

Esplanade Presents

Kalaa Utsavam – Indian Festival of Arts 2024

15 – 24 Nov 2024

www.esplanade.com/kalaautsavam



Dear friends of the media,

From 15 – 24 Nov 2024, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay welcomes you to *Kalaa Utsavam – Indian Festival of Arts*, a celebration of the rich tapestry of Indian arts and culture. Each year, we gather to honour timeless traditions that have shaped our heritage while embracing the vibrant and contemporary expressions of today. Embracing a global perspective, this year's *Kalaa Utsavam* weaves together artistic excellence and the thrill of discovery, offering performances from different countries designed to touch the heart and ignite the imagination.

An Esplanade co-production and highlight of the festival, renowned choreographer and dancer **Akram Khan's** *GIGENIS – the generation of the Earth* makes its exclusive Asian stop in Singapore. Performing alongside Akram, this production brings together different Indian dance forms and some of its finest performers from three continents. Following its world premiere in France in August 2024, it will also tour London and New York. *GIGENIS* shines a spotlight on the enduring resonance of tradition in a rapidly changing world.

For younger audiences, **Ranga Shankara's** **AHA! Theatre for Children's** puppetry production of *Old Man and The Sea* breathes new life into Hemingway's timeless story of human endurance and dignity in the face of life's inevitable struggles.

Kalaa Utsavam also features artists and productions that reflect the rich cultural exchange between India and the world. Bollywood fans are in for an unparalleled performance from legendary playback singer **Shaan**, while the genre-blending sounds of **The F16s** from Chennai and the fusion of Indian classical dance with Japanese Taiko drumming in *Chi Udaka* by **Taikoz** and **Lingalayam Dance Company** from Australia showcase the ever-evolving landscape of Indian art on the world stage.

Comedy lovers can expect an evening of laughter and sharp wit, with Tamil comedians **Jagan Krishnan** and **Vikkals Vikram** who will perform for the first time as a double bill, while music fans will be captivated by **Sam Vishal** and friends' soulful melodies. This year, we are particularly excited to present **Ramana Balachandhran**, a *veena* prodigy whose mesmerising performances are sure to leave a lasting impression. Singapore's very own **Raghajazz** will celebrate their 15th anniversary with their innovative fusion of jazz and Indian classical music, making their performance of *Tidal Streams* a must-see.

Our literary offerings include *Train to Pakistan*, a gripping co-production with **HuM Theatre** based on Khushwant Singh's novel, and *Living Ancestor* by **ArunDitha, SISTRUM & Beatroot Ensemble feat. Mohamed Noor and Munir Alsagoff**, an experiential performance that promises to be as thought-provoking as it is engaging.

In addition to our ticketed events, *Kalaa Utsavam* offers a vibrant array of free programmes, including workshops and roving performances that make the festival accessible to all.

We would like to thank Principal Sponsors High Commission of India and Malabar Gold & Diamonds for their generous support of the festival.

We extend our deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for being part of *Kalaa Utsavam 2024*. Your presence, passion for the arts, and support are what make this festival truly special. Let's create memories that will remain long after the curtain falls.

V M Sai Akileshwar
Producer
The Esplanade Co Ltd

Last updated 11 Oct 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.

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Issued by *The Esplanade Co Ltd*.

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Annexe

Esplanade Presents

Kalaa Utsavam – Indian Festival of Arts 2024

15 – 24 Nov 2024

www.esplanade.com/kalaautsavam

About Kalaa Utsavam – Indian Festival of Arts

An annual festival that celebrates Indian arts and culture during the festive period of Deepavali.

Ticketed Programmes

An Esplanade Co-Production

GIGENIS – the generation of the Earth

by Akram Khan and guests (UK, USA & India)

15 & 16 Nov 2024, Fri & Sat

8pm

Esplanade Theatre



Photo credit: Maxime Dos

“I am excited and humbled to be back on stage to direct six extraordinary soloist artists from all generations. *GIGENIS* is a profound tribute to that reflection, a reconciliation between the past and the present times, a genuine celebration of our collective love for dance—boundless, timeless, as well as deeply rooted.” – Akram Khan

Akram Khan, a choreographer and dancer rooted in the tradition of his practice, and a creative interpreter of stories that need to be experienced, has revolutionised the world of dance.

Khan returns to his roots, traditions and past—to a time when we were more connected with nature, Mother Earth and our mythology. *GIGENIS* evokes the memories of our civilisation.

In his latest work, *GIGENIS - the generation of the Earth*, Khan shares the stage with a distinguished ensemble of classical Indian dance artists, including *kutiyattam* artist Kapila

Venu, *odissi* soloist Sirikalyani Adkoli, *bharatanatyam* soloists Mavin Khoo and Mythili Prakash, and the *bharatanatyam* duo Vijna Vasudevan and Renjith Babu.

Khan invokes memories across time and place to celebrate these artists' collective love of dance. Drawing from his deep-seated connection to ritual practices and his ability to weave narratives through movement, *GIGENIS - the generation of the Earth* is a testament to the enduring resonance of tradition in a rapidly changing world.

Director: Akram Khan

Dancers:

Akram Khan, Sirikalyani Adkoli, Renjith Babu, Mavin Khoo, Mythili Prakash, Vijna Vasudevan, Kapila Venu

Musicians and Vocals:

BC Manjunath (*mridangam*), Kalamandalam Rajeev (*mizhavu*)

Hariraam Lam (violin), Nina Harries (doublebass)

Sohini Alam (vocals), Chitra Poornima Sathish & Sushma Soma (vocals), Rohith Jayaraman (vocals)

GIGENIS – the generation of the Earth is produced by Productions Sarfati. Presented thanks to the support of Orsolina28 Art Foundation and Muse Art Foundation.

In co-production with Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, Singapore, Sadler's Wells, London, The Joyce Theater with the support of its Executive Director's Fund, and Stephen and Cathy Weinroth Fund for New Work.

Admission age 6 & above

1hr 10mins, no intermission

\$40*, \$60^*, \$80^*

^Esplanade&Me Specials: From 10 Oct (Cat 1 & 2 only)

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$32* (Cat 3 only)

Limited concessions for PWDs: \$32* (Cat 1 – 3 only)



Live Love Laugh Shaan Se (India)

22 Nov 2024, Fri
7.30pm
Esplanade Theatre



Known for his versatile voice and emotive singing, Shaan has lent his voice to numerous Bollywood films, delivering hits like *Chand Sifarish* from *Fanaa* and *Jab Se Tere Naina* from *Saawariya*. With a career spanning over three decades, he has received multiple awards, including Filmfare and Zee Cine Awards.

Shaan's musical talents have led him to become a winning captain, judge, and mentor on *Music Ka Maha Muqabla*, *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il Champs*, *The Voice India Kids*, and *Super Singer*. Having charmed audiences worldwide for over two decades with his rich and soulful voice, and most recently at the 2024 Paris Olympics for the Indian contingent, this concert will see him enchant fans with his timeless music featuring current hits and fan-favourite chart-toppers.

About Shaan

With a career spanning over 25 years in Bollywood and the independent music scene, Shaan is an icon cherished by fans worldwide. His career highlights include the success of his debut album *Love-ology* and its follow-up, *Tanha Dil*. Shaan has also hosted and judged numerous Indian music reality shows and showcased his acting chops in several films. His accolades extend to both his music and acting talent. With over 3000 tracks in 15 Indian languages and his own label, Shaan Music, he continues to captivate audiences. Recently, he expanded his musical repertoire with Shaan Devotional Music, further broadening his diverse musical talent.

Performed in Hindi
Admission age 6 & above
1hr 30mins, no intermission

\$70*, \$100*, \$130[^]*, \$160[^]*, \$200[^]*

Esplanade&Me Members Exclusive

\$250 VIP Meet & Greet Experience (From 11 Oct, limited tickets)

Includes the following:

- Choice of any VIP category ticket for an up-close concert experience
- Post-show meet and greet with Shaan
- Each *Esplanade&Me* member can purchase up to four \$250 VIP tickets

[^]Esplanade&Me Specials: From 11 Oct, 10am (Cat 1 - 3 only)

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$56*, \$80* (Cat 4 & 5 only)

Limited concessions for PWDs: \$56*



Double Trouble: Two Comics, One Epic Night by Jagan Krishnan & Vikkals Vikram (India)

23 Nov 2024, Sat
7.30pm
Esplanade Theatre



An epic night of laughs will unfold as two of Tamil Nadu's finest stand-up comedians take the stage! Vikkals Vikram, known for his sharp and relatable humour, joins forces with Jagan Krishna, celebrated for his music-based comedy, for their first joint show. Each will showcase their unique style, promising a double dose of laughter, tailored especially for the Singapore crowd. Don't miss out on this unforgettable treat from two of the best in India's comedic scene!

About Jagan Krishnan

Jagan Krishnan is a stand-up comedian known for his musical and observational humour, especially his witty takes on Tamil cinema and Harris Jayaraj's love songs. He has written for *Put Chutney*, Sony LIV's *Meme Boys*, and the film *Veetla Visesham*, where he also acted. His acting credits include another notable Tamil film, *Sardar*. Jagan has performed for top corporate organisations in India and gained popularity with his comedy special, *Oru Time Pakalam*, alongside Mervyn Rozario. Currently touring globally with his new show, *Jagane Thandhiram*, he continues to entertain audiences internationally.

About Vikkals Vikram

Vikram Arul Vidyapati is a prominent Chennai-based stand-up comedian, actor, and content creator who has captivated audiences with his sharp humour. With over 200 performances across India, including 25 solo shows, Vikram's comedic talent has earned him widespread acclaim. His Instagram reels and YouTube channel, Vikkals, boast over 50 million views and

one million subscribers. His work gained widespread recognition when Ilayathalpathi Vijay mentioned his video on *Varisu's Ranjithame*, and A. R. Rahman recreated a reel he made for the song *Rawadi*. Now, Vikram is taking his stand-up comedy shows global, sharing his unique brand of humour with international audiences. He has also acted in popular TV series like *21 Weds 31* and *Tandoori Idly*.

Performed in Tamil

Admission age 13 & above

Recommended for age 16 & above

2hrs, including 20mins intermission

\$40*, \$60^*, \$80^*

^Esplanade&Me Specials: From 10 Oct (Cat 1 & 2 only)

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$32* (Cat 3 only)

Limited concessions for PWDs: \$32* (Cat 1 – 3 only)



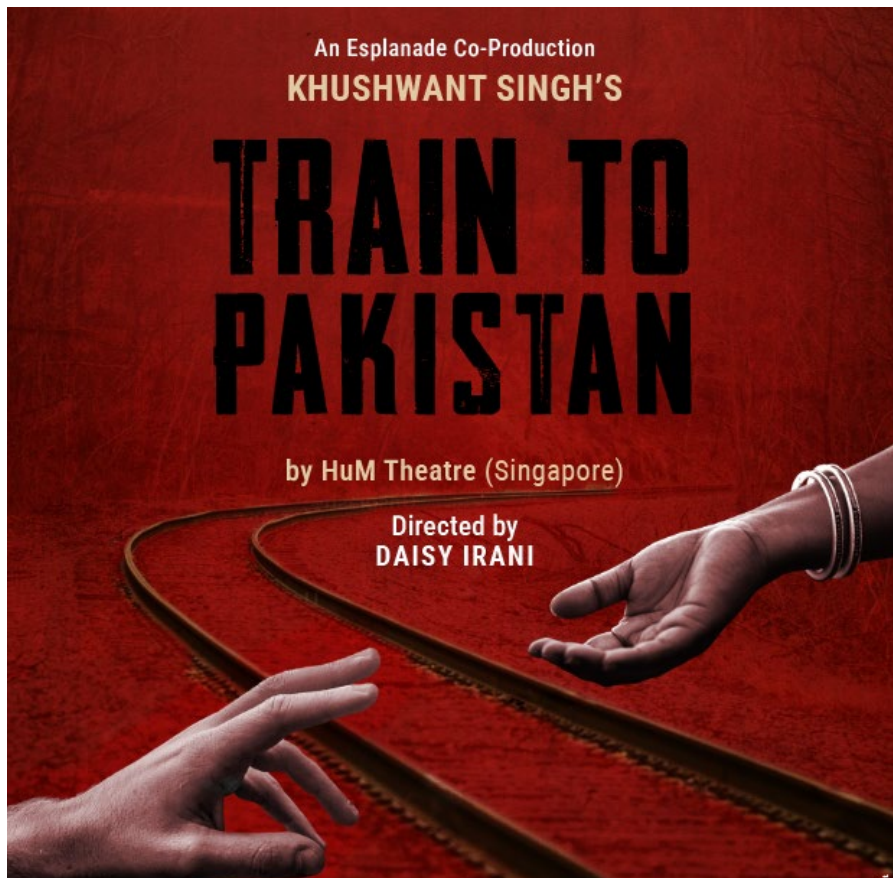
An Esplanade Co-Production
Train to Pakistan
by HuM Theatre

21 – 24 Nov 2024

Thu & Fri, 8pm

Sat & Sun, 3pm & 8pm

Esplanade Theatre Studio



Advisory 16: Contains coarse language and mature themes

Based on Khushwant Singh's epic novel, *Train to Pakistan* delves into the chaos of the 1947 partition of British India into India and Pakistan. Set in the idyllic village of Mano Majra in Punjab, this gripping tale unravels as a murder disrupts the peace, gradually pulling the village into the violent and tragic aftermath of the partition. Amid the chaos lies the love of a Sikh man for a Muslim woman—a bond that stands as the last hope against the impending disaster that awaits the village.

About Daisy Irani

Daisy is a professional in the media industry, with 25 years of experience across television, theatre and film in Singapore and India. Her theatre work in Singapore with prominent companies like The Necessary Stage and TheatreWorks has been complemented by her work for her company HuM Theatre. She has produced, directed, and acted in several HuM productions, including the acclaimed *Nagamandala*, which opened *Kalaa Utsavam* in 2013,

and hit plays *We Are Like This Only 1, 2 and 3*. She won The Straits Times Life Theatre Best Actress Award for her role in *The Prisoner of Mumbai Mansion*. She reprised the role of Kasturba Gandhi for HuM theatre's *Being Mrs Gandhi*. Daisy is best known for originating the role of Daisy in the iconic TV series *Under One Roof*. She was Vice President at MediaCorp and produced serials like *Living with Lydia* and *Incredible Tales*. Her work received three Asian TV Awards for Best Comedy. Her other accomplishments at MediaCorp include launching the Okto channel and redefining Vasantham.

About Subin Subaiah

Subin's theatre acting credits with HuM Theatre include *Rafta Rafta* (The Straits Times Life Theatre Best Actor nominee), *Prisoner of Mumbai Mansion* (The Straits Times Life Theatre Best Actor nominee), *The Kanjoos*, *We Are Like This Only*, *Nagamandala*, and *Jihad Jones and Kalashnikov Babes*. He has written *We Are Like This Only*, *Being Mrs Gandhi*, and *Prisoner of Mumbai Mansion* for theatre, and *#coffeeshots*, and episodes of *Incredible Tales* for MediaCorp. He has performed in lead roles with several theatre groups in Singapore and India—*Day in The Life of Joe Egg*, *The Owl and The Pussycat*, *No Sex Please We Are British*, *I Love Bombay*, *Borderline*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *A Map of The World*, *Climbing Tamboura*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Mixed Blessings*. Subin is a featured actor in Singapore's iconic TV comedies *Under One Roof*, *House of Chow*, *ABC DJ*, and *Oh Carol*. His directorial credits in Singapore include *The Tiger* and *Death and the Maiden*.

Performed in English

Admission age 16 & above

1hr 45mins, no intermission

Assistive listening is available for this venue.

\$65^

^Esplanade&Me Specials: From 10 Oct

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$52



The F16s Live (India)

15 Nov 2024, Fri

7.30pm

Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade



Photo credit: Shantanu Krishnan

Following their smashing performance at *Baybeats* in 2022, The F16s continue their love affair with Singapore, returning all the way from Chennai for the fourth time to this year's *Kalaa Utsavam!*

Expect a refreshing blend of dreamy synths, mellow guitar riffs, and infectious beats, most notably in their signature hits *Moonchild* and *WKND FRNDS*. With their smooth vocals and catchy melodies, The F16s will evoke a sense of escapism and nostalgia, transporting audiences into a musical soundscape of tranquil evenings and long journeys.

To make things extra special this time around, the band will debut a few songs from their upcoming 2025 album, showcasing their unique blend of lyrical and vibrant pop sounds in a performance not to be missed!

About The F16s

Ten years on, through several iterations and releases, Chennai based four-piece The F16s have been steadily refining their vision.

From their 2013 debut *Kaleidoscope*, to 2014's *Nobody's Gonna Wait* recorded in Brooklyn, through to their 2016 full-length breakthrough *Triggerpunkte*, and 2019's ode to

companionship *WKND FRNDS*, their vision has mirrored both a maturity of execution and a certain gravity with listeners worldwide.

With 2021's *Is It Time to Eat the Rich, Yet?*, and the subsequent sold-out *Rock n Roll is Dead Tour*, the band cemented their position as a once-in-a-lifetime live music powerhouse and festival mainstay. They performed at Lollapalooza India with personal heroes The Strokes, Bandlands with The War on Drugs and at *Baybeats 2022* in Singapore alongside Otoboke Beaver—all within the same year.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thef16s/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/thef16s/>

Bandcamp: <https://thef16s.bandcamp.com/>

Performed in English

Admission age 6 & above

1hr 30mins, no intermission

Assistive listening is available for this venue.

\$40^

^Esplanade&Me Specials: From 10 Oct

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$32



Rhythms of Chennai: A New Era of Indie Music

Featuring Sam Vishal, Priyanka NK, Sivaangi, K J Iyengar, Bharat K Rajesh and Sreekanth Hariharan (India)

16 Nov 2024, Sat

7.30pm

Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade



Rhythms of Chennai celebrates the vibrant indie music scene in South India, featuring a powerhouse line-up of *Super Singer* alumni who will bring their distinctive talent and creativity to the stage.

Sam Vishal, an indie artist who has chart-topping playback songs like *Chitti Story*, is set to ignite the stage with his infectious energy and soulful vocals. Joining him is Sivaangi Krishnakumar, whose hit indie tracks like *No No No* and *La La Heart Nikkala* have dominated the charts. She also has several playback numbers to her credit. Sreekanth Hariharan, famed for *Unakkaaga* from the movie *Mersal*, will also be performing in this exciting concert. The talented Priyanka NK, a Mirchi Music Award winner, will also grace the stage with her emotive voice. Rounding out the lineup are the incredible rapper K. J. Iyengar and the versatile Bharath K. Rajesh.

Discover how these indie artists redefine the boundaries of music in this unforgettable evening!

Performed in Tamil

Admission age 6 & above

1hr 30mins, no intermission

Assistive listening is available for this venue.

\$55^

^Esplanade&Me Specials: From 10 Oct

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

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



Chi Udaka
by Taikoz and Lingalayam (Australia)

23 & 24 Nov 2024

Sat, 8pm

Sun, 3pm

Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade



Experience the deep earthiness of *taiko* drumming, symbolising earth (“chi”), and the graceful flow of Indian classical dance, representing water (“udaka”), in this energetic live performance. Delicately balanced between drama and elegance, this performance unites the resonant taiko drums of Taikoz, the soulful *shakuhachi* flute, the rich tones of the cello, and classical Indian vocals with Lingalayam’s contrasting *bharatanatyam* and *kuchipudi* dance styles.

This dynamic percussion and dance performance is a collaboration between renowned Australian companies, Taikoz and Lingalayam. Both steeped in rich history and tradition, they come together in a vibrant celebration of colour, rhythm, dance, and music.

About Taikoz

Ian Cleworth and Riley Lee formed Taikoz in 1997. Over the past 26 years Taikoz has developed an original repertoire of works that have taken them to Australia's finest concert halls and prestigious venues worldwide, including in Japan, France, America, India, Taiwan, and New Zealand.

About Lingalayam

Strongly emotive and visually compelling, directed by legendary dancer and choreographer Anandavalli, Lingalayam’s repertoire showcases the diverse vocabularies of South Indian dance. As an Australian arts organisation, it nurtures the appreciation and knowledge of Indian

culture, through art works of traditional genesis, presented in the context of our contemporary cultural tapestry.

Over the years, Lingalayam has been fortunate to collaborate with artists of international repute. These experiences have enhanced the artistic practice within the company, while expanding its horizons.

Admission age 6 & above
1hr 25mins, no intermission

Assistive listening is available for this venue.

\$45^

^Esplanade&Me Specials: From 10 Oct

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

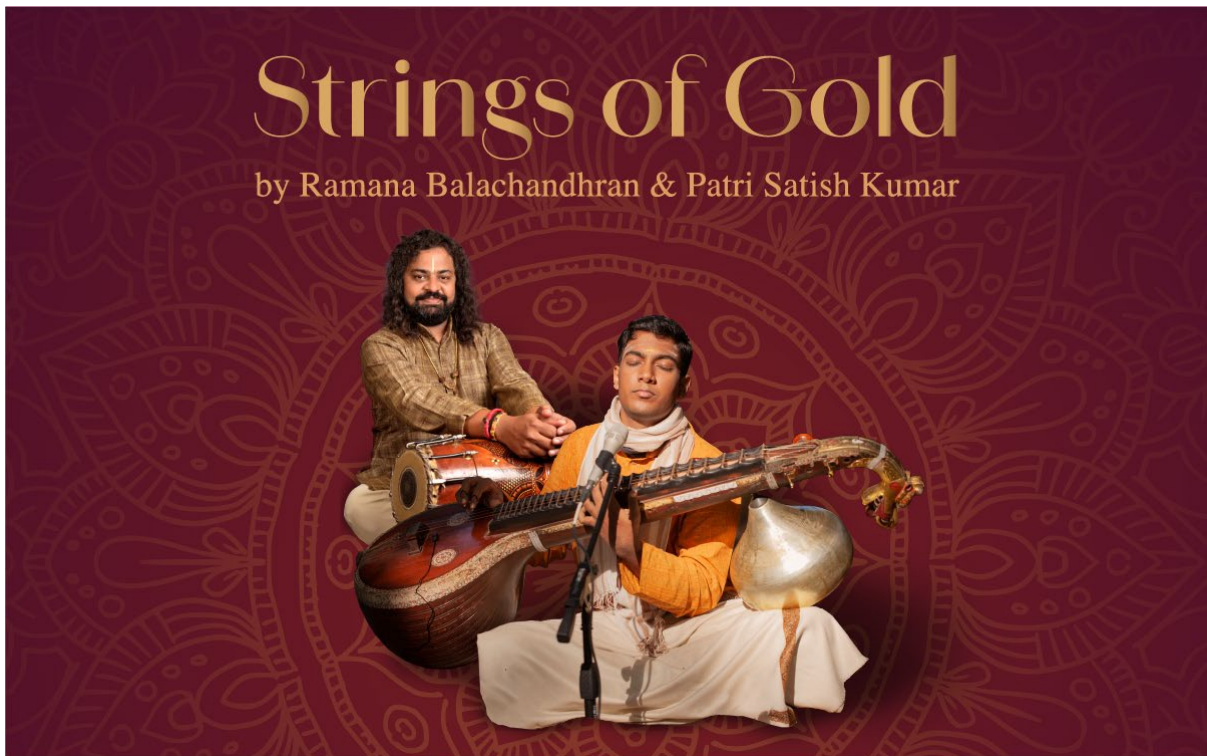
Discover: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

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



Strings of Gold
by Ramana Balachandhran and Patri Satish Kumar (India)

24 Nov 2024, Sun
5pm
Esplanade Recital Studio



Experience a captivating blend of tradition and innovation through the remarkable talent of young *veena* prodigy, Ramana Balachandhran. Ramana received the rare honour of earning an A grade from All India Radio at 16—an extraordinary achievement in its 75-year history. Accompanied by veteran *mridangist* Patri Satish Kumar, this performance offers an exploration of the emotional depth and artistry of their instruments.

About Ramana Balachandhran

Ramana Balachandhran is a *veena* player in the Carnatic tradition. The son of Carnatic music practitioners Balachandhran and Sharanya, his talent for music was evident at an early age, when he could identify *ragas* and discern subtle nuances. Considered a prodigious talent, Ramana was directly awarded an A grade by All India Radio (AIR, the only grading authority in India) after auditioning at 16—a rare honour in AIR's history of over 75 years. Madras Music Academy, the iconic and venerated music institution in Chennai, waived age requirements to invite him to be part of its annual concert series when he was 16.

About Patri Satish Kumar

A much sought-after *mridangam* artist from India, Patri Satish Kumar grew up in a family of musicians. He was initiated into the art of percussion by his mother, Padmavathy, a renowned violinist, and had his debut at the tender age of seven. A fine performer and composer, with a deep interest in innovating and exploring the art form, his specialisation is his precise fingering

technique and the fine balance of sounds between the treble and bass heads of the *mridangam*. Trained by Gurus Sree Ramachandramurthy, V.A. Swami and V. Narasimhan, Satish Kumar continues to evolve a style that is distinctly his own.

Admission age 6 & above
2hrs, no intermission

Assistive listening is available for this venue.

\$35^

^Esplanade&Me Specials: From 10 Oct

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$28



Living Ancestor நம்முள் வாழும் முன்னோர்

by ArunDitha, SISTRUM & Beatroot Ensemble feat. Mohamed Noor and Munir Alsagoff

15 & 16 Nov 2024, Fri & Sat

8pm

Esplanade Annexe Studio



A vibrant young woman is the next *Living Ancestor* of her tribe, a role meant to be a great honour— to continue the unbroken line and bring pride to her family. Yet, something within her questions the way things have always been done.

Living Ancestor is a layered storytelling experience composed of dramatic text, spoken word, and performance by ArunDitha, dynamic multimedia by SISTRUM, and a fusion of electronic and traditional sounds by Beatroot Ensemble, featuring Mohamed Noor and Munir Alsagoff. In this experimental *Indofuturistic* exploration, meet visionary futures that redefine cultural continuity. As we invent a new connection with the spirit of the land, let *Living Ancestor* take you on a cosmic, colourful journey into the horizons to come.

About ArunDitha

ArunDitha is a goddess-worshipping performance artist, writer, and facilitator who puts maca to her morning cacao. She works across poetry, movement, and the dramatic arts. She has performed her poetry locally and at festivals on other continents. She has been a resident writer/artist at Literarisches Colloquium Berlin and The Watermill Center, New York. Her co-creations have been commissioned by the Goethe-Institut and the Barcelona International Poetry Festival. She currently sings/loops with Mantravine and co-organises at Opens, a para-academic forum.

About SISTRUM

SISTRUM is an interdisciplinary collective of three artists: sound designer Ramesh Krishnan, graphic designer Lim Shu Min, and architect Laura Miotto. They create installations, exhibitions, and digital platforms that explore the narrative quality of sound and the environment. Their recent projects include *Embroidered Landscapes (2024)*, *Nature Remixed: Learning and Unlearning from New Species (2023)*, *Vel Vel: The Burden Dance (2022)*, *If We Paused in Mid Thought... (2022)*, *Nature Remixed: Where are the borders of our Paradise? (2022)*, and *Vel Vel: A Sonic Walk (2021)*.

About Beatroot Ensemble – Munir Alsagoff

Munir Alsagoff is a versatile multi-instrumentalist and producer with Singapore with 20 years of experience. Known for his guitar work, he excels in genres like jazz, soul, classical, Brazilian funk, and samba. Munir has collaborated with acts such as Urban Exchange, Parking Lot Pimp, and jazz singer Dawn Ho. His expertise spans acoustic and electronic/live settings, showcasing his ability to blend traditional rhythms and electronic music.

About Beatroot Ensemble – Mohamed Noor

Growing up in a musically gifted family, Mohamed Noor embarked on his music career at the tender age of five, starting with percussion. His passion for and dedication to music have led him to master over 25 percussion instruments from across the globe. This extensive expertise has established him as a versatile percussionist and drummer in Asia. With his rich musical experience as a percussionist, drummer, composer, arranger, and producer, Mohamed Noor has developed a distinctive style that seamlessly blends drums and percussion with experimental electronic collaborations.

Performed in English

Admission age 13 & above

1hr, no intermission

\$22^

^Esplanade&Me Specials: From 10 Oct

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$17.60



Tidal Streams by RaghaJazz

22 & 23 Nov 2024, Fri & Sat
7.30pm
Esplanade Recital Studio



Known for their signature fusion blending traditional *ragas* with contemporary jazz, RaghaJazz will be showcasing their unique interpretations of genres ranging from Indian classical to modern jazz.

Recognised for their soul-stirring performances, RaghaJazz was a standout feature at the Singapore Musician's Guild launch in March 2015. The band has now garnered over 30,000 social media views.

Inspired by their favourite legends like Ravi Shankar, Shakti, and Miles Davis, expect renditions of original compositions that have defined their journey for the past 15 years!

About Raghajazz

RaghaJazz is a soul-stirring electro-fusion band that masterfully blends the intricacies of Indian classical *ragas* with the improvisational and harmonic spirit of jazz. For 15 years, the band—featuring the Indian classical flute, keyboard, drums, and bass—has captivated audiences with their unique sound, creating a seamless blend of tradition and modernity. Known for their innovative compositions and soulful performances, RaghaJazz takes listeners on a musical journey that transcends cultural boundaries, offering an experience that is both deeply rooted and refreshingly contemporary.

Supported by: National Arts Council

Performed in English

Admission age 6 & above

1hr 20mins, no intermission

Assistive listening is available for this venue.

\$35^

^Esplanade&Me Specials: From 10 Oct

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$28



Old Man and The Sea
by Ranga Shankara's AHA! Theatre for Children (India)

16 & 17 Nov 2024, Sat & Sun
11am & 2pm
Esplanade Recital Studio



Get ready for a maritime journey in this adaptation of Ernest Hemingway's classic, *The Old Man and the Sea*, brought to life through puppetry and no words!

This story follows an old, seasoned fisherman and the greatest catch of his life. After returning home empty-handed for days, he sails further into the sea and finally hooks a big fish he names Mari. The fish pulls him deeper into the sea, leading to a fierce struggle with Nature as he fights to survive and return home.

Prepare to be enchanted as the story of the ocean comes alive through puppet play and music scores using only human voices!

Admission age 0 & above.

Recommended for age 4 & above

45mins, no intermission

This is a Relaxed Environment (RE) performance.

Assistive listening is available for this venue.

\$28^

^Esplanade&Me Specials: From 10 Oct

PIP's Club: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)



Workshops and Masterclasses

Masterclass: Konakkol for Musicians by B. C. Manjunath (India)

13 Nov 2024, Wed
7pm
Esplanade Black Room



Open to all music students and practitioners.

Exploring rhythmic structures and patterns (*konnakkol*) in South Indian classical music, the workshop will emphasise the connection between technique, musicality, mental agility, and the bodily integration of patterns.

About B. C. Manjunath

Manjunath revealed an innate musical talent even as a young boy and imbibed the best of Carnatic *talavadya* from his parents. He later broadened his musical perspective by training in *mridangam* under Karnataka Kalashree K. N. Krishna Murthy and Sangeetha Kalanidhi Sri T. K. Murthy.

Manjunath's creative impulses have flowered in various forms, from classical to fusion, and in solo and ensemble performances. He has accompanied many greats from India and abroad, including Sangeetha Kalaratna, Sri R. R. Keshavamurthy, Sangeetha Kalaratna Sri H. P. Ramachar, and other iconic figures. He has also shared the stage with international legends like Kani Karaca, famous Turkish Sufi singer and Robin Eubanks, premier jazz trombonist of his generation. He has collaborated with composers Rafael Reina, Riccardo Nova and institutions such as the Conservatorium of Amsterdam, taking part in festivals such as Zagreb Music Biennale, Perth International Festival, Roma Europe Festival, to name a few.

Manjunath previously toured with Akram Khan Company in Massachusetts and performed 175 shows around the world over two years.

Conducted in English
Admission age 6 & above
1hr 30mins, no intermission

\$30



Masterclass:

Abhinaya: A Lecture Demonstration with Mavin Khoo and Chitra Poornima Satish (Malaysia & Singapore)

13 Nov 2024, Wed

8.30pm

Esplanade Rehearsal Studio



Mavin Khoo



Chitra Poornima Satish

Open to Indian classical dancers of all styles; actors are also welcome.

Mavin Khoo and Poornima Satish share processes developed and devised through the technique of storytelling through the lens of *abhinaya*. The focus will be on developing subtextual intention through text and gesture.

About Mavin Khoo

Mavin Khoo is internationally recognised as a dance artist, teacher, choreographer, and artistic scholar. His initial training was at the Temple of Fine Arts and Sri Wilayah Ballet School in Malaysia. He then pursued intensive training in *bharatanatyam* under the legendary dance maestro, Padma Shri Adyar K. Lakshman in India, Cunningham technique at the Cunningham studios in New York, and Classical Ballet under Marian St. Claire, Michael Beare, Nancy Kilgour, and Raymond Chai. As a contemporary dance artist, he has worked with Wayne McGregor, Akram Khan, Shobana Jeyasingh, Ivan Perez Aviles, and others.

His commissioned works include creations for the Venice Biennale and Canada Dance Festival, to name a few. *Images in Varnam* (2001) was commissioned by the Royal Ballet Artists Development Initiative and was followed by another ROH2 commission, *Let me...* with Royal Ballet dancer Kristen McNally. Mavin is considered one of the few *bharatanatyam* male soloists to have carved a niche for himself as an international touring solo artist, while still regularly dancing at all major venues in India, including the Music Academy and Kalakshetra in Chennai. Mavin holds a Master's in Choreography from Middlesex University. He was a faculty member of the Dance Studies Department at the School of Performing Arts, University of Malta. In 2014, he was appointed artistic director of ŻfinMalta Dance Ensemble, where he choreographed and danced until 2017.

Mavin is Creative Associate at Akram Khan Company and acts as lead rehearsal director and stager for Akram's repertory, working on productions such as *ITMOi*, *XENOS* and *Outwitting the Devil*, among others. He also acts as Repetiteur to Akram Khan's work with ballet companies coaching and staging productions such as *Creature* and *Giselle* for English National Ballet and Royal Ballet of Flanders. As a dance artist today, Mavin maintains his touring work as a mature artist with a focus on solo *bharatanatyam* concert performances.

About Chitra Poornima Sathish

Chitra Poornima Sathish is a Carnatic vocalist. She has presented solo and collaborative classical concerts at various platforms, while also constantly trying to extend her love for music in other spheres—such as dance, theatre and teaching.

Poornima has been fortunate to have teachers who have taught, inspired, and guided her, instilling a deep passion for the arts. She began learning at the Temple of Fine Arts Singapore, from teachers Rajalaskhmi Sekar and later Gowri Gokul. She then went on to continue her studies in the art form with Bombay Jayashri in India. Each of them has been instrumental in making music an integral part of Poornima's life.

Poornima continues to deepen her craft through practice and performance and teaches at the Temple of Fine Arts. She is also currently pursuing her Master's in Music Education at the National Institute of Education, Singapore.

Conducted in English

Admission age 6 & above

1hr 30mins, no intermission

\$30



**Masterclass:
Choreography in Bharatanatyam
by Mythili Prakash (USA)**

17 Nov 2024, Sun
11am
Esplanade White Room



Photo credit: Josh S Rose

Open to intermediate and advanced professionals.

A strong *bharatanatyam adavu* (technique) class led by international soloist Mythili Prakash. The session will explore Prakash's relationship to body and space through the vocabulary of the dance form.

About Mythili Prakash

A second-generation Indian-American artist, Mythili is trained by her mother, dance exponent Viji Prakash. She is currently mentored by *bharatanatyam* dancer Malavika Sarukkai and choreographer Akram Khan.

Mythili has toured her own solo productions in the UK, Canada, Europe, India, Singapore, USA, and Mexico, performing at venues such as Sadler's Wells (London), Music Academy (India), Jacob's Pillow (USA), and Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay (Singapore), to name a few. She is the recipient of the Creation to Performance Grant (Irvine Foundation), the Artistic innovation Grant (Center for Cultural Innovation), and the National Dance Project touring Grant (NEFA) for her work *She's Auspicious*, which previewed at the Reflektor Festival (Hamburg).

Nominated by Akram Khan as Choreographer of the Future for Dance Umbrella (UK), Mythili premiered her solo work *HERE and NOW* at their 2019 festival. She also toured as a principal dancer in Akram Khan Company's *Outwitting the Devil*. Mythili's work *AR|DHA* was commissioned and presented by Jacob's Pillow, and featured in the America(na) – I am festival

at the Pillow in June 2022. She is a recipient of the Sky Art's Artists Development programme in collaboration with Akram Khan Company, in support of her work *One|All*, which premiered at the Festival of Motion in Doha, Qatar, commissioned by Qatar Museum and Gestures Productions, in conjunction with the World Cup. Mythili also worked with director Ang Lee as a choreography assistant and played the role of Pi's wife in the award-winning film *Life of Pi*.

Conducted in English
Admission age 6 & above
2hrs, no intermission

\$30



**Masterclass:
Konakkol for Dancers
by B. C. Manjunath (India)**

17 Nov 2024, Sun
2pm
Esplanade Black Room



Photo credits: gaudeamus.nl

Open to all dance students and practitioners.

Exploring rhythmic structures and patterns (*konnakkol*) in South Indian classical music, the workshop will emphasise the connection between technique, musicality, mental agility, and the bodily integration of patterns.

About B. C. Manjunath

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Manjunath previously toured with Akram Khan Company in Massachusetts and performed 175 shows around the world over two years.

Conducted in English
Admission age 6 & above
1hr, no intermission

\$30



**Masterclass:
Vocal and Veena Techniques Explained
by Ramana Balachandhran (India)**

25 Nov 2024, Mon
7.30pm
Esplanade Rehearsal Studio



Open to all Carnatic music practitioners both of intermediate and advanced levels.

Join Ramana Balachandhran's vocal-inspired style of playing the *veena* as he shares valuable practice methods for Carnatic music practitioners.

About Ramana Balachandhra

Ramana Balachandhran is a *veena* player in the Carnatic tradition. The son of Carnatic music practitioners Balachandhran and Sharanya, his talent for music was evident at an early age, when he could identify *ragas* and discern subtle nuances. Considered a prodigious talent, Ramana was directly awarded an A grade by All India Radio (AIR, the only grading authority in India) after auditioning at the age of 16—a rare honour in AI's history of over 75 years. Madras Music Academy, the iconic and venerated music institution in Chennai, waived age requirements to invite him to be part of its annual concert series when he was 16.

Conducted in English
Admission age 6 & above
1hr 30mins, no intermission

\$30



Folk Dance Workshop by Manimaran Creations

16 Nov 2024, Sat

11am

Esplanade Rehearsal Studio



A fun and enjoyable dance workshop that explores *oyilattam* (scarf dance), a vibrant Indian folk dance.

Oyilattam, translating to "dance of grace," is a folk dance originating from the Madurai region of Tamil Nadu. Traditionally performed by a group of men standing in a line, this dance features synchronised, rhythmic steps to the beat of the *thavil*. Dancers wave colourful handkerchiefs and wear ankle bells, creating a lively and rhythmic display you don't want to miss!

About Manimaran Creations

With 45 years in the local arts scene, founder and lifetime achievement awardee, the late Mr Manimaran groomed passionate dancers, giving them a platform to discover their talents.

Heartlanders and communities have always enjoyed Manimaran Creations' rich, traditional, and cultural performances. The troupe performs at countless community events during Indian festive seasons throughout the year. Beyond local neighbourhoods, the troupe has also annually taken part in Chingay Parades, National Day Parades, corporate conferences, exhibitions, and events. Manimaran Creations has also been a household name, performing in several variety programmes for the local Indian channel for over 40 years.

By preserving and sustaining traditional Indian folk dance as their primary focus, Manimaran and his troupe have extended their footprints internationally, bringing pride and honour to our homeland.

Manimaran Creations specialises in most Indian dance forms. Some of the genres include classical and semi-classical, traditional Indian folk dances such as horse dance (*kuthiraiattam*), pot dance (*kargam*), stick dance (*kolattam*), scarf dance (*oyilattam*), and drum dance (*thappattam*). They are also known for their devotional, Bollywood, contemporary, and multi-ethnic performances.

Trainer:

Surendran Rachandran & Parthiban Mayalagan

Conducted in English

Admission age 6 & above

1hr 30mins, no intermission

\$15^

^Esplanade&Me Specials: From 26 Sep

Black, White & Discover: 10% savings



Folk Dance Parent-Child Workshop by Manimaran Creations

17 Nov 2024, Sun

11am

Esplanade Rehearsal Studio



A parent-child workshop that offers a fun bonding experience while learning the basics of *kolattam* (stick dance).

Kolattam is an ancient folk dance form from South India, performed by all ages. It is a community or chorus dance typically done in groups. The name "kolattam" comes from *kol* meaning "stick", and *attam* meaning "dance" in Tamil. Dancers use two short wooden sticks, one in each hand, and stand in a circular formation. They cross the sticks to create rhythms while singing folk songs.

Dancers tap the sticks together or pair up with other dancers to create the beats. Multiple circles can be formed, with dancers switching partners and combining with adjacent circles to create the rhythm.

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Trainer:

Surendran Rachandran & Parthiban Mayalagan

Conducted in English

Admission age 6 & above

1hr 30mins, no intermission

\$15^

^Esplanade&Me Specials: From 26 Sep

PIP's Club: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Tickets sold at \$30 per parent & child pair or \$45 (1 adult + 2 children, or 2 adults + 1 child)

Accompanying adult must be at least 16 years old.



Yoga Workshop by Renuka Silvaraju

23 Nov 2024, Sat

11am

Esplanade Rehearsal Studio



Yoga teacher and wellness coach Renuka Silvaraju leads this specially curated yoga session. Suitable for all fitness levels, the focus of the class will be on preparing the body and mind for a restful and relaxing evening. Participants will learn to understand their bodies better and how to safely build their own wellness and yoga practice at home.

Please dress comfortably for the session.

About Renuka Silvaraju

Renuka Silvaraju is a dedicated yoga teacher and wellness coach whose life has been a testament to the transformative power of yoga and holistic health practices. Having personally experienced the healing powers of yoga, fitness, and wellness practices, Renuka is an advocate for natural healing methods.

Renuka's formal journey into yoga commenced in her early twenties when she completed her month-long Yoga Teacher Training at SVYASA in Bangalore. In 2013, Renuka co-founded Music Love Yoga, an initiative that helps individuals connect with their health and fitness journeys.

Renuka's desire to constantly evolve has led her to complete her Prenatal Yoga Teacher's Training, Kids Yoga Teacher Training, and Nutrition Coaching.

She continues to maintain her practice through professional certifications specialising in women's health and sports nutrition. She has also hosted wellness retreats and workshops for organisations such as the Ministry of Education, Esplanade, and DBS Bank.

Her life's work exemplifies the profound difference one can make when dedicated to promoting holistic health and inner peace. Through her unwavering passion, she continues to guide countless individuals on their own journeys towards wellness, balance and self-discovery.

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/reuka.silvaraju>

<https://www.instagram.com/musicloveyoga>

Conducted in English

Admission age 6 & above

1hr 30mins, no intermission

\$15^

^Esplanade&Me Specials: From 26 Sep

Black, White & Discover: 10% savings



Yoga Parent-Child Workshop by Renuka Silvaraju

24 Nov 2024, Sun

11am

Esplanade Rehearsal Studio



Yoga teacher and wellness coach Renuka Silvaraju leads this fun parent-child yoga session, fostering connection and bonding through mindful practices. Discover the joy of parent-child yoga as Renuka introduces simple postures and routines that can be practiced at home with the family.

Renuka is passionate about sharing her love for conscious living. She co-founded her wellness brand Music Love Yoga in 2013 and established a yoga studio in Singapore in 2016. Renuka strongly believes that yoga is for everyone, regardless of age or body type, and continues to curate classes and practices for children and adults.

Please dress comfortably for the session.

About Renuka Silvaraju

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Instagram:

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<https://www.instagram.com/musicloveyoga>

Conducted in English

Admission age 6 & above

1hr 30mins, no intermission

\$15^

^Esplanade&Me Specials: From 26 Sep

PIP's Club: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Tickets sold at \$30 per parent & child pair or \$45 (1 adult + 2 children, or 2 adults + 1 child)

Accompanying adult must be at least 16 years old.

