



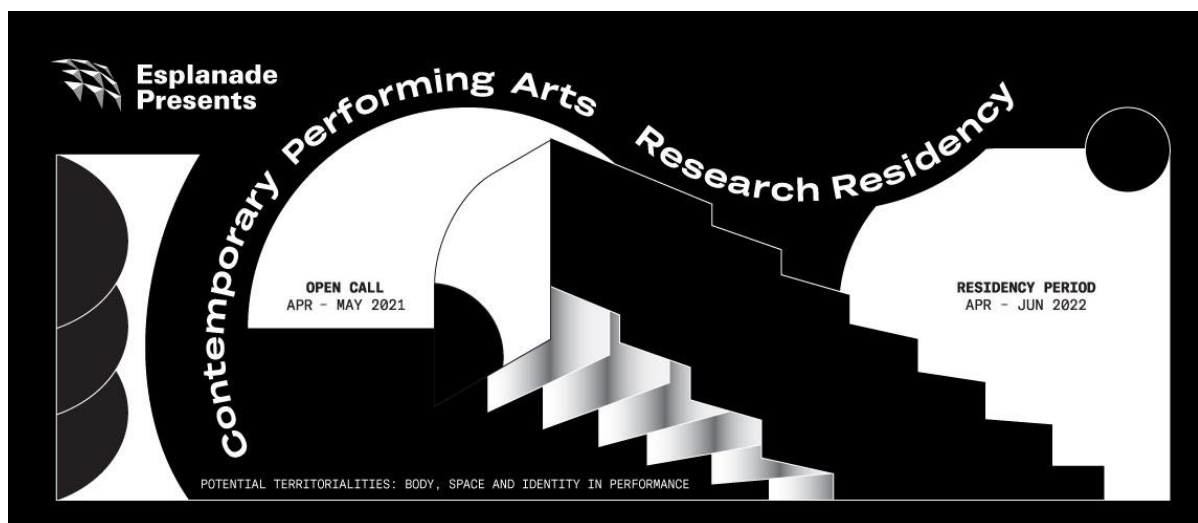
## press release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Esplanade Launches Open Call for its First Artistic Research Residency**



**SINGAPORE, 1 Apr 2021** – Singapore’s national performing arts centre, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, invites artists, curators, programmers, writers, researchers and practitioners across all disciplines in the performing arts to apply for its inaugural **Contemporary Performing Arts Research Residency**. Supported by the National Arts Council, Singapore, this new artistic research development programme takes place in Singapore between **April and June 2022**.

The fully-funded residency aims to support creative research in contemporary performing arts by providing its residents the time and space for artistic inquiry, experimentation, development, research activities and opportunities for interdisciplinary and transcultural dialogues. The residency welcomes various manners and methodologies of enquiry, embracing a pluralistic approach towards research that unfolds not only through the written word, but also includes forms of experimentation with the body, performed moments, and other non-traditional systems of knowledge.

Faith Tan, Head, Dance & International Development, Programming, The Esplanade Co Ltd said, "Since our inception, Esplanade has been supporting artists in the creation of new work, especially through commissions or co-productions. This is typically tied to a production process that results in a presentation within our festivals or series. Therefore we saw a need for a new dedicated programme which offers practitioners a concentrated period of time and resources to focus solely on research and experimentation. This marks the first time we are creating an open call research residency that is open to both Singapore and international applicants, and which also includes support for non-artists such as programmers or producers. In addition to Residents having access to rehearsal studios in Esplanade, they will also share a working space, and it is our intent that this will facilitate dynamic exchange between practitioners from different artistic communities."

There is no commitment for residents to create a production during or after the residency. Instead, residents will be asked to present at least one public programme of their choosing, developed in conversation with the Esplanade Team.

The residency offers two types of support: **Artist-in-Residence** and **Researcher-in-Residence**. **Artists-in-Residence** can apply for a residency period of **one to three months**, while **Researchers-in-Residence** can apply for a residency period of **two to four weeks**. All residents will receive either a stipend (for artists) or an allowance (for researchers), a shared-working space, studios when required, as well as accommodation and international travel to and from Singapore, if from abroad.

There will be annual open calls held for applications to the residency and each cycle will revolve around a thematic focus conceived to respond to current critical issues in our society. In 2022, the residency proposes the thematic focus ***Potential Territorialities: Body, Space and Identity in Performance***.

Artists and Researchers-in-Residence are chosen through a **Selection Panel** comprising leading international curators, programmers, artists and managers. They have been appointed based on their thought-provoking practices, dynamic networks with practitioners from a wide variety of disciplines and their invaluable knowledge of the performing arts across Singapore, Asia and beyond. The Selection Panel will also serve as interlocutors in the programme's development and be available as consultants for all residents.

The Selection Panel of the 2022 Contemporary Performing Arts Research Residency are:

- **Melati Suryodarmo**, Artist and Director of Studio Plesungan, Surakarta, Indonesia
- **Tang Fu Kuen**, Artistic Director of Taipei Arts Festival, Taiwan, Independent Dramaturg and Producer
- **Anna Wagner**, Dramaturg and Program Curator, Künstlerhaus Mousonturm, Frankfurt, Germany
- **Faith Tan**, Head, Dance and International Development, Programming, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, Singapore
- **Jia Jia Hoon**, Deputy Director, Sector Development (Traditional Arts), National Arts Council, Singapore

The residency invites individuals working and researching within any discipline(s) in the performing arts in Singapore and across the world to submit proposals that complement the conceptual lines set by the thematic focus alongside their artistic practice.

Visit [www.esplanade.com/residency](http://www.esplanade.com/residency) for more information and to apply. The Open Call's application period is from **1 Apr 2021 to 31 May 2021**, Mon, 11.59pm (GMT +8).

Please refer to the **Annexe** for more information on the thematic focus and the selection panel.

## 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. 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.

As an arts centre for everyone, Esplanade also creates opportunities for seniors, youth, children and underserved communities to experience the arts. More than 70% of the shows that take place each year at the centre are non-ticketed.

The centre works in close partnership with local, regional and international artists to develop artistic capabilities and content, push artistic boundaries and engage audiences. 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.

To bring even more of the arts to a wider audience and provide more platforms to support Singapore's next generation of artists, Esplanade is building a new theatre along its busy waterfront. Named Singtel Waterfront Theatre, the 550-seat venue will open in 2022.

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 the Charity Transparency Award for four consecutive years since 2016.

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.

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Issued by *The Esplanade Co Ltd*.

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## Annexe

### **2022 Thematic Focus:**

#### **Potential Territorialities: Body, Space and Identity in Performance**

Each year, the residency is framed around a thematic focus that is conceived in response to the present states of our lived realities. In the wake of the pandemic, the mobility and prosperity promised by globalisation have dissolved and instead laid bare the complex socio-economic borders of inequality within and across societies. Environmental crises, migration movements and waves of authoritarianism and nationalism have intensified political and ideological lines. Meanwhile, virtual spheres have transformed every facet of our lives, engineering information, communication and commerce channels whilst mining the maps of our thoughts and actions. Revealed and amplified within these global shifts are hierarchies and tensions of power and control, which have ramifications on individual lives and livelihoods. Notions of territory, boundaries, ownership and autonomy come into question and its interconnectedness with constructing, controlling, protecting or liberating bodies, spaces and identities.

For the 2022 residency, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay proposes as epicentre the thematic focus *Potential Territorialities: Body, Space and Identity in Performance*. Territoriality as a term is associated with evolutionary processes between animal behaviour and the spaces that they lay claim to for survival. In society today, this behaviour has commonly been enforced within physical, mental or virtual spaces through institutions of power. Traversing entities, territoriality can also be actively constituted in the dynamic of relations and practices. The relational aspect of territoriality conjures multiple real and abstract associations pertaining to interconnected transformations in communities, territorial boundaries and the environment. By embracing the adaptive aspects of the term, the thematic focus endeavours to uncover the potentials of realignment between relations within a territory (geographic, political, social, cultural or artistic) during a time of planetary change.

As a subject in artistic research, potential territorialities may prompt enquiries towards new interpretations of our historical past, reflections on our present moment in flux, or creative imaginings of futures. By questioning the ways bodies—whether as material object or virtual, corporeal or imagined—negotiate the limitations and possibilities of its boundaries and disciplines, how are spaces and systems permeated, rejected or transformed? Between interweaving visible and invisible lines and edges, what paradoxes and potentialities emerge when cultural, national, social, or individual identities coexist, relate and evolve?

The residency seeks to develop collective and diverse perspectives on body, space and identity within performance research and expand habits in performance making. The residency welcomes proposals from Singaporean and international artists, curators, programmers, writers, researchers and practitioners across all disciplines in the performing arts that complement and interpret the conceptual lines of the thematic focus alongside the applicant's artistic practice and interest.

## Selection Panel – Bios

### Melati Suryodarmo

Artist and Director of Studio Plesungan, Surakarta, Indonesia



Melati Suryodarmo studied arts at the Hochschule für Bildende Künste Braunschweig, Germany with a Meisterschüler qualification in Performance Art. Her art practice is informed by *Butoh*, dance, culture studies and history, amongst others. Her work is the result of ongoing research in the movements of the body and its relationship to the self and the world, which are enshrined in photography, translated into choreographed dances, enacted in video or executed in live performance arts.

Along with her art practices, she has been working as the director of Studio Plesungan, an artist's run space where she curated programmes such as the annual Performance Art Laboratory, the performance art festival *Undisclosed Territory*, Dance Laboratory Projects, and other art education programmes to empower sustainability in the art ecosystem.

Suryodarmo has presented her work at institutions all over the world, including The National Art Centre Tokyo, Japan; National Museum of Contemporary Art Korea, South Korea and Kiasma, Helsinki, Finland, amongst many others. She has also participated in many international performance arts and dance festivals.

### Tang Fu Kuen

Artistic Director of Taipei Arts Festival, Taiwan, Independent Dramaturg and Producer



Tang Fu Kuen is currently Artistic Director of Taipei Arts Festival, Taiwan. He was an independent dramaturg, curator and producer active in contemporary performance and visual fields in Europe and Asia. He curated Ming Wong's solo exhibition for the Singapore Pavilion at the 53rd Venice Biennale which was awarded Special Jury Mention. The platforms he has worked for include Singapore Arts Festival; Indonesian Dance Festival; In-Transit Festival, Berlin, Germany; Exodos Festival, Ljubljana, Slovenia; December Dance, Brugge, Belgium; Colombo Dance Platform, Sri Lanka; and Bangkok Fringe Festival, Thailand. He also worked in immaterial conservation in UNESCO, Paris, France, and SEAMEO-SPAFA, Bangkok, Thailand.

Photo credit: Masanobu Nishino

## Anna Wagner

Dramaturg and Program Curator, Künstlerhaus Mousonturm, Frankfurt, Germany



Anna Wagner is a dramaturg and curator living and working in Frankfurt, Germany. After completing theatre studies in Berlin and Paris, Wagner worked as an assistant curator for dance at the theater Hebbel am Ufer (HAU) in Berlin and was the head of the dance department at Theater Freiburg. Since 2014 she has worked as a dramaturg at Künstlerhaus Mousonturm in Frankfurt, Germany. She is part of Mousonturm's curatorial team and has supported various artists such as Eisa Jocson, Paula Rosolen,

and Jetse Batelaan as a production dramaturg. She has also worked as a mentor for young dance makers all over the world as part of *Colombo Dance Platform* 2014. She is also the co-founder and co-curator of the festival *Tanzfestival Rhein-Main* and has curated various international programmes including *Leaving the comfort zone*, *Asia-Pacific Weeks Berlin* (2011), and *Indonesia LAB* (2015). She is interested in expanding the notion of performing by questioning the separation between audience and artists, as well as high and popular forms. With this purpose she has initiated various special projects like *Oper Offenbach* (2018), *Offenbacher Seefestspiele* (2017) and *The Greatest Show on Earth – A Performance-Circus for the 21st Century* (2016).

Photo credit: Joerg Baumann

## Faith Tan

Head, Dance and International Development, Programming, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, Singapore



Faith Tan has over 18 years of programming, producing, management and international networking experience in the performing arts. She was Head of Programme Development at Dance House Helsinki, Finland in 2020, where she co-initiated a commission programme for new dance productions by Finnish dancemakers. She is currently the Head of Dance and International Development, in Singapore's national arts centre, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay. Under her direction, the

Esplanade's *da:ns festival* and series in Singapore co-produced productions by world renowned artists, commissioned and championed new work from significant Asian dancemakers, supported the practice of dramaturgs for dance, presented a large public participatory programme, as well as an artist lab and seminar workshops. Tan's work at Esplanade included overseeing the Theatre department between 2017 – 2019, and programming music for the *Mosaic Music Festival* from 2005 – 2012. She is a founding member of the Asian Network for Dance (AND+) and serves on panels for grants from the National Arts Council in Singapore. Faith holds a Masters degree in Arts and Cultural Management.



**Jia Jia Hoon**

Deputy Director, Sector Development (Traditional Arts), National Arts Council, Singapore



Jia Jia Hoon joined the National Arts Council in 2005. Over the years, her portfolio included policymaking and implementing programmes for the music and traditional arts sectors. She had also worked on various initiatives to strengthen the capabilities of the arts sector, including a fundraising training programme (in partnership with LASALLE), the Singapore Regional Fellowship (in partnership with ISPA) and the Arts Resource Hub. In 2014, she obtained a MA in Culture, Policy and Management from City, University of London, graduating with the “Head of Department Prize for the highest overall mark”.