

Esplanade Presents
Octoburst! – A Children’s Festival 2020
5 – 18 Oct 2020
www.esplanade.com/octoburst



Dear friends of the media,

Octoburst! – A Children’s Festival is bursting through Esplanade’s spikey domes to reach all our friends at home with a series of free-to-access digital programmes from 5 – 18 Oct 2020. Although the current COVID-19 situation has required us to stay safely at home, away from our favourite playing grounds, and from friends and loved ones, we see no reason why we shouldn’t continue to celebrate Children’s Day with the 18th edition of *Octoburst! Online*. This year, we move beyond the physical confines of our lovely ‘Durian’ to reach children of all ages and needs; be it at home, in school or with our friends in student care centres in Singapore.

It’s all hands on deck at this year’s *Octoburst!* as we invite everyone to participate in a very special online edition of *PIParade*. Through an open call, we invite children of all ages to be a part of our parade with percussion, dance or song-signing in video submissions that will come together in *PIParade Online* featuring music specially composed by Sandra Lim. Relive the wonders of your imagination in our first-ever festival commission, *Hold My Hand*, a table-top toy theatre (puppetry) presented as a film by Paper Monkey Theatre and Jean Tay; indulge in the psychedelic world of electronic music by Syndicate through *Elastic Plastic Crew* and *Beats & Doodles*; and come be a part of stories filled with adventure and wonder in *The Putu Piring Incident of Batu Bulat* by Adib Kosnan, Dalifah Shahril, Farez Najid and Sugie Phua.

This year, we will also be working closely with several Social Service Organisations as we present *Alice’s Topsy Turvy Tea Party* by The Kueh Tutus in an exclusive interactive digital dance experience for families in crisis. In a time when recognising our differences and becoming more inclusive as a society is ever so important, we will be working closely with artists, educators and parents who have come together to generously share on the topic of diversity.

In difficult times, we grow stronger and better when we are together. This year, we invite you to be part of Esplanade's annual celebration of children, who are a source of strength and hope for a better tomorrow. As we look back on what has been a challenging year for many, let's take heart and ride this through with a generation of resilient, adaptable and strong young minds who will grow up with tales to tell and lessons to share with their own children. Here's to brighter and sunnier days ahead!

To all children and children-at-heart, we wish you a very Happy Children's Day!

Rachel Lim
Producer, The Esplanade Co Ltd

About Octoburst! – A Children’s Festival

In conjunction with Children’s Day in October, Esplanade presents a special digital edition of *Octoburst! Online* – a festival that encourages play and family fun in a series of free to access and interactive digital programmes.

Digital Programmes

[Music/Movement]

PIParade Online

By Sandra Lim with PIP

Supported by Cheryl Kuek, Yazid Jalil, Tan Rui Shan, Janis Wong, Amos Poh and YOU!

5 Oct 2020, Mon, 12pm – 18 Oct 2020, Sun, 11.59pm

www.esplanade.com/octoburst



PIP has come up with a new way to celebrate Children’s Day with you no matter the distance.

PIParade is going online this *Octoburst!* and PIP wants you to be part of the parade! Learn easy-to-follow rhythms and moves from our tutorial videos and send us your responses! Our favourite ones will be included in a *PIParade Online* video featuring music composed by Sandra Lim.

Here’s how you can participate!

PIParade Online will be launched as part of this year’s *Octoburst!* via Esplanade PIP’s Club Facebook and Esplanade’s Offstage Platform on 5 October 2020, Monday, at 12pm.

About Sandra Lim

Born and raised in Singapore, Sandra Lim is a composer and arranger. Her compositions include music for short films – *Quietly* (2013) and *Anticipation* (2016) commissioned by the Public Service Division, Singapore and arrangements featured for Joanna Dong 董姿彦 and Sing! Men’s Chorus.

A graduate from Berklee College of Music, Sandra is delighted to share with everyone her love for music in this fun and exciting edition of *PIParade Online!*

(3 – 4min. Performed in English.)

Recommended for Ages: 2 – 12 years.

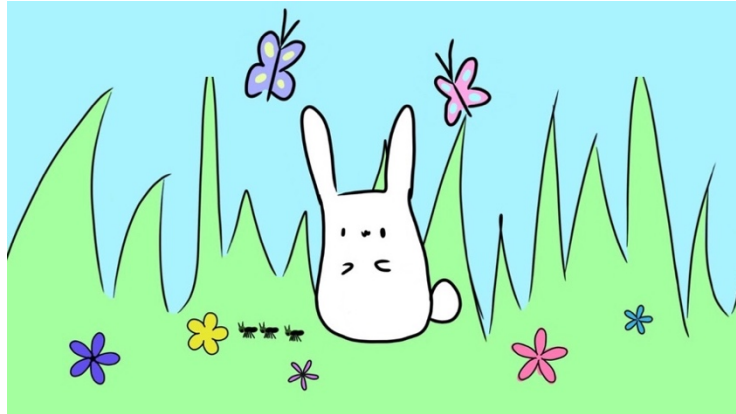
[Theatre]

Hold My Hand

By Paper Monkey Theatre and Jean Tay

Streaming from 5 Oct 2020, Mon, 1pm – 18 Oct 2020, Sun, 11.59pm

www.esplanade.com/octoburst



Hold My Hand follows an older brother, Boy, and his younger sister, Girl, as they make their way home from school. As they set off on their journey, ordinary encounters are transformed into extraordinary ones through their imagination. Even as the siblings play, squabble and fight with each other, Boy learns to take on the responsibility of caring for his sister, while Girl learns to face her fears and trust her brother. Initially developed with support of Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay as part of *Octoburst! 2018*, *Hold My Hand* returns as a filmed immersive table-top, toy puppet performance for *Octoburst! 2020*.

About Paper Monkey Theatre

Nestled in the lush greenery of Goodman Arts Centre lies Paper Monkey Theatre, where we create theatre productions and workshops infused with puppetry for children and family entertainment, encouraging artistic development and enriching learning experiences. The company was formed in April 2008 helmed by well-known puppeteer/playwright in Singapore, Benjamin Ho, with a vision to create a platform of lasting, meaningful theatrical experiences for both children and adults in Asia.

About Jean Tay

Jean Tay is a Singaporean playwright, best known for her plays *Everything But the Brain* and *Boom*. Her works have been performed in Singapore, the US, the UK and Italy. She is the Artistic Director and co-founder of Saga Seed Theatre

(40min. Non-verbal.)

Recommended for Ages: 4 years and up.

[Storytelling]

The Putu Piring Incident of Batu Bulat

Written and Directed by Adib Kosnan

Performed by Dalifah Shahril, Farez Najid, Sugie Phua

Streaming from 5 Oct 2020, Mon, 3pm, 3.30pm & 4pm – 18 Oct 2020, Sun, 11.59pm

www.esplanade.com/octoburst



Batu Bulat is an island-home to many wonderful villagers. The landscape of Batu Bulat is marked by a hill, many fields for endless hours of fun, and an ice-factory. Three characters meet by chance one day, and something good... and bad happens. The story is different for each of them.

An ice-factory prince, an island adventurer, and a *putu-piring* seller all clash in their accounts of what really happened that sunny day by the foot of Bukit Batu Bulat. Inspired by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichi's *The Danger of a Single Story*, this work by Adib Kosnan was created in the 2018 edition of *Octoburst!* to encourage empathy, active listening and compassion amongst its audience members. The three works were originally presented in various parts of the Esplanade. In the digital version, the three characters will once again come together to share their respective versions of what happened that fateful day and maybe, just maybe, they might learn something new from each other. The three videos will be accompanied by resources and guides on diverse thinking. The guides can be utilised by parents/caregivers or educators.

Advisory:

The performance will consist of three individual stories. Each story will be premiered at the following timings: 3pm, 3.30pm & 4pm.

(20 min. Performed in English.)

Recommended for Ages: 5 – 7 years.

[Music/Art]

Beats and Doodles

By Cherry Chan

Streaming from 5 Oct 2020, Mon, 5pm – 18 Oct 2020, Sun, 11.59pm

www.esplanade.com/octoburst



Beats & Doodles is a DJ mixtape that leans towards the calm and serene. With an intention to encourage doodling for relaxation, kids and busy adults are invited to listen to the mixtape whether in full or in short segments, while creating little moments of expressions. Select from a 60 minutes mixtape or simply go for a 10 minutes session to take a break in your day.

Enjoy the process of listening and doodling without the worries of finishing or “getting it right”. Snap a video of the doodle with the music running in the background, whether finished or unfinished and tag it with the hashtag #beatsdoodles #octoburst2020 #mydurian on Instagram.

About Cherry Chan

Cherry Chan is a Singapore-based electronic music producer and DJ known for her eclectic selection, as well as for co-founding artist collective/music label Syndicate. For *Beats & Doodles*, she wanders through music made by Singaporean beatmakers, weaving a soundtrack for shapes, patterns and scribbles borne of idle moments.

(60min. Non-verbal.)

Recommended for Ages: 4 years and up.

[Music/Movement]

Elastic Plastic Crew

By Elastic Plastic Crew (Kiat, Rizman Putra, Tia Guttensohn)

Live broadcast via Zoom on 9 & 10 Oct 2020, Fri & Sat

9 Oct 2020, Fri, 2.30pm

10 Oct 2020, Sat, 11.30am

www.esplanade.com/octoburst



Life's too short to be serious all the time. Let loose in a fun session at our first ever virtual dance party hosted by the one and only Elastic Plastic Crew, world famous right here in Singapore. You can learn some silly dance moves to some serious dance music made locally and played by the Elastic Plastic Crew DJ! Stretch your body and mind with us in this genre-bending session.

About Elastic Plastic Crew

Comprised of a trio with more accolades than this bio can accommodate, multidisciplinary artists Kiat, Rizman Putra and Tia Guttensohn make up the Elastic Plastic Crew. Their collective work spans across various mediums. From teaching movement and drama to children, producing electronic music, visual art and improvisational comedy.

(30min. Performed in English.)

Recommended for Ages: 4 years and up.

Admission/Special Instructions

*Pre-registration required

[Music]

The Noisy Forest

By Phang Kok Jun

Live Broadcast via Zoom on 10 & 11 Oct 2020, Sat & Sun

10 Oct 2020, Sat, 2.30pm

11 Oct 2020, Sun, 5pm

www.esplanade.com/octoburst



Everything can be made into music. In *The Noisy Forest*, explore new ways of playing with sound with your little ones through a guided online experience.

Before the session, each adult-child pair will receive a complimentary instrument construction kit to assemble. After a 15 minutes play session, there will be a 15 minutes discussion with the creative team to gather feedback from attendees.

The Noisy Forest is part of *PLAYlab*, a developmental platform that supports the creation process of new productions for young audiences.

About Phang Kok Jun

Known to be a multifaceted composer, Phang Kok Jun has a diverse repertoire that spans across many genres including concert music, theatre, and multimedia. Drawing influences from a wide variety of musical styles as well as from growing up in an energetic and culturally diverse Singapore, Kok Jun has been described as a composer who “comfortably melds Chinese, Western and popular idioms to excellent effect”.

An award-winning composer both locally and internationally, Kok Jun had been dubbed by The Straits Times as one of “30 rising stars under 30” in Singapore’s arts, entertainment and lifestyle. He is currently Composer-in-Residence of Ding Yi Music Company (DYMC), and is featured in major productions around the world, working with international orchestras, theatre companies, chamber groups, directors, conductors and soloists.

He read music composition at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, National University of Singapore and the Peabody Conservatory of Music, Johns Hopkins University. Principal composition teachers include Eric Watson, Ho Chee Kong, Oscar Bettison and Kevin Puts.

(15min performance followed by 15 min discussion. Performed in English)

Recommended for Ages:

- 10 Oct 2020: 2 to 4 years
- 11 Oct 2020: 4 to 6 years

Admission/Special Instructions

*Pre-registration required

Each session is limited to 15 adult-child pairs.

Each session would include:

- 1 x complimentary craft kit per adult-child pair
- 15 minutes of pre-recorded video broadcast via Zoom
- 15 minutes of discussion with the creatives following the video broadcast

Please Note: Participants are expected to attend the entire experience.

This session will be recorded. By signing up for the session, you agree to allow for the image and audio of yourself and accompanying child to be recorded. The recordings will be strictly for documentation purposes only and will not be used for public dissemination.

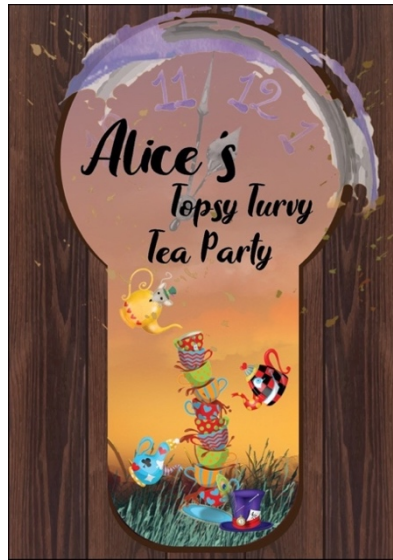
[Dance]

Alice's Topsy Turvy Tea Party: Digital Dance Experience

by The Kueh Tutus

Live Broadcast on 11 Oct 2020, Sun, 11am & 2.30pm

www.esplanade.com/octoburst



"We are all mad here"

- Mad Hatter, *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll

Alice drops in on *Hatter's Tea Party* where the audience has helped to set up for the party.

Together, Alice, Hatter, Rabbit and the audience find out what it is to make new friends and try to make the party a success, but at some point the party will have to end. Or does it?

This interactive digital dance experience targets primarily children aged 4-9 years and their parents/caregiver.

The children and adults should feel like they are characters in Alice's picnic-style tea party, as they are integral to the performance experience.

About The Kueh Tutus

The Kueh Tutus are a collaborative team of creatives (dancers, artists, musicians and designers) who followed their noses into exploring Danceworks for Children. Each individual has spent hours extensively creating dances with, teaching and playing with children. Brought together by choreographer Melissa Quek, they combined their super-powers of productive curiosity to enter the Singapore scene in 2017, and their playful engagement with music and movement captured the hearts of parents and children alike. They were soon invited to present their work at festivals such as *Octoburst!* at the Esplanade Theatres, *Got To Move* and Singapore Writers' Festival. They also began to workshop and develop new dances at The Artground where they have been in the Groundbreakers Incubation Programme for 2018 and 2019. They have been lauded as having the ability to unlock the imagination and feed a desire for discovery.

(60 min. Performed in English.)

Recommended for Ages: 4 to 9 years with parent/caregiver.

Admission

Not open to public subscription, by invitation only.

About Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay

Esplanade is Singapore's national performing arts centre. It has a year-round line-up of about 3,500 performances 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 non-ticketed. The centre works in close partnership with local, regional and international artists to develop artistic capabilities and content, push artistic boundaries and engage audiences. Esplanade supports the creation of artistic content by commissioning and producing new Singapore and Asian work for the international stage. It also develops technical capabilities for the industry nationally.

To bring even more of the arts to a wider audience and provide more platforms to support Singapore's next generation of artists, Esplanade is building a new theatre along its busy waterfront. Named Singtel Waterfront Theatre, the 550-seat venue will open in 2021.

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 and Esplanade.com/Offstage for an all-access backstage pass and insider's guide to Singapore and Asian arts and culture.

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Issued by *The Esplanade Co Ltd*.

For more information, please contact:

Gina Koh
Manager, Marketing (Communications & Content)
The Esplanade Co Ltd
Email: kgina@esplanade.com

Florence Tan
Manager, Marketing – Arts Marketing
The Esplanade Co Ltd
Email: tflorence@esplanade.com