

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Roof Over Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade!

Officially opening in Jun 2022 with exciting new works by Singapore and regional artists



SINGAPORE, 5 Jul 2021 – Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay’s newest venue, Singtel Waterfront Theatre gets a roof over its main building and is set to receive its Temporary Occupation Permit end of this year. Officially opening in Jun 2022, this new medium-sized multi-format venue will play host to many more new works that express the stories, creativity and artistic talent of Singapore and the region.

Said Ms Yvonne Tham, CEO, The Esplanade Co Ltd, “We’re very thankful that our construction team overcame the many challenges and disruptions during the pandemic to continue their work. It speaks of the resilience and dedication of the consultants and every single worker that we finally see this new waterfront theatre take shape! A theatre is more than a building, and so with artists in Singapore and the region, we have also been developing new works commissioned for the opening festival of the theatre in June next year. Before that, we will be inviting various communities of supporters, audiences and artists in Singapore to help us finetune this new space through a series of performances during the trial & orientation programme in early 2022. We look forward to welcoming everyone!”

Opening Festival: 22 Jun – 10 Jul 2022

For three weeks during the opening festival of the Singtel Waterfront Theatre, Esplanade will be presenting a host of performances, talks and other activities by Singapore and regional artists. These programmes showcase the possibilities for collaborative exchanges between artists in the region. Some of the new works commissioned for the festival include:

- **Kingdoms** (working title): Written and directed by established Singapore theatre practitioner **Chong Tze Chien**, the work is a contemporary reimagining of *The Mahabharata*, a seminal text in world literature and a rich lived tradition important to many cultures and ethnicities in Asia. Chong will work alongside dramaturg Rustom Bharucha, a renowned Indian writer in the field of interculturalism and performance studies, for this multilingual production that features a multi-ethnic ensemble cast.
- **Rata**: Singapore sound designer and music producer **Safuan Johari** leads Rizman Putra of NADA, visual artist Brandon Tay, lighting designer Andy Lim, and other prominent musicians to create an audio-visual experiential work that brings adventurous audiences into the theatre.
- **River**: Conceptualised by the well-loved **Papermoon Puppet Theatre** from Indonesia, and featuring Singapore creatives and performers, this non-verbal puppetry performance suitable for all ages will explore current issues of environmental damage and climate change that affect the livelihoods and culture surrounding the river ecosystem.

Trial & Orientation: Early 2022

The Trial & Orientation programme of the Singtel Waterfront Theatre will feature a variety of performances by a wide spectrum of Singapore artists and arts groups. The performances will make use of the different staging configurations such as end-on proscenium theatre, theatre in-the-round, traverse stage and flat floor performance space to test the technical and operational capabilities of the new venue, as well as other services and facilities provided. Come and watch a free performance and then tell us what you think of the venue! Feedback received from the public will help the arts centre better serve the diverse communities when the theatre officially opens in Jun 2022. Details on the programme and registration will be released end of the year.

Ongoing fundraising initiatives

Esplanade remains grateful to our parent ministry, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth; Principal Founding Donor, Singtel; Founding Donors of Singtel Waterfront Theatre, as well as many others for supporting the development of this new theatre. As a charity and not-for-profit organisation, Esplanade continues to rely on public funding and donations to help fulfil its social mission to bring the arts to everyone. The new theatre will enable the arts centre to commission, produce and present more productions by our next generation of artists.

Esplanade welcomes arts lovers, philanthropists and companies to make a lasting contribution to the arts through its *Gift a Seat* and *Adopt a Space* initiatives for the Singtel Waterfront Theatre. For more information, please email donations@esplanade.com.

Esplanade welcomes venue hire bookings for Singtel Waterfront Theatre from Jul 2022. For more information, please email venues@esplanade.com. Find out more on the new theatre at www.esplanade.com/thenextstage.

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.

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Issued by *The Esplanade Co Ltd*.

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