

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Singtel donates S\$10 million to Esplanade's new waterfront theatre



In the photo (left to right): Singtel VP, Group Strategic Communications and Brand, Lian Pek; Esplanade CEO-Designate, Yvonne Tham, and Esplanade CEO Benson Puah

SINGAPORE, 9 June 2018 – Singtel today announced that it will contribute S\$10 million towards Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay's development of a new medium-sized theatre to address expanding audiences and growing artistic needs. Singtel's contribution is the largest single donation that the national performing arts centre has received since its inception in 2002.

In appreciation of the generous gift, this new theatre along the Esplanade Waterfront will be named after Singtel for a period of 15 years from the time it opens in 2021. With a seating capacity of 550, Esplanade's first medium-sized theatre will enable it to meet the needs of the Singapore arts community as the majority of works produced today are best suited for mid-sized venues. Its existing theatre spaces currently seat either large audiences of close to 2,000 each, or are built small for an audience of no more than 245. The new venue will thus give Esplanade more flexibility in programming and presenting a greater diversity of leading artists and productions for local and regional audiences. It will also provide additional space to develop and present a wider range of quality arts programmes for schools well as communities that Esplanade serves.

Ms Chua Sock Koong, Singtel Group CEO said, “Singtel is pleased to support Esplanade’s next phase of growth. We have a long tradition of championing the local arts scene as a Singapore-grown communications company, and like Esplanade, we believe art is for everyone. Through our contribution towards the new waterfront theatre, we hope the works of more Singapore artists and companies can reach as wide an audience as possible.”

Ms Yvonne Tham, CEO-Designate, The Esplanade Co Ltd, said, “We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Singtel for its unwavering support of Esplanade. Singtel’s generous gift towards our new waterfront theatre will not only enable a new generation of artists to create works that will shape Singapore’s culture and identity, it will also help us to bring more meaningful arts programmes to engage, educate and inspire the youths, families, elderly and other communities that Esplanade serves.”

Construction of the S\$30 million theatre is expected to start in early 2019. With Singtel’s donation of S\$10 million and another S\$10 million from the government, the remaining funds will be raised by Esplanade through corporate sponsorship and public fundraising. This includes funds raised from the inaugural Esplanade Gala held this evening at the Esplanade Theatre.

Please refer to the Annex for details on the inaugural Esplanade Gala. More information on Esplanade’s next stage of development and its new medium-sized theatre is available on www.esplanade.com/about-us/the-next-stage.

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About Singtel

Singtel is Asia's leading communications technology group, providing a portfolio of services from next-generation communication, technology services to infotainment to both consumers and businesses. For consumers, Singtel delivers a complete and integrated suite of services, including mobile, broadband and TV. For businesses, Singtel offers a complementary array of workforce mobility solutions, data hosting, cloud, network infrastructure, analytics and cybersecurity capabilities. The Group has presence in Asia, Australia and Africa and reaches over 650 million mobile customers in 21 countries. Its infrastructure and technology services for businesses span 21 countries, with more than 428 direct points of presence in 362 cities.

For more information, visit www.singtel.com.
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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 3,000 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. It also develops technical capabilities for the industry nationally.

This architectural icon, with its distinctive twin shells, houses world-class performance spaces complemented by a comprehensive range of professional support services. Its two main venues are the 1,600-seat Concert Hall and a Theatre with a capacity of 2,000.

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 Special Commendation Award – Clarity of Strategy in 2016, and the Charity Transparency Award in 2016 and 2017.

In October 2017, Esplanade launched *#mydurian*—a year-long celebration for its 15th anniversary—comprising programmes and activities that bring together people and stories that have helped shape the iconic arts centre fondly dubbed the Durian.

Visit www.esplanade.com for more information.

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Annex

Esplanade Gala: The Next Stage

9 Jun 2018, Sat

Cocktail reception starts at 6.15pm, dinner experience starts promptly at 7pm

Esplanade Theatre

Themed *The Next Stage*, the inaugural Esplanade Gala is an exclusive dining experience in the magnificent Esplanade Theatre that takes guests on an intimate journey to the heart of Esplanade and its people.

Lines are blurred between audience, performers and space as guests dine on stage in this site-specific experience that will also showcase a rarely-seen side of Esplanade. The night's menu will be an exquisite four-course meal put together by Conrad Centennial Singapore.

Funds raised during the Esplanade Gala will go a long way towards its next stage as a performing arts centre for everyone, helping it build its much-needed medium-sized theatre.

To be completed in 2021, this new theatre will be situated prominently along its busy waterfront. It will help support the next generation of Singapore and Asian artists, as they create new works that tell our stories and those of our children and grandchildren. With it, Esplanade will also be able to touch even more lives, making the arts more accessible especially to our young and seniors.

\$15,000 for a table of 10

All contributions to the Esplanade Gala are 250% tax deductible.

Esplanade is a not-for-profit organisation, a registered Charity and an Institution of a Public Character.