

Esplanade Presents

MOONFEST – A MID-AUTUMN CELEBRATION

17 Sep – 3 Oct 2021

www.esplanade.com/moonfest



Dear Friends of the Media,

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay is delighted to present our 17th edition of *Moonfest – A Mid-Autumn Celebration* featuring a wide array of traditional Chinese arts performances and activities by Singapore and overseas artists. This year, we have planned a hybrid festival comprising both on-site live performances from 17 – 19 Sep 2021, and digital programme offerings till 3 Oct 2021. Everyone can look forward to an eclectic line-up of traditional Chinese art forms ranging from xiqu, music, dance, puppetry, crosstalk and more.

Each year, the *Moonfest* team works closely with our Singapore and regional traditional Chinese arts practitioners to create engaging content to be presented at the festival. Despite the challenges all our artists are facing due to the pandemic, we worked hard to ensure that this year is no exception. We hope to welcome audiences back to Esplanade to experience traditional arts programmes in person, with all the prevailing safe management measures in place. For audiences who are unable to join us on-site, we invite you to enjoy our programmes from the comfort of your homes.

It's been a roller-coaster ride over the past year and just as we salute the hard work and courage of frontline essential workers who continue to serve the nation, we want to champion that sense of devotion and give hope to people through what we do as the national performing arts centre of Singapore too. Thus at this year's *Moonfest*, we have specially curated a series of digital performances that focuses on heroic figures who embodied the "courageous" spirit. We are honoured to have three established arts groups—Shanghai Pingtan Troupe, Taipei Puppet Theater and Foshan Cantonese Opera Troupe—to be a part of *Moonfest 2021* as they present the stories of Hua Mulan, Sun Wukong and General Yang Zaixing in their digital performances. This is also the first time *Moonfest* is featuring *pingtan*—a 400-year-old genre of musical storytelling performed in the Suzhou dialect.

Apart from performances, *Moonfest* will also feature workshops for parent-child bonding as well as those targeted at adults who are keen to learn more about traditional Chinese arts and culture. Parents and children can choose to attend workshops to get a better understanding of Chinese surnames or they can create their very own shadow puppets and lanterns. Individuals who want to gain a better understanding of Chinese culture can also participate in our introductory Chinese opera movement and Chinese ink painting workshops.

We would like to give our heartfelt thanks to Esplanade Partner **Ming Yi Foundation**, and Supporting Sponsor **Hong Leong Foundation**, for their generous support of *Moonfest 2021*.

Moonfest is a festival for both the young and young-at-heart within the family. On behalf of my team, I warmly welcome you and your loved ones to join us in person or online to experience the richness of traditional Chinese arts at *Moonfest*.

Wishing everyone a Happy Mid-Autumn Festival!

Desmond Chew
Producer
The Esplanade Co Ltd

Last updated: 27 Aug 2021

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.

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

Esplanade –Theatres on the Bay is operated by The Esplanade Co Ltd (TECL), which is a not-for-profit organisation, a registered Charity and an Institution of a Public Character. The Charity Council awarded TECL the Charity Governance Award –Special Commendation for Clarity of Strategy in 2016, and the Charity Transparency Award for four consecutive years since 2016.

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

Visit Esplanade.com for more information.

~ End ~

Issued by *The Esplanade Co Ltd*.

For more information, please contact:

See Ling Ling
Head, Communications
The Esplanade Co Ltd
Email: slingling@esplanade.com

Annabel Lim
Manager, Marketing
The Esplanade Co Ltd
Email: lannabel@esplanade.com

Annexe

Esplanade Presents

MOONFEST – A MID-AUTUMN CELEBRATION

17 Sep – 3 Oct 2021

www.esplanade.com/moonfest

Presented by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, *Moonfest – A Mid-Autumn Celebration* is an annual traditional Chinese arts festival held in celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival. In its 17th edition, *Moonfest* goes hybrid and presents the opportunity for families and friends, young and old to be exposed and rediscover the intrinsic beauty of quality traditional Chinese arts through an exciting lineup of on-site* and online performances and events.

TICKETED WORKSHOPS

Parent-Child Workshop: What's in a Chinese Surname?

Facilitator: Jasmine Xie Huilin

String Art: Fann Art Thérapie
(Singapore)



Beyond just being a word in the dictionary, our surname provides us with clues to our ancestry and linkages to our family.

Through this fun activity-based parent-child workshop, participants will get a better understanding of what's in a Chinese surname and start on their journey, digging deeper into their roots. They will also get to learn and experience string art making in this session.

Some parts of the workshop will require floor seating. Please dress comfortably for the programme.

About Jasmine Xie Huilin

Jasmine Xie Huilin is a performance studies graduate from Murdoch University of Australia. Xie is effectively bilingual and has performance experiences in both English and Mandarin theatre, as well as puppetry productions. Xie has acted in feature and short films. Beyond her acting career, she is a host for many events.

About Fann Art Thérapie

Fann Art Thérapie started in Feb 2018 with the purpose of getting people to disconnect from technology and reconnect with themselves, family and friends, through crafting. Focusing on the process and experience of art making, Fann Art Thérapie encourages everyone to slow down, immerse themselves in the moment and to discover their full potential.

Duration: 1h 30min

Conducted in Mandarin

Advisory: Recommended for children aged 6–9 with an accompanying parent/guardian. No admission for children aged 4 and under. Accompanying adults must be above 16.

Please dress comfortably for this workshop.

Meeting Point: Theatre Studio entrance, Level 4, 15mins before start time

18 Sep 2021, Sat, 1.30pm & 4.30pm

Esplanade Rehearsal Studio

Ticket Price: \$36 (1 adult + 1 child)

Tickets have to be bought in pairs.

Tickets on sale: 25 Aug 2021

***Esplanade&Me* Priority Booking: 24 Aug 2021**

Parent-Child Workshop: DIY Shadow Play Box

collide.o.scope (Singapore)



Before digital animation, stories were told under moonlight with flamed candles and leather cut outs, better known as—shadow puppetry. Silhouettes are the focus at this workshop. Participants will learn how to turn them into simple shadow puppets, using everyday objects to tell stories.

Duration: 1h 45min
Conducted in Mandarin

Advisory: Recommended for children aged 6–9 with an accompanying parent/guardian. No admission for children aged 4 and under. Accompanying adults must be above 16.

19 Sep 2021, Sun, 1.30pm & 4.30pm

Esplanade Annexe Studio

Ticket Price: \$36 (1 adult + 1 child)

Tickets have to be bought in pairs.

Tickets on sale: 25 Aug 2021

Esplanade&Me Priority Booking: 24 Aug 2021

Parent-Child Workshop: Paper Lantern-making Foo Hui Wen (Singapore)



How did rabbits end up on the moon? Using simple craft materials such as cardboard and paper, discover the different types of legends that surround our lovable moon bunny through this paper lantern workshop.

About Foo Hui Wen

Hui Wen is a visual artist whose practice is guided by a curiosity towards how we encounter narratives of displacement. With an interest towards nature being processed and translated, her works often investigate the notion of naturalisation and how humanistic intentions mutate through zoological instances which can often be found in our use of language, metaphors and even, interactions with the environment.

Duration: 1h 30min
Conducted in English

Advisory: Recommended for children aged 6–9 with an accompanying parent/guardian. No admission for children aged 4 and under. Accompanying adults must be above 16 years of age.
Meeting Point: Level 2 of Esplanade Mall, outside of Old School Delights, 15mins before start time.

18 & 19 Sep 2021, Sat & Sun, 1.30pm & 4.30pm
Esplanade Studio 219 (Esplanade Mall, #02-19)

Ticket Price: \$36 (1 adult + 1 child)
Tickets have to be bought in pairs.

Tickets on sale: 25 Aug 2021
Esplanade&Me Priority Booking: 24 Aug 2021

Workshop: Of Ink, Music & Mind

Ink Artist: Lee Ju-Lyn

Pipa: Cheah Peiqi

Guzheng: Cheah Xueqi

Meditation Teacher: Koh Hwee Hwee

(Singapore)



(Photo Credit: Lee Ju-Lyn)



(From left: Cheah Peiqi, Cheah Xueqi, Koh Hwee Hwee)

Of Ink, Music & Mind offers respite from the everyday frenzy through a sensorial, zen experience.

Slow down and reconnect with Chinese cultural roots through this introductory workshop featuring two traditional Chinese art forms—Chinese ink painting and traditional Chinese music.

Learn the basics of Chinese ink painting and enjoy the experience accompanied by the melodic sounds of the *pipa* and *guzheng* in this two-part workshop!

About Lee Ju-Lyn

Lee Ju-Lyn is a Singaporean interdisciplinary artist, who works primarily on literary and visual art, with a specialisation in Chinese ink art. Lee's works explore connections between art and life and other existential themes. Lee graduated from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Fine Art Diploma programme and the Nanyang Technological University Museum Studies and Curatorial Practices Masters programme.

About Cheah Peiqi

Cheah Peiqi graduated from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, with a major in *pipa* and a minor in *guzheng*. She was awarded 3rd prize at the Singapore Chinese Music Competition 2014 (*pipa* open category) and 1st prize for *guzheng* senior category in 2020. Cheah enjoys educating the young and has successfully led schools in achieving distinction awards in the Singapore Youth Festival. Cheah is currently a musician with the Pipa Society Singapore and Z3nith Guzheng Ensemble. She is also the main *pipa* and *guzheng* instructor at Chinese Instrumental Music School.

About Cheah Xueqi

Cheah Xueqi is a *pipa*, *guzheng* and piano player with abundant teaching experience. Having graduated from the University of Malaya in 2015 with a Bachelor of Performing Arts (Music), she possesses a diploma in *guzheng* performance, a Grade 8 in *pipa* performance (awarded by the China Conservatory of Music), as well as an LTCL diploma in piano (awarded by Trinity College, London). She was awarded 1st runner-up position in the National Chinese Music Competition, Malaysia (*guzheng* category) and 3rd prize for Singapore Chinese Music Competition 2020 (*guzheng* open category). Cheah is currently a musician with the YUN ensemble as well as a *guzheng* and *bonang* player for Anggun Gamelan Ensemble.

About Koh Hwee Hwee

Koh Hwee Hwee is a yoga & meditation teacher, *reiki* healer and *bhakti* yogi. Koh attended Kaivalydharm in Lonavla, Pune, India, one of the oldest yoga schools in the world, in 2017. Through her personal experience of managing injuries and pain, Koh is mindful in giving modifications for all body types during *asana* practice. Koh searched for a deeper meaning and an identity in life while experiencing depression in 2013, which led her to the practice of meditation. She eventually found Bhakti Yoga, a mindful way of lifestyle. As an advocate of mindfulness, she believes that the objective of practising yoga is to increase self-awareness. And hence, the practice between *asana* (physical exercise) and meditation is integrated as one. It is said that we don't do meditation, meditation happens to us.

Duration: 1h 30min
Conducted in English

Advisory: Recommended for 16 years old and above. No admission for aged 12 and under.

18 Sep 2021, Sat, 1.30pm & 4.30pm

Esplanade Annexe Studio

Ticket Price: \$18

Tickets on sale: 25 Aug 2021

Esplanade&Me Priority Booking 24 Aug 2021

Xiqu Movement Workshop: A Different Tradition

Qin Zhanbao (Singapore)



The art of Chinese opera is a complex one that incorporates performance techniques from both eastern and western cultures. Simple gestures such as walking, sitting, singing, dancing, and even talking or crying are different from how we usually do in our daily lives.

In this workshop, participants will get to understand what traditional Chinese opera is about—its distinct features, basic movements and techniques used in Chinese opera performances.

About Qin Zhanbao

Qin Zhanbao is a professional Chinese opera artist with vast experience in adaptation and direction. Qin has acted in various genres of opera including Teochew, Cantonese, Huangmei, Peking, Yue and Hokkien, as well as Chinese crosstalk, theatre and martial arts. Qin's achievements in this traditional art form include the Mei Lanfang gold medal and a perfect score in the Chinese Youth Peking Opera Actor Grand TV competition. He also won the Best Performance Award in the Chinese Youth Peking Opera Actor Invitational Competition.

Duration: 1h 30min
Conducted in Mandarin

Advisory: Recommended for 16 years old and above. No admission for aged 12 and under.
Please dress comfortably in loose clothing for this workshop.
Meeting Point: Theatre Studio entrance, Level 4, 15mins before start time

19 Sep 2021, Sun, 1.30pm & 4.30pm
Esplanade Rehearsal Studio
Ticket Price: \$18

Tickets on sale: 25 Aug 2021
Esplanade&Me Priority Booking: 24 Aug 2021

FREE PROGRAMMES

An Ode to Chinese Opera Chinese Opera Institute (Singapore)



The Mid-Autumn Festival is a traditional Chinese festival in which Chinese opera is enjoyed.

An Ode to Chinese Opera gathers winners of the Singapore Chinese Opera Orchid Awards to present classical Chinese opera pieces, including excerpts from *Farewell My Concubine* (Peking Opera), *The Moon Pavilion* (Cantonese Opera) and *Voyage* (Yue Opera). Not only will audiences enjoy a show with various Chinese opera characters, they will also be treated to beautiful performance techniques from the various genres.

About Chinese Opera Institute

The Chinese Opera Institute was established in 1995 to promote, nurture and develop the traditional Chinese opera artform in Singapore by being an advocate for the local Chinese opera groups and to build audiences for Chinese opera in Singapore.

Duration: 45min

Performed in Mandarin and Cantonese, with English and Chinese surtitles

17 Sep 2021, Fri, 7pm & 8.30pm
Esplanade Outdoor Theatre & Online
(8.30pm: Also livestreamed, available online until 3 Oct, Sun, 11.59pm)

Amalgamation SZINC (Singapore)



Local east-west fusion band SZINC joins percussionist Mohamed Noor to present *Amalgamation* – the band’s latest project which connects three different colour themes—green, blue, and red, with each original work representing a different emotion and story. The work was presented digitally in early 2021. This time, it will be performed live for the very first time at *Moonfest*. Apart from this work, the band will also be presenting their refreshing arrangements of classic tunes fused with modern pop. Don’t miss it!

About SZINC

SZINC (pronounced “sync”) is an east-west fusion band comprising of *erhu* virtuoso Mike Chiang, *sanxian* artist Jessica Lu and composer and keyboardist Christine Sham. Their unique band name symbolises the synchronisation of culture and people with a new (新) sound and collaboration. SZINC strives to create new sparks in the arts scene by collaborating with dancers, singers, ethnic musicians of different cultures and styles. SZINC is not afraid to break rules to set new standards.

Duration: 30min

17 Sep 2021, Fri, 7.15pm, 8.15pm & 9.15pm

Esplanade Concourse & Online

(7.15pm: Also livestreamed, available online until 3 Oct, Sun, 11.59pm)

The Tiger Hero

Paper Monkey Theatre (Singapore)



Join the adventures of Wu Song in this puppetry rendition of an excerpt from the classic Chinese novel, *Water Margin*. Presented by Paper Monkey Theatre and performed with traditional metal rod puppets, this is a story of courage and perseverance through hardship. The young ones venture out with Wu Song as he encounters a ferocious man-eating tiger.

About Paper Monkey Theatre

Nestled in the lush greenery of Goodman Arts Centre lies Paper Monkey Theatre. The company's puppetry-infused theatre productions and workshops have entertained children and families for years, encouraging artistic development and learning.

The company was formed in April 2008 and is helmed by well-known Singaporean puppeteer/playwright, Benjamin Ho, whose vision is to create a platform for lasting, meaningful theatrical experiences for both children and adults in Asia.

Duration: 30min

Performed in Mandarin

18 Sep 2021, Sat, 2pm, 3pm & 4pm
Esplanade Concourse

In passage; In time

Elements Dance Arts (Singapore)



In passage; In time is a double bill dance performance choreographed by established dancers Xiao Jing and Li Ruimin. Performed by dancers from Elements Dance Arts, the two pieces explore emotions, ideas, and textures, as well as invite the audience to appreciate when life has seemingly come to a pause.

Seasons by Xiao Jing

Winter passes with chilling winds. Spring breaks and eases the land. Summer pulses like a fever.

How do we live as each moment flows?

And now, in autumn—the sun paints to a gilded shine, and the moon brings us light deep in the quietest of nights.

***The Sunset Glow Radiates* by Li Ruimin**

Vibrant at its peak and blooms at the end. Each moment holds its value, each moment is relative, keeping close to heart where we choose to be.

About Elements Dance Arts

Elements Dance Arts is a semi-professional Chinese dance collective, it is a space for dancers and choreographers to create local works that break traditional boundaries. The collective aims to use Chinese dance as an art form to speak about contemporary issues, using contemporary elements in creation, whilst being rooted in traditional Chinese dance techniques.

About Xiao Jing

Xiao Jing graduated from the Beijing Dance Academy and has been living in Singapore for the past 20 years. She has been working relentlessly in the Chinese dance scene, promoting and preserving the vocabulary of this traditional dance genre.

Xiao plays various roles in her life: she is a mother who dreams of being an author; a dance instructor who advocates education based on the foundation of love; a choreographer who is always racking her brains, and occasionally a part-time actor. Xiao believes there is light in life, soul in dance and that arts makes ordinary life extraordinary.

About Li Ruimin

Li Ruimin graduated from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA), majoring in Chinese dance. Li was awarded the Chinese Dance Faculty Scholarship and the William Au Arts Education Scholarship during her studies. Li is also the recipient of the Singapore National Arts Council Arts Scholarship (Overseas).

Upon graduation, Ruimin subsequently performed with CIE. Ismael Ivo (DE/BR) Biblioteca Do Corpo in Vienna and Brazil and was also a main dancer with the Singapore Chinese Dance Theatre where she performed female lead in many dance dramas. Li took part in many ASEAN exchange projects where she represented Singapore with her cultural and contemporary background. She went on to further her studies at the Beijing Dance Academy College of Continuing Education. Li is currently engaged in dance choreography, performance and education.

Duration: 45min

18 Sep 2021, Sat, 7pm & 8.30pm

Esplanade Outdoor Theatre & Online

(8.30pm: Also available online until 3 Oct, Sun, 11.59pm)

Folk Ditties

Yuan Jin (Singapore)



Songstress Yuan Jin brings you her rendition of well-loved Chinese folk songs and classic tunes such as *Jasmine Flower*, *Kangding Love Songs*, *Song of Four Seasons* and more!

About Yuan Jin

Born in Shanghai, Yuan Jin is well-known as “Little Teresa Teng” in the local music scene. Yuan has released two solo albums and has been invited to perform in numerous solo concerts organised by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay. In 2020, she was the lead singer in *Rhapsodies Of Spring*, performing alongside more than 80-musicians from the Singapore Chinese Orchestra. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Long recognised her outstanding performance and complimented her on his Facebook and Instagram account. Yuan also performed at the River Hongbao, Resorts World Sentosa, as well as Mediacorp Channel 8's *Silver Carnival* and many more. Yuan was amongst the top 10 most popular artist awardees for seven consecutive years and in 2017, was also presented the best female singer award in the *Getai Star Awards* organised by Lianhe Wanbao and Shin Min Daily News.

Duration: 45min

Performed in Mandarin

18 Sep 2021, Sat, 7.15pm & 8.30pm

Esplanade Concourse & Online

(7.15pm: Also livestreamed, available online until 3 Oct, Sun, 11.59pm)

A Mooncake Adventure with Chef Bing!

Ong Li Wen & Chloe Lim (Singapore)



(From left: Ong Li Wen, Chloe Lim)

Have you ever wondered how mooncakes are made and why a mooncake is called a mooncake? Join Chang'Er and Chef Bing for an entertaining afternoon at PIP's PLAYbox as they regale you with stories about the history of mooncakes!

There will also be a hands-on clay mooncake-making workshop activity happening from 3.15pm – 3.45pm each day.

About Ong Li Wen

Ong Li Wen is currently a third year Diploma in Theatre (Mandarin) student at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA). Li Wen was involved in several productions at NAFA including *King Lear*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Who Killed Wang Di* and *The Wives*. Li Wen actively volunteers within the local theatre scene as well as with television and film.

About Chloe Lim

Chloe Lim is currently a third year Diploma in Theatre (Mandarin) student at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA). She was involved in productions such as *Superior*, *In the Name of Father*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Who Killed Wang Di*, and *A Doll's House*. Chloe also partook in the opening ceremony of *Traveling to Ayutthaya* as a Thai language representative. She is also an active volunteer in the local theatre scene.

Duration: 30min

Advisory: Admission for ages 2 and above. Pre-registration is required for admission into PIP's PLAYbox.

18 & 19 Sep 2021, Sat & Sun
11.45am (English)
2.30pm & 4.45pm (Mandarin)
PIP's PLAYBox

Journey of the Arts

Deborah Siok, Lim Jia Yi, Tan Wei Tian

Host: Lin Youyi

(Singapore)



(From left: Deborah Siok, Lim Jia Yi, Tan Wei Tian, Lin Youyi)

Over thousands of years, traditional Chinese arts have been passed on from generation to generation. Three young Singapore artists come together to share their journey of learning and practicing the *erhu*, Chinese dance and Teochew Opera respectively.

About Deborah Siok

Deborah Siok's musical journey started at the tender age of three when she first tinkered on the electone. Siok picked up the *erhu* when she turned nine, under the tutelage of renowned *erhu* master, Zhang Yu Ming. Later, she attained Diplomas in *erhu* performance from the NUS Centre for the Arts as well as the NAFA-CCOM Chinese Instrumental Exams and currently holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music (BMus) from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, in collaboration with the Royal College of Music, London, graduating with First Class Honours.

In 2018, Siok performed Wang I-Yu's *erhu* concerto *The Blue Planet – Earth* with the Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO) and was offered the SCO's Musician Fellowship. She then went on to clinch first prize at the 2018 National Chinese Music Competition's *Erhu* Open Category (now known as the Singapore Chinese Music Competition), organised by the National Arts Council. In 2020, Deborah was the grand prize winner in the Grand Category of the first edition of the Singapore Chinese Music Competition, organised by the SCO.

Since joining the Singapore National Youth Chinese Orchestra (SNYCO) in 2016 as a *gaohu* player and now as an *erhu* player, Siok performs regularly with the orchestra and participated in two of SNYCO's overseas exchange trips. In 2019, Deborah was selected by the SNYCO as soloist for the orchestra's China tour, where she performed Wang Danhong's *erhu* concerto *Amannisha* with the SNYCO for both the pre-tour concert in Singapore and Suzhou, China, both of which were very well received.

About Lim Jia Yi

Lim Jia Yi started dancing at the age of four and began her professional journey at the age of 16 with the Beijing Dance Academy (BDA), pursuing a professional dance education on the Sheng Hong Arts Scholarship and the National Arts Council Scholarship (Undergraduate). Lim was a key member of the BDA International Office's Program Team, performing for and hosting diplomatic productions. In 2018, she led BDA's artistic delegation on a China National Day Diplomatic Tour

to Australia. She is currently an Education & Outreach Manager/ Chinese Dance Artiste at Sheng Hong Arts Institute (SHAI) where she performs, curates community arts programmes, designs the dance curriculum and manages SHAI's marketing, publicity and office operations.

Lim represented Singapore in the 11th & 12th Taoli Cup National Dance Exhibition and Educational Showcase in Shandong and Hangzhou, China, with a Singapore-inspired dance choreography supported by the National Arts Council. Her specialisation in dance extends to fieldwork and research in Chinese ethnic folk dances in Yunnan, Guizhou and Yanbian, to name a few.

Lim is curious about dance and arts, culture and diplomacy, philosophy and creation. She hopes to garner experience to transform creative practices in the community and facilitate the discovery of heritage arts in Singapore.

About Tan Wei Tian

Tan Wei Tian started training in Teochew opera at the age of three and over the years, received formal training in Chinese opera in Singapore and China. Tan participated in an exchange programme with the Beijing Academy of Chinese Opera in 2012 to deepen her understanding of Beijing Opera, as well as a drama training programme at the Shantou Academy of Chinese Opera in 2014 and 2016 to hone her skills in Teochew Opera.

As a student, Tan juggles between her studies and training. Despite her demanding schedule, Tan continues to commit to performances and community activities. She has participated in various performances in Singapore and overseas, including China, Cambodia and Malaysia. At 15, she became the youngest performer in Singapore to take on the lead role of Liu Ming Zhu in Nam Hwa Opera's 2018 production of *Lady Liu Ming Zhu*, an epic Teochew Opera classic.

Since her primary school days, Tan has been volunteering her time and talent, performing at community clubs and old folks' homes. Besides giving back to the community and bringing joy to others, she brings awareness of the Chinese traditional arts to wider audiences, and is a role model for the young wanting to pursue this path.

Fuelled by the desire to stay rooted to her cultural heritage, Tan is now a full-fledged member of Nam Hwa Opera Limited, and shares their verve for the preservation of traditional performance arts.

About Lin Youyi

Born to an Indonesian Chinese father and a Vietnamese Chinese mother, Lin was educated in Taiwan and Singapore, giving her first-hand experience of the cultures and languages of different cities. She is often seen hosting the annual Chingay and other various programmes. She is currently anchor of the daily Mediacorp programme *Hello Singapore* on Channel 8. With her unique background and bilingualism, Lin has developed a strong personal style that clinched her the Best Current Affairs Presenter award at Star Awards 2012.

Duration: 1h 15min

Conducted in Mandarin

19 Sep 2021, Sun, 2.30pm

Esplanade Concourse

(Also livestreamed, available online until 3 Oct, Sun, 11.59pm)

Autumn Mistral, Moonlight Allure Cheng San Chinese Orchestra (Singapore)



Join the Cheng San Chinese Orchestra and guest singer Novabelle Ng as they bring you heartwarming lunar-themed classics such as *The Moon Represents My Heart*, *Moonlight in the City* and more! Be enchanted by the magnificent view of the Marina Bay and be spirited away by their dazzling renditions of familiar tunes at this performance.

About Cheng San Chinese Orchestra (CSCO)

Established in late 1990s, the Cheng San Chinese Orchestra (CSCO) has attracted musical talents from students to working professionals. It has achieved numerous awards in the ensemble category in the National Chinese Music Competition in 1996, 1998 and 2000, and finished in first place in 2002. Being a versatile orchestra, CSCO has produced not just traditional music performances but also pop and community concerts, such as at Esplanade's *Beautiful Sunday* series and *Greatest Chinese Classics* featuring soprano He Miya.

Throughout the years, CSCO has worked with multiple world-class musicians, including the renowned Chinese music conductor Hu Bing Xu, singer Wysom Wong, Tay Kexin of MICappella and Art Star Arts Society Choir. Wilson Neo, a *zhonghu* musician from the Singapore Chinese Orchestra, currently helms the orchestra's musical direction.

About Novabelle Ng

Known for her heartwarming voice and fun-loving performances, Novabelle Ng is one of Singapore's youngest Cantopop singers. Unlike most Singaporean millennials, Ng is extremely passionate in the classics, and is best known for her viral Cantonese cover of local national day song *Home* in 2018. Over the past three years, she has entertained at countless grassroots and corporate events. Ng was also resident singer at Switch by Timbre, Obar, 2mm Talent Hub, Red Dot Brewhouse, Jbar at M Hotel.

Duration: 45min
Performed in Mandarin

19 Sep 2021, Sun, 7pm & 8.30pm
Esplanade Outdoor Theatre & Online
(7pm: Also livestreamed, available online until 3 Oct, Sun, 11.59pm)

Laugh Out Loud: A Crosstalk Showcase

Young People's Performing Arts Ensemble (Singapore)



It's time to LOL!

Laugh to your heart's content as our young artists bring you *Copycat*, *An Ode To The Flag*, *I've Fallen Ill* and *Back-words*.

Seasoned performers Low Zhi Bin, Lim Hock Lai, Tan Zi Han and Timothy Long will also be showcasing their new works *You Don't Say...?* and *I Am An Artist* from *Roaring Good Times 2021*.

There's no age limit to laughing, all are welcome to laugh and have a good time!

About Young People's Performing Arts Ensemble

Young People's Performing Arts Ensemble (YPPAE) is a Mandarin theatre performing arts company for the young, by the young. Its budding performers have captivated audiences with their standard Mandarin speaking skills and nourished the local arts scene with their crosstalk performances infused with local flavour.

Their goal is simple—to develop an appreciation for Chinese language and culture among Singaporean youths like themselves, through the light-hearted and humorous art form of crosstalk.

YPPAE's roots in radio broadcasting date back to the 1970s, when it was formed under the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation. Led by artistic director Ma Gyap Sen, it subsequently ventured into the performing arts scene, and was incorporated as a not-for-profit organisation in 1999. To date, YPPAE has showcased more than 70 productions, totalling more than 200 performances, and its works have been viewed by more than 170,000 people. Among its productions are *Mr Magnolia*, which bagged Best Production for the Young at The Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards 2018.

In 2008, YPPAE also broke ground by launching its homegrown crosstalk brand, *Roaring Good Times*. The series has since drawn sold-out houses year after year. Its 14th edition will be staged in September 2021.

Duration: 30min
Performed in Mandarin

19 Sep 2021, Sun, 7.15pm, 8.15pm & 9.15pm

Esplanade Concourse

Moon Quest

Ransack (Singapore)



Put on your thinking cap and follow the clues on this *Moon Quest!* Through a series of curated puzzles, learn the origins of the Mid-Autumn Festival. This self-guided tour brings you on a journey to explore the various sights and sounds of Esplanade.

Stand a chance to win an exclusive Esplanade goodie bag with #mydurian merchandise when you complete the quest by 3 Oct!

Collect the Activity Brochure from Esplanade Box Office, Information Counter (Mezzanine Level) or brochure racks around the centre to begin your *Moon Quest!*

Duration: Self-guided

17 Sep – 3 Oct 2021, Fri – Sun
Various locations

ONLINE PROGRAMMES

A Backstage Glimpse of Xiqu

Chinese Opera Institute (Singapore)



Ever wondered what it takes to put together a *xiqu* performance? Go behind-the-scenes as we learn more about what it takes to make this traditional performance come alive with make-up, costumes, props and headdresses!

About Chinese Opera Institute

The Chinese Opera Institute was established in 1995 to promote, nurture and develop the traditional Chinese opera artform in Singapore by being an advocate for the local Chinese opera groups and to build audiences for Chinese opera in Singapore.

Duration: 30min

Conducted in Mandarin

Livestreamed on 17 Sep 2021, Fri, 5pm

Available online until 3 Oct, Sun, 11.59pm

Lantern Riddles Online

Riddle Association (Singapore)



Lantern riddles have been a time-honored way of marking the Mid-Autumn Festival. This year, the Riddle Association goes online to present this ancient tradition which covers everything from poems, trivia and folklore to historical events and even social issues. Master basic riddle-solving techniques and pit your wits against fellow online participants.

Duration: 1h 30min
Conducted in Mandarin

Livestreamed on 19 Sep 2021, Sun, 8.30pm
Available online until 3 Oct, Sun, 11.59pm

The New Mulan Ballad

Shanghai Pingtan Troupe (China)



The opening piece of Suzhou *tanci*, *The New Mulan Ballad* is based on the legend of Mulan—a filial daughter who disguised herself as a man to go to war on behalf of her ailing, elderly father. In the late 1950s, Shanghai Pingtan Troupe leader, Wu Zongxi revised the old *Mulan Ballad* and composed *The New Mulan Ballad*. Back then, the new adaptation sung by Xu Lixian, founder of the distinctive *li diao* style, overturned traditions with its powerful narration and took the music scene by storm. The ballad has since become a new *pingtan* classic that celebrates Mulan's bravery and filial piety.

Performers:

Singer: Lu Jinhua

Pipa: Xia Huiying

Sanxian: Jiang Xiaobo

Erhu: Chen Jiawei

Zhongruan: Wu Nan

Bell: Xu Yifeng

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 cultural heritage to audiences around the world including Europe, America and parts of Asia.

About Lu Jinhua

National Class Two Performer, Lu Jinhua studied under renowned *pingtan* performers Wu Weidong, Mao Jinjin and Sima Wei. Renowned for performing *tan-ci* works—*Wen Zheng Ming*, *Pearl Pagoda*, *Wang Kui Betrays Gui Ying* and *Du Shiniang*. Lu received the Best Newcomer award at the 10th China Quyi Peony Awards.

Duration: 10min

Performed in Suzhou dialect, with English and Chinese subtitles

Premieres on 17 Sep 2021, Fri, 3pm

(Available on *Esplanade Offstage* and Facebook after the premiere.)

Battle of the Xiaoshang River **Foshan Cantonese Opera Troupe (China)**



Foshan Cantonese Opera Troupe presents a breath-taking showcase of martial arts in this classic Cantonese opera excerpt of Yue Fei's brave general Yang Zaixing's battle against the Jin army.

Performers:

Yang Zaixing: Pei Xiaoming

Jin Wuzhu: Feng Baotong

Generals: Zhou Wenlong, Liang Yinhai, Huang Guangzhen, Cheng Naicong

Soldiers: Zheng Shikai, Lu Shangjiang, Cheng Yanshi, Cao Xingyu

About Foshan Cantonese Opera Troupe

The troupe is currently headed by award-winning Cantonese opera artist Li Shu Qin. She is a National First Grade Performer, and among the many awards she received, is the prestigious Plum Blossom Award. The troupe was formed in 1957 and has nurtured numerous Cantonese opera luminaries. Their repertoire has received recognition and acclaim and many of their productions have received numerous awards. The troupe has toured extensively to America, Canada, France, Germany, Korea and Hong Kong. The troupe is recognised as a Cultural Beacon in the city of Foshan, China.

Duration: 20min

Performed in Cantonese, with English and Chinese subtitles

Premieres on 17 Sep 2021, Fri, 3pm

(Available on *Esplanade Offstage* and Facebook after the premiere.)

Journey to the West: The Tongtian River Taipei Puppet Theater (Taiwan)



An excerpt taken from the classic and well-loved novel, *Journey to the West*, this performance of *The Tongtian River* showcases the uniqueness of Taiwanese Hand Puppetry. With dynamic pacing and hilarious punchlines, this classic tale has been given a modern spin that is rich in artistry and full of fun. Enjoy this traditional hand puppetry performance in the comfort of your own home.

Plot Outline

As Sanzang and his three disciples make their way to the West, they pass by a village on the bank of the River of Heaven. They learn of a fish demon who demands unquestioned obedience and loves to feast on young boys and girls. The villagers have to sacrifice their children as offerings each year, lest the powerful and arrogant demon send huge waves to destroy their homes. Upon hearing of their plight, the four subdue the demon and free the villagers from their agony. With that, Sanzang and his disciples rise to become heroes among the villagers.

About Taipei Puppet Theater

Taipei Puppet Theater was founded in 2010 and aims to preserve the rich heritage of puppetry, enhance the quality of puppetry performances and bring Taiwanese puppetry to the international stage. As it inherits and elevates the spirit of this traditional art form, the troupe dives deep in their search for old traditions, which enable them to produce diversified, heartfelt and delicate works that go beyond preserving the characteristics of puppetry and touch the hearts of many at home and abroad.

Duration: 20min

Performed in Hokkien, with English and Chinese subtitles

Premieres on 17 Sep 2021, Fri, 3pm

(Available on *Esplanade Offstage* and Facebook after the premiere.)

Story Time: To the Moon and Back!

Mediacorp YES 933 DJ Siau Jiahui (Singapore)



Join Mediacorp YES 933 DJ Siau Jiahui as she brings you on a storytelling journey, *To the Moon and Back*. This interactive storytelling session is based on popular children's book *Let's Make Mooncake* and *The Monkeys Who Tried to Catch the Moon*. Little ones will learn how mooncake-making came about and how a monkey's curiosity leads to a rescue attempt of the fallen moon while learning to exercise discernment with careful observation.

About Siau Jiahui

Siau Jiahui is a radio DJ with Mediacorp YES 933, currently hosting the 12pm – 2pm timebelt. Siau has hosted various press conferences and gala premieres for Asian blockbusters and has interviewed superstars such as Aaron Kwok, Ekin Cheng and Jay Chou. Siau was also the host for Channel U's popular relationship talk show *Mars Vs Venus* 《金星火星大不同》. A parent herself who had to juggle between working from home and home-based learning for her child, she initiated the Mandarin storytelling series, *Storytime with Jiahui*, on her Instagram account during last year's circuit breaker period where she captivates little ones with her animated recount of interesting stories. The series is also available as a podcast on meListen.

Duration: 10min

Performed in Mandarin, with English and Chinese subtitles

Premieres on 17 Sep 2021, Fri, 3pm

(Available on *Esplanade Offstage* and Facebook after the premiere.)