

Esplanade Presents

In New Light – A Season of Commissions

Oct to Dec 2022

www.esplanade.com/innewlight



Dear friends of the media,

Humans are creatures of habit. We fear changes that disturb our sense of self and our sense of belonging to a home or community. Yet we constantly crave the new. New tastes, sights, and experiences that excite and inspire us. These two contradictory impulses also underlie ***In New Light – A Season of Commissions*** as Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay marks its 20-year journey as an arts centre for everyone.

Presented from 12 Oct to 31 Dec 2022, *In New Light's* commissions celebrate 20 years of artistry and collaborations that have made Esplanade a home for the arts, and the arts an integral part of Singapore's cultural identity and diverse communities. *In New Light* also presents new works and a new venue. In a world still experiencing the aftershocks of the pandemic and existential crises on ecological, technological and other fronts, these commissions hope to provide new lenses through which we can better question, heal, and ultimately, create our future.

Firstly, five commissions will launch the much-awaited multi-format Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade. After two years of mostly online workshops and rehearsals, arts practitioners and collaborators from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Macau, South Korea, Japan and Australia finally come together in this new venue. They include theatre maker Chong Tze Chien, cultural medallion recipient Margaret Leng Tan, Kuik Swee Boon & The Human Expression (T.H.E) Dance Company, musician Safuan Johari who will lead the RATA Orkestra as artistic director, as well as Papermoon Puppet Theatre. In ways deeply personal yet epic in imagination, these five works experiment with projection mapping, immersive soundscapes, and puppetry, to present stories and experiences about nature, family, violence, cross-cultural conversations and more.

Next, two concerts that posit the new with the old will play in Esplanade's beloved Concert Hall. Singapore Chinese Orchestra will perform *Daybreak*, composed by Singapore Cultural Medallion Recipient Law Wai Lun and leading contemporary composer Chong Kee Yong, in a multi-media work inspired by the Chinese mythological stories of Pan Gu, Nü Wa and Huang Di. Singapore Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Lien Boon Hua, will profile next-generation music talents Abigail Sin (piano) and Loh Jun Hong (violin) in a concert that includes a new commission *Illuminations* composed by Jonathan Shin (piano) and Phoon Yu (pipe organ).

Finally, we invite you to explore Esplanade's public spaces anew through a series of exhibitions, tours and installations commissioned to mark our 20th anniversary.

- From 12 – 30 Oct, the walls of the Esplanade Courtyard along the waterfront will come alive with a larger-than-life projection *Dancing with Light*. It presents the human body as a site of energy, struggle, and transcendence. You can also explore Esplanade's waterfront and gardens via a new "Garden Tour" led by our Customer Experience team.
- At the Esplanade Concourse, *Home Grooves* tells the story of Singapore's colourful live music venues over the last 60 years through archival objects and images, video interviews and music playlists, while *Lights On* is an exhibition and audio tour of insider stories about Esplanade's development and the evolution of its public spaces, told by the decision makers, cultural workers, and artists themselves.
- In the Singtel Waterfront Theatre and along its façade, *Building Dreams* by documentary photographer Bob Lee features the people who built—literally—this new venue amidst the pandemic.

Since we opened in October 2002, Esplanade's iconic domes have glowed like lanterns in the Marina Bay. In October 2022, we open a new Waterfront Theatre with a façade that reflects daylight and glows at night. Both then and now, the steadfast support of artists, crew, staff, audiences, as well as our partners, sponsors, donors and funders has helped us to not only keep the lights on, but to entertain, move, inspire and transform lives through the arts. On behalf of the Esplanade team, I thank you. And as we look beyond to the future, we welcome everyone to experience *In New Light*.

Yvonne Tham

CEO, The Esplanade Co Ltd

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 free for all to enjoy.

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.

Turning 20 in 2022, Esplanade marks the occasion with a year-long celebration themed *20 and Beyond: Keeping the Lights On*. In addition to the presentations of its year-long festivals, programme series, and special initiatives and events, there will also be a season of new works by Singapore and Asian artists specially commissioned for the arts centre's 20th anniversary and official opening of its newest venue, Singtel Waterfront Theatre.

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. Esplanade is Singapore's first Dementia-Friendly Arts Venue and a certified Dementia Go-To Point, as well as a Guide-dog Friendly centre.

TECL receives funding support from Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and its Community Programmes are supported by Tote Board Family, comprising Tote Board, Singapore Pools and Singapore Turf Club.

Visit [Esplanade.com](https://www.esplanade.com) for more information.

~ End ~

Issued by *The Esplanade Co Ltd*.

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Annexe

Esplanade Presents

In New Light

Oct to Dec 2022

www.esplanade.com/innewlight

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay turns 20 this October so come and experience #mydurian with us! Immerse yourself in new works by artists from around the region, with five works at our newest venue, Singtel Waterfront Theatre. Explore our public spaces through exhibitions, guided tours and installations. Discover the latest flavours and sights from our tenants. Celebrate our birthday with us and see the arts and life in a new light!

PERFORMANCES

An Esplanade Commission

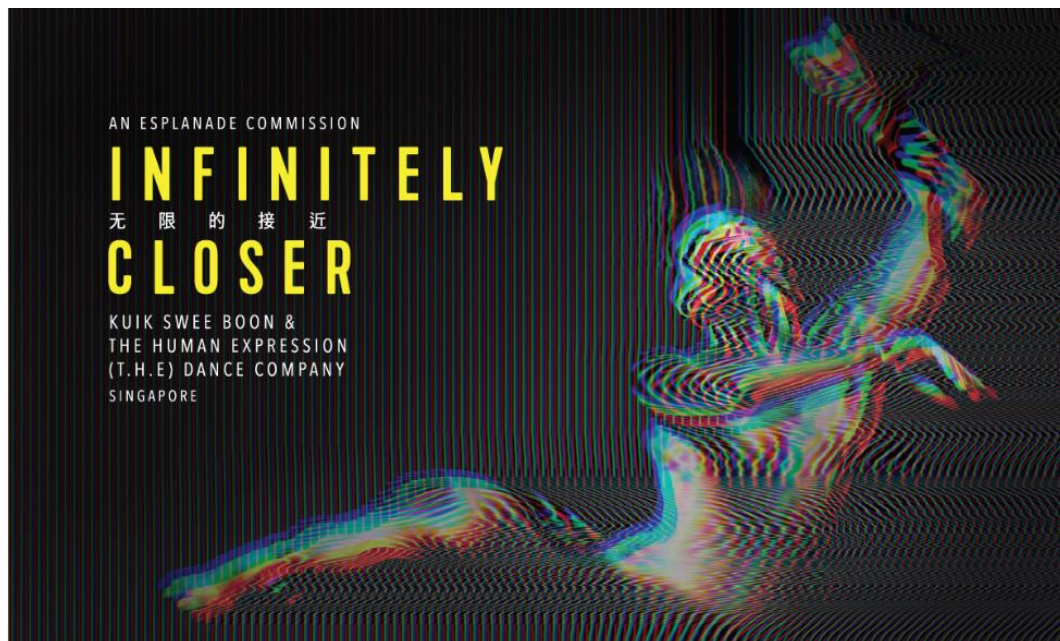
Infinitely Closer

Kuik Swee Boon & The Human Expression (T.H.E) Dance Company

13 – 16 Oct 2022, Thu – Sun

Thu & Fri, 8pm | Sat, 3pm & 8pm | Sun, 2pm & 6pm

Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade



In marking the opening of Esplanade's Singtel Waterfront Theatre, one of Singapore's leading dance companies, The Human Expression (T.H.E) Dance Company unveils its latest work—the first dance production to be staged in the new space. Created in collaboration with a team of designers from Asia, the piece reflects upon freedom within the shifting realities of our modern times.

Driven by a hunger to navigate the multiple identities that define us as individuals and to uncover what it means to live with unabated freedom, *Infinitely Closer* is director Kuik Swee Boon's artistic response to the impact that apathy and increasingly complex and opaque systems have on human expression and freedoms.

Combining contemporary dance—rooted in Kuik’s signature HollowBody methodology—with enthralling holograms and the immersive sonic waves of three-dimensional sound, *Infinately Closer* has been created with a stellar team of collaborators including Malaysian sound artist Kent Lee, Macau-based projection artist SEESAW, Korean costume designer Choi In Sook, Singaporean lighting designer Adrian Tan, Singaporean dramaturg Kok Heng Leun, Australian-Laotian guest performer Billy Keohavong and six dance artists from T.H.E Dance Company.

You are invited to examine your worldview, reconnect with your childlike wonder and draw infinitely closer to the crux of freedom.

Direction, Choreography & Performance

Concept & Artistic Direction: Kuik Swee Boon

Choreography: Kuik Swee Boon in collaboration with the performers

Dramaturgy: Kok Heng Leun

Performance: Ng Zu You, Klievert Jon Mendoza, Fiona Thng, Haruka Leilani Chan & Chang En from T.H.E Dance Company, & Billy Keohavong (Guest Performer from Australia)

Rehearsal Assistant: Brandon Khoo

Design

Lighting Design: Adrian Tan

Sound Design & Music Composition: Kent Lee

Projection Content Design: SEESAW (Jay Lei & Jay Lee)

Filming of Projection Content: Pangolin Films & melonrock

Projection System Design: Wee (Ctrl Fre@k)

Sound System Design: Guo Ningru

Set Conceptualisation Design: Kuik Swee Boon

Set Technical Design: ARTFACTORY

Costume Design: Choi In Sook

Production

Production Manager: Tennie Su

Stage Manager: Lee Xinzhi

Projection Technical Realisation: Wee (Ctrl Fre@k)

Live Video Elements: Pangolin Films & melonrock

Sound Engineer: Guo Ningru

Soundscape System Support: d&b audiotechnik Asia Pacific

Set Realisation: ARTFACTORY

Costume Realisation: Fertileland

A programme of *da:ns festival 2022*.

(1hr 15mins, no intermission)

\$45^{*^}

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

[^]Esplanade&Me Specials Available

- Black and White: 15% savings
- Discover: 10% savings

Sign up now at www.esplanade.com/membership

Tote Board Arts Grant

All Secondary Schools, Junior Colleges/ Centralised Institute & ITEs may use the Tote Board Arts Grant to subsidise up to 50% of the programme cost.

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An Esplanade Co-Commission

Dragon Ladies Don't Weep

Featuring Margaret Leng Tan (Singapore/USA)

21 & 22 Oct 2022, Fri & Sat

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

Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade



“Most superlatives would shortchange Tan for her display of artistry, grace, style, eloquence, presence and physicality.” – *Arts Equator*

After captivating audiences in Singapore and Australia, the Dragon Lady returns to Esplanade for her debut in the Singtel Waterfront Theatre. Winner of the Best Work of the Year (Dramatic) in the Australian Art Music Awards 2021, *Dragon Ladies Don't Weep* is a sonic portrait of new music icon Margaret Leng Tan—an evocative exploration of memory, time, control and loss that sweeps across the senses.

An autobiographical rumination on the renowned pianist's personal and professional history, the work reveals the inner workings of a spellbinding performer and vital musical interpreter. It presents a riveting collage of the forces that have shaped Tan's life and how music has been both her passion and her refuge. A compelling theatre of memory, the production combines spoken and recorded text, projected images and original music for prepared piano, toy piano, toys and percussion by Tan's long-term collaborator Erik Griswold.

New York-based Singaporean pianist Tan forged a path as a major force within the American avant-garde, serving as muse to giants such as John Cage and George Crumb, and

transforming the toy piano into a serious instrument. Her stellar career is a touchstone for the past 40 years of experimental musical innovation.

Performed by Tan, *Dragon Ladies Don't Weep* is a cross-cultural collaboration created by a team of Singaporean and Australian artists led by Chamber Made director Tamara Saulwick and dramaturg Kok Heng Leun.

A co-production by Chamber Made and CultureLink Singapore, co-commissioned by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay and Asia TOPA.

Dragon Ladies Don't Weep received grant funding from the Australian Cultural Diplomacy Grants Program of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and is supported by Creative Victoria, Australia Council for the Arts, National Arts Council (Singapore), The SUBSTATION, Playking Foundation, Asia TOPA, Sidney Myer Fund and the Robert Salzer Foundation.

Creative Team

Musician/Performer: Margaret Leng Tan
Composer: Erik Griswold
Director: Tamara Saulwick
Dramaturg: Kok Heng Leun
Video Artist: Nick Roux
Lighting Designer: Andy Lim
Costume Designer: Yuan Zhiying

(1hr 15mins, no intermission)
Performed in English, with no surtitles.

\$45*^

Limited concessions for students, NSF's, seniors & PWD's: \$36*

^Esplanade&Me Specials Available

Early Bird Specials (19 Aug – 18 Sep)

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- White: 15% savings
- Discover: 15% savings (min. 2 tickets) (Limited tickets)

From 19 Sep onwards

- Black: 15% savings
- White: 10% savings
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- Esplanade&Me U26 \$20 Special (Limited tickets)

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An Esplanade Commission and Production

Kingdoms Apart

by Chong Tze Chien (Singapore)

23 – 27 Nov 2022, Wed – Sun, 7.30pm
Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade



Photo Credit: Crispian Chan

A contemporary reimagining of the Indian epic tale *The Mahabharata* that resonates with the current day.

The Pandavas and the Kauravas—two groups of cousins—struggle for political power and the claim to the dynastic succession to the throne of the Hastinapura, an Indian kingdom. The confrontation climaxes with an 18-day Kurukshetra War in which even the gods are involved. Unimaginable death and destruction ensue, and all on the battlefield are forced to face up to their *dharma*—their duty and purpose in the universe.

With the audience seated amongst the performance space, the Pandavas and Karavas families from *The Mahabharata* are transported from epic mythology into the 21st century through a gripping narrative odyssey of war, politics and family feuds. Portrayed by a multicultural ensemble cast from Singapore, Malaysia and Japan, they perform in front of and around the audience and bring the story to life in riveting fashion.

The Mahabharata ranks amongst the seminal works of world literature and is of great importance to many Asian cultures, representing a rich tradition that allows for multiple narratives and interpretations. *Kingdoms Apart* is written and directed by critically acclaimed award-winning Singapore playwright and director Chong Tze Chien, who most recently received the Best Director award at The Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards in 2022. This visually rich production is also conjured by an award-winning creative team, and features puppetry, multimedia, live camera feeds and an original evocative score that will be performed live.

Playwright and Director: Chong Tze Chien

Performers

Actors: Ghafir Akbar, Brendon Fernandez, Matt Grey, Anne James, Neewin Hershall, Loong Seng Onn, Futoshi Moriyama, Farez Najid, Jean Ng, Edith Podesta, Lian Sutton & Vadi PVSS

Puppeteers: Jo Kwek & Vanessa Toh
Voiceover: K. Rajagopal
Vocalist & Musician: Yuya Antical
Musician: Darren Ng

Creative Team

Set Designer: Eucien Chia
Lighting Designer: James Tan
Composer, Music Director & Sound Designer: Darren Ng
Multimedia Designer: Koo Chia Meng
Puppetry & Props Designer, Puppetry Training Consultant: Myra Loke (The Finger Players)
Costume Designers: Yuan Zhiying & Jacqueline Teo
Hair Designer: Ashley Lim
Makeup Designer: Bobbie Ng
Consultant: TT Dhavamani
Movement Trainer: Pallavi Sharma

(Approximately 3hrs, with 20mins intermission)

Performed in English, with some Japanese, Tamil and Malay, and with English surtitles

Advisory 16: Some sexual content and coarse language.

Admission age: 13 and above. Recommended for 16 years and above.

\$45, \$55[^]

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors & PWDs: \$44*

[^]Esplanade&Me Specials Available

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Tote Board Arts Grant

All Junior Colleges/ Centralised Institute & ITEs may use the Tote Board Arts Grant to subsidise up to 50% of the programme cost.

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An Esplanade Commission and Production

RATA: new grounds, new sounds

By RATA Orkestra (Singapore)

Directed by Safuan Johari

Featuring Azrin Abdullah (oud), Andy Chia (dizi, didgeridoo, electronics/synthesizers), Cheryl Ong (percussion), Safuan Johari (electronics), Rizman Putra (vocals), weish (vocals) and visuals by Brandon Tay

29 – 31 Dec 2022, Thu – Sat, 7.30pm

Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade



Boasting an eclectic line-up of established musicians from diverse fields, RATA Orkestra makes its debut with *RATA: new grounds, new sounds* (RATA), a visceral audiovisual experience in the new Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade.

Named for the Malay word *rata*, meaning “flat” or “even”, RATA Orkestra is a project by Safuan Johari featuring Azrin Abdullah (*oud*), Andy Chia (*dizi, didgeridoo, electronics*), Cheryl Ong (percussions), Safuan Johari (electronics), Rizman Putra (vocals) and weish (vocals). This new ensemble aims to create new aural topographies by gathering diverse local and international musicians to experiment with collaborative compositions, break old boundaries and new grounds across the traditional, the experimental, and the popular, and create a transcultural ambient soundscape of harmonious interplays and poignant discordances.

A production two years in the making, *RATA* also features multimedia design by Brandon Tay. Audience members will also move around the performance space, to experience and encounter the visuals and sounds from various corners.

RATA invites you to mark the end of the year and this season of change with an opportunity to discover something new and ground-breaking.

(Approximately 1hr 10mins, no intermission. Standing Room only.)

\$38^{*^}

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors & PWDs: \$30.40*

^Esplanade&Me Specials Available

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- Discover: 15% savings (min. 2 tickets) (Limited tickets)

From 19 Sep onwards

- Black: 15% savings
- White: 10% savings
- U26 Package of 4: 15% savings (limited)
- Discover: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets) (Limited tickets)
- Esplanade&Me U26 \$20 Special (Limited tickets)

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An Esplanade Commission and Production

Stream of Memory

Papermoon Puppet Theatre (Indonesia & Singapore)

13 – 18 Dec 2022, Tue – Sun

Tue – Fri, 8pm | Sat & Sun, 3pm & 8pm

Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade



Sang and Jun spend carefree days by their playground—the river. One day, an unexpected event takes Sang on a magical encounter with the majestic giant Kali. Meandering across the land, they discover who Kali is, and remember what he once was.

Internationally acclaimed Papermoon Puppet Theatre collaborates with artists and designers from Singapore to perform their biggest production to date—*Stream of Memory*, an ecological tale of remembrance and reconnection. Created in response to the disappearing rivers consumed by urbanisation and modern life, this lyrical non-verbal production promises to rekindle our memories of nature and deepen our connections with each other.

Audiences can enjoy this enchanting journey through standard theatre seating on chairs or experience a more intimate performance with floor seating.

(Approximately 1hr, no intermission)

This is a non-verbal performance.

Admission age: 4 and above. Recommended for ages 6 and above.

Tue – Thu: \$38*^

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

Fri – Sun: \$45*^

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

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- PIPs Club Package of 4: 15% savings (limited)
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An Esplanade Co-Production

Daybreak 破晓

by Singapore Chinese Orchestra

21 Oct 2022, Fri, 7.30pm
Esplanade Concert Hall



A concert that shines a light on legendary symbols of courage, and honours the spirit of great fortitude to chart new beginnings.

Daybreak is an exploration of three Chinese mythological figures—Pan Gu, who separated heaven and earth; Nu Wa, who created humankind; and Huang Di, who brought the world from savagery to civilisation. Myths, as relevant as ever, help us to answer timeless questions and serve as a compass for generations.

Conceptualised and conducted by Maestro Tsung Yeh and directed by Jeremiah Choy, the philosophical narratives of ancient myths unfold through original music composed by Singapore Cultural Medallion recipient Law Wai Lun and leading contemporary composer Chong Kee Yong, and performed by an ensemble of musicians from the Singapore Chinese Orchestra. With each movement a special section of the orchestra is thrust into the spotlight, evoking the heavens, humankind and civilisation, enhanced by multimedia projections.

This atmospheric musical journey features imaginative multimedia projections designed by Jed Tay (NoonTalk Media) and programmed by Low Wee Cheng (Ctrl Fre@k), and quality bespoke lighting design by Gabriel Chan. With evocative sound design by Jeffrey Yue (Ctrl Fre@k) and costumes by fashion designer Lai Chan.

Co-produced by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay and Singapore Chinese Orchestra

(Approximately 1hr 15mins, with no intermission)

一场精彩绝伦的音乐会，探究象征勇气的传奇符号，让我们向坚如磐石的伟大精神致意。

神话传说有着历久弥新的魅力，代代为我们提供指引。受此启迪，《破晓》结合了对三个中国神话人物的探索——开天辟地的盘古、抟土造人的女娲以及人文始祖黄帝，通过音乐与多媒体呈献各中的绮丽奥妙。

由音乐总监葉聰构思和指挥、蔡光明执导，新加坡华乐团以室内乐的形式演奏新加坡文化奖得主罗伟伦和当代杰出作曲家钟启荣的原创作品，掀开古代神话的哲学迷雾。结合多媒体投影的科技，每篇乐章将聚焦不同器乐声部的演奏，诉说苍天、人类和文明的故事。

在这趟动人心魄的音乐之旅中，天马行空的多媒体投影由郑咸斌（午言媒体）设计，刘伟诚（掌控癖）负责编程；匠心独具的灯光设计属陈伟文的得意之作；回味无穷的音效设计由余思行（掌控癖）操刀；别开生面的服装则出自服装设计师吴来灿之手。

滨海艺术中心与新加坡华乐团联合制作

(时长约 1 小时 15 分钟，无中场休息)

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

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

Limited concessions for PWDs: \$30

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An Esplanade Commission

Illuminations

Singapore Symphony Orchestra
Conducted by Lien Boon Hua

5 Nov 2022, Sat, 7.30pm

Esplanade Concert Hall



The Singapore Symphony Orchestra (SSO) and choruses come together for an evening of classical music to commemorate Esplanade’s 20th anniversary.

Award-winning Singaporean conductor Lien Boon Hua leads the SSO for the first time at the Esplanade Concert Hall. This concert proudly showcases the leading lights of the new generation of Singaporean classical music talent. Prominent young pianist Abigail Sin and violinist Loh Jun Hong, both chamber music icons, perform Mendelssohn’s *Concerto for Violin, Piano and Strings*, before the highlight of the evening—*Illuminations*—an original composition

by prolific composer-pianist Jonathan Shin and composer-organist Phoon Yu. The SSO is joined by the Singapore Symphony Chorus, Youth Choir, and Children's Choir in this work specially commissioned for the occasion. It is inspired by the history and architecture of Esplanade, and how the centre literally and metaphorically shines a light on its artists, audiences and surroundings.

A programme of *In New Light – A Season of Commissions*, in celebration of Esplanade's 20th anniversary.

(Approximately 1hr 40mins, with 20mins intermission)

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

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

Limited concessions for PWDs: \$30

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Dancing with Light

Performed by Claudine Liang, Li Ruimin, Kevin Tristan, Sufri Juwahir
Directed by Sally Lee

12 – 30 Oct 2022

Various timings

Download projection schedule [here](#)

Esplanade Courtyard

Free



See Esplanade in a new light as the centre comes alive through dance and multimedia with its first-ever projection mapping show to celebrate its 20th anniversary.

Technological wizardry is guided by evocative dance choreography as the Esplanade Courtyard space is enlivened with lights—and also dancers—dancing across its facade!

(5mins)

Credits:

Choreographed by Samantha Kan

Music by Christine Sham

VFX Production & Post-Production by CraveFX

Projection Technology by Hexogon Solution

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EXHIBITIONS

Lights On: The Story of Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay

From 19 Aug 2022

Esplanade Concourse & other Esplanade locations

Free



Lights On

THE STORY OF ESPLANADE – THEATRES ON THE BAY

What does it take to create and sustain Singapore's national performing arts centre? *Lights On* takes you right to the beating heart of this story, through the first-person accounts of cultural workers and artists who have journeyed with Esplanade. Check out the main exhibition in the Concourse, as well as a self-guided audio trail spanning nine public spaces and spots in the centre.

Get up close with these insider insights and reminiscences through sound bites, video stories, documentary photographs and physical memorabilia. These will take you from the 1980s when the idea for this arts centre was first conceived, to our hard-won opening in 2002, and on to the aspirations for our next chapter as we celebrate our 20th anniversary.

Arts administrator Juliana Lim looks back on her experience of planning for the building of the centre, while Esplanade's first CEO Benson Puah talks about shaping our inclusive ethos. Architect Koh Seow Chuan, whose firm DP Architects designed the iconic spiky exterior along with Michael Wilford & Partners, also explains the project's ideation and execution.

What is it like to perform in Esplanade, and what is the distinctive character of each of our various venues? Arts practitioners Alvin Tan, Aravinth Kumarasamy, Chen Sai Hua Kuan and Wang Ruobing, Gaurav Kripalani, Joanna Dong, Kuik Swee Boon, Siti Khalijah, and Tsung Yeh illuminate the artist's experience, sharing their perspectives on how the centre has contributed to a larger arts ecosystem, in Singapore and beyond.

Finally, as voices of a new generation, arts-loving tween Ellie Heng, dance artists Hasyimah Harith and Norhaizad Adam, and singer-songwriter Joel Tan (Gentle Bones) talk about their hopes for the arts centre's future.

Home Grooves: A History of Singapore's Live Music Venues

19 Aug 2022 – 18 Aug 2023

Esplanade Concourse

Free



However beautiful and blistering, live music is an ephemeral experience. The venues that play host to it may not have that much longer a lifespan, in a land-scarce, fiercely competitive city of skyrocketing rentals like Singapore. In the face of such transience, *Home Grooves* is a love letter to the country's iconic live music spaces from the 1960s to the present.

Part of Esplanade's 20th anniversary series *PopLore – A Year of Singapore Popular Music*, the exhibition documents the evolution of the live music scene and its pivotal role in pop culture as well as the careers of notable bands and musicians. Through archival photographs, interviews and physical memorabilia such as musical instruments, albums and costumes—contributed by musicians and aficionados—*Home Grooves* pieces together the story of different decades of live music.

From swingin' 1960s venues such as National Theatre and Golden Venus, to the enterprising '80s when bold entrepreneurs ventured to expand the cultural landscape, and on to the explosion of indie and jazz establishments and spaces in recent decades, the beat goes on. Listen to a playlist, test your knowledge with a little pop quiz and marvel at the resilience of a scene that keeps reinventing itself, undimmed by moral panics, pandemics or technological disruption.

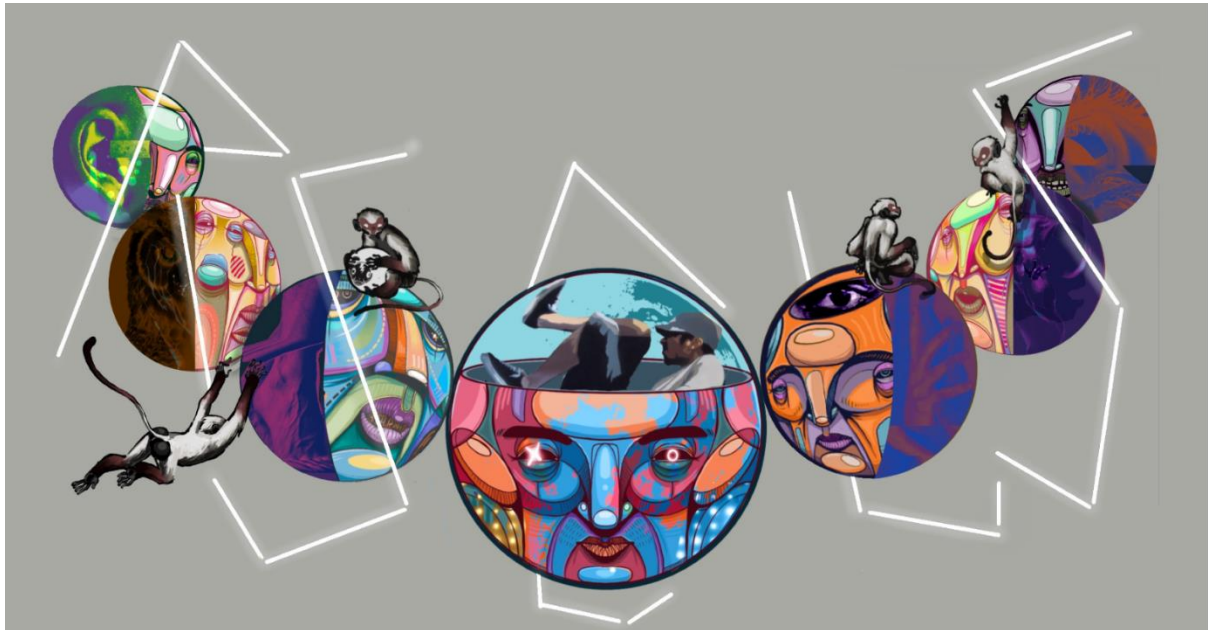
Part of Esplanade's 20th anniversary series *PopLore – A Year of Singapore Popular Music*.

Wax and Wane

RSCLS

Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade

Free



Commissioned in conjunction with the opening of the Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade and the centre's 20th anniversary celebrations, the sculptural mural *Wax and Wane* was created collaboratively by Antz, DEM, TraseOne, SPAZ and ZERO from the urban art collective RSCLS. The central motif of the work is the dynamic and ever-changing transitions of the moon cycle, analogous to approaches of artistic creation and the cyclical facets of nature. Installed on the facade wall of the SWT, the work signals towards the expressions of movement, imagination and creative activities of Esplanade's newest venue.

About RSCLS

Formed in 2006, RSCLS is an urban art collective whose work often unfolds through uninhibited collaborations. They endeavour to evolve and develop urban art in Singapore and have played an instrumental and intermediary role in spotlighting and creating spaces for the art form. RSCLS is also active in archiving and documenting urban art practices in Southeast Asia and establishing networks and connections with international street artists.

Building Dreams

Photos by Bob Lee

Stories by Jane Ng

26 Sep 2022, Mon – 31 Mar 2023, Fri

Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade (along the façade and level 2 foyer)



In 2017, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay announced that it would build a medium-sized theatre along its busy waterfront. This is a dream come true not just for the arts centre, but also for Singapore’s next generation of artists and audiences.

The much-needed multi-format venue will fill the gap between the Esplanade’s existing large performance halls and smaller studio spaces. It will also enable Esplanade to commission, produce and present more productions, especially those that tell Singapore and Asian stories.

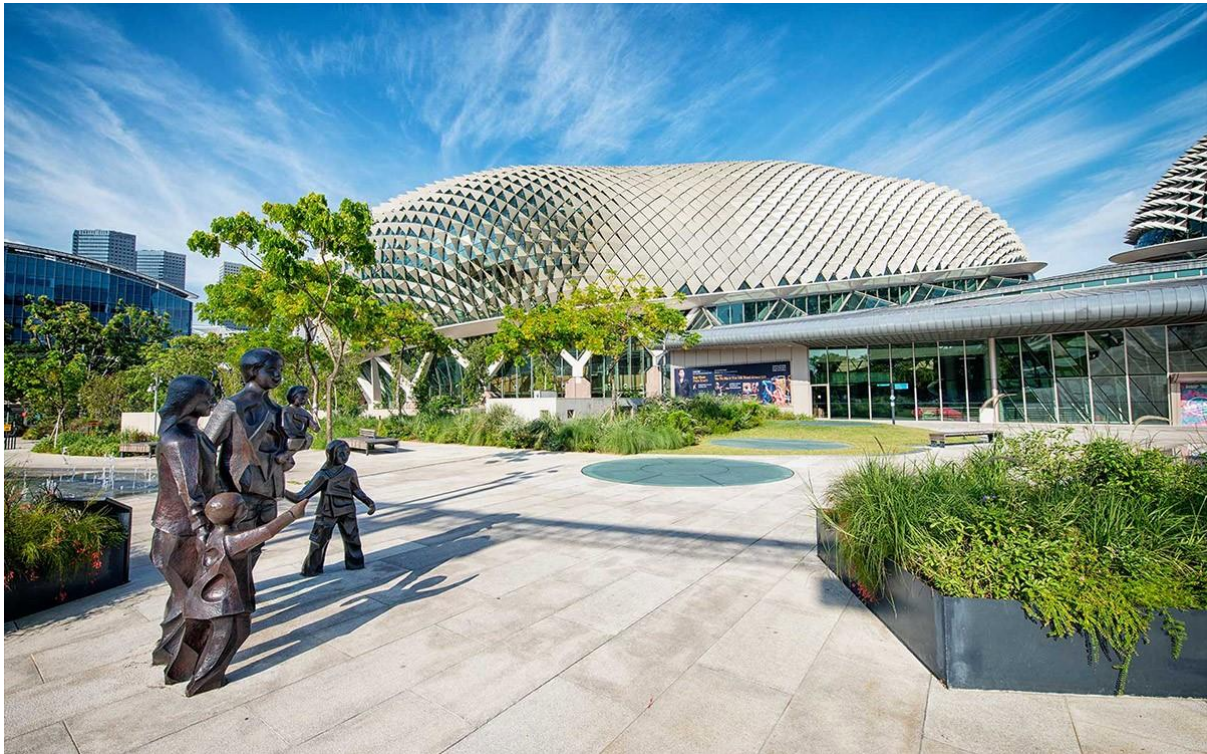
Five years on, the Singtel Waterfront Theatre is finally ready to open its doors, in time for Esplanade’s 20th birthday on 12 Oct 2022 too! In this special photography exhibition, we go behind-the-scenes to take a glimpse at the people who built—literally—this new theatre amidst the pandemic, through the eyes of documentary photographer Bob Lee.

Hear from the architect who was tasked to design a flexible theatre that features multiple seating configurations. Get up close with the project manager (main contractor) who had to navigate the construction complications, manpower shortages and government restrictions during the pandemic. Plus three Esplanade staff who were involved in the project management, technical production and customer experience aspects of the new venue share their experiences.

Find out more on how they overcame these challenges and adapted to the constant changes to deliver the final product, as well as their hopes and dreams for the Singtel Waterfront Theatre, through the accompanying stories published on [Esplanade Offstage](#).

GUIDED TOURS

Esplanade Garden Tour



Leave the stress of school behind and be energised by nature and the arts in this interactive tour at #mydurian. Come discover the diverse ecosystem in Esplanade's flourishing Forecourt Garden—from finding out which plant has healing properties, to getting up close with one of the world's most colourful trees.

Then, check out the awesome nature-inspired sculptures of one of Singapore's most celebrated artists and Cultural Medallion Recipient, Han Sai Por, located along the Esplanade Waterfront. That's not all, you can also continue your own exploration of nature and the arts by creating your own 3D sculpture in our take-home activity sheet. This tour of our wild garden in the heart of the city is sure to inspire young minds!

Tour Details

Duration: 1 hour

Recommended for ages 9 – 12.

All children must be accompanied by at least one adult. Accompanying adult must be 16 years old and above.

\$12 per person, with a minimum group size of 10 people per tour.

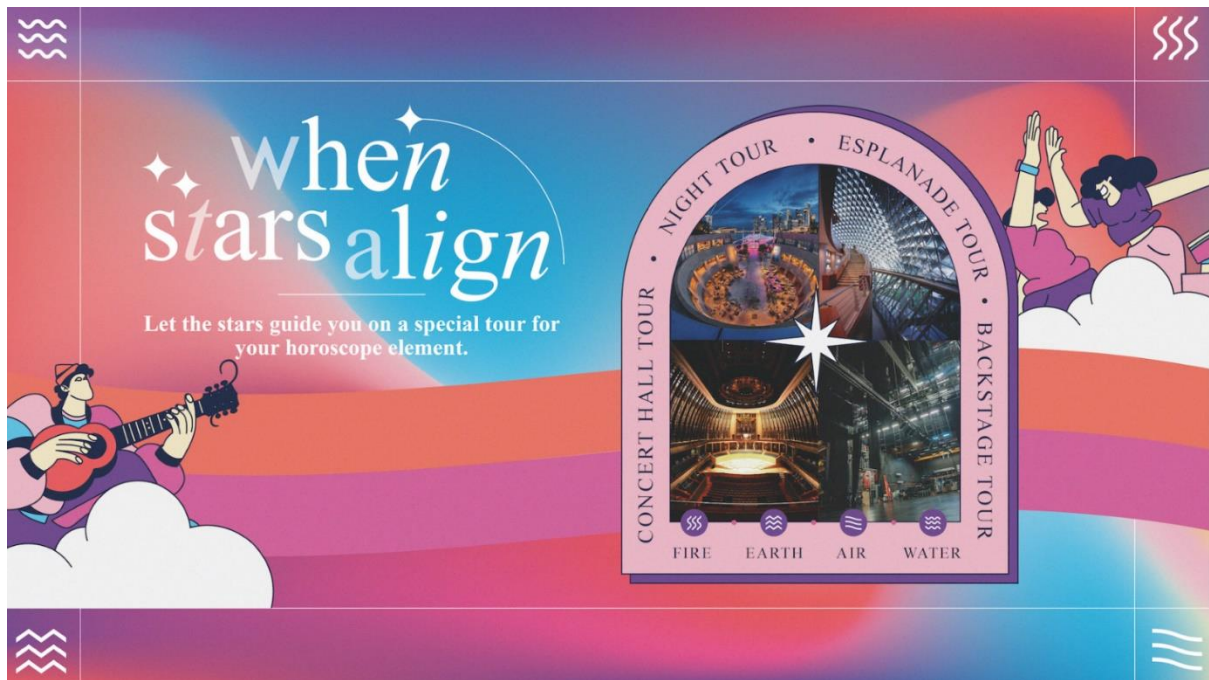
A minimum charge of \$120.00 is applicable for groups with less than 10 people.

For more information, email tour@esplanade.com or call [6828 8377](tel:68288377) between 12pm to 6pm daily.

<https://www.esplanade.com/visit-esplanade/tours-and-experiences/guided-tours/garden-tour>

When Stars Align

Guided tours for *Esplanade&Me U26* members



Let the stars guide you through these tour experiences inspired by the horoscope elements of fire, earth, air and water.

Designed to reach out to Gen Zs, each of these four elemental experiences has been adapted from existing Esplanade tours and accompanied by an activity such as architecture photography, painting a recyclable shopping bag and a vocal training session.

Happening from Oct to Dec 2022, these four guided tour experiences are open to *Esplanade&Me U26* members only, at \$35 per person.

Tour Details

Date: Oct – Dec

Duration: 1hr 30mins

Admission for 17 – 26 years old

Ticket: \$35 (excl SISTIC fee)

Tickets on sale 12 Sep.