

Esplanade Presents  
**The Studios 2021**  
1 – 24 Apr 2021  
[www.esplanade.com/thestudios](http://www.esplanade.com/thestudios)



2020 was a difficult year. The sentiment that it was unprecedented, a year of violent disruption to almost every aspect of our lives and livelihoods, has been echoed over again. We found ourselves hesitant to plan for the future; caught in a limbo state of uncertainty and having to constantly adjust, pivot, re-adjust, re-centre.

And for the performing arts, 2020 was nothing short of devastating. *The Studios 2020* artists, together with the larger community here in Singapore and globally, were profoundly impacted as theatres had to close and people had to stay apart.

As we step into 2021, we press 'play' on some of the live performances that had to take a pause in 2020, as well as new ideas that have been laying fallow and waiting for the right time to emerge. A poignant and apt start to the season in January, *#THEATRE* by INDEX is a site-specific conversation with the Esplanade Theatre, a response to our strange times and a poetic meditation on the histories and energies that exist within this theatre space. In April, we look forward to welcoming back *Dragon Ladies Don't Weep* by Margaret Leng Tan and *Lost Cinema 20/20* by Brian Gothong Tan, two commissions that were meant to be a part of *The Studios 2020* season. These works speak of both losing and finding, taking on greater meaning in the context that we find ourselves in. To round off the 2021 season, *By Design* by

CAKE is a playful exploration, looking ahead to new artistic possibilities and expressions at the intersection of graphic design and performance.

We are really looking forward to a coming together in 2021, to have artists playing and working in our spaces again and to welcome back an audience who has grown and experienced *The Studios* with us. Play connotes a sense of enjoyment, continuity, flow, creation, an interactivity and a live-ness, and an optimism for what is to come. And it is in this spirit that we go on.

See you at *The Studios 2021*.

**Lynn Yang**  
Lead Programmer  
*The Studios*

## 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](http://Esplanade.com) for more information.

~ End ~

Issued by *The Esplanade Co Ltd*.

For more information, please contact:

Koh Sian Eng  
Senior Manager, Marketing (Communications & Content)  
The Esplanade Co Ltd  
Email: [ksianeng@esplanade.com](mailto:ksianeng@esplanade.com)

Eddie Toh  
Manager, Marketing  
The Esplanade Co Ltd  
Email: [teddie@esplanade.com](mailto:teddie@esplanade.com)

## Annexe

Esplanade Presents

### **The Studios**

1 – 24 Apr 2021

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

Co-commissioned by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay and Asia TOPA

### **Dragon Ladies Don't Weep**

by Margaret Leng Tan

1 – 4 Apr 2021

Thu – Sat, 8pm

Sat & Sun, 3pm

Esplanade Theatre Studio



“The formidable doyenne of the avant-garde piano”

*The Washington Post on Margaret Leng Tan*

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 pianist 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, and 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 Asia TOPA.

**Creative Team**

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

(1hr 15mins, no intermission)

Age recommendation for schools: Upper secondary and above

\$35

Limited concessions for students: \$20

Limited concessions for NSFs & seniors: \$25

**Esplanade&Me specials:**

Black card: 15% savings

White card: 10% savings

E&Me Discover (Package of 4): 10% savings with any 4 tickets purchased

**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.

*An Esplanade Commission*

## **Lost Cinema 20/20**

by Brian Gothong Tan

14–18 Apr 2021

Wed–Sun, 8pm

Sat & Sun, 3pm

Esplanade Theatre Studio

LOST CINEMA  
20/20



“... a startlingly visual and easily engageable conversation about the role of our subconscious in powering our creative expression.” – Arts Equator via Invisible Flâneuse on the video installation *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, the work was first developed as a six-channel video installation titled *Lost Cinema* at the Institute of Contemporary Arts. *The Studios'* commission of *Lost Cinema 20/20* expands this into a multi-disciplinary performance with text 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

Costume Designer: Moe Kasim

Performers: Karen Tan, Lim Yu-Beng, Ma Yanling, Irfan Kasban, Munah Bagharib, Sun Phittaya Phaefuang

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)  
Performed in English, with some Malay dialogue.

No entry for latecomers.

Advisory: Some mature content – sexual references and coarse language. Recommended for 16 years and above.

There will also be some strobe effects used in this performance.

\$35

Limited concessions for students: \$20

Limited concessions for NSFs & seniors: \$25

**Esplanade&Me specials:**

Black card: 15% savings

White card: 10% savings

E&Me Discover (Package of 4): 10% savings with any 4 tickets purchased

**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.

*An Esplanade Commission*

## **By Design**

by CAKE

23 & 24 Apr 2021

Fri & Sat

7.30pm & 10pm

Esplanade Theatre Studio



*By Design* comes into being at the intersection of graphic design and performance. Internationally recognised artists at the forefront of contemporary design aesthetic like Vanessa Ban, Zach Liberman and Amber Vittoria are invited to create new works in response to CAKE's conceptual framing that envisions graphic design in various formats meeting with a startling array of live performance. *By Design* explores new definitions for genre-fluid works of experimental art, bringing the design and performance community together in an art excursion governed by performance and interactivity.

### About CAKE

CAKE is a contemporary performance company committed to seeding and engineering works and excursions that embody the experience of performance and art. CAKE designs and presents the Decimal Points series, an exploratory space that serves to investigate contemporary modalities of artistic expression reflecting the multiplicities and diversities of lived experience, cultural influence and worldviews, offering performance-based experiences in unusual spaces of creative experimentation.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)

Performed in English.

\$35

Limited concessions for students: \$20

Limited concessions for NSFs & seniors: \$25

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

Black card: 15% savings

White card: 10% savings

E&Me Discover (Package of 4): 10% savings with any 4 tickets purchased

**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.