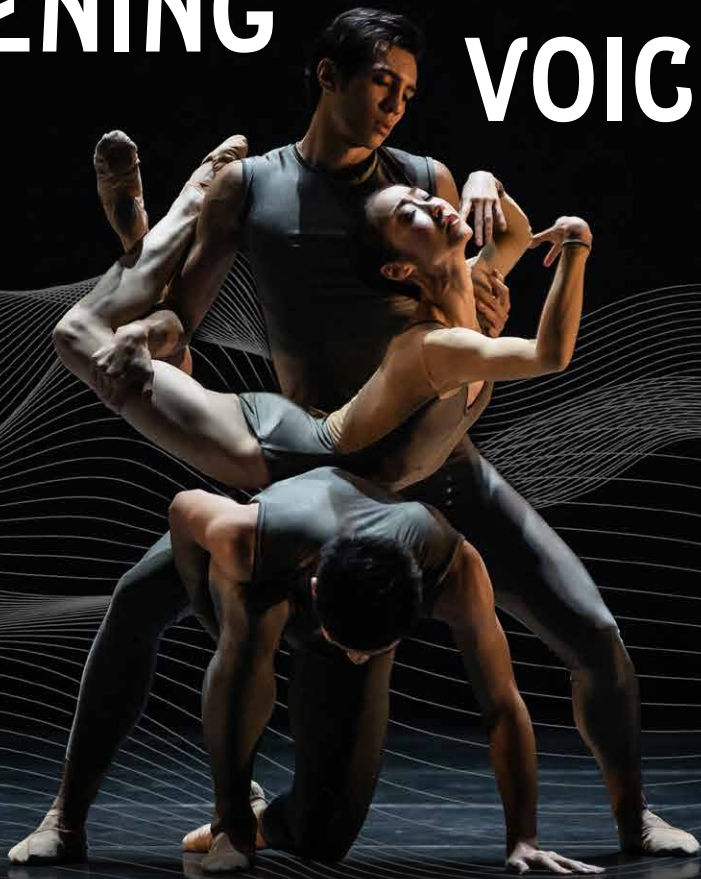




**Esplanade
Presents**

da:ns festival

EVENING VOICES



by

SINGAPORE BALLET

21 – 23 OCT 2022 FRI – SUN | 8PM
ESPLANADE OUTDOOR THEATRE

PROGRAMME NOTES

Principal Sponsor



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The bank for a changing world

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.

Turning 20 in 2022, Esplanade marks the occasion with a year-long celebration themed *20 and Beyond: Keeping the Lights On*. In addition to the presentations of its year-long festivals, programme series, and special initiatives and events, there will also be a season of new works by Singapore and Asian artists specially commissioned for the arts centre's 20th anniversary and official opening of its newest venue, Singtel Waterfront Theatre.

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. 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 for more information.

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Absence of Story by Toru Shimazaki
Photo credit: Nicoletthen Studio

Looking at the ever-changing and unpredictable landscape around us, one may feel overwhelmed to navigate the challenges and uncertainty ahead of us. This year, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay's *da:ns festival* reflects on these liminal states and invites us to immerse ourselves in **where dance takes us**; what it can reveal, the path it opens as we experience it and how it can inspire us to embrace the flow in these times of transition and change.

These questions are also pertinent as we will be transforming the festival into an exciting season of dance programmes spread out through the year, each with specific themes that allow for richer appreciation of this artform.

After a hiatus of international dance productions touring to Singapore, this year's festival features diverse works which have tenaciously survived through the pandemic, some of which have been delayed from premiering in Singapore for as long as two years. In **Tree of Codes**, audiences will be transported into a world of visual and musical overdrive from three visionaries—**multi-award-winning choreographer and director Wayne McGregor, Mercury Prize-winning producer Jamie xx and artist, Olafur Eliasson**. The long-awaited Esplanade commission and co-production, **No. 60 by Pichet Klunchun Dance Company**, finally arrives in Singapore after its tour in Europe. Building on 20 years of research, it offers an accessible entry into decoding tradition, paving the way for the appreciation and future trajectories of traditional dance.

To celebrate the opening of Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade, we have commissioned **The Human Expression (T.H.E) Dance Company**'s newest work, *Infinitely Closer* by Kuik Swee Boon, with a stellar team of collaborators from Asia. The work is a response to the impact that apathy and increasingly complex systems have on human expression and freedoms.

Also featured is **Singapore Ballet** with *Evening Voices*, a spirited triple-bill set against the beautiful Marina Bay skyline. Our work-in-progress platform for Asian dancemakers, *Forward Shift*, will feature new creations by two emerging Asian dancemakers, **Hwa Wei-An (Malaysia/Singapore)** and **Liu I-Ling (Taiwan)**, which navigate the theme of loss of control. Audience members are invited to offer feedback which can be useful to the choreographers as they embark on the next phase of their creations.

With a strong focus on process and learning, our **NEXT GENERATION** presentations return to spotlight youth dancers as they benefit from professional guidance. **FULL OUT! Next Gen** goes big and wild as we feature over 150 dancers from six different tertiary-based street dance groups; audiences will be treated to three different shows under the direction of Zaini Tahir, with each night featuring a collaborative performance between two schools, a result of five months' worth of preparation. Also join us in **In the Studio with Liu I-Ling and LASALLE College of the Arts** and **In the Studio with Studio Wayne McGregor**

and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, as the students share their work-in-progress creations and the processes involved at their one-week creative residencies with this year's festival artists.

Discover the rich culture of Asia's traditional dances in the region with **RASAS**. This year, Rasas spotlights dance forms from two different regions of Indonesia—Bali and Aceh, presenting their diverse dance forms and cultural heritage. **Anangun Semara Santhi** offers four intensely expressive dance forms from Bali, *tari condong*, *baris tunggal*, *tari jauk manis* and *tari oleg tambulilingan*, while **Sanggar Seni Seulaweut (Seulaweut Art House)** performs three dynamic dances from Aceh: *Saman*, *rapa'i geleng* and *likok pulo*, which are all characterised by the harmonious movements of the dancers' hands and upper bodies.

Lastly, **PARTICIPATE** in the festival through dance workshops, masterclasses, talks and more! Pick from eight different genres and learn some slick new moves in the beloved **What's Your Move?** platform taught by local dance studios. Gain insights on Wayne McGregor's choreographic practice with a **Studio Wayne McGregor Dance masterclass** or be introduced to the rich culture and history surrounding the exciting dances from Aceh through **Rasas Workshop: Introduction to dances from Aceh**. For street dance lovers, don't miss the talk: **Culture, Community and Collaboration: A Hip Hop Perspective with Nick Power** as the Australian b-boy and choreographer

shares his practice and propositions for alternative paths for street dance. Finally, re-encounter artists and dance lovers from various editions of *da:ns festival* via the **people of da:ns** digital project; and we also welcome you to share your memories with us through the friendly **da:ns kakis** volunteers around the centre during the festival.

From 13 – 23 October 2022, as we bring you the last edition of *da:ns festival*, we invite all past and present audiences, artists, crew, volunteers and supporters to, once again, open yourselves to new journeys and connections we make through dance. We also express our heartfelt thanks to our Principal Sponsor BNP Paribas for supporting the festival. After 17 years, we are ready to take on the next chapter; and we look forward to embracing **where dance takes us**.

Iris Cheung

Programmer, The Esplanade Co Ltd

Triptych by Val Caniparoli
Photo credit: Bernie Ng





At BNP Paribas, we are pleased to support, for a second year, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay's *da:ns festival*, featuring an impressive line-up of local, regional and international artists. The return of live performances from international dance companies to the stage—some who have waited almost two years for their premiere—is particularly heartening.

With the belief that culture is an incredible vehicle for individual and social development, the BNP Paribas Foundation is committed to supporting institutions that host artists and disseminate their works, to ensure that culture is accessible to as many people as possible. Contemporary creation is at the heart of the Foundation's cultural sponsorship. With a particular focus on jazz and contemporary dance creation that it has supported for nearly 40 years, the Foundation's long-term support helps its partners to carry out their projects and contributes to the vitality of artistic and cultural creation.

Please join me in supporting and applauding the artists who have been unwavering in their dedication to their craft, especially through the challenges of the pandemic.

Joris Dierckx

Regional Head of Southeast Asia
BNP Paribas

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Photo Credit: Bernie Ng



So many audiences have been introduced to the extraordinary pleasure of dance performances through Esplanade's *da:ns festival*. In Singapore Ballet's history, we've participated on four separate occasions and presented works by Kuik Swee Boon, Jeffrey Tan, Edwaard Liang, Xing Liang, Ma Cong, Toru Shimazaki, Christina Chan, Edmund Stripe and Kinsun Chan.

This, in essence, represents our repertoire most fully, in that all this choreography was made specifically for us. Creating a performance repertoire is the clearest indication of our identity. This year's repertoire feature works by Val Caniparoli, Timothy Rushton and Toru Shimazaki, presenting a wide spectrum of international choreography with a unique and contemporary outlook. I trust this evening's choreographic offering will create a memory for you that will bring you back to dance again and again.

Janek Schergen

Artistic Director, Singapore Ballet

Following last year's sold-out performances, Singapore Ballet returns to the Esplanade Outdoor Theatre with yet another spirited triple-bill set against the Marina Bay skyline.

The evening opens with *Absence of Story* by Toru Shimazaki, a challenging piece that replaced narrative with lyrical energy to pay tribute to Brahms.

Val Caniparoli's *Triptych*, inspired by photographer Lalage Snow's powerful portrait series of British servicemen before, during and after their deployment to Afghanistan, is an emotional response to the realities of war.

Ending off the night is Tim Rushton's *Evening Voices*, a tender yet magnificent piece set to the score of Sergey Rachmaninov's *All-Night Vigil*, that humbles as it uplifts.

Experience the beauty and technical virtuosity of Singapore Ballet in this stellar evening of dance by the Esplanade Waterfront.

(1hr 15mins, no intermission)

Absence of Story

ABOUT THE WORK

Toru's initial concept for *Absence of Story* was to create a visual array of movements to accompany the music of Brahms. This piece of music is so powerful that he simply wanted to react honestly to it. His challenge was to create a work without story or words in hope of not diminishing or causing distraction from the beauty and power of the music in any way.

Toru's intentions for choreographing a work using contemporary dance to this music, is to bring to the forefront an awareness of the relevance and importance of Brahms' work as it relates to us in this day and age, how Brahms' work remains timeless and everlasting. This piece was created for Singapore Dance Theatre in 2012.



Absence of Story

CREDIT

Choreographer: Toru Shimazaki

Music: Johannes Brahms

OP. 78, No. 1, Vivace Ma Non Troppo

OP. 78, No 2, Adagio

CAST

Chihiro Uchida, Akira Nakahama, Beatrice Castañeda,
Chua Bi Ru, May Yen Cheah, Nanase Tanaka,
Yeo Chan Yee, Kenya Nakamura, Étienne Ferrère, Ivan Koh,
Jason Carter, Kensuke Yorozu and Shan Del Vecchio



Triptych

ABOUT THE WORK

Photographer Lalage Snow created a powerful series of triptychs titled *We Are Not The Dead*, depicting the faces of British servicemen before, during and after their deployment to Afghanistan. The images highlight not only the physical transformations but the emotional ones as well.

Triptych was acquired through the sponsorship of the Artistic Director's Fund.



Triptych

CREDIT

Choreographer: Val Caniparoli

Staging: Brandon Freeman

Music: John Tavener, Alexander Balanescu

Costumes: Christine Darch

Lighting Designer: Jim French

CAST

Beatrice Castañeda, Elaine Heng, Kwok Min Yi,
May Yen Cheah, Étienne Ferrère, Kensuke Yorozu,
Shan Del Vecchio and Takeaki Miura



Evening Voices

ABOUT THE WORK

“I often find myself being driven by a piece of music, it is indescribable and enthralling, it’s like going on a journey with a composer. Rachmaninov is one of those composers that I find fascinating, his All-Night Vigil is tender and yet magnificent, making us feel humble but uplifted. The simple musical composition (prose) is a celebration of our belief of something bigger.” – Timothy Rushton

Evening Voices was acquired through the sponsorship of the Artistic Director’s Fund and created for Singapore Dance Theatre in 2018.



Photo Credit: Bernie Ng

Evening Voices

CREDIT

Choreographer & Costume Designer: Timothy Rushton
Music: Sergey Rachimaninov, All-Night Vigil

CAST

Beatrice Castañeda (21 & 23 Oct) / Chihiro Uchida (22 Oct),
Akira Nakahama, Jessica Garside, Kwok Min Yi, Ma Ni,
May Yen Cheah, Yeo Chan Yee, Étienne Ferrère, Ivan Koh,
Jason Carter, Kensuke Yorozu, Satoru Agetsuma,
Shan Del Vecchio and Timothy Ng



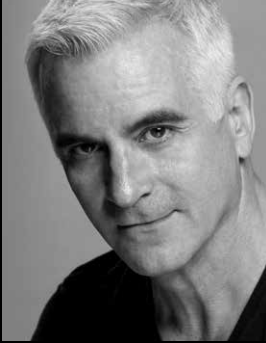
Photo Credit: Bernie Ng

Toru Shimazaki



Toru Shimazaki has started to dance at the Goh Ballet Academy in 1982. He joined Tirol Landestheatre in 1986. He started to choreograph at the age of 27 and has since choreographed extensively in Europe, America and in his native Japan for many renowned dance companies including Japan's National New Tokyo Theatre, Grand Theatre de Geneve, The Royal Ballet of Flanders, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Introdanse, Singapore Ballet (formerly known as Singapore Dance Theatre), Colorado Ballet, to mention a few. He has been on the jury of several prestigious international ballet competitions, including: The Shanghai International Ballet Competition, Youth America Grand Prix Japan and The Prix de Lausanne.

Toru Shimazaki is a casting partner for Cirque du Soleil in Japan. In 2004, he was invited to participate in the American Dance Festival's (ADF) International Choreographers Commissioning Program. In that same year, his work *River* was chosen to represent "today's Japanese contemporary dance" at the Association of Performing Arts Presenters Annual Conference. Toru Shimazaki choreographed the Austrian musical *Elizabeth*. He is presently the Directing Professor of The Dance Programme in the Music Department of Kobe Jogakuin College, Japan.



Val Caniparoli

Val Caniparoli's versatility has made him one of the most sought-after American choreographers internationally. He is most closely associated with San Francisco Ballet, his artistic home for more than 50 years, where he also served as resident choreographer.

Caniparoli has contributed to the repertoires of more than 60 companies, including Joffrey Ballet, Finnish National Ballet, Royal New Zealand Ballet, Scottish Ballet, National Ballet of Canada, Boston Ballet, Hong Kong Ballet, Milwaukee Ballet, Alberta Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Northern Ballet Theatre, Pennsylvania Ballet, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Ballet West (resident choreographer 1993-97), Washington Ballet, Israel Ballet, Richmond Ballet, Louisville Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Singapore Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, State Theatre Ballet of South Africa, and Tulsa Ballet (resident choreographer 2001-06). He has also choreographed for the Chicago Lyric Opera, San Francisco Opera, and The Metropolitan Opera and several occasions with the San Francisco Symphony. Choreography for the esteemed American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.), include *A Christmas Carol*, *A Doll's House*, *A Little Night Music*, *Arcadia*, and the creation, with Carey Perloff, of a new movement-theater piece, *Tosca Cafe*. One of his most popular ballets, *Lambarena*, was nominated for the Prix Benois de la Danse in 1997 for Best Choreography and was also featured on Sesame Street. In 2015, Caniparoli

co-choreographed, with Helgi Tomasson, a commercial for the 50th Anniversary Super Bowl with dancers from San Francisco Ballet.

Caniparoli's full evening-length ballets include *Lady of the Camellias*, five different productions of *The Nutcracker* for Royal New Zealand Ballet, Louisville Ballet, Grand Rapids Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet and Tulsa Ballet (co-created with Ma Cong), *Jekyll & Hyde* for Finnish National Ballet and Val Caniparoli's *A Cinderella Story* choreographed to music of Richard Rodgers for Royal Winnipeg Ballet.

Born in Renton, Washington, Caniparoli opted for a professional dance career after studying music and theatre at Washington State University. He received a Ford Foundation Scholarship to attend San Francisco Ballet School. He performed with San Francisco Opera Ballet before joining San Francisco Ballet in 1973, where he continues to perform as a Principal Character Dancer.



Timothy Rushton

Tim Rushton (MBE)* was born in Birmingham in 1963. He studied at the Royal Ballet Upper School and danced for several northern European ballet companies until the mid-1990s. While a dancer at The Royal Danish Ballet, he became interested in pursuing a choreographic career and decided to quit dancing.

Rushton quickly made his mark as a creator of contemporary dance that uses classical ballet technique, and by 2001 he was appointed Artistic Director of the Danish Dance Theatre (DDT). During the past decade, Rushton has transformed DDT into a multi award-winning company. Under his leadership, the company has established an international presence and today enjoys critical and popular acclaim throughout Europe, North America, Australia, and Asia Pacific.

Tim Rushton's contemporary choreographic style draws on his vast experience as a dancer and choreographer. His work—described as “emotionally led, reflecting the nuances of human relationships”—often mixes live music, stunning lighting and design features. He uses it, he says, as “a means to communicate human emotion.”

Rushton collaborates with writers, designers, visual artists, and composers. He's worked with a range of music spanning diverse genres, from classical masterpieces through to beat, jazz and newly commissioned compositions.

*Tim Rushton was appointed 'Member of the Order of the British Empire' (MBE) in the 2011 New Year's Honours List in recognition of his services to dance.



Evening Voices by Timothy Rushton
Photo credit: Bernie Ng

ABOUT SINGAPORE BALLET

Singapore Ballet (formerly known as Singapore Dance Theatre) was founded in 1988 by Goh Soo Khim and Anthony Then and has since grown into a premier dance company comprising 36 professional dancers and apprentices. The company produces six seasons annually, highlights of which include the widely popular outdoor dance event *Ballet Under the Stars* at Fort Canning Park, a selection of two full-length classics; *Masterpiece in Motion*, which brings together three works by international choreographers; as well as *Passages*, a contemporary dance showcase.

The company's repertoire ranges from classical to contemporary ballet, with pieces created by renowned choreographers including Choo-San Goh, George Balanchine, Kinsun Chan, Val Caniparoli, Ma Cong, Edmund Stripe, Natalie Weir, Edwaard Liang, Nils Christe, Toru Shimazaki, Christina Chan, Timothy Harbour, François Klaus, Tim Rushton, Pam Tanowitz and Loughlan Prior.

Under the leadership of Artistic Director Janek Schergen, the company has made new strides in the international and Singapore dance arena, adding 38 world premieres, 20 company premieres and new productions to the repertoire.

For more information, please visit www.singaporeballet.org





**Esplanade
Presents**

da:ns

hello da:ns focus!

**goodbye
~~da:ns festival~~**

**SAVE
THE
DATES
2023**

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



Photo Credit: Camilla Greenwell

14-16
APR

EveryBody

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Candoco Dance Company (United Kingdom) and **free participatory activities** at Esplanade Forecourt Garden.



Photo Credit: Michael Sabodan

5-7
MAY

Body Language

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Revisor by Kidd Pivot (Canada)
Creators: Crystal Pite and Jonathon Young



Photo Credit: Fan Xi

13-15
OCT

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.

HIGHLIGHTS

TAO Dance Theater (China)



1-3
DEC

FL/OW - The FULL OUT Weekend

Go FULL OUT with diverse facets of street dance through performances, battles and workshops. Expand your idea of what street dance can be beyond the conventional.

HIGHLIGHTS

FULL OUT! at Esplanade Theatre featuring exciting crews from around the world



2024
MAR

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.

Information correct at time of print.



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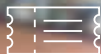
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1,276

activities took place at Esplanade.

Ticketed



412

Non-Ticketed



864

223,399



People attended our activities at the centre.

Ticketed

18,081

Non-Ticketed

205,318

We believe that everyone should be able to experience the joy of the arts, including children, youth, seniors, migrant workers and individuals with special needs. Our community engagement activities bring the arts to those in need.



185

Activities

4,357

Participants

*Figures for Esplanade's activities from Apr 2020 to Mar 2021.

Your contribution* will make a difference.



On behalf of the communities we serve, thank you!
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With Gratitude

Esplanade–Theatres on the Bay is a charity, a not-for-profit organisation and Singapore’s national performing arts centre. We seek to entertain, engage, educate and inspire through the arts.

In 2022, we mark our 20th anniversary of being an arts centre for everyone. We thank everyone who has been a part of our journey. You have helped us bring joy, inspiration and positive impact to Singaporeans from all walks of life.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes especially to our Donors and Sponsors, for their steadfast belief in our mission and for generously supporting us.

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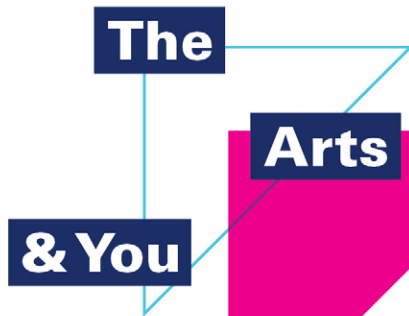
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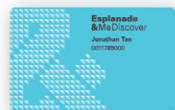
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WHERE

23

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OCT

2022

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DA:NS FESTIVAL

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