

Esplanade Presents

**da:ns focus 2023**

14 – 16 Apr 2023, 5 – 7 May 2023, 13 – 15 Oct 2023, 1 – 3 Dec 2023 and Mar 2024

[www.esplanade.com/dans](http://www.esplanade.com/dans)



Dear friends of the media,

*da:ns festival* was established by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay in 2005 when awareness about dance was not widespread. At the time, the festival format allowed us to attract audiences, introduce diverse dance genres, show the different ways bodies can dance and ultimately build a foundation of dance knowledge among our local audiences.

After 17 editions of *da:ns festivals*, we can say we have successfully built a strong following, and audiences have matured in their knowledge of the artform. We are now ready to bring our audiences to the next level of appreciation with **da:ns focus**—with five weekends of dance programmes throughout the year, each focusing on a particular theme or genre. The programmes, experiences and activities within each weekend will offer focused explorations and opportunities for counterpoints, dialogues and perspectives.

To kick-start *da:ns focus*, we open with **Everybody** (14 – 16 Apr 2023). The idea of the perfect body is one that has been perpetuated in dance. *Everybody* focuses on works created with inclusivity and diversity in mind, featuring dance projects that work with and empower diversely-abled dancing bodies and non-professionals. The weekend will include participatory programmes and accessibility features for selected programmes, such as Relaxed Environment, Sign Language Interpretation and wheelchair access. Through *Everybody*, we hope to bring across the message that all of us have the ability to dance and enjoy dance.

For contemporary dance, our programming takes a thematic approach focused on concepts and connection. This approach is important as contemporary dance is a constantly evolving

and open form, and creative approaches differ vastly. For our first contemporary dance presentation under *da:ns focus*, we have titled the weekend **Body Language** (5 – 7 May 2023), focusing on the interplay between dance and text, and examining the dynamics when these forms become the key drivers of a creation.

We also remain committed to supporting local and Asian dancemakers and dedicate a weekend to spotlight contemporary dance works by some of the most exciting and inspiring Asian dance artists. With **CAN – Connect Asia Now** (13 – 15 Oct 2023), we will be profiling distinct voices and creative impulses from the region and offer *CAN* as a gathering for connection—within Asia, and between Asia and the rest of the world.

Singapore’s street dance scene is very vibrant and active. After three successful editions of *FULL OUT!* performances (*da:ns festival* 2019, 2021 & 2022), we are expanding it further into **FL/OW – The FULL OUT Weekend** (1 – 3 Dec 2023). During this weekend, street dance lovers will get to experience the form’s diverse facets through performances, cyphers/battles and workshops with some of the best local and international artists. Beyond giving the community a sense of pride and belonging, we’d also like to expand the idea of what street dance can be beyond the conventional. In time to come, we look forward to embracing more movement-based street cultures and subcultures.

Lastly, **Ballet by the Bay** (Mar 2024) will enthrall ballet lovers with world-class productions of classics and neo-classical works. Through our ballet presentations, we want to introduce new perspectives on this celebrated form, and also pay attention to diversity, including female leaders in ballet.

Some of our *da:ns focus* themes, such as *Everybody*, *Ballet by the Bay* and *Connect Asia Now*, will be presented annually, as there are opportunities for deeper growth and exploration for these forms and focuses. Weekends such as *FL/OW – The FULL OUT Weekend* will happen regularly on alternate years, while we will present contemporary dance with a fresh and different thematic focus every year. We also look forward to dedicating weekends to other celebrated forms and focuses, such as flamenco or dance & technology in the years to come.

We are excited by the possibilities that *da:ns focus* brings. It pushes us into fresh ways of thinking, creating and programming; enables us to attract new audiences and deepen existing audiences’ appreciation for dance; as well as explore connections and threads within a thematic focus, and further more partnerships. We thank our Principal Sponsor BNP Paribas for their kind support of *da:ns focus*. Whether you are curious novices or long-time dance supporters, we invite you to join us in this new chapter!

**Iris Cheung**  
Programmer  
The Esplanade Co Ltd

## About Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay

Esplanade is Singapore's national performing arts centre. It hosts a year-round line-up of about 3,500 live performances and activities presented by Esplanade, its partners and hirers. 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 – 2019 and 2022. Esplanade is Singapore's first Dementia-Friendly Arts Venue and a certified Dementia Go-To Point, as well as a Guide-dog Friendly centre.

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

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

~ End ~

Issued by *The Esplanade Co Ltd*.

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## Annexe

Esplanade Presents

### **da:ns focus 2023**

14 – 16 Apr 2023, 5 – 7 May 2023, 13 – 15 Oct 2023, 1 – 3 Dec 2023 and Mar 2024

[www.esplanade.com/dans](http://www.esplanade.com/dans)

After 17 years of *da:ns festival*, Esplanade's beloved platform transforms into *da:ns focus* – an exciting year-round season of five themed weekends. Experience interconnected programmes that offer their own counterpoints, dialogues and encounters in a focused exploration.

*da:ns focus* 2023 consists of the following weekends:

**EveryBody:** focusing on dance with inclusivity, diversity and participation, EveryBody encourages “everybody” and “every body” to experience dance.

**Body Language:** Body Language focuses on the interplay between dance text, and examines the dynamics when these forms meet.

**CAN – Connect Asia Now:** A spotlight on contemporary dance works by Asian artists, this gathering focuses on distinct voices and creative impulses from the region.

**FL/OW – The FULL OUT Weekend:** Go FULL OUT with diverse facets of street dance through performances, cyphers/battles and workshops. Expand your idea of what street dance can be beyond the conventional.

**Ballet by the Bay:** A ballet lovers' weekend of classics and neo-classical works. Be inspired by world-class productions and be introduced to new perspectives on this celebrated art form.

Ticket sales and registration for *EveryBody* and *Body Language* begins on 2 Mar 2022.

More information about the programmes for *CAN – Connect Asia Now*, *FL/OW – The FULL OUT Weekend* and *Ballet by the Bay* will be announced later.

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# EveryBody

14 – 16 Apr 2023

Focusing on dance with inclusivity, diversity and participation, *EveryBody* encourages “everybody” and “every body” to experience dance.

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## No Excuses, No Limits

by ILL-Abilities (Brazil, Canada, Chile, South Korea, The Netherlands, USA)

14 – 16 Apr 2023, Fri – Sun

14 Apr, Fri, 8pm

15 Apr, Sat, 2pm & 8pm

16 Apr, Sun, 2pm

Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade



"A powerful force on the hip-hop dance stage" – The Guardian

Dance like anything is possible.

Be inspired by this international award-winning all-star breakdance crew, ILL-Abilities, comprising seven of the world's best differently-abled dancers. *No Excuses, No Limits* takes audiences on a journey of each dancer's story through dance, music, audience interaction, working towards an understanding of the limitless possibilities that any person can hold.

Having performed in over 25 countries and reached more than 1 million audiences globally, ILL-Abilities makes its way back to Singapore with its latest production, *No Excuses, No Limits*. This motivational showcase sold out 10 sessions at Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., USA, and will be one that you probably have not experienced before!

ILL-Abilities is a play on the word “ill”, inspired by its usage in hip hop culture to describe something in a positive manner. Rather than meaning “sick” or “unwell”, the “ill” in ILL-Abilities refers to the incredible, amazing and intricate talent of its crew members, who strive to inspire and spread positive thinking through their optimistic attitudes, personal stories and unique dance moves.

1hr, no intermission

Accessibility features:

- Relaxed Environment
- Wheelchair-accessible performance

\$40<sup>^\*</sup>

Limited concessions for students, NSFs seniors & PWDs: \$32<sup>\*</sup>

<sup>^</sup>Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials (2 – 8 Mar)

Black: 20% savings

White: 15% savings

Discover (Min. 2 tickets): 15% savings

<sup>^</sup>Esplanade&Me Specials (From 9 Mar)

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover (Min. 2 tickets): 10% savings

Tote Board Arts Grant

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

For more details, please contact Esplanade Box Office at 6828 8389 or email [boxoffice@esplanade.com](mailto:boxoffice@esplanade.com)

### **About ILL-Abilities**

Definition

ILL-A•bil•i•ty ['il-ə-'bi-lə-tē] –

noun, plural ILL-A•bil•i•ties~

- » An adaptation of power, strength, and creativity.
- » Believing in yourself—to accomplish anything you set your mind to.
- » Creating opportunities from challenges.
- » Exploiting your capabilities—to live life to the fullest potential.
- » NO EXCUSES, NO LIMITS.

ILL-Abilities is an international breakdance crew comprised of seven active members from around the world:

Redouan “Redo” Ait Chitt (The Netherlands)

Sergio “Checho” Carvajal (Chile)

Jung Soo “Krops” Lee (South Korea)

Jacob “Kujo” Lyons (U.S.A)

Lucas “Perninha” Machado (Brazil)

Luca “Lazylegz” Patuelli (Canada)

Samuel Henrique "Samuka" da Silveira Lima (Brazil)

This crew originated from an idea by Montreal-based dancer/motivational speaker Luca "Lazylegz" Patuelli to create an all-star team of some of the world's best differently-abled dancers. ILL-Abilities was officially formed in 2007 with four founding members Lazylegz, Tommy Guns, Kujo and Checho, whose goal was to compete and perform internationally, showing the world that anything is possible.

The crew gets its name from the standard in hip-hop culture of using a negative term to refer to something positive. Examples of this can be heard in studios or at competitions where dancers compliment each other by saying they were bad, nasty or mean. The "ill" in ILL-Abilities does not refer to "sick" or "unwell" but rather to incredible, amazing, intricate, talent. Rather than seeing the negative limitations of "disability", this crew focuses on their positive, or "ill" abilities.

Once they started performing together, the dancers of ILL-Abilities quickly realised their potential to inspire audience members with their positive attitudes and unique dance moves. The crew thus expanded their goal, presenting their motivational entertainment programmes and theatrical dance performances worldwide.

About Luca "Lazylegz" Patuelli

Luca "Lazylegz" Patuelli has been dancing since he was 15 years old. He has developed a unique dance style incorporating his crutches and the strength in his arms, which has gotten him worldwide recognition. Lazylegz is the creator and current manager of the ILL-Abilities Crew. He also co-founded Projet RAD, which was Canada's first inclusive urban dance program offering people of all ages and all abilities the possibility to participate in accessible dance studios.

About Jacob "Kujo" Lyons

Jacob "Kujo" Lyons was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. He was born with 100% sensor neural deafness in his right ear, and suffered instances of conductive hearing loss in his left ear. Kujo started dancing at the age of 15 and has continued since, despite having had tremendous difficulties hearing the music.

Kujo has now become recognisable due to his wild personality and his incredibly dangerous and difficult moves.

About Sergio "Checho" Miranda Carvajal

Sergio "Checho" Carajaval was born and raised in Valdivia, a city at the southern tip of Chile. He had difficulty being accepted within the community and received a lot of discrimination. He used this negative energy to give him strength to progress quickly in his dance style. Checho's dance style is largely based on the strength of his arms, structuring his movements such that he looks like he is constantly floating across the dance floor.

About Redouan "Redo" Ait Chitt

Redouan "Redo" Ait Chitt was born with several physical malformations. He has a shorter right arm, which lacks an elbow joint and has a total of five fingers—two on the right hand and three on the left. He is also missing his right hip, has a shorter right leg, and walks with the aid of a prosthetic.

Redo's dance style is described as smooth, dynamic, and energetic, all of which are performed with his own original twist.

#### About Jungsoo "Krops" Lee

Jung Soo "Krops" Lee was rushed to the hospital because he landed on his neck during a dance practice session. The doctors said he would never be able to walk again, let alone stand as he was paralysed from the neck down. Little by little, Krops was able to move parts of his body. He had to relearn everything he knew before. He's still working hard to get back to 100%. His optimism and perseverance are truly inspiring. He is living proof that our bodies can do the impossible if we believe!

#### About Samuel "Samuka" Da Silveira Lima

Samuel "Samuka" da Silveira Lima is a young up-and-coming dancer. Diagnosed with cancer in his right leg when he was just 14 years old, Samuka had a full leg amputation just below his hip. Just after surgery, Samuka was quickly introduced to dancing and hip hop. He has not stopped since!

His dance style is energetic, dynamic and powerful.

#### About Lucas "Perninha" Ferreira Machado

Lucas "Perninha" Machado was born with a poor congenital formation in his left leg causing a major leg difference. However, this did not deter him, and he is currently one of the best dancers in Brazil, gaining international recognition in the global breakdancing scene.



## Let's Dance!

A party for migrants & friends  
by Migrant workers in Singapore

16 Apr 2023, Sun, 1pm & 4pm  
Esplanade Annexe Studio



All for one and one for all—Helmed by their fellow migrant workers in Singapore, this event welcomes all migrant workers and friends to come together, relax and enjoy a performance as well as a party. In this showcase, Singapore-based migrant workers from a myriad of professions and countries share their stories through a series of dance performances. Following this, everyone is invited to take the dance floor and show off their own moves, accompanied by a special DJ set playing popular beats from the region. On top of the good memories made at this celebratory session, take home a goodie bag as well to remember this party.

What better way to celebrate the spirit of community and the joy of movement? See you at the Esplanade Annexe Studio!

This programme is developed in partnership with the Migrant Cultural Show.

Approximately 2hrs, no intermission

Accessibility features:

- Relaxed Environment

Free by registration

Advisory:

- Patrons who have registered will have priority entry to the venue.
- Patrons who have registered must arrive 5 mins before the start of the event to guarantee your admission.
- Patrons who have registered but are not at the venue 5 mins before the start will have their seats released to walk-in patrons on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Limited seats are available at the door.
- Seating will be assigned by Esplanade's ushers.

## EveryBody Workshops

There is no better way to fall in love with dance than to explore a new genre for yourself! Take the first step to dance through these engaging and experiential dance workshops, led by experienced Singapore dance instructors.

### EveryBody Workshop (Adults & Preschoolers) Various studios (Singapore)

8, 9, 22 & 23 Apr 2023, Sat & Sun  
Esplanade Rehearsal Studio



#### Adults and Preschoolers

It is never too young to start dancing: Dance and play along with children from 3-6 years old!

Adults & Preschoolers	8 Apr 2023, Sat, 9am	Baby Pop by LA Dance Connection
	8 Apr 2023, Sat, 10.30am	Superheroes-themed by Converge
	9 Apr 2023, Sun, 9am	Happy Feet by Converge
	9 Apr 2023, Sun, 10.30am	Baby Pop by LA Dance Connection
	22 Apr 2023, Sat, 9am	Flamenco Play by Spanish Dance Singapore
	22 Apr 2023, Sat, 10.30am	Swing by Jazz Inc
	23 Apr 2023, Sun, 9am	Broadway by Denise Lwin Dance
	23 Apr 2023, Sun, 10.30am	Jazz with Peter Pan by Denise Lwin Dance

45mins, no intermission

\$17 per ticket

1 Adult + 1 Child (per session): \$34

2 Adults + 1 Child or 1 Adult + 2 Children (per session): \$51

Tickets must be purchased as an adult-child package.

Esplanade&Me Specials

PIP's Club: 15% savings (min. 2 tickets)

**EveryBody Workshop (Adults & Kids)**  
**Various studios (Singapore)**

8, 9, 22 & 23 Apr 2023, Sat & Sun  
 Esplanade Rehearsal Studio



**Adults and Kids**

Specially designed for adults to bond and have fun learning together with their young ones, ages 6-12 years old.

Adults & Kids	8 Apr 2023, Sat, 1pm	Swing by Jazz Inc
	9 Apr 2023, Sun, 1pm	K-pop Stars by Converge
	22 Apr 2023, Sat, 1pm	Afro Brazilian by Movement Artistry
	23 Apr 2023, Sun, 1pm	Movement Improvisation by Rolypoly Dance

1hr, no intermission

\$17 per ticket

1 Adult + 1 Child (per session): \$34

2 Adults + 1 Child or 1 Adult + 2 Children (per session): \$51

Tickets must be purchased as an adult-child package.

Esplanade&Me Specials

PIP's Club: 15% savings (min. 2 tickets)

**EveryBody Workshop (Adults & Youth)  
Various studios (Singapore)**

8, 9, 22 & 23 Apr 2023, Sat & Sun  
Esplanade Rehearsal Studio



**Adults and Youth**

Tailored for absolute beginners, with two left feet or little experience in dance!

Adults & Youth	8 Apr 2023, Sat, 2.45pm	Cha Cha by The DanceSport Academy
	8 Apr 2023, Sat, 5pm	Kpop by O School
	8 Apr 2023, Sat, 7.30pm	Dancehall by Danz People
	9 Apr 2023, Sun, 2.45pm	Ladies Jazz by LA Dance Connection
	9 Apr 2023, Sun, 5pm	Rumba by The DanceSport Academy
	9 Apr 2023, Sun, 7.30pm	Broadway Jazz by LA Dance Connection
	22 Apr 2023, Sat, 2.45pm	Brazilian Samba by Movement Artistry
	22 Apr 2023, Sat, 5pm	Samba by The DanceSport Academy
	22 Apr 2023, Sat, 7.30pm	Lindy Hop by Jazz Inc
	23 Apr 2023, Sun, 2.45pm	Contemporary Lyrical by O School
	23 Apr 2023, Sun, 5pm	Lyrical Jazz by O School
	23 Apr 2023, Sun, 7.30pm	Spanish Dance for Relaxation by Spanish Dance Singapore

1hr 30mins, no intermission

\$17

**Esplanade&Me Specials**

Black & White: 20% savings (Package of 4)

Discover: 15% savings (Package of 4)

Purchase 4 tickets to one or any workshops from *EveryBody Workshops (Adults & Youth)*.

## **Integrated Dance Workshop** **by ILL-Abilities (Brazil, Canada, Chile, South Korea, The Netherlands, USA)**

16 Apr 2023, Sun, 11am  
Esplanade Rehearsal Studio



We believe that dance is for every body.

We welcome differently-abled participants between the ages of 15 and 30 to join this creative movement-exploration workshop conducted by ILL-Abilities, an international break dance crew comprising seven professional dancers who are differently-abled. This workshop aims to provide a platform for participants to discover their own strengths through creative movements, team activities, exercises and challenges.

Drawing inspiration from hip hop culture, the “ill” in ILL-Abilities does not mean “sick” or “unwell”. Rather, it refers to something positive, in this instance the incredible talent and dance abilities of the crew. The dancers of ILL-Abilities strive to inspire others and spread positive thinking through their optimistic attitudes, personal stories and unique dance moves.

Pre-registration is required and participants should fall under these criteria:

- Individuals with disabilities (physical, sensory, developmental and/or intellectual)
- Able to follow simple verbal cues and instructions
- Aged between 15 to 30 years old

Please note that to ensure the safety of all participants, the workshop will be limited to a maximum of 25 participants. An accompanying aide can be present with the participant, if required. Please register and share your access needs with us.

1hr 30mins, suitable breaks will be offered at this workshop.

Accessibility features:

- Wheelchair Access

Free by registration



## No Limits Battle

ILL-Abilities with Singapore break dancers  
(Brazil, Canada, Chile, Singapore, South Korea, The Netherlands, USA)

16 Apr 2023, Sun, 4.15pm  
Esplanade Concourse



Everyone's welcome to check out this special *No Limits Battle*, where ILL-Abilities, an international all-star breakdance crew comprising differently-abled dancers, battle with some of the best homegrown break-dancers in Singapore.

Conceptualised by ILL-Abilities, the rule of this exhibition battle is simple—dancers spin a wheel labelled with constraints and aids, think out of the box, and faceoff! The message is simple yet powerful: injuries may happen to anyone and any dancer, but you are stronger than you imagine; believe in yourself and create opportunities from challenges.

Drawing inspiration from hip hop culture, the “ill” in ILL-Abilities does not mean “sick” or “unwell”. Rather, it refers to something positive, in this instance the incredible talent and dance abilities of the crew. The dancers of ILL-Abilities strive to inspire others and spread positive thinking through their optimistic attitudes, personal stories and unique dance moves.

30mins, no intermission

Accessibility features:

- Wheelchair-accessible performance

Free

## EveryBody Dance Now

O School, danz people, The DanceSport Academy, Jazz Inc, Spanish Dance Singapore, L.A. Dance Connection and Vogue in Progress

14 – 16 Apr 2023, Fri – Sun  
7.30pm, 8.30pm & 9.30pm  
Esplanade Forecourt Garden



Let your hair down, put on your dancing shoes and get ready for EveryBody Dance Now!

Everyone's invited back to these moonlit dance workshops at the Esplanade Forecourt Garden, as part of *da:ns focus – EveryBody*, where all bodies can freely take part and experience dance.

Pick up nifty moves from professional instructors on stage and catch some of Singapore's best dance studios demonstrate their own takes on classic styles. Come and try out a different style to see how dance is for you!

#trendingfriday

If you're guilty of replaying dance TikToks to learn some moves in preparation for the next party, let the instructors from O School and Danz People show you what's truly trending.

7.30pm – 8pm	Dancehall by O School
8.30pm – 9pm	Hip Hop by Danz People
9.15pm – 9.45pm	Kpop by O School

Dance together Saturday

Bring a friend to this +1 night and celebrate friendships, love and relationships through partner dances. Flying solo? Don't worry, there will be dance-lovin' Esplanade Volunteers ready to learn the steps with you.

7.30pm – 8pm	Jive by The DanceSport Academy
8.30pm – 9pm	Lindy Hop by Jazz Inc
9.15pm – 9.45pm	Cha-Cha by The DanceSport Academy



### Empowerment Sunday

Feel good about yourself as you awaken the powerful and passionate side of you through emotive movements. Also check out additional sessions at the Upper Concourse held earlier in the day, which are accessible and sign-language interpreted. Dance is a form of art for everybody and has the power to uplift our spirits!

7.30pm – 8pm            Flamenco by Spanish Dance Singapore  
8.30pm – 9pm            Street Jazz by L.A. Dance Connection  
9.15pm – 9.45pm        Voguing by Vogue In Progress

30 mins, no intermission

Free

### **EveryBody Dance Now (Accessible Sessions)**

**Danz People, Down Syndrome Association's Dancers, Spanish Dance Singapore**

16 Apr 2023, Sun, 5.30pm & 6.30pm  
Esplanade Concourse

An extension of the moonlit workshops of *EveryBody Dance Now*, this indoor session at Esplanade Concourse invites everyone and every body to take part and experience dance.

Celebrate with Spanish Dance Singapore and their passionate Flamenco moves. Vibe along with the dancers from Down Syndrome Association, accompanied by their instructor from Danz People, who will show you their moves to their favourite K-pop song. Allow yourself to be creative in the way you move your body and see how dance can be a tool for empowerment and self-expression. A dance floor for all, to experience the joy of movement at *EveryBody Dance Now*.

5.30pm – 6pm            Flamenco by Spanish Dance Singapore  
6.30pm – 7pm            K-pop by Danz People and Down Syndrome Association

30 mins, no intermission

Accessibility features:

- Wheelchair Access
- Singapore Sign Language Interpretation

Free

## Dancer Development Workshop by Candoco Dance Company (United Kingdom)

15 Apr 2023, Sat, 10am  
Esplanade Rehearsal Studio



Candoco Dance Company is a world-renowned professional dance company recognised for their bold and inclusive approach towards dance. Led by two of its dance artists, this workshop offers an insight into the company's ethos and to introduce participants to an integrated dance approach, making creative environments more inclusive.

This is an opportunity for all dancers and movement practitioners with disabilities and no disabilities to further develop their creative and inclusive practice, no matter what stage of career they are in. Participants will have the opportunity to explore movement practices and choreographic approaches from the current repertory, and share thoughts and questions directly with the Candoco artists.

The workshop's capacity is limited to 30 people. Pre-registration is required and applicants should meet one of the following criteria:

- Practicing dance or movement professionals with an interest in developing integrated practices, or
- Full-time dance students, aged 18 and above.

3hrs, with suitable breaks

Accessibility features:

- Wheelchair Access

\$50

## A Space for EveryBody

Choreographed by Candoco Dance Company in collaboration with 10 Singapore dancers with disabilities and without disabilities

15 & 16 Apr 2023, Sat & Sun, 6pm & 7pm  
Esplanade Concourse



Enjoy an informal sharing of a short performance created during the week of *da:ns focus – EveryBody*, led by Candoco Dance Company, for and with Singaporean dancers with disabilities and without disabilities: Diverse Abilities Dance Collective, Tung Ka Wai, Muhammad Ammar Nasrulhaq and more.

Two dance artists from Candoco Dance Company will lead and work with a group of homegrown dance artists to share and explore Candoco's inclusive and creative approach to dance making and performance. Different lived and professional experiences, artistic practices, perspectives and cultures will be skillfully weaved together to create something unique that will speak to us all, which can be shared and developed long into the future.

Collaboration is at the heart of Candoco's practice and success, with each artist learning from the other to create something new.

30 mins, no intermission

Accessibility features:

- Wheelchair-accessible performance
- Singapore Sign Language Interpretation

Free

### **About Candoco Dance Company**

Candoco is a world-leading professional dance company. Bridging the mainstream and the experimental, the company's bold approach and powerful collaborations create distinctive performances and far-reaching learning experiences. Candoco celebrates different ways of seeing, of being and of making art, putting us them at the forefront of conversation around dance and disability and continually expanding perceptions of #whatdancecanbe.

### **About Diverse Abilities Dance Collective of Maya Dance Theatre**

Founded in 2007, Maya Dance Theatre (MDT) is a non-profit professional interdisciplinary dance theatre company, with a focus on arts for a social cause. MDT received the SEED Grant from National Arts Council, Singapore from 2012--2015 and is recognized as a Citizen Ambassador of Singapore International Foundation for promoting Arts for Good through its community initiative, Diverse Abilities Dance Collective (DADC). The collective was formed in 2018 by artistic director Kavitha Krishnan and programme leader, Subastian Tan, along with six founding members living with Down Syndrome.

The creative space of DADC enables the co-existence of professionals with diversely-abled dancers, serving also as a bridge between PWDs and arts practitioners. The team learns dance techniques drawn from MDT's training inspired from *bharatanatyam* and contemporary dance.

They have also worked on a variety of performances, including one for the President's Star Charity 2021 and international features in India, Australia, New Zealand and Indonesia.

### Jaspreet Kaur

A proud self-advocate living with Down Syndrome, Jaspreet is no stranger to the stage. Holding her own on multiple platforms, she has made speeches and performed internationally to share her story. She has performed in two editions of DADC's SEEDs dance film and was part of theatremaker Jeffrey Tan's (Theatre Today) collaboration with No Strings Attached Disability Theatre company from Adelaide for the digital production, SAME-SAME, supported by Singapore International Foundation (2020). The work has been featured in both Australian and New Zealand Fringe Festivals in 2021-2022.

Jas is also involved in theatre with companies like ART:DIS and recently staged a solo performance with playwright, Haresh Sharma and mentored by theatre practitioner, Peter Sau from ART:DIS.

With seniors, she shares her love for Bollywood dance to bring joy and laughter. Jas teaches as co-trainer at Pathlight School and is also a proud recipient of the Goh Chock Tong Award 2022.

### Arassi Maria Rajkumar

Arassi is one of DADC's founding members and someone who enjoys dance and singing. On top of being a dancer, she also supports the team by managing everyone's costumes, alongside her DADC team member, Jaspreet and Eva Tey from the main team of Maya Dance Theatre. Arassi is currently part of the SEEDS 2023 team that is working with choreographer Faye Lim of RolyPoly Family. She is looking forward to this journey to connect with another new person and her fellow dance mates through the process. Arassi brings joy to seniors through her engagement in the Body in Motion programme that offers movement sessions to seniors from different Senior Care Centres and Homes.

### Weng Jiaying

Since joining DADC in 2019, Jiaying has shown much development and is now a co-trainer of the team. She is employed as an administrative support in Apsara Asia Pte Ltd, a social enterprise that trains and employs persons with disabilities especially with special needs.

Jiaying supervises her colleagues in housekeeping and other basic administrative duties. She is also able to hold the space as a solo performer with ease and loves to perform *bharathanatyam* dance.

Jiaying has had many diverse appearances, having acted on television before. Her current ambition is to become a choreographer. Jiaying is also part of the DADC team that brings joy to seniors through movement engagement via their Body in Motion programme, designed by seniors for seniors. Recently, she led her friends in the movement session by DADC with seniors from Muslim Kidney Association Council, where she enjoyed sharing time with the seniors.

### June Lin

One of DADC's founding members, June has extensive performance experience that spans over twenty years. An avid dancer, June loves the stage and performances. From international collaborations to productions and arts education programmes, she's done it all and wishes to inspire her team members. She is also currently working with Kavitha Krishnan, artistic director of Maya Dance Theatre and DADC, as a mentor for a student with cerebral palsy at WOW! Programme by Rainbow Centre. June enjoys sharing her skills with her new buddy and seeing through her achievements; she sees pride in the journey as a co-trainer and mentor. June is also the only DADC member who performed for Chingay 2023 and a proud recipient of the prestigious Goh Chock Tong Award 2022.

Here's a striking fact: June once represented Singapore in the Special Olympics Bowling team and won a bronze medal for the country!

### Tung Ka Wai

Born in Hong Kong, Ka Wai is a theatre practitioner, educator and writer based in Singapore.

Selected works include *Glimpse* by Access Path Productions and RJ Thomson (Light to Night Festival 2023), *Love Talk Show* by Love 97.2 (2022), *Pán* by T.H.E Dance Company (2021), *Dance at Dusk: Parallel* by T.H.E Second Company (2021), *What If* by ArtsWok Collaborative (M1 Peer Pleasure Youth Festival 2020), *Eve of the Wedding Day* by Singapore Chinese Orchestra and Capital 95.8 (2020).

Ka Wai teaches Chinese, drama and creative writing at local schools and institutions. He also works with UFM100.3 on "Script It Right" Chinese Radio Drama Script Writing Competition organised by Committee to promote Chinese Language Learning.

Ka Wai is always on the lookout for new creative opportunities and collaborations.

### Muhammad Ammar Nasrulhaq

Driven by adrenaline, Ammar loves pushing and transcending boundaries. Ammar was born hearing and became deaf growing up. Despite his deafness, he has had a passion for dance since he was young. His work is focused primarily on the relationship between his body, disability, and music. He has created performance lectures with The Bhumi Collective, site-specific works at The Theatre Practice and The Substation, and Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality dances with Pluritopia. He is also developing *Tell-Tale Signs*, a devised theatre work in Singapore Sign Language, supported by ART:DIS Singapore. Through his work, he always emphasised that talent comes first and disability last.

# Body Language

5 – 7 May 2023

*Body Language* focuses on the interplay between dance text, and examines the dynamics when these forms meet.

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## Revisor

Kidd Pivot / Created by Crystal Pite and Jonathon Young (Canada)

5 & 6 May 2023, Fri & Sat, 8pm

Esplanade Theatre



“Choreographically, it’s riveting, both for the inventive articulation of individual bodies and for the fine-tuned dynamics of the ensemble, as responsive as conversation itself.” – The Guardian

“...we see bolts of lightning that accompany thoughts, then realise that they are the electricity that fires neurons and axons, the very thought processes that engender movement and speech. *Revisor* will stay in the memory for a very long time.” – SeeingDance

“The show is not called *Revisor* for nothing. The pun is evident from the beginning, Young and Pite revising not only Gogol but narrative dance itself.” – Vancouver Sun

Witness a captivating hybrid of contemporary dance and theatre in this spectacular production by award-winning collaborators Crystal Pite and Jonathon Young.

In *Revisor*, Pite and Young take on an archetypal comic plot inspired by a bizarre theatrical interpretation of Nikolai Gogol's novel, *The Government Inspector*. Driven by characters of mixed motives, the narrative satirises the absurdity of power and bureaucracy. With the exceptional dancers from Kidd Pivot embodying the recorded dialogue of some of Canada's finest actors, the work explores conflict, comedy and corruption in the compelling relationship between language and the body.

*Revisor* was named best new dance production by the Olivier Awards in 2022 and now arrives in Singapore for its Asian premiere.

### **About Crystal Pite (Co-creator, Choreographer, Director)**

In a choreographic career spanning three decades, Crystal Pite has earned international acclaim with her works for prominent companies including The Royal Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, Nederlands Dans Theater, and William Forsythe's Ballett Frankfurt. She is the founding artistic director of the Vancouver-based company Kidd Pivot, world-renowned for radical hybrids of dance and theatre that are assembled with a keen sense of wit and invention. Pite is currently Associate Choreographer of Nederlands Dans Theater I, Associate Dance Artist of Canada's National Arts Centre, and Associate Artist of Sadler's Wells in London.

### **About Jonathon Young (Co-creator, Writer, Voice Actor)**

Canadian theatre artist Jonathon Young is playwright-in-residence at Kidd Pivot and a core artist of Electric Company Theatre, where he has created and performed in over 20 original productions: *Tear the Curtain!* (Arts Club Theatre, Canadian Stage), *No Exit* (American Conservatory Theatre), *Betroffenheit* (international tour). He has worked as an actor on stages across Canada: *Knives in Hens* (Coalmine Theatre), *The Full Light of Day* (Electric Company/ Luminato Festival), *All But Gone* (Necessary Angel, Toronto), *The Great Gatsby* (Theatre Calgary), *Hamlet* (Bard on the Beach, Vancouver). In addition to *Betroffenheit* and *Revisor*, Young collaborated with Crystal Pite on two productions for Nederlands Dans Theater (*Parade* and *The Statement*). Young is the recipient of an Olivier Award and the UK National Dance Award.

Created by: Crystal Pite and Jonathon Young

Written by: Jonathon Young

Choreographed and Directed by: Crystal Pite

Composition and Sound Design: Owen Belton, Alessandro Juliani, and Meg Roe

Scenic Design and Reflective Light Concept: Jay Gower Taylor

Lighting Design: Tom Visser

Costume Design: Nancy Bryant Assistant to the Creators: Eric Beauchesne

Dancers: Brandon Alley, Greg Lau, Rakeem Hardy, Doug Letheren, Rena Narumi, Ella Rothschild, Renee Sigouin, Jennifer Florentino, Julian Hunt (Swing), Jade Chong (Swing)

Advisory: Latecomers will not be admitted once the performance has begun. There will be no re-admission for this performance.

There will be a post-show talk on 5 May.

1hr 30mins, no intermission

\$40\*, \$60\*\*, \$80^, \$100^

Limited concessions for seniors, NSFs and students: \$32\*, \$48\*\*

Limited concessions for PWDs: \$32

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials (2 – 8 Mar)

Black: 20% savings

White: 15% savings

Discover (min. 2 tickets): 15% savings

^Esplanade&Me Specials (From 9 Mar)

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover (min. 2 tickets): 10% savings

Tote Board Arts Grant

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

For more details, please contact Esplanade Box Office at 6828 8389 or email [boxoffice@esplanade.com](mailto:boxoffice@esplanade.com)



## Come On In Faye Driscoll (USA)

5 – 7 May, Fri – Sun

Fri: 7pm, 8pm & 9pm

Sat: 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, 5pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8pm & 9pm

Sun: 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, 5pm, 6pm & 7pm

Esplanade Annexe Studio



“... one of the most original talents on the contemporary dance scene.” – The New York Times

“Driscoll has created a work of art that seems to reflect back upon its viewer like a mirror.” – The Oregonian

“Experiential training in how to inhabit this unbearable new world.” – Miriam Felton-Dansky

Hailed by The New York times as a “startlingly original talent”, choreographer Faye Driscoll presents her first exhibition—an intimate audio-based installation that invites you to *Come On In*.

Inspired by her performance trilogy *Thank You For Coming*, a series which summons, as she describes, “the unnamed forces that surge between the viewer and the viewed”, *Come On In* is designed as a space of gathering for visitors to encounter and carry forth this intangible connection.

Upon entering the carpeted area, you may choose a listening station, each featuring a soundtrack spoken by the artist herself. Driscoll’s voice offers a series of prompts similar to those she might give to a performer: a guided meditation unfolds with unanswerable questions

about self and other, body and world, leading you through a choreographed experience into a private dance. You may also choose to observe as the installation transforms and finds fellow visitors becoming a series of slowly moving sculptures. The experience proposes the idea of the body as receiver and mediator of language, and invites us to inhabit the complexity of language and the ecosystem of the body.

Commissioned by Walker Art Center, *Come On In* has been exhibited at the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art and On the Boards in Seattle. This presentation in Singapore marks its first installation outside of the United States.

**Production Credits:**

Conceived and created by Faye Driscoll

Designed in collaboration with Nick Vaughan & Jake Margolin

Sound Engineer: Zachary Crumrine

Producer and Management: George Lugg

**Commissioning & Support**

*Come On In* was commissioned by Walker Art Center with funds provided by the Andrew W. Mellon foundation and the William and Nadine McGuire Commissioning Fund.

*Come On In* is a project of Creative Capital.

**About Faye Driscoll**

Faye Driscoll is a Doris Duke Award-winning performance maker who has been called a “startlingly original talent” by The New York Times and “a postmillenium postmodern wild woman” by The Village Voice.

She creates performances that activate the dynamic space between artist, performer, and audience. Often balancing poignancy and tenderness with irreverent wit and humour, Driscoll’s work examines the codes and structures that govern our behaviour, while invoking our shared power to question and shape these influences.

Driscoll is currently the Randjelovic/Stryker Resident Commissioned Artist at New York Live Arts, and is the recipient of a Guggenheim fellowship, a Bessie award and the Jacob’s Pillow Artist Award among many others. Her work has been presented at Wexner Center for the Arts, Walker Art Center, ICA/Boston, MCA Chicago and BAM, and internationally at Theater Bremen (Unusual Symptoms), Kunstenfestivaldesarts, La Biennale di Venezia, Festival d’Automne à Paris, Melbourne Festival, Belfast International Arts Festival, Onassis Cultural Centre in Athens and Centro de Arte Experimental in Buenos Aires.

Driscoll also choreographs for plays and films, including the Broadway production of Young Jean Lee’s *Straight White Men*, and Josephine Decker’s award-winning feature films *Madeline’s Madeline* and *The Sky is Everywhere*.

**Advisories:**

- Advisory 16 (Some Strong Language and Mature Content)
- Admission for ages 16 and up.
- You will be required to take off your shoes before entering the installation.
- *Come On In* involves listening to audio tracks on provided headphones while laying down on a bed—laying down is not essential and visitors can either choose to observe the experience or participate by listening.
- Audio tracks are spoken in English.

45mins, free and easy

\$25^

^Esplanade&Me Specials (Limited tickets)  
Black/White/Discover: 10% savings (Package of 2)

Tote Board Arts Grant

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

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## Dance Workshop by Kidd Pivot (Canada)

6 May 2023, Sat, 11am  
Esplanade Rehearsal Studio



This workshop is an opportunity for dancers to experience the choreographic work of Crystal Pite, one of the world's foremost contemporary dance choreographers and founder of dance company Kidd Pivot. Using examples drawn from recent work, participants will explore some of the techniques and tools used in generating and performing Kidd Pivot repertoire.

The class is geared toward advanced and professional dancers, full-time dance students and serious hobbyists who have been actively training in ballet and/or contemporary dance at least thrice a week for the past three to five years.

Places are limited. Pre-registration is required to be considered for this class. Successful applicants will be contacted within five working days to purchase tickets for the class. Please dress comfortably.

1hr 30mins, no intermission

\$30