



Huayi
Chinese Festival of Arts

esplanade

骆驼祥子

RICKSHAW BOY

Beijing Artists Management
Corp., Ltd (China)
北京市演出有限责任公司
(中国)

原著
老舍

Original Story
Lao She

导演
方旭

Director
Fang Xu

7 & 8 Feb 2025, Fri & Sat, 7.30pm
Esplanade Theatre

2025年2月7与8日, 星期五与六, 晚上7时30分
滨海艺术中心剧院

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 for more information.

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Esplanade is a proud member of



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Association of Asia Pacific
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FESTIVAL MESSAGE

In the early days of my career, I had a hard time describing my work to my parents and relatives. With the job title “Programmer”, they inevitably thought I was an IT guy. Over the years, I would find opportunities to take them to performances and explain what I do. Today, my relatives not only attend *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts*, they are even more anxious than I to be the first to hear about the line-up! If there was a simple way to describe how this festival is put together, it is this: to connect top-notch performances and themes with various groups of people and their desires or needs. The 23rd edition of *Huayi*, held from 7 – 16 Feb 2025, reinforces the festival’s tenet to have something engaging and meaningful for everyone.

Our two productions in the Esplanade Theatre will appeal to anyone who loves a good story. Even though Lao She wrote the story of *Rickshaw Boy* in the 1930s, modern day rickshaw boys are everywhere – the ubiquitous food delivery guys on their bikes trying their best to make a good and honest living. Arriving in Singapore on the back of a hugely successful tour of major cities in China, *Rickshaw Boy* is helmed by award-winning director Fang Xu. And in acclaimed Taiwanese theatre company Greenray’s *Human Condition VIII*, the main protagonist dreams of winning the lottery – isn’t that a wish many people can identify with?

How does one stay active and mobile in the sunset years? What do friendships—or the dearth of them—look like? These are the themes explored in the dance production *Dance with Me* by choreographer Low Mei Yoke, recipient of the Cultural Medallion. These themes are also explored in *Last Luncheon*, the solo play directed, written and performed by Singapore theatre stalwart Alvin Chiam.

At a time where AI is poised to take over the world, traditions and how to keep them relevant are explored in three riveting music productions *What is Qin* by Zi De Guqin Studio of China, *The Temple of Resonance*

by Taiwan's Uni Percussion, and *The Heart of Jun: Memoirs of Zhaojun* by Singapore *nanyin* ensemble Siong Leng Musical Association in collaboration with Taiwanese director Lee Yi Hsiu.

Songwriters are the poets of everyday life. *Huayi 2025's in::music* platform presents a bumper crop of excellent songwriters, beginning with Taiwan's Golden Melody Award winner and indie darling ANPU, followed by Hong Kong's Yoyo Sham, Taiwan's GoodBand and Singapore's Boon Hui Lu.

As for the little ones, don't they love to be able to indulge to their hearts' content in sweets, gummies and chocolates? Adapted from the tale of Hansel and Gretel, *Candy House in the Mountain* by Bon Appétit Theatre of Taiwan is a fusion of storytelling and foley. This production encourages children to listen to the Chinese language and the many sound effects, as well as to activate their imagination. Another storyteller who will have audiences eating out of the palm of her hand is Malaysian artist Cheryl Lee, well known across the Causeway for her hilarious brand of Cantonese stand-up comedy.

Aside from a wide spectrum of works that will move you deeply or have you rolling with laughter, *Huayi* also seeks to put the 'festive' in 'festival'. Held during the Chinese New Year period every year, it gives us an opportunity to wish everyone who comes to Esplanade for the festival a bounteous year ahead, filled with luck, good health and prosperity. As producers and programmers behind the festival, we set the stage for celebration.

Our heartfelt thanks also go to our Principal Sponsor **Knife Cooking Oil**, Supporting Sponsor **Berries 百力果** and Supporter **Polar Premium Drinking Water**.

Happy Year of the Snake!

Delvin Lee

Senior Producer, The Esplanade Co Ltd

Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts

PRINCIPAL SPONSOR MESSAGE



Knife brand is a household name in Singapore that is synonymous with wholesome family cooking since 1948. With its unique peanut aroma and proprietary blend, Knife brand cooking oil is a perfect cooking aid that brings the family together over the dining table throughout the festive period.

As part of our continuous support for the arts and culture, Lam Soon's Knife brand is proud to continue our longstanding support with The Esplanade and *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts*, as the Principal Sponsor for 7 consecutive years running. We hope you will enjoy the festival this year.

We wish you and your family Happiness and Prosperity in the year of Snake.

Mr. Whang Shang Ying
Executive Chairman
Lam Soon Singapore Pte Ltd.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The name “Xiangzi” (祥子) carries meanings of loyalty, luck, auspiciousness and success. Since Lao She’s creation of *Rickshaw Boy* (or literally *Camel Xiangzi*) near a hundred years ago, “Xiangzi” has almost become a symbol of simplicity and honesty. Adding “Camel” to his name highlights his quiet determination and strong-willed nature. He may seem naive and hasty, but this very innocence makes him endearing and heart-wrenching. While the harrowing story of a rickshaw puller may feel distant to today’s audience, the emotional journey of Xiangzi—his ideals clashing with the reality, his confusion and disillusionment — continues to resonate deeply. Through the tireless efforts of our creative team, we hope to breathe new life into this near-hundred-years-old literary classic on the modern Chinese stage.

Fang Xu



SYNOPSIS

Set in Republican-era Beijing, this is the story of a rickshaw puller named Xiangzi, whose life is marked by ups and downs. An ambitious young man from the countryside, Xiangzi arrives in the city dreaming of building a better life through hard work. With relentless dedication, he finally saves enough to buy a rickshaw of his own. Just as he plans to continue working towards a brighter future, fate begins to deal him blow after blow. As hardships mount, Xiangzi fights valiantly but ultimately succumbs to despair.



(2hrs 50mins, including 20mins intermission)
Performed in Mandarin, with English and Chinese surtitles.
Recommended for ages 12 and above.



ABOUT

LAO SHE

Author of the original story

Lao She (1899–1966), born Shu Qingchun (with She Yu as his courtesy name), was of Manchurian descent. His family, part of the Šumuru clan of the Plain Red Banner, originally hailed from Liaoyang, Liaoning Province. Also known by pen names such as Jieqing, Honglai and Feiwo, Lao was a renowned modern Chinese novelist and playwright who earned the title of “People’s Artist”.

Prolific and versatile, his works range from novels and essays to plays and *quyi* (a traditional performance art form). His major works include the novels *Rickshaw Boy* and *Four Generations Under One Roof*, short stories like *Crescent Moon* and *This Life of Mine*, plays such as *Tea House* and *Dragon Beard Ditch*, and other essay collections like *A Sea of Cherry Blossom (Yinghai Ji)* and *Lucky Star (Fuxing Ji)*.

Focusing on the daily lives of Beijing citizens, Lao She captured the social changes of China from the late Qing Dynasty through the establishment of the People’s Republic of China. His humorous and accessible style, marked by simple language and harmonious rhythms, left a profound impact on both literature and theatre. Many of his works have been translated internationally, contributing significantly to the development of Chinese cultural exchange.



ABOUT

BEIJING ARTISTS MANAGEMENT CORP., LTD

Founded in 1958, Beijing Performance Arts Group Co., Ltd. is one of the most influential and largest cultural performance organisations in Beijing. With its expertise in planning, production, and execution, it has created numerous stage masterpieces such as *Rickshaw Boy*, *Lao She Goes to the Market*, *Monsters in the Forbidden City*, *Canal 1935*, etc., and has won numerous major drama awards in China.

Beijing Artists Management Corp. Ltd is also supported by Beijing Culture and Arts Foundation



ABOUT

PLAYWRIGHT/DIRECTOR/ACTOR



Fang Xu

Vice Chairman of Beijing Theatre' Association, a graduate of the Directing Department of the Central Academy of Drama (Directing), is a multi-talented writer, director, and actor. Since 2011, he has adapted many of Lao She works into plays, earning the title of Lao She's specialist. Fang has developed a distinctive daxieyi (expressive and spontaneous) Peking-style theatre, offering a fresh perspective on Lao She's legacy. His notable works include *The Life of Mine*, *Mr Ma and Son*, *Heaven Sent (Niu Tianci)* and *Lao She Goes to the Market*. In addition to directing his own productions, Fang collaborates with renowned theatre groups, such as the Lin Zhaohua Theatre Studio, the National Theatre Company of China, and the Beijing People's Art Theatre.

FANG XU

ABOUT LITERARY ADVISOR

Shu Ji

As the eldest daughter of Lao She, Shu Ji has edited and published extensive collections of her father's existing and previously unpublished works since 1978 after joining the People's Literature Publishing House (PLPH) as a deputy editor. She has contributed over ten prefaces, forewords and afterwords for these publications of Lao She's works. In 1999, she became the director of the Lao She Memorial Hall.



SHU JI

ABOUT THE ARTISTIC ADVISOR

Siqin Gaowa

Most well known for her role of Tigress in Ling Zifeng's acclaimed 1982 film adaptation of *Rickshaw Boy*, Siqin Gaowa is an acclaimed actress who has received numerous national and international awards. For her role as Tigress, she was awarded Best Actress award at the 3rd Golden Rooster Awards and the 6th Hundred Flowers Awards. Other awards include Best Actress at the Hong Kong Film Awards, the Golden Bear Award at Berlin International Film Festival and the Flying Apsaras Special Performance Award.



SIQIN GAOWA

THE CAST

Xu Xingbo

as Xiangzi (Young)

Xingbo is a young actor, military veteran, and cultural ambassador for the China Juvenile Children Culture Art Foundation. Ranked in the top 8 of *Xingguang Dadao* Fall 2023, and has starred in productions like *Rickshaw Boy*, *Heaven Sent*, *Soldier's Heart*, *Better Have Nothing than Illness*, and *Jinmen Grand Hotel*.



Ma Xike

as Xiangzi (Middle aged)

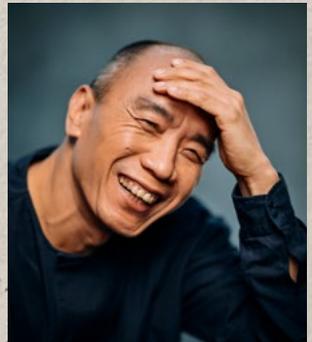
A graduate of the Central Academy of Drama (Acting Department), Xike's stage works include *Li Lei and Han Meimei*, *Go Away Mr. Tumor*, *Love Is Just a Breeze*, *In the Penal Colony*, and *Zhong Kui Marrying Off His Sister* and children's theatre show *The Tin Toy Adventure*.



Fang Xu

as Xiangzi (Old)

A graduate from the Directing Department of the Central Academy of Drama (Directing). He is a playwright, director and actor. His acting works include *The Life of Mine*, *Lao She Goes To The Market*, *Rickshaw Boy*, *Mr Ma and Son*, *Heaven Sent (Niu Tianci)* and more.



Zhao Zhen

as Tigeress (Hu Niu)

A graduate of Beijing Opera and Arts Collage and the Directing Department of the Central Academy of Drama, Zhao Zhen is a National Class-A Actor, performer, and director at the China Ping Opera Theatre. Notable works include *Heaven Sent*, *Rickshaw Boy*, *Gaba Cai of Love*, and *Jinmen Grand Hotel*.



Sun Ning

as Liu Si Ye

A National Class-A Actor, Sun Ning has been featured in stage productions such as *Rickshaw Boy* and *The Wilderness*; Peking Opera plays including *Tea House*, *Dragon Beard Ditch*, and *Four Generations Under One Roof*; television productions such as *Towards the Republic*, *Empresses in the Palace*, and *The Message*.



Ren Yuebin

as Xiao Fu Zi

A promising young actor, Yuebin has starred in stage productions such as *Heaven Sent*, *Rickshaw Boy*, *West to East*, *Tianjin Grand Hotel*, *Li Xiaohong*, *Comedy of Mismatches*, and immersive theatre work *Detective Zhao Gan'e*.



Qin Feng

as Mr. Cao

A graduate of the Central Academy of Drama, Qin Feng is a leading actor in *Rickshaw Boy* and *Heaven Sent*, serving as an executive director for these production as well. He is currently a lecturer at Beijing Contemporary Music Academy.



Jing Songtao

as Detective Sun

A graduate of the Shanghai Theatre Academy (Acting Department). Television appearances include *Bright Star*, *Perfect Wedding*, and *Razor*. Stage works include *Lao She's Short Stories*, *Heaven Sent*, and *Tianjin Grand Hotel*.



Li Jia

as Gao Ma

An actor at Beijing Children's Theatre Li Jia's stage credits include *Heaven Sent*, *Rickshaw Boy*, and *14 Days*. Musical works include *Songs of the Silver Screen*, *West Side Story*, *Miss Saigon*, and *Jekyll & Hyde*.



Du Xiaotao

as Feng Er Ye

A graduate of the National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts (Acting Department), Xiaotao is currently working with Beijing Quju Opera Troupe. A National Class-B Actor, his main theatrical works include *The Qin Residence*, *Shichahai*, *Xishan Yanyu*, *Eight Coppers*, and *Master of Martial Arts*.



Yao Hetong

as Lao Yao

An actor and graduate of the China Academy of Traditional Chinese Opera (Acting Department), Hetong has starred in productions like *Rickshaw Boy*, *Heaven Sent*, *Shall I Compare You to a Spring Day*, and *Four Generations Under One Roof*.



Liu Xinran

as Yang Liu Er

Young actor and opera actor. Stage works include: *Lao She's Short Stories*, *Heaven Sent*, etc. Peking Opera work: *The Magic of The White Snake*. He also starred in TV series and films.



Zhai Kehan

as Qiang Zi

A graduate of the China Academy of Traditional Chinese Opera, Kehan has performed in stage works such as *Jinmen Grand Hotel*, *Zhong Kui Marrying Off His Sister*, *The Great Anhui Troupe*, *One Night*, *One Life*, *February*, and *The Glimmering Red Star*.



Song Yuanyao

as Da Tou

Stage works include *Heaven Sent*, *Rickshaw Boy*, *The Ming Dynasty Under the Microscope*, and *The Drum Tower*. As a director, Yuanyao has worked on immersive productions such as *Fog Outing 4* and *The Lizard Shot "Dead" by a Grey Gun*. Film and television credits include *Happy Mitan*, *Pawnshop*, and *The World is Not Fraudulent*.



Wang Chen

as Xiao Wu

A graduate of the Shanghai Theatre Academy, Wang Chen is a signed actor/director with Mahua FunAge. Stage works include *Shear Madness Salon*, *Rickshaw Boy*, *The Bathhouse*, *Three-Body*, *Dear Elena*, *Detective Zhao Gan'e*, and others. Director credits include *Chicago Night* and *The Andersen Code*.



CREATIVE AND PRODUCTION TEAM

Chen Qing

Co-Playwright

Under the pen name Ah Ben, Chen Qing's works include plays such as *In the Name of the People*, *Lao She's Short Stories*, *Heaven Sent* and *Rickshaw Boy*. Other works include musical drama *The Ark of Life*, web series *Wan Chun Comedy Club*, and television drama *Liu Yong Pursues the Case*.



Zheng Jinqi

Stage and Prop Designer

A young stage designer with over 40 theatrical and cultural tourism works under his belt, Jinqi is known for infusing stage visuals with strong literary expression, balancing classical and modern elements to create poetic aesthetics.



Lu Liang

Composer/Music Designer

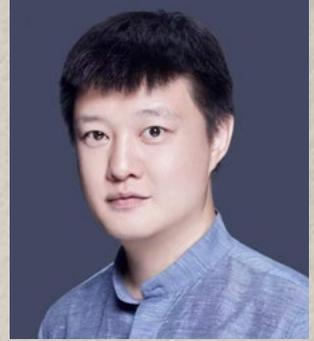
Lu Liang is a composer at China Oriental Performing Arts Group. Works include television series *A Dream of Splendour*, *Serenade of Peaceful Joy*, and *The Story of Minglan*; the dance drama *A Mere Touch of Green*; and the musical *Nan Kong*.



Liu Zhao

Lighting Designer

As a designer, Liu Zhao has served as the stage and lighting designer for German choreographer Orkan Dann's ballet *The Return of the Swallows* (2016), seamlessly integrating visuals with literary elements and the choreographer's creative vision. Other credits also include The National Ballet of China's staging of *La Bayadère*, where his visual presentation was lauded as the "best ever" by renowned choreographer Natalia Makarova.



A Kuan

Costume Designer

A veteran stage costume designer, A Kuan has contributed to over a hundred large-scale productions and performance art shows, including opera, dance, theatre, musicals, dramas, acrobatics, martial arts, festivals, international events, and more. Notable involvements include the 2008 and 2012 Olympic ceremonies.



Liu Lian

Makeup/Styling Designer

A graduate of the Central Academy of Drama's Stage Art Department, Liu Lian is currently a makeup and styling designer at the National Theatre of China.



Liu Xingcen

Multimedia Designer

Credits include the musical *Dreamland Revisited*, the New Year Concert *Octal: A Love Letter to the Universe* by Zhongyueji, and *Dive into the Virtual World* by Zuomeng Records.



Zhou Tianzong

Sound Effects Designer

A graduate of the Communication University of China, Tianzong has specialised in audio production for over 30 years. He has collaborated with director Fang Xu on theatre productions, including *This Life of Mine*, *Cat Country*, and *Rickshaw Boy*, amongst others.



PRODUCTION CREDITS

Original Story
Literary Advisor
Artistic Director

Lao She
Shu Ji
Siqin Gaowa

Chief Producer
Playwright
Director
Executive Director
Director Assistant
Stage and Prop Designer
Lighting Designer
Costume Designer
Makeup/Styling Designer
Composer/Music Designer
Sound Effects Designer
Choreographer
Key Visual Designer
Technical Director
Stage Director

Guan Jixin
Fang Xu, Chen Qing
Fang Xu
Zhao Zhen, Wang Lu, Qin Feng
Fang Yinan
Zheng Jinqi
Liu Zhao
A Kuan, Li Yuduo
Liu Lian
Lu Liang
Zhou Tianzong
Guo Xing
Li Jiuzhou
Tian Yuanyuan
Sun Ling

Producer
Chief Production Supervisor
Production Supervisor

Yang Cheng
Shi Zhenyu
Yang Baixiang

Producer
Executive Producer
Publicity Coordinators

Pang Chong
Liu Jianpeng, Zhuang Jie, Han Xiaomei
Li Mo, Tian Fangyuan, Li Xiaoyang

Supervising Organisation

Beijing State-owned Assets
Management Co., Ltd.

Production Company

Beijing Artists Management Co., Ltd.

Supporting Organisation

Beijing Culture and Arts Foundation



HUAYI DIALOGUES

Hosted by Liu Xiaoyi
(Singapore)

The *Huayi Dialogues* is a groundbreaking initiative by *Huayi Festival*, curated by Singapore theatre artist Liu Xiaoyi. This platform brings together artists, cultural practitioners, and audiences through a rich tapestry of lectures, panels and discussion.



Reinterpreting Classics with Fang Xu

(China)

A conversation that bridges the traditional with the contemporary: celebrated Chinese playwright and director Fang Xu, known as “Lao She’s specialist”, will bring Beijing-style theatre to Singapore—a place so distinct in language and culture.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)
Conducted in Mandarin.

8 Feb 2025, Sat, 4pm
Esplanade Black Room

Ticket Price: \$5*
BOOK NOW

*Exclusive for Esplanade&Me members and Lianhe Zaobao Club members.



Extraordinary Stories with Wu Nien-jen

(Taiwan)

This is a conversation bridging film and theatre. Acclaimed Taiwanese director, writer, and screenwriter Wu Nien-jen will make his Singapore debut with Greenray Theatre, presenting the highly anticipated latest installment of the National Drama series, *Human Condition VIII*.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)
Conducted in Mandarin.

12 Feb 2025, Wed, 7.30pm
Esplanade Recital Studio

Ticket Price: \$5*
BOOK NOW

*Exclusive for Esplanade&Me members and Lianhe Zaobao Club members.

Long Time No See with Edward Lam (Hong Kong)

This is a conversation bridging the past and the future. It has been seven years since Edward Lam last participated in Esplanade's *Huayi – Chinese Festival of the Arts* with *Why We Chat*. For the world, these seven years have been indescribably transformative. In ninety minutes, Lam will piece together fragments of the past seven years to create a bigger picture.

(2hrs, no intermission)
Conducted in Mandarin.



Ticket Price: \$5*

BOOK NOW

14 Feb 2025, Fri, 7.30pm
Esplanade Black Room

*Exclusive for Esplanade&Me members and Lianhe Zaobao Club members.

Panel Discussion: No More Chinese Language Theatre?

Panelists: Ang Gey Pin, Jalyn Han, Koh Hui Ling, Delvin Lee and Corrie Tan
Hosted by Liu Xiaoyi (Singapore)

Is the Singapore Chinese language theatre in decline—or on the verge of transformation?

This compelling dialogue convenes five distinguished voices from Singapore's theatre scene: Ang Gey Pin, Jalyn Han, Koh Hui Ling, Delvin Lee and Corrie Tan. Led by curator and host Liu Xiaoyi, the panel will critically examine the challenges, possibilities, and evolving role of Chinese theatre in Singapore's shifting cultural landscape.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)
Conducted in Mandarin and English.



15 Feb 2025, Sat, 5.30pm
Esplanade Black Room

Free, pre-registration is required.

REGISTER NOW

8 OGs of Chinese Lit, Reinvented

by Quek Yee Kiat

“Having spent the greater part of his life in Beijing, Lao She is famed for the authentic dose of Beijing dialect and cultural expressions in his works, which bring grassroots voices to life, accentuating the social realities of the capital city.

His classic novel *Rickshaw Boy* (also known as *Camel Xiangzi*) charts the ups and downs of the eponymous rickshaw puller Xiangzi, who dreams of earning enough to buy his own rickshaw through sheer hard work and determination. However, his ambition is repeatedly thwarted by the warlord soldiers, officers from

the secret police and manipulative individuals he encounters, eventually pushing him into a downward spiral of mental distress and physical destruction.

Despite its historical specificity, Lao She’s psychological portrait of Xiangzi mirrors the aspiration and desperation of contemporary city-dwellers in the face of dream-crushing realities.”

READ FULL ARTICLE:

<https://www.esplanade.com/offstage/arts/8-ogs-of-chinese-lit-reinvented>



华艺节监制的寄语

“刚加入滨海艺术中心时，我很难向父母和亲戚形容自己的工作。由于我的英文职称为“Programmer”，他们总以为我是一名信息技术程序员。这么多年来，只要有机会我都会带他们去观看演出，向他们解释我的工作。如今，我的亲戚们不仅参加华艺节，他们甚至比我还心急，想要第一时间知道节目安排！简单来说，举办这个艺术节的意义，就是能够将顶尖的演出和主题与不同观众群及他们的所愿或所需联系起来。从2025年2月7日至16日举行的第23届华艺节将一再彰显这文化艺术节的宗旨——让每个人都能参与其中，各有所好，各有所乐。

听故事谁不爱，而喜欢听精彩故事的你，今年就必须欣赏在滨海艺术中心剧院上演的两部作品。老舍于1930年代就写下了《骆驼祥子》的故事，放眼今天，岛上亦处处是现代人力车夫的身影——他们正骑着脚踏车去送外卖，努力工作谋生。继在中国巡演获得热烈反响后，获奖导演方旭将携一众演员实力呈现《骆驼祥子》。由著名台湾剧团绿光剧团带来的《人间条件八—凡人歌》中，主人公一直梦想着中彩票，这何尝不是许多平凡人的愿望呢？

人到晚年，应该如何保持活跃、不失活力？拥有友谊，或者缺乏友谊会是什么样的一种状态？这些都是新加坡文化奖得主、资深编舞家刘美玉的舞蹈作品《与我共舞》所探讨的主题。新加坡戏剧界的常青树詹辉朕则以其编、导、演的独角戏《最后的午餐肉》，潜入孤独的深海，审视形单影只的寂寞回响。

在人工智能即将席卷全球的时代，自得琴社《琴为何物·唐·孤烟直》、不二声音制造所《寄声之庙》，以及由滨海艺术中心与湘灵音乐社和台湾导演李易修联合制作的《君·心：南洋梦昭君》，这三部引人入胜的音乐作品将带领我们思考何为“传统”与“传承”。

每一位写歌的人都是一位生活的诗人。今年的“好in::乐”将是优秀唱作人集锦——台湾金曲奖得主、独立音乐歌者安溥；香港唱作歌手岑宁儿；台湾独立乐团“好乐团”；以及新加坡创作才女文慧如。

想必很多小朋友们都很喜欢糖果、软糖和巧克力!台湾尝剧场的《山间有座糖果屋》改编自耳熟能详的童话故事《糖果屋》，趣味结合讲故事和拟声音效，有助孩子们锻炼中文听力，并接触多种不同的音效，激发他们的想象力。另外，以粤语脱口秀爆笑出圈的马来西亚艺人李欣怡，也将诚意献上狮城首秀，保证让你捧腹大笑。

除了推出能打动人心或让人乐开怀的各种作品外，华艺节力求为“节目”赋予“节庆”之意。每年农历新年期间举办华艺节，使我们得以祝愿前来滨海艺术中心参加活动的每一位观众在新的一年里好运连连、身体健康、万事如意。作为艺术节的幕后制作人和策划人，我们与观众同欢同庆贺新岁。

特此由衷感谢主要赞助商刀标油和赞助商百力果和Polar Premium Drinking Water。

祝：蛇年快乐!

李国铭

滨海艺术中心高级节目监制

华艺节

主要赞助商献词



刀标牌自1948年以来就是新加坡家喻户晓的品牌，是家庭健康烹调的代名词。刀标油独特的花生香气与专利配方，调制出一道道美味佳肴，让家人齐聚一堂，共度佳节喜气。

为了继续在支持文化艺术方面尽上一份力，刀标牌很荣幸连续第七年赞助滨海艺术中心的华艺节。我们希望大家会喜欢华艺节2025的精彩节目。

祝愿大家新年快乐。蛇年行大运，事事如意！！

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Huang Shangying". The signature is stylized and fluid.

黄上盈

执行董事

南顺(新)私人有限公司

编导的话

祥子，“祥”字有“忠实”、“幸运”、“吉兆”、“成功”之意。自老舍先生创作出《骆驼祥子》之后的近百年来，“祥子”近乎成为忠厚、老实的代称，再冠以“骆驼”的名头就又多了那么几分少言寡语、埋头苦干、要脸要强的犟劲儿。有点儿傻有点儿愣，但傻愣得可爱，叫人心疼。如果说《骆驼祥子》所展现的洋车夫的惨烈奋斗史对于今天的观众略显遥远，那么故事所中包裹的一部祥子的心灵史，一个人精神世界中对于理想和现实的纠结、困惑、无奈，依然可以唤起今人的共鸣。希望通过我们创作团队全体同仁的不懈努力，完成《骆驼祥子》这部八十五岁高龄的文学经典在当下中国戏剧舞台上的返老还童。

方旭



故事大纲

故事讲述了民国时期北平城内洋车夫祥子三起三落的一生。从乡间来到北平的祥子生性要强，希望可以凭着自己的本事过上理想中的生活，为此祥子任劳任怨，拼命拉车，终于买了一辆属于自己的车。正当祥子想着在北平城中继续埋头苦干时，命运却一次又一次的和他开起了玩笑。苦难纷至沓来，祥子奋力挣扎却最终滑落至深渊之中。

(2小时50分钟, 含20分钟中场休息)

以华语演出, 附中文字幕。

注: 较适合12岁及以上的观众



关于老舍

原著作者

老舍(1899年2月3日—1966年8月24日),原名舒庆春,字舍予,另有笔名絜青、鸿来、非我等。北京满族正红旗舒穆禄氏,祖籍辽宁辽阳,中国现代小说家、剧作家,并获得“人民艺术家”称号。老舍的一生创作出了大量文艺作品,形式不拘一格,从小说、散文到曲艺、话剧,均有涉猎,其主要代表作有长篇小说《骆驼祥子》、《四世同堂》等,中短篇小说《月牙儿》、《我这一辈子》等,话剧《茶馆》、《龙须沟》等,散文《樱海集》、《福星集》等。老舍的作品多以北京市民生活为题材,反映了清末到新中国成立后半世纪的北京社会变迁。其作品文风幽默、语言通俗、音韵和谐,在文学、戏剧领域都有重要影响,作品还被大量翻译至海外,广泛传播,为中国文化文化发展起到了一定的促进作用。



关于北京市演出有限责任公司

北京市演出有限责任公司成立于1958年，北京市极具规模和影响力的文化演艺企业，凭借专业的策划、制作和执行能力，创作出《骆驼祥子》、《老舍赶集》、《故宫里的大怪兽》、《运河1935》等多部舞台精品，并多次获得中国各大戏剧奖项。

支持单位：北京文化艺术基金



关于编导/演员



方旭

北京戏剧家协会副主席，毕业于中央戏剧学院导演系，集编、导、演于一身。自2011年将老舍先生的众多作品改编成话剧，素有“老舍专业户”之称。通过不断实践形成独特的“大写意”京味儿戏剧风格，呈现出“新印象”老舍。代表性作品有《我这一辈子》、《二马》、《牛天赐》、《老舍赶集》等。除了自己导戏，也与不少专业剧团合作，包括林兆华戏剧工作室、中国国家话剧院和北京人民艺术剧院等。

方旭

关于文学顾问

舒济

- 老舍先生长女
- 1978年为出版老舍文集调至人民文学出版社任副编审
- 1999年任老舍纪念馆馆长
- 自1978年编辑出版老舍作品多卷集及作者生前未曾出版过的作品,另为出版老舍先生的各种作品写”序””前言”及”后记”十余篇



舒
济



关于艺术顾问

斯琴高娃

- 最为观众所知的“虎妞”，凭借剧情片《骆驼祥子》获得第3届中国电影金鸡奖最佳女主角、第6届大众电影百花奖最佳女主角；
- 获得过香港电影金像奖最佳女主角、柏林国际电影节金熊奖、电视剧飞天奖评委会特别表演奖等多项国内国际奖项

斯
琴
高
娃

演员简介

徐星博

饰 青年祥子

青年演员、退伍军人、中国少年儿童文化艺术基金会形象大使、《星光大道》2023年秋季8强，主要作品：《骆驼祥子》、《牛天赐》、《兵心》、《有啥别有病》、《津门大饭店》。



马禧克

饰 中年祥子

毕业于中央戏剧学院表演系，话剧作品《李雷与韩梅梅》、《滚蛋吧，肿瘤君》、《爱情不过一阵风》、《在流放地》、《钟馗嫁妹》等，儿童剧作品《铁皮玩具总动员》。



方旭

饰 老年祥子

毕业于中央戏剧学院导演系，集编、导、演于一身。编、导、演作品《我这一辈子》、《二马》、《老舍赶集》、《骆驼祥子》、《牛天赐》等。



赵震

饰 虎妞

毕业于北京市戏曲学校，中央戏剧学院导演系，国家一级演员，中国评剧院演员，导演；剧作品《牛天赐》、《骆驼祥子》、《爱的嘎巴菜》、《津门大饭店》等。



孙宁

饰 刘四爷

国家一级演员，话剧作品《骆驼祥子》、《原野》，北京曲剧《茶馆》、《龙须沟》、《四世同堂》等，电视剧作品《走向共和》、《甄嬛传》、《风声》等。



任岳彬

饰 小福子

优秀青年演员，话剧作品《牛天赐》、《骆驼祥子》《西去东来》、《津门大饭店》、《李小红》、《乔太守乱点鸳鸯谱》等；沉浸式戏剧作品《大真探赵赶鹅》。



秦枫

饰 曹先生

毕业于中央戏剧学院，现任北京现代音乐研修学院表演教师，职称讲师。主演过舞台剧《骆驼祥子》、《牛天赐》并担任执行导演。



景松涛

饰 孙侦探

毕业于上海戏剧学院表演系，电视剧作品《星光灿烂》、《大嫁风尚》、《剃刀边缘》，话剧作品《老舍赶集》；《牛天赐》、《津门大饭店》。



李佳

饰 高妈

北京儿童艺术剧院演员，话剧作品《牛天赐》、《骆驼祥子》、《14天》等，音乐剧作品《电影之歌》《西区故事》、《西贡小姐》、《变身怪医》等。



杜晓涛

饰 冯二爷

毕业于中国戏曲学院表演系，现就职于北京市曲剧团，国家二级演员，主要话剧作品有《秦宅》、《什刹海》、《西山烟雨》、《八文钱》、《武学宗师》等。



要贺桐

饰 老幺

演员，毕业于中国戏曲学院表演专业，参演作品《骆驼祥子》、《牛天赐》、《春风十里不如你》、《四世同堂》等。



刘欣然

饰 杨六儿

青年戏 · 剧演员。主要作品：话剧《老舍五则》、《牛天赐》等，京剧《白蛇传奇》等，同时也参演电视剧与电影作品。



翟克寒

饰 强子

毕业院校中国戏曲学院，出演话剧：《津门大饭店》、《钟馗嫁妹》、《大徽班》、《一夜一生》、《二月》、《永远闪闪的红星》等。



宋远焘

饰 大头

舞台剧代表作《牛天赐》、《骆驼祥子》、《显微镜下的大明》、《钟鼓楼》等；沉浸式导演作品《出雾四》《被灰枪打“死”的蜥蜴》等；影视作品《欢喜密探》、《典当行》、《天下无诈》等。



王晨

饰 小五

毕业于上海戏剧学院，开心麻花签约演员/导演。舞台剧作品《疯狂理发店》、《骆驼祥子》、《澡堂》《三体》、《青春禁忌游戏》、《大真探赵赶鹅》、《脱单电影院》、《芳心之醉》、《我才不要和你做朋友呢》、《余生请多指教》、《毕业生之漂亮衣裳》、《故宫里的大怪兽》，导演作品《芝加哥之夜》、《安徒生密码》。



主创团队

陈庆

联合编剧

笔名阿笨。编剧作品有：话剧《人民的名义》（荣获江苏省戏剧文学评选特别奖）、《老舍赶集》、《牛天赐》、《骆驼祥子》、《生命方舟》、《骆驼祥子》，音乐话剧《凡人》等；网剧《万春逗笑社》、电视剧《刘墉追案》等。



郑金启

舞美/道具设计

青年舞美设计师，从业以来创作戏剧及文旅演艺作品四十余部，擅长将舞台视觉赋予强烈的文学性表达，在古典与现代之间寻找富有诗化色彩的舞台呈现。



吕亮

作曲/音乐设计

中国东方演艺集团作曲，参与创作电视剧音乐《梦华录》、《清平乐》、《知否知否应是绿肥红瘦》等；舞剧《只此青绿》、《永和九年-兰亭序集》；音乐剧《南孔》等。



刘钊

灯光设计

2016年作为舞美和灯光设计师为德国编导奥肯·达恩创作的芭蕾新作《燕归来》担任设计，他将“有文学色彩的舞台视觉”理念和编导的编创有机地融入在设计之中使得表演和舞台呈现相得益彰。中芭排演《舞姬》中的视觉呈现被编导玛卡洛娃称之为“bestever”。



阿宽

服装设计

舞台艺术界资深服装设计师，2008、2012“双奥”设计师，曾经参与设计国家及各地区专业院团歌剧、舞剧、戏剧、音乐剧、话剧、杂技、武术、庆典、旅游秀、国际赛事、专业院校等大型演出和表演艺术作品百余部。



刘恋

化装/造型设计

毕业于中央戏剧学院舞台美术系化装造型设计专业，现任中国国家话剧院化装造型设计。



刘星岑

多媒体设计

曾担任音乐剧《梦回乐园》、众乐纪八进制跨年音乐会《给宇宙的一封信》,做梦唱片音乐现场《潜入虚拟世界》等视觉设计。



周天纵

音效设计

毕业于中国传媒大学录音艺术学院,从事音乐音响工作30多年。从2010年开始跟随方旭导演以及明戏坊剧社参加话剧的创作和演出,先后有《我这一辈子》、《猫城记》、《二马》、《离婚》、《老舍赶集》、《牛天赐》、《骆驼祥子》等作品。



出品及制作

原著

文学顾问

艺术总监

总策划

编剧

导演

执行导演

导演助理

舞美/道具设计

灯光设计

服装设计

化妆/造型设计

作曲/音乐设计

音效设计

形体设计

主视觉设计

技术总监

舞台总监

出品人

总监制

监制

制作人

执行制作

宣传统筹

指导单位

出品制作

支持单位

老舍

舒济

斯琴高娃

关纪新

方旭 陈庆

方旭

赵震 王璐 秦枫

方伊楠

郑金启

刘钊

阿宽 李予多

刘恋

吕亮

周天纵

郭星

李九州

田园园

孙灵

杨城

史振宇

杨百祥

庞冲

刘建鹏 庄洁 韩小妹

李沫 田方园 李晓旸

北京市国有资产经营有限责任公司

北京市演出有限责任公司

北京文化艺术基金

戏谈华艺

主持人:刘晓义(新加坡)

《戏谈华艺》是华艺术节新开设的板块,由新加坡剧场艺术家刘晓义策划。作为华艺术节创新发展的重要项目,《戏谈华艺》将通过讲座、论坛、对话等多元形式,汇聚艺术家、文化工作者和观众,共同探讨艺术与文化的现状与未来。



方旭讲座:再现经典

(中国)

这是一场连接经典和当代的对话。被誉为“老舍专业户”的话剧编剧及导演方旭,将北京的京味儿戏剧带到文化和语言迥异的新加坡,首次与本地观众见面交流。

(1小时30分钟,无中场休息)

以华语进行。

2025年2月8日,星期六,下午4时

滨海艺术中心黑·艺舍

票价: \$5*

立刻购票

*仅限Esplanade&Me滨海与我会员与联合早报俱乐部会员。



吴念真讲座:不凡故事

(台湾)

这是一场连接电影和舞台的对话。台湾知名导演、作家、编剧吴念真将携绿光剧团首次亮相新加坡,呈现备受期待的“国民戏剧”系列最新力作——《人间条件八-凡人歌》。在此次谈话中,吴念真将分享他从台湾电影界踏入戏剧领域的心路历程。

(1小时30分钟,无中场休息)

以华语进行。

2025年2月12日,星期三,晚上7时30分

滨海艺术中心音乐室

票价: \$5*

立刻购票

*仅限Esplanade&Me滨海与我会员与联合早报俱乐部会员。

林奕华讲座:好久不见 (香港)

这是一场连接过去和未来的谈话。距上一次非常林奕华携《聊斋》参加华艺节,已有七年之久。对于全世界而言,这六年可谓是一言难尽。如果要在短短的九十分钟内,把六年的种种变化拼贴成一张很大的图画,那你我在其中扮演着什么角色?

(2小时,无中场休息)

以华语进行。

2025年2月14日,星期五,晚上7时30分

滨海艺术中心黑·艺舍

票价: \$5*



立刻购票

*仅限Esplanade&Me滨海与我会员与联合早报俱乐部会员。

对话会:新加坡华语剧场已死?

论坛嘉宾:洪艺冰,韩雪卿,许慧玲,李国铭与陈霖灵

主持人:刘晓义

(新加坡)



这是一场连接过去和未来的谈话。距上一次非常林奕华携《聊斋》参加华艺节,已有七年之久。对于全世界而言,这六年可谓是一言难尽。如果要在短短的九十分钟内,把六年的种种变化拼贴成一张很大的图画,那你我在其中扮演着什么角色?

(1小时30分钟,无中场休息)

以英语与华语进行。

2025年2月15日,星期六

下午5时30分

滨海艺术中心黑·艺舍

免费,需预先报名

立刻报名

8 OGs of Chinese Lit, Reinvented

by Quek Yee Kiat

“Having spent the greater part of his life in Beijing, Lao She is famed for the authentic dose of Beijing dialect and cultural expressions in his works, which bring grassroots voices to life, accentuating the social realities of the capital city.

His classic novel *Rickshaw Boy* (also known as *Camel Xiangzi*) charts the ups and downs of the eponymous rickshaw puller Xiangzi, who dreams of earning enough to buy his own rickshaw through sheer hard work and determination. However, his ambition is repeatedly thwarted by the warlord soldiers, officers from

the secret police and manipulative individuals he encounters, eventually pushing him into a downward spiral of mental distress and physical destruction.

Despite its historical specificity, Lao She’s psychological portrait of Xiangzi mirrors the aspiration and desperation of contemporary city-dwellers in the face of dream-crushing realities.”

READ FULL ARTICLE:

<https://www.esplanade.com/offstage/arts/8-ogs-of-chinese-lit-reinvented>



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7 – 16 Feb
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“Li Liuyi is Asia’s most influential stage artist in the new century.”

– Japanese contemporary theatre master Suzuki Tadashi

“新世纪亚洲最具影响力的舞台艺术家。”

– 日本现代戏剧大师铃木忠治对李六乙的评价

<p>编剧 曹禹 WRITTEN BY Cao Yu</p>	<h1>雷雨</h1> <h2>Thunderstorm</h2> <p>Beijing Li Liuyi Theatre Studio (China) 北京李六乙戏剧工作室(中国)</p>			<p>导演 李六乙 DIRECTED BY Li Liuyi</p>
<p>苗 饰 周萍</p>	<p>卢 饰 周繁漪</p>	<p>胡 饰 周朴园</p>	<p>李 饰 鲁侍萍</p>	<p>李 饰 鲁四风</p>
 <p>Miao Chi as Zhou Ping</p>	 <p>Lu Fang as Zhou Fanyi</p>	 <p>Hu Jun as Zhou Puyuan</p>	 <p>Li Hong as Lu Shiping</p>	 <p>Li Xiao Meng as Lu Sifeng</p>

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Cello

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Esplanade Concert Hall

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(Austria/Iran, Netherlands)

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Haydn – *Cello Concerto No. 1 in C major, Hob. VIIb/1*

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“

Reading Offstage is one of the best things ever!
I devote all my free time to the videos, articles
and podcasts about music, dance, theatre, visual
arts... it is absolutely life-changing. Five stars.

”

Totally Anonymous Person
(who is not related to Offstage)



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!



4,231

activities took place at Esplanade.



3,007

 Free

737

 Paid

3,809,486

People attended our activities at the centre.



Free

3,367,291

Paid

141,565



636

 Activities

17,949

 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 2023 to Mar 2024.



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

To find out more, email us at 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 positive impact to Singaporeans 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 contributions.

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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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Your donation opens up opportunities for young people to experience and be inspired by the arts.

It also supports the aspirations of emerging Singapore artists as they create and express their vision for the future.

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