

Esplanade Presents

da:ns focus – Out of Site

6 – 8 Dec 2024

www.esplanade.com/dans



Extreme sports and contemporary dance meet, at **da:ns focus – Out of Site**. From 6 – 8 Dec 2024, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay invites you to take a trip to this exciting terrain.

As part of *da:ns focus*, we present a contemporary dance weekend that is framed by a different theme every year. On the tail of the Paris Olympics and Paralympics 2024, this year's theme, *Out of Site*, foregrounds the intersection of extreme sports and dance. For this weekend, we consider how sites of extreme sports function as catalysts for dialogues with risk that unlock new thresholds and stir up new possibilities. What else might emerge when we bring the spirit, philosophies and physicality of these sports out of their locales and into the theatre?

Corps extrêmes, the widely acclaimed creation by **Rachid Ouramdane**, Director at Chaillot – Théâtre National de la Danse in France, will come to Esplanade after captivating audiences worldwide. Somewhere between documentary and dream, simultaneously intimate and larger than life, this compelling production brings the worlds of dance, acrobatics, highlining and rock climbing together in an ode to the present, to freedom, and life.

We are also pleased to present *A Reason for Falling* by Malaysian choreographer **Hwa Wei-An**, which will finally premiere as a full standalone production. This Esplanade commission was first seeded in 2022 and seen at *Forward Shift*, an Esplanade platform for new works-in-progress by Asian dancemakers. Integrating Wei-An's background in b-boying with concepts from competitive freeriding, the work will return after two years of development with fresh inspiration and lingering curiosities.

While we might not all be able to understand what it means to be a professional athlete or might be hesitant about watching contemporary dance in a dark theatre, we may find familiarity in the spectatorship—from marvelling at bewildering technical skills and feeling the waves of adrenaline, to collectively creating the atmosphere and in some ways raising the stakes for the performance. Perhaps we may connect to the sensitivity, wonder, suspense, grit, and joy. Perhaps we can also relate to the desire for or pursuit of something beyond ourselves. How far can we go? What might we discover on the way there? And through all of that, what are we willing to risk? Both deeply personal and universal, these are some of the broader questions echoed by the works that we are proud to be presenting this weekend.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to our Principal Sponsor **BNP Paribas** for their support of *da:ns focus – Out of Site*.

We look forward to having you with us.

Jessica Lam

Programmer, 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 3,500 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. The Charity Council awarded TECL the Charity Governance Award – Special Commendation for Clarity of Strategy in 2016 and 2022, and the Charity Transparency Award from 2016 – 2023. 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](https://www.esplanade.com) for more information.

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Issued by *The Esplanade Co Ltd*.

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Annexe

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About da:ns focus

Having transformed from *da:ns festival* to *da:ns focus* in 2023/24, *da:ns focus* continues with an exciting year-round season of five themed weekends in 2024/25. Experience interconnected programmes that offer their own counterpoints, dialogues and encounters in a focused exploration.

Corps extrêmes

by Rachid Ouramdane / Compagnie de Chaillot (France)

6 & 7 Dec 2024, Fri & Sat, 8pm

Esplanade Theatre



Photo Credit: Pascale Cholette

“What made the experience even more luminous was the way they landed or ascended into the air, making it almost seem as though the stage was really a cloud.” – The New York Times

Choreographer Rachid Ouramdane comes to Esplanade for the first time with his widely acclaimed full-evening creation, *Corps extrêmes*.

In this piece of immense scale and vision, breathtaking levels of acrobatic and athletic virtuosity gently give way to a luminous sensitivity and humbling vulnerability as 10 performers meet between earth and sky. Created with two extreme sports athletes—the French highline world record holder Nathan Paulin, and Swiss climbing champion Nina Caprez—alongside eight acrobats, Ouramdane’s electrifying yet meditative choreography sees these unlikely collaborators flirting with gravity, traversing a magnificent climbing wall built on stage and testing the limits of the body. Somewhere between documentary and dream, simultaneously intimate and larger than life, *Corps extrêmes* sheds new light on what it means to stand on the edge of a precipice, literally and figuratively.

Named one of the Best Dance Performances of 2023 by The New York Times, this striking work now arrives in Singapore after captivating audiences worldwide.

This production is presented as part of *da:ns focus – Out of Site*, a weekend of programmes that invites you to the terrain where extreme sports and dance meet.

Production Credits

Conception: Rachid Ouramdane

Music: Jean-Baptiste Julien

Video: Jean-Camille Goimard

Lighting: Stéphane Graillot

Costume: Camille Panin

Performed By: Joël Azou, Camille Doumas (climber), Tamila De Naeyer, Lisandra Gallo, Daniel Laruelle (highliner), Nicolò Marzoli, Xavier Mermod, Patricia Minder, Valérian Moutier, Maxime Seghers

With the support of Dance Reflections by Van Cleef & Arpels

Co-production:

CCN2 – Centre chorégraphique national de Grenoble

Bonlieu Scène nationale Annecy

Théâtre de la Ville – Paris

Festival Montpellier Danse 2021

L'Estive – Scène nationale de Foix et de l'Ariège

Le Bateau Feu – Scène nationale de Dunkerque

Le Carreau – Scène nationale de Forbach

MC2: Grenoble

Théâtre Molière – Sète, Scène nationale Archipel de Thau

Le Théâtre Scène nationale de Saint-Nazaire

With thanks to Patricia Minder, Xavier Mermod, Guillaume Broust, Romain Cocheril

With the technical support of Espace Vertical and Music Plus Grenoble

With the support of MC93 – Maison de la Culture de Seine-Saint-Deni

About Rachid Ouramdane

At the age of twelve, Rachid Ouramdane discovered dance through hip-hop. He also took intensive courses in classical and modern dance. In the early 1990s, he dropped out of his studies in biology to devote himself full-time to dance and joined the Centre national de danse contemporaine in Angers. As a performer and choreographer, he has worked with Meg Stuart, Odile Duboc, Hervé Robbe, Alain Buffard, Christian Rizzo, Julie Nioche and Emmanuelle Huynh. Rachid Ouramdane's creations are often marked by the seal of testimony and intimate experience (refugee children, victims of torture or natural disasters, amateur athletes, etc), from which he weaves a structured choreography. Rachid Ouramdane collaborates with circus artists (Compagnie XY), authors (Pascal Rambert, Sonia Chiambretto), visual artists (Nicolas Floch' and Mehdi Meddaci), and musicians (Jean-Baptiste Julien and Alexandre Meyer) for his own creations as well as for commissioned works and workshops. With an ambitious project based on diversity and hospitality, he has been director of Chaillot - Théâtre national de la Danse in Paris since April 2021.

1hr, no intermission

Admission age: 6 and above, recommended for ages 8 and above.

Advisory:

- Performed in French with English surtitles.

- There will be a post-show dialogue after each performance.
- Latecomers will not be admitted once the performance has begun. There will be no re-admission for this performance.

\$40*, \$60^, \$80^

*Limited concessions for seniors, NSFs and students: \$32

Limited concessions for PWDs: \$32

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials (19 – 30 Sep 2024)

Black: 20% savings

White: 20% savings

Discover: 15% savings (min. 2 tickets)

^Esplanade&Me Specials

Black: 15% savings

White: 15% savings

Discover: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

A Reason for Falling
by Hwa Wei-An (Malaysia)
An Esplanade Commission
7 & 8 Dec 2024, Sat & Sun, 5pm
Esplanade Theatre Studio



Photo Credit: Bernie Ng

A Reason for Falling is an exploration of the possibilities that exist between a loss of balance and a meeting with the ground. It is a look at what happens when we let go of control, give in to gravity, and embrace the experience of a fall.

This work is inspired by the experience of watching freeriding, the practice of riding down unpaved mountain faces on bikes, snowboards or skis. It is one dancer's way of translating these practices from vast, open terrains onto the flat, safe space of the dance floor, and to pursue possibility, wonder, and joy.

Through its many iterations, morphing from video installation to several work-in-progress presentations, *A Reason for Falling* will return to Esplanade in its final form with fresh inspiration and lingering curiosities.

This production is presented as part of *da:ns focus – Out of Site*, a weekend of programmes that invites you to the terrain where extreme sports and dance meet.

Production Credits

Choreographer, Performer, Producer: Hwa Wei-An

Dramaturg: Arco Renz

Performance Coach: Lee Ren Xin

Composer: Kent Lee

Lighting Designer: Liu Yong Huay

Production Manager: Low Pey Sien

Stage Manager: Tennie Su

A Reason for Falling is commissioned by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, Singapore.

The work is also created with the collaboration of Dance Nucleus (Singapore), Rimbun Dahan (Malaysia), DansiT (Norway), and KongsikL (Malaysia).

Many thanks also to Campbelltown Arts Centre (Australia) and Seoul Dance Centre (S. Korea) for support provided during the early stages of the development of this work.

About Hwa Wei-An

Wei-An has spent his whole life falling down, a by-product of stubbornly learning things on his own—whether that meant trying to spin on his head or backflip before he was ready, or how to snowboard. And though he may not be the best at those activities, he's become quite good at falling. He has, in fact, built his contemporary practice around his love-hate relationship with gravity, and the connections this relationship has with the psychological state of flow.

This line of enquiry has led to projects and performances in South Korea, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, and Luxembourg. Over the course of his career, Wei-An has had the opportunity to work with artists such as the Matej Kejžar, Gabrielle Nankivell, Luke Smiles, Olé Khamchanla, the Dab Dance Project, Richard Chappell, Liu Yen-Cheng, Lee Mun Wai, and Sita Ostheimer.

On top of his choreographic and performance work, from 2017 to 2019 in Singapore, Wei-An organised an annual event called Paradigm Shift. The event brought together street and contemporary dancers in an experimental jam and competition, aimed at discovering creative opportunities that arise when these dance forms interact. Wei-An hopes to resurrect the event in the near future.

50mins, no intermission

Admission age: 6 and above, recommended for ages 13 and above.

Advisory:

- There will be a post-show dialogue after each performance.

\$28^

Limited concessions for seniors, NSF's, students and PWDs: \$22.40

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials (19 – 30 Sep 2024)

Black: 20% savings

White: 20% savings

Discover: 15% savings (min. 2 tickets)

^Esplanade&Me Specials

Black: 15% savings

White: 15% savings

Discover: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)