



Esplanade
Presents

Pentas



SUHAILA
M SANIF

RUSYDINA
AFIQAH

MAHYONIS
MAHFUDZ

DALIFAH
SHAHRLIL

KEMAS

by Teater Kami

(NEAT/TIDY)

Written and directed by Moli Mohter

17 - 19 Feb 2023, Fri - Sun

Fri & Sat, 8pm

Sat & Sun, 3pm

Esplanade Theatre Studio

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 for more information.

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PLAYWRIGHT/DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Kemas has been a long ride for me. I have been writing it since 2018. It survives through COVID-19, and after numerous readings with friends and rewriting it again and again, it finally arrives at Esplanade Theatre Studio.

I have been asked several times, what is the message that I want to convey in *Kemas*. This has always been something that I struggled with when I write a play. After thinking a lot about it, I have decided to give an honest answer.

There was never a specific message. There is only hope that everyone who witnesses *Kemas* goes home with a certain feeling and understanding according to their lives' experience. They will remember these characters, Juminah, Arah, Salma and Esah that actually do live around them. Or when they get to meet these characters in real lives, they will remember *Kemas*. That's how *Kemas* will live on.

I must thank my friends who read *Kemas* in 2019, at my dining table, Ema Saleh, Elnie Shumastri Mashari and Farah Ong. Through them *Kemas* had it's first voice. I thank Kak Limah (Atin Amat) for encouraging me to complete *Kemas* and giving me the space at Teater Kami for finally getting *Kemas* staged. Thank you to the wonderful cast, Kak Yon, Dalifah, Rusydina and Suhaila, who is so patient and willing to try every changes that I keep making. And thank you again Dalifah for getting my dream team. Deena, Arya, Tini, Fared, Ema, Fadlin, Jannah and Yan – I could not have done this without this team supporting my visions.

And my husband, Reno... Who bought me a laptop so that I can keep on writing. *Kemas* was the first play I wrote with this gift. Thank you for always been supportive and encouraging and irritating and annoying. I love you.

To my family... Thank you for your love, support and understanding of my absence as I chase my dream to be a storyteller.

To Hanie, Aliah, Khidir and Esplanade team, thank you for your patience and support.

To those to come and witness *Kemas*, I thank you for spending your time with us in this space.

-Moli Mohter

SYNOPSIS

We begin in a housing estate: Salma is the new neighbour, who lives with a husband that's either absent or always arguing with her when present. Then, there is Arah, who thinks her mother favours her brother and blames her for the way their lives are now. Finally, we have Juminah, who dwells on her past as her present is too lonely to bear—she holds on to the memories of her first love, the happiest days of her life.

The walls between the flats are too thin and everyone is always listening to one another. How do you keep what happened behind closed doors private? How do you pretend not to know when you have heard too much? How do you love your neighbours when you know every little dirty secret that they try to keep hidden?

In Malay, *kemas* means tidy or neat—organised, well-placed, well-managed. This work explores the myriad meanings of *kemas* through the stories of these three women, Salma, Arah and Juminah.

Kemas is written by Moli Mohter and inspired by her experience and interactions with neighbours of her estate. The script was first read at *Cipta Cita 2022* to a closed-door audience, made up of writers, theatre makers, producers from the local theatre and entertainment scene. The script's development is also under the advice and consultation of Atin Amat, the artistic director of local theatre company. Teater KAMi.

Teater KAMi is proud to take on the role of producer for this staging, and to work once again with Esplanade after several years on this commissioned work.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)

Performed in Malay with English surtitles

CAST



Dalifah Shahril
Actress

Dalifah Shahril is a performer and a drama educator who is effectively bilingual in English and Malay. She is also a voice actor and voiceover talent for various companies and television productions. A graduate of the National Institute of Education (Arts Education), Dalifah enjoys working with young children and teaches speech and drama in Ministry of Education schools. Dalifah was named Best Actress at the 2018 Straits Times Life Theatre Awards and was nominated for the same category in 2019 for *Lanang* (Hatch Theatrics).



Rusydina Afiah
Actress

Rusydina Afiah received her BA (Hons) in Theatre Arts from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. Notable productions include *Here and Beyond!* (Toy Factory); *Step Outta Line* (M1 Singapore Fringe Festival 2018 and NAFA); *Off Centre* by The Necessary Stage and *Anak* by Noor Effendy Ibrahim.



Mahyonis Mahfudz
Actress

Mahyonis Mahfudz is a veteran actress, well-known for being part of the Sriwana Bangsawan team and acting on television dramas since the early '80s. This is her return to stage since retiring from acting a few years ago.



Suhaila M Sanif
Actress

Suhaila began her involvement in theatre at the age of 18. Her first involvement was with Teater KAMi Ltd in 2001 where she started as a crew. On a more practical level, she has had the opportunity to be involved in Youth Productions in 2002. Productions she was involved with include *Balada Tun Fatimah* (2012), *NGACO* (2014 & 2020) *Rindu Di Bulan* by Rupa Co. Lab for M1 Singapore Fringe Festival (2022).

CREATIVE TEAM



Moli Mohter

Director, Playwright, Costume Designer

Moli is a theatre practitioner whose vast experience spans between being an actor, educator, facilitator, as well as a writer and director.

She has written, directed and produced memorable works such as *Penantian* in 2013 and *Sembelit Lagi* in 2012. As an actor-facilitator, she was part of forum theatre play - *Trick or Threat* by Drama Box, and through that was given an opportunity to tour to the World Forum Theatre Festival in Austria in 2009.

Moli was the leading artist for *Both Sides, Now*, an arts-based community engagement project, in 2021 and 2022. She also got to direct and write interactive plays such as *Waktu* which was performed by Suhaili Safari at Heartbeat @ Bedok.

As an arts educator, she works with BudsTheatre, Teater Kami, and Drama Box to teach children and youth. She has also worked with youths-at-risk in Singapore Girls' Home, Singapore Boys' Home, and the Institute of Technical Education. Currently, she is a befriender at Tak Takut Kids Club where they get to play dress-up, sew costumes and try out make-up.

In 2019, Moli founded Makaia Arts to produce more educational drama programmes. However, she was unable to develop this further due to COVID-19. Nevertheless, she hopes that she will be able to create more works with under Makaia Arts in the near future.



Fadlin Fadalino

Technical Manager

Fadlin is an active and versatile theatre practitioner, with experience in various roles such as director, scriptwriter, performer, technical management and operation, trainer, and facilitator. His main strengths are currently in AV system design, digital AV and networking, audio engineering, lighting design and operation, visual and multimedia design, and stage and technical theatre management. His versatility, never-say-never attitude, and vast experience in technical theatre management across the various arts venues has benefitted the many productions he has worked on.



Emanorwatty Saleh

Lighting Designer

Ema began the love for theatre in 1992. Her first major work as a lighting designer was for a daunting play *Indra Bangsawan* by Teater Kami, in 1997 at the Victoria Theatre. Bagged with years of experience since then, she attained a BA in Technical Theatre Arts from LASALLE College of the Arts in 2007. Almost instantly after, she became a mother.

Now since her return to the craft, she embarked on what she called *street style* where her approach is less formal and conventional, allowing more room for exploration and experimentation, and best of all, leading to unpredictability.

Her recent credits in 2022-2023 include *Anak* by Very Shy Gerl, *Kepaten Obor* by Suhaili Safari (both Esplanade Theatre Studio), *Indigo Jackal* by Grace Kalaiselvi (Esplanade Recital Studio), *Both Sides, Now* by Dramabox (Heartbeat@Bedok Atrium), *Why Be Good When You Can Be The Best* by Deonn Yang (M1 Fringe, NAFA Blackbox) and *Tri-Vima* by Samyoga (Esplanade Theatre Studio).



Tini Aliman

Sound Designer

Tini Aliman is a sound artist and designer, field recordist and audio engineer who works at the intersection of theatre and film sound design, live sound art performance, installation and collaborative projects. Her research interests include but are not limited to, forest networks, spatial acoustics, bio-music, botanical histories and the variables of data translations via biodata sonification. She has been involved in projects, performances and exhibitions presented at National Gallery Singapore, NTU Center for Contemporary Art, Biennale Urbana at Caserma Pepe, Venice, Singapore Art Museum and SFMOMA.

CREATIVE & TECHNICAL TEAM
TENAGA KREATIF DAN TEKNIKAL

Mahyonis Mahfudz Dalifah Shahril Rusydina Afiqah Suhaila M Sanif	Cast / Para Pelakon
Atin Amat	Advisor / Penasihat
Moli Mohter	Director, Playwright, Costume Designer / Pengarah, Penulis Skrip, Pereka Busana
Emanorwatty Saleh	Lighting Designer / Pereka Tatacahaya
Tini Aliman	Sound Designer / Pereka Bunyi
TK	Set Designer / Pereka Set
Fadlin Fadalino	Technical Manager / Pengurus Teknikal
Dalifah Shahril	Production Manager / Pengurus Produksi
Deena Shaqinah	Stage Manager / Pengurus Pentas
Aryanie Amalia	Asst Stage Manager / Penolong Pengurus Pentas
Jannah Hamtaro	Surtilist / Pengendali Sari Kata
Yan Asan Reann Teo Shasha Yakob	Crew

NOTA DARI PENULIS-PENGARAH

Permentasan *Kemas* adalah perjalanan yang panjang bagi saya. *Kemas* ditulis sejak tahun 2018. Ia telah melalui COVID-19 dan setelah beberapa kali dibaca bersama sahabat-sahabat saya, dan berkali-kali juga ia melalui proses penulisan, akhirnya ia sampai di Esplanade Theatre Studio.

Saya sering ditanya tentang mesej yang ingin saya sampaikan melalui *Kemas*. Soalan yang sukar bagi saya untuk menjawab apabila saya menulis sesuatu naskah. Setelah berfikir panjang, inilah jawapan jujur dari saya.

Saya tidak mempunyai mesej khusus. Saya hanya berharap sesiapa yang menyaksikan *Kemas* akan pulang dengan satu perasaan dan pemahaman mengikut pengalaman hidup masing-masing. Mereka akan mengingati watak-watak di atas pentas, seperti Juminah, Arah, Salma dan Esah yang hidup disekeliling mereka. Dan apabila mereka bertemu dengan seseorang seperti watak-watak ini di masa hadapan, mereka akan mengingati *Kemas*. Semoga *Kemas* akan terus hidup dalam ingatan.

Saya ingin mengucapkan terima kasih kepada teman-teman yang membaca *Kemas* pada tahun 2019 di meja makan saya – Ema Saleh, Elnie Shumastri Mashari dan Farah Ong. Melalui mereka, saya dapat mendengar suara-suara watak-watak *Kemas* buat pertama kali. Terima kasih pada Kak Limah (Atin Amat) kerana galakan beliau untuk saya terus memperbaiki *Kemas* dan memberi saya ruang di Teater Kami untuk mementaskan *Kemas*. Terima kasih kepada pelakon-pelakon, Kak Yon, Dalifah, Rusydina dan Suhaila, yang selalu sabar dan sanggup mencuba setiap perubahan yang saya lakukan. Sekali lagi, terima kasih Dalifah kerana berkerja keras untuk mendapat 'dream team' buat saya. Deena, Arya, Tini, Fared, Ema, Fadlin, Jannah dan Yan – Saya tidak mungkin dapat lakukan ini semua tanpa sokongan dan bantuan anda.

Pada suami saya, Reno... Yang menghadihkan saya laptop supaya saya boleh terus menulis. *Kemas* adalah skrip pertama yang dilahirkan dengan hadiah ini. Terima kasih kerana sering memberi saya sokongan dan galakkan. Saya sayang awak.

Buat keluarga saya... Terima kasih atas rasa kasih, sokongan and fahaman apabila saya sering hilang mengejar impian saya.

Terima kasih juga buat Hanie, Aliah dan Khidir atas sokongan and kesabaran anda.

Pada mereka yang hadir menyaksikan *Kemas* – Terima kasih kerana sudi meluangkan masa dengan kami di ruang ini.

-Moli Mohter

SINOPSIS

Kami bermula di sebuah estet perumahan: Salma adalah jiran baru yang tinggal bersama suaminya yang selalu tiada atau selalu bertikam lidah dengannya apabila beliau berada di rumah. Arah yang fikir ibunya lebih menyebelahi adiknya dan salahkan Arah dengan cara kehidupan mereka sekarang. Akhir sekali, Juminah yang suka mengimbas tentang kehidupan silamnya setiap kali beliau berasa kesunyian - beliau terkenang memori cinta pertamanya, saat paling bahagia dalam hidupnya.

Namun, dinding di flat tipis dan semua orang kerap dengar melalui dinding satu sama lain. Bagaimanakah anda menyembunyikan perkara peribadi di sebalik pintu rumah yang tertutup? Bagaimanakah anda berpura-pura tidak tahu apabila anda sudah mendengar pelbagai perkara? Bagaimanakah anda boleh mesra dengan jiran anda apabila anda tahu setiap rahsia yang mereka cuba sembunyikan?

Kemas – teratur, tersusun, terurus. Karya ini menerokai maksud luas kemas menerusi kisah-kisah tiga wanita ini, Salma, Arah dan Juminah.

Kemas ditulis oleh Moli Mohter dan inspirasinya tercetus daripada pengalaman dan interaksinya bersama jiran-jiran di estetnya. Skrip ini dibaca buat julung-julung kalinya di *Cipta Cita 2022* kepada para penonton di dalam sesi tertutup, yang terdiri daripada para penulis, pembuat teater, penerbit dari bidang hiburan dan teater tempatan. Skrip ini dibangun dan diperkembangkan di bawah nasihat dan rundingan pengarah artistik syarikat teater setempat dari Teater KAMi, Atin Amat.

Teater KAMi bangga menerbitkan pementasan ini dan untuk bekerjasama sekali lagi dengan Esplanade selepas beberapa tahun berunding tentang karya komisen ini.

CAST



Dalifah Shahril
Pelakon

Dalifah Shahril adalah seorang pelakon dan pendidik drama yang fasih bertutur dalam bahasa Inggeris dan Melayu. Beliau juga adalah seorang pelakon suara dan bakat alih suara yang cekap bertutur dalam bahasa Inggeris dan Melayu. Kelulusan Institut Pendidikan Nasional (Pendidikan Seni), Dalifah gemar bekerjasama dengan kanak-kanak dan mengajar drama dan pertuturan di sekolah-sekolah Kementerian Pendidikan. Dalifah telah dinobatkan sebagai Pelakon Terbaik bagi Anugerah Teater Life Straits Times 2018 dan mendapat pencalonan dalam kategori sama pada 2019 bagi Lanang (Hatch Theatrics).



Rusydina Afiqah
Pelakon

Rusydina Afiqah menerima Sarjana Muda dalam Seni (Kepujian) dalam Seni Teater dari Akademi Seni Halus Nanyang. Antara penerbitan terkemuka beliau termasuk *Here and Beyond!* (Toy Factory); *Step Outta Line* (Festival Fringe Singapura M1 2018 dan NAFA); *Off Centre* oleh The Necessary Stage dan *Anak* oleh Noor Effendy Ibrahim.



Mahyonis Mahfudz
Actress

Mahyonis Mahfudz adalah seorang pelakon veteran, terkenal sebagai sebahagian daripada pasukan Sriwana Bangsawan dan telah berlakon dalam drama televisyen sejak awal 1980-an. Beliau kembali ke pentas selepas bersara daripada lakonan beberapa tahun lalu.



Suhaila M Sanif
Pelakon

Suhaila mula terlibat dalam teater pada usia 18 tahun. Penglibatan pertamanya adalah bersama Teater KAMi Ltd pada 2001 di mana beliau bermula sebagai anggota kru. Beliau kemudian mengamalkan teater apabila beliau mendapat peluang terlibat dalam Youth Productions pada 2002. Antara penerbitan yang beliau pernah terlibat termasuk *Balada Tun Fatimah* (2012), *NGACO* (2014 & 2020) *Rindu Di Bulan* oleh Rupa Co. Lab untuk Festival Fringe Singapura M11 (2022).

CREATIVE TEAM



Moli Mohter

Pengarah, Penulis Skrip, Pereka Busana

Moli adalah penggiat teater dan pengalamannya luas, di mana beliau pernah menjadi pelakon, pendidik, pengendali, penulis dan pengarah.

Beliau telah menulis, mengarah dan menerbitkan karya yang tidak dapat dilupakan seperti *Penantian* pada 2013 dan *Sembelit Lagi* pada 2012. Sebagai pelakon-fasilitator, beliau sebahagian daripada pementasan teater forum - *Trick or Threat* oleh Drama Box, dan mendapat peluang untuk mengembara di Festival Teater Forum Dunia di Austria pada 2009.

Moli adalah seniman utama bagi projek penglibatan komuniti berasaskan seni bagi *Both Sides, Now*, pada 2021 dan 2022. Beliau juga berpeluang mengarah dan menulis pementasan interaktif seperti *Waktu* yang dipersembahkan oleh Suhaili Safari di Heartbeat @ Bedok.

Sebagai seorang pendidik seni, beliau bekerjasama dengan Buds Theatre, Teater Kami, dan Drama Box untuk mengajar kanak-kanak dan belia. Beliau juga bekerjasama dengan para belia di rumah pemulihan Singapore Girls' Home, Singapore Boys' Home, dan Institut Pendidikan Teknikal. Kini, beliau merupakan befriender di Kelab Kanak-kanak Tak Takut, di mana beliau menjahit kostum dan mencuba dandanan dan solekan bersama peserta.

Pada 2019, Moli menubuhkan Makaia Arts untuk menerbitkan lebih banyak program berpendidikan. Namun, beliau tidak berupaya mengembangkannya akibat keadaan COVID-19. Beliau, bagaimanapun, berharap dapat mencipta lebih banyak karya di bawah Makaia Arts pada masa depan.



Fadlin Fadalino
Pengurus Teknikal

Fadlin aktif dan versatil dalam bidang teater dengan pengalaman sebagai pengarah, penulis skrip, menyampaikan persembahan, mengurus teknikal dan operasi, jurulatih dan fasilitator. Kekuatan beliau terkini adalah dalam bidang reka bentuk sistem audio visual (AV), rangkaian dan digital AV, kejuruteraan audio, operasi dan reka bentuk pencahayaan, rekaan multimedia dan visual, dan pengurusan teater teknikal dan pentas. Berbekal dengan verstiliti, sifat tidak putus asa dan pengalaman luas dalam pengurusan teater teknikal di pelbagai tempat seni telah memberi manfaat dalam pelbagai penerbitan penglibatannya.



Emanorwatty Saleh
Pereka Tatacahaya

Cinta Ema dalam bidang teater berputik pada 1992. Karya utama pertamanya adalah sebagai seorang pereka pencahayaan untuk pementasan Indra Bangsawan oleh Teater Kami, pada 1997 di Panggung Victoria. Menyusuli pengalaman bertahun-tahun selepas itu, beliau meraih ijazah sarjana muda seni dalam bidang seni teater teknikal dari Maktab Seni LASALLE pada 2007. Sejurus kemudian, beliau digelar ibu.

Kini, sejak beliau kembali terlibat dalam bidang teater, beliau mengamalkan gaya jalanan di mana pendekatannya kurang konvensional dan formal, memberinya lebih ruang untuk menyelongkar dan bereksperimentasi, dan paling baik sekali, menghala pada ketidaktentuan.

Antara karya beliau adalah pada 2022-2023 termasuk Anak oleh Very Shy Gerl, Kepaten Obor oleh Suhaili Safari (keduanya terbitan Studio Teater Esplanade), Indigo Jackal oleh Grace Kalaiselvi (Studio Recital Esplanade), Both Sides, Now oleh Dramabox (Heartbeat@BedokAtrium), Why Be Good When You Can Be The Best oleh Deonn Yang (M1 Fringe, NAFA Blackbox) dan Tri-Vima oleh Samyoga (Studio Teater Esplanade).



Tini Aliman Pereka Bunyi

Tini Aliman adalah seorang jurutera dan seniman bunyi, jurutera audio dan pencatat lapangan yang bertugas di persimpangan reka bentuk bunyi filem dan teater, persembahan seni bunyi secara langsung, projek gabungan dan pemasangan. Minat kajiannya termasuk tetapi tidak terhad berkenaan rangkaian hutan rimba, akustik berkenaan ruang, muzik-bio, sejarah botanikal dan pembolehubah terjemahan data melalui sonifikasi biodata. Beliau terlibat dalam projek, persembahan dan pameran di Galeri Nasional Singapura, Pusat NTU untuk Seni Kontemporari, Biennale Urbana di Caserma Pepe, Venice, Muzim Seni Singapura dan SFMOMA.



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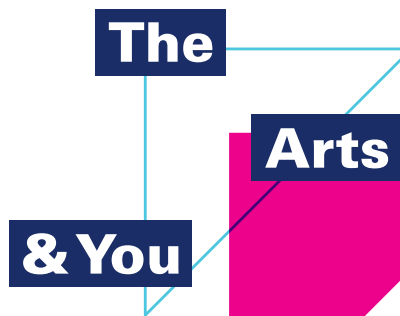
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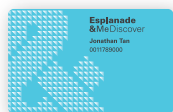
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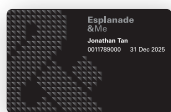
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Free upgrade when
you spend \$500



Free upgrade when
you spend \$1000



Free for kids
12 years & under



Free for ages
17 to 26 years



Free for ages
55 & above

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to our Esplanade partner, arts benefactor, donors and sponsors for believing in our vision to be a performing arts centre for everyone. They made all these possible!^



2,976

activities took place at Esplanade.



1,891

Non-Ticketed



821

Ticketed

2,062,549

People attended our activities at the centre.



Non-Ticketed

379,989

Ticketed

72,756

*Figures for Esplanade's activities from Apr 2021 to Mar 2022.



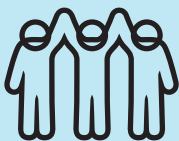
465

Activities

7,522

Participants

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.



Your contribution* will make a difference.

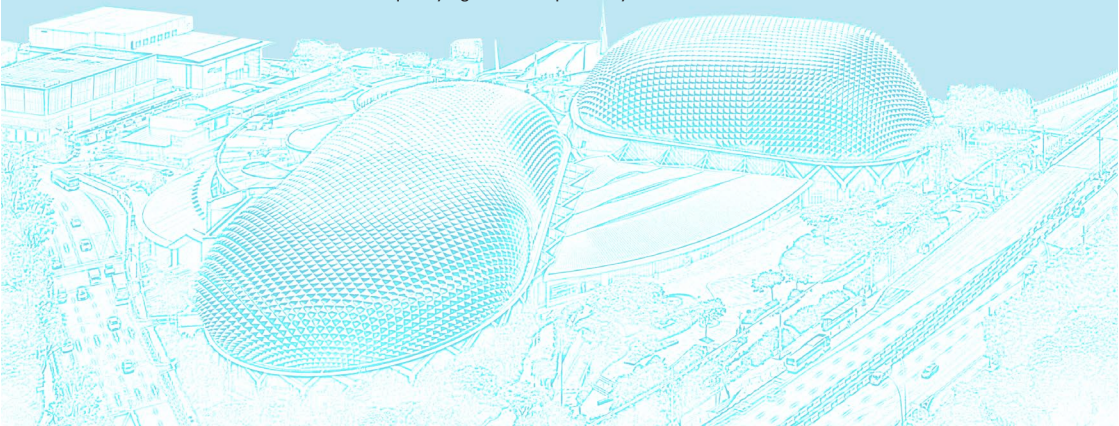
On behalf of the communities we serve, thank you!

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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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We believe that an experience with the arts is special and that with your generous support, more people will get a chance to enjoy the arts. Join us in sharing the joy of the arts and help us reach more communities in need.



The Esplanade Co Ltd is funded by Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and our Community Programmes are supported by Tote Board Family, comprising Tote Board, Singapore Pools and Singapore Turf Club.

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Information correct at time of print.



Esplanade is a charity and not-for-profit organisation.
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