

Esplanade Presents

## THE STUDIOS 2020: LOST & FOUND

25 March – 26 Apr 2020

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



We are familiar with loss in varying shades, from the irritation of losing a favourite pen to the devastation and anger that come with the loss of life or love. Loss, however, is hardly the final word. It exists in tension and symbiosis with “finding”—there seldom is one without the other—and in the middle of these two opposites, we often find hope.

To experience loss is to be human. Yet, the human spirit constantly looks for something in the midst of loss, to create and find something out of what is or was no longer there.

The productions for *The Studios 2020* exist within this tension. This year, we have two commissions in the season. Co-commissioned with Asia TOPA, Margaret Leng Tan performs her life story on stage in *Dragon Ladies Don't Weep*, an evocative exploration of memory, time, control and loss. The production traces her relationships with her mother, her mentor John Cage, as well as her obsessive-compulsive disorder, and how these have shaped her life and work in music.

In *Lost Cinema 20/20*, Brian Gothong Tan posits that dreams are the cinema of our subconscious—we are all inherently filmmakers who create films through the act of dreaming. These very films often become lost upon waking. Through a conversation with the rich visual culture of films—including those from the golden age of Singapore's cinema—the work looks at what shapes and defines our shared subconscious.

As always, it is always a treat working with Teater Ekamatra and Checkpoint Theatre. This year, they cast the spotlight on less familiar voices. *Punggah* by Johnny Jon Jon and *The Heart Comes to Mind* by Lucas Ho both delve into death and how reconciliation and redemption emerge from its messy aftermath.

This is our attempt at sifting through the vast lost & found box that is life – collecting and collating its disparate parts, examining our losses, and asking of ourselves what we might find in losing something.

See you at *The Studios*.

Lynn Yang  
Lead Programmer for *The Studios*  
The Esplanade Co Ltd

## Dragon Ladies Don't Weep

by Margaret Leng Tan

Co-commissioned by Esplanade Theatres on the Bay and Arts Centre Melbourne via Asia TOPA

25 – 29 Mar 2020, Wed – Sun

Wed – Sat, 8pm

Sun, 3pm

Esplanade Theatre Studio



Photo credit: Pier Carthew

A work that sweeps across the senses, *Dragon Ladies Don't Weep* is a sonic portrait of new music icon Margaret Leng Tan—an evocative exploration of memory, time, control and loss. New York-based Singaporean Tan forged a path as a major force within the American avant-garde, serving as muse to giants such as John Cage and George Crumb, while transforming the toy piano into a serious instrument. Her stellar career is a touchstone for the past 40 years of experimental musical innovation.

*Dragon Ladies Don't Weep* combines spoken and recorded text, projected images and original music for prepared piano, toy piano, toys and percussion by Tan's long-term collaborator Erik Griswold.

Created by a team of Singaporean and Australian artists led by Chamber Made director Tamara Saulwick and performed by Tan, this cross-cultural collaboration is a riveting collage of the forces that have shaped Tan's life and how music has been both her passion and her refuge.

Supported in Australia by the Department of Communication and the Arts; the Australia Council for the Arts; Creative Victoria; The SUBSTATION, Playking Foundation, Asia TOPA, The Robert Salzer Foundation; and in Singapore by the National Arts Council and Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay.

A co-production by Chamber Made and CultureLink Singapore co-commissioned by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay and Arts Centre Melbourne via Asia TOPA.

### Creative team

Musician/Performer:	Margaret Leng Tan
Composer:	Erik Griswold
Director:	Tamara Saulwick
Dramaturg:	Kok Heng Leun
Lighting Designer	Andy Lim
Costume Designer	Yuan Zhiying

(1hr, no intermission)

Advisory: Age recommendation for schools Upper secondary and above

\$35

Limited concessions for students: \$20

Limited concessions for NSFs & seniors: \$25

**Package of 4:** Save \$10 when you buy any 4 tickets to *The Studios 2020* productions.

### **Esplanade&Me specials:**

Black & White card: 15% & 10% savings

**BOOK NOW!** [www.esplanade.com/thestudios](http://www.esplanade.com/thestudios)

SISTIC Hotline: 6348 5555/ Group Booking: 6828 8389 or email [boxoffice@esplanade.com](mailto:boxoffice@esplanade.com) Excludes SISTIC fee.

Admission age: 6 & above. Terms and conditions apply.

## Lost Cinema 20/20

by Brian Gothong Tan  
An Esplanade Commission

2 – 5 Apr 2020, Thu - Sun  
Thurs – Sat, 8pm  
Sat & Sun, 3pm  
Esplanade Theatre Studio



Photos from the 2018 installation of *Lost Cinema* at the Institute of Contemporary Arts.

“... a startlingly visual and easily engageable conversation about the role of our subconscious in powering our creative expression.” – *Arts Equator via Invisible Flâneuse on Lost Cinema (2018)*

Dreams are the cinema of our subconscious—we are all inherently filmmakers who create films through the act of dreaming. These films often become lost upon waking. Drawing links and juxtapositions between filmmaking and the nature of dreams, *Lost Cinema 20/20* highlights the curious state of awareness when we dream, while exploring how our subconscious creates cinematic narratives that blur the lines between imagination and reality. Through a conversation with the rich visual culture of films—including those from the golden age of Singapore cinema—the work deconstructs tropes in filmography and looks at what shapes and defines our shared subconscious.

Created and directed by multimedia artist Brian Gothong Tan, *Lost Cinema 20/20* was first developed in 2018 as a six-channel video installation at the Institute of Contemporary Arts. *The Studios'* commission of *Lost Cinema 20/20* expands this into a multi-disciplinary performance with text by Kaylene Tan and features performers Karen Tan, Lim Yu Beng, Ma Yanling, Irfan Kasban, Munah Bagharib and Sun Phitthaya Phaefuang and combines film, theatre and video art to create an immersive theatre experience.

Creative team

Creator & Director	Brian Gothong Tan
Producer	James Jordan Tay
Writer	Kaylene Tan
Lighting Designer	Lim Woan Wen
Sound Designer	Teo Wee Boon
Set Designer	Allister Towndrow

Cast

Karen Tan  
Lim Yu Beng  
Ma Yanling  
Irfan Kasban  
Munah Bagharib  
Sun Phittaya Phaefuang

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)

Advisory: Performed in English. No entry for latecomers.

\$35

Limited concessions for students: \$20

Limited concessions for NSFs & seniors: \$25

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# Punggah

Written by Johnny Jon Jon  
A Co-production with Teater Ekamatra

16 – 19 Apr 2020, Thu – Sun  
Thurs – Sat, 8pm  
Sat & Sun, 3pm  
Esplanade Theatre Studio



*Punggah* tells the story of the unlikely friendship between Zaitun, a palliative care nurse who finds joy in burying cuttings, patients and her past; and Martin, a filial man trying to trace his dying mother's past in order to fulfil her final request. Compelled by time, both struggle to deal with personal conflicts as they try to reconcile the past and the present—all in the hope of carrying out responsibilities for the people they both love and hate. *Punggah* explores themes of reconciliation and redemption, told through the lives of those dealing with death.

## Creative team

Playwright	Johnny Jon Jon
Director	Fasyali Fadzly
Lighting Designer	Liu Yong Huay Faith
Sound Designer	Tini Aliman

## Cast

Umi Kalthum Ismail  
Krish Natarajan  
Ashwini Nambiar

(1hr 20mins, no intermission)

Advisory: Performed in English & Malay with English surtitles. Some strong language and mature themes.

\$35

Limited concessions for students: \$20

Limited concessions for NSFs & seniors: \$25

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Admission age: 6 & above. Terms and conditions apply.

# The Heart Comes to Mind

Written by Lucas Ho

A Co-production with Checkpoint Theatre

23 – 26 April 2020, Thu – Sun

Thurs – Sat, 8pm

Sat & Sun, 3pm

Esplanade Theatre Studio



When life sends family members towards separate trajectories, what keeps us bound together?

Poignant and compelling, *The Heart Comes to Mind* explores the relationship between an aging writer and his scientist daughter. As they each wrestle with the loss of their wife and mother, each comes to contemplate personal failures and relational shortcomings within their family. What private pain do we carry? Can we forgive each other? How does the heart make sense of what the mind cannot forget?

Lucas Ho's new play is a visceral yet heartfelt exploration of the private struggles between a father and a daughter. We spin away and apart—sometimes, the journey home is an unstoppable collision course.

## Creative team

Playwright

Director

Set Designer

Lighting Designer

Sound Designer/Composer

Lucas Ho

Claire Wong

Che Xin Wei

Petrina Dawn Tan

Shah Tahir



Cast

Julius Foo  
Oon Shu An

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)

Recommended for Secondary School level and above.

\$35

Limited concessions for students: \$20

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## 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 three 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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