

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Esplanade Breaks New Ground with Singtel Waterfront Theatre**

*A new theatre for the next generation of Singapore artists and audiences*



*In the photo (left to right): NADI Singapora Managing Director, Mohd Yaziz Mohd Hassan; Esplanade Chairman, LEE Tzu Yang, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, Grace FU; Singtel Group CEO, CHUA Sock Koong; Child Talent, Gwyneth LOY & her father, Esplanade Associate Artist, Ian LOY; Esplanade CEO, Yvonne THAM, and Emcee, Sharul CHANNA*

**SINGAPORE, 18 June 2019** – Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay officially broke ground today for the construction of its new 550-seat theatre situated along its busy waterfront. In appreciation of [Singtel's generous donation of S\\$10 million](#), the performance venue will be named **Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade**. Opening in 2021, the new theatre will fill the gap between Esplanade's large venues and smaller studio spaces, and enable the national arts centre to further support future generations of artists and arts groups to create new works that tell Singapore and Asian stories and widen its engagement with various communities.

Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, Ms Grace Fu who officiated the groundbreaking ceremony of the Singtel Waterfront Theatre said, “As Singapore’s national performing arts centre, Esplanade plays a key role in nurturing our talents and bringing people from all walks of life together through the arts. The new Singtel Waterfront Theatre will support Esplanade in developing and presenting a greater diversity of productions for everyone to enjoy. It will also serve as a launch pad for homegrown artistes and arts groups to scale up their productions for bigger audiences, both in Singapore and overseas.”

Ms Chua Sock Koong, Singtel Group CEO said, “It has been a year since we made a commitment to help develop Esplanade’s exciting new medium-sized waterfront theatre and today, we are extremely pleased to witness the groundbreaking ceremony that marks a significant milestone for the project. With this commitment, we’ve extended our support for the arts beyond the visual to include the performing arts. Singtel has always been an ardent supporter of the arts given our ongoing support for the National Gallery of Singapore and our own corporate art collection where we further champion local artists. We hope our contribution will encourage the next generation of performance artists who will bring fresh perspectives to issues that matter to people, and we very much look forward to the theatre’s completion in 2021.”

As construction begins for Singtel Waterfront Theatre, Esplanade is also launching a series of new fundraising initiatives, which are designed for a spectrum of supporters, from the general public, to philanthropists and foundations.

Mr Lee Tzu Yang, Chairman, The Esplanade Co Ltd, said, “We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our parent ministry MCCY, Principal Founding Donor Singtel, Founding Donors of Singtel Waterfront Theatre, and many others for supporting us in our next stage of development as Singapore’s national performing arts centre. To raise funds for our new theatre, we will add on to conventional fundraising to come up with innovative ways to create awareness for our new theatre and build affinity with our supporters. For example, we held our first-ever Gala on our Theatre stage in June last year, and organised *Backstage Pass With...* fundraising tours led by well-known Singapore artists.

“We are also launching a fundraising campaign called *Ground Up*, in conjunction with our groundbreaking ceremony today, for the public to help us break new ground for our next generation of artists and audiences, and donate to Esplanade’s new waterfront theatre at the same time. Our waterfront theatre’s Founding Donor, Bowen Enterprises Pte Ltd will be contributing a dollar-for-dollar matching donation of up to \$50,000 to encourage more people to participate in this *Ground Up* campaign. We also welcome individuals, philanthropists and

companies that wish to make a lasting contribution to the arts in Singapore to adopt a limited number of seats and various spaces at the Singtel Waterfront Theatre.”

In celebration of the development of the new theatre, Esplanade and its Mall tenant Makansutra Gluttons Bay have jointly organised The Food Stage, a special street food experience that features exclusive off-menu items such as 4 Cheese Murtabak, Carrot Cake “Fries” with BBQ Wings, Laksa Seafood Stew, Soft Shell Crab Mui Fan and many more. Makansutra has also pledged a donation of \$100,000 to Esplanade which will go towards Singtel Waterfront Theatre.

Please refer to the Annex for details on the fundraising initiatives. More information on Esplanade’s next stage of development and Singtel Waterfront Theatre is available on [www.esplanade.com/thenextstage](http://www.esplanade.com/thenextstage).

## About Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay

Esplanade is Singapore's national performing arts centre. Its year-round line-up of about 3,500 performances and activities presented by Esplanade, its collaboration partners and hirers include a diverse calendar of ticketed and non-ticketed programmes featuring dance, music, theatre, visual arts and more, making the arts accessible for everyone. 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.

Visit [www.esplanade.com](http://www.esplanade.com) for more information.

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Issued by *The Esplanade Co Ltd*.

For more information, please contact:

See Ling Ling  
Head, Communications  
The Esplanade Co Ltd  
Tel: 6828 8334  
Email: [slingling@esplanade.com](mailto:slingling@esplanade.com)

## Annex

### **Give to our Next Generation**

Support Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay's Next Stage

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



As Singapore's national performing arts centre, Esplanade brings our communities closer together, to inspire and to foster greater understanding through the arts. As a centre for everyone, we have welcomed artists and audiences of all backgrounds since we opened in 2002.

In our next stage of development, we will do even more for our future generations of artists and audiences. We will work closely with our artists to commission, produce and present more productions, especially those that tell Singapore and Asian stories. Our audiences—including children, youth, seniors and people with special needs—will have more opportunities to experience the joy and inspiration that the arts can bring.

This next stage of growth will be further enabled by the construction of a new waterfront theatre at Esplanade. Opening in 2021, this medium-sized venue will seat 550 people, filling the gap between our large venues and smaller studio spaces.

Esplanade is a charity and not-for-profit organisation, and much of what we do is made possible through the support and generosity of individuals and organisations who believe in our social mission. Support us as we seek to touch the lives of our next generation of artists and audiences.

## Ground Up

18 Jun – 18 Aug 2019

Donations from \$10

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



Help Esplanade break ground virtually and raise funds for its new Singtel Waterfront Theatre! Sitting on a 5,000 sqm site, the new 550-seat performance venue is a game changer for Esplanade. When it opens in 2021, not only will Esplanade be able to present a wider range of works, including those that are unsuitable for presentation in its large venues and smaller studios, it will also pave the way for new works by the next generation of Singapore and Asian artists to be presented on the international stage.

To help, simply play the *Ground Up* game and make a minimum donation of \$10 at [Giving.sg/esplanade/groundup](http://Giving.sg/esplanade/groundup). There are 5,000 plots of one-sqm land to be dug virtually, for a donation of \$10 per plot. With the waterfront theatre's Founding Donor, Bowen Enterprises Pte Ltd pledging to match the donations dollar for dollar, up to \$50,000, we hope to raise a total of \$100,000 through *Ground Up* to help build Esplanade's newest venue.

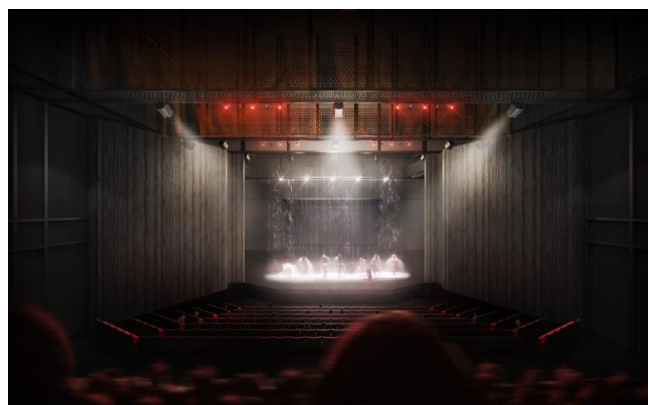
For more information, please visit [www.esplanade.com/thenextstage](http://www.esplanade.com/thenextstage).

## Gift a Seat

Donations from \$2,800 per seat\*

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

*\*A limited number of seats that allow for a plaque with an engraved message from the donor will be available.*



When you donate to our *Gift a Seat* initiative, you are helping us to build a new theatre space that will enable our diverse communities—from our young, to our seniors and people with special needs—to come together, to explore, and to better understand ourselves, our society and the world through the arts.

Donors will be acknowledged in the following ways:

- Recognition on Esplanade's donor boards
- Exclusive guided pre-opening tour
- Invitation to the Singtel Waterfront Theatre's *Opening Festival*
- Invitation to receive an *Esplanade & Me* Black Card

### **Adopt a Space**

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

Philanthropists and companies that wish to make a lasting contribution to the arts in Singapore are invited to adopt our spaces at the Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade.



#### Waterfront Linkway

Connecting the main building to the waterfront theatre, the linkway brings audiences to Esplanade's newest performance space.



#### Green Room

A casual space for artists to relax, get in their artistic zone and prepare for their show.



#### Dressing Rooms

Four large rooms and four smaller rooms for artists to get their hair, make-up and costumes perfect for their performance.

For more information on these fundraising initiatives, please contact Esplanade's Relationship Management team.

Email: [donations@esplanade.com](mailto:donations@esplanade.com)

Tel: +65 6828 8222

Web: [www.esplanade.com/thenextstage](http://www.esplanade.com/thenextstage)

*Images used are artists' impressions of Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade, for illustrative purposes only.*