Dear friends of the media,

The Indian culture spans myriad art forms and genres that branch out from its long history. Presenting this diverse and extensive culture in Singapore is no mean task. Over the past two decades, Kalaa Utsavam – Indian Festival of Arts has been a champion for the Indian arts and this year from 18 – 27 Nov 2022, the festival builds on the relationships developed over the years with artists and arts groups, while also introducing new and exciting artists and art forms that audiences can look forward to.

In the unique position of being the first Indian arts festival with a multi-genre focus in Southeast Asia, Kalaa Utsavam has sought to be a catalyst for excellence by developing and supporting the creations of both international and Singapore artists through debut performances by up and coming artists and premieres of new work, all telling their unique stories. Keeping in line with that vision, this year's edition will also feature the return of international artists such as sitarist Anoushka Shankar, and newly co-produced works by Apsaras Arts, Bhaskar's Arts Academy and playwright A Yagnya.

Through ARISI : Rice, Apsaras Arts explores the importance of rice from a Southeast Asian perspective; Bhaskar's Arts Academy collaborates with playwright Alfian Sa’at for Marabu – Footprints of an Artist which pays tribute to the late doyenne Mrs Santha Bhaskar; and upcoming local playwright A Yagnya's Between 5 Cows and the Deep Blue Sea... which is directed by Alvin Tan will explore traditional Indian matchmaking and the struggles of a Tamil girl. Presented as part of PopLore – A Year of Singapore Popular Music in celebration of Esplanade’s 20th Anniversary, we welcome back the ever-popular Vasanatham Live which will chronicle the evolution of the Indian pop scene in Singapore.
Kalaa Utsavam also features many exciting and upcoming musicians, such as Punjabi outfit Band Walle, Tamil group D.N.S.V and a night of soul and R&B with singer-songwriter Shak'thiya.

The festival has also had the wonderful opportunity of featuring many leading musicians from overseas. Whilst this could not be achieved in the past two years due to the pandemic, this year we are thrilled to welcome world music icon and sitarist Anoushka Shankar, collaborating with Austrian percussionist Manu Delago and our very own Orchestra of the Music Makers; Maverick Indian carnatic vocalist T M Krishna and his ensemble; and popular Malaysian hip-hop collective #PU4LYF who are primed to bring the house down.

We also take immense pride in featuring the works Can I Make You a Suit, Mate? by Singapore stand-up comedian Rishi Budhrani as he takes us down memory lane with a comedic monologue based on his father’s experiences as an immigrant from India, and The Indigo Jackal directed by Grace Kalaiselvi which adds to the list of popular children’s productions that were commissioned in the past few editions of the festival. The festival will also feature workshops, talks and a slew of free programmes for everyone’s enjoyment.

We express our heartfelt thanks to Kalaa Utsavam 2022’s Principal Sponsor, the High Commission of India, Singapore, and supporter The Silent Foundation. Having said that, no festival is possible without all of you, our audience and fans. We thank you for the unwavering support that has been extended to us over the last 20 years. As we step into a new frontier into the next decade of the festival, we invite you to join us once again on this journey of exploring and marvelling at the sheer diversity and beauty of Indian culture and arts.

See you at Kalaa Utsavam!
V M Sai Akileshwar
Programmer
The Esplanade Co Ltd
About Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay

Esplanade is Singapore’s national performing arts centre. It hosts a year-round line-up of about 3,500 live performances and activities presented by Esplanade, its partners and hirers. Esplanade also brings the arts virtually to audiences in Singapore and beyond, through its diverse range of digital programmes on Esplanade Offstage, an all-access backstage pass to the performing arts and guide to Singapore and Asian arts and culture, with videos, podcasts, articles, quizzes and resources.

As an arts centre for everyone, Esplanade also creates opportunities for seniors, youth, children and underserved communities to experience the arts. More than 70% of the shows that take place each year at the centre are free for all to enjoy.

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

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

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay is operated by The Esplanade Co Ltd (TECL), which is a not-for-profit organisation, a registered Charity and an Institution of a Public Character. The Charity Council awarded TECL the Charity Governance Award – Special Commendation for Clarity of Strategy in 2016, and the Charity Transparency Award for four consecutive years since 2016. Esplanade is Singapore’s first Dementia-Friendly Arts Venue and a certified Dementia Go-To Point, as well as a Guide-dog Friendly centre.

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

Visit Esplanade.com for more information.

~ End ~

Issued by The Esplanade Co Ltd.

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Annexe

Esplanade Presents

Kalaa Utsavam – Indian Festival of Arts 2022
18 – 27 Nov 2022
www.esplanade.com/kalaautsavam

Kalaa Utsavam – Indian Festival of Arts is an annual festival at Esplanade that celebrates Indian arts during the festive period of Deepavali.

Ticketed Programmes

An Esplanade Co-Production

Vasantham Live!
Featuring Murali Krishnan and Shabir

18 Nov 2022, Fri
8pm
Esplanade Theatre

Vasantham Live returns! In conjunction with PopLore, this iteration will encompass the advent of the Indian pop scene. Anchoring this performance are artists Shabir Tabre Alam and Murali Krishnan, who will be belting out their popular original tunes and songs from their independent albums. They will be flanked by a slew of Vasantham artists, who are emerging singer-songwriters, as well as celebrity hosts to provide a holistic variety show that will keep the audience entertained throughout the night!

A programme of PopLore, in celebration of Esplanade's 20th anniversary.

Discover and relive the epic, storied and exhilarating journeys of different generations through Singapore popular music and culture.

Performed in Tamil
Admission age 6 & up
1hr 30mins, no intermission

$55^, $45^{**}, $35^*$
^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Special (for Cat 1 & 2 only)
Black & White - 20% savings
Discover – 15% savings

^Esplanade&Me Special (for Cat 1 & 2 only)
Black – 15% savings
White - 10% savings
Discover – 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors:
$28*, $36**
Limited concessions for PWDs: $28

RAULA – A Punjabi Night
Harsha Channa, The Band Walle and Joshiley Bhangra

18 Nov 2022, Fri
8pm
Esplanade Annexe Studio

Punjabi music and dance have made its mark in Singapore and the world over, evolving as its people moved across the globe. Come relish and celebrate the myriad forms of Punjabi culture in this evening of music and dance!

Harsha, KisH (Prem Kishan) and The Band Walle will present a repertoire of songs that put Punjabi music on the world map, beginning with music by folk artist Surinder Kaur to current headlining artists such as Diljit Dosanjh and Jasmin Sandlas.
Let’s not forget the impact that Bhangra had on the world: Be wowed by Joshiley Bhangra from Singapore’s vibrant Bhangra scene as they showcase a dazzling bhangra and dhol performance featuring Boliyan (Punjabi couplets) and stunts, an ode to the journey of pop Punjabi culture and stalwart artists across the years.

Performed in Punjabi
Admission age 13 & up
1hr, no intermission

$20^\text{a} (select Standing or Seating)

^Esplanade&Me Special:
Black & White – 15% savings
Discover & U26 - 10% savings

An Esplanade Co-Production
Marabu – Footprints of an Artist
Bhaskar's Arts Academy

18 – 20 Nov 2022, Fri – Sat
Fri, 8pm, Sat & Sun, 3pm & 8pm
Esplanade Theatre Studio

Following the presentation of Marabu – The First Ripple and Marabu – The Forgotten Sentinels, Bhaskar's Arts Academy premieres the final instalment of the trilogy, Marabu – Footprints of an Artist.

As a tribute to the late pioneer artist Santha Bhaskar, this work traces her journey from her humble origins in Kerala, India, to the blossoming of her career as a dancer and choreographer in Singapore. It sheds light on the various passages in her life that have forged her artistic sensibilities, from her arranged marriage to dance doyen KP Bhaskar, her encounters with cultural purists which guided her spirit of rule-breaking innovation, to her exposure to other
cultural dances in Singapore, whose forms she later incorporated into her unique choreographic style.

Santha Bhaskar’s daughter, Meenakshy Bhaskar, directs and choreographs this dance biopic, featuring music composition by BV Balasai, script and dramaturgy by Alfian Sa’at. It is a fitting end to a trilogy which honours the restless curiosity and unbending courage of various pioneers throughout Singapore’s history.
Admission age 6 & up
1hr 15mins, no intermission

$35^*

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Special
Black & White - 20% savings
Discover – 15% savings

^Esplanade&Me Special:
Black – 15% savings
White - 10% savings
Discover – 10% savings (/min. 2 tickets)

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

An Esplanade Production
The Indigo Jackal

19 & 20 Nov 2022, Sat & Sun
11am & 2pm
Esplanade Recital Studio

There once was a jackal who accidentally fell into a vat of blue dye. When it emerged, its majestic new appearance led the other animals to think that it was a special creature. Soon
after, the jackal ruled the forest as its king until his howl betrayed his true nature—that of a jackal.

But did the jackal know what it was doing? Was it truly deceitful or simply heartless? Inspired by its namesake story found in the Panchatantra, *The Indigo Jackal* is a version of this classic tale from the eyes of the jackal itself, telling its own story.

Story Creator – Kamini Ramachandran
Playwright & Director – Grace Kalaiselvi
Choreographer – Ruby Jayaseelan
Composer – Raghavendran Rajasekeran
Cast – Rebekah Sangeetha Dorai, Kishore Kumaran, Pramila d/o Krishnasamy, Pooja Punniyamoorthy & Soo Mei Fei
Musicians – Serene Tan (Stan), Nawaz Mirajkar & Raghavendran Rajasekaran

Performed in English
Recommended for age 4 up.
Admission age 1 & up
45mins, no intermission

$25^*^$

^*^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Special
PIP’s Club - 20% savings (min. 2 tickets)

^*^Esplanade&Me Special:
PIP’s Club - 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Tote Board Arts Grant
All Primary Schools may use the Tote Board Arts Grant to subsidise up to 50% of the programme cost.

For more details, please contact Esplanade Box Office at 6828 8389 or email boxoffice@esplanade.com.
Anoushka Shankar
With Orchestra of the Music Makers featuring Manu Delago (Singapore/UK)

19 & 20 Nov 2022, Sat & Sun
7.30pm
Esplanade Concert Hall

With more than a quarter-century's worth of performing experience behind her, Anoushka Shankar is a singular, genre-defying artist who crosses multiple realms—from classical to contemporary, acoustic to electronic. For the first time in Singapore at Kalaa Utsavam, the masterful sitarist collaborates with other outstanding musicians for a truly transcendent performance. Anoushka will be joined by her long-term collaborator Manu Delago—a master composer and performer in his own right—as well as Orchestra of the Music Makers, one of Singapore’s leading symphony orchestras. The show will be conducted by Joshua Tan.

Programme:

Concerto No. 3
"... the delight of watching this concert was almost overwhelming at times. To be served up something so rich and detailed, so expressive and heartfelt, so considered and visually compelling, and after so long, was a treat." – The Telegraph

Continuing the legacy of her father, the legendary Ravi Shankar, Anoushka Shankar is considered one of the world's most renowned sitar players. Her genre-defying music reflects her Indian background as well as her life in London and California. Although Shankar's musical backbone is formed from classic Indian sounds, there are elements of Philip Glass, Radiohead and Joni Mitchell in the mix as well. Her dynamic and spiritual musicality has won legions of fans around the world, with performances at Glastonbury, Sydney Opera House and the BBC Proms, seven Grammy Award nominations, recognition as the youngest—and first female—recipient of a British House of Commons Shield, credit as an Asian Hero by TIME Magazine, a Songlines Best Artist Award and a 2021 Ivor Novello nomination for her score for the BBC’s
adaptation of *A Suitable Boy*. *Concerto No: 3* celebrates her father’s legacy, as well as orchestral arrangements of Anoushka’s own eclectic output.

**Between Us**
In her career span, Anoushka Shankar has produced new arrangements of her own pieces, alongside conductor and arranger Jules Buckley. In this second half of the concert, she is joined by long-term collaborator and co-writer Manu Delago, presenting *ragas* and the sitar in a new light.

**About Anoushka Shankar**
“…she put personal expression into songs following the scales of ancient *ragas*, which can only be mastered through years of rigorous practice.” – The Sunday Times Review

The Shankar house, a respite from a world where Anoushka grew up under the public’s intense gaze, was seldom a silent place. Musicians were a permanent presence—learning, rehearsing, improvising, or simply playing musical games around the dinner table. Anoushka began studying the sitar and Indian classical music from the age of nine under the intensive tutelage of her father, Pandit Ravi Shankar: a master of the instrument, and a figure without whom 20th century music would quite simply not have been what it was. After making her professional debut at 13, she began touring worldwide alongside her father, then embarked on a successful touring career when she was 18, becoming known for her virtuosic yet emotional playing style, unusual instrumentation, and precise rhythmic interplay. Having discovered electronic music as a teenager before later immersing herself in the Goan psychedelic trance scene, she found parallels with the meditative, introspective qualities of Indian classical music in the ecstatic release of the dancefloor—using different colours to paint the same picture.

Youtube: [https://youtu.be/f-vP4qIX7G8](https://youtu.be/f-vP4qIX7G8)
Spotify: [https://open.spotify.com/artist/6MTByljF8u5omBltY2VKPU?si=-ltxp18RR3SRIwCrhzmzTw](https://open.spotify.com/artist/6MTByljF8u5omBltY2VKPU?si=-ltxp18RR3SRIwCrhzmzTw)

**About Orchestra of the Music Makers**
“We are the music makers. And we are the dreamers of dreams.” – Arthur O’Shaughnessy, *Ode*

The Orchestra of the Music Makers (OMM) is a Singapore-based symphony orchestra established in 2008, comprising over 140 highly trained volunteer musicians. Although many have chosen careers outside of music, its musicians are dedicated to the high standards of music-making and community work which OMM stands for. Under the mentorship of Chan Tze Law, a leading Singaporean conductor, and Vice-Dean of the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, OMM has become an integral part of Singapore’s classical music scene and has gained international repute.

Website: [www.orchestra.sg](http://www.orchestra.sg)
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/OrchMusicMakers](http://www.facebook.com/OrchMusicMakers)
Instagram: [www.instagram.com/omm.sg](http://www.instagram.com/omm.sg)
YouTube: [www.youtube.com/user/OrchestraMusicMakers](http://www.youtube.com/user/OrchestraMusicMakers)

**About Manu Delago**
“Intriguingly beautiful… A mercurial sound indeed” – DJ Mag

As a two-year-old Manu Delago began what would become a very musically-inclined life as he sat behind his first drum kit and started playing for various bands as a young teenager. He has also collaborated with various genre-leading artists. He appeared as a guest on two albums of psy-trance producers Shpongole and performed on various occasions. In 2011, he
recorded for Björk's *Biophilia* album and has since been her touring drummer, playing four world tours with the Icelandic singer. In 2013, he started performing and writing music with the sitar-player Anoushka Shankar. For his work on her album *Land of Gold*, Manu Delago earned a Grammy nomination.

**Website:** www.manudelago.com  
**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/manudelagomusic  
**Instagram:** www.instagram.com/manudelagomusic  
**Twitter:** www.twitter.com/manudelagomusic  
**YouTube:** www.youtube.com/c/ManuDelago

**About Joshua Tan**

Joshua has conducted the Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra, Beethoven Bonn Orchestra, Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, Tokyo Metropolitan Orchestra, Sapporo Symphony Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Taipei Symphony Orchestra, National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra, China Philharmonic Orchestra amongst others. He has studied with various eminent conductors—James DePreist, Charles Dutoit, David Zinman and Kurt Masur.

Joshua is at home with symphonic, operatic, ballet works and also equally adept with music for film and multimedia. Presently Principal Conductor of the Singapore National Youth Orchestra and Director of the Asia Virtuosi, he has served successful stints as Resident Conductor of the National Centre for the Performing Arts (China) Orchestra, Principal Conductor of the Guiyang Symphony Orchestra and Associate Conductor of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra.

Performed in English  
**Admission age 6 & up**  
1hr 40mins, with 20mins intermission

**$120^, $100^, $80*, $60**

**^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Special (for Cat 1 & 2 only)**  
Black & White - 20% savings  
Discover – 15% savings

**^Esplanade&Me Special (for Cat 1 & 2 only)**  
Black – 15% savings  
White - 10% savings  
Discover – 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors:  
(Cat 4 & 5 only): $64**, $48*  
Limited concessions for PWDs: $48

**Tote Board Arts Grant**

All Primary, Secondary Schools, Junior Colleges/ Centralised Institute & ITEs may use the Tote Board Arts Grant to subsidise up to 50% of the programme cost.

For more details, please contact Esplanade Box Office at 6828 8389 or email boxoffice@esplanade.com.
Come listen to a new age modern spin on Tamil music! Comprising a group of friends who have been playing music together since they were teenagers, D.N.S.V will showcase their skills in songwriting and composition by giving a new voice to conventional Tamil songs, injecting them with pop and percussive elements to create rich soundscapes. With this EP release, D.N.S.V hopes to create music that is accessible to the younger generation.

About D.N.S.V
D.N.S.V consists of a group of friends who have been playing music together since their teenage days. Individually, they have their own influences that made them the musicians they are today. After a long time of practicing and developing their sound and craft, they are ready to give back to the Indian community in Singapore.

As musicians and artists, they are looking to create a new flavour of music to encourage young individuals to appreciate their native language (Tamil) through music.

The groups aims to bring Tamil music to the popular charts, like all other well-known ethnic classics such as Tong Hua, Belaian Jiwa and Mas Que Nada.

Performed in Tamil & English
Admission age 6 & up
1hr, no intermission

$20^\text{^Esplanade&Me Special:}
Black & White – 15% savings
Can I Make You a Suit, Mate?
Rishi Budhrani

25 & 26 Nov 2022, Fri & Sat
7.30pm
Esplanade Recital Studio

This is a story of survival, Singapore and a suit: Be regaled with the many tales of a business owner of over four decades as a Singaporean tailor details his time in the country. See his unique perspective through stories of dealing with mat sallehs from around the world, as well as how he fought through the Gulf War, SARS, the Asian Financial Crisis and the pandemic of present day. He does this all while learning about the world, making friends and most importantly, trying to make you a suit.

Created by Rishi Budhrani—the first stand-up comedian invited to host the National Day Parade (2022) and the voice of Sammy in the award-winning Netflix animated series Downstairs—this semi-improvised comedic monologue is an amalgamation of material inspired by his father’s own journey, one that results in an original, heartfelt and funny tale, all made-to-measure. Can I Make You a Suit, Mate? is truly a tailor-made Singaporean story.

About Rishi Budhrani
After being fired from his father's tailoring business, Rishi used all that leftover material to make history by becoming the first Singaporean to win the Hong Kong International Comedy Competition and perform at the Gotham Comedy Club in NYC.

He has since grown from strength to strength, locally, regionally and globally and is one or the most prolific Singaporean comedians. Most recently, he was invited to host Singapore’s National Day Parade, making him one of the first stand-up comedians to do so. Pre-pandemic, Rishi toured comedy festivals like the Melbourne International Comedy Festival in Australia, and the Weirdass Pyjama Fest in India.

He also hosted an award-winning travel mini-series with Singapore Airlines and Singapore Tourism Board, Unexpected Journeys. More recently, you might have seen heard him in as
the voice of roti-prata seller, Sammy, on award-winning Netflix series, *Downstairs*.

You might have seen him being chased around the cops as he ran around Singapore to explore hidden gems in Singapore Tourism Board’s web series or on CNA as he faked orgasms while learning how to be sexual wellness expert for their series, *Just Don’t Tell Mum*.

Now that the pandemic seems under control, Rishi plans to continue travelling the world using jokes as a currency. He also likes to hum when he pees.

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/rishibudhrani/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/rishibudhrani/?hl=en)
Website: [http://rishibudhrani.com/](http://rishibudhrani.com/)

Performed in English
Admission age 13 up
1hr, no intermission

$35^*$

**^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Special**
Black & White - 20% savings
Discover – 15% savings

**^Esplanade&Me Special:**
Black – 15% savings
White - 10% savings
Discover – 10% savings (/min. 2 tickets)

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs:
$28*
Apsaras Arts is proud to present ARISI : Rice, a cross-cultural and multi-disciplinary performance inspired by the grains of life that link humanity across Asia. It is inspired by multiple rich facets of social, cultural and aesthetic practices borne by cultivation and consumption of rice in the region. From birth celebrations to funeral rites, rice holds important physical as well as symbolic significance in many Asian cultural and aesthetic practices.

In a shift away from epic storytelling, award-winning artistic director Aravinth Kumarasamy has imagined the dance production as episodic vignettes that intersect stages of rice cultivation with gestural rites and rituals in life stages where rice is the principal ingredient in these ceremonies. ARISI : Rice takes the audience though a kaleidoscope of dynamic images brought to life through bharatanatyam dance.

More than that, it is also a collaborative effort as Apsaras Arts shares the stage with their traditional Balinese peers with dance elements of kebyar duduk, kebyar, legong and even joget bumbung, choreographed by Professor I Wayan Dibia collaborating with the company’s resident choreographer, Mohanapriyan Thavarajah. Together, they reimagine stories in the paddy fields and celebrate our life stages as we use rice in our multitude of cultural and spiritual rituals.

Additionally, for the first time ever, Aravinth collaborates with critically-acclaimed film director K. Rajagopal, who contributes another powerful filmic layer of stories from former farmer migrants who now eke an existence in developing foreign lands.
There are also musical collaborations with the Singapore Chinese Orchestra that melodically enhances the music score composed by Rajkumar Bharathi. Directed and produced by Sai Sharavanam, the production features an immersive soundscape created through live Indian and Chinese instruments played by leading award-winning musicians such as Bombay Jayashri Ramnath, D Sathyaprakash, Naveen Iyer, Pratik Srivatsava and other eminent musicians. It additionally includes Balinese gamelan and kecak choric singing to echo and accent certain scenes.

Following the success of earlier co-productions with Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay of dance-theatre works—ANGKOR – An Untold Story at Kalaa Utsavam 2012 and ANJANEYAM – Hanuman's Ramayana at Kalaa Utsavam 2017—Apsaras Arts Dance Company is excited to present another epic dance-theatre production for this annual festival.

Credits

Concept and Artistic Direction: Aravinth Kumarasamy
Choreography: Mohanapriyan Thavarajah & Dr (Prof) I Wayan Dibia
Music Composition: Dr Rajkumar Bharathi
Music Direction and Produced by: Sai Shravanam
Costume Design: Mohanapriyan Thavarajah
Film Directed and Produced by: K Rajagopal

Lighting Design: Gyandev Singh
Dramaturgy: Lim How Ngean
Research Advisor: Dr Nandita Krishna

Music performed by leading Indian musicians from India and Singapore, Singapore Chinese Orchestra and leading Balinese musicians.

Dance performed by Apsaras Arts Company Dancers, Singapore and Balinese classical dancers from GEOK Ensemble, Bali, Indonesia.

Performed in Tamil with English surtitles
Admission age 6 & up
1hr 30mins, no intermission

$80^, $60^{**}, $45^{*}

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Special (for Cat 1 & 2 only)
Black & White - 20% savings
Discover – 15% savings

^Esplanade&Me Special (for Cat 1 & 2 only)
Black – 15% savings
White - 10% savings
Discover – 10% savings (/min. 2 tickets)

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors:
$36^{*}, $48^{**}

School Specials: $15 (Cat 3 only)

Tote Board Arts Grant
All Primary, Secondary Schools, Junior Colleges/ Centralised Institute & ITEs may use the Tote Board Arts Grant to subsidise up to 50% of the programme cost.
An Esplanade Co-Production

Between 5 Cows and the Deep Blue Sea...

A Yagnya

25 – 27 Nov 2022, Fri – Sun
Fri, 8pm, Sat & Sun, 3pm & 8pm
Esplanade Theatre Studio

Caught between traditional arranged marriage and modern dating, Girl is made an unwilling participant of a bizarre game show. She is thrown around the space by Man, who morphs into everything from a Bollywood star to a questionable fortune teller, to even Girl's Mother who has bought into The Patriarchy™ and thinks her daughter will never find happiness without getting married.

*Between 5 Cows and the Deep Blue Sea...* follows Girl as she struggles to come to terms with her identity, and battles with societal expectations heaped upon her. Where will this internal tug of war take her?

**About A Yagnya**
A Yagnya is a collaborative theatre maker and Japanese translator.

Yagnya’s playwriting credits include *Between 5 Cows and the Deep Blue Sea...* (Previously read at Esplanade’s *Raga 2020*), *The Oven Story* அவன் கதை (3Pumpkins, 2020), *Hi, Can You Hear Me?* (Playwrights’ Cove 2020), and subTITLED 1.0 (Bridging the Gap Collective, 2021). She has also co-written for GroundZ_0’s *Prism of Truth* (*Huayi 2020*), interpreted for ITI’s Noh
Theatre Module, acted in Goddesses of Words: Angry Indian Women (Textures 2020), and dramaturged for (un)becoming (Festival of Women N.O.W. 2021). She was also a participant in a Devising for Actors and Playwrights 2021 programme by The Necessary Stage (TNS) and was engaged in a Lab with TNS on using AI in performance making.

Yagnya enjoys creating socially conscious works that challenge her audience into breaking out of their echo chambers.

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/iggyeggieggyagnya](http://www.instagram.com/iggyeggieggyagnya)

Performed in English, Tamil, Japanese and some Hindi with English surtitles
Admission age 13 up
1hr 15mins, no intermission

$35^*$

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Special
Black & White - 20% savings
Discover – 15% savings

^Esplanade&Me Special:
Black – 15% savings
White - 10% savings
Discover – 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

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

Student’s Special: $12

Tote Board Arts Grant
All Secondary Schools, Junior Colleges/ Centralised Institute & ITEs may use the Tote Board Arts Grant to subsidise up to 50% of the programme cost.

For more details, please contact Esplanade Box Office at 6828 8389 or email [boxoffice@esplanade.com](mailto:boxoffice@esplanade.com).
Bare
Yuresh with FAUXE, FUDGY and Shak’thiya

25 & 26 Nov 2022, Fri & Sat
8pm
Esplanade Annexe Studio

Lay it all bare with four musician friends as they finally join forces to celebrate what it means to be Indian, human, and to make music in those capacities. This long-overdue collaboration features vocalist Yuresh (stillsunrise), stalwart artist and producer FAUXE, multi-genre performer FUDGY and singer-songwriter Shak’thiya. Expect nervous banter, lots of laughter and takes on tunes never before heard.

Performed in Tamil & English
Admission age 13 & up
1hr, no intermission

$20^ (select Standing or Seating)

^Esplanade&Me Special:
Black & White – 15% savings
Discover & U26 - 10% savings
#PU4LIVE – Second Home Tour
By Havoc Mathan & Havoc Naven (Havoc Brothers), Santesh, Yunohoo, Siddarth, iFon, Abimanyu, Aaron Prince, Eric Prince, Daniel, DJ Ruckes

26 Nov 2022, Sat
7.30pm
Esplanade Concert Hall

Formed by rapper and producer Rabbit Mac, #PU4LIVE – Second Home Tour features a band comprising some of the most energetic performers from Malaysia today. Look forward to catchy hip hop, R&B and pop songs by rappers and singers Havoc Mathan & Havoc Naven (Havoc Brothers), Santesh, Yunohoo, Siddarth, iFon and Abimanyu.

This all-star band has performed as opening acts for concerts by stars such as Anirudh, Benny Dayal, Sid Sriram, as well performed in MILFF 2018 and Yuvan 25 Live, both in Kuala Lumpur.

About PU4LYF
Formed by Rabbit Mac of PU4LYF Entertainment, this band comprises some of the best rappers and singers of this label and talent agency. The band consistently presents shows with incredible stage presence and songs across the genres of hip hop, pop, and R&B.

Singers:
Havoc Mathan & Havoc Naven (Havoc Brothers)
Santesh
Yunohoo
Siddarth
iFon
Abimanyu
Band:
Aaron Prince
Eric Prince
Daniel
DJ Ruckes

Instagram:
https://www.instagram.com/iamhavocmathan/?hl=en
https://www.instagram.com/havocnavenofficial/?hl=en
https://www.instagram.com/iamsantesh/?hl=en
https://www.instagram.com/yunohoornmusic/?hl=en
https://www.instagram.com/ifon/
https://www.instagram.com/abimaniac/
https://www.instagram.com/pu4lyf_entertainment/

Performed in Tamil & English
Recommended for age 13 and above. Some coarse language might be used.
1hr 30mins, no intermission

$50^, $35^*

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Special (for Cat 1 & 2)
Black & White - 20% savings
Discover – 15% savings

^Esplanade&Me Special (for Cat 1 & 2):
Black – 15% savings
White - 10% savings
Discover – 10% savings (/min. 2 tickets)

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors:
$28*
Led by eminent Karnatik musician and scholar T M Krishna, this performance is the result of a fascinating and unique collaboration with Nadasvaram artists Sheik Mahaboob and Smt Kaleeshabi Mahaboob. Accompanying them are Thanjavur T.R.Govindarajan (tavil), Akkarai S Subhalakshmi (violin) and Praveen Sparsh (mridingam).

The nadasvaram and tavil emerged from Tamil culture and is an important contribution to the world of music. Both instruments are stunningly beautiful and powerful, though not always fully appreciated even though Karnatik music’s aesthetics owe a lot to the practitioners of the nadasvaram and the tavil. As collaborative concerts between the practitioners of these instruments alongside singers and other performers are rarely seen, this concert will be a special, musical conversation hinged on artistic sensibilities and sensitivities. This artistic coming-together carries forward the age-old lineage where the past and present intersect to create a unique musical experience.

About T M Krishna
T M Krishna is one of the pre-eminent vocalists in the rigorous Karnatik tradition of India's classical music. His tutelage is in this form that originated in the southern peninsula of the subcontinent nearly five hundred years ago. He has trained under the distinguished gurus, B. Seetharama Sarma, Chengalpet Ranganathan and Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer, placing him in the highest reaches of that time-honored system. He has, at the same time, come to occupy
a markedly distinct place in the Karnatik universe for the stunning individuality of his renditions, distinguished for an inner luminosity and a passionate intensity that are all his own. Krishna belongs to a tradition but is not owned by it. His concert stage, whether in his hometown of Chennai or anywhere else in the world, is wholly classical but his concert practice is uncompromisingly his own.

His musico-poetic partnership with India’s leading contemporary Tamil writer Perumal Murugan, is unprecedented. Rarely has a poet and a musician, who are contemporaries, collaborated to bring out works of art on the ‘classical’ stage. He has also been a pioneer in bringing the poetry of the social reformer and philosopher Sree Narayana Guru into the Karnatik fold.

In 2016, Krishna received the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award in recognition of ‘his forceful commitment as artist and advocate to art’s power to heal India’s deep social divisions’. In 2017, he received the Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration Award for his services in promoting and preserving national integration in the country and the Professor V Aravindakshan Memorial Award for connecting Karnatik music with the common man.

About Akkarai S Subhalakshmi
Akkarai S Subhalakshmi, Indian classical (Carnatic) violinist and vocalist, took the music world by storm at the tender age of eight, and her music continues to touch the hearts of countless music lovers around the world. Hailing from a musical family, she trained under her father, Akkarai Shri S Swamynathan, a veteran violinist who founded the Swara Raga Sudha school of music. Under his intensive training, she began her career in both vocal and violin by the age of eight. She was soon joined on stage by her younger sister, Akkarai S Sornalatha, known together as the Akkarai Sisters.

Subhalakshmi also trained under Shri V Janakiraman, Shri O V Subramanian, and his daughter Smt Padma Natesan in New Delhi, and later, Padmabhushan Shri P S Narayanaswamy and Chitravina maestro Shri N Ravikiran. She is now one of today’s leading violinists, known for her unique tone reminiscent of the human voice, and her soulful music that is a harmonious blend of virtuosity on the violin and the fine nuances of Indian classical music. Subhalakshmi has performed widely in India, and abroad in Japan, Singapore, North America, Europe, the Middle East, Australia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Israel, and more.

She has been a part of many of Sri T M Krishna's unique and revolutionary collaborations. She attributes all her success to her gurus, especially her father Akkarai Shri S Swamynathan, who established her as a musician and continues to guide her.

About Praveen Sparsh
Praveen Sparsh is a multi-percussionist and music producer. He started learning the art of mridangam at the age of five from Maestro Guruvayur Sri Dorai. He is the grandson of mridangam exponent Tanjore Sri Upendran and great grandson of tavil exponent Valangaiman Sri Shanmugasundaram Pillai.

Praveen is one of the most sought after mridangam exponents in the field of Carnatic music, and performs regularly with stalwarts like Sri T M Krishna, Smt. Aruna Sairam, Smt. Bombay Jayashree, Smt. Sowmya, Sri. Sikkil Gurucharan, amongst others. He has toured the United States extensively, as well as countries like Luxembourg, Germany, Belgium, Amsterdam, Singapore, Malaysia, Jakarta, Sydney, Melbourne, Israel and Palestine.

Praveen has most recently released his solo percussion album, Unreserved, a mridangam centric album that explores the sounds of everyday life. As a music producer, Praveen has scored and performed music for the play Kurukshetra - When things fall apart, directed by
noted playwright Dr. Gowri Ramnarayan. He has also scored music for short films and ad jingles and has worked with famed director Rajeev Menon. Praveen has also been performing with his Indo-Fusion music band called the Sparsh Quartet, for the last five years.

About Sheik Mahaboob Subhani and Smt. Kaleeshabi Mahaboob
Husband-wife duo Sheik Mahaboob Subhani and Smt. Kaleeshabi Mahaboob both grew up in a musical family, with parents and relatives that are respected nadhaswaram vidwans. The duo have toured extensively all over India for concerts, and has also performed in Abu Dhabi, Brussels, Canada, Dubai, France, Germany, Japan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, USA and the UK. They have received numerous awards, including the prestigious Padma Shri awarded by the Indian government, conferred on 31 Jan 2020.

About Thanjavur T.R.Govindarajan
Thanjavur T.R.Govindarajan (b. 1952) hails from a family of traditional tavil players. Imbibed with the interest to learn this art and family legacy, at the age of seven he became the disciple of the illustrious Needamangalam N.T.M. Shanmukhavadiel Pillai. After about two years, he was entrusted by the guru to another great tavil wizard, Nachiyarkovil P. Ragahava Pillai, at the feet of whom Govindarajan underwent rigorous training for nearly six years. In 1965, he became a full-fledged tavil artist and served as the stock-accompanist Mannargudi M.S. Paramasivam Pillai and to Thirumeigyyanam P. Natarajasundaram Pillai, the great Pallavi maestro. Later, Govindarajan became a special tavil artist and had accompanied many a stalwart, like Thiruvudaimarudur P.S. Veerusyami Pillai, Thiruvenkadu P. Subramania Puillai, Namagirippettai K. Krishnan, Shaik Chinna Maulana Sahib, Kottur N. Rajaratnam Pillai, A.K.C. Natarajan (Clarinet), Madurai Sethuraman - Ponnuvami Brothers and more.

In the course of his brilliant career, Govindarajan has shared the platform with other greats in the field like, Kumbakonam Thangavelu Pillai, Valangaiman Shanmukhasundaram Pillai, Thirucherai Muthukumarasvami Pillai, Yazhpapanam Dakshinamoorthi Pillai, Valayapatti Subramaniam, Hiridvaramangalam Pazhanivel, Thiruvazhaputhur Kaliyamoorti, Vedaranam Balasubramaniam and others. He has also been accompanying U. Sreenivas (Mandolin), Kadri Gopalath (Saxophone), Ganesh - Kumaresh (Violin) etc. Govindarajan has toured abroad a lot and his lecture demonstration in the Wesleyan University, US was very well-received. His Jugalbandi percussive performance with the inimitable tabla maestro, Zakir Hussain, in the Wesleyan University, was a great success and Govindarajan received high encomiums from the tabla maestro himself and Dr. T. Visvanathan. He is a regular invitee to perform in various sabhas of Chennai, during the music festival and at other times also.

Website: https://www.tmkrishna.com/
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/tmkrishnaofficial/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/tmkrishna
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI-HdkplxPECiTpxWSaVHqA

Performed in Tamil, Sanskrit and Telugu
Admission age 6 & up
2hrs, no intermission

$45^*

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Special
Black & White - 20% savings
Discover – 15% savings

^Esplanade&Me Special
Black – 15% savings
White - 10% savings
Discover – 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

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

Tote Board Arts Grant
All Primary, Secondary Schools, Junior Colleges/ Centralised Institute & ITEs may use the Tote Board Arts Grant to subsidise up to 50% of the programme cost.

For more details, please contact Esplanade Box Office at 6828 8389 or email boxoffice@esplanade.com.

Workshops and Talks

Dhol Workshop
Yaar Panj-aab Phangra Troupe

19 Nov 2022, Sat
11am & 1.30pm
Esplanade Rehearsal Studio

The *dhol* is a drum widely used in India, and can be found in various regions such as Punjab, Gujarat, Rajasthan and many more. It has also found popularity worldwide through modern Punjabi music. Learn some history as well as the basics of playing this double-headed drum in this workshop for all ages.

About Yaar Panj-aab Phangra
Yaar Panj-aab Phangra (YPP) was founded in 2010 by a group of young dancers, who came together with the goal of bringing Bhangra to a wider audience. Since then, they have been very successful in sharing their culture all over Singapore and Asia. YPP has been innovators in modern Bhangra with creative styles fused with traditional foundation. The group aims to
showcase their culture with current modern moves to be on par with Bhangra troupes the world over.

Today YPP aims to showcase their rich culture with the mishmash of current modern moves to be on par with Bhangra troupes all over the world.

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/bhangrasg/
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/yarpanjaab
TikTok: @yppsingapore

Conducted in English
Admission age 6 & up
1hr, no intermission

$15^ per ticket

^Esplanade&Me Special:
Black, White & Discover – 50% savings (Limited tickets)

Parent-child workshop: Bhangra Dance
Yaar Panj-aab Phangra Troupe

20 Nov 2022, Sun
11am
Esplanade Rehearsal Studio

A popular dance originating from Punjab, Bhangra is a very high-energy dance where dancers often perform jumps, kicks, spins and other amazing moves. Bring your little one and have a
bonding experience while learning the fundamentals of Bhangra, including the concepts of rhythm, coordination as well as movement in the shoulders, hands, wrist and legs.

**About Yaar Panj-aab Phangra**
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Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/bhangrasg/](https://www.facebook.com/bhangrasg/)
Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/yaarpanjaab](https://www.instagram.com/yaarpanjaab)
TikTok: @yppsingapore

Conducted in English
Recommended age 6 & up
Admission age 4 & up
1hr, no intermission

$15^ per ticket

^Esplanade&Me Special:
Pip’s Club: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)
Tickets sold at $30 per parent & child pair or $45 (1 adult + 2 children, or 2 adults + 1 child)
Accompanying adult must be at least 16 years old.
An Esplanade Co-Production

**Between – A Theatre in Education workshop**
Tongue in Cheek Productions

26 & 27 Nov 2022, Sat & Sun
4.30pm
Esplanade Rehearsal Studio

For young people in Singapore, understanding where they stand amidst such a diverse landscape can sometimes be confusing and isolating. Using the play *Between 5 Cows and The Deep Blue Sea…* as a starting point, this Theatre in Education (TIE) programme aims to provide an opportunity for teens and young adults to:

1. Explore their identity amidst the clashing expectations of society, culture and family
2. Unpack what constitutes their own unique identity, to tune in to their own power and agency
3. Participants will first watch a theatre performance of *Between 5 Cows and The Deep Blue Sea…*, and thereafter, attend a three-hour drama workshop that will allow them to understand the concept of identity
4. Identify unique standpoint(s) for themselves within the clashing expectations that come with identity markers
5. Challenge conceptions of what it means to be a young person today amidst external pressures and expectations
6. Practice reflection and self-assurance to encourage agency

**About Nicole Hofbauer**

Nicole is a drama practitioner and educator. She serves as the Artistic Director of Tongue in Cheek Productions, a young company specialising in theatre education. She designs and facilitates Drama-in-Curriculum, Speech, and Public Speaking programmes, and has coached several Drama CCA clubs over the years.

With a diploma in Applied Drama and Psychology, she has crafted and conducted multiple applied drama programmes for youth like Jump in, Act Out, A forum theatre programme for students from the Normal Technical stream.
Being trained as an actor under W!LD RICE's Young and W!LD programme, she is passionate about how theatre and the arts can create meaningful experiences for youth audiences.

Conducted in English
Recommended for 17 – 25 year olds
3hr, no intermission

*Workshop attendees must watch the show Between 5 Cows and the Deep Blue Sea… prior to attending this workshop.

$45 per ticket

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Talk: The art of improvisation
T M Krishna (India)

26 Nov 2022, Sat
5pm
Dance Village, library@esplanade

Improvisation is a key pillar of the Karnatik music system. While the approach to improvisation has evolved over the years, the ideology in itself remains to be inseparable from the tradition.

Through this intimate session, celebrated vocalist T M Krishna will walk the audiences through his interpretation of improvisation or creativity, with the aim of exposing the listeners to new possibilities and frontiers.

About T M Krishna
T M Krishna is one of the pre-eminent vocalists in the rigorous Karnatik tradition of India's classical music. His tutelage is in this form that originated in the southern peninsula of the subcontinent nearly five hundred years ago. He has trained under the distinguished gurus, B. Seetharama Sarma, Chengalpet Ranganathan and Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer, placing him in the highest reaches of that time-honored system. He has, at the same time, come to occupy
a markedly distinct place in the Karnatik universe for the stunning individuality of his renditions, distinguished for an inner luminosity and a passionate intensity that are all his own. Krishna belongs to a tradition, but is not owned by it. His concert stage, whether in his hometown of Chennai or anywhere else in the world, is wholly classical but his concert practice is uncompromisingly his own.

As a public intellectual, Krishna speaks and writes about issues affecting the human condition and about matters cultural. He has started and is involved in many organisations whose work is spread across the whole spectrum of music and culture. He has co-authored *Voices Within: Carnatic Music – Passing on an Inheritance*, a book dedicated to the greats of Karnatik music. His path-breaking book, *A Southern Music – The Karnatik Story*, published by HarperCollins in 2013 was a first-of-its-kind philosophical, aesthetic and socio-political exploration of Karnatik music. For this he was awarded the 2014 Tata Literature Award for Best First Book in the non-fiction category.

For the first time, T M Krishna's key writings have been put together in this extraordinary collection titled, *The Spirit of Enquiry: Dissent as an Art Form*, which draws from his rich body of work. This is a collection that reflects the critical and cultural engagement of one of our finest thinkers, public intellectuals and practitioners of art.

His books, *Sebastian & Sons: A Brief History of Mrdangam Makers* and *A Southern Music – The Karnatik Story* have been translated by D I Aravindan and were published by Kalachuvudu Publications in April 2022.

He has been part of inspiring musical productions and collaborations, such as the Chennai Poromboke Paadal with environmentalist Nityanand Jayaraman, performances with the Jogappas (transgender musicians) and co-conceptualising and performing Karnatik Kattaikuttu, an unusual aesthetic conversation between art forms and communities that belong to two ends of the social spectrum.

His musico-poetic partnership with India’s leading contemporary Tamil writer Perumal Murugan, is unprecedented. Rarely has a poet and a musician, who are contemporaries collaborated to bring out works of art on the ‘classical’ stage. He has also been a pioneer in bringing the poetry of the social reformer and philosopher Sree Narayana Guru into the Karnatik fold.

In collaboration with the Ashoka University, T M Krishna is now involved in The Edict Project, an attempt to reimagine Ashoka’s edicts in musical form. The project aims at creating vibrant aesthetic, socio-political and academic conversations around the edicts.

He is the driving force behind the Chennai Kalai Theru Vizha (formerly Urur Olcott Kuppam Vizha) and the Svanubhava initiatives.

In 2016, Krishna received the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award in recognition of ‘his forceful commitment as artist and advocate to art’s power to heal India’s deep social divisions’. In 2017, he received the Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration Award for his services in promoting and preserving national integration in the country and the Professor V Aravindakshan Memorial Award for connecting Karnatik music with the common man.

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Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/tmkrishna](https://www.facebook.com/tmkrishna)

Conducted in English
Admission age 6 & up
1hr 30mins, no intermission
$15

Perform with parai drumming Workshop
AK Theatre

26 Nov 2022, Sat
11am
Esplanade Rehearsal Studio

Discover the beauty of the *parai* drum and have fun with this traditional percussion instrument! Known as the “Mother” of all percussion instruments, the *parai* is a significant symbol in Tamil culture. This workshop will provide a rich and holistic experience where participants can learn to express themselves with this instrument while learning its history.

**About Kalah Rajesh Kannan**
Kalah has been a special needs educator for the past 26 years. She left her job in the Ministry of Education to spread more joy to kids through the performing arts. She is a performing artist, arts facilitator and an animated, fun storyteller who believes in bringing smiles and joy to all around her.

**About Rani Kanna**
Rani Kanna, the director of AKT Festival, is a passionate storyteller, arts educator and actor. Her narrations are full of life, detailed with various actions and voices. She is passionate about developing languages through her bilingual storytelling and dramatisation.

Rani has also been directing preschool musicals since 2014. She has conducted storytelling workshops for teachers, librarians and library volunteers. She finds great joy in working with children. She hopes to instil the love of languages and empower her audience through her storytelling.

**About AK Theatre**
AK Theatre is a long-term passion and dream come true for its founders, aimed at keeping the Tamil Language and culture alive amongst Indian children and the future generations. The company seeks to enrich the childhood of future citizens and expand their imagination through theatre and its visual depictions. Their programmes are delivered by means of workshops, stage productions, video productions and lectures aimed at building participants' confidence and creativity through the performing arts, speech, drama and entertainment. They are sharing their rich experience and exposure of Tamil culture and ancient Indian art forms as events, for the young and the old, to enable them to learn even as they get entertained.

Website: [https://www.aktheatre.com/](https://www.aktheatre.com/)
Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/aktheatreltd/](https://www.instagram.com/aktheatreltd/)
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/AKTheatreltd](https://www.facebook.com/AKTheatreltd)

Conducted in English
Admission age 16 & up
1hr, no intermission

$15\textsuperscript{^*} per ticket

\textsuperscript{*}Esplanade&Me Special:
Black & White: 15% savings
Discover – 10% savings (Limited tickets)

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**Parent-child workshop: Bonding through parai drumming**
AK Theatre

**27 Nov 2022, Sun**
11am
Esplanade Rehearsal Studio

Specially tailored for parent and child, this workshop will introduce the traditional *parai* drum to participants in an engaging hands-on session. Known as the “Mother” of all percussion
instruments, the *parai* is a significant symbol in Tamil culture. This workshop will provide a rich and holistic experience where participants can learn to express themselves with this instrument while learning its history.

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Conducted in English
Admission age 6 & up
1hr 30mins, no intermission

$15\^ per ticket

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- PIP's Club: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)
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Accompanying adult must be 16 years & above.