We are excited to launch Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay’s brand new annual festival for children—March On—which will take place this year from 10 – 14 Mar 2021.

The festival presents arts experiences criss-crossing music, theatre and dance for children below 12 and their families to participate in. The specially curated programmes at March On delve into relevant issues facing the young of today and place children squarely at the centre of the creative process. This children-centric festival not only adds to the range of programmes at Esplanade for young audiences, it is also committed to collaborations and the sharing of thought leadership. The festival will bring together arts practitioners to create new work for young audiences, as well as in panel discussions and talks.

While conceptualising the inaugural edition of the multi-disciplinary, participatory festival, we asked ourselves: How is the pandemic transforming childhood? How do we engage with our young audiences meaningfully while masked up and safe-distanced? How can we share the beauty of being in a theatre space with one’s peers? To uncover the answers to these questions, we sought to actively involve children and young adults in the process of planning and creating live, digital and hybrid works for the festival.

The young will take the driver’s seat in our first-ever children-led programme – SEEDLINGS. Facilitated by arts practitioners Chong Gua Khee and Faye Lim, a panel made up of children 7 to 12 years old will watch and participate in selected programmes and workshops at the festival. They will have exclusive behind the scenes access and this will culminate in a final presentation where they will share their unique perspectives on topics close to their hearts.
In *The Feelings Farm* we invite children to navigate the shifting planes of their emotions, both big and small. Led by Director Edith Podesta and written by Amanda Chong with music composed by Julian Wong, this multi-disciplinary production features works informed by children of diverse needs and backgrounds over the course of six workshops.

Students from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts’ Arts Management programme have helped to curate a series of pop-up free performances just for the young. Three young artists between 13 and 16 years old will also lead dance, tabla and visual arts workshops for children as they grow to be leaders in their own genre of practice.

The line-up of workshops and interactive performances offers opportunities for families to immerse themselves in the arts and play together! In *Reimagine a Character*! parents and children get the opportunity to step into a costume designer’s shoes and learn character devising and costume design with noted Singapore designers Anthony Tan and Max Tan. In *Robot House Party*, we encourage everyone to put on their dancing shoes for this family-friendly dance party with internationally acclaimed DJ Kid Koala who will join us remotely via Zoom from Canada.

We are thrilled to work with artists and creatives to design critical, thought-provoking and reflective works for children. Striding on to the *March On* stage with their festival debut is *Rattle King*, a giant puppet performance created by Danny Yeo, Phang Kok Jun and Oliver Chong. An Esplanade Commission, this work explores the awareness of sound in our environment. And *Alice’s Topsy Turvy Tea Party*, a co-production with The Kueh Tutus, gets families to explore how they interact and bond through the language of dance.

In these challenging times when so much of what was once familiar is now new and not yet quite normal, the festival offers new ways for children, families and artists to be inspired and engage in meaningful conversations.

And for the future, in the years to come, we hope that the festival contributes to memories of a wonderful childhood surrounded by the joy of the arts at #mydurian.

Let’s *March On*!

Rachel Lim
Producer, The Esplanade Co Ltd

*Last updated: 25 Feb 2021*
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 non-ticketed.

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

To bring even more of the arts to a wider audience and provide more platforms to support Singapore’s next generation of artists, Esplanade is building a new theatre along its busy waterfront. Named Singtel Waterfront Theatre, the 550-seat venue will open in 2022.

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

TECL 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.

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Annexe

Esplanade Presents
March On 2021
10 – 14 Mar 2021
www.esplanade.com/marchon

March On is Esplanade’s new annual children’s festival that explores relevant issues for the young through multi-disciplinary programmes and participatory arts experiences.

Ticketed Programmes

[Theatre]
An Esplanade Production
The Feelings Farm
12 Mar, Fri, 10.30am
13 & 14 Mar, Sat & Sun, 10.30am & 3pm
Esplanade Theatre

Welcome to the Feelings Farm
where feelings bloom and grow.
Pay attention to their whispers,
they’ll show you where to go...

On a field trip to Kranji, three children find themselves lost on the Feelings Farm where emotions are shifting landscapes they must learn to journey through both together and alone. Guided by a mysterious Cloud, they tumble through the Jungle of Joy, brave the Field of Fear, sail across the Swamp of Sadness, and explore other familiar feelings. Come along for a magical adventure that will surprise and move you.

The Feelings Farm is a play which uses music, movement, poetry and multimedia to help children name and understand emotions with compassion. Recommended for ages 6 and up,
the play draws from real experiences of children in Singapore and hopes to give children and adults alike the language to have honest conversations about our feelings.

Produced by: Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay
Written by: Amanda Chong
Music by: Julian Wong
Directed by: Edith Podesta

(75min, no intermission. Performed in English)

Recommended Age: 6 & up
^$30 per ticket, $25 (For schools only shows)
Alice’s Topsy Turvy Tea Party
A co-production with The Kueh Tutus
12 Mar 2021, Fri, 10.30am & 4.30pm
13 & 14 Mar 2021, Sat & Sun, 10.30am, 2pm & 4.30pm
Esplanade Annexe Studio

“We are all mad here.” – Mad Hatter, Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

Welcome to our little party, where everything’s exciting,
Take a seat and have some tea, our picnic is inviting.
Is it a twist or is it a turn? You have a part to play,
Help Hatter, Rabbit and dear Alice, on this wonderful day.

Alice’s Topsy Turvy Tea Party is a picnic-style interactive dance experience, designed for children aged 4 – 9 years old and their families, that explores questions of friendship and belonging. Come dressed in your party best and be part of wonderland! Created by Melissa Quek, with Marcus Foo, Yarra Ileto and Zhuo Zihao.

About The Kueh Tutus
The Kueh Tutus is a collective that creates dance performances and experiences for the young and very young, unlocking the imagination of all ages. Formed by a collaborative team of creatives, each individual has spent hours extensively creating dances with, teaching, and playing with children. Brought together by choreographer Melissa Quek, they combined their superpowers of productive curiosity to enter the Singapore young audience scene in 2017, and their playful engagement with music and movement captured the hearts of parents and children alike. They were soon invited to present their work at festivals such as Octoburst! at Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, Got to Move and Singapore Writers’ Festival.

They also began to workshop and develop new dance works at The Artground as part of the Groundbreakers Incubation Programme in 2019 and 2019. They have been lauded as having the ability to unlock the imagination and feed a desire for discovery. Some of their works include In Search of You, Grow with Me, Fold Crinkle Roll, Here, There! Where?, Babes in the Forest, Just Teddy and more.

(1hr, no intermission. Performed in English)

Recommended Age: 4 & up
^$20 per ticket (Sold in packages of 2 to 5 tickets)
Ticketed Workshops

Re-imagine A Character! Costume Making Workshop
By Anthony Tan & Max Tan
12 – 14 Mar 2021, Fri – Sun, 10am
Esplanade Rehearsal Studio

Have fun with character-devising and costume making! Led by costume designers Anthony Tan and Max Tan, devise a character and create an imaginative costume based on storybook excerpts. Each parent-child pair will be provided with the necessary materials. Children will be able to put on their creation and even have a costume parade!

About Anthony Tan
Anthony has worked extensively as a costume designer with various performing arts companies in Singapore since 1993 and holds a Master of Arts in Costume Design for Performance from London College of Fashion, UK. He is currently an educator at a local arts institution.

About Max Tan
Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts alumnus Max Tan launched his eponymous label in 2010. Besides working on his seasonal collections, he also serves as a costume designer for various theatre performances in Singapore. More recently, he graduated with B.A (hons) In Fashion Design from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and is now helping to groom the next generation of designers as an adjunct lecturer in the institution.

(2hr 30mins, no intermission)

Recommended Age: 7 & up
$20 per ticket, Parent-Child pair or 1 parent with 2 children.

PIP’s Club Specials: 10%
Sign up for free at www.esplanade.com/pipsclub
Kinder's Garden Walk & Workshop
By Edible Garden City
13 & 14 Mar 2021, Sat & Sun, 10am
Esplanade Theatre Foyer (with Forecourt Garden Tour)

A garden tour and a gardening workshop? That's right!

Traverse the Esplanade Forecourt Garden and explore its lush flora with a guided tour. In the latter part of the session, get your hands dirty with Edible Garden city's Make Your Own Self-Watering Planter Workshop.

Through this workshop, you will learn to upcycle forgotten plastic bottles into self-watering pots to grow beautiful herbs and edible flowers. Participants are required to bring their own used plastic drink bottle.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)

Recommended Age: 7 & up
$20 per ticket, Parent-Child pair or 1 parent with 2 children.

PIP’s Club Specials: 10%
Sign up for free at www.esplanade.com/pipsclub
Robot House Party @Esplanade & Robot House Party @Home
13 & 14 Mar 2021, Sat & Sun, 11am
Esplanade Recital Studio (with Zoom Party)

Robot House Party @Esplanade
Join internationally acclaimed DJ Kid Koala and guests for a one-hour, family-friendly Robot House Party @Esplanade. While Kid Koala spins a live DJ set online via Zoom, let your creativity loose and build your own robot suits.

Every parent-child pair participating in the Robot House Party @Esplanade will be given all the robot costume materials needed to make a brand-new robot suit! There will also be hosts on-site to guide you as you listen to great music and learn how to make the robot costume via a live Zoom session. When the robot costume is ready, suit up into your robot self as Kid Koala turns up the volume and we turn down the lights for a Robot House Party right here at Esplanade!

Robot House Party @Home
Can’t join us at Esplanade? Fret not! You can still join in the fun in real-time! Join DJ Kid Koala and guests live during the robot making and dance party sessions. Prior to the show, a list will be sent to grown-ups to purchase the materials needed to make the robot costume. Then, dial
and make your robot costume together with Kid Koala, the participants at Esplanade and others at home before suiting up and doing the robot in your living room, or bedroom or kitchen...or anywhere you want to! All you need is the internet, your newly built robot suit and your moves.

Musician and Composer: Kid Koala
MC and Dancer: Adira Amram
Dancer: Maresa D'amore Morrisson, Jessi Erian
Visuals and Live Editor: Corinne Merrell
Assistant Editor and Tech Support: Brian Neuman

(1hr 15mins, no intermission)

Recommended Age: 4 & up
Robot Dance Party @Esplanade: $20 per ticket (Parent-Child pair or 1 parent with 2 children.)
Robot House Party @Home: $10 per ticket

PIPs Club: 10% savings
Sign up for free at www.esplanade.com/pipsclub

BOOK NOW! www.esplanade.com/marchon
SISTIC Hotline: 6348 5555
School/Group Booking: 6828 8389 or email boxoffice@esplanade.com
Minimum admission age varies.
Ticket prices exclude SISTIC fees. Tickets are required for all patrons.
Terms and conditions apply.
Free Programme Highlights

*An Esplanade Commission*
*The Rattle King*
12 – 14 Mar 2021, Fri – Sun, 5.30pm & 7pm
Esplanade Forecourt Garden

*The Rattle King* awakes from deep sleep to find out what all the ruckus is about. It turns out that his jesters and the children are making so much noise that it is impossible for him to have any peaceful rest! Grumpy and groggy, he approaches them intending to reprimand his subjects, only to realise that he personally contributes to the sound and mess too!

Join *The Rattle King* in his journey to rediscover himself, in a musical celebration of empathy, harmony and cacophony.

An Esplanade commission for *March On 2021*, *The Rattle King* is created by theatre director Danny Yeo, with music by multifaceted composer Phang Kok Jun, featuring the impressive 4.5-metre giant puppet skilfully designed and made by award-winning Oliver Chong.

(30mins, no intermission. Non-verbal.)

This is a pilot trial performance with up to 100 audience members. No tickets will be issued. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
Seedlings is a pilot programme that seeks to bring together a group of enthusiastic and arts-loving young people aged 7-12 years. with diverse experiences and abilities and it involves them attending a series of arts-based workshops, dialogues and performances as part of the March On festival programming. This public sharing session is part of the Seedlings programme and offers audiences the unique opportunity to hear more about the process and participants' experiences. Audiences will also get to meet and dialogue with the participants and facilitators.

With Seedlings, Esplanade seeks to further develop children-centred artistic experiences at the national performing arts centre and within the wider Arts for Young Audiences landscape in Singapore.

Recommended Age: 7 & up.

(2hrs, no intermission.)
Scrunched up noses, lines on our forehead, large round eyes... there are many ways our feelings are reflected. But understanding what those mean and putting a name on these emotions can be tough!

In this workshop, children get to explore different emotions and how feelings can be reflected on our faces through playing games, making an expressive mask and sharing a story related to the mask they have created.

Recommended Age: 5 & up.
Limited capacity. Pre-registration to PIP’s PLAYbox is required at www.esplanade.com/pipsplaybox

(45mins, no intermission.)
At the Esplanade Concourse

This is a pilot trial performance with up to 50 audience members. No tickets will be issued. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

(30mins, no intermission.)

ONCE UPON A TALE: “Bringing old tales to life”
By A’artsg
10 & 11 Mar 2021, Wed & Thu, 6.30pm
Esplanade Concourse

Come join local storytellers Ahmad Irfan Bin Ahmad Zaidi, Muhammad NurSyafiq Bin Abdul Rashid and Nur Hidayah Binte Ramlee as they bring two stories to life at the Esplanade Concourse through storytelling, music and dance!

Be enthralled by their retelling of The Boy Who Cried Wolf, a cautionary tale of what happens when a lie gets repeated too often, and then enjoy a classic South-east Asian folktale, Tanggang, a tale about what happens when promises made are broken.

This programme is presented in collaboration with NAFA’s Diploma in Arts Management as part of an Industry Project module.

About Awal'liyah Arts Repertoire Theatre

Awal'liyah Arts Repertoire Theatre (A'artsg) was set up in 2019 by Awal'liyah Ja'afar. A'artsg aspires to produce shows for children that challenge, motivate and inspire. A visit to the theatre can have a long-lasting impact, stimulating exciting and meaningful experiences. In addition, the group seeks to incorporate interactive audience engagement as a way to immerse children in the theatre scene and spark their interests in the field of theatrical arts.

A'artsg’s first production, 1965 Geylang Serai was produced and played during the opening of Wisma Geylang Serai in 2019, attended by high profile guests such as PM Lee Hsien Loong and various cabinet ministers.
String Favourites
By Nawarah Band
10 & 11 Mar 2021, Wed & Thu, 7.45pm
Esplanade Concourse

Step into a relaxing evening filled with popular songs over the years including iconic Disney songs that are loved by all. Be mesmerized by their finger styling skills, rhythmic strumming and groovy beats. Join us to unwind and loosen up to the instrumental tunes.

This quartet performance will consist of keyboard, guitars and bass. The music played will be rearranged to create their own medley rendition.

This programme is presented in collaboration with NAFA's Diploma in Arts Management as part of an Industry Project module.

About Nawarah Band
It all started out from a guitar ensemble CCA in College East. Nawarah Band have been friends for over 10 years and have had the opportunity to perform at numerous events throughout their time together. Along the way, they gained a reputation as on-the-go instrumentalists due to their ability to grasp tunes quickly.

Whether it is complementing each other on their instruments or just hanging out drinking Teh Tarik, music will always be the bond that binds them together.
Showtunes with Sing’theatre Academy
By Students of Sing’theatre Academy
12 Mar 2021, Fri, 6.30pm & 7.45pm
Esplanade Concourse

Ready for a taste of Broadway? The students of Sing’theatre Academy present classics from well-loved musicals with songs from shows such as *Sound Of Music*, *Matilda* and *Annie*!

**About Sing’theatre Academy**
Sing’theatre Academy is Singapore’s only dedicated musical theatre academy with classes for students as young as four as well as adults. Sing’theatre is one of Singapore’s top theatre companies producing shows with the aim of performing for a better society.
Frission: An Afternoon of Music  
By Frission Acapella  
13 Mar 2021, Sat, 1pm  
Esplanade Concourse

Enjoy familiar and new tunes through the lush harmonies of Frission, as they make their Esplanade debut. The group will be performing songs from Disney cinema classics of yesteryear to new bops by the industry's best. Lush harmonies and unforgettable melodies make Frission: An Afternoon of Music, a show not to be missed.

This programme is presented in collaboration with NAFA's Diploma in Arts Management as part of an Industry Project module.

About Frission Acapella  
Singing together since 2017, Frission are seasoned musicians and veterans when it comes to harmonies and a cappella magic, drawing inspiration from the likes of Pentatonix, Ariana Grande and Thirdstory. From ministry events to large-scale private ballroom performances, the sum of Frission’s experience makes them a rising force in the local music scene.
Join our youngest singers, the TAS Children's Pop Choir, as they entertain you with a distanced yet interactive set of classics such as *Let It Be*, *Heal The World*, *Pinocchio*, *Little Voice*, and a recent favourite, Disney's *All Is Found*.

This programme is presented in collaboration with NAFA's Diploma in Arts Management as part of an Industry Project module.

**About The A Cappella Society Ltd**
The A Capella Society is a non-profit society set up to serve as the home and centre of contemporary a cappella vocal music education.

Open to singers from ages 5–12, the TAS Children's Pop Choir seeks to develop young singers with a good foundation in showmanship, vocal technique, performance etiquette, musical development and artistic discipline.
Screening: *Curtain Up! – a documentary*
By Hui Tong (China), Kelly Ng (Singapore)
13 Mar 2021, Sat, 8pm
Esplanade Concourse

Set in the Lower East Side of Manhattan, *Curtain Up!* follows elementary school kids in New York’s Chinatown as they prepare for the musical production of *Frozen Kids* and begin to discover their identities. Behind the scenes, they face Asian stereotypes, families’ expectations and uncertainties post-graduation. Interestingly, it is through rehearsing for this American favourite that these kids come to grapple with their Chinese roots. Will they have to let something go?

**Hui Tong - co-director, co-producer**
Hui is a documentary filmmaker and freelance writer from Beijing. He has been making narrative and documentary shorts since high school. *Curtain Up!* is his first feature-length documentary. Hui is currently finishing up his first book on the issue of identity, through the lenses of Asian American, Chinese American, mainland Chinese and overseas Chinese students.

**Kelly Ng - co-director, co-producer**
Kelly is a journalist and documentary filmmaker from Singapore. She spent most of her journalism life in print before venturing into documentaries. *Curtain Up!* is her filmmaking debut. Working on the documentary has made her consider more deeply what it means to be Singaporean by nationality, while ethnically Chinese.
15 young dancers from Nobleland Arts N Learning Place (Preschool) and Nobleland Alumni, unhampered by this year’s extraordinary circumstances, will be presenting a series of poems and contemporary dance.

The performance will showcase the young performers’ resilience and unity all while embracing innovation and diversity in light of all the uncertainty. The future remains bright when everybody moves forward as one.

About Nobleland
Nobleland Arts N Learning Place is an award-winning preschool, appointed as Partner Operator this year. They are a team of highly motivated and nurturing educators who are committed to bringing the best to every child.

Their unique Arts Integrated Programme combines arts with academics, allowing children to grow and express themselves from multiple perspectives. Their dance education is taught by the founder of Dansation Arts, Ms Angela Tay, who has over 10 years of dance experience. Under her guidance, the children have had multiple opportunities to perform in public, giving their very best at every show.
Harping on Nursery Rhymes
By Rave Harpers (Junior Ensemble)
14 Mar 2021, Sun, 3.15pm & 4.45pm
Esplanade Concourse

Rave Harpers Junior Ensemble invites you and your family to join in some fun harping! These little harpists are under 8 years old with the youngest being 3 years old.

Join them as they present nursery rhymes from around the world such as Hickory-Dickory Dock, « 客人来 » (We Have a Guest), and If You’re Happy and You Know It. Let your children experience the magic of the harp, and sing-along to the nursery rhymes!

Selected Solo young harpists who won the 2021 Prestige Award Solo Harp competition will also be featured.

About Rave Harps
Established as the premier institution for harp in the Singapore-Malaysia region, Rave Harps has pioneered harp music, performance, and music education of the highest quality. We always strive to improve and share the joy of music with everyone – regardless of age.

Rave Harps has also been on the forefront of numerous creative projects which include harp festivals, innovative concerts, international exchange platforms and the world’s first harp musical, PLUCK! Our projects have propelled the harp to a new level of eminence led by Rave Harps, a prominent voice for harp in the region.
Pipa Harmonies
By Pipa Society
14 Mar 2021, Sun, 7.30pm
Esplanade Concourse

Sit back and enjoy classic Chinese favourites such as *Rushing to Flow Fair*, *Dance of Kucha*, *White Snow in Spring* and *Dragon Boat* as young musicians from the Pipa Society Singapore showcase their talents on the pipa, one of the oldest Chinese musical instruments around.

This programme is presented in collaboration with NAFA's Diploma in Arts Management as part of an Industry Project module.

About Pipa Society
The Pipa Society (Singapore) was formally established in November 2006 by a group of Pipa enthusiasts and is led by Music director, Mdm Liu Yan, a renowned Pipa soloist-cum-educator who has been residing in Singapore for many years. Pipa Society (Singapore) aims to preserve the historical and cultural significance of the Pipa as part of the cultural heritage in Singapore. In doing so, we hope to promote the learning, appreciation and understanding of the Pipa and its music among the public community in Singapore. The Pipa is a Chinese musical instrument with a history dating back to the 2nd century B.C. The Pipa has been one of the most celebrated Chinese musical instruments for its versatility and its music is redolent of Chinese history and culture.
At the Esplanade Outdoor Theatre

This is a pilot trial performance with up to 100 audience members. No tickets will be issued. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

(30mins, no intermission.)

Light Dance Performance
By Polaris Wotagei
12 & 13 Mar 2021, Fri & Sat, 8.30pm (Fri) & 10pm (Sat)
Esplanade Outdoor Theatre

Come and watch local talent group, Polaris Wotagei, as they showcase a form of Modern Japanese Dance, known as *Wotagei*.

*Wotagei* has its origins as a dance inspired from supporters of Japanese Idol groups, and is performed with bright, colourful light sticks with simple movements done in unison while at idol concerts, as they aim to use these forms of movements to be involved or support their favourite idols on stage.

In our performance at the Esplanade, expect to see Polaris perform and dance to many popular Japanese Anime hits from the Naruto series and *Kimetsu No Yaiba (Demon Slayer)* anime.

Come catch us as we present to you this unique form of dance in the dark and dazzle you through the night with our captivating dance moves!

This programme is presented in collaboration with NAFA’s Diploma in Arts Management as part of an Industry Project module.

Polaris Wotagei is a local talent group formed in 2017 by a group of friends who aimed to showcase the art of *Wotagei* in Singapore. Polaris Wotagei debuted on 25 Nov 2018, with their first video dancing to the song of *Matryoshka*. More videos have been released, so do check them out!
A healthy dose of Chutzpah is all we need to see us through this new norm! As we juggle between changes and trying to change, we start to realise that we are all not so different from each other after all. Join us as we celebrate the magic of movement in a zany character-themed performance of circus and dance. It is a night to bring out your inner Chutzpah!

ScRach MarcS was founded by duo Rachel Lee and Marcus Tan to represent the evolution of street art in Singapore through creative movement. Both have classic street dance backgrounds and aim to create new and exciting works that push creative and artistic boundaries.

Born and bred in Singapore, Jonathan is a Singaporean circus artiste who has been performing since he was 10. He specialises in fire twirling, juggling, diabolo (Chinese yoyo) and acrobatics. Jonathan is also a part of the circus duo, The Annoying Brothers, a busking duo who seeks to push the boundaries of circus arts in Singapore.
Youth Lead Workshops

Youth Lead: Tabla Rhythmology – Rhythms of Tabla
Workshop by Aliraza Mirajkar
13 & 14 Mar 2021, Sat & Sun, 11am
Esplanade Bay Room

Have a fun and memorable time learning about the art of Tabla with Aliraza including its origins, playing techniques and the basics of its rhythmic construct (or ‘Taal’). Tabla has a rich history dating back to the 13th Century and has seen its tonal quality and complex rhythmic patterns evolve under generations of revered performers and Teachers (‘Gurus’). Aliraza himself hails from such a lineage and looks he forward to sharing his journey with you on the amazing art of Tabla.

Born in 2006, Aliraza Mirajkar hails from a proud lineage of musicians. He began playing the tabla from a tender age of 4 and was blessed to learn from his late Grandfather who was a legendary maestro, Ustad Mohammad Hanif Khan Mirajkar. Since 2010, Aliraza started learning from his father, Nawaz Mirajkar and has accompanied him in many performances and workshops together with the Temple of Fine Arts and Esplanade. In 2017, under the tutelage of his father, Aliraza was awarded First Place in the National Indian Music Competition organised by the National Arts Council of Singapore. Aliraza hopes to bring the art of playing the tabla to great heights while keeping the tradition alive.

Recommended Age: 7 – 12yrs old.
Limited capacity. Pre-registration required from 5 Mar, 2021. Register here:
13 Mar: https://ncv.microsoft.com/b0Ohuf3vCI
14 Mar: https://ncv.microsoft.com/W2JS7efK25

(1hr 30mins, no intermission.)
Youth Lead: Looking Up!
Of lines, shapes & faces. An illustration workshop by Aira Lim
13 Mar 2021, Sat, 4pm
Esplanade Rehearsal Studio

In this workshop, Aira will be showing you how to draw faces incorporating two of her favourite ways of doodling both of which are inspired by an artist she looks up to—Pablo Picasso. The continuous line method is a style of drawing when your pen does not leave the paper until you are happy with what you have drawn. In Aira's own words, "In one singular stroke, you have the freedom to draw as you wish; there are no rules and no 'right' or 'wrong." Then Aira will demonstrate simple ways of creating Picasso's famous Cubism style with a wild mix of geometric shapes and vibrant colours. You have someone you look up to? Aira would love to know who through your drawing. And hey, you can do your own portrait too because you are just as special.

An avid doodler day or night, Aira simply draws anything that comes into her head, but she does especially love drawing girls and faces of all sorts. Aira had her first art exhibition in 2012 when she was just six, alongside her older brother. They have had over ten art exhibitions and group shows since. Aira and her brother are half of family art collective Holycrap! together with their parents and currently, they have published ten issues of their family magazine Rubbish Famzine.

Recommended Age: 7 – 12yrs old.
Limited capacity. Pre-registration required from 5 Mar, 2021. Register here.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission.)
Youth Lead: The Start Line to Dance
Hip Hop workshop by Yuka Koide
14 Mar 2021, Sun, 4pm
Esplanade Rehearsal Studio

This workshop led by Yuka will teach participants the fundamental grooves and techniques of hip-hop dance. Yuka will also be sharing her dance journey and what she has learnt throughout these years. If you would like to find out more about hip hop or simply just love dancing, come join her workshop!

About Yuka Koide
My name is Yuka Koide, 13 years old turning 14 this year and this will be my fourth year in dancing. I’ve been in Singapore for around 10 years and go to UWCSEA Dover for school. My hobby is dancing. My favourite genres in dance are hip hop but I also learn other genres to improve. Dance is something that I have just started yet I feel like I have been with it for a very long time. I practise more than one hour a day, and always have the mindset to improve and explore through dance. Dance also has amazing community groups with different cultures, religion, gender, beliefs and values. I believe that by learning dance, you don't always learn about impressive techniques and groove but you also learn to express yourself and explore more by getting to know other dancers with inspiring stories. Dance has changed my life in a very positive way, developing my physical and mental health. In the future, my goal is not only to become famous but to inspire as many people as possible and share my dance journey.

Recommended Age: 7 – 12yrs old.
Limited capacity. Pre-registration required from 5 Mar, 2021. Register here.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission.)
The Covid-19 pandemic has transformed city life and will continue to change the way children learn and play. In light of the lockdown and tightened social restrictions, the visibility of children’s participation and digital engagement has been made more evident by Theatre’s move into private spaces. Globally, governments had also recognised that ‘digitalisation’, a pivotal tool during the crisis, will remain a key strategy in the development of cities. This paradigm shift has led to a reconsideration of what theatre means to children in a digital age: How have ideas of privacy and intimacy shifted? How has access to theatre changed? How will artists and cultural organisations continue to engage children in a changing world?

**Workshop for Teachers: Navigating the 'New Normal': Offline Scenarios to Online Strategies**

In response to this, SDEA seeks to find new meanings and possibilities in the spaces between young people, theatre education and digital world. If you are an educator, working with students 7 – 12 years old, this workshop is for you.

This workshop is led by Kuo Jian Hong, artistic director of Theatre Practice.

**Objectives of this workshop:**

1. **Developing the Student Voice in The Classroom**
   
   Developing the student voice within the classroom is a perennial challenge for teachers. The need to create a safe space for students to be able to speak fluently, confidently, and sensitively about civic issues they experience or observe within a physical space has been complicated further by the adoption of digital practices - a trend accelerated by the pandemic.

2. **Developing Facilitation skills for Blended Learning**
   
   With an increased focus on blended learning within schools, teachers will need to develop new strategies that empower students’ voices both online and offline, with smooth transitions between the two. Such facilitation skills are effective for developing student voice within the co-curricular sphere, as well as within the civics classroom.

3. **Strategies to Engage Student Voices through Digital Mediums**
This workshop will allow teachers to unpack the strategies they have been using for lessons or programmes such as PAL Drama, while developing new strategies to engage student voice through digital mediums with an experienced facilitator. The discussion seminar will follow up from these learnings to allow for sharing about challenges, difficulties, issues and opportunities in existing and upcoming tools or strategies. This workshop aims to equip educators with using theatre/drama alongside new or popular technology to harness and develop voice and engagement with civic matters in the classroom.

There will be a post-workshop facilitated discussion for educators from 6.30 – 8pm at the Recital Studio and livestreamed online.

About Kuo Jian Hong
Artistic Director of The Theatre Practice (Practice), award-winning theatre director, lighting and set designer, educator and independent filmmaker, Jian Hong has always taken on multifaceted roles within the arts.

Jian Hong’s artistic vision encompasses the broad spectrum of Practice’s artistic output, which transcends themes, genres and forms. She is best known for being a pioneer in the Chinese language musical theatre genre with beloved works like If There’re Seasons..., Lao Jiu: The Musical and Liao Zhai Rocks! Her experimental ventures include I came at last to the seas, where she led a team of international artists in the first-ever full commission by a Singaporean theatre company for the Esplanade Theatre by Huayi Chinese Festival of Arts. Meanwhile, her advocacy for the development of theatre for young audiences has led her to create award-winning works such as The wee Question Mark series and three-part initiative: The Nursery Rhymes Project.

As a veteran arts practitioner, Jian Hong is active in developing the cultural landscape of Singapore. Under her direction, Practice continues to be a vital voice in the local arts scene, while charging ahead in its mission to always be a voice for the underdog.

(2hr 30mins, no intermission.)
SDEA Connections 2021: Educators’ Dialogue
10 Mar 2021, Wed, 6.30pm
Esplanade Recital Studio and Online (via zoom)

Pre-registration required. Registration starts from 26 Feb.
Online: https://ncv.microsoft.com/Vpo83gYU3P
Live: https://ncv.microsoft.com/FfxWeu7i54

The Covid-19 pandemic has transformed city life and will continue to change the way children learn and play. In light of the lockdown and tightened social restrictions, the visibility of children’s participation and digital engagement has been made more evident by Theatre’s move into private spaces. Globally, governments had also recognised that ‘digitalisation’, a pivotal tool during the crisis, will remain a key strategy in the development of cities. This paradigm shift has led to a reconsideration of what theatre means to children in a digital age: How have ideas of privacy and intimacy shifted? How has access to theatre changed? How will artists and cultural organisations continue to engage children in a changing world?

Discussion for Educators:
Facilitated by Kenneth Kwok and Rosie McGowan, this discussion is focussed on providing educators a space to discuss challenges, difficulties, issues and opportunities to develop an effective and empowering eco-system to enable greater student voice through digital means at a young age.

About Kenneth Kwok
Kenneth Kwok is a former secondary school teacher, vice principal and curriculum policy officer, and was the recipient of the national Outstanding Youth in Education Award conferred by the National Youth Council and Ministry of Education. As a member of SDEA, he was the co-chair of the programming committee for the inaugural Theatre Arts Conference. He was also a faculty member for the SDEA Essentials of Teaching and Learning Approaches certification. He holds an Ed.M. in Arts in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and has conducted workshops for youths, educators and community workers both in Singapore and overseas, as well as served as adjunct lecturer in Educational Drama at the National Institute of Education. Kenneth also completed an MA in Creative Writing from LASALLE College of the Arts in 2019. Over the years, his essays, theatre reviews, short stories and plays have been published and staged locally.
About Rosie McGowan
Rosie comes from an extensive history of working with young people using drama and theatre to explore potentially difficult and sensitive youth-related themes and issues. She has a masters in applied theatre and a masters in counselling and often combines her knowledge of these two fields throughout her practice. As a freelance applied theatre practitioner, facilitator and educator, Rosie has taught drama in numerous schools in Singapore. Rosie has run workshops and projects exploring themes of self-care, trauma, self-harm, communication and understanding mental health. She has also designed and run projects in two Singapore halfway houses - the Community Rehabilitation Centre, and The Turning Point. As a counsellor, Rosie specialises in addiction and trauma- working with various addictions, as well as family members of addicts and trauma survivors. She uses a mixture of cognitive and experiential tools throughout her practice.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission.)
SDEA Connections 2021:
Teaching Artist Workshop
13 Mar 2021, Sat, 3pm
Esplanade Recital Studio

Pre-registration required. Registration starts from 26 Feb.

The rapid evolution of digital technology has empowered us as individuals to affect both positive and negative change in our social environment. How are we integrating creative digital technology into our education and is it effective in guiding our use of technology towards affecting positive change?

Come join us on a three-hour deep dive exploration into the present, near-future, and future use-cases of emerging creative technologies! Do you believe in serious play and the high-engagement collaborative power of technology? From today’s Social Media, to the Augmented Reality of our future, we’ll learn more about how these technologies are changing, and will come to change, our creative perspectives and processes.

Workshop for Teaching Artists
This workshop is intended for Teaching Artists who have used digital technology and aspire to further enhance participation and engagement through the digital medium.

The workshop content offered includes introductory explanations. The course aims at providing/inspiring actionable use cases for upcoming technology and positing development process changes for creative workflows.

A brief reading packet sent before the workshop will help accelerate your knowledge on the basics of the digital platforms / mediums explored. The workshop is led by TIMOTHI LIM (Timothi Ellim) who is the Creative Director (Augmented Reality) at The Doodle People.

Objectives of this workshop:
1. Connections between Digital Practice and Pedagogy
   Through games, activities and provocations, this session seeks to find points of connection between digital practices and pedagogy, paving the way for dialogue and possibilities in and beyond the classroom.
2. Hybrid Forms of Teaching and Learning Practices
   Reflecting the tensions between ‘live’ and ‘liveness’, participants will have the opportunity to consider hybrid forms of teaching and learning practices that will hopefully, lead to the new creative interfaces that reflect the changing climate.
3. Using New or Popular Technology
   There will also be a focus on using new or popular technology to harness and develop personal voice and engagement with civic matters for teaching artists.
About The Doodle People
The Doodle People LLP is a Singapore-based studio specialising in cutting-edge interactive and digital media. Founded in 2014, The Doodle People has been engaged by various organisations for their communications and branding needs. The studio’s strength is its ability to attract, captivate, engage, and empower their audiences, so applying their skills to performance arts was a natural progression. Find out more: www.thedoodlepeople.com

About Timothi Lim
Timothi Lim (Timothi Ellim) is a Creative Director (Augmented Reality) at The Doodle People.

As a Creative Director, Timothi leads The Doodle People to develop AR effects and standalone apps to empower brand awareness, inspire clients, and support AR R&D for their business.

As an individual, Timothi is an interactive media developer who seeks to connect generations through the union of physical and digital lifestyles. Timothi has developed interactive media works for a wide range of platforms from physical card games to the Hololens and Magic Leap headsets. His work has received awards and has been showcased at IndieCade, E3, and GDC. In his time as an interactive media developer, Timothi has worked with a wide range of firms including Grab Games, Sony Santa Monica, Riot Games, Marvel Entertainment, and Seagate Technologies.

About Singapore Drama Educators’ Association (SDEA):
Established in 2002 as a not-for-profit organisation by a group of artists and drama educators, SDEA’s mission is to advance the profession of the drama/theatre educator and advocate for the practice and value of drama and theatre in performance, education and community.

SDEA is run by a volunteer committee comprising 9 members elected on a 2-year cycle supported by a secretariat at Goodman Arts Centre.

SDEA is a member of the International Drama/Theatre Education Association (IDEA) and is committed to making drama/theatre and education accessible, significant and present in the lives of children and young people everywhere. SDEA’s work as an advocacy and professional development body has earned recognition from IDEA’s President Robin Pascoe as meeting the goals for the development of arts education mapped out in UNESCO’s 2nd World Conference on Arts Education Agenda.

Connections is a non-partisan platform for connecting stakeholders in the education sector through open dialogues on current challenges, issues and developments with the aim to inspire change.

In the past, SDEA has:
- Used applied drama activities to explore the gaps in inclusivity in education;
- Actively promoted the use of drama as a pedagogy to complement existing teaching practices;
- Initiated and facilitated dialogues with/between various stakeholders such as NAC, MOE (CPDD, ECDA and AEB, NIE(VPA), WDA, teaching artists, educators and various professional theatre companies;
- Conducted drama workshops in partnership with The Kennedy Center (US), CCAB and NAC.

(3hrs, no intermission.)
PLAYlab+ : Process Insights
Presentation by Judy Ngo, Jasmine Xie Huilin, Regina Foo, Tan Weiying, Sonia Kwek, Ng Sze Min, Perry Felix Shen, Jun Jie, Zee Ang, Vick Low, Claris Tan, Jessy, Elizabeth Loh, Jeremy Leong
9 Mar 2021, Tue, 7pm
Esplanade Recital Studio and Online (via zoom)

Pre-registration required. Registration starts from 26 Feb.
Online: https://ncv.microsoft.com/0cGbPZyIia
Live: https://ncv.microsoft.com/ssrhDCYQ7F

PLAYlab+ is a developmental platform targeted at budding artists or collectives interested in Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) for ages 2 to 6 years old. PLAYlab+ aims to provide opportunities for research and development in the creation of new TYA productions. Shortlisted proposals were supported through opportunities for critical feedback, an honorarium and a work-in-progress showcase.

PLAYlab+ is an offshoot of PLAYlab, which aims to provide emerging TYA artists more time, space and support in the creation of new shows for Esplanade’s PLAYtime! series. Artists were invited to consider the following questions when working on their PLAYlab+ proposal:

- How is your work suitable for children in terms of addressing their developmental milestones between 2 to 6 years old?
- What are your artistic approaches to creating the work?
- What are some innovative practices that can be incorporated in your work to ensure sustainability?
- How would this collaboration benefit all members of the team?
- How does your work contribute to creating a safe and accessible space that is inclusive to a diverse range of children?
- The artists presenting will be articulating the topics and processes that they explored in PLAYlab+. These projects were an opportunity for them to critically engage with the topics.

About the Projects

Shared Dreams

Judy Ngo will be sharing about Shared Dreams. This project was conducted through three diagnostic phases. Using excerpts from their work-in-progress showcase, they
will share more about their diagnostic deductions. Music was incorporated into the exploration, using three questions:

1. How can music encourage movement?
2. What kind of sound can affect movement?
3. How can music affect the story?

The work-in-progress showcase was a made-to-measure approach for every set of audience member, and how it is meant to engage with education through fun and play. The movements can be repeated at home for parents and caregivers who are more enthusiastic to instil good muscle control and core strength in their children.

**Breath of Dot and Line**

Breath guides our thoughts, emotions, actions, and interactions with others. Essential as it is, yet invisible to the eye. How can we visualise breath during play?

In their presentation, they will be talking about the inspiration behind *Breath of Dot and Line*, their incubation processes and discoveries, and why they believe that the concept of breath is an important one to introduce to young audiences.

**Transportation**
A multi-sensory live show for an inclusive audience based on the theme of travelling through sky, land and sea. This is a creative collaboration by Jessy, Vick Low, Zee and Zip Zap Zoom Collective (Claris Tan, Elizabeth Loh and Jeremy Leong).

On behalf of Zip Zap Zoom, Vick Low and Jessy, Claris and Zee will be sharing their personal and collective thoughts about their PLAYLab+ journey. They will be sharing their motivation behind creating inclusive theatre, as well as the process of creating the work. Creating multiple sessions of multi-sensory trials for audiences with needs proved a lot riskier during this pandemic. However, they were grateful to have the support of Esplanade to assist them in creating a safe environment for the artistes, young audiences and their family members. It was a humbling journey, and during their research process they were driven further to improve their knowledge on the various considerations and aspects of creating work for an inclusive audience. They were heartened to know that several organisations such as Esplanade, The Artground, Super Hero Me, Maya Dance Theatre have already began making such works and they are inspired to keep learning and creating works for everyone, as they believe that the arts is one of the ways to bring people together.

**Timmy’s Favourite Word**

*Timmy’s Favourite Word* is a digital performance created for both children with autism and neurotypical children, aged 4 to 6 years old. The story takes place in Imagination Station where trains come in all shapes and sizes. Timmy is a train conductor and he will guide audience members on their first day of train conductor training.

Knotti Collective’s presentation will be on creating sensorial and autism-friendly performances for the digital landscape. We will talk about the difficulties we faced in adapting our original idea and the many ideas we found in trying to bring *Imagination Station* into the living rooms of our audiences. We will be specifically discussing about script adaptions, using the camera as a character and interactive toolkits.

The session will be followed by a Q&A session.

(2hrs, no intermission.)