectacular musical life as Zi De Guqin Studio makes their Singapore debut with *What is Qin*, after touring to multiple cities around China since 2020.

Featuring a visually arresting and sonically exciting narrative style, Zi De Guqin Studio's atmospheric "ancient painting music" concerts—a masterful fusion of the classical and the modern—have mesmerised and captured the hearts of many. A traditional Chinese painting come to life, the ensemble's young musicians present classical Chinese music pieces performed on traditional instruments—with the *guqin* as the star—while wearing classical Chinese costumes from various Chinese dynastic periods.

The ensemble presents their unique contemporary takes on traditional Chinese classical pieces such as *Solitary Orchid*, *Breaking a Willow at the Yangguan*, as well as a mesmerising rendition of their original piece *Break Through*.

Zi De Guqin Studio has garnered international recognition, and boasts millions of followers on social media who eagerly anticipate their unique music videos that have revitalised an interest in traditional Chinese instruments and culture among young and old alike. This is a perfect introduction to traditional Chinese music for the uninitiated, and a sophisticated and sumptuous reinvention of the familiar for long-time listeners.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission.)

### About Zi De Guqin Studio

Established in 2014 in Shanghai, China, Zi De Guqin Studio is one of the most unique contemporary traditional Chinese music ensembles, featuring young musicians in traditional Chinese attire playing traditional Chinese instruments. The studio is dedicated to promoting traditional Chinese music and culture, with a focus on the *guqin* (a plucked seven-string instrument with a history of over three millennia). Their refined Eastern traditional aesthetics has brought about the "ancient painting music" trend on the internet, showcasing the profound cultural heritage of China and the cultural confidence of Chinese youth today.

Starting in 2020, Zi De Guqin Studio presented the *What is Qin? – Tang Dynasty* concert series nationwide in China. In 2023, they launched the *What is Qin? – Song Dynasty* concert series. Dressed in Tang dynasty costumes, the musicians evoke the imagery of characters from ancient paintings, playing the *guqin*, Chinese flute, *gu zheng* and drum to entertain their audience. Their repertoire is rearranged and reinterpreted based on traditional pieces, combining the essence of ancient times with innovative sounds.

**8 & 9 Feb 2025, Sat & Sun**

Sat, 8pm | Sun, 3pm

Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade

Ticket Price: \$58^

Limited concessions for students, NSF's, seniors and PWDs: \$46

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials

Available from 5 Dec – 22 Dec 2024. Limited tickets.

Black: 20% savings

White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2)

^Esplanade&Me Specials

Available from 23 Dec 2024, 10am.

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

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

# The Temple of Resonance

by Uni Percussion (Taiwan)



*The Temple of Resonance* draws audiences into an immersive percussive experience that teems with the aural essence of Taiwan's temple culture.

Inspired by the rhythmic reverberation of gongs and cymbals in musical processions that travel through bustling streets and alleys, and the transcendental prayers and thanksgivings of temple-goers that ring through the seasons, centuries of sounds have been channelled into this immersive fusion of contemporary percussion and experimental music.

Temples are a focal point of Taiwanese life, deeply embedded in the everyday experience of the young and old. Still, for many on the island, there is much in temple culture, with its intricacies and rituals, that remain elusive and unknown. Starting in 2019, Uni Percussion artistic director and percussionist Yung-Chih Hsueh conducted field research to explore the elements of temple culture, resulting in a richly layered music experience that transforms the performance space into a temple courtyard that has existed through the ages. Masterfully utilising a variety of percussive instruments and everyday objects, Hsueh creates unique rhythms and melodies that are familiar yet surreal.

In 2024, *The Temple of Resonance* was nominated for the prestigious Taishin Arts Award, and was also selected as one of the featured programmes at the Kaohsiung Spring Arts Festival.

(1hr, no intermission)

Advisory: You may choose to sit on benches or on the floor during the performance. Both seating options will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

## About Uni Percussion

Founded by Artistic Director Yung-Chih Hsueh, Uni Percussion builds on a foundation of classical and modern music education, merging percussion, sound art and theatre with

interdisciplinary collaboration. Bringing together talent from diverse artistic fields both domestically and internationally, Uni Percussion aims to create a vibrant, multifaceted art environment and establish innovative platforms for audience engagement. In recent years, the Lab has expanded its creative reach by collaborating with installation artists, dancers, and puppeteers, exploring connections between the arts and society through performance productions, art curation, site-specific works, and community workshops.

**8 & 9 Feb 2025, Sat & Sun**

Sat, 5pm | Sun, 1pm & 5pm

Esplanade Annexe Studio

Ticket Price: \$38^

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

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials

Available from 5 Dec – 22 Dec 2024. Limited tickets.

Black: 20% savings

White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2)

^Esplanade&Me Specials

Available from 23 Dec 2024, 10am.

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

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

## Boon Hui Lu 'Hey Dear, Time to Go Back Again with Me' (Singapore)



Come and be treasured. Come and be loved.

Singapore singer-songwriter Boon Hui Lu commemorates her 10th year of making music with a special Valentine's Day concert.

To mark the occasion, Hui Lu will be sharing original songs from her long-awaited upcoming solo EP. And she will even be hosting a song request session for those who wish to make this Valentine's Day a little more memorable for their loved one.

Her journey in music has seen many chameleonic transformations, as she effortlessly shifts between genres and styles such as lyrical pop, indie ballad, and rock. These have only spurred her own musical passions as she grew from being a goddess of cover songs into a creative force in her own right.

*in::music* showcases some of the most inspiring Chinese singer-songwriters & bands performing their originals.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin.  
Standing room only.

### About Boon Hui Lu

Boon Hui Lu is a singer-songwriter from Singapore. She rose to fame in the early days by covering songs on YouTube. One of her covers, *Stranger In the North* instantly climbed to the top of various regional YouTube charts after its release, accumulating over 50 million views to



date. Her YouTube channel has also surpassed one billion views in total. In addition to her unique voice and impressive vocal abilities, Hui Lu also possesses exceptional songwriting skills. She has released her original works, with two full albums of original compositions released in 2019 and 2022, titled *Honestly me* and *Dear* respectively. Popular songs from these albums include *Messed Up*, *Losing myself*, and *Reset*.

Hui Lu songwriting abilities have been recognised by many artists, leading her to collaborate on various songs too. Some of the songs written and composed by Boon Hui Lu for other artists include *Everyday is a miracle* and *Your body speaks* for Hebe Tien, *Present* for Jia Jia, *Heart to heart* for Jiuze CP, *Guess* for Joanne Tseng and *Silver Lining* for Wen Yin Liang.

**14 Feb 2025, Fri, 8pm**  
Esplanade Annexe Studio

Ticket Price: \$68^  
Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWD: \$55

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials  
Available from 5 Dec – 22 Dec 2024. Limited tickets.

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

^Esplanade&Me Specials  
Available from 23 Dec 2024, 10am.

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

## Yoyo Sham 'it's been a while...'

(Hong Kong)



"Is it a place of a feeling? A sense of safety or belonging? To me, a home should be more than just one place." – Yoyo Sham

Hong Kong singer-songwriter Yoyo Sham pursues her profession while regularly shuttling between Hong Kong and Taiwan. With this nomadic music lifestyle, she frequently ponders on the meaning of home, and these musings found their way into her 2022 release *Home is...*, which saw a Hong Kong concert tour that was attended by more than 10,000 fans.

In 2019, Sham's album *Nothing is Under Control* was nominated for Mandarin Female Vocalist of the Year and Album Producer of the Year at the Golden Melody Awards in Taiwan, also selected as Top 10 albums in Freshmusic Awards in Singapore. The following year, she won Best Original Film Song for her song *Fly* at the Hong Kong Film Awards.

Destiny has it that her song *Come What May* found its way to be chosen as the ending theme for the movie title *Twilight of the Warriors: Walled In*, honing into the theme that the relationship shared between people and their place transcends time.

*in::music* showcases some of the most inspiring Chinese singer-songwriters & bands performing their originals.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin and Cantonese  
Standing room only.

**15 Feb 2025, Sat, 8pm**  
Esplanade Annexe Studio

Ticket Price: \$68^

Limited concessions for students, NSF's, seniors and PWD: \$55

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials

Available from 5 Dec – 22 Dec 2024. Limited tickets.

Black: 20% savings

White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2)

^Esplanade&Me Specials

Available from 23 Dec 2024, 10am.

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

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

## GoodBand 'We Learn to Take Care of Each Other in the Ongoing' (Taiwan)



Your musical companion to adulthood.

After debuting in 2015 and releasing two EPs and an album in the years since, Taiwanese duo GoodBand makes their way to *Huayi* for their debut Singapore concert with a full live band!

Formed by Wen Hsu (vocals) and Ching (guitars), GoodBand strives to provide a sense of companionship to their listeners through poignant songs that range from folk pop to indie rock. They sing of their own experiences of youth and of the challenges of adulthood, resonating strongly with fans and first-time listeners alike.

The debut single *Youth to You* has gained more than 14 million views on YouTube, and their 2020 single *The Useless Young Man* achieved the same success. Both songs have been regarded by many Taiwanese youth as anthems of their lives.

*in::music* showcases some of the most inspiring Chinese singer-songwriters & bands performing their originals.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin.  
Standing room only.

**16 Feb 2025, Sun, 4pm**  
Esplanade Annexe Studio

Ticket Price: \$68^  
Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWD: \$55

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials  
Available from 5 Dec – 22 Dec 2024. Limited tickets.

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

^Esplanade&Me Specials

Available from 23 Dec 2024, 10am.

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

# The Perfect Detox Soup

by Cheryl Lee (Malaysia)



After taking Malaysia and Hong Kong by storm with her wit and humour, Malaysian stand-up comedian Cheryl Lee makes her Singapore debut at *Huayi* with a brand new show!

*The Perfect Detox Soup* is a Cantonese stand-up comedy experience that humorously unpacks the various “toxins” of modern life. From outdated mindsets to toxic relationships and the negativity of online troll culture, Lee skillfully administers a delightful comedic antidote with her sharp wit and keen observations. This show will have you flushed with cleansing laughter, giving your mind, body and soul a thorough comedy detox.

(50mins, no intermission)

Performed in Cantonese, no surtitles.

Advisory: Contains mature content and coarse language.

Admission for ages 16 and above.

## About Cheryl Lee

Cheryl Lee is a versatile artist, known as a host, lyricist, writer, YouTuber, and stand-up comedian. To date, she has published six popular books that offer a blend of life wisdom and humour. In the field of stand-up comedy, she has also excelled, holding over 10 solo performances, all of which received enthusiastic responses with sold-out crowds. With her witty language and keen observations, Lee has made a name for herself across various domains, attracting a large fan base. Whether online or during live shows, she continues to have a significant impact.

**14 & 15 Feb 2025, Fri & Sat, 7.30pm**

Esplanade Recital Studio

Ticket Price: \$58^

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



^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials

Available from 5 Dec – 22 Dec 2024. Limited tickets.

Black: 20% savings

White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2)

^Esplanade&Me Specials

Available from 23 Dec 2024, 10am.

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

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

## Parent-Child Workshop: Little Puppets Celebrate CNY!

by The Finger Players (Singapore)



Bring your child along for a hands-on introduction to traditional Chinese hand puppetry in this workshop!

At *Parent-Child Workshop: Little Puppets Celebrate CNY!*, you and your child will discover the rich history of the traditional art form and learn basic puppet manipulation techniques. After which, participants get the valuable opportunity to create and perform their own story using the hand puppets!

(1hr 30mins)

Conducted in English and Mandarin.

For ages 6 and above, with an accompanying adult. Accompanying adult must be above 16.

### About The Finger Players

The Finger Players is one of Singapore's leading theatre companies, best known for inventively fusing traditional and contemporary puppetry elements and integrating other artistic disciplines into its visually arresting productions.

Founded in 1999, The Finger Players is Singapore's oldest contemporary puppetry theatre company. Since its inception, it has been invited to perform in various countries. Its body of work is extensive and has garnered recognition from both domestic and international media.

**8 & 15 Feb 2025, Sat, 1.30pm & 4.30pm**

Esplanade White Room

Ticket Price:

1 Adult + 1 Child \$50

1 Adult + 2 Children \$75

2 Adults + 1 Child \$75

## Parent-Child Workshop: Soundscapes of Imagination

by Bon Appétit Theatre (Taiwan)



Get a hands-on foley experience in making live sound effects for theatre!

Bon Appétit Theatre guides workshop participants in exploring how sound effects can be created using everyday objects, and in using their imagination to create their own unique stories.

(1hr 30mins)

Conducted in Mandarin.

For ages 6 and above, with an accompanying adult. Accompanying adult must be above 16.

### About Bon Appétit Theatre

Founded in 2018, Bon Appétit Theatre integrates sound, music, puppetry, objects, and physical performance to explore contemporary issues and environmental themes, creating unique sensory experiences for family audiences. Since 2020, the company has collaborated with foley artist Chen Yen-Ju to develop “foley performance techniques”, focusing on original stories that convey universal values.

In 2024, its non-verbal puppetry production, *Little Drops of Rain*, was selected for the Taiwan Season at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and received a four-star review from *Edinburgh Festival Magazine*, which described it as “a feast for the ears”. Bon Appétit Theatre also works closely with domestic and international organisations, including the Taipei Children’s Arts Festival and the Umay Theater at Huashan 1914 Creative Park in Taiwan, and Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay in Singapore.

**8 Feb 2025, Sat, 5pm**

Esplanade Rehearsal Studio

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

Ticket Price: [Sold Out]

1 Adult + 1 Child \$50

1 Adult + 2 Children \$75

2 Adults + 1 Child \$75

## Workshop: Discover Hulusi

by Tong Wei Jie (Singapore)



Get a first-hand introduction to the Hulusi, one of the most popular Chinese ethnic instruments. After an eye-opening afternoon of music-making, participants even get their very own brand-new Hulusi to keep!

With its uniquely pleasing musical tone, the iconic gourd and bamboo instrument has mesmerised those who have the pleasure to hear it being played.

(1hr 30mins)

Conducted in English and Mandarin.

Admission for ages 13 and above.

### About Tong Wei Jie

Tong Wei Jie is a passionate musician, conductor, and educator, who is dedicated to music education and community engagement. With a Master of Education in Music, he conducts and instructs diverse groups that include students, seniors, and special-needs communities, while fostering artistic development through roles in various schools, ensembles, and cultural organisations in Singapore.

**9 Feb 2025, Sun, 1.30pm & 4.30pm**

Esplanade White Room

Ticket Price: \$30

## Workshop: Acting is about Playing

by Alvin Chiam (Singapore)



Regardless of whether you are an aspiring performer, an established performer or a beginner wishing to learn more about performance, this workshop by veteran theatre practitioner Alvin Chiam will provide you with valuable insights about the art of performance. And the best thing is you'll be playing while you're doing it!

Through theatre games and exercises, participants will have opportunities to experience the two fundamental elements of performance—playfulness and imagination. Participants will also explore how these two fundamental elements can serve as catalysts to enhance creativity.

(1hr 30mins)

Conducted in English and Mandarin.

Admission for ages 16 and above.

### About Alvin Chiam

Alvin Chiam is a vibrant presence in Singapore's theatre landscape, with over 25 years of experience shaping the Singapore theatre and arts scene. Throughout his career, Chiam has taken on diverse roles as an actor, director, and acting coach. His productions and training sessions have captivated audiences in Paris, London, China, Macau, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. Chiam has also had the privilege of collaborating with esteemed directors across Asia such as Stan Lai (Taiwan) and Fredric Mao (Hong Kong).

In 2001, he joined The Theatre Practice, a leading bilingual theatre company founded by the late Kuo Pao Kun, a pioneer of Singaporean theatre, and played a vital role in his six years at the company. In 2007, he was awarded the Arts Professional Development Grant from the National Arts Council of Singapore, enabling him to hone his performing skills under the mentorship of the renowned Philippe Gaulier in Paris. Graduating with distinction from École Philippe Gaulier in 2009, Chiam then served as a movement teacher and Assistant Professor at the school.

In 2013, he received the Arts Scholarship from the National Arts Council Singapore, allowing him to pursue an MA in Ensemble Theatre at Rose Bruford College in London. He graduated with a master's degree in 2014 and continued to contribute to the academic community as a part-time lecturer at Rose Bruford College.

Currently, Chiam makes significant contributions as a full-time lecturer at LASALLE College of the Arts in Singapore. His unwavering dedication to theatre, combined with his extensive experience and training, continues to inspire audiences and aspiring artists alike.

**9 Feb 2025, Sun, 4pm**

Esplanade Rehearsal Studio

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

Ticket Price: \$28



## Workshop: CNY Fabric Looming

by Aestival Elements (Singapore)



Discover the art of fabric looming in this fun, hands-on workshop! Learn the traditional technique of weaving threads on a loom and create your own unique Chinese New Year decor piece. Participants get to enjoy the creative process that fosters mindfulness and craft something that is personal and meaningful.

Fabric looming is a traditional weaving technique where threads are interlaced to create a fabric. Using a loom, participants will learn how to set up the warp (vertical threads) and weave in the weft (horizontal threads) to form patterns.

(2hrs)

Conducted in English and Mandarin.

Admission for ages 15 and above.

### About Aestival Elements

Aestival Elements is founded by Valerie Aw, who has been passionate about crafting since a young age. She learnt the art of Chinese paper cutting from her artist father, Aw Tee Hong. She enjoys the intricate art of traditional Chinese paper cutting and the creativity of diorama-making. While Valerie has a background in banking, her true passion lies in the world of handmade creations and she is excited to share her skills and enthusiasm with you in this workshop!

**16 Feb 2025, Sun, 1.30pm & 4.30pm**

Esplanade White Room

Ticket Price: \$30

## Huayi Dialogues

The *Huayi Dialogues* is a groundbreaking initiative by *Huayi Festival*, curated by Singapore theatre artist Liu Xiaoyi. This platform brings together artists, cultural practitioners, and audiences through a rich tapestry of lectures, panels and discussion.

A festival should be more than just a stage for performances — it should also be a bridge for dialogue, fertile ground for collaboration, and an engine for growth. The *Huayi Dialogues* strives to provide a dynamic platform for lasting and meaningful exchanges, serving as a catalyst for new ideas and partnerships in the cultural ecosystem.

The inaugural *Huayi Dialogues* will be held during *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts 2025*, featuring three master lectures and a thought-provoking panel discussion. Experience the wisdom and creativity of Fang Xu (Beijing), Wu Nien-chen (Taipei), and Edward Lam (Hong Kong), three luminaries of Chinese theatre. They will each share personal insights drawn from their illustrious careers, exploring themes rooted in their respective cultural contexts. From Beijing's humanistic narratives to Taipei's interdisciplinary artistry and Hong Kong's experimental and international perspectives, these lectures will illuminate the diversity of artistic creation across different cultural landscapes. Be inspired by their experiences and reflections, and discover new pathways for creativity and connection.

Whether you are a practitioner of the arts or an audience member brimming with curiosity, the *Huayi Dialogues* promises to offer you an inspiring and enlightening experience.

## Reinterpreting Classics with Fang Xu

(China)

Hosted by Liu Xiaoyi (Singapore)



A conversation that bridges the traditional with the contemporary: celebrated Chinese playwright and director Fang Xu, known as “Lao She’s specialist”, will bring Beijing-style theatre to Singapore—a place so distinct in language and culture. Meeting Singaporean audiences for the first time, Fang will discuss why he chose to focus on Lao She’s works, his perspective on reinterpreting and recreating classics, and his own journey in theatre. He will

also reflect on the current state of Chinese “small theatre”, its future direction, and how Chinese theatre can engage in dialogue and exchange with other cultures.

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

#### About Fang Xu

Fang Xu, a graduate of the Directing Department of the Central Academy of Drama (Directing), is a multi-talented writer, director, and actor. Since 2011, he has adapted many of Lao She's works into plays, earning the title of "Lao She's Specialist." Fang has developed a distinctive "daxieyi" (expressive and spontaneous) Peking-style theatre, offering a fresh perspective on Lao She's legacy. His notable works include *The Life of Mine*, *Mr Ma and Son*, and *Heaven Sent (Niu Tianci)*. In addition to directing his own productions, Fang collaborates with renowned theatre groups, such as the Lin Zhaohua Theatre Studio, the National Theatre Company of China, and the Beijing People's Art Theatre.

#### About Liu Xiaoyi

The Artistic Director of Emergency Stairs in Singapore, Xiaoyi is considered one of the most promising leaders at the forefront of the experimental theatre scene and cultural exchange network in Asia. He has been involved in over 80 theatre productions as director, playwright, and actor over the past two decades. Xiaoyi has remained steadfast in his pursuit of the development and transcendence of theatrical forms, while actively promoting cross-cultural and transnational dialogues. Outside of his creative endeavors, he is also a dynamic curator, educator, and cultural critic.

Major awards Xiaoyi has received include Lee Kuan Yew Gold Medal (2010), the Young Artist Award (2016) by the National Arts Council of Singapore, Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award (2022), Patron of Heritage and the Arts Award (2023) by Nanyang Technological University, Golden Point Award (2017, 2019, and 2023), Global Outstanding Young Leaders Award by Asia Week (Yazhou Zhoukan) (2024).

Platforms initiated and curated by Xiaoyi include Re-viewer, Singapore's inaugural Chinese theatre critique platform (2014–present); *Southernmost*, an intercultural arts festival (2017 – 2019); No More Theatre, dedicated to fostering collaboration between digital technology and the arts (2018 – present); Emergency Academy, a global youth cultural leadership incubator (2020 – present); and The Peripheral Experiment, an independent arts festival (201 – present); Young Artists Incubation Platform Emergency Camp (2014 – present); among others. Presently, Xiaoyi serves as the resident artist in Linjiang New District in Jiangsu Province, China, while holding the position of Senior Research Fellow and International Exchange Advisor at NAFA, within the University of the Arts Singapore.

**8 Feb 2025, Sat, 4pm**  
Esplanade Black Room

Ticket Price: \$5\*

\*Exclusive for Esplanade&Me members and Lianhe Zaobao Club members.

## Extraordinary Stories with Wu Nien-jen

(Taiwan)

Hosted by Liu Xiaoyi (Singapore)



This is a conversation bridging film and theatre. Acclaimed Taiwanese director, writer, and screenwriter Wu Nien-jen will make his Singapore debut with Greenray Theatre, presenting the highly anticipated latest installment of the National Drama series, *Human Condition VIII*. In this talk, Wu will share his journey into Taiwan's film industry, his transition into theatre, and the inspiration behind the first *Human Condition* production. He will also offer valuable advice to aspiring playwrights and directors. As Taiwan's most "unretirable" artist, Wu will reflect on his current creative process and lifestyle. This is a rare opportunity to engage with a legendary creator from Taiwan.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)

Conducted in Mandarin.

### About Wu Nien-jen

Wu Nien-jen is a Taiwanese director, playwright, actor and writer, who was the first to win all four Golden Awards—the Golden Melody Award, Golden Bell Award, Golden Horse Award, and Golden Tripod Award. He is currently the chairman of Greenway Inno-Art Inc. His signature works include *Daughter of the Nile*, *A Borrowed Life*, *Osmanthus Alley*, *A City of Sadness*, and *Dust in the Wind*.

Wu joined the Greenray Theatre Company in 2001 and created the *Human Condition* series, which has been staged more than 400 times since. His works are reflections of the daily lives of everyday people, with plots that are simple and sincere, successfully attracting first-time theatre audiences.

### About Liu Xiaoyi

The Artistic Director of Emergency Stairs in Singapore, Xiaoyi is considered one of the most promising leaders at the forefront of the experimental theatre scene and cultural exchange network in Asia. He has been involved in over 80 theatre productions as director, playwright, and actor over the past two decades. Xiaoyi has remained steadfast in his pursuit of the development and transcendence of theatrical forms, while actively promoting cross-cultural and transnational dialogues. Outside of his creative endeavors, he is also a dynamic curator, educator, and cultural critic.

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**12 Feb 2025, Wed, 7.30pm**

Esplanade Recital Studio

Ticket Price: \$5\*

\*Exclusive for Esplanade&Me members and Lianhe Zaobao Club members.



## Long Time No See with Edward Lam

(Hong Kong)

Hosted by Liu Xiaoyi (Singapore)



This is a conversation bridging the past and the future. It has been seven years since Edward Lam last participated in Esplanade's *Huayi – Chinese Festival of the Arts* with *Why We Chat*. For the world, these seven years have been indescribably transformative. In ninety minutes, Lam will piece together fragments of the past seven years to create a bigger picture. What roles do you and I play in these stories? How does this encounter differ from his previous visits with a theatrical production? Have these seven years shaped a different Edward Lam? Lam eagerly awaits this answer. What title best encapsulates this reunion? Only one fits: long time no see.

(2hrs, no intermission)

Conducted in Mandarin.

### About Edward Lam

Edward Lam founded Zuni Icosahedron with friends in the early 1980s and established Edward Lam Dance Theatre, where he serves as the artistic director, during his residence in London (1989–1995). Since returning to Hong Kong in 1995, he has devoted himself to theatre and directed more than 70 original productions. Lam was awarded Best Director at Shanghai theatre festival Modern Drama Valley's One Drama Awards on several occasions, including for *Men and Women*, *War and Peace* (2010), *The Doppelgänger* (2012), and *What is Sex?* (2017), and was named Artist of the Year (Theatre) by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council in 2017. A firm believer in education, Lam has given lectures at The University of Hong Kong, the Academy of Film at Hong Kong Baptist University, and The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. In 2015, he launched the first edition of ELDT On Screen, a cinematic showcase of four of his adaptations of literary classics. He has also published books of collected essays, including *Waiting for Hong Kong*, *The Meaning of Entertainment*, *Evil But Glamorous*, *My TV Dinner Years*, and *Leading Ladies in the Mandarin Cinema*. In 2016, Taiwanese journal Performing Arts Review published *Who is Afraid of Edward Lam*, Hsu Yen-mei's analysis of Lam's stage productions from 2006 to 2015.



### About Liu Xiaoyi

The Artistic Director of Emergency Stairs in Singapore, Xiaoyi is considered one of the most promising leaders at the forefront of the experimental theatre scene and cultural exchange network in Asia. He has been involved in over 80 theatre productions as director, playwright, and actor over the past two decades. Xiaoyi has remained steadfast in his pursuit of the development and transcendence of theatrical forms, while actively promoting cross-cultural and transnational dialogues. Outside of his creative endeavors, he is also a dynamic curator, educator, and cultural critic.

Major awards Xiaoyi has received include Lee Kuan Yew Gold Medal (2010), the Young Artist Award (2016) by the National Arts Council of Singapore, Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award (2022), Patron of Heritage and the Arts Award (2023) by Nanyang Technological University, Golden Point Award (2017, 2019, and 2023), Global Outstanding Young Leaders Award by Asia Week (Yazhou Zhoukan) (2024).

Platforms initiated and curated by Xiaoyi include Re-viewer, Singapore's inaugural Chinese theatre critique platform (2014–present); *Southernmost*, an intercultural arts festival (2017 – 2019); No More Theatre, dedicated to fostering collaboration between digital technology and the arts (2018 – present); Emergency Academy, a global youth cultural leadership incubator (2020 – present); and The Peripheral Experiment, an independent arts festival (201 – present); Young Artists Incubation Platform Emergency Camp (2014 – present); among others. Presently, Xiaoyi serves as the resident artist in Linjiang New District in Jiangsu Province, China, while holding the position of Senior Research Fellow and International Exchange Advisor at NAFA, within the University of the Arts Singapore.

**14 Feb 2025, Fri, 7.30pm**

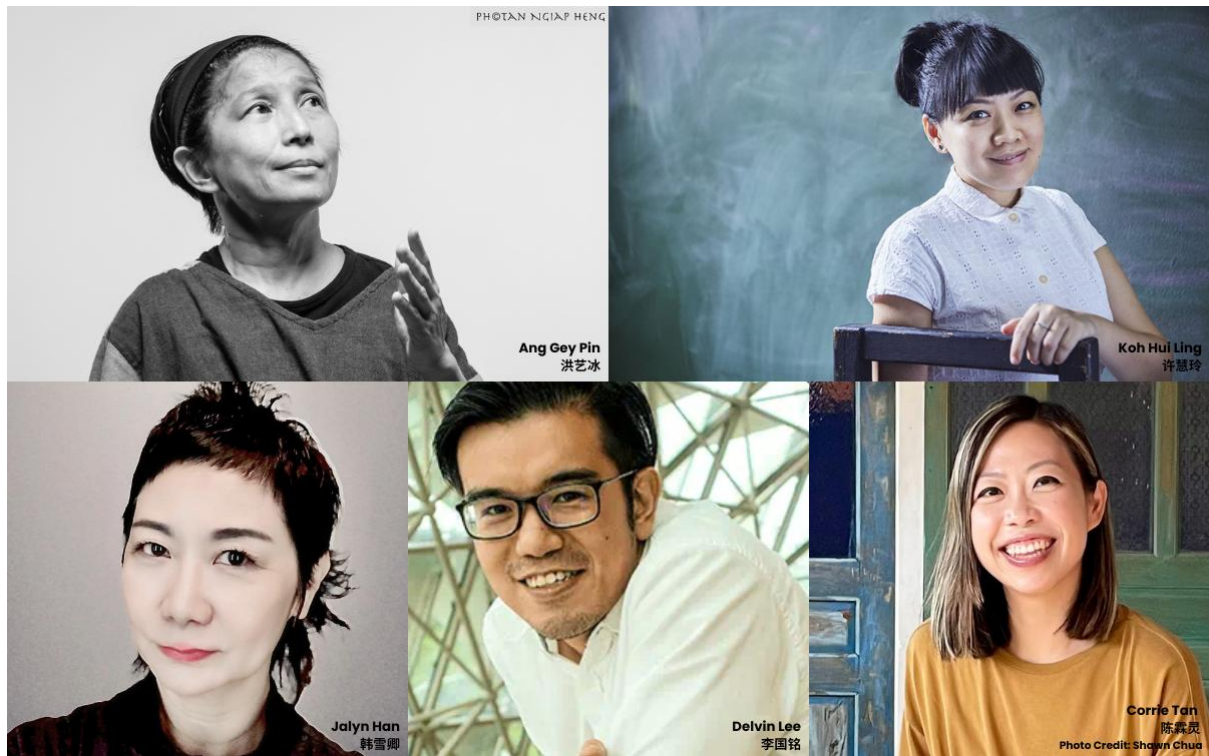
Esplanade Black Room

Ticket Price: \$5\*

\*Exclusive for Esplanade&Me members and Lianhe Zaobao Club members.

## Panel Discussion: No More Chinese Language Theatre?

Panelists: Ang Gey Pin, Jalyn Han, Koh Hui Ling, Delvin Lee and Corrie Tan  
Hosted by Liu Xiaoyi  
(Singapore)



Is the Singapore Chinese language theatre in decline—or on the verge of transformation?

This compelling dialogue convenes five distinguished voices from Singapore's theatre scene: Ang Gey Pin, Jalyn Han, Koh Hui Ling, Delvin Lee and Corrie Tan. Led by curator and host Liu Xiaoyi, the panel will critically examine the challenges, possibilities, and evolving role of Chinese theatre in Singapore's shifting cultural landscape. From the perspectives of creation, education, institutional management, platform building and critical discourse, the discussion will address the pressing question: is it a time for critique, introspection, or perhaps a rebirth? Join us for an engaging and thought-provoking session that will offer fresh insights and open new avenues for understanding and participating in Chinese theatre.

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

### About Ang Gey Pin

A practice-researcher at heart, Ang delves into the essence of acting, seeking to uncover organic authenticity within an actor. Her artistic journey began in 1986 as an apprentice under the late Kuo Pao Kun at Practice Theatre Ensemble. In the 1990s, she served as the Artistic Director of Theatre OX, where the ensemble conducted extensive research on Chinese cultural sources while integrating *taiji* and meditation into their actor training methodologies.

Ang has performed leading roles and toured internationally with the Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards in Italy under *Project The Bridge: developing theatre arts* during her residency in 1994 and 1998 – 2006. In 2006, she founded Sourcing Within, an international platform dedicated to research, projects, and teaching in embodied practice.

A recipient of theatre awards from Singapore's National Arts Council (1999), Ang earned a BA with Distinction from the University of Hawaii-Manoa (1992) and a PhD in Drama through Practice as Research from the University of Kent (2017). Her directing credits include *The Peculiar Tra La* (Intercultural Theatre Institute), *The Silly Little Girl and the Funny Old Tree* (Young People's Performing Arts Ensemble, 2018 / LASALLE College of the Arts, 2023), *Antigone* (LASALLE College of the Arts), and *Offending the Audience* (Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, 2022).

Her research has been published in scholarly journals and books focusing on intercultural theatre and performance anthropology. She is currently a Senior Lecturer at School of Theatre at the University of the Arts / Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts.

#### About Corrie Tan

Corrie Tan makes sense of art through intimate writing. She is a researcher, critic, dramaturg and facilitator from Singapore working at the intersection of care ethics, collaborative performance practices and new articulations of arts criticism in Southeast Asia. An arts critic for 15 years, she has written regularly about performance and culture for platforms such as *The Guardian*, *ArtsEquator*, *Exeunt Magazine* and *The Straits Times*, and is arts editor of the independent digital magazine, Jom. A wayfarer between academia and journalism, Corrie holds a Ph.D. in Theatre and Performance Studies jointly awarded by King's College London and the National University of Singapore. She is the director of the Asian Dramaturgs' Network, and through her creative projects and collaborations with groups such as Centre 42, Drama Box and P7:1SMA, considers the ways in which contemporary archipelagic thinking might offer us new configurations of relationality and identity formation with one another.

#### About Delvin Lee

Delvin joined the Esplanade in May 2009 and from day 1, he has been part of the programming team for Huayi — Chinese Festival of Arts, amid his other Programming scope at the Esplanade. In particular, he became the lead producer for the festival in 2017, a position he still holds currently. As lead producer, he conceptualises the entire festival together with his team. He has worked closely with almost all of the Singapore theatre companies, especially the Singapore Mandarin Theatre companies. He is extremely grateful to have numerous opportunities to seed projects with various Mandarin theatre companies and see them come to fruition on the stage. In addition, he has close contact with many established and emerging Chinese artists across all genres from the region, and has also set up collaborative projects and built up good relations with various arts centres and festivals in the region.

#### About Jalyn Han

Having started as a performing artist in 1979, Jalyn Han is a veteran theatre practitioner with extensive knowledge and experience in the performing arts and theatre education scene in Singapore. Throughout these years, she has taken on many roles; from acting, directing and choreographing in many theatre, film, television and live productions, to teaching and educating students of all levels. Her passion and strength in gathering talents from various artistic fields has led her to helm InARTS Collective, an avenue that uses theatre to connect with people from all walks of life, especially youths-at-risk, the intellectually-disabled, and senior citizens. Jalyn's notable works include performing the lead role of Emily in the Chinese monologue of *Emily of Emerald Hill* (1990) produced by The Theatre Practice, Grandmother in Wild Rice's *Grandmother Tongue* (2016, 2017 & 2021), curated and directing People's Association's Harmony Xtravaganza 2019 and Ministry of Education's Exile or Pursuit (2021 & 2024), choreographing the national day theme song *Reach Out for the Skies* and The Theatre Practice's musical *If There Are Seasons* 2007, and judging at Macao's 1st Community Arts Project.

#### About Koh Hui Ling

Koh Hui Ling is a theatre practitioner who finds meaning in the process of community engagement and the participation of non-artists in art-making, evident in her works such as *IgnorLAND of its Time* (2014), *IgnorLAND of its Loss* (2016) and *Chinatown Crossings* (2018 & 2019).

Her desire to create alternative avenues for public dialogue led to the development of GoLi – The Moving Theatre, Singapore's first inflatable theatre that transforms spaces into vibrant places for arts and culture.

Hui Ling laid the foundation for Drama Box's work in youth engagement, and had developed a set of Drama-in-Education and Theatre-in-Education programmes for youths, teachers and adult-learners. Today, her focus is in community based practices.

Recognised for her contribution to community, youth and culture, Hui Ling was given in 2013 the Young Artist Award by the National Arts Council of Singapore, and the Singapore Youth Award by the National Youth Council, and in 2015, Ten Outstanding Young Persons of the World Award (Singapore) by the Junior Chamber International.

Hui Ling completed her Masters of Arts in Applied Drama (Distinction) from the University of Exeter (UK), with her research on sustainability of community based theatre companies.

#### About Liu Xiaoyi

The Artistic Director of Emergency Stairs in Singapore, Xiaoyi is considered one of the most promising leaders at the forefront of the experimental theatre scene and cultural exchange network in Asia. He has been involved in over 80 theatre productions as director, playwright, and actor over the past two decades. Xiaoyi has remained steadfast in his pursuit of the development and transcendence of theatrical forms, while actively promoting cross-cultural and transnational dialogues. Outside of his creative endeavors, he is also a dynamic curator, educator, and cultural critic.

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Platforms initiated and curated by Xiaoyi include Re-viewer, Singapore's inaugural Chinese theatre critique platform (2014–present); *Southernmost*, an intercultural arts festival (2017 – 2019); No More Theatre, dedicated to fostering collaboration between digital technology and the arts (2018 – present); Emergency Academy, a global youth cultural leadership incubator (2020 – present); and The Peripheral Experiment, an independent arts festival (201 – present); Young Artists Incubation Platform Emergency Camp (2014 – present); among others. Presently, Xiaoyi serves as the resident artist in Linjiang New District in Jiangsu Province, China, while holding the position of Senior Research Fellow and International Exchange Advisor at NAFA, within the University of the Arts Singapore.

**15 Feb 2025, Sat, 5.30pm**  
Esplanade Black Room

Pre-registration is required.

## **FREE PROGRAMMES**

### **Huayi Huat Opening!**

by Yiwei Athletic Association (Singapore)



*Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts 2025* kicks off with a breathtaking lion dance performance on high poles by the award-winning Yiwei Athletic Association!

(15mins, no intermission)

#### **About Yiwei Athletic Association**

The Yiwei Athletic Association (Singapore), established in 1999, is one of the most active lion dance troupes in the local community. Over the years, they have won numerous awards, including being the consecutive champion winner from 2014 to 2024 at the Ngee Ann City National Lion Dance Competition. Most recently, they were crowned champions at the Genting World Lion Dance Championship 2023.

**7 Feb 2025, Fri, 7pm**

DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade

# Thunderous Spring

by ZingO Festival Drum (Singapore)



Over 2,200 years ago, the 24 solar terms were established as a key component of the Chinese lunisolar calendar. The drum, one of the oldest musical instruments, is regarded as the pulse of Chinese tradition. It is always used in ceremonies of sky (heaven) worship, symbolising the sky as a drum, its sound is thunder. Only the true “son of heaven” may lead this sacred ceremony.

What happens when tradition meets modernity? Find out as we gather to celebrate the spring festival, through the thunderous drumming.

(45mins, no intermission)

## About ZingO Festival Drum

"People Awaken from Hibernation!"—this is the meaning behind ZingO! Since its founding, ZingO has been a unique icon and source of pride for Singapore, creating a significant impact locally and internationally. As Singapore’s foremost drum group and a trailblazer in the field, ZingO was awarded the Most Outstanding Performance in Chingay 2023 and named the 5-Star Festive Drum Heritage Beholder in 2024 by the Association of Festive Drum Malaysia. ZingO showcases the UNESCO World Intangible Cultural Heritage – Solar Terms, and its original drumming art is praised for being skillfully crafted, contemporary, enjoyable and culturally insightful.

Driven by the mantra "Dream Big Drum Loud", ZingO places a strong emphasis on local Chinese culture, music and education, while instilling discipline, innovation and leadership in its drummers. ZingO currently comprises four wings: the ZingO Main Team, ZingO Intensive Team, ZingO Drum Sprouts and ZingO Ogen Heartbeats, each has its own unique demographic focus.

**7 Feb 2025, Fri, 7.15pm & 8.30pm**

DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade



## Timeless Spring

by Cheryl Fong (Singapore)



*Timeless Spring* celebrates the season of renewal with a curated selection of spring-themed songs, blending beloved classics and popular hits. In a unique twist, some of these songs will be reimagined with jazz elements, adding a fresh, vibrant energy to familiar favourites.

(30mins, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin and Cantonese.

### About Cheryl Fong

Cheryl Fong is a dynamic vocalist known for her soulful voice and captivating stage presence. As a weekend DJ on 95.8FM, she shares her passion for music with her listeners, while her voice-over work adds depth to various media. With a rich background in live performances, Cheryl has become a prominent figure in Singapore's music scene, delivering heartfelt renditions that resonate with audiences. Her diverse repertoire spans Mandopop classics and the latest hits, showcasing her versatility across genres. Cheryl's talent has graced many prestigious stages, and she now brings her signature style to timeless mandopop, blending beloved tunes with modern chart-toppers.

**7 Feb 2025, Fri, 7.15pm & 8.15pm**

Esplanade Concourse



# The Reunion Dinner

by The Solitude Movement (Singapore)



*The Reunion Dinner* is an interactive storytelling experience targeted at children. It tells the story of a family as they prepare for the Chinese New Year Reunion Dinner. The audience follows the journey of each character, experiencing how they contribute in their own unique ways. At the end of the show, the children will discover what "reunion" means to each character and learn more about Chinese traditions.

(30mins, no intermission)

## About Teo Pei Si

Teo Pei Si is an actor and playwright passionate about exploring culture, heritage, and identity. She founded The Solitude Movement in 2021, focusing on Singapore's cultural heritage and Chinese language works. Writing under the pseudonym *gongxin*, her Theatre for Young Audiences pieces include *The Moonlit Memories*, *The Race Around The Moon*, *The Moon Mission*, and *Nian is Coming* (2024).

**7 – 9 Feb, 14 – 16 Feb 2025**

**Fri, 11.45am, 1.15pm & 3.30pm**

**Sat & Sun, 11.45am, 1.15pm & 3.30pm & 4.30pm**

PIP's PLAYbox

# Tang Dynasty Fashion Trends

by Zi De Guqin Studio (China)



主讲人:

刘蕊

自得琴社造型设计师  
非遗手工讲师

主持人:

朱里钺

自得琴社社长

Guest Speaker:

Liu Rui

ZI DE GUQIN STUDIO  
Stylist

Host:

Zhu Liyue

ZI DE GUQIN STUDIO  
Director

The Tang Dynasty (7th to 10th century A.D) is often regarded as the golden age in Chinese history.

What was trending back then in terms of fashion and dressing choices, more than a thousand years ago? Zi De Guqin Studio will share more about the costumes, dressing styles and make-up techniques for women during the Tang Dynasty. They will also perform a short demonstration of their full-scale production [What is Qin?](#), which takes place at Esplanade on 8 & 9 Feb as part of *Huayi* 2025.

Audience members are welcome to join in the fun by showing up in Tang Dynasty costumes. For those who would like to try out the outfits, fret not: you may get a chance to dress up during this event itself. Do not miss out on this fun and informative sharing session!

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)

Conducted in Mandarin.

## About Zi De Guqin Studio

Established in 2014 in Shanghai, China, Zi De Guqin Studio is one of the most unique contemporary traditional Chinese music ensembles, featuring young musicians in traditional Chinese attire playing traditional Chinese instruments. The studio is dedicated to promoting traditional Chinese music and culture, with a focus on the guqin (a plucked seven-string instrument with a history of over three millennia). Their refined Eastern traditional aesthetics has brought about the “ancient painting music” trend on the internet, showcasing the profound cultural heritage of China and the cultural confidence of Chinese youth today.

Starting in 2020, Zi De Guqin Studio presented the What is Qin? – Tang Dynasty concert series nationwide in China. In 2023, they launched the What is Qin? – Song Dynasty concert series. Dressed in Tang dynasty costumes, the musicians evoke the imagery of characters

from ancient paintings, playing the guqin, Chinese flute, gu zheng and drum to entertain their audience. Their repertoire is rearranged and reinterpreted based on traditional pieces, combining the essence of ancient times with innovative sounds.

**7 Feb 2025, Fri, 8.30pm**

Esplanade Black Room

Pre-registration is required.

## Craft Activity: Traditional Chinese Coin Knots

by Wearable Craft (Singapore)



Knotting is an ancient technique cherished by cultures around the world, with Chinese knotting believed to have originated during the Tang and Song dynasties.

Join us for a captivating journey into this centuries-old art form, and discover how these intricate knots carry the rich legacy of over a thousand years.

Conducted in English and Mandarin.

Advisory: Limited seats available. For ages 6 and above, with an accompanying adult. Accompanying adult must be above 16.

### About Chia Ai Geok

Ai Geok has spent over 30 years perfecting her hands behind countless intricate designs.

Knotting is an ancient technique used by cultures all over the world and to Ai Geok, each knot represents the threads of life—starting humbly overcoming challenges along the way.

In 2015, she founded Wearable Craft to reignite local interest in the intricate beauty of Chinese knots. She dedicated herself to researching, designing and teaching others how to create Chinese knot products that stand apart from mass-produced, machine-made decorations typically seen during Chinese New Year.

**8, 9, 15 & 16 Feb 2025, Sat & Sun**

**2pm – 5.30pm**

Esplanade Concourse

## Crosstalk Performance

by Cainiao Crosstalk Club (Singapore)



Wondering what to do during Chinese New Year? What about writing poems and couplets? Solving lantern riddles? Or collecting red envelopes while dreaming of wealth? Let Cainiao Crosstalk Club show you a few tricks through the art of crosstalk!

(30mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin.

### About Cainiao Crosstalk Club

Cainiao Crosstalk Club is a crosstalk (*xiang sheng*) performing arts group founded by alumni from local universities, with roots in school comedy clubs from their undergraduate years. Its mission is to promote Chinese language and culture, fuelled by a passion for crosstalk and commitment to supporting charitable causes. Through humour and entertainment, the club aims to showcase the beauty of this traditional art form. Additionally, it strives to foster cultural exchanges between the crosstalk communities of Singapore and China, encouraging greater appreciation and understanding.

Cainiao Crosstalk Club organises performances every two to three months, attracting Chinese-speaking audiences from diverse age groups and cultural backgrounds. Their performances features local themes and elements from Singapore, while staying true to the essence of traditional crosstalk.

**8 Feb 2025, Sat, 2.30pm & 3.30pm**  
Esplanade Concourse



# Everything Will Go Wonderfully

by Liliu (Taiwan)



Delving into the fluidity of language, this performance blends the rich elements of Han traditional music with the bold, experimental spirit of avant-garde Taiwanese rock.

(1hr, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin.

## About Liliu

Formed in 2014, Liliu is an indie rock band from Taiwan, currently comprising Yi-Shuo Lin (lead vocals), Yi-Hsin Chen (drums) and Wei-Zuo Lin (bass). In 2019, they released their debut album *Burnana* 《烧金蕉》, which blends rock genres with traditional Chinese opera. Their album won “Best Rock Album” and “Best Newcomer” at the Golden Indie Melody Awards (GIMAs) and was nominated for “Best Taiwanese Album” at the Golden Melody Awards (GMAs).

In December 2021, Liliu released their second album *Road to...* 《不是路》, which incorporated traditional Taiwanese instruments and singing styles, fused with genres like disco-funk, bossa nova, metal, and synthwave. This innovative mix created a new wave humorous and satirical Taiwanese folk songs, earning *Road to...* 《不是路》 the titles of Best Taiwanese Album and Best Design at the 33rd GMAs.

Most recently, in 2024, Liliu’s third album *Everything Will Go Wonderfully* 《万事美妙》 which brings an uplifting energy, blending positive blessings with refreshed interpretations of traditional folk songs. The album fuses Taiwanese language with progressive rock, reggaeton, and metal.

**8 Feb 2025, Sat, 7pm & 8.45pm**

DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade

# Melody And Rhythm

by Singapore Rojak



Relive the timeless beauty of yesteryears as we bring you beloved classics, from soulful Chinese evergreens *Moonlit Night on the Spring River* 《春江花月夜》, *Shanghai Bund* 《上海滩》 and iconic Malay tunes *Getaran Jiwa* and *Bengawan Solo*.

(30mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin.

Update: Due to personal reasons, Chin Yen Chien (*pipa*) will not be performing in this programme.

## About Chin Yen Chien

Chin Yen Chien began learning *pipa* at the age of 10. In 1992, he won first prize in the Intermediate Category at the Inaugural Chinese Music Competition. The following year, he took home the first prize in the Pipa Intermediate Category at the National Music Competition organised by the National Arts Council. Yen Chien had represented Singapore at numerous international arts events, including the World Commonwealth Commemoration Day in New Delhi (2004), the ASEAN Network of Major Cities 21 (ANMC 21) cultural exchange in Bangkok (2009); the Inaugural ASEAN Musical Extravaganza held in Kuala Lumpur (2012), and the International Ramayana Festival in New Delhi and Patna (2015), where he performed with traditional Indian musicians from Bhaskars Art Academy. IN September 2015, he also performed at the SAC International Conference of Folk Performing Arts in ASEAN in Bangkok, in conjunction with the fifth cycle birthday of Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. In September 2018, Yen Chien and his multi-ethnic ensemble, Art Dè Trio, performed at the Singapore Festival in Moscow, Russia, earning high praise from the Singapore Ambassador to Moscow.

## About Mohamed Faizal

Mohamed Faizal has been playing the *guzheng* since he was 19, after learning it for a year and a half. He has performed both locally and internationally, showcasing music from various



genres and cultures, all of which have been well received. His diverse playing style has inspired *guzheng* players worldwide, particularly in China, with many incorporating his approach into their music arrangements and compositions.

About Rudi Bin Salim

Rudi Bin Salim, a Malay traditional percussionist, began his musical journey in 1990 as a *dikir barat* performer. In 2011, he founded the Malay traditional music ensemble Nobat Kota Singa and later joined the Malay percussion ensemble Nadi Singapura as a senior drummer and leaders.

**8 Feb 2025, Sat, 7.15pm & 8.15pm**

Esplanade Concourse

## **We are Singer-songwriters! • Yi Ran Krystal** (Singapore)



Known for her sweet demeanour and versatile vocals, Yi Ran Krystal is a captivating Mandopop singer from Singapore. Beginning as a livestreamer in 2021, Krystal developed her artistry and moved on to larger stages as a gig singer. Her talent has been recognised in singing competitions such as Mediacorp's *Battle of the Buskers* and UFM100.3 Busk King.

Join her in this evening of music as she showcases her original songs, giving you a sneak peek of her unreleased material.

(45mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin.

**9 Feb 2025, Sun, 6pm**  
Esplanade Concourse

## HK POP Culture Festival @ Huayi – Outdoor Concert

by Yatfung (a.k.a Chet Lam), Monkey, TAOTAO X mue (Hong Kong)



A group of emerging singer-songwriters from Hong Kong, including Monkey, TAOTAO, mue, and renowned singer Yatfung (a.k.a. Chet Lam), along with various band members and young Hong Kong Cellist Tan Cong, will make their debut appearance at the *Huayi Festival* and present their original musical works to the audience. Each singer-songwriter has their own unique style, aiming to demonstrate the creativity of Hong Kong singer-songwriters.

### About Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival

The *Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival* (HKPCF) showcases Hong Kong's unique pop cultural attractions through the organization of distinctive and high-quality programmes. It supports Hong Kong artists and arts groups of different generations, promotes cross-generational and cross-boundary collaborations, and enhances opportunities for exchanges and development of different cultural domains. The *Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival@Huayi* is presented by the Esplanade, sponsored and supported by the Hong Kong Special Administration Region Government. It is the first overseas HKPCF programme, aim at providing audience in Singapore an incredible outdoor concert and a cultural exchange talk, it will showcase the talent and creativity of a new generation of Hong Kong singer-songwriters.

Acknowledgement: Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office in Singapore and National Arts Council Singapore

6.30pm: Monkey

7.45pm: Yatfung (a.k.a Chet Lam)

9pm: TAOTAO X mue

### Band Members / Accompaniment

CM Groovy (Band Leader and Bassist), 水金 (Keyboard), Nate Wong (Drums), Tan Cong (Cello)

(45mins, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin, English and Cantonese.

### About Yatfung (a.k.a Chet Lam)

Yatfung (a.k.a Chet Lam) is a Hong Kong-based singer-songwriter, music producer, writer and TV presenter. He released 22 albums, and held numerous popular concerts. He composed pop hits for artists such as Eason Chan, Stefanie Sun, Dadawa and Gigi Leung.

#### About Monkey

Monkey is a singer-songwriter and graphic illustrator who joined music production programme *My Main Stage* by Mr. Chiu Tsang Hei's. Starting from street performances to big stages such as, including Lau Bak Livehouse, Lost Star, Hong Kong Museum of Arts, and Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival etc.

#### About TAOTAO

TAOTAO is an all-rounded R&B & electropop singer-songwriter. She has studied vocal music and music production at Musicians Institute in Los Angeles. She served as a guest performer of Terence Lam Ka Him at *MDRT with HIM* and *SO ME SHOW MUSIC* music festivals, and composed music and provided backing vocals for Janice M. Vidal in *Make Music Work*.

#### About mue

mue is a Korean singer-songwriter who grew up in Hong Kong. He is a “bedroom musician” who produces Lo-Fi music through his laptop, launchpad and guitar, and transform the music as a unique language to express his emotion.

**9 Feb 2025, Sun, 6.30pm, 7.45pm & 9pm**

DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade

## We are Singer-songwriters! • Anie Fann

(Taiwan)



Taiwanese indie singer-songwriter Anie Fann will bring her unique blend of cerebral pop, delivering an intimate and captivating acoustic performance. Along with her heartfelt original songs that reflect her personal storytelling, she will also showcase the more playful side of her repertoire. Expect a set that explores thought-provoking themes including our complex relationship with social media and the pressure we face from parental expectations. Anie's performance promises to be both engaging and light-hearted, offering a glimpse into the depth and creativity of her music.

(45mins, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin.

### About Anie Fann

Born in Taipei, Taiwan, Anie immigrated to Canada with her parents as a child and developed an early interest in music. She began learning piano in elementary school, often competing in local children's piano competitions. In college, she started writing songs and learning guitar while pursuing a degree in Business Administration. In 2006, Anie joined Hummingbird Music as a writer and artist, experimenting with different ways to perform and showcase her original work. In 2009, she studied music theory, arrangement and production at the Musicians Institute in California.

Her debut album *Can You Or Can You Not Understand My Mandarin* was released March 2017 and was featured on Apple Music's New Artist Spotlight programme. The album was nominated for a Golden Melody Award for Best Vocal Recording Album (Technical Category) and Eiji Kadota was nominated a Golden Indie Music Awards for Best Guitarist for his work on the album. In 2020, Anie released her second album *Artemis 1889* which explores themes such as the dark side of technology, social media, and our changing society.

**9 Feb 2025, Sun, 7.15pm**

Esplanade Concourse

## **We are Singer-songwriters! • Ben Hum**

(Singapore)



Hailing from Singapore, Ben Hum is a passionate singer-songwriter known for his heartfelt storytelling through music. With performances at iconic events the National Day Parade 2023 and YES 933 Hits Fest 2023, he has also made history as the first Singaporean to collaborate with Warner Bros for a Hollywood production. Catch this captivating performance as he entertains you with his original songs and more!

(45mins, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin.

### About Ben Hum

Hailing from Singapore, Ben Hum is a singer-songwriter with a penchant for telling genuine stories through his music. An avid music performer since 2013, the artist has performed at numerous notable venues within Singapore and also garnered a significant loyal following through live performances, notably at the National Day Parade 2023 and YES 933 Hits Fest 2023 (YES 933 潮流音乐盛典 2023). He was also the first Singaporean to collaborate with Warner Bros films for the Hollywood production, *DC League of Super Pets*.

Having released his debut EP *Milky Way* in 2021, Ben Hum continue to engage his fans with weekly content and live streams on platforms such as Instagram, TikTok and YouTube. With no plans to slow down or stop anytime soon, the earnest musician seeks to reach out to new listeners with a multitude of original music content and covers.

**9 Feb 2025, Sun, 8.30pm**

Esplanade Concourse



## Remember the Days

by Nanyang Primary School Choir (Singapore)



Join the Nanyang Primary School Choir for an enchanting evening that will transport you on a heartfelt journey down memory lane. The showcase will feature a beloved classic like *Fairy Tale*, *Grateful Heart* and *Tomorrow Will Be Better*, among others.

(30mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin.

### About Nanyang Primary School Choir

Established in 1989, the Nanyang Primary School Choir comprises 30 to 40 young choristers who meet weekly to enhance their singing skills and build lasting friendships. The choir participates in numerous local and international performances, earning accolades and warm receptions.

**10 Feb 2025, Mon, 7pm & 8pm**  
Esplanade Concourse



## Notes for the Future: Charting Global Pathways in Music's Digital Age

Yatfung (a.k.a Chet Lam), Dr Liang Wern Fook, Monkey and TAOTAO X mue  
(Hong Kong, Singapore)



Yatfung (a.k.a Chet Lam) and Dr Liang Wern Fook are both authors, songwriters and envoys of urban folk music. In this talk, the two will share with younger generations of songwriters their personal stories, analysis and observations on how to run a creative business, build a sustainable creative career and tell one's unique story to a global audience in the everchanging digital era.

Coming from a grassroots family in Hong Kong, Chet Lam's musical creativity has led him to establish his own independent label, LYFE Music, published 22 albums and nine bestselling books, and won him numerous musical awards. He has travelled to more than 70 countries and engaged in cultural exchanges with artists around the world.

Being the representative figure of Xinyao and a recipient of the Singapore Cultural Medallion, Dr Liang Wern Fook works as an academic and an educator throughout the years while continuing to publish influential musical compositions and literary works.

### About Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival

The *Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival* (HKPCF) showcases Hong Kong's unique pop cultural attractions through the organization of distinctive and high-quality programmes. It supports Hong Kong artists and arts groups of different generations, promotes cross-generational and cross-boundary collaborations, and enhances opportunities for exchanges and development of different cultural domains. The *Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival@Huayi* is presented by the Esplanade, sponsored and supported by the Hong Kong Special Administration Region Government. It is the first overseas HKPCF programme, aim at providing audience in Singapore an incredible outdoor concert and a cultural exchange talk, it will showcase the talent and creativity of a new generation of Hong Kong singer song-writers.

Acknowledgement: Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office in Singapore and National Arts Council Singapore

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

#### About Yatfung (a.k.a Chet Lam)

Yatfung (a.k.a Chet Lam) is a Hong Kong-based independent city folk singer-songwriter, music producer, writer and TV presenter. He is a global explorer, travelling to and sojourning in over 70 countries, and connecting a wide range of communities worldwide through music and cultural exchange. He constantly experiments with music, words and different art forms in search of a unique way of storytelling. His major accolades include the Best Folk Singer (2012 and 2016, China's Top Chinese Music Awards); Album of the Year (Cantonese) for *Requiem for Flowers* in 2012 Chinese Music Media Awards (China); Best Folk Artist at the 2004 and 2005 Chinese Music Media Awards (China); Song of the Year for *Yu Jian* at the 2004 Global Chinese Music Awards (Taipei); and Best Original Film Song at the 2003 Golden Horse Film Festival and Awards (Taipei). In 2003, he founded an independent music label LYFE Music. He released 22 studio albums in Cantonese, Mandarin and English, published nine bestselling books, including essay collections, travelogues, guitar scores and a cookbook, penned pop hits for artists such as Eason Chan, Stephanie Sun, Dadawa and Gigi Leung, and held concerts in 2016 and 2019 with the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra to explore the new frontiers of Chinese orchestral music.

#### About Dr Liang Wern Fook

Dr Liang Wern Fook is an outstanding Singaporean author, poet, lyricist, and singer-composer. For more than 40 years, his words and music have created a Singapore style and carved out a place for Singaporean culture in the world.

Xinyao is a music and cultural movement that began in Singapore in the 1980s, a unique expression of Singapore's Chinese culture. Dr Liang is one of this movement's earliest pioneers, having produced iconic works such as *Friends Forever* 《细水长流》, *Singapore Pie* 《新加坡派》, *The Sparrow with a Bamboo Twig* 《麻雀衔竹枝》, *One Step at a Time* 《一步一步来》, *Too Much* 《太多太多》 and *Before the History Exams* 《历史考试前夕》. These pieces have distinct local Chinese traits and a national flavour, reflecting the vibrant linguistic and musical charms of a multi-cultural society. They also reflect the spirit of the era when they were created in, in documenting Singapore's development and building social cohesion amongst Singaporeans.

In Singapore, Dr Liang is a household name who is known across different generations and whose work is admired by diverse segments of society. Dramatist Kuo Pao Kun once described Dr Liang's special role in Singapore's arts sector as that of a builder of bridges between literature and music. A public poll conducted by the Composers and Authors Society of Singapore saw Dr Liang voted as the person who was most representative of the spirit of Xinyao. After Xinyao's heyday, he worked with top singers from mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong, thereby introducing the cultural specificities and literary charm of Chinese Singaporean popular music to the wider Chinese-speaking world. This helped to consolidate and promote the development and maturation of the local Chinese popular music industry.

Dr Liang wrote his first song in 1980. In 2015, he held a concert to mark the 35th anniversary of his creative journey as a songwriter. Lianhe Zaobao named Liang as the representative figure for the music industry when it published its list of that year's important cultural figures.

The multi-talented artist has received many awards and accolades for his achievements. Dr Liang is the only artist who has received the Young Artist Award (Literature, 1992) and the

prestigious Cultural Medallion (Music, 2010) across different genres of art. He received the Singapore Chinese Culture Contribution Award in 2021. He has continuously created outstanding literary and musical works which have connected with audiences within and beyond Singapore, helping to mould a unique Singaporean identity and is thus regarded as an iconic figure of Singapore culture.

#### About Monkey

Monkey is a singer-songwriter and graphic illustrator who joined music production programme *My Main Stage* by Mr. Chiu Tsang Hei's. Starting from street performances to big stages such as, including Lau Bak Livehouse, Lost Star, Hong Kong Museum of Arts, and Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival etc.

#### About TAOTAO

TAOTAO is an all-rounded R&B & electropop singer-songwriter. She has studied vocal music and music production at Musicians Institute in Los Angeles. She served as a guest performer of Terence Lam Ka Him at *MDRT with HIM* and *SO ME SHOW MUSIC* music festivals, and composed music and provided backing vocals for Janice M. Vidal in *Make Music Work*.

#### About mue

mue is a Korean singer-songwriter who grew up in Hong Kong. He is a “bedroom musician” who produces Lo-Fi music through his laptop, launchpad and guitar, and transform the music as a unique language to express his emotion.

**10 Feb 2025, Mon, 7.30pm**

Esplanade Black Room

Pre-registration is required.

## Harmonies of Life

by Germaine Goh, Anarva Wang & Chew Lixian (Singapore)



Embark on a musical journey with composer Germaine Goh, as she explores life's pivotal key moments. Drawing inspiration from traditional Chinese music from weddings, harvests, and gatherings, her new compositions capture the emotional highs and lows of the human experience. Featuring Anarva Wang on morin *khuur* and *erhu*, and Chew Lixian on *sheng*, this concert weaves a vibrant tapestry of life's rich emotions.

(30mins, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin.

### About Germaine Goh

Germaine Goh is a Singaporean composer and arranger specialising in symphonic, orchestral, chamber music, jazz, big band, and pop. She graduated with first-class honours in Music Composition from LASALLE College of the Arts in 2018. Her works have been performed by various ensembles, including the Resound Chamber Orchestra and Ding Yi Music Company.

### About Anarva Wang

Anarva Wang is a distinguished *morin khuur* player and music ethnologist, and the only *morin khuur* player in Singapore. She specialises in experimental fusion music and co-founded GIMA Band, Southeast Asia's first *morin khuur* and guitar fusion band. Their tracks have topped the iTunes Singapore and Spain World Music Charts.

### About Chew Lixian

Chew Lixian is a versatile musician skilled in both Chinese and Western music. She began with the piano but discovered her passion for the *sheng* in secondary school, leading her to perform both locally and internationally. In 2016, she won first prize in the Sheng Open Category at the National Chinese Music Competition and debuted with the Singapore Chinese Orchestra. As a member of the Singapore Chinese Music Federation Youth Chapter and a

*sheng* musician with The TENG Ensemble, Lixian aims to inspire a love for music through her performances and collaborations.

**11 Feb 2025, Tue, 7pm & 8pm**  
Esplanade Concourse



## Treasures in the Chinese New Year

by LimTayPeng and 96.3 Hao FM DJs Yu Siyuan, Hong Jingyun (Singapore)



Join LimTayPeng and 96.3 Hao FM's popular DJs, Jingyun and Siyuan, for an unforgettable evening filled with festival cheer. This performance will feature a vibrant mix of timeless classics, along with exciting original songs by LimTayPeng and the 96.3 Hao FM team.

This marks the third collaboration between LimTayPeng and the 96.3 Hao FM DJs, who have just released a brand-new track, *Treasure* 《千金难买》, now available on all major streaming platforms. Jingyun and Siyuan will also perform some of 96.3 Hao FM's signature original Chinese New Year hits live on stage.

Don't miss out on this joyful musical celebration. LimTayPeng and 96.3 Hao FM wish everyone a wonderful and prosperous Chinese New Year!

(30mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin.

### About LimTayPeng

'LimTayPeng' (LTP) is a Singaporean trio that performs songs with a quirky and local twist! From their first single, 《捞鱼生》 (*The Lo Hei Song*), which was an original Chinese New Year (CNY) song commissioned by the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre (SCCC), LTP has continuously released original and localised song content that highlights various aspects of Singaporean culture. These songs include 《喝冰奶茶》 (*Drink Iced Milk Tea*) and 《狮城，早上好》 (*Good Morning Singapore*), showcasing local drink and breakfast culture.

### About SPH Media 96.3 HAO FM

96.3 Hao FM is a Chinese-language radio station under SPH Media's Chinese Media Group. It officially began broadcasting on January 8, 2018.

In addition to curating familiar and resonant songs for listeners, 96.3 Hao FM is backed by the extensive resources of the Chinese Media Group. By combining the knowledge of experts from various fields, the station provides a wealth of lifestyle information, real-time news, health and wellness tips, and financial planning advice, making 96.3 Hao FM the perfect companion in the lives of its listeners.

**12 Feb 2025, Wed, 7pm & 8pm**  
Esplanade Concourse



## An Evening with Jarrell: Latest and Best Hits

by Jarrell Huang (Singapore)



Mark your calendars for an unforgettable night with Jarrell. Known for his soulful voice and dynamic performances, Jarrell will be taking the stage to present a captivating set that includes his latest and best hits. This is your chance to see him live as he takes you on a musical journey, filled with powerful vocals and heartfelt emotion. Don't miss out on this incredible experience!

(30mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin.

### About Jarrell Huang

Jarrell discovered his passion for music at the age of five. At 10, his impressive appearance on *One Million Star 8* made him the youngest contestant to place within the top 10. His relentless determination and grit led him to win the champion title of the local singing competition *SPOP Sing!* in 2018. Since then, Jarrell has captivated audiences with his lyrical voice and natural artistic sense, composing over 40 songs and showcasing his multi-talented abilities in singing, dancing and acting.

**13 Feb 2025, Thu, 7pm & 8pm**

Esplanade Concourse

## Beatbox X Guzheng X Pipa

by Cherie Chai, Yvonne Tay and Cheah Peiqi (Singapore)



Chinese instruments like you have never heard before: join beatboxer Cherie Chai, *guzheng* performer Yvonne Tay and *pipa* player Peiqi as they come together to offer a fresh perspective on classic Chinese melodies, blending the dynamic and energetic rhythms of beatbox with the timeless, enchanting sounds of the *guzheng* and *pipa*.

(30mins, no intermission)

### About Cheah Peiqi

Cheah Peiqi graduated from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA), majoring in Pipa and minoring in Guzheng.

She is actively involved in the Chinese orchestra scene and frequently participates in performances both locally and overseas.

Peiqi was awarded 1st prize in the Guzheng Open Category of the National Chinese Music Competition in 2020 and 3rd prize in the Pipa Open Category in 2014.

In 2020, she had the opportunity to perform a concerto 《苍歌引》 with Singapore Chinese Orchestra and was recognised by a renowned music critic as the best performance of the evening.

### About Cherie Chai

Cherie is the first full-time female vocal percussionist (VP) in Singapore, and is a multifaceted musician whose portfolio includes choral conducting, a cappella coaching, vocal percussion, and audio editing and mixing.

Cherie, as part of MI6, an all-star team of Singaporean choral conductors, has led the Voices Festival Choir in several notable performances. Beginning with *Voices – A Festival of Song*,

organised by Esplanade in 2022, she has lent her expertise in contemporary a cappella to preparing the choir for their performances with notable international groups, such as the London Community Gospel Choir and The Idea of North. In 2022, she also arranged the opening song for the *A Cappella Gala*, a dynamic nine-part vocal arrangement performed as a collaborative effort by the choir and local a cappella group 1023.

Cherie has also worked with fellow Singaporean performers, putting up multi-dimensional shows featuring collaborations between musical instruments and vocal percussion. Regionally, she has also featured as the guest VP with the Young Kuala Lumpur Singers, and Malaysian vocal quartet Caipifruta. In striving for continued personal improvement, Cherie was part of the inaugural intake of YES Academy Singapore, a renowned artist mentorship programme by American Voices, designed to develop musicians with skills in songwriting, arrangement, and production.

As an educator, Cherie is the conductor of several Singapore school choirs, and coaches tertiary a cappella groups SUTD Vocomotives, NTU Harmonix & SIT Just Singers. She frequently conducts a cappella and vocal percussion workshops for schools, sharing her love for the art form with youths.

#### About Yvonne Tay

A recipient of the prestigious National Arts Council (NAC) Arts Scholarship (Undergraduate) 2015, Yvonne Tay is currently the full-time *guzheng* musician at Ding Yi Music Company and co-founder of Z3nith Ensemble, a trio of *guzheng* graduates from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA). She graduated with Bachelors of Music (First Class Honours) conferred by the Royal College of Music (RCM) in 2017, where she was named the Best Graduate. Yvonne also serves as the Secretary-General of Singapore Qinzheng Association and as a member of Singapore Chinese Music Federation Youth Chapter.

An award-winning *guzheng* musician, Yvonne has performed extensively both locally and overseas. She has premiered works by renowned composers such as Wang Jian Ming's *Song of Elegance* and Wang Dan Hong's *Ru Shi* by Wang Dan Hong, etc., in Singapore. As an educator, Yvonne has been invited as a guest lecturer at conservatories in Singapore and Germany. She was also frequently invited to speak for the Singapore Chinese Music Federation and as an adjudicator for Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Chinese Music (Guzheng) Year-End Examination 2021. Yvonne currently teaches at several *guzheng* ensembles in Singapore and is an adjunct lecturer at Singapore Raffles Music College.

**14 Feb 2025, Fri, 7pm & 8pm**  
Esplanade Concourse

## **Bloom: Midnight Veranda**

by Hwa Chong Alumni Association Dance Club (Singapore)



Step onto the moonlit veranda, where exotic flowers gracefully unfurl their delicate petals, and the sweet scent of jasmine fills the air. The Hwa Chong Alumni Association Dance Club invites you to experience *Bloom: Midnight Veranda*, a celebration of spring's exquisite beauty and the joy of reunion. Join us for an enchanting evening where movement and artistry come together in perfect harmony.

(45mins, no intermission)

### About Hwa Chong Alumni Association Dance Club

Founded in 2019, the Hwa Chong Alumni Association Dance Club (HCAAD) aims to unite Hwa Chong alumni through a shared passion for dance. Initially focused on Chinese dance, HCAAD has since expanded to include Modern Dance and Street Dance. Under the artistic direction of Ms Xiao Jing, HCAAD is dedicated to showcasing the beauty of Chinese culture while embracing and celebrating diversity of dance in all its forms.

**14 Feb 2025, Fri, 7.15pm & 8.45pm**

DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade



## Teochew Opera for Young and Old

by Nam Hwa Opera (Singapore)



Nam Hwa Teochew Opera proudly presents the hilarious Teochew opera *Getting a Matchmaker to Find a Husband!* In this comedic tale, the vain Meiniang pressures her husband, Lin Shao, into writing a divorce letter before happily returning to her mother's home, where she spins elaborate stories to manipulate her greedy mother. Eager for a wealthy match, her mother calls upon three matchmakers, each bringing their own amusing and exaggerated flair to the situation.

Starring 11-year-old Clarissa See, a Little Plum Blossom award recipient at the 28th Chinese Children's Opera Festival, this lively performance is not to be missed.

(30mins, no intermission)

Performed in Teochew, with English and Chinese surtitles.

### About Nam Hwa Opera

Founded in 1963 by avid Teochew Opera fans, Nam Hwa Opera (NHO) has become one of Singapore's most prominent and prolific Teochew opera companies. Its mission to preserve, develop and promote traditional Teochew opera as an integral 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 in 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.

**15 Feb 2025, Sat, 2.30pm & 3.30pm**

Esplanade Concourse

## Mandopop Hits

by Little Band Plus (Singapore)



Get ready for a magical night, where Singapore's most beloved Mandopop hits come to life. Immerse yourself in iconic songs by legendary artists like JJ Lin, Tanya Chua, Stefanie Sun, and more, and continue the post-Valentine's celebration. Let the dynamic band, Little Band Plus, take you on a musical journey through the most memorable duets and harmonies, from the 90s to today. The night builds to a thrilling crescendo with high-energy, feel-good Mandopop hits that will leave you dancing and singing along. Look forward to a mini-concert like no other—an evening filled with pure FUN and ENERGY!

(45mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin.

### About Little Band Plus

Formed in 2016, this dynamic Singaporean pop band is known for its high-energy sound and tight rhythm section. Versatile in style, they cover genres ranging from soothing ballads to upbeat Top 40 hits, performing popular tunes from the 80s to today. Singing in Mandarin, English, Cantonese, Malay, and Japanese, they have delivered exceptional live music experiences to audiences across Singapore's music scene for the past eight years. The four-piece band features Tingzhi Hz (female lead vocalist/songwriter), Isaac Yong (male lead vocalist/guitarist/songwriter), and Serena Chen (drums/Sela Percussion Artiste).

**15 Feb 2025, Sat, 7pm, 8.15pm & 9.30pm**  
DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade



# Nanyang Ballads

by Trio Sundal Malam (Malaysia)



Nanyang Ballads – The Spirit of Moving Melodies.

Trio Sundal Malam, an ensemble founded in 2018, weaves together ancient folk tunes and contemporary music, creating a distinctive sound that blends nostalgia with modern sensibilities. In this performance, they will take the audience on a captivating journey from China to Southeast Asia, telling powerful stories through beautiful melodies. The setlist features timeless classics such as *Small River Flows* from Yunnan, *Wishing Spring Breeze* from Fujian, the Indonesian lullaby *Nina Bobo*, and the Cantonese opera piece *Autumn Longings by the Dressing Table*, among others. Each song carries a deep, moving story, resonating across time and borders, while highlighting the rich fusion of Southeast Asian cultures.

Trio Sundal Malam does more than perform music—they bridge the past and present. Through their artistry, they invite the audience not only to enjoy the beauty of these melodies but also to appreciate the timeless relevance of folk songs in our world today.

(30mins, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin, Malay, Cantonese, Hokkien and Hainanese.

## About Trio Sundal Malam

Trio Sundal Malam was founded in August 2018 by Malaysian tenor Stefano Chen, joined by *erhu* player Lin Wei Xiong and *guzheng* player Chen Hui Ru. This trio is dedicated to exploring and reviving the deep emotions and meanings of folk songs, through the fusion of ancient folk tunes with contemporary music, creating a distinctive sound that blends nostalgia with modern sensibilities. Their repertoire draws from diverse musical influences, preserving the simplicity of tradition while infusing contemporary innovation. Their music, both familiar and fresh, bridges tradition and creativity, invoking reflection on land, life, and humanity's connections. Beyond mere auditory experiences, their performances are journeys into the heart of culture and emotion. The trio's mission is to explore the ties between people, land, emotions, and culture, creating a new musical language that reflects the contemporary identity of the Nanyang region.

**15 Feb 2025, Sat, 7.15pm & 8.15pm**

Esplanade Concourse

## Best of Cantopop

by Canto Avengers (Singapore)



Join Canto Avengers as they bring to you classic Cantonese pop songs, some written by Singaporean songwriters, some that are iconic hits, and some that are high-energy that will make you sing along! This performance will definitely bring you back to the golden age of Cantopop!

(30mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Cantonese.

### About Canto Avengers

Whether delivering heartfelt ballads that stir the soul or energetic anthems that get the crowd moving, Canto Avengers is all about keeping the spirit of Cantonese music alive and thriving. The group believes in the power of music to connect people, with performances that celebrate culture, history, and artistic expression.

Expect a powerful fusion of past and present in every performance. Canto Avengers is committed to honouring the legacy of Cantonese music and ensuring its vibrant future.

**16 Feb 2025, Sun, 5.15pm, 6.15pm & 7.15pm**

Esplanade Concourse

# Spring Leap

by MOJO (Singapore)



MOJO leaps into the Year of the Snake with a vibrant and electrifying performance. Don't miss this extraordinary evening filled with music, culture, and celebration, as MOJO sparks the festive spirit with a performance that seamlessly blends tradition and modernity. From lively festive tunes to folk classics like *Dance of the Golden Snake*, *Mahjong Kakis* and *Spring Overture*, the orchestra's performance promises to captivate the rich cultural essence of the Chinese New Year!

(30mins, no intermission)

## About MOJO

MOJO is committed to inspiring and engaging young musicians, inviting them on a musical journey while empowering them to carve their own creative and musical paths. The orchestra aims to engage Singapore and the region with energy and vibrancy through its emerging talent development programme and artistic expressions. In doing so, MOJO seeks to leave a lasting legacy of musical excellence and cultural significance that will resonate for generations to come.

**16 Feb 2025, Sun, 7pm, 8pm & 9pm**

DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade