



**Esplanade  
Presents**

**da:ns**

*Melissa Hamilton's*  
**INTERNATIONAL BALLET STARS GALA**

(Various countries)

FEATURING

Melissa Hamilton &  
Ryoichi Hirano  
(The Royal Ballet)

Yasmine Naghdi &  
Xander Parish  
(The Royal Ballet/  
The Norwegian  
National Ballet)

Madoka Sugai &  
Alessandro Frola  
(Hamburg Ballet)

Mackenzie Brown &  
Martí Fernández Paixà  
(Stuttgart Ballet)

Singapore Ballet



23 & 24 MAR 2024

SAT, 8PM • SUN, 3PM • ESPLANADE THEATRE

# 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](http://Esplanade.com) for more information.

## Board Members

Mr Lee Tzu Yang (Chairman)  
Mr Lim Ming Yan (Deputy Chairman)  
Ms Yvonne Tham (CEO)  
Ms Janet Ang  
Mr Lee Eng Beng  
Ms Lee Huay Leng  
Dr Lee Tung Jean  
Mr Lee Woon Shiu

Mrs Clara Lim-Tan  
Ms Lin Diaan-Yi  
Mr Daryl Neo  
Ms Rahayu Buang  
Ms Rika Sharma  
Mr Shekaran Krishnan  
Mr Sim Hwee Cher  
Mr Suhaimi Zainul Abidin

Esplanade is a proud member of



**AAPPAC**  
Association of Asia Pacific  
Performing Art Centres  
[www.aappac.com](http://www.aappac.com)



# CONTENTS

**04** SPONSOR'S MESSAGE

**06** MESSAGE FROM  
MELISSA HAMILTON

**07** SYNOPSIS

**09** PROGRAMME

**17** DANCERS BIOGRAPHIES

**30** PRODUCTION AND  
CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

**32** PRODUCTION CREDITS

**34** SPECIAL THANKS FROM  
HAMILTON CHRISTOU  
PRODUCTIONS

# SPONSOR'S MESSAGE



BNP Paribas is proud to be the Principal Sponsor of Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay's dance programmes for the fourth consecutive year. This year, we are particularly pleased to support the *da:ns focus - Ballet by the Bay* presentation of Melissa Hamilton's International Ballet Stars Gala.

This spectacular showcase of international stars from the most reputable dance companies around the world also features Singapore Ballet, for which BNP Paribas is also partner.

The Bank's avid support for dance in Singapore is in line with the BNP Paribas Foundation's aim to promote the international mobility of artists and to facilitate the development of their work. Supporting the arts for over 40 years with passion and fidelity, the Foundation marked the start of an extraordinarily fruitful adventure with choreographers, artists, and key institutions by nurturing creativity and fostering a culture where artistic excellence thrives.

The Foundation strives to breathe more dance into our daily lives and to create shared experiences with as many people as possible. Please join me as we celebrate the artists and their ability to tell stories without words—a testament to the power of art to transcend boundaries and touch the soul.

**Joris Dierckx**

Regional Head for Southeast Asia

BNP Paribas

# MESSAGE FROM

*Melissa Hamilton*

First Soloist, The Royal Ballet

Artistic Lead, *Melissa Hamilton's International Ballet Stars Gala*

I first travelled to Singapore in 2017 for ballet education outreach and to teach masterclasses to Singapore ballet students. I immediately fell in love with Singapore, its people and amazing setting. I eagerly accepted the opportunity to return in 2022, where I had the pleasure of dancing on the Esplanade stage for the first time and felt so privileged to be able to perform in beautiful surroundings to such a warm audience.

A dream was sparked at that moment, to produce and dance my own show, bringing to this fantastic theatre, ballet at its best, from around the world. I wanted to collate and showcase some of the amazing dancers, choreography, and creations that I have been involved in and inspired by over the years, at The Royal Ballet London and international stages, and share them with you. This culminated in me forming my own production company, Hamilton Christou Productions, with my husband Michael Christou, and delivering, dancing and producing this amazing ensemble you see here today. A start of a journey that I am honoured that you can share with me in its inception.

# SYNOPSIS

A spectacle filled with excitement, emotive beauty and physical prowess, *Melissa Hamilton's International Ballet Stars Gala* brings some of today's brightest stars from the international ballet world to the Esplanade stage.

Witness the wonder of world-renowned dance artists from the most revered dance companies in the world: The Royal Ballet, The Norwegian National Ballet and Stuttgart Ballet, with the Singapore Ballet in this star-studded weekend of performances.

Audiences from around the world are invited to revel in the performances of stars like Melissa Hamilton, Ryoichi Hirano, Yasmine Naghdi, Xander Parish, Madoka Sugai, Alessandro Frola, Mackenzie Brown and Martí Fernández Paixà, who will grace the stage with excerpts from well-loved ballet classics, iconic company heritage pieces and innovative new works from today's most inspiring choreographers.

Complemented by an ensemble appearance from Singapore Ballet, this performance is set to be a magical one, a showcase of how dance is an art form with the ability to tell stories without words, inspiring reflection and connection that transcend day-to-day life.



This programme is part of *da:ns focus – Ballet by the Bay*, 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.

(2hrs 30mins, including 20mins intermission)





# PROGRAMME

## ACT I

### ***The Sleeping Beauty, Rose Adagio***

Choreography by Marius Petipa

Music by Pyotr Il'yich Tchaikovsky

Performed by Yasmine Naghdi, Xander Parish, Ryoichi Hirano,  
Satoru Agetsuma and Timothy Ng

From Marius Petipa's *The Sleeping Beauty*, the *Rose Adagio* is performed by Princess Aurora with four suitors who have travelled from across the world to ask for her hand in marriage. Each suitor takes turns to present and partner Princess Aurora, offering her a single, beautiful rose each time. It is one of the most recognisable and iconic pieces in classical ballet repertoire, which showcases the brilliance of the ballerina's strength, balance and control.

## ***La Luna***

Choreography by Maurice Béjart

Music by Johann Sebastian Bach

Performed by Melissa Hamilton

A powerful and rarely performed female solo by Maurice Béjart, *La Luna* was originally created for Luciana Savignano, and later performed around the world by the extraordinary Sylvie Guillem. *La Luna* is currently showcased and interpreted by Melissa Hamilton. This solo is a mysteriously paradoxical piece, in which melancholy permeates serenity, power fuses with vulnerability, and determination is fuelled by grace.

---

## ***Lady of the Camellias 'Purple' Pas de deux***

Choreography by John Neumeier

Music by Frédéric Chopin

Costumes by Jürgen Rose

Performed by Madoka Sugai and Alessandro Frola

*Lady of the Camellias* is John Neumeier's acknowledged masterpiece set to Frédéric Chopin's score, which premiered at the Hamburg Ballet in 1978. This excerpt between the ballet's lead characters, Marguerite and Armand, is a passionate exchange filled with drama. The dichotomy between a courtesan's true love and a compulsive desire for riches, culminates in a conflict of choice for the couple.

## **A Dialog**

Choreography by Roman Novitzky

Music by Nina Simone, "Sinnerman"

Performed by Mackenzie Brown and Martí Fernández Paixà

This award-winning contemporary *pas de deux* by Roman Novitzky is choreographed to Nina Simone's iconic score *Sinnerman*. The dance depicts a couple in crisis, utilising every part of the dancers' bodies with an original physicality, to keep up with sharp changes in tempo and gestures. The dynamism follows the arc of Simone's track, keeping audiences on edge.

---

## **Giselle Pas de deux - Act II**

Choreography by Marius Petipa, Jean Coralli, Jules Perrot

Music by Adolphe Adam

Performed by Melissa Hamilton and Xander Parish

*Giselle* transformed the dance world when it premiered in 1841 in Paris and remains as one of the most popular Romantic classical ballets of all time. The Act II *pas de deux* between Giselle and Albrecht is the ultimate gesture of forgiveness and representation of the transcendent power of self-sacrificial love.

## **Spring Waters Pas de deux**

Choreography by Asaf Messerer

Music by Music by Sergei Rachmaninoff

Performed by Yasmine Naghdi and Ryoichi Hirano

This vibrant *pas de deux*, full of concentrated, athletic energy, was choreographed by Asaf Messerer to music by Sergei Rachmaninoff. An astounding piece that showcases thrilling and virtuosic partner work, this *pas de deux* certainly conjures up that sense of joy and anticipation felt in the first days of spring bursting to life after a long winter.

---

## **ACT II**

### **Momentum**

Choreography by Choo-San Goh

Music by Sergei Prokofiev

Performed by Kwok Min Yi, Kana Minegishi, Esen Thang, Nanase Tanaka, Stephanie Joe, Satoru Agetsuma, Kevin Zong, Timothy Ng, Shan Del Vecchio, Takeaki Miura (Singapore Ballet)

*Momentum*, choreographed by Choo-San Goh, was created for the Joffrey Ballet and was inspired by the composition of Sergei Prokofiev's *Piano Concerto No. 1*. The cast features ten dancers, with two main couples, setting a sleek and quick

pace to the overall dynamics of the ballet's choreography. *Momentum* was awarded the First Prize for choreography at the Varna International Ballet Competition in 1983. It was originally staged for Singapore Dance Theatre on the occasion of a joint performance with Hong Kong Ballet in 1992.

---

## **Qualia**

Choreography by Wayne McGregor

Music by Scanner

Performed by Melissa Hamilton and Ryoichi Hirano

*Qualia* was originally commissioned by The Royal Ballet, Covent Garden

The word *Qualia* is defined as a raw and sensory experience, which this *pas de deux* imbues. A contemporary ballet, *Qualia* marked Wayne McGregor's debut on The Royal Opera House stage, and was choreographed for dancers from The Royal Ballet in 2003. This sensorial *pas de deux* is a tempestuous meeting—set to Scanner's percussive and hard-hitting music, it is an impressively physical piece pushing both dancers' bodies to their maximum.

## ***Romeo and Juliet* 'Balcony' Pas de deux**

Choreography by John Cranko

Music by Sergei Prokofiev

Performed by Mackenzie Brown and Martí Fernández Paixà

Arguably the most well-known tragic love story, *Romeo and Juliet* was choreographed by John Cranko and is set to Sergei Prokofiev's score for the Stuttgart Ballet in 1962. A lyrical and airborne *pas de deux*, the Balcony *pas de deux* is the most anticipated scene in this ballet, filled with high lifts and ecstatic flowing lines, truly representing the feelings of enraptured young love.

---

## ***Ballet 101***

Choreography by Eric Gauthier

Performed by Xander Parish

*Ballet 101* is a one-of-a-kind comedic solo that has the dancer communicating with the audience. Choreographed by Eric Gauthier, this piece presents the steps that make up ballet repertoire in the most light-hearted and fun manner. Expect many instantly recognisable ballet references in this piece that displays precise technical skill, mixed with immense charm and charisma.

## ***La Esmeralda* Pas de deux**

Choreography by Marius Petipa

Music by Cesare Pugni

Performed by Madoka Sugai and Alessandro Frola

*La Esmeralda* is a ballet inspired by Victor Hugo's 1831 novel *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*. Originally created by Jules Perrot, the ballet was revived in 1886 by the influential French-Russian ballet master Marius Petipa. Set to music by Cesare Pugni, the full-length ballet is seldom performed outside of Russia, but the *La Esmeralda pas de deux* is often performed by companies all around the world. Filled with technical prowess, skill and excitement, this piece has become a much admired and well-known dance.

---

## ***Manon 'Bedroom'* Pas de deux**

Choreography by Sir Kenneth MacMillan

Music by Jules Massenet

Performed by Melissa Hamilton and Ryoichi Hirano

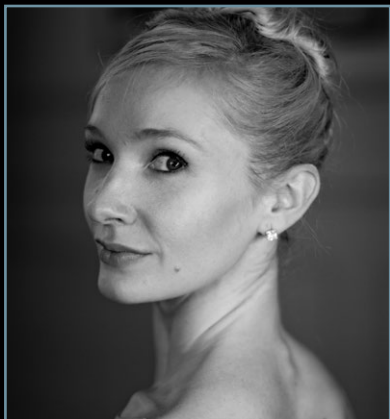
An unquestionable favourite of dancers and audiences alike, the Bedroom *pas de deux* is from Sir Kenneth Macmillan's three-act masterpiece *Manon*, and was first performed by The Royal Ballet in London in 1974. This beloved classic is a *pas*



*de deux* between Manon and Des Grieux, who are filled with the fresh and uninhabited feelings of new love, and swept away by the romance of Jules Massenet's dramatic score.



# DANCERS BIOGRAPHIES



## **Melissa Hamilton**

Melissa Hamilton is a First Soloist of The Royal Ballet. She won the 2007 Youth American Grand Prix and that year joined the Royal Ballet Company as an Artist, promoted to First Artist in 2009, Soloist in 2010 and First Soloist in 2013.

Her roles with The Royal Ballet include Manon, Juliet, Mary Vetsera (*Mayerling*), Raven Girl, the Sugar Plum Fairy, Queen of the Dryads, Olga (*Onegin*), the Lilac Fairy and Princess Florine (*Sleeping Beauty*), Peasant Pas and Zulme (*Giselle*), Fairy Godmother and Summer Fairy (*Cinderella*), Pas de Trois and Big Swans (*Swan Lake*). She has also performed leading roles in *Agon*, *Apollo*, *Serenade*, *Four Temperaments Rubies*, *Afternoon of a Faun*, *The Concert*, *Requiem*, *The Judas Tree*, *Elite Syncopations*, among many others.

Created roles include Wayne McGregor's *Infra*, *Acis and Galatea*, *Limen*, *Carbon Life*, *Woolf Works*, *Yugen*, *The Dante Project* and *Untitled*, 2023, David Dawson's *The Human Seasons*, Christopher Wheeldon's *Trespass* and Kyle Abraham's *Optional Family: A Divertissement*.

As a guest principal with Semperoper Ballett, she made her role debuts of Odette/Odile (*Swan Lake*), Aurora (*The Sleeping Beauty*) and Nikiya (*La Bayadere*) and has appeared as a guest with Teatro alla Scala, New National Theatre Tokyo, Birmingham Royal Ballet and Polish National Ballet.

Other repertoire includes Ben Stevenson's *Three Preludes*, Matz Ek's *She was Black*, Maurice Béjart's *La Luna* and Wayne McGregor's *Tree of Codes*.

Awards include YAGP Grand Prix, Gold Medal at Seoul International Ballet competition and the Critics' Circle Award for Outstanding Female Performance 2009.



## Ryoichi Hirano

Japanese dancer Ryoichi Hirano is a Principal of The Royal Ballet. He joined the Company as a Prix de Lausanne apprentice in 2001 and became an Artist in 2002, promoted to First Artist in 2007, Soloist in 2008, First Soloist in 2012 and Principal in 2016.

His repertory with The Royal Ballet includes Albrecht (*Giselle*), Prince Siegfried (*Swan Lake*), Prince Florimund (*The Sleeping Beauty*), Leontes and Polixenes (*The Winter's Tale*), Espada and Gamache (*Don Quixote*), Romeo, Tybalt and Paris (*Romeo and Juliet*), Onegin (*Onegin*), Jean de Brienne (*Raymonda Act III*), Crown Prince Rudolf (*Mayerling*), Prince (*The Prince of the Pagodas*, *The Nutcracker*), Rasputin and Officer (*Anastasia*), Witch (*Hansel and Gretel*), among many others.

Ryoichi has created roles for the Royal Ballet in Liam Scarlett's *Asphodel Meadows* and in Wayne McGregor's *The Dante Project*, *Infra* and *Obsidian Tear*.



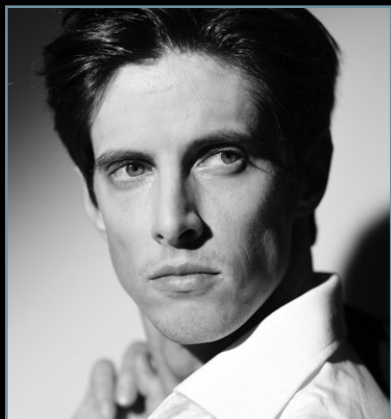
## Yasmine Naghdi

Yasmine Naghdi is a Principal of The Royal Ballet. She joined in 2010, was promoted to First Artist in 2012, Soloist in 2014, First Soloist in 2016 and Principal in 2017.

Her leading roles with the Company include Odette/Odile (*Swan Lake*), Princess Aurora (*The Sleeping Beauty*), Juliet (*Romeo and Juliet*), Tatiana (*Onegin*), Giselle, Cinderella, Kitri (*Don Quixote*), Gamzatti (*La Bayadère*), Swanilda (*Coppélia*), Baroness Mary Vetsera, Countess Marie Larish (*Mayerling*), Sugar Plum Fairy (*The Nutcracker*), Firebird (*The Firebird*), Mathilde Kschessinska (*Anastasia*), Tita (*Like Water for Chocolate*), among many others.

She created a role in Valentino Zucchetti's *Prima*.

Her further repertory includes *Le Corsaire* Grand Pas de deux, *Sylvia* Act III Pas de deux, *Le Parc* (Angelin Preljocaj), *Three Preludes* (Ben Stevenson) and *Ballet Imperial* (George Balanchine).



## **Xander Parish**

Xander was born in East Yorkshire and began dancing in Hull at age eight. He graduated from The Royal Ballet School with honours in 2005, joining The Royal Ballet along with his sister, Demelza. In 2010, Xander became the

first British dancer to be employed by The Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg. Xander was promoted to Principal Dancer in July 2017 after the opening night of *Swan Lake* during the Mariinsky Ballet's London season at Covent Garden.

His awards include the Positano Premia La Danza Léonide Massine Emerging Dancer on the International Scene Award (2014), Best Young Male Dancer at the 1st Taglioni European Ballet Awards (2014) and Outstanding Male Performance (Classical) for Apollo at the UK's Critics' Circle National Dance Awards (2014). In 2017, the University of Hull awarded Xander an Honorary Doctorate and in 2019 he was awarded an OBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours list for services to dance and UK-Russia Cultural Relations.

Xander has been a guest artist with companies including Stanislavsky Ballet, English National Ballet and American Ballet Theatre. In 2021, Xander launched balletclass.com, a website showcasing leading dancers demonstrating their own ballet and training classes. In August 2022, Xander joined The Norwegian National Ballet as a Principal. In November 2022, he became Artistic Director of Reunited in Dance, a project with the Segerstrom Center in California.

---



## **Madoka Sugai**

Japanese dancer Madoka Sugai is a Principal dancer with Hamburg Ballet. She joined the company in 2014, promoted to Soloist in 2017 and Principal in 2019.

Her repertoire with the company includes Peasant Pas de deux (*Giselle*), Cinderella (*A Cinderella Story*), Prudence Duvernoy (*Lady of the Camellias*), Princess Natalia (*Illusions – like Swan Lake*), Woman III (*Bernstein Dances*), Hermia (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Ophelia (*Hamlet 21*), Sylvia (*Sylvia*), Princess Aurora, Princess Florine, Mercury and



Aurora, the Dawn (*The Sleeping Beauty*, 2021), Louise and The Beautiful Girl from Granada (*The Nutcracker*), Bronislava Nijinsky (*Nijinsky*), Woman in Apricot – Dances at a Gathering (*Jerome Robbins*), Kitri (*Rudolf Nurejev after Marius Petipa*), Princess Perdita (*The Winter's Tale*).

Other roles are *Soldier Songs* (Des Knaben Wunderhorn), *The Fifth Symphony of Gustav Mahler*, *Vaslav*, *Broadway's Pavlova*, *Saint Matthew Passion*, *Third Symphony of Gustav Mahler*, *Préludes CV*, *Brahms-Schoenberg Quartet* (Balanchine).

Created roles include A Mystic and A young Woman in *Dona Nobis Pacem* and solos in *Beethoven Project*, *Ghost Light*, *Beethoven Project II*, *Solo for Two* (Konstantin Tselikov), *Little Requiem* (Aleix Martínez) and *Götterboten* (Aljoscha Lenz). Madoka's awards include *Prix de Lausanne* 2012 and the Dr. Wilhelm Oberdörffer Prize 2018.



## Alessandro Frola

Italian dancer Alessandro Frola is a Principal of Hamburg Ballet. He joined the company in 2019, promoted to Soloist in 2022 and to Principal in 2023.

His repertoire with the company includes Lysander (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Endymion (*Sylvia*), Prince Désiré, Catalabutte and Cupid's Blessing (*The Sleeping Beauty*, 2021), Wolf Beifeld (*Liliom*), Frederick the Great (*Death in Venice*), Pas de deux (*A Cinderella Story*), Prince Siegfried and Prince Alexander in (*Illusions – like Swan Lake*), Love (*Bernstein Dances*), Mercutio (*Romeo and Juliet*), Allan Gray (*A Streetcar Named Desire*), Arlequin (*Carnaval*) and The Spirit of the Rose (*Le Spectre de la rose* in "*Nijinsky*").

Other roles include Saint Matthew Passion, Third Symphony of Gustav Mahler and *Préludes* CV. He created the role of *The Shadow* (*Dona Nobis Pacem*) and a role in *Peter and Igor*. Alessandro was awarded the Dr. Wilhelm Oberdörffer Prize 2023.



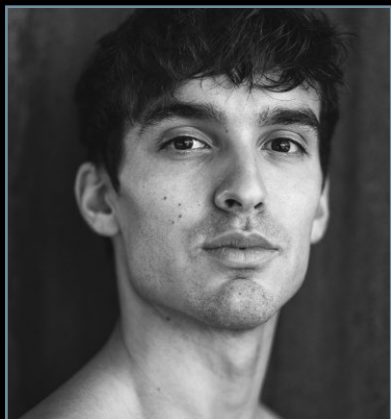
## Mackenzie Brown

Mackenzie Brown is a Principal of Stuttgart Ballet. She joined in 2020, promoted to Demi-Soloist 2021, Soloist in 2022 and Principal in October 2023.

Her repertoire with the company includes *Aurora* in *Aurora's Nap* (Johan Inger), *Blake Works I* (William Forsythe), *Bliss* (Johan Inger), *Bouillards* (John Cranko): *Les Fées sont d'exquises danseuses*, *Cassiopeia's Garden* (Christian Spuck), *Falling Angels* (Jiří Kylián), *Große Fuge* (Hans van Manen), *Initials R.B.M.E.* (John Cranko), *Princess Louise, Mayerling* (Kenneth MacMillan), *One of a Kind* (Jiří Kylián), *Olga, Onegin* (John Cranko), *Out of Breath* (Johan Inger), *Requiem* (Kenneth MacMillan), among many others.

She has created roles in *A Dialog* (Roman Novitzky), *Aurora's Nap* (Johan Inger), and *Einssein* (Mauro Bigonzetti), *In Esisto* (Vittoria Girelli): Solo, *Leisure* (Fabio Adorisio), *Nachtmerrie* (Marco Goecke), *Reflection/s* (Roman Novitzky): Solo, *Was bleibt* (Alessandro Giamonte).

Her awards include Prix de Lausanne 2019 gold medal, the Contemporary Dance Prize and the Audience Favourite Prize. She also won The Erik Bruhn Prize 2023.



## **Martí Fernández Paixà**

Spanish dancer Martí Fernández Paixà is a Principal with Stuttgart Ballet.

He joined the company as an apprentice in 2014/15, and one season later he was taken into the Corps de ballet. In 2016, he was promoted to Demi Soloist, Soloist in 2017 and became Principal at the beginning of the 2021/22 season.

Martí's repertory includes *Romeo, Paris and Benvolio*, *Romeo & Juliet* (Cranko); the title role in Demis Volpi's *Krabat*; Prince Desiré, Ali Baba and the Prince of the South, *The Sleeping Beauty* (Marcia Haydée); Onegin and Lensky in *Onegin* (Cranko); Allan Gray, *A Streetcar named Desire* (Neumeier); Colas, *La Fille mal Gardée* (Ashton); Man in Blue and Man in Purple, *Dances at a Gathering* (Robbins); Couple in White, *ForgottenLand* (Kylián); Apollo in Demis Volpi's *Death in Venice*; *Spring Waters* (Asaf Messerer); Le Jeune Homme et La Mort (Petit) in *Boléro* (Béjart). He has also performed leading roles in works by Kenneth MacMillan, Jiří Kylián, Hans van Manen, Edward Clug and Marco Goecke.

Created roles include the title role in Demis Volpi's *The Soldier's Tale* and the Young Syrian in his *Salome and Ascaresa* (Alessandro Giaquinto), *Cassiopeia's Garden* (Christian Spuck), *Naiad* (Douglas Lee), *Neurons* (Katarzyna Kozielska), *Patterns in ¾* (Edward Clug), *Petals* (Louis Stiens), *PS* (Katarzyna Kozielska), *Reflection/s* (Roman Novitzky): Solo, *Take Your Pleasure Seriously* (Katarzyna Kozielska).

---



Photo Credit: Bernie Ng

## Singapore Ballet

Singapore Ballet was founded as Singapore Dance Theatre in 1988 by Goh Soo Khim and Anthony Then. In 2002, the company graced the official opening of Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay with the opening performance of Boi Sakti's

*Reminiscing the Moon.* Singapore Ballet continues to have the privilege of performing in a world-class performing arts venue, exhilarating audiences with a myriad of repertoires. As Singapore's premier ballet company comprising of 38 Company dancers plus apprentices, the Company performs six seasons annually with three full ballet performances at the stage of Esplanade Theatre. The highlights of the Company's annual performance season include the widely-popular *Ballet Under the Stars* at Fort Canning Park and *Masterpiece in Motion*, as well as *Passages* Contemporary Season. The company also presents *Made in Singapore* through the choreographic workshop, where budding choreographers build on developing choreographic language through a sense of exploration.

The Company's repertoire ranges from classical to contemporary ballet, from renowned choreographers like Choo-San Goh, George Balanchine, Kinsun Chan, Val Caniparoli, Ma Cong, Edmund Stripe, Natalie Weir, Edwaard Liang, Nils Christie, Toru Shimazaki, Christina Chan, Timothy Harbour, François Klaus, Timothy Rushton, Pam Tanowitz and Loughlan Prior. In 2008, Janek Schergen was appointed Artistic Director. Under his leadership, the Company has made new achievements in the international and Singapore dance arena, including 43 world premieres, 22 company premieres, and numerous revivals of the Company's existing

repertoire. Singapore Ballet has captivated audiences in Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Mexico, China, Australia, France, United States, London, Laos, and Switzerland.

Singapore Ballet tours to Malaysia and Penang annually and has seen a growth in its dedicated support to the company. Through the invitation of Sadlers Wells, the Company has also performed at London's Singapore season at the Peacock Theatre. Seen to be a little Asiatic gem, "the Company's strength lies in a seamless transition between strong classical technique and contemporary movement," as described by Graham Watts of Ballet. Co magazine.

#### Dancers:

Kwok Min Yi

Kana Minegishi

Esen Thang

Nanase Tanaka

Stephanie Joe

Satoru Agetsuma

Kevin Zong

Timothy Ng

Shan Del Vecchio

Takeaki Miura



# PRODUCTION AND CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

## **Clement Cheong**

Lighting Designer

Originally a graphic artist, Clement Cheong became a lighting designer in 2006, triggered by the idea that lighting can paint a picture for an audience. Without formal training in theatre, Cheong started off as a lighting technician. To date, with over 18 years of experience in the industry, he has worked on a diverse range of projects, in smaller settings or at scale, from performances in music, dance and theatre to visual arts installations and TV presentations, in Singapore, China, Japan and in Southeast Asia.

---

## **Genevieve Peck**

Multimedia Designer

Genevieve graduated from The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, London with a BA(Hons) in Theatre Practice, specialising in Lighting and Projection/Video Design.

She has worked extensively on theatre productions in Singapore, including *Doubt: A Parable*, *People Places and Things*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Tango*, *The Effect* (Pangdemonium), *Four Horse Road*, *I Came At Last to the Seas*, *Lao Jiu: The Musical* 2017, *Liao Zhai Rocks!* 2016 (The Theatre Practice), *ubin*, *Both Sides Now* 2019, *Missing* (Drama Box), *Everything For You*, *Between You and Me*, *Lear is Dead*, *Art Studio* (Nine Years Theatre), *Lungs*, *The Sound Inside*, *The Lifespan of a Fact* (Singapore Repertory Theatre), *Three Years in the Life and Death of Land* (The Necessary Stage), as well as *The Commission* (Pangdemonium, SRT & Wild Rice).

---

## **Hamilton Christou Productions**

This gala is produced by Hamilton Christou Productions, founded by internationally acclaimed and celebrated British ballerina Melissa Hamilton of The Royal Ballet Company, London, and her husband Michael Christou, a renowned property developer and businessman. The company's mission is to create an inclusive global community of like-minded dance enthusiasts, showcasing the best of ballet through live performances.

[www.hamiltonchristouproductions.com](http://www.hamiltonchristouproductions.com)

# PRODUCTION CREDITS

## DANCERS

**Melissa Hamilton** and **Ryoichi Hirano**

(The Royal Ballet)

**Yasmine Naghdi** and **Xander Parish**

(The Royal Ballet / The Norwegian National Ballet)

**Madoka Sugai** and **Alessandro Frola**

(Hamburg Ballet)

**Mackenzie Brown** and **Martí Fernández Paixà**

(Stuttgart Ballet)

**Kwok Min Yi, Kana Minegishi, Esen Thang, Nanase Tanaka,  
Stephanie Joe, Satoru Agetsuma, Kevin Zong, Timothy Ng,  
Shan Del Vecchio, Takeaki Miura**

(Singapore Ballet)

ARTISTIC LEAD AND PRODUCER

**Melissa Hamilton**

PRODUCER

**Michael Christou**

LIGHTING DESIGN

**Clement Cheong**

MULTIMEDIA DESIGN

**Genevieve Peck**

PRODUCTION MANAGER

**Chim Sin Yee**

STAGE MANAGER

**Ching Ting Tan**

ASSISTANT PRODUCER FOR  
HAMILTON CHRISTOU PRODUCTIONS

**Hikaru Kobayashi**

# SPECIAL THANKS FROM HAMILTON CHRISTOU PRODUCTIONS

Hamilton Christou Productions would like to thank their sponsors who have supported *Melissa Hamilton's International Ballet Stars Gala* as part of *da:ns focus* at Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay and made this incredible opportunity possible.

- 1.61 London
- Arora Group

Melissa Hamilton would also like to thank:

- Kevin O'Hare, Director of The Royal Ballet, for his kind permission for The Royal Ballet dancers to be a part of these performances
- Christopher Saunders, The Royal Ballet rehearsal director
- Antoine Vereecken, Studio Wayne McGregor
- Michael Christou, Hamilton Christou Productions  
Special thanks to my husband and business partner, the key component to making these gala performances possible. I'm beyond grateful for his unwavering direction, support, vision and love.

# More programmes at *da:ns focus – Ballet by the Bay*

## MASTERCLASSES

Dance, learn and be inspired by world-renowned stars of The Royal Ballet in two exclusive masterclasses with Melissa Hamilton and Yasmine Naghdi on 24 March at the Esplanade Rehearsal Studio.



### Masterclass with Melissa Hamilton

9am

This masterclass is recommended for male and female dancers aged 10 and above, with at least five years of ballet training, or equivalent proficiency at RAD Grade Five level or higher.



### Masterclass with Yasmine Naghdi

11am

This masterclass is recommended for male and female dancers aged 13 and above, with at least eight years of ballet training, or equivalent proficiency at RAD Advanced One level or higher.

**\$70 per masterclass**

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)

## FREE PROGRAMMES



### Ballet 101: Decoding the Art Form for New Audience

by Etienne Ferrère, Rosa Park, Chihiro Uchida & Kenya Nakamura (Hong Kong, Singapore)

Learn more about this beloved art form from ballet experts, who will break down the foundations of the art form for new audience.

22 & 23 Mar, Fri & Sat  
7pm & 8.15pm  
Esplanade Concourse



Photo Credit: Michael Heng

### Impermanence

by Jeffrey Tan & National Contemporary Ballet (Singapore)

Choreographed in an unmistakable style that adorns the bedrock of classical ballet technique with the flair of neo-classical expression, *Impermanence* is a creative reflection on the ever evolving landscape of Singapore.

22 – 24 Mar  
Fri & Sat, 8pm & 9.15pm  
Sun, 7.30pm & 8.45pm  
DBS Foundation Outdoor  
Theatre at Esplanade



# 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.

---

## **EveryBody | 19 – 21 Apr 2024**

*EveryBody* challenges conventions by presenting high quality works and experiences focusing on inclusivity, diversity and participation.

## **CAN – Connect Asia Now | 4 – 6 Oct 2024**

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

## **Contemporary Dance | Nov/Dec 2024**

Lean into the evolving and open nature of contemporary dance and experience compelling international productions framed by a different concept or idea each year.

## **Salero Flamenco | 10 – 12 Jan 2025**

From lightning-fast footwork to intricate hand, arm and body movements, embrace the passion, soul and fervor of flamenco dance performed by some of the best musicians and dancers worldwide.

## **Ballet by the Bay | Feb/Mar 2025**

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.

The background is a vibrant collage of abstract shapes and musical motifs. In the top left, a purple violin with an orange bow is surrounded by blue concentric circles. To its right is a small orange musical note icon. Further right, a blue wavy line flows across the top. Below it, a purple musical note and two theatrical masks (one orange with a sad face, one purple with a happy face) are visible. In the bottom left, there's a purple wheel-like shape with a white star. In the bottom right, an orange drum with blue laces sits on a blue wave-like shape, with purple dots trailing behind it. The overall color palette consists of purple, blue, orange, and teal.

# THANK YOU FOR WATCHING

Help us make your next Esplanade experience even better by taking a moment to share your thoughts with us.

We look forward to creating more wonderful memories with you soon.

Scan and do the survey now!







**Esplanade  
Presents**

**da:ns**

as part of  
*da:ns focus*  
- *EveryBody*

MONICA BILL BARNES & COMPANY (USA)

# THE RUNNING SHOW

IN COLLABORATION WITH  
SINGAPORE DANCERS

"Thoughtfully crafted,  
enthusiastically performed and  
universally relatable to dancers  
and non-dancers alike."

– *Dance Cleveland*



20 & 21 APR 2024

SAT, 8PM | SUN, 3PM

SINGTEL WATERFRONT THEATRE AT ESPLANADE



**BOOK NOW**  
[www.esplanade.com/dans](http://www.esplanade.com/dans)

SISTIC Hotline: 6348 5555 / Group Booking: 6828 8389 or email  
boxoffice@esplanade.com. Admission age: 6 and above, unless otherwise stated.  
Ticket prices exclude SISTIC fees. Terms and conditions apply.

**\$35<sup>^</sup>**

LIMITED CONCESSIONS: \$25.60



**^Esplanade&Me Specials available**


Not a member? Esplanade&Me Discover is a free membership.  
Sign up now at [www.esplanade.com/membership](http://www.esplanade.com/membership)


  
**esplanade**  
theatres on the bay  
singapore

*da:ns*

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.

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

  [EsplanadeSG](https://www.facebook.com/EsplanadeSG)

 [EsplanadeSingapore](https://www.instagram.com/EsplanadeSingapore)  
[#esplanadesg](https://www.instagram.com/EsplanadeSingapore) [#mydurian](https://www.instagram.com/EsplanadeSingapore)



**Esplanade  
Presents**

**da:ns**

as part of  
*da:ns focus*  
- *EveryBody*

"Sometimes the simplest ideas are the most surprising."

- MOONEY ON THEATRE

# LISTEN TO SEE

RESTLESS DANCE THEATRE  
(AUSTRALIA)



19 – 21 APR 2024

FRI – SUN, VARIOUS TIMINGS

ESPLANADE CONCERT HALL CIRCLE 1 FOYER



**BOOK NOW**  
[www.esplanade.com/dans](http://www.esplanade.com/dans)

SISTIC Hotline: 6348 5555 / Group Booking: 6828 8389 or email  
boxoffice@esplanade.com. Admission age: 6 and above, unless otherwise stated.  
Ticket prices exclude SISTIC fees. Terms and conditions apply.

**\$35<sup>^</sup>**

LIMITED CONCESSIONS: \$25.60




**\*Esplanade&Me Specials available**



Not a member? Esplanade&Me Discover is a free membership.  
Sign up now at [www.esplanade.com/membership](http://www.esplanade.com/membership)


  
**esplanade**  
theatres on the bay  
singapore

*da:ns*

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.

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

  EsplanadeSG

 [EsplanadeSingapore](https://www.instagram.com/EsplanadeSingapore)  
[#esplanadesg](https://www.instagram.com/EsplanadeSingapore) [#mydurian](https://www.instagram.com/EsplanadeSingapore)





**Esplanade  
Presents**

**The Studios**

AN ESPLANADE PRODUCTION

# pass·ages



An interdisciplinary work confronting the realities  
and anxieties of growing old(er) as a woman.

CONCEPTUALISED & DIRECTED BY

**Sim Yan Ying “YY”**

WRITTEN BY

**Jean Tay**

CHOREOGRAPHED BY

**Dapheny Chen**

**12 - 14 Apr 2024, Fri - Sun**

**Esplanade Theatre Studio**

FRI, 8PM | SAT, 3PM & 8PM | SUN, 3PM

**TRIP**

A programme of TRIP - a platform to  
showcase work by early-career directors.

**\$32\*^**

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$24\*

\*Esplanade&Me Specials available.

SISTIC Hotline: 6348 5555 / School or Group Booking: 6828 8389 or email [boxoffice@esplanade.com](mailto:boxoffice@esplanade.com). Admission age: 6 & above. Ticket prices exclude SISTIC fees. Terms and conditions apply.


**Book Now**



**[www.esplanade.com/trip](http://www.esplanade.com/trip)**


  
**esplanade**  
theatres on the bay  
singapore

**the  
studios**

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.

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

  [EsplanadeSG](https://www.facebook.com/EsplanadeSG)

 [EsplanadeSingapore](https://www.instagram.com/EsplanadeSingapore)  
[#esplanadesg](https://www.instagram.com/esplanadesg) [#mydurian](https://www.instagram.com/mydurian)

Information correct at time of print.



**Esplanade  
Presents**

**The Studios**

AN ESPLANADE PRODUCTION

# HOW I LEARNED TO *DRIVE*

BY **PAULA VOGEL**

**DIRECTED BY  
RENEE YEONG**

**19 - 21 APR 2024, FRI - SUN**

FRI 8PM | SAT 3PM & 8PM | SUN 3PM

ESPLANADE THEATRE STUDIO

*"MS. VOGEL HAS WRITTEN A  
LOVELY, HARROWING GUIDE TO  
THE CRIPPLING PERSISTENCE  
OF ONE WOMAN'S MEMORIES."*

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

**\$32<sup>\*^</sup>**

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$24\*

<sup>^</sup>Esplanade&Me Specials available.

**BOOK NOW**  
**[www.esplanade.com/trip](http://www.esplanade.com/trip)**

**TRIP**

A programme of TRIP—a platform to  
showcase work by early-career directors.

**R18**


Contains references to sexual assault and grooming of minors.


SISTIC Hotline: 6348 5555 / School or Group Booking: 6828 8389 or email [boxoffice@esplanade.com](mailto:boxoffice@esplanade.com). Admission age: 18 & above. Ticket prices exclude SISTIC fees. Terms and conditions apply.



  
**esplanade**  
theatres on the bay  
singapore

**the  
studios**

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.

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

 [EsplanadeSingapore](https://www.instagram.com/EsplanadeSingapore)  
[EsplanadeSingapore](https://www.instagram.com/EsplanadeSingapore) [#mydurian](https://www.instagram.com/EsplanadeSingapore)

  [EsplanadeSG](https://www.facebook.com/EsplanadeSG)

Information correct at time of print. License managed by Harmonia Holdings, Ltd. under special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Ltd.

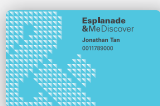


**Esplanade  
&Me**

# The Arts & You

Your access to the arts starts with *Esplanade&Me*

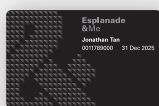
- Up to 20% savings on tickets and priority bookings and early bird specials to festival and events at Esplanade
- Up to 20% savings on retail and dining specials at Esplanade Mall and partners
- Exclusive invitations to events, workshops and tours
- Member referral incentives, Birthday privileges and more!
- Check in at any of our free programmes, PIP's PLAYbox and Jendela for rewards



Free to join



Free upgrade when  
you spend \$500



Free upgrade when  
you spend \$1000



Free for kids  
12 years & under



Free for ages  
17 to 26 years



Free for ages  
55 & above




Not a member yet? Join at



**[www.esplanade.com/membership](http://www.esplanade.com/membership)**


1 Esplanade Drive, Singapore 038981 | Customer Experience Hotline: 6828 8377

  
**esplanade**  
theatres on the bay  
singapore

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.

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

  EsplanadeSG

 [EsplanadeSingapore](https://www.instagram.com/esplanadesg)  
[#esplanadesg](https://www.instagram.com/esplanadesg) [#mydurian](https://www.instagram.com/mydurian)



# 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.

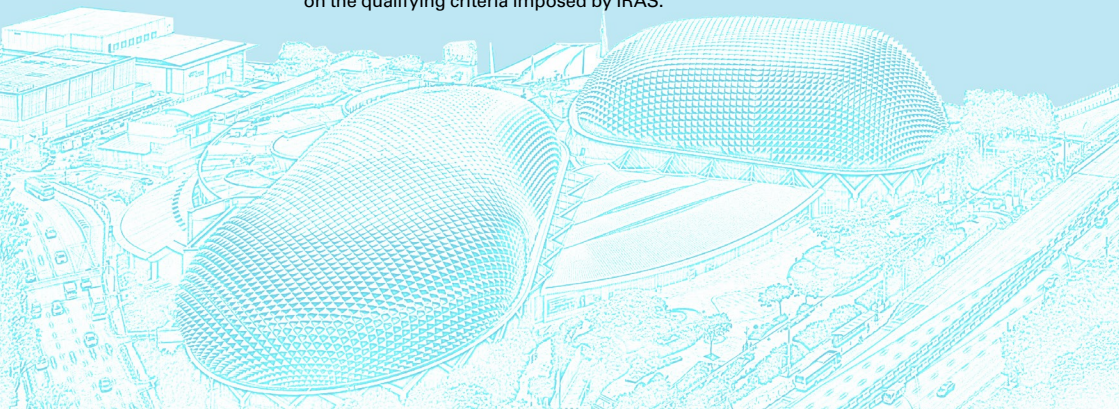
On behalf of the communities we serve, thank you!

Find out how you too can make a difference through the arts at Esplanade.

Donate at [www.esplanade.com/donate](http://www.esplanade.com/donate)

To find out more, email us at [donations@esplanade.com](mailto:donations@esplanade.com) or speak with us at 6828 8321.

Esplanade is a charity and an Institution of a Public Character. Your donation to us is matched dollar-for-dollar by the Cultural Matching Fund. Please note that the prevailing tax exemption scheme for donors and sponsors of Arts-Related Businesses will depend on the qualifying criteria imposed by IRAS.





# 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.

---

## DONORS AND SPONSORS

Alice Koh  
Allen & Overy LLP  
Allianz Global Investors Singapore Limited  
Alvin De Souza  
Ang Chin Moh Funeral Directors Pte Ltd  
Ang Ziqian  
Asia Ghani Restaurant And Catering Pte Ltd  
Asian Medical Foundation  
BNP Paribas  
Bowen Enterprises Pte Ltd  
Chia Lai Kuan  
Chow Chung Ping  
Chow Wan Cheng  
Cindy Cheng Ah Ching  
CLS International (1993) Pte Ltd  
Composers And Authors Society of Singapore Ltd  
Daniel Teo Tong How  
Daryl Neo  
EFG Bank AG  
Embassy of France in Singapore  
Esmond Loon  
Francis Chin Kuok Choon  
Fort Sanctuary Pte Ltd  
High Commission of India, Singapore  
Hon Chia Chun Noel

Lam Soon Singapore Pte Ltd  
Lee Eng Beng  
Lee Huay Leng  
Lee Tzu Yang  
Lim Siew Kheng  
Matthew Teng  
Ong Bok Aun  
Peter Yap Wan Shern  
Phua Dong Haur  
Rachelle Hweejoo Francis  
Ravindran S/O Sivalingam  
Sanjeev Namath Kurungodan  
See Tho Keng Leong  
Sora Media Pte Ltd  
Soumyadip Ghosh  
The Family of BJ & CW Tresise  
The Silent Foundation Limited  
Tye Wai Mun  
U.S. Embassy, Singapore  
UOB  
Vemala K Rajamanickam  
William and Mavis Tok  
Winson Lay Chee Loong  
Woon Yen Khai  
Yap Foo Kar  
Yvonne Tham

The above are donors and sponsors who contributed \$1000 and above from April 2022–March 2023.

## 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.

“

I could just scroll through IG or TikTok but I thought why should I when I can do the same on Offstage? It makes me feel like I know more things. Great arts content, anytime, anywhere. Highly recommend.

”

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



1 Esplanade Drive, Singapore 038981 | Customer Experience Hotline: 6828 8377

IN A CHANGING WORLD,  
**ESG INTEGRATION IS  
THE FUTURE OF BUSINESS.**



LET'S GO FASTER, TOGETHER.  
[apac.bnpparibas](https://apac.bnpparibas)



**BNP PARIBAS**

The bank  
for a changing  
world



Information correct at time of print.



Principal Sponsor



**BNP PARIBAS**

The bank for a changing world

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.



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



[EsplanadeSG](#)



[EsplanadeSingapore](#)  
[#esplanadesg](#) [#mydurian](#)