

Esplanade Presents

## Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts

16 – 25 Feb 2024

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



Dear friends of the media,

“Son, this Sunday I’m off, any nice movie that we can catch?” This was a question my dad used to ask me when I was a young man living with my parents. My dad worked all his life as a hawker. On his rare days off, I tried to join him to watch his beloved heroes in the Hong Kong *gongfu* or action movies beat up all the baddies. I realised from these experiences that, regardless of one’s interests or place in life, there is an irreplaceable joy of spending time with family or the people who matter most to us.

Esplanade’s *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts* is timed to coincide with the Chinese New Year. This festive period is the most significant time of gathering for families and loved ones for most Chinese people around the world. The programmes we plan for *Huayi* are therefore carefully curated with this implicit goal: to provide an unforgettable experience in the arts that you can share with your loved ones, young or old.

In 2024’s edition of the festival, watch the heroes of Cantonese opera in ***Woman Warrior: Mu Gui Ying*** and ***The Sassy Princess*** (starring veteran Hong Kong actress and actor, Liza Wang and Law Ka-ying) prove that this age-old genre is still a timeless delight. In ***Everything For You***, our commission with Singapore theatre company Nine Years Theatre, witness how family ties provide much needed comic relief and unexpected support in life’s seemingly insurmountable problems. Laugh till your sides split with the witty crosstalk of ***Dear Governor Bao*** by Comedians Workshop of Taiwan. Show the young ones that there is so much more magic in live stage performances with the interactive production ***The Dog Who Wasn’t Useful***. The crime and police thriller is a genre that has defined many acclaimed Hong Kong films—now watch it as an engaging stage production ***13•67*** by Zuni Icosahedron and witness the poignant history of the Fragrant Harbour unfold. Revel in the elegance and charm of the traditional *pingtan* art form with the Shanghai Pingtan Troupe and get to know ***The Four Beauties*** of ancient China.

More adventurous audiences can explore the similarities and differences of port cities Singapore and Taiwan’s Kaohsiung through the mesmerising language of dance in ***Dance a Dance from My Body***. The classic story “Painted Skin” from *Liao Zhai* has been made into

numerous films—now watch it retold in a refreshing interpretation featuring puppetry and metal music by the talented Oliver Chong and The Finger Players in ***Transplant***. With many concerts featuring artists such as **waa wei** (Taiwan), **Gareth.T** (Hong Kong), **WUTIAOREN** (China), music lovers are in for an aural and experiential treat at *Huayi 2024*.

Finally, a special shout-out for our rich and entertaining free programmes. A worthy highlight is the lion dance curtain-raiser which my dad particularly enjoys. This year's is by the award-winning Yi Wei Athletic Association. We make it our mission to ensure that those who choose to spend time at Esplanade during Chinese New Year, whether for our ticketed or free programmes, will be amply rewarded. We are thankful not only to those of you who return each year, but also encourage you to bring more people with you to enjoy the celebrations!

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

Wishing that our programmes at *Huayi 2024* will help usher in an auspicious New Year for you and your loved ones for a *loooooong* 龙 time!

**Delvin Lee**

Senior Producer, The Esplanade Co Ltd  
*Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts*

*Last updated: 18 Jan 2024*

## 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](https://www.esplanade.com) for more information.

~ End ~

Issued by *The Esplanade Co Ltd*.

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## Annexe

Esplanade Presents

### **Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts**

16 – 25 Feb 2024

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

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay invites everyone to an unforgettable experience in the arts at *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts* which will run from 16 – 25 Feb 2024. Into its 22nd edition, this pinnacle arts festival that celebrates the Lunar New Year with the community will feature an exciting line-up of theatre, dance, and music programmes by outstanding Chinese artists from Singapore and beyond, for all to enjoy during the festive period.

## **TICKETED PROGRAMMES**

An Esplanade Commission

### **Everything For You**

Nine Years Theatre (Singapore)

Written and directed by Nelson Chia



What happens when a family decides that there should be no secrets?

On the first day of the lunar new year, a family of three sisters gathered at their aunt's place to celebrate.

Older sister Shi Qi (Jean Ng) has an unlikely new boyfriend: Guo Fu Cheng (Rayson Tan), the owner of a funeral parlour—a relationship that her son disapproves of. Second sister Shi Lin (Sharon Au) is a veteran stage actress facing a midlife crisis. She dreams of becoming an internet celebrity, and later finds herself at odds with her daughter when she becomes involved in a play directed by her daughter. Then, without warning, younger sister Shi Jie (Mia Chee) returns alone from Australia without her partner, bringing a piece of devastating news. The atmosphere is tense, and the family is plunged into crisis. Despite their strong bonds, there seems to be no solution in sight for the family...

Following the well-loved *Between You and Me*, commissioned by Esplanade and premiered at *Huayi 2022*, Nine Years Theatre (NYT) is back with another heartfelt play that depicts the

anxieties of everyday Singaporeans. Featuring familiar and relatable characters, this play distills the essence of life, with bittersweet moments that invoke both joy and sadness, laughter and tears. Written and directed by NYT's Artistic Director, Nelson Chia, *Everything For You* is an original play that features a stellar cast of actors such as Jean Ng, Sharon Au, Mia Chee, Rayson Tan, Johnny Ng, and Liow Shi Suen.

"Chia's ear for dialogue fills the script with an authentic hotchpotch of languages that reflects Singapore's polyglot landscape." – *The Straits Times*, on *Between You and Me* (2022)

Playwright and Director: Nelson Chia  
Cast: Jean Ng  
Sharon Au  
Mia Chee  
Rayson Tan  
Johnny Ng  
Liow Shi Suen  
Wendi Wee Hian  
Mitchell Fang  
Jayden Lim Jun De  
Farah Ong  
David Puvan

(2hrs, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin with some English, Malay, Tamil and Chinese dialects, with English surtitles.

Advisory: Contains some mature content.

There will be a post-show dialogue with the director after each performance.

### About Nine Years Theatre

An award-winning company, Nine Years Theatre (NYT) is currently the only company under NAC's Major Company Scheme that positions itself as a Singapore Mandarin theatre company. NYT sees Chinese culture as the foundation of its work but not the centre of its practice, and the company believes in the uniqueness of local Chinese culture and aspires to recognise and celebrate the multicultural identity of the Singaporean Chinese through theatre.

NYT tells stories through live performances that remind us of our humanity. Since the beginning, the company has been invested in training actors, in order to create work that is consistent in quality. The company strives to entertain audiences in ways that are honest and thoughtful. Their work is recognised for being relatable and culturally layered, possessing deep sensibilities that speak to audiences from all backgrounds. Fluid in scale and genre, NYT creates performances ranging from original plays and transcreations, to interdisciplinary and international collaborations.

Nine Years Theatre Ltd is supported by the National Arts Council under the Major Company Scheme from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2025. It is a charity with IPC status.

### About Nelson Chia

Co-founder and Artistic Director, Nine Years Theatre

Nelson Chia is a director, performer, playwright, acting teacher and theatre lecturer. He has won Best Director four times and Best Actor twice at the Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards. In 2012, Chia was the first Singapore artist to be commissioned for three consecutive years by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay to present a major theatre work at the annual *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts*.

In 2017, he transcreated Cultural Medallion writer Yeng Pway Ngon's seminal novel *Art Studio* for the stage, which was commissioned by Singapore International Festival of Arts (SIFA) as the opening programme for the festival that year. In 2021, he collaborated with the renowned SITI Company from New York to present a hybrid version of Chekhov's *Three Sisters* at SIFA 2020/21. Other commissioning and artistic partners he has worked with include Macau Arts Festival, Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre, M1 Singapore Fringe Festival, Singapore Writers' Festival, The Substation, The Arts House, World Shakespeare Congress, T.H.E. Dance Company and Contemporary Legend Theatre (Taiwan), to name a few.

Chia's directorial works are marked by detailed and dynamic ensemble work. His original scripts and transcreations are known to be culturally layered, possessing sensibilities that speak to audiences from all backgrounds. In 2012, Nelson, with his wife Mia Chee, co-founded Nine Years Theatre (NYT) – currently the only company under NAC's "Major Company Scheme" that positions itself as a Singapore Mandarin theatre company. NYT sees Chinese culture as the foundation of its work but not the centre of its practice. The company believes in the uniqueness of local Chinese culture and aspires to recognise and celebrate the multicultural identity of the Singaporean Chinese through theatre.

**16 & 17 Feb 2024, Fri & Sat, 8pm**

Esplanade Theatre

Ticket Price: \$38\*, \$58\*\*, \$78^, \$98^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$30\*, \$46\*\*

Limited concession for PWDs: \$30

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials

Available from 14 Dec – 20 Dec 2023. Limited tickets.

Black: 20% savings

White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2)

^Esplanade&Me Specials

Available from 21 Dec 2023, 10am.

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2) (Limited tickets)

# The Sassy Princess | Woman Warrior: Mu Gui Ying

Starring: Law Ka-ying & Liza Wang

Boomabliss Cantonese Opera Troupe (Hong Kong)



The acclaimed Boomabliss Cantonese Opera Troupe from Hong Kong returns to Singapore for the first time in 30 years to present a spectacular theatrical feast for the senses. In this visit, the duo of Cantonese Opera heavyweight Law Ka-ying and veteran Hong Kong actress Liza Wang headline two iconic Cantonese Opera presentations *The Sassy Princess* and *Woman Warrior: Mu Gui Ying*.

*The Sassy Princess* is a charming love story between the sassy Princess Feng Xia and the heroic war commander Fei Xiong, while *Woman Warrior: Mu Gui Ying* is a tale of the Northern Song dynasty heroine Mu Gui Ying getting into a bitter clash with her warrior husband Yang Zongbao. These Cantonese Opera presentations are a multisensory feast that promises a thrilling evening at the theatre, featuring a heady combination of singing, speaking, acting and acrobatic fighting. Striking opera sets are vividly brought to life together with elaborate costumes and exquisite make-up.

## About Law Ka-ying and Liza Wang

Law Ka-ying's hard work and dedication to Cantonese Opera for over 50 years has made him a respected mainstay of the industry in Hong Kong. He began learning the artform at the age of six, training and gaining skills and experience from a variety of opera masters, eventually becoming recognised for his martial arts skills in performances as well. In 2018, he was awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star by Hong Kong for his contributions to the arts.

Liza Wang started her career as a television actress in the 1960s and ventured across the media landscape, also acting in movies and stage plays. Besides forming Boomabliss Cantonese Opera Troupe with Law Ka-ying, she has served as a member of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, a board director of the Hong Kong Dance Company, and currently sits on the Cantonese Opera Development Advisory Committee. In 2022, she was awarded the Golden Bauhinia Star for her contributions to the arts.

## About The Sassy Princess

She started a war by offending neighbouring countries. He had to fight in it and bring victory to the kingdom. But who will emerge victorious when the two come head-to-head? *The Sassy*

*Princess* is a charming and comedic Cantonese Opera love story between a stubbornly sassy Princess Feng Xia and a heroic war commander Fei Xiong.

(3hrs 30mins, including 20mins intermission.)  
Performed in Cantonese, with English and Mandarin surtitles.

**24 Feb 2024, Sat, 7pm**

Esplanade Theatre

About Woman Warrior: Mu Gui Ying

A domineering wife causes her more-than-capable husband to suffer humiliation in battle. What happens next when their relationship too becomes a battlefield? This Cantonese Opera presentation features the legendary Northern Song dynasty heroine Mu Gui Ying, whose imperiousness results in a bitter clash with her warrior husband Yang Zongbao.

(3hrs 30mins, including 20mins intermission.)  
Performed in Cantonese, with English and Mandarin surtitles.

**25 Feb 2024, Sun, 7pm**

Esplanade Theatre

Ticket Prices Per Production:

\$38\*, \$58\*\*, \$88^, \$118^, \$148^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$30\*, \$46\*\*

Limited concession for PWDs: \$30

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## 13-67

Zuni Icosahedron (Hong Kong)

Original Story: Chan Ho-Kei

Director & Adaptation: Mathias Woo



Pop idols, market folk, kidnappers, bomb maniacs, a billionaire tycoon—kaleidoscopic characters of a restless and ever-changing Hong Kong.

Award-winning Hong Kong author Chan Ho-Kei's classic crime fiction novel *The Borrowed* is brought to spellbinding life by Zuni Icosahedron in *13-67*. Embark on a gripping journey that starts with retiring ace detective Kwan Chun-dok's final case and travel back in time from 2013 to 1967, uncovering the significant mysteries of his impressive career spanning five decades. Detective Kwan's investigative prowess and uncanny deductive skills are put to the test as he expertly unravels each intricate case, letting the truth come to light.

Mathias Woo, co-Artistic Director of Zuni Icosahedron, skilfully adapts and directs this atmospheric thriller that brings audiences on a gripping journey through iconic events in Hong Kong's history. Relive memorable moments as the story unfolds against a dynamic backdrop of Hong Kong's striking social and political landscapes which are meticulously and lovingly conjured through multimedia stagecraft featuring evocative visuals and popular music through the decades.

© Chan Ho-Kei With authorisation from Crown Culture Corporation.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)

Performed in Cantonese, with English & Chinese surtitles.

Advisory: Contains some mature content, loud sound effects of gunshots, haze and strobe lighting. Recommended for ages 13 and above.

### About Zuni Icosahedron

Founded in 1982, Zuni Icosahedron is one Hong Kong's most iconic professional experimental theatre groups, and one of its nine major professional performing arts groups.

Zuni's theatre-based experimental spirit has pioneered the integration, inheritance, and innovation of Chinese and Western art, promoting international exchange in areas that are cross-boundary and cross-category.

Zuni Icosahedron is financially supported by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

#### About Mathias Woo

As the co-Artistic Director cum Executive Director of Zuni Icosahedron, Mathias Woo is a scriptwriter, director, producer as well as curator. His works construct aesthetics in theatre through strong visual images, and have toured in cities such as Beijing, Berlin, Brussels, Hangzhou, Krakow, Milan, Nanjing, Shanghai, Singapore, Taipei and Tokyo, among others. Woo's theatre works explore a wide range of subjects, including but not limited to literature, history, current political affairs, architecture, spirituality, and traditional arts' development. His recent productions include *Read Sing Eileen Chang* at the Aranya Theatre Festival 2023, *HK: A Theatre of Life and Death*, *Bach is Heart Sutra*, *Hua-Yen Sutra, 1587*, *A Year of No Significance*, *A Tale of Forbidden City*, *The Life and Times of Louis I. Kahn*, *Dream on Dreams (Kunqu)*, among many others. Woo is also in charge of multimedia stage design, and has cooperated with various Chinese theatre masters such as Stan Lai, Edward Lam, Meng Jinghui and more.

In 2009, Woo curated the ever first Architecture is Art Festival dedicated to exploring the aesthetics and dialectics brought forth when architecture meets theatre, through a series of theatre performances, exhibitions, talks and seminars. Woo is also the mastermind behind the Zuni Innovation Lab launched in 2017.

Woo has received several awards throughout his career. To name a few, *Looking for Mies* was awarded DFA Merit by the Hong Kong Design Centre in 2012; Woo was awarded the Arts and Cultural Figure of the Year in Shenzhen and Hong Kong Lifestyle Award by Southern Metropolitan Daily in 2013; *The Architecture of The City* won the DFA Design for Asia Awards 2018 – Silver Award and the Silver A' Design Award in Performing Arts, Style and Scenery Design Category in 2019. With Z Innovation Lab 2019, Woo received the Red Dot Award: Brands & Communication Design 2020, and *Bach is Heart Sutra* clinched the DFA Design for Asia Awards 2021 – Merit Award. In 2023, the Countryside Cultural Innovation Project - Lai Chi Wo Children Play Theatre Lai Chi WOW! won the Golden Pin Design Award (Taiwan).

#### About Chan Ho-Kei

Chan Ho-Kei is a graduate in Computer Science from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and an international member of the Mystery Writers of Taiwan. In 2008, his short story *The case of Jack and the Beanstalk* was shortlisted for the 6th Mystery Writers of Taiwan Award. In 2009, he won the 7th Mystery Writers of Taiwan Award with his short story, *The Locked Room of Bluebeard*. In 2011, he won the 2nd Soji Shimada Mystery Award with his first novel, *The Man Who Sold the World*.

#### **16 & 17 Feb 2024, Fri & Sat**

Fri, 8pm, Sat, 3pm & 8pm

Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade

Ticket Price: \$48\*, \$68^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$36\*

Limited concession for PWDs: \$36

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Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2) (Limited tickets)

## Dear Governor Bao – A Crosstalk Production

by Comedians Workshop (Taiwan)



Some say he has a dark complexion and a scar in the shape of a crescent moon on his forehead. Some say he is the reincarnation of the Star of Wisdom. Some even say that after his death he became the King of Hell!

We dare you not to laugh as Governor Bao holds court! Comedians Workshop presents a witty and light-hearted cross-examination of this legendary figure.

A renowned official from the Northern Song dynasty, Governor Bao, nicknamed “Justice Bao”, was famed for his impartiality and integrity. He feared nothing, heard and passed judgement on cases around-the-clock. His exploits grew in popularity through time and have endured through ages and generations, countless told and retold through Traditional Chinese Opera performances and television shows.

*Dear Governor Bao – A Crosstalk Production* takes a relentlessly comedic look at this iconic figure in Chinese history and popular culture, and humorously tears into his well-known cases “The Case of the Black Basin”, “Raccoon for a Prince”, and “The Chalk Circle”. Watch out for an unpredictable surprise ending!

Taiwan’s Comedians Workshop is led by founder and art director Feng Yi-Gang, and is renowned for their mastery of crosstalk. For over 30 years, their fiercely original and laugh-out-loud funny presentations—inspired by Chinese culture, history and literature—have shed light on how we think and how we live.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin, no surtitles.

### About Comedians Workshop

Comedians Workshop was founded in 1988. Its works are inspired by elements of history, literature, and culture after thorough study, interwoven with the narrative mode and aesthetics of modern drama, presented as comedies to shed light on social phenomenon, human thoughts, and concern from the eyes of the artists.

Thanks to the elements of humanity found in their works, their texts and productions have always been preferred as teaching materials by teachers in primary and high schools in Taiwan, extending the influence of artistic creation to education. The strong humour and lingering thoughts have earned them the admiration and support from audiences of all ages.

As always, Comedians Workshop persists with the spirit of originality. With an abundance of creative power, the workshop has kept its audiences company in a humorous way of living. With more than 30 years of experience in artistic creation, the company's works provide a glimpse into the changing landscape of Taiwanese society.

### About Feng Yi-Gang

Dramatist and performer Feng Yi-Gang is the founder and artistic director of Comedians Workshop. The author of numerous publications and written works in print and digital, he is also an Assistant Professor at National Taiwan Normal University.

For his contributions over the years to scriptwriting, performance and education, Feng has received prestigious awards in Taiwan, including the National Military's Award for the Arts, the Chinese Literary Award, Ten Outstanding Young Persons Award and the Taiwan Literature Prize for Scriptwriting.

### **23 & 24 Feb 2024**

Fri & Sat, 8pm  
Esplanade Concert Hall

Ticket Price: \$38\*, \$58\*\*, \$88^  
Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$30\*, \$46\*\*  
Limited concession for PWDs: \$30

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White: 10% savings  
Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2) (Limited tickets)

An Esplanade Co-production

## Transplant

by The Finger Players x RUDRA (Singapore)

Written and directed by Oliver Chong



There once was a family of four: the father vehemently denies his own infidelity; an erudite yet loquacious old mother is confined to her bed; a son grapples with the complexities of love amid academic struggles; and a wife is plagued by the three afflictions of greed, hatred and ignorance. Their lives take a dark turn when a mysterious yet alluring homeless damsel becomes their maid, personifying the malevolent forces that torment the wife's restless soul.

Drawing inspiration from various tales in the classic anthology *Liaozhai* (also known as *Strange Tales from a Chinese Studio*), *Transplant* delves into the depths of human nature, where inner darkness can yield dire consequences.

Award-winning theatre veteran Oliver Chong once again takes on a multi-hyphenated role as the production's playwright, director, and set designer. Incorporating the dexterous use of puppetry, Oliver will offer a fresh and unique lens to these classic tales. *Transplant* also sees a ground-breaking collaboration with legendary Singaporean Vedic metal band, RUDRA. The fusion of Vedic metal and puppetry may seem unlikely, yet it resonates profoundly in portraying a family manipulated by inner demons, a theme incidentally popular in Vedic Mythology, ultimately leading to their demise and destruction. Together with a stellar cast and the best creatives from the Singapore theatre scene, *Transplant* promises to be an unforgettable work.

Playwright / Director / Set Designer:

Sonic Design and Live Musical Accompaniment:

System Designer and Sound Engineer:

Lighting Designer:

Costume Designer:

Puppet Designer:

Performers / Puppeteers:

Oliver Chong

RUDRA

Lee Yew Jin

Gabriel Chan

Loo An Ni

Daniel Sim

Alvin Chiam

Ellison Tan

Jo Kwek

Neo Hai Bin  
Myra Loke  
Angelina Chandra  
Rachel Nip

(1hr 40mins, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin, with English surtitles.

Admission for ages 13 and above.

Advisory 16: Contains some mature content, including some depictions of violence and gore.

There will be a post-show dialogue with the director after each performance.

### About The Finger Players

The Finger Players is one of Singapore's leading theatre companies, best known for inventively fusing traditional and contemporary puppetry elements and integrating other artistic disciplines into its visually-arresting productions.

Founded in 1999, The Finger Players is Singapore's oldest contemporary puppetry theatre company. Since its inception, it has been invited to perform in places such as Africa, Australia, Spain, Paris, Japan, Hungary, South Korea, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Thailand, making it one of Singapore's most prolific international touring companies.

As recognition of its remarkable productions, robust track record, and strong advocacy of puppetry, The Finger Players is a recipient of the National Arts Council's Major Company status, valid for a three-year funding cycle.

The Finger Players has been awarded the President's Design Award (2007), the Singapore Youth Award (Team) (2008), and numerous accolades in The Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards for its efforts to engage the masses through drama and its pursuit of artistic excellence in theatre. Its body of work is extensive and has garnered recognition from both domestic and international media.

The Finger Players' Core Team consists of Chong Tze Chien, Ellison Tan, Lam Dan Fong, Loo An Ni, Myra Loke, Oliver Chong (Current Artistic Director), Ong Kian Sin, Sindhura Kalidas and Tan Xiang Yi—a collective of award-winning artists, designers and experienced arts managers.

### About Oliver Chong

Oliver Chong is a multi-award-winning and published playwright, director, actor, puppeteer; and set and puppet designer. Some of his memorable works include *Every Brilliant Thing*, *A Fiend's Diary*, *Roots*, *I'm Just A Piano Teacher*, *Cat*, *Lost & Found*, *The Book of Living and Dying*, *Citizen Pig* and *Citizen Dog*. His numerous wins and nominations at The Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards include Production of the Year, Best Director, Best Script, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor, Best Ensemble and Best Set Design.

To date, Oliver's works have been presented at international arts festivals in Paris, Myanmar, Barcelona, Budapest, Ankara, Bangkok, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan and Malaysia. He has conducted playwriting, directing and acting Masterclasses in Hong Kong and Singapore, and has been committed to helping practitioners fine-tune their crafts since 2014.

Oliver was the Resident Director of The Finger Players (2004 – 2018), and is currently the Artistic Director of the company. He is also the founding member of A Group Of People (2008 – 2012) and the founder of ODDCROP Productions (2019 – present). His published works include *Roots*, *The Book of Living and Dying*, *I'm Just A Piano Teacher* and *Cat*, *Lost & Found*. *Roots* was also read and staged in New Zealand by Proudly Asian Theatre in 2018.

### About RUDRA

RUDRA, the name of the Indian deity of destruction, conjures the scene of death and destruction. Just like the deity, the band was named so to symbolise the aggressive character of its music.

A legend in the Asian metal scene, RUDRA was established in 1992. Since its humble beginning as a Death Metal band, the band went on to pioneer the evolution of a new genre of called Vedic metal. Vedic metal can be characterised as a bridge between the east and the west: incorporating Indian traditional music, Sanskrit chants and mantras into the sounds characteristic of death and black metal.

### **23 & 24 Feb 2024**

Fri & Sat, 8pm

Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade

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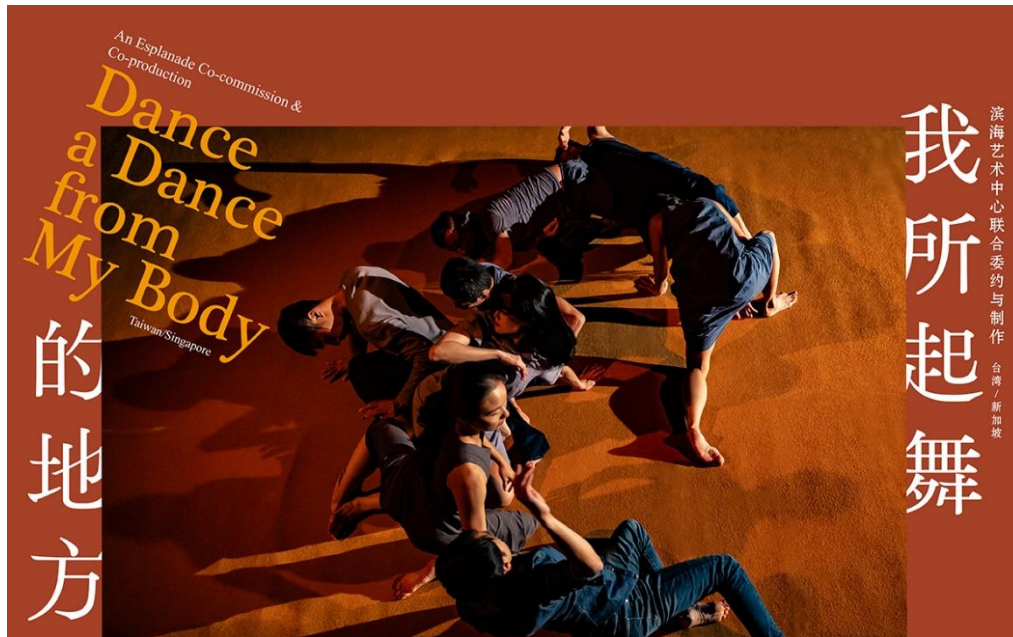


An Esplanade Co-commission & Co-production

## Dance a Dance from My Body

(Taiwan/Singapore)

Choreographer: Chou Shu-yi



*How do humans empower themselves for survival?  
And what do they sacrifice for freedom?*

*Why do lives shift, and why do they settle down here?  
Why drift, and why take roots?*

*Where do I come from, and why do I dance here?  
Where will be the hopes of my future?*

*We are born and raised somewhere between an island and a land in Asia  
We move along the differences between colours and languages*

Acclaimed Taiwanese choreographer Chou Shu-yi and a regional team of artists from Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong, embark on a journey to find out why we dance, in an exploration of Asian Chinese identity through time, discovering the different places from which dancers emerge.

Where did we live? Where did we come from? All our bodies carry timestamps of history and humankind, records of the choices we make at every stage of our lives. Moving from dwelling to dwelling, humankind evolved as we made colossal movements and migrations through the eras.

In *Dance a Dance from My Body*, Chou invites you to imagine our futures through the movements of our bodies and our lives. Chou delves into the relationships between dancers and the lands they come from to find out where they began dancing—why this place, and where exactly is it?

Singapore and Taiwan—lands teeming with people of a variety of races, melting pots of diverse cultures. The openness of both countries has encouraged the endless flow of

exchanges with the world outside, and it is this open-mindedness that Chou wields in *Dance a Dance from My Body*.

Co-commissioned and co-produced by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay and National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts Weiwuying.

There will be a post-show dialogue conducted in Mandarin with choreographer and performers after each performance.

Choreographer: Chou Shu-yi (Taiwan)  
Set & Lighting Designer: Lee Chi-wai (Hong Kong)  
Music Designer: Wang Yu-jun (Taiwan)  
Performers: Chiew Peishan, Chua Chiok Woon, Hong Guofeng, Ng Zu You, Tung Ka Wai (Singapore), Cheng Chih-chung, Liang Chun-wen, Yang Ya-chun, Yu Yen-fang (Taiwan)

Graphic Designer: Winder Chen

Photographer: Bernie Ng

Special thanks to KARMA Medical for wheelchair sponsor.

(1hr 15mins, no intermission)

Performed in English, Mandarin and some dialects.

There will be a post-show dialogue conducted in Mandarin with the choreographer and performers after each performance.

#### About Chou Shu-yi

Chou Shu-yi has been an Artist-in Residence at National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) since 2020. Chou is also the curator of *Taiwan Dance Platform*, a programme based in southern Taiwan, which aims to serve as a point of connection for contemporary dance in Asia. Using dance as a language to communicate with the world, Chou focuses on the relationships between humans and society. In his creations, he harnesses the power of cross-disciplinary collaborations to express the public nature of arts.

Between 2022 and 2024, he also initiated the *Bolero in Kaohsiung* project, bringing dance performances out of the theatre setting and into the community, and at the same time, nurturing the next generation of dancers in Taiwan.

#### **23 & 24 Feb 2024**

Fri & Sat, 8pm

Esplanade Theatre Studio

Ticket Price: \$38^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$30

#### ^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials

Available from 14 Dec – 20 Dec 2023. Limited tickets.

Black: 20% savings

White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2)

#### ^Esplanade&Me Specials

Available from 21 Dec 2023, 10am.

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2) (Limited tickets)

An Esplanade Commission  
**The Dog Who Wasn't Useful**  
Drama Box (Singapore)



Once upon a time, there lived a dog on a farm who didn't feel very useful at all. The cows give milk, the sheep provide wool, and the chickens supply eggs. What is the job of the dog on the farm? He envied the other animals on the farm and one day decides to be like them, to hilarious results. Can a dog's value be measured by its ability to lay eggs or to provide milk?

Adapted from the podcast of the same title by Daniel Hinds, *The Dog Who Wasn't Useful* is a funny and interactive tale about one's journey in discovering their gift, and a reminder that we are all unique and "useful" in our own ways.

Come and be a part of the farm with the dog and his friends!

Directed by Isabella Chiam & Koh Hui Ling (Drama Box)  
Cast: Jodi Chan, Hang Qian Chou, Jo Kwek, Joel Tan, & Tan Rui Shan

(50mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin, with English surtitles.  
Floor seating only.

Admission for ages 4 and above.  
Recommended for ages 5 to 8.

### About Drama Box

Founded in 1990, Drama Box is a socially engaged theatre company known for creating works that inspire dialogue, reflection and change. By shining a spotlight on marginalised narratives and making space for the communal contemplation of complex issues, the company seeks to tell stories that provoke a deeper understanding of Singapore's culture, history and identity.

Drama Box is a charity and Institution of Public Character (IPC) registered in Singapore, supported by the National Arts Council under the Major Company Scheme for the period of April 2023 and March 2026.

**16 – 18 Feb 2024, Fri – Sun, 11am & 3pm**  
Esplanade Theatre Studio

Ticket Price: \$30^

^Esplanade&Me Specials

PIP's Club: 10% savings (Min. of 2) (Limited tickets)

## WUTIAOREN “I Have A Dream”

(China)



What was it that caught your eye? Is it the dashing man from the Haifeng, Guangdong, or the blues maniac from the Pearl River Delta? Perhaps it was the new wave of Cantonpop ballads, or the new sound of Chinese psychedelic rock—or all of the above.

Founded in 2008, WUTIAOREN is a band formed by Renke and Maotao. With nine albums under its belt, the band blurs the boundary between art and life, tearing through the barriers of language, region, class and generation cementing its phenomenal status in China.

Join WUTIAOREN as they breeze into Southeast Asia from the winds of Guangdong and see how the band transforms the Esplanade Concert Hall with their high-energy live show!

*in::music* showcases some of the most inspiring Chinese singer-songwriters & bands performing their original compositions.

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

**17 Feb 2024, Sat, 7.30pm**  
Esplanade Concert Hall

Ticket Price: \$68\*, \$98\*\*, \$128^, \$148^  
Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$55\*, \$85\*\*  
Limited concession for PWDs: \$55

[^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials](#)  
Available from 14 Dec – 20 Dec 2023. Limited tickets.

Black: 20% savings  
White: 15% savings  
Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2)

^Esplanade&Me Specials

Available from 21 Dec 2023, 10am.

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings (Limited tickets)

Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2) (Limited tickets)

## waa wei “LITTLE NICE :DAY”

(Taiwan)



Wild yet restrained; delicate yet enchanting, extinguishing the fatigue of those injured in both mind and soul.

The golden songstress, the healing voice from *Eternal Sound: Treasure Island*, the doll herself: Wei Ruxuan! After five years, the beloved Taiwanese singer-songwriter, better known as waa wei, returns to Esplanade to conquer the Concert Hall stage. *Have A Nice Day* with this Mandopop star and let her envelope you in her bubble of love in this night of music.

*in::music* showcases some of the most inspiring Chinese singer-songwriters & bands performing their original compositions.

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

**18 Feb 2024, Sun, 7.30pm**

Esplanade Concert Hall

Ticket Price: \$68\*, \$98\*\*, \$128^, \$148^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$55\*, \$85\*\*

Limited concession for PWDs: \$55

[^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials](#)

Available from 14 Dec – 20 Dec 2023. Limited tickets.

Black: 20% savings

White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2)

[^Esplanade&Me Specials](#)

Available from 21 Dec 2023, 10am.

Black: 15% savings

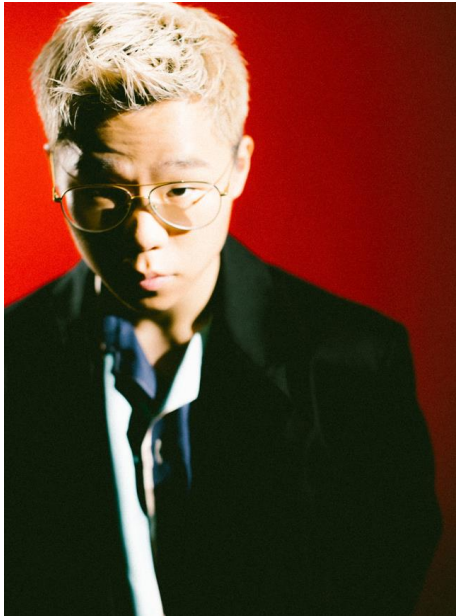
White: 10% savings (Limited tickets)

Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2) (Limited tickets)



## Gareth.T “T-Time”

(Hong Kong)



Gareth.T, a rising star in the music scene, is set to captivate audiences in Singapore with his highly anticipated debut performance. Having already sold-out major arenas in Hong Kong, Gareth.T has become an icon for the new music movement. His chart-topping hits include *Boyfriend Material*, *Hyperromantic*, *Laugh Cry*, *Honest*, and *Loner Anthem*.

Blending R&B-infused pop with Western and Cantonese influences, Gareth.T's music defies categorisation. He will take the audience on a sonic rollercoaster, from soul-stirring ballads to energetic hip-hop tracks and everything in between. With his signature deadpan yet undeniably cute demeanour, Gareth.T exudes charm that is one-of-a-kind.

*in::music* showcases some of the most inspiring Chinese singer-songwriters & bands performing their original compositions.

(1hr 15mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Cantonese and English.  
Standing room only.

**23 Feb 2024, Fri, 8pm**  
Esplanade Annexe Studio

Ticket Price: \$68^  
Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$55

[^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials](#)  
Available from 14 Dec – 20 Dec 2023. Limited tickets.

Black: 20% savings  
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Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2)

[^Esplanade&Me Specials](#)  
Available from 21 Dec 2023, 10am. Limited tickets

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2)

## Pei-Yu Hung “Silver Lining”

(Taiwan)



Somewhere in the depths of YouTube, there is a single song accompanied by nothing but a photo of a cafe and yet, it has since accumulated more than 63 million views.

There is a single individual, who shunned the public eye despite everyone’s expectations after becoming the runner-up of the fifth season of the television show, *Super Idol*, in 2011. This is the original singer of *Tiptoe to You*, Pei-Yu Hung.

In 2022, Hung returned to the pop music scene with her first album *Silver Lining*, which quickly won praise from fans and critics alike. In addition to being nominated for eight Golden Melody Awards and winning the Best Newcomer Award, her song *The Usual* for the movie *Day Off* also won Best Original Film Song, making her a double gold medal winner in just one year.

Awards aside, the singer-songwriter remains loyal to herself and continues to explore different artistic fields. Come find your Silver Lining with Pei-Yu Hung in this upcoming *in::music* concert and embrace both the light and darkness of life.

*in::music* showcases some of the most inspiring Chinese singer-songwriters & bands performing their original compositions.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin.  
Standing room only.

**24 Feb 2024, Sat, 8pm**  
Esplanade Annexe Studio

Ticket Price: \$68^  
Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$55

[^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials](#)  
Available from 14 Dec – 20 Dec 2023. Limited tickets.

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^Esplanade&Me Specials

Available from 21 Dec 2023, 10am. Limited tickets

Black: 15% savings  
White: 10% savings  
Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2)

## Yo Lee “Cooling Down”

(Taiwan)



This is an exercise that deals with loss.  
Let go, stretch, reminisce, rest.  
A love of storytelling.

Separated hearts won't be mended by a long closure.  
Frozen together with the remnants of the past.

I'm not strong enough to forgive reality.  
I can only gradually adapt to its rhythm.  
From spine to toes  
I immerse myself over and over again.

It's more like adding up.  
The days are more like decimal points that can't be divided.

Tomorrow won't be better.  
Tomorrow will be like yesterday.

1, 2, 3, 4  
2, 2, 3, 4  
The cold freezes your passion.

The champion of 2018's *Jungle Voice*, the 32nd Golden Melody Awards finalist for Best Newcomer and Best MV, and the 16th Singapore Freshmusic Awards annual EP winner, Yo Lee brings his 2024 *Cooling Down* Live Tour to Singapore. Join this Taiwanese singer-songwriter in facing the unspeakable desires of the self through his haunting songs.

*in::music* showcases some of the most inspiring Chinese singer-songwriters & bands performing their original compositions.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin.  
Standing room only.

**25 Feb 2024, Sun, 3pm**  
Esplanade Annexe Studio

Ticket Price: \$68^

Limited concessions for students, NSF's, seniors and PWDs: \$55

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials

Available from 14 Dec – 20 Dec 2023. Limited tickets.

Black: 20% savings

White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2)

^Esplanade&Me Specials

Available from 21 Dec 2023, 10am. Limited tickets

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2)

## The Four Beauties

Shanghai Pingtan Troupe (China)



With a history dating back to the late Ming dynasty, come experience a performance of elegant storytelling set to music as traditional *pingtan* makes its debut at Esplanade.

Originating in Suzhou over 400 years ago, *pingtan* is a genre of musical storytelling. Performed in the Suzhou dialect, which is famous for its melodious and lilting qualities, *pingtan* is a combination of two Chinese narrative folk art forms—*pinghua* (narration without music) and *tanci* (narration with music accompaniment).

For one night only, the renowned Shanghai Pingtan Troupe will perform stories of The Four Beauties of ancient China—Xi Shi, Diao Chan, Wang Zhaojun and Yang Guifei. Beyond waxing lyrical about the allure of the four beauties, the performance will creatively narrate the touching sacrifices the four made for their country and its people.

### What is *Pingtan*?

Two chairs flanking a small table, a woodblock for creating sounds and rhythm to draw attention, a folding fan and a stringed musical instrument (either *sanxian* or a *pipa*)—this simple stage set-up coupled with melodic narration evokes the listeners' imaginations as the performers tell stories about battle tales and heartrending romances. The art of *pingtan* was listed as one of China's intangible cultural heritage by the Ministry of Culture of China in 2006. Learn more about Pingtan with Gao Bowen at *Talk: Pingtan - The Jiangnan in My Heart* taking place at the Esplanade Annexe Studio on 20 Feb, a free by registration event!

(2hrs, including 20mins intermission)

Performed in Suzhou dialect, with English and Chinese surtitles.

### About Shanghai Pingtan Troupe

Founded in 1951, Shanghai Pingtan Troupe is the first national *pingtan* troupe of China and widely regarded as one of the best. Over the last few decades, the troupe has made significant contributions to the cultivation and development of this traditional art form. The renowned troupe has received many accolades for its exquisite performances. The troupe presents over 4,000 performances yearly in China and has been invited to showcase this intangible cultural heritage to audiences around the world including Europe, America and parts of Asia.

**21 Feb 2024, Wed, 7.30pm**

Esplanade Concert Hall

Ticket Price: \$48^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$36

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials

Available from 14 Dec – 20 Dec 2023. Limited tickets

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Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2)

^Esplanade&Me Specials

Available from 21 Dec 2023, 10am.

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2) (Limited tickets)



## Microcosm – A sonic tea ceremony

by Shaman Tearoom (Malaysia)



Enter, immerse, infuse.

Shaman Tearoom—the multidisciplinary duo Aiwei Foo and Kent Lee, accompanied by percussionist Yoong How Thong—invites you into a sonic tea ceremony that looks within ourselves to understand the world around us.

Blurring art and life, *Microcosm* creates a space for audience members to escape the pressures of the everyday. Inspired by the Tao Te Ching, this immersive experience features musical improvisation using a digital music workstation, acoustic music instruments, written text, and vocals. All these elements are brought together in a tea ceremony, in an exploration of how we can harmoniously exist within ourselves and evolve along with the world around us.

Formed in 2020, Shaman Tearoom's works often integrate Eastern philosophy and knowledge into the context of contemporary life, with the aim to stimulate introspection and contemplation. Aiwei Foo's art practice reaches across visual arts, photography, moving images and performance art. Kent Lee is a self-taught sound artist and experimental musician. In 2023, they participated in the Rainforest World Music Festival in and performed at Singapore Art Week. Both artists—shamans—are based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

(1hr 15mins, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin, no surtitles.

Floor seating only.

### About Shaman Tearoom

Shaman Tearoom, led by Aiwei Foo and Kent Lee, is a multidisciplinary artist partnership currently based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Their projects revolve around the cultivation of the mind through artistic expression, encompassing contemporary art, lyrical poetics, healing ambient, tea ceremonies, sound art, and sensory experiences. Very often, their works integrate Eastern philosophy and knowledge into the context of contemporary life, with the intention of stimulating introspection and contemplation.

Aiwei Foo is a multidisciplinary artist from Borneo, presently based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She draws inspiration from the mundane aspects of daily life and advocates for the fusion of art and life to create mindfully and sustainably across various creative disciplines, including visual arts, photography, moving images/video works, performance art, music, texts, textiles,

tea ceremonies, and food projects. Aiwei was the featured artist on Unknown Asia Art Exchange Osaka 2016 and was awarded the Judge Prize from Jam Factory Bangkok as well as the Reviewer Prize from Masakazu Takei (Foil Gallery Kyoto) and Mayumi Matsubara (IN CO., LTD). She was also one of the artist ambassadors for Japan Art Travel 2019 selected by the Japan National Tourism Organisation.

Kent Lee, also based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, is a self-taught sound artist and musician with a penchant for experimental music that fuses acoustic elements with electronic innovation, emphasising improvisation over fixed compositions. Kent's extensive experience includes composing and performing for dance and musical theatre productions. Kent was awarded as the best music and sound designer at BOH Cameronian Arts Awards 2020.

Shaman Tearoom was founded in 2020. Their works have been exhibited in Venice, Germany, and Hong Kong. They have also performed at Singapore Art Week and showcased short films at the London Festival of Architecture. In 2022, they held their first solo exhibition performance titled '*Still Life*.' Additionally, Shaman Tearoom is a sound healer and participated in Rainforest World Music Festival 2023.

#### About Yoong How Thong

Yoong How Thong's percussion journey began at a remarkably young age, when he assumed the role of Commander and Head of Snare Drum in a marching band at just 10 years old, showcasing his early passion and dedication.

Over the course of his career, Thong has performed in numerous countries, amassing over 500 performances, solidifying his reputation as a seasoned and accomplished percussionist. In 2016, he founded the FrhythmS Academy Institute, dedicated to spreading the art of percussion and rhythm-based performances inclusively.

Thong's versatility extends beyond traditional percussion, as he explores modern dance, ballet, tai chi, yoga, and various percussion styles, demonstrating his dedication to expanding his skill set and embracing different rhythmic traditions. In recent years, he has been actively involved in designing soundtracks for dance productions and concerts.

Thong's belief that percussion is not just a skill, but an attitude and a form of self-discipline, underscores his profound connection with the art form and his life philosophy.

**16 & 17 Feb 2024, Fri & Sat, 8pm**

Esplanade Annexe Studio

Ticket Price: \$38^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$30

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Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2) (Limited tickets)

#### ^Esplanade&Me Specials

Available from 21 Dec 2023, 10am.

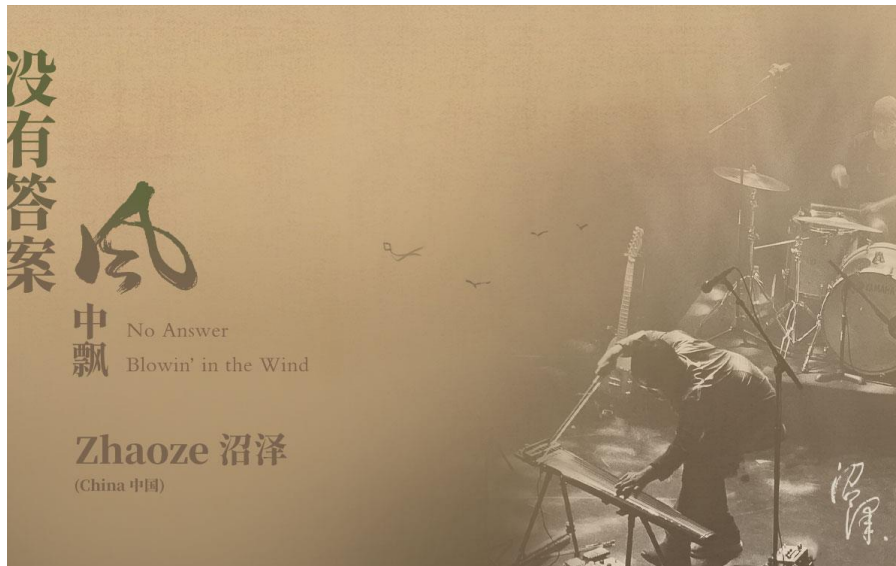
Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2) (Limited tickets)

## Zhaoze “No Answer Blowin’ in the Wind”

(China)



Complex, hauntingly poetic compositions that flows from one note to another, much like a Chinese landscape painting: hailing all the way from Guangzhou, China, instrumental post-rock band Zhaoze makes its Singapore debut with its unique, signature sound.

Centering the delicate sounds of traditional instruments like the *guqin* (Chinese stringed instrument) and *xiao* (Chinese vertical flute), Zhaoze’s unorthodox set-up distinguishes the band from the sea of post-rock outfits that exist today. Intense and immersive, their music carries the history and weight of ancient China, married with the contemporary sensibilities of progressive and post-rock. The result is an imaginative sound spectrum that is equally compelling as it is cathartic. Known for explosive and powerful live shows, Zhaoze’s concert in Singapore highlights songs from their latest album *No Answer Blowin’ in the Wind*, alongside older releases.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)  
Standing room only.

### About Zhaoze

The one and only Zhaoze—one of China’s leading rock bands, this group is known for how they electrify the thousand-year-old *guqin*, seamlessly combining its sound with that of post- and progressive rock. The result is a unique and imaginative sound spectrum filled with dreamy compositions that are both ancient yet modern, deeply embedded with raw emotions reminiscent of the powerful strokes found in Chinese landscape paintings. Propelled forward by their unique sound and explosive live shows, the band has toured in several countries in continents like Asia, Europe, as well as both South and North America.

**18 Feb 2024, Sun, 5pm**  
Esplanade Annexe Studio

Ticket Price: \$38^  
Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$30

### ^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials

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^Esplanade&Me Specials

Available from 21 Dec 2023, 10am.

Black: 15% savings  
White: 10% savings  
Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2) (Limited tickets)

## Creative Stone Seal Carving Workshop

Baisimu (Singapore)



Stone seals are unique keepsakes that can last for a long time. Make it even more special by carving one yourself!

In this two-hour workshop, discover the art and tradition of stone seal carving, but with a modern twist. Get to know the tools and materials needed to make a stone seal, and the basic techniques for carving the stone. All materials are provided.

At the end of the workshop, you'll take home two of your very own hand-carved stone seals. You can choose to carve Chinese characters, a symbol, or even short English names.

(2hrs)

Conducted in English and Mandarin.

Admission for ages 16 and above.

### About Baisimu

Founder of Baisimu, Jean is a Singaporean Chinese who has been carving for 10 years. A self-taught carver, she enjoys incorporating modern designs and symbols into her stone seals. Hoping to explore variety in functionality and design, Jean has also ventured into rubber stamp carving and is well-versed in handling both materials.

**17 Feb 2024, Sat, 1.30pm & 4.30pm**

Esplanade Bay Room (Meet at Concert Hall entrance, 15mins before start time.)

Ticket Price: \$42^ [Sold Out]

### ^Esplanade&Me Specials

Black, White & Discover: 50% savings. (up to 2 tickets) Limited to 17 Feb, Sat, 1.30pm session only.

## Jagua Tattoo Workshop

HEYCYANN (Singapore)



Whether you're intrigued by the art of jagua tattooing or drawn to the elegance of Chinese ink paintings, this workshop is the perfect starting point.

In this workshop, learn the basics of drawing and shading with jagua, and create your own tattoos inspired by traditional Chinese ink paintings. With multi-disciplinary artist and Jagua tattoo expert HEYCYANN, you'll be guided through the entire process, and given step-by-step demonstrations as well as personal guidance.

(2hrs)

Conducted in English.

Admission for ages 13 and above.

### About HEYCYANN

Discover the magic of semi-permanent tattoos with Cyann (HEYCYANN). Cyann is a multi-disciplinary artist who has established a strong reputation for her exceptional work in semi-permanent tattoos. Drawn with a plant-based ink (known as Jagua), her intricate designs leave a beautiful midnight-blue stain on the skin that rival the look of permanent tattoos, lasting for approximately two weeks. Her talent has been recognised by prominent publications such as L'Officiel, FEMALE, TheSmartLocal, as well as brands such as Kate Spade, Prada, Adidas and more. She has also been invited to practise and showcase her craft globally, in cities such as London and Kuala Lumpur.

**24 Feb 2024, Sat, 1.30pm & 4.30pm**

Esplanade Bay Room (Meet at Concert Hall entrance, 15mins before start time.)

Ticket Price: \$38^ [Sold Out]

### ^Esplanade&Me Specials

Black, White & Discover: 50% savings (up to 2 tickets). Limited to 24 Feb, Sat, 1.30pm session only.

## Parent-Child Workshop: Punch Needle “CNY Special”

by Beadbadwolf (Singapore)



Learn the intricate craft of punch needling in this two-hour guided workshop, where you'll recreate a Chinese New Year motif. All materials are provided. Suitable for beginners.

(2hrs)

Conducted in English and Mandarin.

Recommended for ages 6 and above, with an accompanying adult. Accompanying adult must be above 16. No admission for ages below 6.

### About Beadbadwolf

In a huff and a puff, Beadbadwolf is a craft brand with a tale to tell. Guided by a passion for craft, design and sustainability, Cheryl hustles behind Beadbadwolf as the textile artist for all things crafty and handmade. Her main source of motivation stems from her grandmother's love for craft and her colourful Peranakan heritage. She uses her background as inspiration for creating all kinds of craft workshops that are accessible for everyone and anyone!

**18 & 25 Feb 2024, Sun, 10am, 1.30pm & 4.30pm**

Esplanade Bay Room (Meet at Concert Hall entrance, 15mins before start time.)

Ticket Price:

1 Adult + 1 Child \$50

1 Adult + 2 Child \$75

2 Adult + 1 Child \$75

### ^Esplanade&Me Specials

Black, White & Discover: 50% savings. (up to 3 tickets) Limited to 18 & 25 Feb, Sat, 1.30pm session only.

## Start with the Body: Body Movement Workshop

Chou Shu-yi (Taiwan)



Taiwanese choreographer Chou Shu-yi conducts a workshop focusing on the exploration of body movements and improvisation, as well as how different physical conditions can come together.

Taiwan theatre practitioner, Cheng Chih-chung will also participate in this sharing session

Limited slots available. Pre-registration is required and applicants should meet one of the following criteria:

- Practising dance professionals , or
- Full-time dance students, aged 15 and above, or
- Dancers with a few years of dance experience, or
- People with physical performance experience.

This is an inclusive workshop and we welcome people with disabilities who have physical performance experience.

Successful applicants will be contacted within 5 working days to purchase tickets for this workshop.

(1hr 30mins)

Conducted in Mandarin, with simple English translation if required.

Admission for ages 15 and above.

### About Chou Shu-yi

Chou Shu-yi has been an Artist-in Residence at National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) since 2020. Chou is also the curator of *Taiwan Dance Platform*, a programme based in southern Taiwan, which aims to serve as a point of connection for contemporary dance in Asia. Using dance as a language to communicate with the world, Chou focuses on the relationships between humans and society. In his creations, he harnesses the power of cross-disciplinary collaborations to express the public nature of arts.

Between 2022 and 2024, he also initiated the *Bolero in Kaohsiung* project, bringing dance performances out of the theatre setting and into the community, and at the same time, nurturing the next generation of dancers in Taiwan.



### About Cheng Chih-chung

Born in 1969, Cheng Chih-chung was diagnosed with poliomyelitis in 1973. He is currently the resident playwright and director of Oz Theatre Company. He performed in many important productions, including *1949 if 6 was 9* and *Knock on Heaven's Door* by Théâtre du Point Aveugle, *30 People: No Reading* by Shakespeare's Wild Sisters Group and *Rainbow Factory* by Riverbed Theatre. The works he wrote and directed for the Oz Theatre Company include *Spring-First Episode of Road to Brightness Trilogy* and *A Wordless Drama 2012*.

### **17 Feb, Sat, 4pm**

Esplanade Rehearsal Studio (Meet at Theatre Studio, Level 4, 15mins before start time)

Ticket Price: \$28

Pre-registration is required.

## **FREE PROGRAMMES**

### **Huayi Huat Opening!**

by Yi Wei Athletic Association (Singapore)



*Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts 2024* kicks off with a breathtaking lion dance performance on high poles by the award-winning Yi Wei Athletic Association!

(15mins, no intermission)

#### **About Yi Wei Athletic Association**

Yi Wei Athletic Association (Singapore) was established in 1999 and is one of the most active lion dance troupes in the local community. They have received many awards over the years, including consecutive champion winner from 2014 to 2023 in Ngee Ann City National Lion Dance Competition. They have been most recently crowned champion at the Genting World Lion Dance Championship 2023.

**16 Feb 2024, Fri, 7.15pm**

DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade

## Festive Mix

by Fusion FM (Singapore)



Get ready for the festive season with Fusion FM as they present a vibrant array of familiar tunes with a modern twist. Experience the joyous fusion of traditional and contemporary sounds through their musical arrangements, including lively renditions of *Dance of the Golden Snake*, *Fengyang Flower Drum*, and many more!

(30mins, no intermission)

### About Fusion FM

Crossing cultural boundaries and breaking traditions: Fusion FM's direction is deeply rooted to the members' origins of multi-cultural Singapore. The band features musicians of Asian (Indian percussion and Chinese *erhu*) and Western (keyboard and Latin percussion) backgrounds. Enjoy the fusion music coming your way in many variations, ranging across pop jazz, English and Chinese oldies, classical contemporary works, and plenty more.

**16 Feb 2024, Fri, 7.15pm & 8.15pm**

Esplanade Concourse

## Beats of the Dragon: Festive Drum & Wushu Performance

by Martial House (Singapore)



Usher in the Year of the Dragon with a festive drum performance which symbolises strength, unity and good fortune! Appreciate the modernity of the Chinese martial arts as a competitive sport through a series of routine display by youths from Martial House, featuring the different *wushu* forms and weapons.

(45mins, no intermission)

### About Martial House

Martial House is Singapore's premier *wushu* academy and has partnered with more than 200 government agencies, corporate organisations and schools to promote *wushu* and its benefits across Singapore.

With the vision to unite the community through *wushu*, Martial House aspires to build an ecosystem which brings people to do good and do well together. Martial House supports the holistic development of youths by initiating projects and collaborations with partners within and beyond the *wushu* scene. With this goal in mind, the Martial House Youth Connect (MHYC) was formed. It became an integral part of youth development for Martial House's young members to feel a sense of purpose and find value in contributing to the community. These youths have been actively involved in major performances such as the National Day and Chingay parades for more than a decade.

**16 Feb 2024, Fri, 7.30pm & 9pm**

DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade

## A Rain-bowl of Happiness

by BrookieKids and Little Forest (Singapore)



On the 15th day of the Lunar New Year, many Chinese people celebrate with reunion dinners and *tang yuan*, a glutinous rice ball dessert, is usually enjoyed.

Join us for a playdate at PIP's playbox with a storytelling session featuring the story *A Rain-bowl of Happiness*, as well as sensory play session where children can get their hands on by making some Rainbow *tang yuan* using non-edible play dough with other natural colourings.

The story *A Rain-bowl of Happiness* is locally written and illustrated by BrookieKids. Inspired by Emily Yeo's *The Little Book of Singapore Food Illustrated*, the story follows Olive, Kale and Mum as they make a bowl of Rainbow *tang yuan* with colourings from natural ingredients such as butterfly pea and pandan leaves.

This playdate will be led by Little Forest, who promise sessions of fun and laughter with your little ones.

(30mins, no intermission)  
Conducted in Mandarin.

### About BrookieKids and Little Forest

BrookieKids is a Singapore-based edu-tech company with a mission to support families in nurturing a positive attitude toward Mandarin. They draw inspiration from the power of play to design age-appropriate experiences that foster a child's natural curiosity and love of learning. To date, BrookieKids have produced over 50 Mandarin stories for children aged two to six years old and organised multiple community Mandarin playdates.

In this event, BrookieKids is honoured to work alongside Little Forest, a creative learning academy nurturing young minds aged six months to six years through the transformative power of play. Infusing play into every aspect of learning, from dance and drama to music, sports, and culinary arts—Little Forest offers joyful and interactive learning experiences.

**16 – 18, 23 – 25 Feb 2024**

**Fri, 1pm & 3.30pm**

**Sat & Sun, 11.30am, 1pm & 3.30pm**

PIP's PLAYbox

## Crosstalk Fun!

by Dunman High School (Singapore)



Enjoy witty and humorous crosstalk performed by students from Dunman High School.

(30mins, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin.

**17 Feb 2024, Sat, 2.30pm & 3.30pm**

Esplanade Concourse

## Little Dragon Dance

by Stamford Dragon Lion Arts and Cultural Troupe (Singapore)



Watch as the talented young performers of the Stamford Dragon Lion Arts and Cultural Troupe bring the dragon to life through a tapestry of intricate choreographed movements, creating a captivating display!

(15mins, no intermission)

**17 Feb 2024, Sat, 7pm & 8.15pm**  
Esplanade Courtyard

## **Wuxia Echoes**

by Donnie Chan & Carmen Soo (Singapore)



Step into the realm of martial arts legends with singers Donnie Chan and Carmen Soo as they bring iconic songs from Jin Yong's timeless *wuxia* movies and dramas to life, including songs from *Legend of the Condor Heroes*, *The Smiling Wanderer*, and many more!

(30mins, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin and Cantonese.

**17 Feb 2024, Sat, 7.15pm & 8.15pm**

Esplanade Concourse



## Dragon Glow

by A\_Root (Taiwan)



Rich with riotous colours, sounds and stories, Taiwanese fusion band A\_Root bursts forth like a breath of fresh air, with arresting original compositions paired with striking lyricism. The band's winning formula is a blend of jazz, funk, electronica and traditional opera songs, accented with the timeless sounds of Chinese instruments such as the *sheng*, *yueqin*, *liuqin* and *zhongruan*.

For this special Singapore performance, they will be joined by homegrown singer Ruth Kueo. The band invites everyone to embrace the *Dragon Glow* this Lunar New Year by singing and dancing on their island of sound!

(45mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin.

### About A\_Root

A\_Root is a fusion band featuring original compositions for ethnic instruments, with members being Yilan natives. The instruments involved are the *sheng*, *yueqin*, *liuqin*, *zhongruan*, piano, cello, bass, percussion, and human voices. A\_Root engages in ideological destruction and reconstruction relating to Taiwanese culture. Assuming the role of a storyteller, the band wanders across borders between traditional opera songs, jazz languages, and electronic sounds, merging contemporary folk rusticity with local Taiwan dictions to create an islandic festival where both humans and spirits celebrate together.

**17 Feb 2024, Sat, 7.30pm & 9pm**

DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade

## **We are Singer-songwriters! • Low Wen Pei** (Singapore)



Born and raised in Singapore, Wen Pei, who is currently based in Sydney, Australia, returns home to showcase her Mandarin and Hokkien originals. Teaming up with multi-instrumentalist Alex Paterson, experience an evening imbued with incandescence—a world masterfully crafted to be painfully direct, yet warm and inviting through a unique plainness in lyricism, and the delivery of wispy melodies that fold softly and intimately into one another. Wen Pei will perform *For Grandma* and *Kin*, amongst other songs she has composed over the last three years.

(45mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin and Hokkien.

### About Low Wen Pei

Tender and transcendent, Wen Pei's music presents a lightness and simplicity. Yet, her songs are birthed from grief and determination. The 20 year-old artist leans into vulnerability and the messiness of feeling, catalysing her sensitivity for a purpose larger than herself. Wen Pei started writing Mandarin songs in 2018 and has since continued to pursue songwriting in her mother tongue, Hokkien. She is known for her songs *For Grandma* and *Kin*, and has performed in various spaces, including Seymour Centre in Sydney as part of Sydney Festival 2024, and the 2022 Hokkien Huay Kuan Folk Music Concert in Singapore.

**18 Feb 2024, Sun, 5pm**  
Esplanade Concourse

## **We are Singer-songwriters! • Zijian** (Singapore)



Experience an enchanting evening with singer-songwriter Zijian and his soulful renditions of singles! Be captivated by the emotive theme songs he crafted for dramas like *Till We Meet Again* and *Wonder Kiss*. Let Zijian's music weave a magical atmosphere as he performs his heartfelt compositions in a unique and unforgettable way.

(45mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin.

### About Zijian

Zijian has always been contributing behind the curtains and throughout these years, accumulated ample of experience in music crafting. In 2017, he was honoured to be invited to the Singapore Film Festival held in New Delhi, India, where he shared music originating from Singapore. With a passion for songwriting, he expresses his heartfelt thoughts and emotions through music.

**18 Feb 2024, Sun, 6.15pm**  
Esplanade Concourse

## **We are Singer-songwriters! • xmxrcs** (Singapore)



Adopting the moniker xmxrcs, Marcus is a homegrown bilingual singer-songwriter known for his uniquely soulful vocals. Embarking on a new chapter of his career in 2022, he has quickly become one to watch in the regional Mandopop scene, with one of his first Mandopop singles topping an Indonesian radio chart. With songs of yearning, relationships and romance, xmxrcs is set to sweep audience off their feet with original tracks as well as dedicated song covers.

(45mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin and English.

### About xmxrcs

Having launched his music career in 2018 through the televised singing competition *SPOP Sing! 2018*, xmxrcs now embarks on a new chapter in his career armed with his unique vocal cadences. As a highly anticipated, versatile bilingual artist, he has honed his musicianship and is ready to bring audiences on his journey through songs about love and romance.

**18 Feb 2024, Sun, 7.30pm**  
Esplanade Concourse

## Appreciation of Chinese Opera

by Chinese Opera and Drama Society (Singapore)



This is your chance to watch excerpts from two Chinese opera classics, presented by Chinese Opera and Drama Society (Singapore)!

*Legend of the White Snake*, performed in Peking opera style, is a folk tale that has been passed down for more than 800 years and the story expresses a love that transcends humankind and spirits; familial affection that moves heaven; friendship that is everlasting; as well as the pursuit for a better life.

*The Peony Pavilion* is a classic Kunqu opera written by Tang Xianzu in the Ming dynasty. It tells the tale of Du Liniang taking a walk in the garden and later, dreaming of her lover, scholar Liu Mengmei.

(45mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin.

### About Chinese Opera and Drama Society (Singapore)

The Chinese Opera and Drama Society (Singapore) (SCODS), also known as "Liyuan" (another name for opera troupes in China), was founded in 2010 by Huang Ping and Bian Huibin. They are former lecturers from the National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts (China) for Beijing opera performance and music respectively. The society aims to enhance the local standards of Chinese opera performance, and to increase the popularity of traditional Chinese opera, especially among younger Singaporeans. They also seek to promote exchange between local and overseas traditional Chinese opera enthusiasts and professionals.

Since its establishment, SCODS has received tremendous support from the National Arts Council and other organisations alike. The Singapore Chinese Opera Museum is a close partner, providing venue for rehearsals and performance opportunities for the society's members. The society also actively promotes traditional Chinese opera in schools, as well as provide Chinese opera performances, lectures and workshops for the public.

**18 Feb 2024, Sun, 7pm & 8.30pm**

DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade

## Internet Viral Hits

by Marsman (Singapore)



Born out of the digital age, internet viral hits have permeated the streets, performance arenas, karaoke joints, and climbed the music charts, gaining widespread acclaim and love. Join the dynamic duo, Marsman, as they invite you to relive these internet sensations, including classics like *Birds and Cicadas*, *You Who Loves 105°C*, *A Spray of Plum Blossoms*, and more!

(30mins, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin.

### About Marsman

Marsman, a Singaporean indie duo formed in 2021 by Allen and Solo, brings a fusion of diverse musical talents and influences. Their dynamic repertoire spans lo-fi, soft rock, pop, R&B, and more. Having performed at numerous events in Singapore, they have already released their track *Wasting Time in Desire* and are gearing up to drop eight new songs in 2024.

**19 Feb 2024, Mon, 7pm & 8pm**

Esplanade Concourse

## Joyful Reunion

by Dicapella Dizi Ensemble (Singapore)



Be captivated by Dicapella Dizi Ensemble's musical brilliance as they blend traditional classics and modern pop hits, including *Joyful Reunion*, *Perfect Happiness*, and an enchanting Teresa Teng medley.

(30mins, no intermission)

### About Dicapella Dizi Ensemble

Dicapella is a congregation of Singapore's top award-winning *dizi* (bamboo flute) soloists, and is currently the largest bamboo flute ensemble in South-east Asia. Brought together by their passion for the *dizi*, the ensemble seeks to spread the joy of music through outreach programmes and concerts targeted at introducing the family of bamboo flutes.

**20 Feb 2024, Tue, 7pm & 8pm**

Esplanade Concourse

## Talk: Pingtan - The Jiangnan in My Heart

by Gao Bowen (China)



Discover the history and development of *pingtan* and its unique artistic charm in this talk by Gao Bowen, Head of the Shanghai Pingtan Troupe. A genre of musical storytelling, traditional *pingtan* is a popular artform within China's Jiangnan region. Originating from Suzhou about four centuries ago, the development of *pingtan* has evolved over the years as it absorbed influences from various cultures. The rise of media and expansion of performing halls have also helped to popularise the art of *pingtan*, winning fans from businessmen, artists and city dwellers alike.

Be sure to catch *The Four Beauties* by Shanghai Pingtan Troupe on 21 Feb 2024 at the Esplanade Concert Hall!

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

### About Gao Bowen

Gao Bowen is the Head of the Shanghai Pingtan Troupe and a National Class One Performer. He has studied under renowned *tanci* performers Rao Yichen, Chen Xi'an and Zhao Kaisheng, and is known for performing *tanci* works *Pearl Pagoda*, *Wen Zhengming*, *Sketching the Golden Phoenix*, *Regrets In The Twilight of the Ming Dynasty*, and his original creation *Gao Bowen on Blossoms*. Gao received the Best Performer award at the 8th China Quyi Peony Awards.

**20 Feb 2024, Tue, 7.30pm**  
Esplanade Annexe Studio

Pre-registration is required.



## Songs From The Heart

by Schola Cantorum Singapore Ltd.



The Schola Cantorum Singapore Community Chorus presents a mix of Chinese folk song arrangements, choral works by living Singaporean composers as well as evergreen classics and pop choral works from various countries and territories. Join them for a feel-good singalong performance with a song for everyone in the family!

(30mins, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin.

### About Schola Cantorum Singapore Ltd.

Schola Cantorum Singapore Ltd. (SCS) was established in 2015 and incorporated in Singapore in 2019 as a non-profit choral collective that provides choral enthusiasts with an open, educational outlook to music and singing, seeking to nurture the next generation of professional musicians, music educators and music lovers. The choir is made up of music professionals and amateur music lovers from all walks of life.

In line with the choir's vision to bring the best art and art-making to the masses, SCS gives back to the community, serving as the demonstration choir for various conducting masterclasses and workshops. Promoting and supporting excellence in music-making and literacy, SCS has supported various masterclasses at Kodaly Academy of Music (KAM)'s Studiorum Series, as well as at Esplanade's *Voices Festival*.

SCS was responsible for numerous world and local premieres, including the first fully-staged Singaporean production of Richard Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman* in 2016, as well as showcasing an array of Singaporean works overseas. During the global pandemic, SCS soldiered on and remained active, with performances such as the premiere of Zoltán Kodály's *Esti Dal* at the 4th Asia Kodály Symposium 2020 (AKS), an immersive digital performance of Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* (Final Movement), presented by the German Embassy Singapore in partnership with the Foundation for The Arts and Social Enterprise, as well as a music video with the Asian Cultural Symphony Orchestra. As Singapore's cultural ambassadors, SCS has also played host to various international scholars, conductors and choirs from Singapore, Taiwan, Australia and more.

**21 Feb 2024, Wed, 7pm & 8pm**

Esplanade Concourse

## Beloved Tunes

by Joey Wee (Singapore)



Embark on a musical journey with Joey Wee as she shares her personal playlist of beloved tunes that have stood the test of time, including Faye Wong's *Sky*, Beyond's *Loving You* and EggplantEgg's *Back Here Again*.

(30mins, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin and various dialects.

### About Joey Wee

Joey Wee is a seasoned vocalist who has been performing since 2009, showcasing her musical prowess at various events at cafes, pubs, weddings and corporate functions. She is fluent in Mandarin, English, Hokkien, Cantonese, as well as Malay, having won the 2013 *Gerek 90an* Malay Song competition. In 2023, she and her busking group clinched the championship in Mediacorp Channel 8's *Battle of Buskers*, solidifying her place as a dynamic force in the music scene.

**22 Feb 2024, Thu, 7pm & 8pm**

Esplanade Concourse

## **Blossoms in Spring**

by AcceleRUANdo (Singapore)



Embark on a musical journey with AcceleRUANdo as they weave enchanting melodies on the *ruan*, featuring *Grassland Sentiment*, *Spring Love*, and more. Let the music blossom, echoing the beauty of spring, and immerse yourself in the cultural richness they elegantly portray.

(30mins, no intermission)

### About AcceleRUANdo

AcceleRUANdo merges the musical term *accelerando* with the Chinese instrument *ruan*, uniting diverse youth in their shared love for the *ruan*. This group channels their passion to bring traditional Chinese music to a contemporary audience, harmonising tradition with modernity. Amidst evolving musical landscapes, AcceleRUANdo embodies youthful energy, fostering a space for friends to make music and have fun together.

**23 Feb 2024, Fri, 7.15pm & 8.15pm**

Esplanade Concourse

## Season of Blossoms

by Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, School of Young Talents, Junior Dance Department (Singapore)



Enjoy a mesmerising showcase featuring the young talents from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, School of Young Talents – Junior Dance (NAFA SYT Junior Dance), Chinese dance programmes. These performers, aged 9 to 16 years old, will take the stage to present an enchanting performance of classical Chinese dance, each movement meticulously choreographed by their skilled and dedicated teachers.

(30mins, no intermission)

### About Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, School of Young Talents, Junior Dance Department

Since 1999, NAFA SYT (Junior Dance) has been a guiding force for budding artists. Over the past two decades, the programme has ardently nurtured emerging talents through specialised courses in ballet, Chinese dance, and contemporary dance. Their goal is to foster a love for dance, enrich students' abilities, and impart valuable knowledge through this expressive medium.

NAFA SYT offers rigorous professional training designed to refine and sharpen students' dance skills, while still actively encouraging students to participate in community events to foster a sense of engagement and connection beyond the studio. Notably, some of its accomplished alumni have pursued advanced studies in dance, realising their dreams and contributing meaningfully to the flourishing dance community.

The programme's commitment to excellence is evident in our evolving approach to dance education, inspiring students to explore the broader art world. Through these efforts, they aim to play a pivotal role in nurturing exceptionally talented dancers in Singapore.

**23 Feb 2024, Fri, 7.30pm, 8.30pm & 9.30pm**  
DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade

## Zheng Serenades

by Pasir Ris Crest Secondary School Guzheng Ensemble (Singapore)



Embark on a mesmerising musical journey as Pasir Ris Crest Secondary School Guzheng Ensemble fill the air with the enchanting sounds of the *guzheng*. Bask in an afternoon of harmonic elegance, featuring *guzheng* classics such as *Dance of the Yi People*, *Battling the Typhoon*, and other popular compositions that transcend times and culture.

(30mins, no intermission)

### About Pasir Ris Crest Secondary School Guzheng Ensemble

The Pasir Ris Crest Secondary School Guzheng Ensemble was established in 2000 with an inclusive approach, encouraging students of all races, both girls and boys, to join. The ensemble aims to provide students with the opportunity to acquire *guzheng* playing skills and gain confidence in stage performances. Under the guidance of instructor Yvonne Tay, the ensemble has performed at various school events and community public platforms.

**24 Feb 2024, Sat, 2.30pm & 3.30pm**

Esplanade Concourse

## Hits Rewind

by Two Four And Six Fusion (Singapore)



Transport yourself back in time with Two Four And Six Fusion as they bring you nostalgic tunes such as Beyond's *Sky*, Anita Mui's *Intimate Lover* and Jay Chou's *Mojito*. Relive the magic of these timeless classics and celebrate the new year with a trip down memory lane!

(30mins, no intermission)

### About Two Four And Six Fusion

Two Four And Six Fusion, a Singapore-based fusion band, takes its name from the number of strings on each instrument in their ensemble. Featuring the two-stringed Chinese fiddle, *erhu*, the four-stringed Chinese lute, *pipa*, and the six-stringed Western guitar, the band seamlessly blends Asian and Western elements to create a distinct sound. Their music spans various genres, with the band's core value focused on evoking joy through their craft.

**24 Feb 2024, Sat, 7.15pm & 8.15pm**  
Esplanade Concourse

## Melodic Blooms

by Nanyang Technological University Chinese Orchestra (Singapore)



Under the baton of conductor Ng Seng Hong, the Nanyang Technological University Chinese Orchestra (NTUCO) is poised to deliver a captivating performance featuring a diverse repertoire, including *The Ancient Capital*, *Ode to the Sun* (Movement 3 & 4), and a Hong Kong television drama medley filled with familiar melodies.

(45mins, no intermission)

### About Nanyang Technological University Chinese Orchestra

Established in 1983, Nanyang Technological University Chinese Orchestra (NTUCO) is currently one of the most active member clubs under the NTU Cultural Activities Club, comprising over 100 musicians including alumni members.

NTUCO has held its annual *Transient Reminiscences* concert since 1997, under the baton of Mr Ng Seng Hong. The yearly event aims to preserve the rich Chinese music heritage and to promote a greater appreciation for Chinese classical music among the public. This year, NTUCO will be holding their annual *Transient Reminiscences* concert on 17 Mar.

**24 Feb 2024, Sat, 7.30pm & 9pm**

DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade

## **A Night with A Cappella** by The Apex Project (Singapore)



Enjoy an evening of soothing a cappella brought to you by The Apex Project, who will be performing familiar Chinese New Year tunes, pop songs and a selection of their originals, including *The Moment* and a JJ Lin medley.

(30mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin.

### About The Apex Project

The Apex Project is an award-winning a cappella group from Singapore. They have been engaged in over forty local and international performances and released videos that garnered over two million views on YouTube, Facebook and Weibo. Five of their self-produced videos were also lauded by local and international media like Mediacorp's Channel 8 News and Taiwan's Online News. The Apex Project was also commissioned to compose, perform and produce a theme song and a sub-theme song for Channel 8 drama *My Friends from Afar* in 2017.

**25 Feb 2024, Sun, 5.15pm, 6.15pm & 7.15pm**  
Esplanade Concourse



## New Nanyang Jazz

by Miss Lou (Singapore)



Well-known as Singapore's vintage songbird, Miss Lou brings her brand of Nanyang jazz to the stage this Chinese New Year. Inspired by the sounds of Shanghai in the 1930s and the golden era of jazz in America, Nanyang jazz is a uniquely Southeast Asian musical style that represents the international influences that constantly arrive on Singapore shores.

Come listen to a swing jazz version of *Happy New Year*, a big band arrangement of *A Plum Blossom*, and Mandarin jazz originals like *Fresh Air*—which thrust Miss Lou into the consciousness of Chinese audiences globally on Chinese social media platform Little Red Book (小红书)—and an original Chinese New Year jazz tune about Singapore, *This Is CNY*.

(45mins, no intermission)  
Performed in Mandarin.

### About Miss Lou

Miss Lou (pronounced 'lu'), also known as Lou Peixin, is Singapore's vintage songbird: a classic vintage vocalist and songwriter who seamlessly blends old-school vocals with contemporary influences. Miss Lou uses her music as a unifying force to bridge east and west, young and old, and past and present, bringing hope and warmth to all.

The winner of the Noise Award from the National Arts Council's Noise Music Mentorship 2016, she has worked with Mikal Blue (Colbie Caillat, Jason Mraz), been mentored by Grammy Award-winning producer David Foster, performed for heads of state, leaders of a myriad of industries, and reached audiences around the world with her unique sound.

**25 Feb 2024, Sun, 7pm & 8.30pm**  
DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade