

Esplanade Presents
March On 2026
12 – 25 Mar 2026
www.esplanade.com/marchon



Dear friends of the media,

In a world that moves quickly and often loudly, we continue to ask a simple yet enduring question: how can the arts create spaces where the young can pause, feel deeply, and encounter stories that help them make sense of themselves and the people around them? At Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, we hold close the hope that young audiences and their caregivers will encounter works that affirm who they are, spark curiosity, and gently remind us all that hope, care and humanity matter, at every age.

March On, the centre's festival for young audiences will take place from 12 – 25 Mar 2026, bringing together artists and works that speak to these aspirations in different and meaningful ways. We are honoured to present the visually rich and heart-warming *Chotto Desh* by **Akram Khan Company** (UK), directed by Dr Sue Buckmaster of Theatre-Rites, which explores identity, belonging and intergenerational memory in ways we hope many can connect with.

We also welcome back **Barrowland Ballet** (UK) with two intimate and playful works, *Tiger Tale* and *Playful Tiger*. *Tiger Tale* invites audiences up close into the story of how a tiger reignites a family's love for one another. Meanwhile, *Playful Tiger* marks an important milestone for *March On* as Esplanade's first sensory performance specially created for neurodivergent young people and their families/caregivers, reflecting our ongoing commitment to accessibility, care and welcoming every child on their own terms.

Long-standing relationships with companies like Akram Khan Company and Barrowland Ballet remain central to *March On*, allowing us to grow alongside artists whose care and rigour shape meaningful encounters for young audiences.

This year, we are proud to be commissioning and co-producing new works with Singapore-based collectives **A Magical Creation** (*The Curious Curator*) and **The Wanderlings** (*First Rave*), continuing our commitment to nurturing original creation for young audiences locally.

From Australia, **Omusubi Production and Monkey Baa Theatre** present *Little Bozu & Kon Kon*, an enchanting puppetry work inspired by Japanese folklore that reflects tenderly on friendship, difference and acceptance. Adding to the cute-factor is *Squirrel* by **The Egg** (UK), a highly interactive performance for young audiences from six months to four years, centred on new growth and beginnings.

Expanding the festival's conversations through diverse regional and cultural perspectives, we welcome artists from Thailand, Indonesia and Korea for the first time. Together with young performers from Singapore, they will present a rich line-up of free performances across Esplanade's public venues. We warmly welcome back **Some Club**, whose playful installation *Itchy Fingers: Makan* will transform the Esplanade Courtyard into a space of discovery, movement and shared joy.

Complementing the performances is a line-up of ticketed workshops by local creatives **SOMAYOKE, ARTFOLD, Forest & Whale** and **Warble, Warble the Wild's in Trouble!**. Designed for young participants and their caregivers, these workshops offer moments of slowing down, creativity and connection through artistic collaboration.

We would like to thank our Principal Sponsor, Naturel for their generous support of *March On* 2026.

At its heart, *March On* is a space of encounter: between stories and audiences, artists and communities, and the young and the adults who care for them. We invite young audiences to wonder, question and feel deeply, and offer for their adults and caregivers a chance to listen, learn and remember what it is to see the world anew.

Come wander, wonder and *March On* with us!

Rachel Lim
Senior Producer
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 4,000 live performances and activities presented by Esplanade, its partners and hirers. As an arts centre for everyone, Esplanade also creates opportunities for seniors, youth, children and underserved communities to experience the arts. More than 70% of the shows that take place each year at the centre are free for all to enjoy.

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

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

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

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

Visit [Esplanade.com](#) for more information

~ End ~

Issued by *The Esplanade Co Ltd.*

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Annexe

Esplanade Presents

March On 2026

12 – 25 Mar 2026

www.esplanade.com/marchon

About March On

March On is Esplanade's annual festival for young audiences, a vibrant celebration of the stories and experiences that matter to them. With a sense of playfulness and wonder, the festival also supports artists in crafting meaningful and imaginative works for young audiences.

Ticketed Programmes

Tiger Tale

By Barrowland Ballet (UK)

13 Mar 2026, Fri, 5pm

14 Mar 2026, Sat, 11am & 3pm

Esplanade Theatre Studio



★★★★★

“One word describes the experience. Joyous.”

– *Dublin Examiner*

★★★★★

“moments of real magic”

– *Edinburgh Guide*

★★★★

“...entertaining throughout”

– *The Scotsman*

Something wild is prowling. She can hear it through her bedroom walls, but her mum and dad seem stuck in the dull routines of their everyday lives. Until one day the wild breaks in and everything changes.

A troubled family's world turns upside down when a tiger invades. It's chaotic, it's dangerous, but brilliantly funny as the tiger reignites the family's love for one another. Enjoy captivating dancers and the thrill of sitting right up close to the action with a chance to explore the set at the end.

Production Credits

Co-creators: Natasha Gilmore and Robert Alan Evans

Choreographer: Natasha Gilmore

Director: Robert Alan Evans

Performers: Amy Hollinshead, Kai-Wen Chuang and Vince Virr

Composer: Kim Moore

Set and Lighting Design: Fred Pommerehn

Costume Design: Christine Dove

About Barrowland Ballet

Barrowland Ballet is one of Scotland's most exciting and successful contemporary dance companies built around the artistic work of choreographer Natasha Gilmore. The company produces high quality, accessible dance theatre performances which tour nationally and internationally to small and mid-scale venues. The work's themes are delivered with wit and humour, and the insightful observations of human behaviour are rooted in personal stories.

Natasha Gilmore was the UK nomination for the ASSITEJ Award for Excellence 2017 for her work for young audiences including *Little Red* (7+), *Whiteout* (11+), *Tiger Tale* (7+) and *Poggle* (6 months – 4 years). Barrowland Ballet's work has gained critical international acclaim. To date, the company has performed in festivals across Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Chile, Egypt, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Poland, South Africa, UK, USA and The Netherlands.

Alongside the company's professional work, Barrowland Ballet produces exceptional participatory performance projects; the two are interdependent with each inspiring the other. Participatory projects include intergenerational performances *Wolves* (2017), *The River* (Commonwealth Games Festival 2014), *Bunty & Doris* (2013); and *Wolf Pack*, a free, intergenerational company in Glasgow with participants aged 7 – 80 years old.

(55 mins, no intermission)

Admission for ages 6 and above

Recommended for ages 7 and above

Assistive listening system is available for this venue. Hearing aid users with a Telecoil-enabled programme can benefit from the system provided. Please arrive at the venue 30 min before the performance so we can assist with the setup.

Ticket Price: \$35^

Limited concessions for students, NSFIs, seniors & PWDs: \$29.05

Advisory

- Free seating. You may choose to sit on chairs or cushions during the performance. Both seating options will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Accompanying adult must be above 16.

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Special

March On Festival Pass: 20% savings (limited tickets)

Available from 20 Jan – 3 Feb 2026.

- Applies to all *Esplanade&Me* members with a *PIP's Club* badge
- Min. 4 tickets to the same show or across all *March On* 2026 shows

^Esplanade&Me Special

Available from 4 Feb 2026, Wed, 10am.

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

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

Applicable to Standard tickets only. Including members with a *PIP's Club* badge.

School Shows

Ticket Price: \$28

For enquiries and booking, please contact Esplanade Box Office at boxoffice@esplanade.com or 6838 8389.

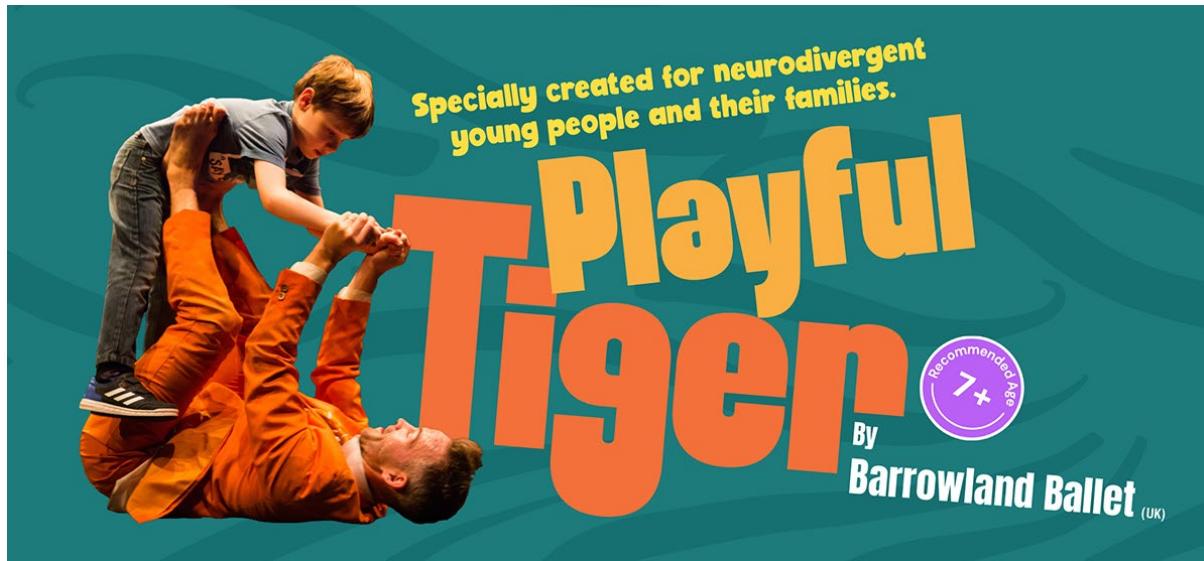
Playful Tiger

By Barrowland Ballet (UK)

16 & 17 Mar 2026, Mon & Tue

10am & 2pm

Esplanade Theatre Studio



★★★★

““remarkably bold and visionary...what really shines through is the generosity and constant awareness that the dancers show throughout the performance... the interaction is an uplifting witness to how dance can loosen up more than muscles.”

– *The Herald*

Playful Tiger is a sensory show for neurodivergent young people. It tells the story of a tiger's visit to a rigid family home where he turns their world upside down. It's chaotic but brilliantly fun, with a focus on sensory engagement. Playfulness within the work creates space for a two-way response between the audience and performers— blurring the boundaries as young people become active collaborators both within and beyond the set.

Internationally acclaimed and toured across the UK, Ireland and Europe, *Playful Tiger* is a powerful reminder that the art of play knows no barriers, and is celebrated for its spellbinding playfulness and the magical sense of friendship and inclusion it creates.

Production Credits

Choreographer: Natasha Gilmore

Collaborator: Ellie Griffiths

Performers: Vince Virr, Kai-Wen Chuang / Jo Pirrie, Charlotte Mclean

Composer: Kim Moore

Set and Lighting Design: Fred Pommerehn

Costume Design: Christine Dove

Playful Tiger is based on *Tiger Tale* co-created by Natasha Gilmore and Robert Alan Evans

(45 mins, no intermission)
Admission for ages 7 and above

Assistive listening system is available for this venue. Hearing aid users with a Telecoil-enabled programme can benefit from the system provided. Please arrive at the venue 30 min before the performance so we can assist with the setup.

Ticket Price

1 Adult + 1 Child: \$56^
2 Adults + 1 Child or 1 Adult + 2 Children: \$84^
Tickets must be purchased as an adult-child package.

Advisory

- This performance is exclusively for neurodivergent young people aged 7 and above, and their families
- Free seating. You may choose to sit on chairs or cushions during the performance. Both seating options will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Accompanying adult must be above 16.

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^Esplanade&Me Special

Available from 4 Feb 2026, Wed, 10am.

PIP's Club: 10% savings (Min. 2 tickets, limited tickets)

An Esplanade Commission
The Curious Curators
By A Magical Creation (Singapore)

13 – 15 Mar 2026
Fri – Sun
Various Timings
Esplanade Annexe Studio



An Esplanade Commission
The CURIOUS CURATORS
by A Magical Creation

Step inside our interactive gallery, a colourful world of wonder and culture where YOU become part of the adventure. Join our Curators on this journey as they reveal a secret: the artworks on display aren't ordinary! Hidden within each artwork are magical creatures, mischievous Emperors, and brave heroes from timeless Asian folktales.

Together, you will unravel mysteries tucked inside the art, discover the meaning behind each tale, and explore how these stories still connect to our lives. Filled with vibrant storytelling and interactive design, *The Curious Curators* invites you to celebrate imagination, curiosity, and the joy of art—one story at a time.

About A Magical Creation

A Magical Creation is a collective of adult-sized children who have been in the theatre industry in various roles from backstage ninjas to onstage mischief-makers. Somewhere between all that, they fell in love with creating for young audiences.

They strongly believe that children deserve a little more magic in their everyday lives. So, they make interactive performances designed to spark wild imaginations, fuel curious minds, and gently nudge them toward a lifelong love of the arts.

This all started in their beloved “tiny little notepad” where outrageously weird ideas were scribbled down. And guess what? One of those wonderfully ridiculous ideas has finally burst out of the page and leapt onto the stage! Hold on tight... things are about to get magically messy!

(30mins, no intermission)
Admission ages 3 and above
Recommended for ages 5 to 8 years old

Ticket Price:

1 Adult + 1 Child: \$60^
2 Adults + 1 Child or 1 Adult + 2 Children: \$90^
Tickets must be purchased as an adult-child package.

Advisory

- This experience will involve movement around the venue. All participants are advised to be dressed comfortably.
- Audiences will be seated on the floor at certain points.
- Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Accompanying adult must be above 16.

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Special

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Available from 20 Jan – 3 Feb 2026.

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- Min. 4 tickets to the same show or across all *March On* 2026 shows

^Esplanade&Me Special

Available from 4 Feb 2026, Wed, 10am.

PIP's Club: 10% savings (Min. 2 tickets, limited tickets)

SG Culture Pass

This event is eligible for SG Culture Pass credits, starting from 21 Jan 2026, Wed.

An Esplanade Co-Production

First Rave

By The Wanderlings (Singapore)

19 – 22 Mar 2026

Thu – Sun

Various Timings

Esplanade Annexe Studio



It is the fourth trimester, and a single parent DJ tells of the rhythmically unpredictable journey of mothering.

She sheds the skin of her former self, mourning the withering of each layer, convinced that underneath all these layers is a cow on a journey with no return trip. On this trip are some things that she knows she will lose: a sense of self, the clarity and separation of night and day, and the awareness that she'll never be alone anymore. But every loss is a farewell that comes with a hello—a first wail marks a farewell to the womb, and a first rave marks a celebration of the journey ahead.

This live theatre performance offers a powerful, magical and affirming experience for babies and their caregivers, particularly new parents, who are often navigating the invisible complexities of parenthood. As the first text-based baby theatre performance in Singapore, both adult and baby audience members are introduced to one another's worlds through puppetry, light and sound, before a gentle and magical rave party.

The development of this programme is supported by the National Arts Council under the Creation Grant and BinjaiTree Foundation.

There will be a 15 minute rave party after each performance.

Production Credits

Playwright and Performer: Ellison Tan Yuyang

Director, Spatial, Costume and Object Designer: Myra Loke
Performers: Vanessa Toh and Periyachi Roshini
Co-Producers: The Wanderlings and So Jo Huang
Disc Jockey: Nicolette Tan
Lighting Designer: Genevieve Peck
Sound Designer: Safuan Johari

About The Wanderlings

The Wanderlings is the first collective in Singapore to create baby theatre. Founded in 2018, it is co-led by Ellison Tan Yuyang and Myra Loke. With research-driven approaches at the centre of their practice, The Wanderlings creates with specific target audiences in mind; with each project undergoing a rigorous incubation and research process. Notable creations include: *You Can Reach The Sky* (theatrical experience for babies and toddlers), *Tape Tape World* (non-verbal puppetry performance for children ages 7 – 12) and *A Drop in The Ocean* (collaboration, theatrical experience for babies).

The Wanderlings creates intimate theatrical experiences for young people ages 0 – 18, offering a sense of wonderment and wander-ment that is rooted in a love for audiences. They actively seek out communities that wouldn't normally go to the theatre, committed to the belief that the theatre is a magical space that provides everyone and anyone with the space to breathe, wander and hope.

(45mins, no intermission)

Admission ages 0 and above

Recommended for 3 months to 12 months old

Ticket Price:

1 Adult + 1 Child: \$60^

2 Adults + 1 Child or 1 Adult + 2 Children: \$90^

Tickets must be purchased as an adult-child package.

Advisory

- Tickets required for all patrons including infants in arms.
- This performance is designed for pre-walking / crawling babies aged 3 to 12 months, and children who may experience barriers to access due to their neurodiverse needs.
- Audience members will be seated on the floor. Limited chairs will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Carers must be close to their children at all times during the performance.
- Theatrical haze will be used in this performance.

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^Esplanade&Me Special

Available from 4 Feb 2026, Wed, 10am.

PIP's Club: 10% savings (Min. 2 tickets, limited tickets)

SG Culture Pass

This event is eligible for SG Culture Pass credits, starting from 21 Jan 2026, Wed.

Little Bozu & Kon Kon

By Omusubi Productions & Monkey Baa Theatre Company (Australia)

20 – 22 Mar 2026

Fri – Sun

10am & 2pm

Esplanade Recital Studio



Inspired by Japanese folklore, *Little Bozu & Kon Kon* tells a tender story of friendship, acceptance and self-discovery.

When a shapeshifting raccoon and a misunderstood fox cross paths, a series of mix-ups and mistaken identities lead them on a journey of understanding. As they learn to see past appearances, their unlikely bond grows from curiosity and kindness into true friendship.

Featuring beautifully designed puppets by Mayu Iwasaki and crafted by Katrina Gaskell, this gentle tale invites young audiences to reflect on empathy, differences and the warmth of connection.

There will be a 15 minute post-show interaction with the puppets on set after each performance.

Production Credits

Story and Design: Mayu Iwasaki

Composer: Me-Lee Hay

Lighting Designer: Matt Cox

Puppet Designer and Maker: Katrina Gaskell

Performers: Mayu Iwasaki, Freya Pragt, Shingo Usami

Set Construction: Thomas Creative, Steve Howarth

Monkey Baa Artistic Director: Eva Di Cesare

Producers: Omusubi Productions, Monkey Baa Theatre Company

About Mayu Iwasaki, Omusubi Productions

Mayu Iwasaki is the daughter of a puppeteer, born in Tokyo and now based in Sydney, which she has called home for half her life. She is a bilingual actor and puppeteer, and the founder of award-nominated Omusubi Productions, named after the Japanese food symbolising connection.

She trained in New York at the Atlantic Theatre Conservatory and with SITI Company, and made her Sydney Theatre Company debut in *White Pearl*. In 2020, Mayu became the inaugural Creative Associate at Monkey Baa Theatre Company—one of Australia's longest-running companies for young audiences—where she developed and performed the original bilingual puppet show *Little Bozu & Kon Kon*, inspired by her Japanese roots. Screen and stage credits include *NCIS: Sydney* (Paramount+), *Salt Along the Tongue* (SXSW), *Top Knot Detective* (SBS), *Goldfish* (Terrapin/Aichi Arts Theatre), *White Pearl* (STC/NTofP), *Dinosaur Zoo* (Erth Visual & Physical Inc.), *Fallen* (Mozawa, Chicago), *Love and Information* (Atlantic Theatre Company, NYC), and *Morgan O-Yuki* (Shakespeare & Co., NYC).

(35mins, no intermission)

Recommended for ages 4 and above

Assistive listening system is available for this venue. Hearing aid users with a Telecoil-enabled programme can benefit from the system provided. Please arrive at the venue 30 min before the performance so we can assist with the setup.

Ticket Price:

1 Adult + 1 Child: \$70^

2 Adults + 1 Child or 1 Adult + 2 Children: \$105^

Tickets must be purchased as an adult-child package.

Advisory

- All children must be accompanied by an adult of at least 16 years old.
- Tickets are required for all patrons including infants in arm

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^Esplanade&Me Special

Available from 4 Feb 2026, Wed, 10am.

PIP's Club: 10% savings (Min. 2 tickets, limited tickets)

Squirrel
By The Egg (UK)

20 – 25 Mar 2026
Fri – Wed
Various Timings
Esplanade Theatre Studio



★★★★★

"This small wonder is full of surprises."

– *The Guardian*

Squirrel loves a good acorn.

But not all acorns are good. Some are downright second rate. And Squirrel is fussy like that.

Under the light of the sun, between the houses and the offices, and the rivers and the factories, Squirrel has buried their favourite acorn collection.

It's easy to remember where; it's under the third tree from the left. Or was it the right? Oh, hang on a minute...

This is a story of new growth and new beginnings with a sprinkling of magic and puppetry to charm audiences of every age! Recommended for children aged 6 months to 4 years, and they're actively encouraged to take part in the show!

Production Credits

Written by Kate Cross and Tim Bell in co-creation with Caroline Garland and the Company

Directed by Tim Bell

Designed by Anisha Fields

Sound Design by Dinah Mullen
Puppetry Direction by Marc Parrett
Lighting Design by David Treanor

About The Egg

The Egg is one of the UK's most established theatres dedicated to children and young people. Since opening in 2005, it has presented over 900 plays, programming 60 different professional productions each year for audiences aged 0 – 18, hosting hundreds of theatre companies and introducing thousands of young people to live theatre.

(35mins, no intermission)

Recommended for ages 6 months to 4 years

This is a Relaxed Environment (RE) performance. RE performances are perfect for anyone who benefits from being able to make a noise, leave and return to their seat or access the toilets during the performance. No modifications are made to the performance.

Assistive listening system is available for this venue. Hearing aid users with a Telecoil-enabled programme can benefit from the system provided. Please arrive at the venue 30 min before the performance so we can assist with the setup.

Ticket Price:

1 Adult + 1 Child: \$60^

2 Adults + 1 Child or 1 Adult + 2 Children: \$90^

Tickets must be purchased as an adult-child package.

Advisory

- Tickets required for all patrons including infants in arms.
- All children must be accompanied by an adult of at least 16 years old.
- Carers must be close to their children at all times during the performance.
- There will be a short sequence with haze effects.

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^Esplanade&Me Special

Available from 4 Feb 2026, Wed, 10am.

PIP's Club: 10% savings (Min. 2 tickets, limited tickets)

School Shows

Ticket Price: \$28

For enquiries and booking, please contact Esplanade Box Office at boxoffice@esplanade.com or 6838 8389.

Chotto Desh

By Akram Khan Company (UK)

21 Mar 2026, Sat, 3pm & 7.30pm

22 Mar 2026, Sun, 3pm

Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade



★★★★

“Energetic storytelling. Here is a bona fide great piece of dance, with resonances that go deep beneath its surface moves.”

– *The Stage*

★★★★

“Using a mixture of styles and storytelling, Khan demystifies the art of dance. Vibrant and vivid.”

– *The List*

“A beguiling mix of dance and mime.”

– *The New York Times*

“A real delight. It mixes reality and mythology to explore rebellion, identity and homeland.”

– *The Guardian*

The acclaimed Akram Khan Company returns to Singapore with its much-loved, family-friendly production *Chotto Desh*. Adapted in 2015 by Theatre-Rites director Sue Buckmaster from Akram Khan's Olivier Award-winning and critically acclaimed solo *DESH*, this heartwarming work tells the story of a young man searching for his place in the world.

Chotto Desh, meaning “small homeland”, draws on Khan’s unique quality of cross-cultural storytelling, creating a compelling tale of a boy’s dreams and memories from

Britain to Bangladesh that celebrate the resilience of the human spirit in the modern world. Blending *kathak* and contemporary dance with an exquisite mix of spoken text, dreamlike animation, visuals and specially composed music, *Chotto Desh* is an enchanting and poignant dance-theatre experience for the young and young-at-heart to enjoy together.

Artistic Team & Credits

DESH Artistic Direction and Original Choreography: Akram Khan

Chotto Desh Direction and Adaptation: Sue Buckmaster (Theatre-Rites)

Music Composition: Jocelyn Pook

Lighting Design: Guy Hoare

Stories imagined by: Karthika Naïr and Akram Khan

The grandmother's fable in *Chotto Desh* is taken from the book *The Honey Hunter*

Written by: Karthika Naïr, Sue Buckmaster and Akram Khan

Assistant Choreographer: Jose Agudo

Rehearsal Directors: Amy Butler

Dancer: Jasper Narvaez

Grandmother's voice: Leesa Gazi

Jui's voice: Sreya Andrisha Gazi

Executive Director: Isabel Tamen

Production Manager: Michael Cunningham

Tour Manager: Svitlana Bil

Stage Manager: Jessica Rice

Lighting Technician: Gerald McDermott

Sound & Video: Matt Armstrong

Original Visual Design: Tim Yip

Original Visual Animation created by: YeastCulture

Painted Head Sequence devised by: Damien Jalet with Akram Khan

Bleeding Soles lyrics written by: Leesa Gazi

Singers: Melanie Pappenheim, Sohini Alam, Jocelyn Pook (voice/viola/piano), Tanja Tzarovska, Jeremy Schonfield

We gratefully acknowledge the artists who contributed to the original production of *DESH* by Akram Khan Company.

Co-produced by the MAC, Belfast in 2023.

Originally co-commissioned by MOKO Dance, Akram Khan Company, Sadler's Wells London, DanceEast, Théâtre de la Ville Paris, Mercat de les Flors Barcelona, Biennale de la danse de Lyon 2016 and Stratford Circus Arts Centre.

About Akram Khan Company

In July 1999 in the foyer of the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, an animated and curiosity-filled conversation took place between the young gifted dancer/choreographer Akram Khan and an ambitious former dancer and just recently graduated arts manager Farooq Chaudhry. That conversation laid the foundation stone for a dynamic collaboration, culminating in the creation of Akram Khan Company one year later.

Inspired by Akram Khan's early training in the Indian classical dance form *kathak*, and the hybrid language that organically emerged when Akram's *kathak* training encountered contemporary dance in his teens, a vision began to form, fuelled by a desire to learn and create through collaboration with the very best people across all the disciplines in the arts.

The rules were simple: take risks, think big and daring, explore the unfamiliar, avoid compromise and tell stories through dance that are compelling and relevant, with artistic integrity.

In over 25 years, Akram Khan Company is now undisputedly one of the foremost innovative dance companies in the world. The programmes range from *kathak* and modern solos to artist-to-artist collaborations and ensemble productions. The Company has a major international presence and enjoys busy tours that reach out to many cultures and peoples across the globe. Akram Khan has been the recipient of numerous international dance awards, the most notable being an Olivier Award for his solo production *DESH* in 2012.

A milestone in the Company's journey was the creation of a section of the London Olympic Games Opening Ceremony in 2012.

Akram Khan Company enjoys artistic association with Sadler's Wells Theatre in London, Curve in Leicester, and other leading venues and festivals around the world.

About Akram Khan

Akram Khan is one of the most celebrated dance artists today, building his reputation on the success of imaginative, highly accessible and profoundly moving productions such as *Thikra: Night of Remembering*, *GIGENIS: the generation of the Earth*, *Jungle Book reimagined*, *Outwitting the Devil*, *Until the Lions*, *Kaash*, *iTMOi (in the mind of igor)*, *DESH*, *Vertical Road* and *zero degrees*. As an instinctive and natural collaborator, Khan has been a magnet to world-class artists from cultures and disciplines such as the National Ballet of China, actress Juliette Binoche, ballerina Sylvie Guillem, choreographers/dancers Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Israel Galván, singer Kylie Minogue, visual artists Anish Kapoor, Antony Gormley and Tim Yip, and composers Steve Reich, Nitin Sawhney, Jocelyn Pook and Ben Frost. A highlight of his career was the creation of a section of the London 2012 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony that was received with unanimous acclaim.

About Sue Buckmaster

Sue is the Artistic Director of Theatre-Rites and has many years of experience as a director and puppetry specialist working with a wide variety of companies including the National Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Company and the Young Vic. In 2018, she was awarded an honorary Doctorate for her outstanding contribution to theatre. For Theatre-Rites, Sue has created 29 theatre and site-specific productions whose commissioners include Sadler's Wells, Manchester International Festival and Salzburg Festival. In 2015, she directed *Chotto Desh* and in 2020, she collaborated with the Company again to

direct *Chotto Xenos*, an adaptation of Akram Khan's award-winning *XENOS*, for family audiences. In 2021, Sue co-authored a book about Theatre-Rites with Board Member and Lecturer at University of Essex, Liam Jarvis. Theatre-Rites, Animating Puppets, Objects and Sites celebrated the company's 25th birthday and explored their unique approach to visual storytelling.

(50mins, no intermission)

Admission ages 6 and above

Recommended for ages 7 and above

Assistive listening system is available for this venue. Hearing aid users with a Telecoil-enabled programme can benefit from the system provided. Please arrive at the venue 30 min before the performance so we can assist with the setup.

Ticket Price: \$45^

Limited concessions for students, NSF, seniors & PWDs: \$37

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Accompanying adult must be above 16.

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Special

March On Festival Pass: 20% savings (limited tickets)

Available from 20 Jan – 3 Feb 2026.

- Applies to all *Esplanade&Me* members with a *PIP's Club* badge
- Min. 4 tickets to the same show or across all *March On 2026* shows

^Esplanade&Me Special

Available from 4 Feb 2026, Wed, 10am.

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

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

Applicable to Standard tickets only. Including members with a *PIP's Club* badge.

School Shows

Ticket Price: \$35

For enquiries and booking, please contact Esplanade Box Office at boxoffice@esplanade.com or 6838 8389.

An Esplanade Commission

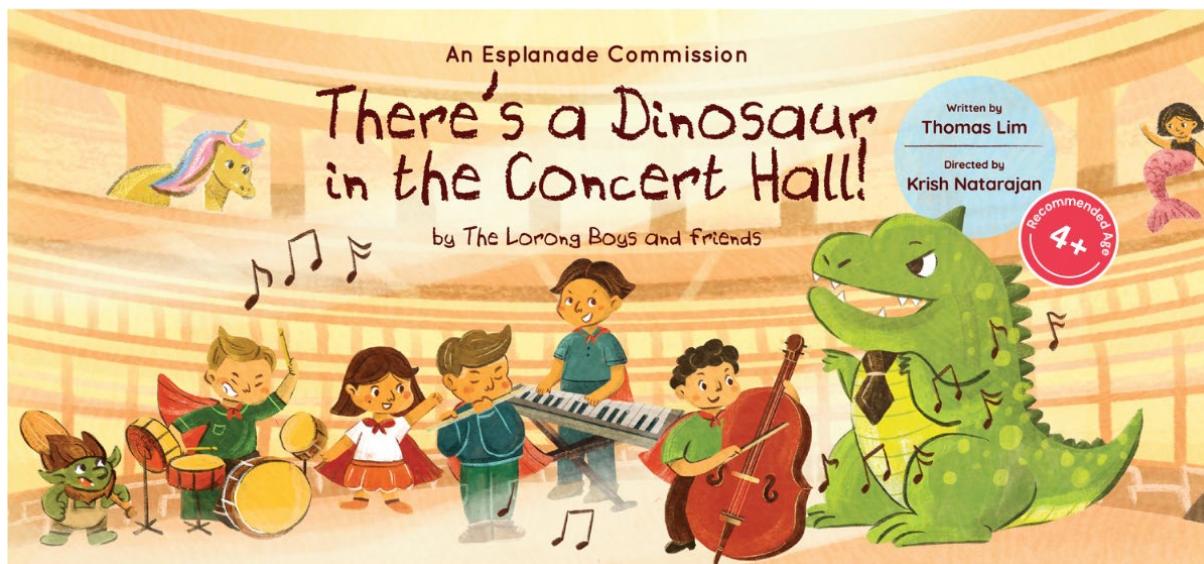
There's a Dinosaur in the Concert Hall!

Written by Thomas Lim, Directed by Krish Natarajan

Performed by The Lorong Boys and Friends

21 Mar 2026, Sat, 3pm

Esplanade Concert Hall



There's a dinosaur in the concert hall! Who do you call?

The Pitch Patrol, of course!

Armed with their chords, instruments and a whole lot of groove, this band of melody-making heroes is here to save the day!

Whether it's pesky rapping trolls under your bed, mermaids stuck in water pipes or a dinosaur that has lost its way in time, the task force has just the right tune for every emergency.

Join the Pitch Patrol as they go on wacky, genre-bending missions full of stories, mythical creatures and adventure. Discover the hidden power of music—the elegance of classical, the wild energy of pop-rock, the smooth grooves of jazz, and the bold beats of rap.

Get ready to clap, sing and groove along—it's time to make some magic with music.

About Thomas Lim

Thomas Lim is a writer, director and arts educator. His works span across mediums and languages, including plays, musicals and short films performed in Teochew, Mandarin, Malay, Bahasa Indonesia, English and Pig Latin. Besides working with adults, Thomas enjoys writing plays for young audiences, performers, and also working with teenagers to make theatre. Recent works for young audiences include *The Velveteen Rabbit* (2023) and *Red Riding Hood* (2025).

About Krish Natarajan

Krish Natarajan is an actor, writer, director and artistic director of the theatrical agency Strawberries Inc and collective Patch and Punnet. He has acted in multiple works such as SRT's *Midsummer Night's Dream* (2023) as Puck, Checkpoint's musical *Secondary* (2024), Wild Rice's *National Day Charade* (2024), Sightlines' *Pillowman* (2025), and Gateway Arts' *Third Man Syndrome* (2025), amongst many others. He has also written and directed multiple experiences and shows with Strawberries Inc for museums, festivals and with various collaborators, such as four editions of *The Crack The Case* series with Sightlines, *The Secret Life of Haw Par Villa* (2022), *ChildAid 2024* and many more!

About The Lorong Boys

The Lorong Boys are multi-genre musicians who pride themselves as a group that constantly pushes the boundaries of conventional music-making. While their musical roots are in Classical and Jazz, they frequently explore other genres and improvisational music from funk to pop, soul and film.

This is not only due to their love of musical experimentation but also because of their ongoing quest of finding and defining a uniquely “Singapore Sound”. Having appeared on both local TV and radio stations, the group performs frequently around Singapore and have also appeared internationally in Jakarta, Indonesia as well as Busan, South Korea.

In 2022, the group performed as soloists alongside the Singapore Symphony Orchestra for their 2022 National Day Concert. They also released their *Seven Films* album on Facebook and YouTube in the same year.

The Lorong Boys aim to be the foremost classical music crossover group in Southeast Asia with their signature electrifying performances, while steadfastly committing to exemplary standards.

(50mins, no intermission)

Admission ages 2 and above

Recommended for ages 4 and above

This is a Relaxed Environment (RE) performance. RE performances are perfect for anyone who benefits from being able to make a noise, leave and return to their seat or access the toilets during the performance. No modifications are made to the performance.

Assistive listening system is available for this venue. Hearing aid users with a Telecoil-enabled programme can benefit from the system provided. Please arrive at the venue 30 min before the performance so we can assist with the setup.

Ticket Price: \$30^

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Accompanying adult must be above 16.

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- Min. 4 tickets to the same show or across all *March On* 2026 shows

^Esplanade&Me Special

Available from 4 Feb 2026, Wed, 10am.

PIP's Club: 10% savings (Min. 2 tickets, limited tickets)

SG Culture Pass

This event is eligible for SG Culture Pass credits, starting from 21 Jan 2026.