

Esplanade Presents

da:ns focus – EveryBody 2025

9 – 13 Apr 2025

www.esplanade.com/dans



Dear friends of the media,

The third edition of **da:ns focus – EveryBody** by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay returns from 9 – 13 Apr 2025, and continues to expand the ideas and conventions of the perfect dancing body and redefine what is possible in both dance and life.

Launched in 2023 as part of the transformation from *da:ns festival* to *da:ns focus*—a season of five distinctly themed dance weekends—*EveryBody* presents high-quality performances and experiences centred on inclusivity, diversity and participation. We are immensely grateful for the compassion, generosity and support of various communities thus far. We remain committed to empowering *everybody* and *every body* to enjoy and experience dance at *EveryBody* while using dance as a force for change.

This year, *Lived Fiction*, the acclaimed production by **Stoppap Dance Company**, makes its Asian premiere at Esplanade after captivating audiences across the UK. As part of our commitment to inclusive programming, this multi-sensory work was selected for its seamless integration of accessibility features with choreography, enhancing the experience for diverse audiences, including those who are Deaf or hard of hearing, blind or have low vision, Disabled, or neurodivergent. Earnest and contemplative, yet playful, this contemporary dance work explores the human condition with compassion, offering fresh perspectives on both dance and life through the stories and lived experiences of performers with and without disabilities.

To ensure deeper audience engagement, we have designed multiple access points, making it easier for those new to dance or inclusivity to connect with the artists and performances.

Lived Fiction features a rich series of companion programmes, including:

- **Pre-show sharing sessions** where audiences can meet some of the cast and creative team from Stopgap Dance Company to learn about the dance, music, accessibility features and creative process behind this production.
- **Pre-show guides (Visual Story, Sonic Story and a What to Expect video)** with details on *Lived Fiction* to help prepare neurodivergent audiences before they arrive.
- **Touch Tours** before each performance, designed for blind or visually impaired audience members, but may also be useful for neurodivergent audiences.
- **Post-show talks** after every performance with Singapore Sign Language (SgSL) interpretation available.
- **A Talk on Creative Access** by Lucy Bennett, Co-Artistic Director of Stopgap Dance Company, exploring how industry professionals may conceive, devise and create performances with accessibility features at its heart and core.
- **Two workshops**, one designed for individuals with disabilities (physical, sensory, developmental and/or intellectual), and another choreographic workshop for dance professionals focusing on inclusive creation.

In addition, the ever-popular ***EveryBody Dance Now*** returns, transforming the Esplanade Concourse into a weekend dance marathon featuring 14 different dance-along sessions. Led by some of Singapore's top dance studios and instructors, these sessions invite all bodies to move freely, learn new dance styles and have fun with friends and family! To foster inclusivity, **daily accessible sessions** from Friday to Sunday will feature open and adaptive teaching approaches for diverse participants, with SgSL interpretation provided.

With over 20 performances, talks, workshops and dance-along sessions, *EveryBody* invites you to share in the joy of dance, experience fresh perspectives, and celebrate the beauty of diverse communities coming together in movement.

Following *da:ns focus – EveryBody* in April, our audiences can look forward to three other *da:ns focus* weekends of dance programmes for the rest of the year, each focusing on a particular theme or genre. Each weekend connects dance to important facets and expressions of our lives, with programmes, experiences and activities that offer focused explorations and opportunities for counterpoints, dialogues and perspectives.

Connect Asia Now (CAN) on 26 – 28 Sep 2025

A spotlight on contemporary dance works by or in collaboration with Asian artists, this annual gathering focuses on distinct voices and creative impulses from the region. It is also a key platform for professionals to connect and further develop Asia's contemporary performance scene.

Contemporary on 28 – 30 Nov 2025

Embrace the evolving and open nature of contemporary dance with programmes anchored by some of the most compelling international artists and creations.

FL/OW (The FULL OUT Weekend) on 12 – 14 Dec 2025

Go FULL OUT with diverse facets of street dance and street culture over three days of high-energy performances, workshops, battles and parties! Featuring world-renowned dance crews, emerging and seasoned local choreographers, *FL/OW* demonstrates what street dance can be beyond the conventional.

We continue to be excited by the possibilities that *da:ns focus* brings. It pushes us into fresh ways of thinking, creating and programming; enables us to attract new audiences and deepen existing audiences' appreciation for dance; as well as explore connections and threads within a thematic focus, and forge deeper partnerships and collaborations. Whether you are curious novices or long-time dance supporters, we invite you to join us in this journey of discovery.

Iris Cheung
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](https://www.esplanade.com) for more information

~ End ~

Issued by *The Esplanade Co Ltd*.

For more information, please contact:

Gina Koh
Manager, Marketing (Communications &
Content)
The Esplanade Co Ltd
Email: kgina@esplanade.com

Tan Wen Rui
Senior Manager, Arts Marketing
The Esplanade Co Ltd
Email: twenrui@esplanade.com

Annexe

Esplanade Presents

da:ns focus – EveryBody 2025

9 – 13 Apr 2025

www.esplanade.com/dans

About da:ns focus – EveryBody

EveryBody expands the ideas and conventions of the perfect dancing body by presenting high quality works and experiences focusing on inclusivity, diversity and participation, where we encourage everybody and every body to experience dance.

Lived Fiction

Stopgap Dance Company (UK)

11 – 13 Apr 2025

Fri, 7.30pm

Sat & Sun, 4pm

Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade



Photo Credit: Chris Parkes

“Lived Fiction is full of wit, sophistication and spellbinding movement. Over and over again, its intensity and invention take you by surprise.” – The Observer ★★★★★

Lived Fiction | Putting access and inclusion at the heart of its work

For two decades, the UK’s Stopgap Dance Company has been an exemplar of diversity and inclusion on stage, using dance as a movement for change. As a global leader of inclusive dance, Stopgap strives to not only showcase Disabled talent, but also enable performances to be accessible to as many and diverse audiences as possible. With this in mind, Stopgap presents *Lived Fiction*, a performance with the potential to shape the future of experiencing contemporary dance from multiple perspectives.

A manifestation of Stopgap's 20 year history, *Lived Fiction* is an atmospheric, multisensory work that blends sensual choreography with innovative sound and visual design with accessibility features creatively weaved in. This includes evocative audio description, as well as projection art and audio captioning—a groundbreaking production where access features for Deaf or hard of hearing, blind or low vision, Disabled and neurodivergent audiences have been intricately intertwined throughout the performance.

Featuring seven performers with and without disabilities, the production spotlights each performer's experiences and stories through movement and spoken word. Across two acts, solo, duet and group performances unfold, reflecting each individual's relationship with dance and movement, their lived realities and with one another. Earnest and contemplative with elements of playfulness, this dance work resonates in its compassion for the human condition, empowering audiences to experience dance and life itself, through a myriad of different perspectives.

Lived Fiction invites you to come participate in this microcosm of an inclusive world, where everyone can revel in the joy of a shared future that is rich with the enterprise, potential and the power of diversity.

Creative Access

We would like both the performers and the audience to gain a shared-experience and revel in the joy of different people cohabiting the theatre space. *Lived Fiction* is a collaboration between artists and creatives who are Deaf, Disabled, neurodivergent and non-disabled, and equipped with the following access features:

- Assistive Listening (AL)
- Audio Captioning (CAP)
- Audio Description (AD)
- Post-show talk after each performance, with Singapore Sign Language (SgSL) interpretation
- Relaxed Environment (RE) performances.
- A 30-min Touch Tour will take place before each performance (Tour starts 1 hour before performance start time; recommended for ticket holders who are blind or have low vision, but may also be useful for neurodivergent audiences. Limited capacity; available as an add-on option at the point of ticket purchase)

Details on what to expect in *Lived Fiction* can be found in the [Visual Story](#), [Sonic Story](#) and [What to Expect video](#). Here are some things which may be surprising during the performances:

- Dancers will be in the performance space as the audience enters.
- There are some bright lights and loud music in small sections, these are warned about through the audio description.
- One of the performers approaches the audience (seated in the front few rows) and offers touch – a handshake. Another performer goes to the auditorium steps, and at one point sits amongst the audience, offering the opportunity to converse together.
- During the 15-min intermission, some of the performers remain in the space and can be approached to talk to.
- In the second half of the performance, there is a section using some haze/smoke effect.

This programme is presented as part of *da:ns focus_– Everybody*, a weekend of dance which challenges conventions by presenting high quality works and experiences focusing on

inclusivity, diversity and participation, where we encourage everybody and every *body* to experience dance.

Credits

Lived Fiction was devised and written with Stopgap's Deaf, Disabled, neurodivergent and non-disabled creatives. The process was conceived and facilitated by Stopgap's Co-Artistic Director Lucy Bennett.

Cast and Creatives

Christian Brinklow, Monique Dior Jarrett, Emily Lue-Fong, Jannick Moth, Lily Norton (Audio Descriptor), Nadenh Poan, Hannah Sampson and Dan Watson (Voice of DAN)

Director & Co-Writer

Lucy Bennett

Access Artist & Co-Writer

Lily Norton

Rehearsal Director

Amy Butler

Composer & Sound Designer

Dougie Evans

Digital Artist & Creative Captions

Ben Glover

Lighting Design

Jackie Shemesh

Costume Design

Ryan Dawson Laight

Props Designer and Builder

Colin Holden

Access Guides

Lauren Trim, Mignon Riggs

Production & Stage Manager

Ethan Duffy

Technical Stage Manager

Stella Kailides

Production Manager

Emma Henderson

Technical Manager

Francois Langton

Lighting Associate

Joe Hornsby

Costume Associate

Rosie Whiting

Project Manager

James Greenhalgh

Access Workers

Abbie Thompson, Laurel Flatley

Executive Producers

Sho Shibata & Lucy Glover

Feedback and Focus Group Support for Creative Access

Kelsie Acton (Battersea Arts Centre), Angela Bettoni, Lucy Clark, Martin Glover, Andrew Loretto, Anne McCarthy, Lesta Woo, Sofia Young-Santamaria, Ada Eravamo

Supporters

Lived Fiction was developed as part of the research project "[DANCING](#): Protecting the Right to Culture of Persons with Disabilities and Enhancing Cultural Diversity through European Union Law: Exploring New Paths" led by Delia Ferri, Professor of Law at Maynooth University, Ireland. The project received funding from the European Research Council under the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme (grant agreement number 864182).

***Lived Fiction* was created with additional support from:**

Arts Council England, DanceEast, Dance Ireland, Leche Trust, The Point – Eastleigh, University of Surrey.

About Stopgap Dance Company

Stopgap Dance Company is driven by a diverse creative team who uses dance as a movement for change.

The company's mission is to create an inclusive world where diversity is not just accepted but pursued, a world where no one is limited by prejudice against Deaf, Disabled, or neurodivergent people.

Working with an artform shaped by human touch and energised by the spark of connectivity, their work demonstrates the compelling power of diversity and inclusivity. Together, they move to create a remarkable experience that transforms society's perceptions of difference and dismantle the inequity of privilege, in dance and in all aspects of living, collaborating, and creating together as humans.

Stopgap is both focused on and born out of the company's rigorous investment in equity and inclusive culture. They are committed to removing barriers to dance, nurturing the talents of dancers born into any body and any mind. In coalition with a wave of organisations, they move towards a better representation of diversity on our stages and in society.

The company is a global leader of disability access in dance and continuously examines best practice. They actively advocate for the industry and the wider world to become more inclusive.

Website: <http://www.stopgapdance.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Stopgapdance/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/stopgapdance/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/stopgapdance>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/stopgapdanceco>

1hr 30mins, including 15 mins intermission

Admission age: 6 and above. Recommended for 12 and above.

\$40^

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

Limited concessions for PWDs: \$20

^Esplanade&Me Specials Available

Pre-show sharing of Lived Fiction

Stopgap Dance Company (UK)

9 Apr 2025, Wed, 4pm

Esplanade White Room



Join us for this exclusive pre-show sharing of [Lived Fiction](#) and find out more on the dance, music and various creative access features of this multisensory production by Stopgap Dance Company. Whether you are a seasoned aficionado of contemporary dance or someone completely new to the art form, this session promises to be both informative and insightful. Audience members will also get to meet some of the members of the cast and creative team.

This programme is presented as part of *da:ns focus – Everybody*, a weekend of dance which expands the ideas and conventions of the perfect dancing body by presenting high quality works and experiences focusing on inclusivity, diversity and participation, where we encourage everybody and *every body* to experience dance.

About Stopgap Dance Company

Stopgap Dance Company is driven by a diverse creative team who uses dance as a movement for change.

The company's mission is to create an inclusive world where diversity is not just accepted but pursued, a world where no one is limited by prejudice against deaf, disabled, or neurodivergent people.

Working with an artform shaped by human touch and energised by the spark of connectivity, their work demonstrates the compelling power of diversity and inclusivity. Together, they move to create a remarkable experience that transforms society's perceptions of difference and dismantle the inequity of privilege, in dance and in all aspects of living, collaborating, and creating together as humans.

Stopgap is both focused on and born out of the company's rigorous investment in equity and inclusive culture. They are committed to removing barriers to dance, nurturing the talents of dancers born into any body and any mind. In coalition with a wave of organisations, they move towards a better representation of diversity on our stages and in society.

The company is a global leader of disability access in dance and continuously examines best practice. They actively advocate for the industry and the wider world to become more inclusive.

Website: <http://www.stopgapdance.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Stopgapdance/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/stopgapdance/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/stopgapdance>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/stopgapdanceco>

1hr, no intermission

Admission age: 6 and above.

Pre-registration is required.

Accessibility features

Wheelchair-Accessible: This event is designed for all patrons (including wheelchair users) to participate comfortably.

Singapore Sign Language Interpretation will be provided.

Inclusive Creative Movement Workshop

Stopgap Dance Company (UK)
10 Apr 2025, Thu, 2.30pm
Esplanade White Room



Photo Credit: Chris Parkes

Specially designed for individuals with disabilities (physical, sensory, developmental and/or intellectual), this inclusive creative movement workshop conducted by Stopgap Dance Company provides an opportunity for Disabled people to try inclusive dance for the first time, and to have fun by dancing with other people.

The workshop will consist of an up tempo warm up, movement games and tasks, plus creative movement exploration in partners and small groups. There will be the option to explore contact dance as well, in an inclusive and supportive setting.

Caregivers and personal assistants are also welcome to support the participants in this workshop.

To ensure the safety of all participants, the workshop will be limited to a maximum of 16 participants. Pre-registration is required. Please let us know your access requirements when you register with us and we will try to incorporate them into our plans. Please also read the following notes prior to your registration:

- This workshop is designed for individuals with disabilities (physical, sensory, developmental and/or intellectual) who are able to follow simple verbal cues and instructions.
- This workshop is designed for participants aged 12 years old and above.
- Participants may have one supporting caregiver and/or personal assistant at the workshop.

- Alternatively, caregivers may drop participants 10 minutes before the workshop and pick up at the same location.

This workshop is facilitated by Disabled and non-disabled dancers of Stopgap Dance Company: Emily Lue-Fong, Hannah Sampson and Jannick Moth, with Access Support by Mignon Riggs.

This programme is presented as part of *da:ns focus – EveryBody*, a weekend of dance which expands the ideas and conventions of the perfect dancing body by presenting high quality works and experiences focusing on inclusivity, diversity and participation, where we encourage everybody and *every body* to experience dance.

About Stopgap Dance Company

Stopgap Dance Company is driven by a diverse creative team who uses dance as a movement for change.

The company's mission is to create an inclusive world where diversity is not just accepted but pursued, a world where no one is limited by prejudice against deaf, disabled, or neurodivergent people.

Working with an artform shaped by human touch and energised by the spark of connectivity, their work demonstrates the compelling power of diversity and inclusivity. Together, they move to create a remarkable experience that transforms society's perceptions of difference and dismantle the inequity of privilege, in dance and in all aspects of living, collaborating, and creating together as humans.

Stopgap is both focused on and born out of the company's rigorous investment in equity and inclusive culture. They are committed to removing barriers to dance, nurturing the talents of dancers born into any body and any mind. In coalition with a wave of organisations, they move towards a better representation of diversity on our stages and in society.

The company is a global leader of disability access in dance and continuously examines best practice. They actively advocate for the industry and the wider world to become more inclusive.

Website: <http://www.stopgapdance.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Stopgapdance/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/stopgapdance/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/stopgapdance>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/stopgapdanceeco>

1hr 30mins, no intermission

Admission age: 12 and above

Pre-registration is required.

Accessibility features

Wheelchair-Accessible: This event is designed for all patrons (including wheelchair users) to participate comfortably.

Talk on Creative Access

Stopgap Dance Company (UK)

10 Apr 2025, Thu, 6pm

Esplanade White Room

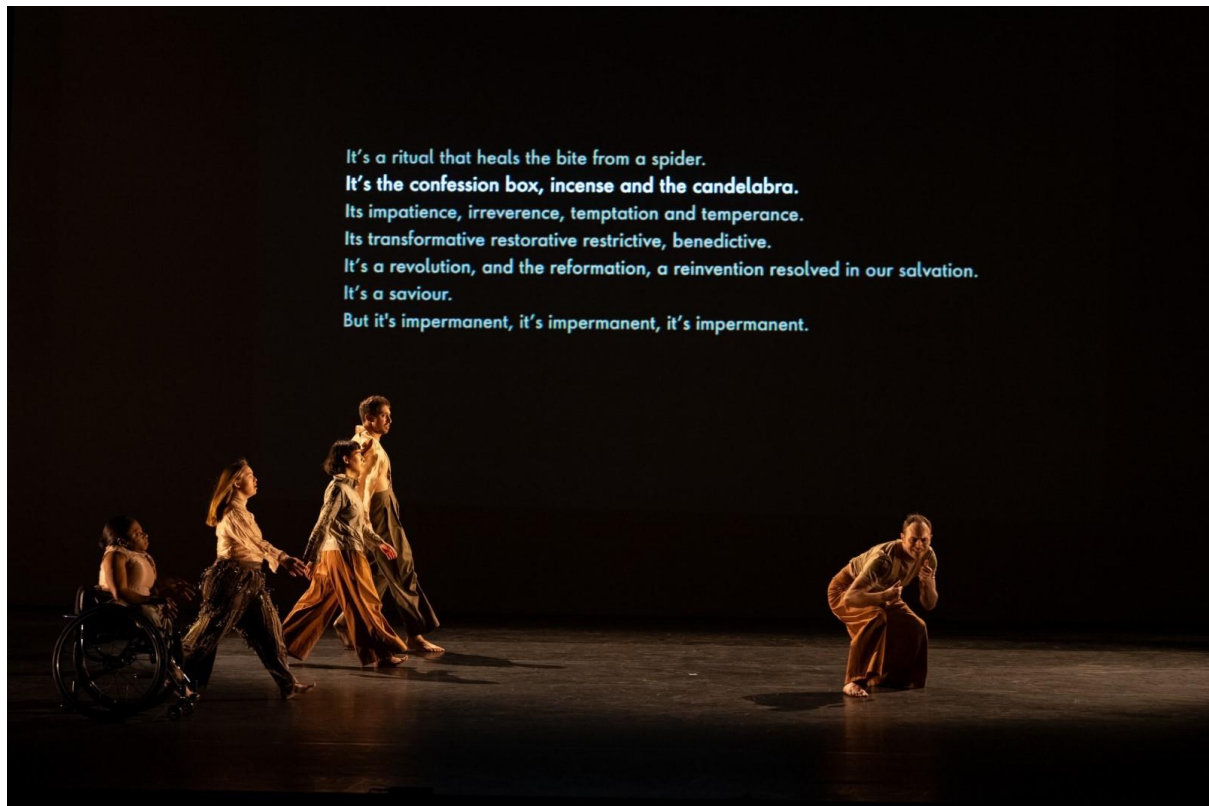


Photo Credit: Jules Renahan

This sharing session by Stopgap Dance Company's Co-Artistic Director, Lucy Bennett, acts as a case-study industry sharing which focuses on the creative approach and process of *Lived Fiction*. The show was conceived, written and devised by the company's Deaf, Disabled, neurodivergent and non-disabled creatives, facilitated by Lucy Bennett.

Discover how choreography, creative captions and creative audio description were created collaboratively from the very beginning and stays as the heart of the work. This talk is targeted to and suitable for creatives and industry practitioners who have a keen interest in inclusive artmaking.

This programme is presented as part of *da:ns focus – EveryBody*, a weekend of dance which expands the ideas and conventions of the perfect dancing body by presenting high quality works and experiences focusing on inclusivity, diversity and participation, where we encourage everybody and *every body* to experience dance.

About Stopgap Dance Company

Stopgap Dance Company is driven by a diverse creative team who uses dance as a movement for change.

The company's mission is to create an inclusive world where diversity is not just accepted but pursued, a world where no one is limited by prejudice against deaf, disabled, or neurodivergent people.

Working with an artform shaped by human touch and energised by the spark of connectivity, their work demonstrates the compelling power of diversity and inclusivity. Together, they move to create a remarkable experience that transforms society's perceptions of difference and dismantle the inequity of privilege, in dance and in all aspects of living, collaborating, and creating together as humans.

Stopgap is both focused on and born out of the company's rigorous investment in equity and inclusive culture. They are committed to removing barriers to dance, nurturing the talents of dancers born into any body and any mind. In coalition with a wave of organisations, they move towards a better representation of diversity on our stages and in society.

The company is a global leader of disability access in dance and continuously examines best practice. They actively advocate for the industry and the wider world to become more inclusive.

Website: <http://www.stopgapdance.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Stopgapdance/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/stopgapdance/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/stopgapdance>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/stopgapdanceeco>

1hr, no intermission

Admission age: 6 and above

Pre-registration is required.

Accessibility features

Wheelchair-Accessible: This event is designed for all patrons (including wheelchair users) to participate comfortably.

Singapore Sign Language Interpretation will be provided.

Inclusive Choreographic Practice (Workshop)

Stopgap Dance Company (UK)

10 Apr 2025, Thu, 7.15pm

Esplanade Rehearsal Studio



Get insight into Stopgap's inclusive choreographic practice from over 20 years of experience. You can expect to have fun with choreographic tasks, improvisations and discussions.

Participants should have prior dance experience and preferably some experience of choreography. **This workshop is specifically designed for dance and movement artists, educators and professionals who have a keen interest in developing their inclusive choreographic practices.** Please dress comfortably for this movement-based workshop.

This workshop is facilitated by Monique Dior Jarrett and Christian Brinklow, Disabled and non-disabled dancers of Stopgap Dance Company; with Access Support from Lauren Trim.

This programme is presented as part of *da:ns focus – EveryBody*, a weekend of dance which expands the ideas and conventions of the perfect dancing body by presenting high quality works and experiences focusing on inclusivity, diversity and participation, where we encourage everybody and *every body* to experience dance.

About Stopgap Dance Company

Stopgap Dance Company is driven by a diverse creative team who uses dance as a movement for change.

The company's mission is to create an inclusive world where diversity is not just accepted but pursued, a world where no one is limited by prejudice against deaf, disabled, or neurodivergent people.

Working with an artform shaped by human touch and energised by the spark of connectivity, their work demonstrates the compelling power of diversity and inclusivity. Together, they move to create a remarkable experience that transforms society's perceptions of difference and dismantle the inequity of privilege, in dance and in all aspects of living, collaborating, and creating together as humans.

Stopgap is both focused on and born out of the company's rigorous investment in equity and inclusive culture. They are committed to removing barriers to dance, nurturing the talents of dancers born into any body and any mind. In coalition with a wave of organisations, they move towards a better representation of diversity on our stages and in society.

The company is a global leader of disability access in dance and continuously examines best practice. They actively advocate for the industry and the wider world to become more inclusive.

Website: <http://www.stopgapdance.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Stopgapdance/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/stopgapdance/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/stopgapdance>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/stopgapdanceeco>

1hr 30mins, no intermission

Admission age: 18 and above

\$40

Accessibility features

Wheelchair-Accessible: This event is designed for all patrons (including wheelchair users) to participate comfortably.

EveryBody Dance Now

Various dance studios (Singapore)

11 Apr 2025, Fri, 6.45pm*, 7.30pm, 8.15pm & 9pm

12 Apr 2025, Sat, 4pm, 4.45pm, 5.45pm*, 6.45pm*, 8.45pm & 9.30pm

13 Apr 2025, Sun, 1.15pm*, 2.15pm*, 3.15pm & 4.15pm

Esplanade Concourse

*Accessible sessions



Let your hair down, put on your dancing shoes and get ready for *EveryBody Dance Now*!

Everyone's invited back to these ever-popular short dance workshops as part of *da:ns focus – EveryBody*, where all bodies can freely take part and experience dance.

Pick up nifty moves from professional instructors on stage and catch some of Singapore's best dance studios demonstrate their own takes on classic styles. Try out different genres and get your body moving!

Full schedule will be announced in March. There will be at least one accessible session daily from Friday through Sunday; these sessions are wheelchair-accessible and Singapore sign-language interpreted.

This programme is presented as part of *da:ns focus – EveryBody*, a weekend of dance which expands the ideas and conventions of the perfect dancing body by presenting high quality works and experiences focusing on inclusivity, diversity and participation, where we encourage everybody and *every body* to experience dance.

30mins, no intermission

Accessibility features for *Accessible sessions

Wheelchair-Accessible: This event is designed for all patrons (including wheelchair users) to participate comfortably.

Singapore Sign Language Interpretation will be provided.