

Esplanade Presents

## MOONFEST ONLINE

25 Sep – 4 Oct 2020

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



Dear Friends of the Media,

The current COVID-19 pandemic has given many of us the opportunity to ponder and reflect on our lives. It has taught us to cherish simple things, such as slowing things down and spending time with our loved ones, which we may have taken for granted in the past. We are also constantly learning new things every day to adapt to what seems like the “new norm”.

This month, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay’s annual *Moonfest – A Mid-Autumn Celebration* goes online and sheds new light on traditional Chinese arts. For the 16th edition this year, we have put together a special selection of free-to-access digital programmes which continues to champion traditional art forms such as xiqu, dance, folk songs, puppetry, poetry and crosstalk performed by Singapore artists and arts groups. Look out for the special virtual edition of the *Lantern Walkabout* too! In this current climate, traditional arts play an even bigger role now to uplift spirits, provide respite and to also bring people together as we celebrate a shared culture and heritage.

The performances and activities will be made available on [Esplanade Offstage](#) and [Huayi's Facebook](#) page from 25 Sep – 4 Oct 2020, and event details can be found on [www.esplanade.com/moonfest](http://www.esplanade.com/moonfest). Audiences can look forward to performances streamed live from the Esplanade Concourse, as well as five newly-produced videos filmed at various performing venues at Esplanade. These include Teochew Opera by Nam Hwa Opera, folk songs by Marcus Chin, crosstalk by Johnny Ng and Yong Ser Bin, Chinese dance by Li Ruimin and Zheng Long, as well as poetry and music performance by Lee Yong Tick. We are also screening archival videos of a concert by popular Northern Shaanxi folk singer Wang Er Ni and a family-friendly puppetry theatre *The Magic Paintbrush* presented at *Moonfest* in 2013 and 2017 respectively.

The digital space is a new stage for us and the possibilities, with technology, seem limitless. But while we have moved our festival online, we have not forgotten about the importance of connecting and engaging with our audiences. As most of us are spending more time with our family at home these days, we have also prepared lots of interactive and engaging activities that you can participate in and learn more about traditional Chinese arts together with your little ones during *Moonfest Online*. These include DIY craft activity, osmanthus jelly mooncake-making, Wing Chun martial arts etc.

For the very first time, we will also be presenting our beloved *Lantern Walkabout* in the virtual realm. We invite all of you to “stroll” along the Esplanade Waterfront and enjoy the scenic view of the Marina Bay and Singapore skyline via your own mobile devices, without having to physically mingle with the crowd. What’s more, you can get to play interactive games and catch snippets of performances as we bring you on a tour of various venues in Esplanade as part of the walkabout. There will also be virtual fireworks at the end!

We would like to give our heartfelt thanks to Esplanade Partner **Ming Yi Foundation** for their generous support of *Moonfest Online*.

On behalf of my team, I warmly welcome you and your family and friends to join us in the digital realm to experience the richness of traditional Chinese arts in the comfort of your homes. Stay safe and well, and we hope to welcome you back at Esplanade very soon. Wishing everyone a Happy Mid-Autumn Festival!

**Desmond Chew**

Lead Programmer

*Moonfest – A Mid-Autumn Celebration*

*Last updated: 25 Sep 2020*

## About Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay

Esplanade is Singapore's national performing arts centre. It has a year-round line-up of about 3,500 performances 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 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 2021.

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 is funded by 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](http://Esplanade.com) for more information and [Esplanade.com/Offstage](http://Esplanade.com/Offstage) for an all-access backstage pass and insider's guide to Singapore and Asian arts and culture.

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Issued by *The Esplanade Co Ltd*.

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## Annexe

Esplanade Presents

### **MOONFEST ONLINE**

25 Sep – 4 Oct 2020

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

Presented by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, *Moonfest – A Mid-Autumn Celebration* is an annual traditional Chinese arts festival held in celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival. In its 16th edition, *Moonfest* goes online and presents the opportunity for families and friends, young and old to be exposed and rediscover the intrinsic beauty of quality traditional Chinese arts through an exciting lineup of online performances and events, including the special *Virtual Lantern Walk*.

Visit [www.esplanade.com/moonfest](http://www.esplanade.com/moonfest) for details or check out the online programmes directly on [Esplanade Offstage](#) and [Huayi Facebook](#) from 25 Sep – 4 Oct 2020.

## FAMILY FUN

### **The Magic Paintbrush**

Paper Monkey Theatre (Singapore)



Once upon a time, there was a poor orphan boy named Ma Liang. Although he loved to draw, he was also too poor to afford a paintbrush so he used coal and a stick instead. His dedication moved the gods and they bestowed on him a magical paintbrush that brought everything he drew to life! He used the powers of the paintbrush to help the poor villagers, but when the greedy Emperor heard of this, he captured Ma Liang and forced him to paint gold and silver for him instead.

Will Ma Liang be able to escape the Emperor's clutches and outwit his evil plans? Find out in this exciting production of *The Magic Paintbrush*!

A puppetry performance based on a classic Chinese folktale, this charming adaptation by the

Paper Monkey Theatre will help your little ones learn about compassion and perseverance. Featuring traditional hand puppets, lively action and catchy music, *The Magic Paintbrush* will enthrall and entertain all from the young to the young at heart!

Originally presented at *Moonfest – A Mid-Autumn Celebration 2017*.

#### About Paper Monkey Theatre

Paper Monkey Theatre Ltd creates theatre productions and workshops infused with puppetry for children and family entertainment, encouraging artistic development and enriching learning experiences. Set up in April 2008, the company is led by well-known local puppeteer and playwright, Benjamin Ho, with a vision to create a platform of lasting, meaningful theatrical experiences for both children and adults in Asia. Their production of *The Magic Lantern* was awarded the Best Production for the Young by 2017 “M1 – The Straits Times Life Theatre Award.”

Duration: 1hr

*Performed in Mandarin, with English subtitles.*

*Advisory: Recommended for children ages 5 and above.*

**Premiere on 26 Sep, Sat, 3pm**

Available on *Esplanade Offstage* and Facebook after the premiere.

## **Craft Activity – Make Your Own Smartphone Filter**

Yong Kah Kin (Singapore)



Inspired by ideas of illumination from the flashlight function that many mobile phones come with, this DIY workshop will teach participants how to make their own smartphone filters. Take photos during the day with this handmade filter or use it for shadow play at night!



### About Yong Kah Kin

Kin graduated from Singapore's LASALLE College of the Arts with a Diploma in Fine Art (Painting) in 2002. He is currently a full-time artist who specialises in creating artworks using acrylic and graphite. His works are influenced by traditional Eastern art forms such as Chinese ink painting and Japanese woodblock printing. His primary themes include mythology, cartoons and nature. He presented his first solo exhibition "Garden Above" in Singapore in January 2020.

Duration: 20mins

*Conducted in English, with English subtitles.*

*Advisory: Recommended for children ages 5 and above.*

**Premiere on 26 Sep, Sat, 5pm**

Available on *Esplanade Offstage* and Facebook after the premiere.

## **DIY Osmanthus Flower & Longan Jelly Mooncake**

Miki's Food Archives (Singapore)



Make it a date with your child and get your Mid-Autumn Festival off to a sweet start from the comfort of your own home. A fun way to celebrate this traditional holiday with your little ones, try your hands at making jelly mooncakes – a yummy treat for the whole family that uses healthy ingredients such as Osmanthus flower petals, wolfberries and longans!

### **List of Ingredients:**

5g. agar-agar powder

500ml. water

1 tbsp. Osmanthus flower petals

1 tbsp. wolfberries/goji berries

12 pcs. dried longans, rinsed and chopped into smaller pieces

80g. sugar

Mooncake mould

### About Miki's Food Archives

Winner of "Top 50 Singapore Food Blog" and Top 100 Home Cooking Blog", Miki's Food Archives is a digital platform that features a wide range of tried and tested recipes for healthy and delicious cuisine as well as creative dishes for children.

Duration: 2mins

*With English and Chinese subtitles.*

**Premiere on 27 Sep, Sun, 3pm**

Available on *Esplanade Offstage* and Facebook after the premiere.

## **Fun with Wing Chun**

Daryl Yeo (Singapore)



A disciple and successor of renowned martial arts master Chua Kah Joo, Daryl Yeo is a Wing Chun instructor with ten years of training and eight years of teaching experience. In this online class, Instructor Yeo will be sharing simple and practical techniques that will take most trainees at least three months to learn.

Duration: 40mins

*Conducted in English, with English subtitles.*

**Premiere on 27 Sep, Sun, 5pm**

Available on *Esplanade Offstage* and Facebook after the premiere.

## **Canto @ Heart**

Estella Kwok and Sherilynn Tan (Singapore)



Dialects are a cultural heritage and root identity of the Chinese ethnicity. To discover one's ancestral lineage, one often finds it through their mother tongue.

Join Estella Kwok and her grandniece Sherilynn Tan as they engage in a lively heart-to-heart conversation about Mid-Autumn Festival traditions, while rediscovering the beauty of the Cantonese dialect through simple words and phrases.

Duration: 7mins

*Conducted in English and Cantonese, with English subtitles.*

**Premiere on 27 Sep, Sun, 8.30pm**

Available on *Esplanade Offstage* and Facebook after the premiere.



## Moon

Sharon Sum and Sugie Phua (Singapore)



On the night of the Mid-Autumn Festival, a calamity befalls the Moon! Xiao Yue, a Secondary School Boy, and Chang E, the Lady of the Moon, must join hands to stop this disaster from taking place.

What fate awaits them as they embark on this herculean task?

Come join the duo on this adventure-filled journey to the “Moon”!

Playwright: Ric Liu

Music Director: Julian Wong

Duration: 30mins

Performed in Mandarin, with English subtitles.

**Premiere on 2 Oct, Fri, 5pm**

Available on *Esplanade Offstage* and Facebook after the premiere.

## DIG INTO TRADITIONAL ARTS

### **Zheng Sentiments**

Z3nith Ensemble (Singapore)



Revel in the beautiful sounds of the *guzheng* as Z3nith Ensemble performs a special selection of traditional and contemporary numbers including *The Evening Song of Fishermen*, *Butterfly Lovers*, *May We Be Together* and many more!

#### About Z3nith Ensemble

Singapore's first professional *guzheng* trio, the Z3nith Ensemble was co-founded by celebrated *guzheng* performer Yvonne Tay and currently comprises musicians Cheah Peiqi and Cheah Xueqi. As prolific winners at professional *guzheng* competitions held at home and abroad, the group is known for a broad repertoire made up of both traditional and contemporary numbers.

Duration: 45mins

*Performed in Mandarin.*

**Live stream on 25 Sep, Fri, 7pm**

Available online until 4 Oct, Sun, 11.59pm

## Charms of Northern Shaanxi – Wang Er Ni Vocal Concert

Accompanied by Ding Yi Music Company (China / Singapore)



Folk songs are part of the invaluable cultural heritage of a nation. From labour chants to love ditties, operatic tunes, and even songs sung in the mountains and fields, the folk music of Northern Shaanxi is known for its resonant, hearty, bold and unconstrained qualities. Often composed of beautiful lyrics that convey emotional depth, the songs express the spirit, thoughts and feelings of its people.

Catch Wang Er Ni's debut concert from *Moonfest – A Mid-Autumn Celebration 2013* and experience her sheer vocal prowess. Accompanied by Ding Yi Music Company with conductor Dr Tay Teow Kiat, lose yourself in her emotive vocal renditions as this nightingale performed Northern Shaanxi classics such as *Going to the West Gate*, *Crimson Lilies* and *Bright* that will transport you to the rich loess plains of North-Western China in a captivating time of folk songs.

Originally presented at *Moonfest – A Mid-Autumn Celebration 2013*.

### About Wang Er Ni

Known as the "Lark of the Yellow Earth", Wang Er Ni is a national class-one performer of the Beijing Dance Drama & Opera Theatre and a director of the Chinese Musicians Association. As one of the leading figures in Northern Shaanxi folk music, she has touched the hearts of millions with her sweet singing voice and down-to-earth personality. Her unremitting efforts have allowed her to become the recipient of multiple awards and distinctions, which not only established her position at the forefront of Northern Shaanxi folk music but also contributed to her growth and transformation as a classical vocalist. A household name in her home country, Wang has performed for senior Chinese leaders on numerous occasions and she continues to represent China on the global stage at prestigious international events.

### About Ding Yi Music Company

Established in 2007, Ding Yi Music Company has earned a reputation as one of Singapore's most important Chinese chamber music ensembles. With a vast repertoire that ranges from traditional

Chinese music to contemporary and cross-genre work, Ding Yi is committed to bringing the best of Chinese chamber music to Singapore as well as communities around the world.

Duration: 1hr 30mins

*Performed in Mandarin, with Chinese subtitles.*

**Premiere on 25 Sep, Fri, 8.30pm**

Available on *Esplanade Offstage* and Facebook after the premiere.

## **Bamboo Serenades**

Dicapella Dizi Ensemble (Singapore)



Performing well-loved tunes such as *Scenic Jiangnan*, *Journey to Gusu* and *Joyous Reunion*, award-winning *dizi* ensemble Dicapella will showcase the colours and timbres of different varieties of the Chinese woodwind instrument, offering you an unforgettable evening of melodies and memories.

### About Dicapella

Founded in 2013, Dicapella is made up of award-winning *dizi* (bamboo flute) soloists from Singapore. A dynamic and versatile group that also happens to be Southeast Asia's largest bamboo flute ensemble, its repertoire extends beyond traditional Chinese music to include jazz, Mandopop, Western classical music and hit songs from yesteryear among others. As one of Singapore's up-and-coming ensembles, Dicapella has continued to grow from strength to strength as they achieve new breakthroughs in making music.

Duration: 45mins

*Performed in Mandarin.*

**Live stream on 26 Sep, Sat, 7pm**

Available online until 4 Oct, Sun, 11.59pm



## Enthralling Folk Classics

Marcus Chin (Singapore)



Join homegrown celebrity Marcus Chin as he presents his heartfelt renditions of well-loved Chinese classics and folk songs including *Under the Silver Moon*, *From Afar*, *Kangding Love Song* and more. He will be accompanied by August Lum on the piano.

### About Marcus Chin

Marcus is a veteran artist whose career has spanned more than forty years in the entertainment industry. In the 1970s, he became one of Singapore's most popular TV hosts with several Chinese variety programmes under his belt. Following a hiatus from television, he went on to carve out a successful career in theatre and live performances while also becoming a sought-after singer and recording artist. He is currently one of the anchor DJ of LOVE 97.2FM Breakfast Quartet, Singapore's most popular Chinese morning radio show.

### About August Lum

August Lum is a prolific and multifaceted composer, arranger, music editor, soundscape designer and keyboardist. He has worked on films, animated series, theatre and also created music for theme parks. In 2014 and 2015, he worked on and arranged two television theme songs that were subsequently nominated for "Best Theme Song" at Mediacorp's Star Awards. In 2016, his score for *The Violin*, an animated short film that depicts eighty years of Singapore history through the journey of a violin, saw him walk away with the Best Music Composition (Full Length) prize at the Asia Apollo Awards.

Duration: 30mins

*Performed in Mandarin, with Chinese subtitles.*

**Premiere on 28 Sep, Mon, 8.30pm**

Available on *Esplanade Offstage* and Facebook after the premiere.



## Fun with Poems in Dialect

Lee Yong Tick, Chin Yen Chien and Lim Kwuan Boon (Singapore)



Have you ever wondered how classical Chinese poetry would sound when recited in dialects? Performed in Cantonese, Hokkien and Hakka, this spoken-word showcase by veteran voiceover artist Lee Yong Tick in collaboration with musicians Chin Yen Chien and Lim Kwuan Boon will open up new ways of experiencing and interpreting these ancient texts.

### About Lee Yong Tick

Lee Yong Tick was the former deputy programme director and music director of Radio Singapore International (Chinese section). He started his career as a voice-over artist at the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in the 1980s and participated actively in the establishment of Radio Singapore International (RSI) in 1994.

Lee is currently a freelance voice artist and the leader of Char Yong (Dabu) Association's Hakka Melody Group, which actively promotes Hakka culture and traditions.

### About Chin Yen Chien

Chin Yen Chien started learning the *pipa* at the age of ten. In 1992, he participated in the inaugural Chinese Music Competition and came in first in the Intermediate Category. The following year, he took home the first prize in the "Pipa (Intermediate Category)" of the National Music Competition organised by National Arts Council. Yen Chien had represented Singapore in many international arts events, including New Delhi (India), Hangzhou, Chengdu, Hakka, and Shanghai (China), Bangkok (Thailand), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Hong Kong SAR (China) and in 2018, represented Singapore in Moscow, Russia, for the Moscow-Singapore Day organised by Singapore Tourism Promotion Board. Yen Chien is currently an instructor at various primary and secondary schools teaching Chinese instruments.

### About Lim Kwuan Boon

Lim Kwuan Boon picked up the *erhu* when he joined Raffles Institution's Chinese Orchestra in 2002. While holding key positions such as section leader and concert master in several orchestras, he also helped found the Chinese string quartet Stringanza. Kwuan Boon was also

the Associate Principal for Bowed Strings Section for Ding Yi Music Company from 2010 to 2016, as well as a member of the SAF Music and Drama Company.

Under the tutelage of Mr. Wong Sun Tat and Ms. Shen Qin, Kwuan Boon obtained his diploma in *erhu* performance in 2007. He also emerged as the runner-up in the “Erhu (Open Category)” of the biennial National Chinese Music Competition in 2010 and 2016. To date, Kwuan Boon has performed in more than 60 concerts, including concertos and solo performances with various orchestras. In 2013, he staged his first recital with two musicians from Ding Yi Music Company at Esplanade Recital Studio. He has performed locally as well as overseas in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia, China, Germany and Uzbekistan.

Duration: 30mins

*Performed in Mandarin & dialects, with Chinese subtitles.*

**Premiere on 29 Sep, Tue, 8.30pm**

Available on *Esplanade Offstage* and Facebook after the premiere.

## **Laugh Out Loud**

Johnny Ng and Yong Ser Bin



Get ready for a side-splitting performance as veteran artists Johnny Ng and Yong Ser Bin present the traditional art of crosstalk with a Singapore twist. Experience the local duo’s incredible rapport and be tickled by their witty performance that promises to chase the blues away with plenty of laughs and good cheer.

Duration: 30mins

*Performed in Mandarin, no subtitles.*

**Premiere on 30 Sep, Wed, 8.30pm**

Available online until 30 Oct, Fri, 10am after the premiere.

## Teochew Opera Classics

Nam Hwa Opera (Singapore)



Nam Hwa Opera will be performing excerpts from Teochew opera classic *Su Liu Niang* to accompany you this Mid-Autumn Festival.

### ***Tao Hua Crosses the River Synopsis***

Taohua, the maid of Liuniang, was ordered to travel to Xilu to escort her home. During the boat journey, she and the old boatman passed time with banter and by serenading each other. This scene demonstrates the intelligence and cheerfulness of Taohua as well as the ferryman's kind and humorous nature.

Chen Yuzhi as Tao Hua  
Koh Khiam Hua as the Ferryman

### ***Yang Ziliang Demands to Marry the Maiden Synopsis***

Su, a rich landowner from Jieyang Lipu County, won a court case over a land dispute. While throwing a party to celebrate his victory, he also arranged for his daughter, Liuniang to be given away in marriage to Yang Ziliang, the son of Adviser Yang from Raoping County. However, Liuniang and her cousin were in love and had secretly pledged to marry each other. She rejected the marriage proposal. Liuniang's decision was aided by her mother who could not bear to marry her daughter to a remote place as well as her father who also came to regret the match. Meanwhile, Yang Ziliang, accompanied by his nanny, is on his way to claim his bride. The result is a riveting performance that promises to captivate and entertain.

Tan Gek Yong as Yang Ziliang  
Toinh Ngo Muay as Nanny

### **About Nam Hwa Opera**

Founded in 1963 by avid fans of Teochew Opera, Nam Hwa Opera (NHO) has grown into one of Singapore's most prominent and prolific Teochew opera companies. With a mission to preserve,

develop and promote traditional Teochew opera as part of Singapore's rich heritage, NHO continues to promote the Singapore brand of Teochew opera through international performances and cultural exchanges. In addition to hosting performers from around the world, NHO has also performed in countries such as South Korea, Cambodia, Malaysia and Germany.

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

Duration: 20mins

*Performed in Teochew, with English and Chinese subtitles.*

**Premiere on 1 Oct, Thu, 8.30pm**

Available on *Esplanade Offstage* and Facebook after the premiere.

## **To be**

Li Ruimin and Zheng Long (Singapore)



Join local Chinese dance practitioners and husband-wife duo Li Ruimin and Zheng Long as they present a series of three performances, including a Mongolian dance item and two classical Chinese dances in this electrifying programme.

“Await”

As flowers bloom and wither, the tide recedes and advances, we'll await an outcome, for better or worse.

“Remain Hopeful”

One eagerly anticipates the company of another to make two.

“Visualise”

Aging and birth are part of the cycle of life. Live in the moment, cherish the moment and chase a better tomorrow.



### About Li Ruimin and Zheng Long

Li Ruimin graduated from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA) with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) Degree in Dance while majoring in Chinese Dance. During her studies, she was also awarded the Chinese Dance Faculty Scholarship and the William Au Arts Education Scholarship. She is also the recipient of the Singapore National Arts Council Arts Scholarship (Overseas). Ruimin was a main dancer with the Singapore Chinese Dance Theatre where she performed as the female lead role in many dance dramas. She is currently engaged in dance choreography, performance and education.

Zheng Long is a dance choreographer, performer and educator. He graduated from the Zhejiang Vocational Academy of Art where he majored in Chinese dance. At the 10th Tao Li Cup competition, he was awarded the third prize in the group dance category for his performance. Zheng Long had performed extensively in China before he joined the Singapore Chinese Dance Theatre where he performed as the male lead in many of its productions. He is currently engaged in dance choreography, performance and education.

As a duo, Ruimin and Zheng Long have also choreographed shows such as *Paucity of (IM)Perfection*, *Frost*, *Reminisce*, *Looking into the Distance* etc, which have won over the hearts of their respective audiences. Their works have been performed at events such as the Macau International Youth Dance Festival and won Outstanding Performance Award at the Hong Kong Bauhinia Cup Competition. The duo was involved in the main choreography of an original dance drama *Resolute* that also featured them as the main dancers. After furthering their studies at the Beijing Dance Academy College of Continuing Education, they also participated in the Singapore International Dance Festival, where they won Gold Award for their outstanding performance.

Duration: 20mins

**Premiere on 2 Oct, Fri, 8.30pm**

Available on *Esplanade Offstage* and Facebook after the premiere.



## IN CONVERSATION

### **Artist Chat: Folk Songs 101**

Wang Er Ni

Host: Dedic Wong

(China, Singapore)



From love ditties to rustic songs sung in the mountains and fields, the folk music of Northern Shaanxi is known for its bold and unrestrained qualities.

Learn more about the folk music of China's Shanbei region from renowned folk singer Wang Er Ni as she shares her insights in this virtual chat with Dedic Wong from Ding Yi Music Company. The duo will also look back on "Charms of Northern Shaanxi", a concert they worked on together for *Moonfest – A Mid-Autumn Festival 2013*.

#### About Wang Er Ni

Known as the "Lark of the Yellow Earth", Wang Er Ni is a national class-one performer of the Beijing Song and Dance Theatre and a director of the Chinese Musicians Association. As one of the leading figures in Northern Shaanxi folk music, she has touched the hearts of millions with her sweet singing voice and down-to-earth personality. Her unremitting efforts have allowed her to become the recipient of multiple awards and distinctions, which not only established her position at the forefront of Northern Shaanxi folk music but also contributed to her growth and transformation as a classical vocalist. A household name in her home country, Wang has performed for senior Chinese leaders on numerous occasions and she continues to represent China on the global stage at prestigious international events.

#### About Dedic Wong

Dedic is the Assistant Conductor of the Ding Yi Music Company, the Conductor of the Asian Cultural Symphony Orchestra, as well as the Principal Guest Conductor of China Sze Chuan Tian Zi Ensemble. He received the National Arts Council Arts Scholarship in 2014 and is currently a panelist on the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth Singapore Youth Action Plan.

Duration: 45mins  
Conducted in Mandarin.

**Premiere on 3 Oct, Sat, 3pm**  
Available on Facebook after the premiere.

## **Artist Chat: Growing Up with Street Opera**

Lian Wen Rui and Stacy Ong  
Host: Nick Shen  
(Singapore)



Hosted by Nick Shen, join this online chat session with up-and-coming opera artists Lian Wen Rui and Stacy Ong as they share their personal stories of growing up with street opera and their aspirations to preserve this cultural legacy.

### About Nick Shen

Nick Shen was only a year-old infant when he started attending Teochew street opera shows cradled in the arms of his grandmother. His fascination with the art form only flourished with time and he began participating in performances when he was only 13. In 2017, Nick took over the then 154-year-old Lao Sai Tao Yuan Opera Troupe as its 7th-generation leader. Spurred by his love for Teochew opera that stemmed from his childhood days, Nick hopes to continue nurturing this traditional performing art for a new generation of audiences and performers. Nick's most recent work for television is the Mediacorp drama *Titoudao* where he played a street opera troupe leader while acting as the show's creative consultant.

### About Lian Wen Rui

Lian Wen Rui was born to a Teochew opera family. His great-grandparents, parents and aunts were all street opera artistes. At the age of five, he started following his parents to perform all over Singapore. He is currently the lead performer in the Xin Xin Rong He Teochew Opera Troupe.

### About Stacy Ong

Stacy Ong is a young Singaporean Hokkien opera artist who has been performing street opera since she was 18. As a member of the Shuang Ming Feng Hokkien Opera Troupe, she usually plays the huadan role in the troupe's performances.

Duration: 1hr

*Conducted in Mandarin.*

**Live stream on 3 Oct, Sat, 8.30pm**

Available on Facebook after the live stream.

## **Artist Chat: Cantonese Opera – The Passion of My Life**

Christopher Choo and Philip Chan

Host: Karin Lim

(Singapore)



Inscribed on UNESCO's Lists of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2009, Cantonese opera is a traditional art form loved by young and old alike in Singapore through the decades. Many of our homegrown artists have found fame and recognition both at home and overseas. In this online live chat, find out from veteran artists Christopher Choo and Philip Chan why they have dedicated themselves to pursuing and perfecting the art of Cantonese opera as they share stories about their lives both on and off the stage.

### About Christopher Choo

Christopher Choo entered the world of Cantonese opera in 1976 as a pupil of the late legendary Leng Chi Pak, one of the "Four Kings of Cantonese Opera". Since then, he has specialised in playing roles such as the *wusheng* (male martial character), *xusheng* (bearded male character), *chousheng* (comic character), *hualian* (characters with painted faces), *laodan* (elderly female

roles) among others. An all-round performer, Christopher is a regular participant in Singapore's Chinese Opera Festival and has represented Singapore in numerous overseas performances. He was also one of the first to graduate from LASALLE College of the Arts' Department of Drama with a Diploma in Performance. One of a few professional theatrical arts practitioners who can direct and perform Chinese Opera in addition to English and Chinese drama, Christopher also sits on the arts assessment panel under the National Arts Council of Singapore. In 2012, he received a special contributions award conferred by the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts and in 2014, he was recognised as a "Friend of the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth".

#### About Philip Chan

Well known among the fraternity of practitioners in Singapore, Philip Chan has more than 30 years of experience performing Cantonese opera under his belt. Blessed with a handsome appearance and superior vocal skills, he has continued to hone his techniques, which allow him to portray roles ranging from young scholars to chivalrous warriors with ease, winning him recognition from his peers.

In addition to his mentor Madam Chee Kin Foon, Philip has trained under other masters of Chinese opera, including Mr He Jiayao and Mr Bing Yong (Cantonese Opera), Mr Lin Laixi and Mr Rong Dajun (Peking Opera), as well as Mr Chen Jiabao (*Gaojiayi* Opera).

Known for his amicable character, Philip has become a regular in productions organised by homegrown Chinese opera groups, including Tung On Wui Koon, Kong Chow Wui Koon, SAGE Cantonese Opera Group, ECHO Cantonese Opera Group, Chinese Cultural Arts Centre, Chinese Theatre Circle and Sin Ming Sing Cantonese Opera Centre among others. He is also the only Singaporean *wenwusheng*—a performer who specialises in genteel and martial characters—who has participated in every edition of the Guangzhou International Cantonese Opera Festival, earning him the affectionate title "Lo Kun" or veteran artist.

Duration: 1hr

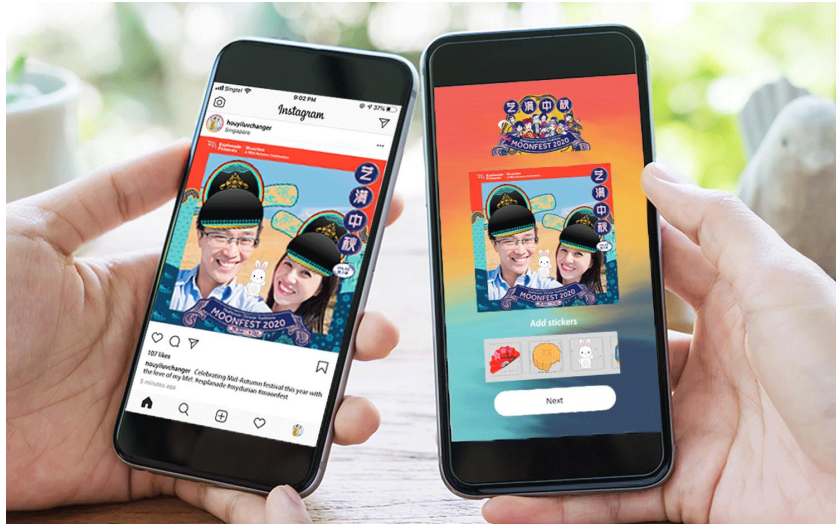
*Conducted in Mandarin.*

**Live stream on 4 Oct, Sun, 3pm**

Available on Facebook after the live stream.

## **MOONCAKE PAIRING!**

### **Photo Booth**



3, 2, 1 and click! It's shutter time with our online photo booth. Join in the fun by creating and sharing memories no matter where you are because even if we are far apart, we can still be close at heart.

It's seamless and simple. Perfect your pout, prepare a pose and snap - it's done. Add your own flair with our Mid-Autumn Festival themed frames and stickers!

Don't forget to share the love on social media with our hashtags, too! #esplanadesg #mydurian #moonfest

**Premiere on 21 Sep, Mon, 5pm**

Available online until 4 Oct, Sun, 11.59pm



## Songs About the Moon

Felinda Wong (Singapore)



Known as one of Singapore's most dynamic singers, let Felinda Wong captivate you with her timeless style and mesmerising vocals. Join the celebrated songstress as she serenades you with refreshing deliveries of songs inspired by the moon, including *The Moon Represents My Heart*, *Blooming Flowers* and *Full Moon Night* and many others.

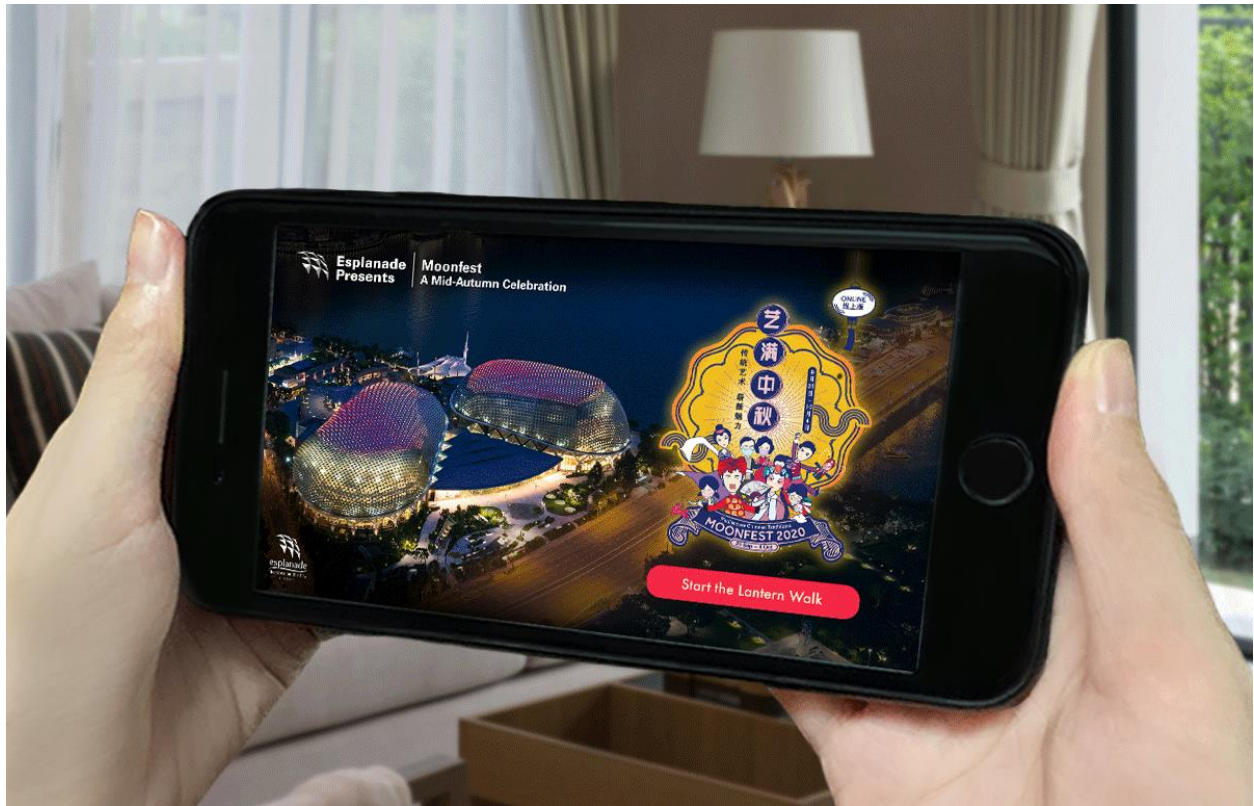
Duration: 45mins

*Performed in Mandarin.*

**Live stream on 27 Sep, Sun, 7pm**

Available online until 4 Oct, Sun, 11.59pm after the live stream.

## Virtual Lantern Walk



Join us on our first-ever virtual interactive Moonfest Lantern Walk. Stroll along the Esplanade Waterfront and take in stunning views of the scenic nightscape! What's more, enjoy games and performance snippets prepared for you as the tour brings you through various venues within Esplanade. There will also be fireworks waiting for your release at the end!

*Conducted in English.*

**Premiere on 25 Sep, Fri, 5pm**

Available online until 25 Oct, Sun, 11.59pm after the live stream.

# Lantern Riddles Online

Riddle Association (Singapore)



Solving lantern riddles has been a time-honored way of celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival for centuries. In this virtual edition of *Lantern Riddles Online*, join the Riddle Association to unravel the beauty and mystery of this ancient tradition which will cover everything from poems, trivia and folklore to historical events and even social issues. Learn simple techniques from the masters and pit your wits against fellow online participants.

Duration: 1hr 30mins  
 Conducted in Mandarin.

**Live stream on 4 Oct, Sun, 8.30pm**  
 Available online until 5 Oct, Mon, 11.59pm after the live stream.