



**Esplanade
Presents**

**Huayi
Chinese Festival of Arts**

An Esplanade Commission
滨海艺术中心委约

我的“汪汪” THE DOG WHO WASN'T USEFUL 在哪儿?

Adapted from *The Dog Who Wasn't Useful* by Daniel Hinds
改编自 Daniel Hinds 的原创故事 *The Dog Who Wasn't Useful*

Ages 5 & Above
五岁及以上

Drama Box (Singapore)
戏剧盒 (新加坡)

16 - 18 Feb 2024, Fri - Sun
11am & 3pm
Esplanade Theatre Studio

2024年2月16至18日, 星期五至日
早上11时与下午3时
滨海艺术中心小剧场

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 – 2023. Esplanade is Singapore's first Dementia-Friendly Arts Venue and a certified Dementia Go-To Point, as well as a guide/assistance 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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Festival Message

“Son, this Sunday I’m off, any nice movie that we can catch?” This was a question my dad used to ask me when I was a young man living with my parents. My dad worked all his life as a hawker. On his rare days off, I tried to join him to watch his beloved heroes in the Hong Kong *gongfu* or action movies beat up all the baddies. I realised from these experiences that, regardless of one’s interests or place in life, there is an irreplaceable joy of spending time with family or the people who matter most to us.

Esplanade’s *Huayi - Chinese Festival of Arts* is timed to coincide with the Chinese New Year. This festive period is the most significant time of gathering for families and loved ones for most Chinese people around the world. The programmes we plan for *Huayi* are therefore carefully curated with this implicit goal: to provide an unforgettable experience in the arts that you can share with your loved ones, young or old.

In 2024’s edition of the festival, watch the heroes of Cantonese opera in *Woman Warrior: Mu Gui Ying* and *The Sassy Princess* (starring veteran Hong Kong actress and actor, Liza Wang and Law Ka-ying) prove that this age-old genre is still a timeless delight. In *Everything For You*, our commission with Singapore theatre company Nine Years Theatre, witness how family ties provide much needed comic relief and unexpected support in life’s seemingly insurmountable problems. Laugh till your sides split with the witty crosstalk of *Dear Governor Bao* by Comedians Workshop of Taiwan. Show the young ones that there is so much more magic in live stage performances with the interactive production *The Dog Who Wasn’t Useful*.

The crime and police thriller is a genre that has defined many acclaimed Hong Kong films—now watch it as an engaging stage production 13•67 by Zuni Icosahedron and witness the poignant history of the Fragrant Harbour unfold. Revel in the elegance and charm of the traditional *pingtan* art form with the Shanghai Pingtan Troupe and get to know *The Four Beauties* of ancient China.

More adventurous audiences can explore the similarities and differences of port cities Singapore and Taiwan's Kaohsiung through the mesmerising language of dance in *Dance a Dance from My Body*. The classic story "Painted Skin" from *Liao Zhai* has been made into numerous films—now watch it retold in a refreshing interpretation featuring puppetry and metal music by the talented Oliver Chong and The Finger Players in *Transplant*. With many concerts featuring artists such as waa wei (Taiwan), Gareth.T (Hong Kong), WUTIAOREN (China), music lovers are in for an aural and experiential treat at *Huayi 2024*.

Finally, a special shout-out for our rich and entertaining free programmes. A worthy highlight is the lion dance curtain-raiser which my dad particularly enjoys. This year's is by the award-winning Yi Wei Athletic Association. We make it our mission to ensure that those who choose to spend time at Esplanade during Chinese New Year, whether for our ticketed or free programmes, will be amply rewarded. We are thankful not only to those of you who return each year, but also encourage you to bring more people with you to enjoy the celebrations!

Our heartfelt thanks also go to our Principal Sponsor Knife Cooking Oil, Supporting Sponsor Berries 百力果 and Supporter Polar Premium Drinking Water.

Wishing that our programmes at *Huayi 2024* will help usher in an auspicious New Year for you and your loved ones for a *loooooong* 龙 time!

Delvin Lee

Senior Producer, The Esplanade Co Ltd

Huayi - Chinese Festival of Arts

Message from Our Principal Sponsor



Knife brand is a household name in Singapore that is synonymous with wholesome family cooking since 1948. With its unique peanut aroma and proprietary blend, Knife brand cooking oil is a perfect cooking aid that brings the family together over the dining table throughout the festive period.

As part of our continuous support for the arts and culture, Lam Soon's Knife brand is proud to continue our longstanding support with Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay and *Huayi - Chinese Festival of Arts*, as the Principal Sponsor for the sixth year running. We hope you will enjoy the festival this year.

We wish you and your family happiness and prosperity in the Year of the Dragon.

Mr. Whang Shang Ying

Executive Chairman
Lam Soon Singapore Pte Ltd.

Message from the Co-directors

Kids ask the biggest questions. “What is love?” “Why do people have hair?” “Are humans real?”, and oftentimes, it wanders into the territory of “Why am I here?” “What am I good for?” “Why was I born?”

These were also the big questions we got from listening to the podcast that Hui Ling’s son was listening to, which prompted us to share these questions with our audiences, adults and children alike.

The Dog Who Wasn’t Useful is an attempt to unpack those questions, to inspire conversations in the family about the concept of self-worth and maybe, questioning what it means to be “useful”. By inviting children and their families to enter the rustic, colourful world of the Dog, we hope that kids (and their adults) will begin to think about what is special and unique about them, to understand how important they are as people and start dreaming about what they can contribute to the world.



This show marks the 14th year since Drama Box has been part of *Huayi - Chinese Festival of Arts*, as Drama Box expanded its work into non-conventional spaces, and with the development of GoLi - Singapore's only inflatable moving theatre.

It's also the first time we're working together as co-directors, bringing in our perspectives from youth engagement and Theatre for Young Audiences. We had a lot of fun creating this with the wonderful team and cast, and hope it also makes you laugh, think and feel.

Isabella Chiam & Koh Hui Ling

Co-directors, *The Dog Who Wasn't Useful*

Synopsis

Once upon a time, there lived a dog on a farm who didn't feel very useful at all. The cows give milk, the sheep provide wool, and the chickens supply eggs. What is the job of the dog on the farm? He envied the other animals on the farm and one day decides to be like them, to hilarious results. Can a dog's value be measured by its ability to lay eggs or to provide milk?

Adapted from the podcast of the same title by Daniel Hinds, *The Dog Who Wasn't Useful* is a funny and interactive tale about one's journey in discovering their gift, and a reminder that we are all unique and "useful" in our own ways.

Come and be a part of the farm with the dog and his friends!

(50mins, no intermission)

Performed in Mandarin, with English surtitles.

Floor seating only.

Admission for ages 4 and above.

Recommended for ages 5 to 8.



About Drama Box

Founded in 1990, Drama Box is a socially engaged theatre company known for creating works that inspire dialogue, reflection and change. By shining a spotlight on marginalised narratives and making space for the communal contemplation of complex issues, the company seeks to tell stories that provoke a deeper understanding of Singapore's culture, history and identity.

Drama Box is a charity and Institution of Public Character (IPC) registered in Singapore, supported by the National Arts Council under the Major Company Scheme for the period of April 2023 and March 2026.



Production Credits

Producer

Josephine Lee

Co-directors

Isabella Chiam & Koh Hui Ling

Production Manager

Evelyn Chia
(The Backstage Affair)

Lighting Designer

Ema Saleh

Sound Designer & Composer

Stan x Soap

Lyricist

Ric Liu

Set Designer

Lim Wei Ling

Stage Manager

Georgia Sim
(The Backstage Affair)

Assistant Stage Manager

Charlotte Tan
(The Backstage Affair)

Production Coordinator

Kareen Low
(The Backstage Affair)

Set & Props Coordinator

Geralyn Toh

Cast

Jodi Chan
Hang Qian Chou
Jo Kwek
Joel Tan
Tan Rui Shan

Surtitle Operator

Tan Wei Ting

Marketing & Publicity

Amanda Leong

*Adapted from the podcast story *The Dog Who Wasn't Useful* by Daniel Hinds

Special thanks:

Beatrice Oliveiro

Zalina Sapie

and all big and little test audiences at our open rehearsals - your participation and feedback were invaluable in helping us shape the performance.

华艺术节监制的寄语

“儿子,我这个星期天没有开档,有没有好看的电影?”

我还年轻和爸妈住在一起的时候,我爸只要有空就会这么问我。他当了一辈子的小贩,难得有休息的日子,我才有机会和他去看他最喜欢的香港动作电影或功夫武侠片。现在回想起来,无论一个人有什么兴趣爱好或者处于任何人生阶段,与至亲好友相处都是无可替代的欢乐时光。

对于全球大部分的华人而言,农历新年是与家人朋友团聚的大日子。滨海艺术中心每年举办华艺术节都适逢这个时候,正是为了共享欢庆佳节的喜悦。我们精心策划的一系列节目,只为给大家提供一个老少皆宜且难以忘怀的艺术体验。

2024年华艺术节将从2月16日至25日举行,我们诚意邀请大家欣赏《宫主刁蛮驸马骄》和《穆桂英大破洪州》(由香港实力派演员罗家英和汪明荃领衔主演)里头巾帼不让须眉的气魄,感受粤剧历久弥新的魅力。新加坡九年剧场此次通过委约作品《只在乎你》带来笑泪交织的日常生活,展现亲情互相扶持的力量。台湾相声瓦舍《包黑子坏坏》邀你击鼓升堂,和包大人一同爆笑审案。互动性剧目《我的“汪汪”在哪儿?》儿童专场,恰好为孩子们童年增添现场演出的魔法。犯罪、警匪片是香港电影最具代表性的题材,但在剧场确是少见,进念·二十面体将获奖同名小说《13·67》搬上舞台,与你细品香江历史。当然,别错过上海评弹团《四大美人》,雅致细腻的吴依软语尽显评弹的韵味悠长。

喜欢体验新鲜事物的观众不妨跟随《我所起舞的地方》的舞者们探索新加坡和高雄两个港口城市的异同,看他们如何用身体跳一出双城记。《聊斋志异·画皮》的影视改编作品向来备受追捧,才华横溢的钟达成携十指帮创新演绎,打造结合木偶戏与金属音乐的《移心》,绝对令人耳目一新。音乐爱好者们,准备好了吗?魏如萱(台湾)、Gareth.T(香港)、五条人(中国)等多位音乐人即将登台开唱,一场场好看、好听的沉浸式音乐盛宴已蓄势待发。

最后,我们的免费节目依然丰富精彩。今年的一大亮点是屡获殊荣的艺威体育会将为华艺术节掀开序幕,呈现锣鼓喧天的醒狮拜年。顺道一提,这可是我爸特别喜欢的演出。我们的宗旨一如既往,通过多元多样的节目,让无论是参加售票还是免费节目的观众朋友们都能乘兴而来、尽兴而归。感谢每年都回来参加华艺术节的老朋友,欢迎大家这回带上新朋友,使更多人能与我们同欢!

特此由衷感谢主要赞助商**刀标油**和赞助商**百力果**和**Polar Premium Drinking Water**。

2024年华艺术节期盼引领大家鲤鱼跃龙门,万事都如意!

李国铭

滨海艺术中心高级节目监制
华艺术节

主要赞助商献词



刀标牌自1948年以来就是新加坡家喻户晓的品牌，是家庭健康烹调的代名词。刀标油独特的花生香气与专利配方，调制出一道道美味佳肴，让家人齐聚一堂，共度佳节喜气。

为了继续在支持文化艺术方面尽上一份力，刀标牌很荣幸连续第六年赞助滨海艺术中心的华艺节。我们希望大家会喜欢华艺节2024的精彩节目。

祝愿大家新年快乐。龙年行大运，事事如意！！

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wong Shing Ying".

黄上盈

执行主席

南顺(新)私人有限公司

联合导演的话

孩子们常常问很深奥的问题，像是“爱情是什么？”、“为什么人有头发”、“人类是真的吗？”。有时候，他们还会问“我为什么会在这里？”、“我有什么用？”、“我为什么会出生？”等等。从慧铃儿子收听的播客中，我们也听到了这些大问题，并促使我们与观众们一起分享和探讨。

《我的“汪汪”在哪儿？》试图探讨这些问题，希望启发家庭展开关于自我价值观的对话，甚至挑战所谓“有用”的定义。通过邀请孩子们和他们的家人走入狗狗质朴、多彩的世界，我们希望小朋友们（和大人们）开始思考自己的特别和独特之处，了解自己作为人的重要性，并开始想象自己能为世界做出什么贡献。

戏剧盒近年来积极将作品拓展到非常规空间，并创建了新加坡唯一的充气移动剧场“GoLi”（弹珠移动聚场）。这场演出标志着我们加入华艺节的第14个年头，也是我们第一次以联合导演的身份合作，从鼓励青年参与剧场和青年剧场观众的角度出发。我们和优秀的团队及演员们一起创作，并从中获得了很多乐趣，希望这部作品也能让您开怀大笑、有所思、有所感。

詹文倩与许慧铃

《我的“汪汪”在哪儿？》联合导演



故事大纲

很久很久以前，农场里住着一只狗，名叫汪汪。见农场里的牛儿能够产奶，羊儿可以提供羊毛，母鸡会下蛋，汪汪很是羡慕，觉得自己一点用处都没有。于是，它决定模仿起它们来。汪汪的价值是否能够用下蛋或产奶来决定呢？

《我的“汪汪”在哪儿？》改编自丹尼尔·海因斯 (Daniel Hinds) 的播客故事《不中用的狗》(The Dog Who Wasn't Useful)，以充满趣味和互动的方式，讲述一段发掘天赋的自我探索旅程，并在其中揭示了所有人都是独一无二的存在，且天生我材必有用。

快来加入汪汪及它的朋友们，成为农场的一份子吧！

(50分钟，无中场休息)

以华语演出，附英文字幕。

席地座位。

适合 5 至 8 岁的儿童参与。4 岁以下的儿童均不可入场。

关于戏剧盒

戏剧盒成立于1990年，是一个关注社会议题、提倡社会参与的剧团。我们希望能够通过创作，达到对话、反思和改变的目的。剧团聚焦于为弱势群体发声，创造让社群对复杂议题进行反思的空间，也通过创造性的叙事方式，让人们对新加坡的文化、历史、身份认同有更深层的了解。

戏剧盒是一个慈善公益团体，并获国家艺术理事会主要拨款赞助（2023年4月至2026年3月）。



歌词

《早安歌》

早上好 早上好 太阳公公起床了
美丽的一天又来到 快乐农场 开工了！
蓝天白云微风吹 处处花香风景美
勤奋工作第一位 动物朋友不怕累！

奶牛奶牛 Moo Moo Moo
绵羊绵羊 Meh Meh
母鸡母鸡 Pok Pok Pok
小狗小狗 Whoa Whoa Whoa

快乐农场 哈哈哈
快乐农场 嘻嘻嘻
哈哈哈 嘻嘻嘻
快乐农场 乐无比！

早上好 早上好 农庄主人起床了
丰收的一天又来到 快乐农庄 开工了！
快乐工作没烦恼
挤牛奶 呀 剃羊毛 下鸡蛋 呀 产量好
快乐农场效率高！

奶牛奶牛 Moo Moo Moo
绵羊绵羊 Meh Meh
母鸡母鸡 Pok Pok Pok
小狗小狗 Whoa Whoa Whoa

奶牛奶牛 Moo Moo Moo
绵羊绵羊 Meh Meh
母鸡母鸡 Pok Pok Pok
小狗小狗 Whoa Whoa Whoa
快乐农场 哈哈 快乐农场 嘻嘻嘻
哈哈 嘻嘻嘻 快乐农场 乐无比！
快乐农场效率高！

《没用歌》

我真没用

我
叫不来，又没有奶
毛不软，又不保暖
啼不上，又不下蛋
没用！没用！真没用！
难道我真的一无是处？
那我为何会在此处？
没用的我没有去处，
但留下来也没用处。

没用，没用，我没用处。。。

结尾歌曲

你
叫不来，但跑得很快
毛不软，但心地善良
啼不上，但会抓坏蛋
有用！有用！真有用！
有谁敢说你一无是处？你本就应该在此处！
发挥你的天生长处，保护快乐农场家族！
发挥你的天生长处，保护快乐农场家族！

早上好
早上好 早上好 太阳公公起床了
美丽的一天又来到
快乐农场 开工了

快乐农场 哈哈 快乐农场 嘻嘻嘻
哈哈 嘻嘻嘻
快乐农场 哈哈 快乐农场 嘻嘻嘻
哈哈 嘻嘻嘻 快乐农场 乐无比！



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制作人

李淑铃

联合导演

詹文倩、许慧铃

制作经理

谢新仪

(The Backstage Affair)

灯光设计

Ema Saleh

音响设计、作曲

Stan x Soap

作词

刘晋旭

舞台设计

林玮翎

舞台经理

沈茁真

(The Backstage Affair)

*改编自丹尼尔·海因斯 (Daniel Hinds) 的播客故事《不中用的狗》

(The Dog Who Wasn't Useful)

鸣谢:

Beatrice Oliveiro

Zalina Sapie

以及所有抽空参与我们公开彩排的观众 – 您的参与和反馈给了我们创作过程很大的帮助。

副舞台经理

陈怡静

(The Backstage Affair)

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(The Backstage Affair)

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字幕操作

陈玮婷

宣传与行销

梁苑庭

Making a Scene: Pathways for Chinese Language Theatre in Singapore



"I think that [places or people that other people seldom look at] is an area that we will constantly be looking at—are there certain communities or people that have been overlooked, or certain places that have been forgotten? And then we would use theatre as the form itself to bring this to light, so that more people can share [about] it and spend some attention on that particular place, community or topic."

- Koh Hui Ling, Co-Artistic Director of Drama Box

In this podcast episode of *Making a Scene* hosted by director and dramaturg Chong Gua Khee, three artistic directors from prominent theatre companies in Singapore—Oliver Chong of The Finger Players, Koh Hui Ling of Drama Box, and Nelson Chia of Nine Years Theatre—reflect on their relationship with Chinese language theatre in the context of Singapore's multicultural society.



**Esplanade
Presents**

**Huayi
Chinese Festival of Arts**

华艺 HUAYI 2024
CHINESE FESTIVAL OF ARTS
16-25 FEB 2月16至25日

Ignite your imagination and
feel your spirits soar!

龙吟九霄
百艺争鸣



Find out more
更多详情
www.esplanade.com/huayi

Information correct at time of print. 資料在送厂印刷时是正确无误的。



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Esplanade is a charity and not-for-profit organisation.
Help us bring the joy and inspiration of the arts to
different communities, including the underserved.

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 #esplanadesg #mydurian



**Esplanade
Presents**

March On

An Esplanade Co-Production

Akram Khan's

JUNGLE BOOK


reimagined (UK)



Information correct at time of print.

Dive into a magical world and celebrate the importance of belonging and respecting nature in this reimagined dance-theatre performance of one of children's favourite classics, *Jungle Book*.

2hrs, including 15min intermission.

8 & 9 Mar 2024, Fri & Sat
Fri, 7.30pm | Sat, 3pm 
Esplanade Theatre

Tickets from \$40 (limited concessions available)
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Esplanade is a charity and not-for-profit organisation. Help us bring the joy and inspiration of the arts to different communities, including the underserved.

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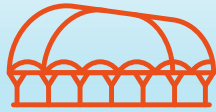
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Esplanade gives our heartfelt thanks

*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!**



4,562

activities took place at Esplanade.



3,354

 Free

1,057

 Paid

3,260,515

People attended our activities at the centre.



Free

1,487,680

Paid

287,931



602

 Activities

12,059

 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.

*Figures for Esplanade's activities from Apr 2022 to Mar 2023.



Your contribution* will make a difference.

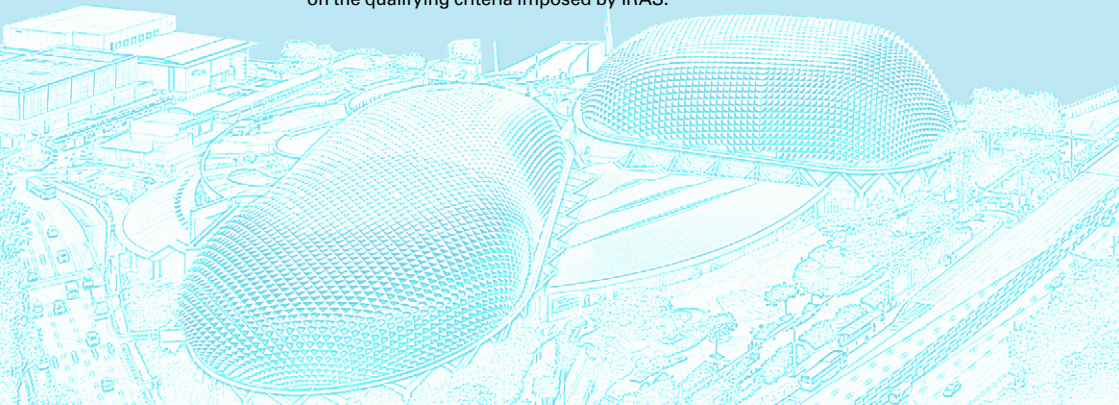
On behalf of the communities we serve, thank you!

Find out how you too can make a difference through the arts at Esplanade.

Donate at www.esplanade.com/donate

To find out more, email us at donations@esplanade.com or speak with us at 6828 8321.

Esplanade is a charity and an Institution of a Public Character. Your donation to us is matched dollar-for-dollar by the Cultural Matching Fund. Please note that the prevailing tax exemption scheme for donors and sponsors of Arts-Related Businesses will depend on the qualifying criteria imposed by IRAS.



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.

We thank everyone who has helped us bring joy, inspiration and positive impact to Singaporeans from all walks of life by supporting the arts and Esplanade.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes especially to our Donors and Sponsors, for their steadfast belief in our mission and for their generous support.

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Yvonne Tham

The above are donors and sponsors who contributed \$1000 and above from April 2022–March 2023.

Join us in sharing the joy of the arts and help us reach more communities in need.

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.



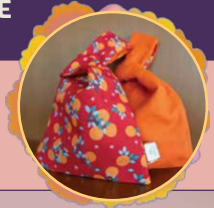
Esplanade also receives grants from the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, as well as support for our Community Programmes from the Tote Board Family, comprising Tote Board, Singapore Pools and Singapore Turf Club.

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(#01-14/16)

Indulge in savoury seafood and festive specials.



Harry's
(#01-05/07)

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(#01-09)

New ramen flavours with complimentary salmon sashimi.



Old School Delights
(#02-25)

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(#02-12)

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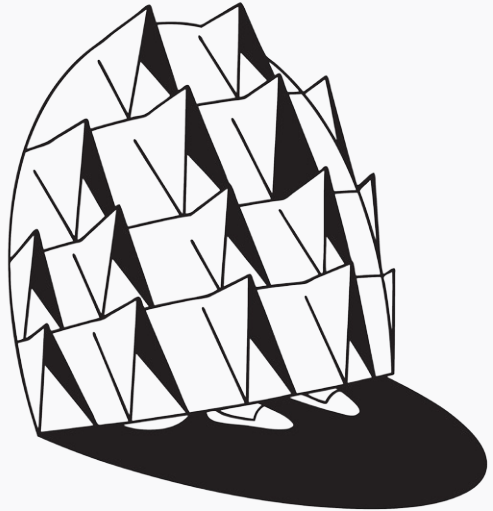
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I could just scroll through IG or TikTok but I thought why should I when I can do the same on Offstage? It makes me feel like I know more things. Great arts content, anytime, anywhere.

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”

Totally Anonymous Person
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