



**Esplanade
Presents**

da:ns

An Esplanade Commission

LAPSE

by — **Melati Suryodarmo**
(Indonesia)

13 – 15 Oct 2023, Fri – Sun

Fri 7.30pm | Sat 5pm | Sun 5pm

Esplanade Annexe Studio

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 – 2019 and 2022. Esplanade is Singapore’s first Dementia-Friendly Arts Venue and a certified Dementia Go-To Point, as well as a Guide-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 for more information.

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CHOREOGRAPHER'S MESSAGE

For me, the value of dance goes beyond its physical experience. It is a ritual which connects our inner world with our socio-political and cultural reality. As a choreographer, I am taking movement and action in consideration within the whole context of a live space, as well as the detail of in between spaces. My interests lies with the significance of one's mental experience, delivered within the moving constellation of energy.

Lapse is one of my ongoing research projects which approaches the particularity of space between the human body and the non-human presence. By re-questioning the potentialities of chaos as a state of collective energy, *Lapse* is a shared moment which will bring us to the language of *rasa*, and our mindful senses.

Melati Suryodarmo

SYNOPSIS

Known for her bold, durational solo performances, acclaimed Indonesian visual and performance artist Melati Suryodarmo premieres *Lapse*, a new dance creation performed by collaborators from Indonesia, Taiwan and Singapore.

First released as two short films, this iteration marks the live performance premiere of *Lapse*. Here Suryodarmo dives into the metamorphic constellation of body and environment through evocative, visceral imagery suspended in factual absurdity. With sound design and live music by Yuen Chee Wai from Singapore music collective The Observatory, Suryodarmo orchestrates movement patterns that steer the group of performers to connect by failures while collectively attempting a new structure and alchemy of senses.



Drawing inspiration from by-products of chaos and situations that represent a gradual decline in the efficiency, stability, and overall functioning of society, *Lapse* signifies a transition from a state of order and coherence to one of disorder and confusion. Within this deep-rooted turbulence, Suryodarmo points to the symptomatic nature of systemic breakdowns, ethical decline and societal disillusionment of our time. While lapses in society begin to manifest through the decay of behaviour, diminishing social cohesion, ruptured institutions and the disintegration of moral frameworks, the work investigates the unpredictable space between reality and a vision of collective commitment towards change.

This production is presented as part of *da:ns focus – Connect Asia Now (CAN)*, a weekend that spotlights contemporary dance works by Asian artists focusing on distinct voices and creative impulses from the region.

1hr, no intermission

Lapse by Melati Suryodarmo is commissioned by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay (Singapore), Asia TOPA/Arts Centre Melbourne (Australia) and Taipei Performing Arts Center (Taiwan).



ASIA TOPA





Artist

Melati Suryodarmo

Melati Suryodarmo (b. 1969, Solo, Indonesia) graduated from the Hochschule für Bildende Künste Braunschweig, Germany. Her practice is informed by Japanese *butoh*, dance and history, among others. Her work is the result of ongoing research in the movements of the body and its

relationship to the self and the world. These are translated into photography, dance choreography, video and live performances. Suryodarmo has presented her works in locations all over the world, including Kiasma, Helsinki, Finland; MMCA, Gwacheon, South Korea; National Art Centre Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan; Para Site, Hong Kong; QAGOMA, Australia; and Singapore Art Museum. She has presented her choreographic pieces in various festivals, including at TPAM, BankArt, Yokohama (2016) Witch Dance Festival, Sophien Saele, Berlin (2016); Europalia Festival at KVS Brussels (2017); De Singel, Anwerp; Frankfurt LAB, Frankfurt (2015) and Indonesia Dance Festival, Jakarta Theatre, (2016).

In 2019, she created *Orfeus* a dance piece based on Goenawan Mohamad's poetry, performed at Salihara Jakarta. In December 2019, she directed and choreographed *Opera Gandari*, an opera composed by Tony Prabowo at Graha Bakti Budaya, Jakarta Art Centre, Taman Ismail Marzuki, Jakarta. Since 2007, Suryodarmo has been organising PALA and Undisclosed Territory, both annual performance art

festivals, in Solo, Indonesia. In 2012, she founded Studio Plesungan, an art space for performance artists. She was the Artistic Director of the Jakarta Biennale 2017, and since 2021 she has been working as Artistic Director of the Indonesia Bertutur, the art and culture festival presented by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia.



Performer and Rehearsal Coach **Razan Wirjosandjojo**

Razan Wirjosandjojo completed his studies at the Dance Department, Indonesia Institute of the Arts, Surakarta in 2022. He began forming his artistic practice in dance by learning various disciplines from different spaces and communities in Jakarta from 2010 to 2017. Since moving to Solo in 2018, he has been learning dance, performance, and visual art with Melati Suryodarmo. Through this intensive engagement with Suryodarmo, he has broadened his perspective on the arts and brought these influences into his artistic practice in both performance and visual work. His choreographed works have been presented at On Stage (Solo, 2021), Imajitari Dance Film Festival (Jakarta, 2021), Galeri Nasional (Jakarta, 2022), Indonesia Bertutur (Borobudur, 2022), STRE@M (Singapore/Korea, 2022), and more. Currently, Razan is an active student and part-time staff of Studio Plesungan.



Performer

Lai Yu-Feng

Born in Chiayi, Taiwan, Lai Yu-Feng is currently majoring in choreography at the Institute of Dance, Taipei University of the Arts. Continuously exploring the authenticity of dance, he has been actively engaging in dialogue with virtual art and hopes to define a creative language and direction that combines dance, people, and technology. Yu-Feng's choreographed works have been featured at Chiayi New Style Choreography and Dance in Asia 2018 organised by Century Contemporary Dance Company. He has also explored mediums such as painting, video and performance art through collaborations with independent artists Liou Sin-Yi (*Sound Line*), and Melati Suryodarmo (*Lapse*). With Century Contemporary Dance Company, he has performed Yao Shu-Fen's *Les Noces/Le Sacre Du Printemps*, *Wings of Desire*, *The age of silence*, *Far-Near*, and *The Chronicle of Silence* as well as Chen Wei-Ning's *The Present and Rouge*.



Performer

Mekratingrum Hapsari

Mekratingrum Hapsari lives and works in Surakarta. She is a dancer and choreographer trained in hip hop, contemporary dance and traditional dance. Her choreographed works include *Daring* (2018), *Thank You* (2021), *A Day to Remember* (2021), and a dance film *Satu Garis Menurun* (2021).

Hapsari has participated in several local and international dance platforms, including a residency at La Biennale Collage Danza in Venice 2018, where she performed works by Marie Chouinard, director of the 2018 Biennale College Danza, and Daina Ashbee from Canada. She has also performed in works by Melati Suryodarmo, Garin Nugroho, Otniel Tasman, and Ari Rudenko. From 2021 to 2022, Hapsari participated in *Bodies of Care*, a project led by LIGNA (Hamburg) and supported by the Goethe Institute Indonesia and Sasikirana Bandung. In 2023, she participated in The Paper Bird Project, supported by the British Council Indonesia and the Padepokan Seni Bagong Kussudiardja (PSBK).



Performer

Gabriela Hasianna

Gabriela Hasianna received her degree from the Department of Dance, Institut Seni Indonesia Surakarta in 2023. In 2015, she was part of the dance group Litlee, based in Bogor. In 2018, Gabriela started learning Javanese classical dance and contemporary dance. She has been participating in Melati

Suryodarmo's intensive class at Studio Plesungan since 2021. Some works she has created include: *Obsesi* (2021) and *Reception* (2022). As a dancer, Gabriela has participated in productions including *Mighty Indonesia* (2020) by Eko Supriyanto, *Arah* (2020) and *PULANG* (2021) by Menthari Ashia, *Nyorog* (2021) and *Waktu Ku Kecil, Tidak Besar* (2023) by Annastasya Verina, and *Ruwatan Bumi* (Indonesia Bertutur, 2022).



Sound Designer and Musician **Yuen Chee Wai**

Yuen Chee Wai (Singapore) is a musician, artist, designer, and curator. Often inspired by perspectives glimpsed through the filmic eye and photographic lens, Yuen's stylistic oeuvre in improvised music is marked by internalised reflections on memory and loss, invisibility, and indeterminacy.

His latest research interests revolve around mycology and caves.

In 2008, together with Otomo Yoshihide (Japan), Ryu Hankil (South Korea), and Yan Jun (China), he formed FEN (Far East Network), an improvised music quartet focusing on the multi-faceted networks and collaborations between musicians and artists in Asian countries.

He is also a member of The Observatory, in which he plays guitar, synth and electronics. He tours extensively with FEN and The Observatory, and has presented at MIMI Festival, Lausanne Underground Music and Film Festival, All Ears Festival, Ftarrri Festival, Gwangju Biennale and CTM Festival.



Lighting Designer **Adrian Tan**

Since graduating from the LASALLE College of the Arts in 2006, Adrian has been designing shows that have been staged locally and internationally. His work spans a wide spectrum of the performing arts and outdoor light installations.

As one of Singapore's most sought-after lighting designers, he has worked extensively across various disciplines in performing arts, and more recently ventured into architectural design and installations. He has also had the opportunity to work on multi-disciplinary entertainment projects such as collaborations with Disney for Star Wars May the Fourth Festival. A collaboration with the UK's prominent landscape artist Tom Massey for the Singapore Garden Festival 2018 also led to a win in the Best Indoor Lighting Award during the festival.

Several of his theatre works have received theatre awards, including shows like *Monkey Goes West* and *Another Country* by Wild Rice, *A Cage Goes In Search Of a Bird* by A Group Of People, *BITCH* for M1 Fringe Festival and *Dark Room*, which was commissioned by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Concept

Melati Suryodarmo

Production Management

Studio Plesungan

Choreography

Melati Suryodarmo

Technical and Stage Manager

Yasmina Zulkarnain

Installation

Melati Suryodarmo

Production Assistant

Achri Hendratno

Performed by

Razan Wirjosandjojo

Mekratingrum Hapsari

Gabriela Hasianna

Lai Yu-Feng

Technical Assistant

Annastasya Verina

Sound System Design

Yong Rong Zhao

Sound Design
and Live Music

Yuen Chee Wai

Special Thanks to

Nibroll (Tokyo)

Century Contemporary

Dance Company (Taipei)

Dai Wen Chen (Taipei/Hongkong)

Retno Sulistyorini (Surakarta)

Kristiyanto (Surakarta)

Naoki Iwata – Skank (Tokyo)

Shu-Feng Yao (Taipei)

Lighting Design

Adrian Tan

Costume Design

Melati Suryodarmo

Rehearsal Coach

Razan Wirjosandjojo

Production

Studio Plesungan (Karanganyar)

Commissioned by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay (Singapore), Asia TOPA/Arts Centre Melbourne (Australia) and Taipei Performing Arts Center (Taiwan).

LEARN MORE ABOUT MELATI SURYODARMO



Performing Worlds: an artist tour and talk with Melati Suryodarmo (Indonesia)

14 Oct 2023, Sat, 2pm
Jendela (Visual Arts Space)

Go on a guided tour of Melati Suryodarmo's solo exhibition led by the artist herself and get insights into her artistic practice through a dialogue that follows.

Free by registration



Fracture by Melati Suryodarmo (Indonesia)

29 Sep 2023 - 7 Jan 2024
Jendela (Visual Arts Space)

Presented as part of Visual Arts at Esplanade, *Fracture* explores how enduring human behaviours resonate with present-day lived realities.

Find out more at
www.esplanade.com/visualarts



Five Southeast Asian Women Choreographers To Watch

Female bodies have always been subject to scrutiny—more so than ever in dance. In Southeast Asia, female dance creators draw inspiration from their socio-political landscapes, using dance to challenge perceptions about identity, sexuality, gender, and labor. Read about the five remarkable female choreographers whose nimble footsteps are leaving an indelible mark along the shores of Southeast Asia on *Esplanade Offstage*.

[**Read More**](#)



Propositions for Different (Better) Worlds

Melati Suryodarmo's *Lapse* and Kornkarn Rungsawang's *Mali Bucha: Dance Offering* vastly differ in choreographic expressions, but they intersect in concerns for their immediate communities and burning issues about the world we live in. Find out more as they invite us to reimagine more ideal situations, environments and communities in an interview with dramaturg Lim How Ngean on *Esplanade Offstage*.

[Read More](#)



An interview with Melati Suryodarmo and her collaborators

How does one define order and chaos? How do the natural world and human society intertwine? From her home studio in Solo, Indonesia, acclaimed visual and performance artist Melati Suryodarmo shares her artistic process in the creation of her new choreographic work, *Lapse*, alongside insights from her collaborators Yuen Chee Wai (The Observatory) and Adrian Tan.

Watch Now



ON FILM: LAPSE

Filmic iterations of *Lapse* by Melati Suryodarmo

Available to watch for a limited time.

Watch Now

About da:ns focus

After 17 years of da:ns festival, Esplanade's beloved dance platform transforms into an exciting year-round season of five themed weekends. Experience interconnected programmes that offer their own counterpoints, dialogues and encounters in a focused exploration.

EveryBody

14 – 16 Apr 2023

Focusing on dance with inclusivity, diversity and participation, *EveryBody* encourages “everybody” and “every body” to experience dance.

Body Language

5 – 7 May 2023

Body Language focuses on the interplay between dance and text and examines the dynamics when these forms meet.

CAN – Connect Asia Now

13 – 15 Oct 2023

A spotlight on contemporary dance works by Asian artists, this gathering focuses on distinct voices and creative impulses from the region.

FL/OW – The FULL OUT Weekend

1 – 3 Dec 2023

Go FULL OUT with diverse facets of street dance through performances, battles and workshops. Expand your idea of what street dance can be beyond the conventional.

Ballet by the Bay

22 – 24 Mar 2024

A ballet lovers' weekend of classics and neo-classical works. Be inspired by world-class productions and be introduced to new perspectives on this celebrated art form.

MORE PROGRAMMES AT DA:NS FOCUS - CONNECT ASIA NOW (CAN)



13 – 15 Oct, Fri – Sun
Fri & Sat, 7.30pm | Sun, 3pm
Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade

Known for their distinctive minimalist style and precision in movement, TAO Dance Theater makes their long-awaited return to Singapore with the Southeast Asian premiere of *13* and *14*.

Tickets from \$35.



TAO Dance Theater Circular Movement Workshop

14 Oct, Sat, 2pm
Esplanade Rehearsal Studio

Gain insights into the Circular Movement System, the signature movement vocabulary of the acclaimed TAO Dance Theater.

\$30 (Pre-registration is required)

AN ESPLANADE COMMISSION

MALI BUCHA: DANCE OFFERING

BY KORNKARN
RUNGSAWANG
(Thailand)

Photo Credit: Bernie Ng

13 – 15 Oct, Fri – Sun
Fri, 9pm | Sat, 7.30pm | Sun, 3pm
Esplanade Theatre Studio

Cross material and virtual worlds with up-and-coming choreographer Kornkarn Rungsaawang in this ritual-inspired performance that combines dance, augmented reality and virtual reality. Audience members will be able to view, make wishes and offer flowers to the digital shrine on a mobile app specially designed for the performance.

Tickets from \$24.



Photo Credit: Bernie Ng



Photo Credit: Bernie Ng

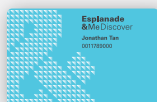


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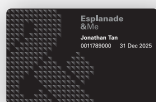
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you spend \$500



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Esplanade is a charity and not-for-profit organisation.
Help us bring the joy and inspiration of the arts to
different communities, including the underserved.

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- Valid receipt must be presented to qualify for redemption.
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- Participating merchants reserve the right to amend the terms and conditions without prior notice.

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Esplanade gives our heartfelt thanks

*to our Esplanade partner, arts benefactor, donors and sponsors for believing in our vision to be a performing arts centre for everyone. They made all these possible!**



4,562

activities took place at Esplanade.



3,354

 Free

1,057

 Paid

3,260,515

People attended our activities at the centre.



Free

1,487,680

Paid

287,931



602

 Activities

12,059

 Participants

We believe that everyone should be able to experience the joy of the arts, including children, youth, seniors, migrant workers and individuals with special needs. Our community engagement activities bring the arts to those in need.

*Figures for Esplanade's activities from Apr 2022 to Mar 2023.



Your contribution* will make a difference.

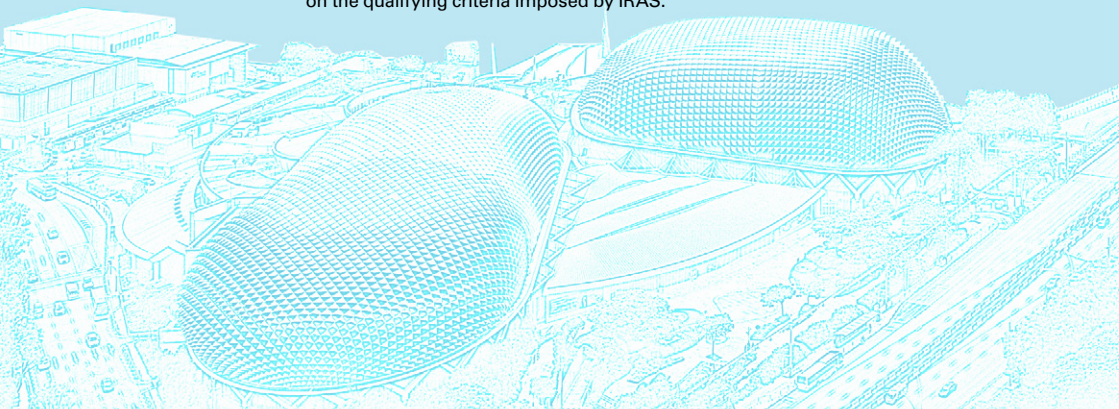
On behalf of the communities we serve, thank you!

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To find out more, email us at donations@esplanade.com or speak with us at 6828 8321.

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With Gratitude

Esplanade –Theatres on the Bay is a charity, a not-for-profit organisation and Singapore’s national performing arts centre. We seek to entertain, engage, educate and inspire through the arts.

We thank everyone who has helped us bring joy, inspiration and positive impact to Singaporeans from all walks of life by supporting the arts and Esplanade.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes especially to our Donors and Sponsors, for their steadfast belief in our mission and for their generous support.

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Join us in sharing the joy of the arts and help us reach more communities in need.

We believe that an experience with the arts is special and that with your generous support, more people will get a chance to enjoy the arts. Join us in sharing the joy of the arts and help us reach more communities in need.



Esplanade also receives grants from the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, as well as support for our Community Programmes from the Tote Board Family, comprising Tote Board, Singapore Pools and Singapore Turf Club.

“

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”

Totally Anonymous Person
(who is not related to www.esplanade.com/offstage)



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