



**Esplanade
Presents**

**Kalaa Utsavam
Indian Festival of Arts**

Chi Udaka

(AUSTRALIA)
BY TAIKOZ AND LINGALAYAM



23 NOV, SAT, 8PM | 24 NOV, SUN, 3PM
SINGTEL WATERFRONT THEATRE AT ESPLANADE

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 Producer's Message

From 15 – 24 Nov 2024, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay welcomes you to *Kalaa Utsavam – Indian Festival of Arts*, a celebration of the rich tapestry of Indian arts and culture. Each year, we gather to honour timeless traditions that have shaped our heritage while embracing the vibrant and contemporary expressions of today. Embracing a global perspective, this year's *Kalaa Utsavam* weaves together artistic excellence and the thrill of discovery, offering performances from different countries designed to touch the heart and ignite the imagination.

An Esplanade co-production and highlight of the festival, renowned choreographer and dancer Akram Khan's *GIGENIS – the generation of the Earth* makes its exclusive Asian stop in Singapore. Performing alongside Akram, this production brings together different Indian dance forms and some of its finest performers from three continents. Following its world premiere in France in August 2024, it will also tour London and New York. *GIGENIS* shines a spotlight on the enduring resonance of tradition in a rapidly changing world.

For younger audiences, Ranga Shankara's AHA! Theatre for Children's puppetry production of *Old Man and The Sea* breathes new life into Hemingway's timeless story of human endurance and dignity in the face of life's inevitable struggles.

Kalaa Utsavam also features artists and productions that reflect the rich cultural exchange between India and the world. Bollywood fans are in for an unparalleled performance from legendary playback singer Shaan, while the genre-blending sounds of The Fl6s from Chennai and the fusion of Indian classical dance with Japanese Taiko drumming in *Chi Udaka* by TaikoZ and Lingalayam Dance Company from Australia showcase the ever-evolving landscape of Indian art on the world stage.

Comedy lovers can expect an evening of laughter and sharp wit, with Tamil comedians Jagan Krishnan and Vikkals Vikram who will perform for the first time as a double bill, while music fans will be captivated by Sam Vishal and friends' soulful melodies. This year, we are particularly excited to present Ramana Balachandhran, a veena prodigy whose mesmerising performances are sure to leave a lasting impression. Singapore's very own Raghajazz will celebrate their 15th anniversary with their innovative fusion of jazz and Indian classical music, making their performance of *Tidal Streams* a must-see.

Our literary offerings include *Train to Pakistan*, a gripping co-production with HuM Theatre based on Khushwant Singh's novel, and *Living Ancestor* by ArunDitha, SISTRUM & Beatroot Ensemble feat. Mohamed Noor and Munir Alsagoff, an experiential performance that promises to be as thought-provoking as it is engaging.

In addition to our ticketed events, *Kalaa Utsavam* offers a vibrant array of free programmes, including workshops and roving performances that make the festival accessible to all.

We would like to thank Principal Sponsors High Commission of India and Malabar Gold & Diamonds for their generous support of the festival.

We extend our deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for being part of *Kalaa Utsavam 2024*. Your presence, passion for the arts, and support are what make this festival truly special. Let's create memories that will remain long after the curtain falls.

V M Sai Akileshwar
Producer
The Esplanade Co Ltd

Directors' Message

We are thrilled to bring our exquisite production, *Chi Udaka*, to Singapore and present it on the world stage at Kalaa Utsavam 2024 at the beautiful Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay.

It was around 2010 that I approached Ian Cleworth, Artistic Director of Taikoz, regarding a possible collaboration between Taikoz, Riley Lee and Lingalayam. After passing the initial bewilderment of trying to fathom how classical Indian dance and taiko drums would coalesce, extensive creative development followed and eventually *Chi Udaka* emerged to have its premiere at the 2014 Sydney Festival, to magnificent reviews.

In 2016, *Chi Udaka* embarked on a highly successful Australian National Tour and an International tour to India, followed by Asia TOPA in 2020. But the icing on the cake was an invitation to present a season at the Sydney Opera House Drama Theatre to celebrate the Opera House's 50th Anniversary in October 2023.

It was to the opening night of the Sydney Opera House season that Rajeswari Ramachandran, Producer at Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, flew in to see *Chi Udaka* and to our absolute delight, the invitation to perform at this year's *Kalaa Utsavam* followed!

Chi (earth) and Udaka (water) unites the dynamic taiko drums of Taikoz, Riley Lee's elegant *shakuhachi* flute, John Napier's singing cello, and the moving Carnatic vocals of Namrata Pulapaka with the refined classical Indian dance idiom of Lingalayam. This exquisite work of dance and music reflects the traditional elements of solidity, fluidity and differentiation that shape and form the world, creating constant forces of movement vocabulary.

A perfect partnership between two mirror companies, whose very practice of music and dance thoroughly steeped in its traditional roots has emerged with a new voice. This refreshed language respectfully acknowledges and encompasses the land of its birth but resonates with a truth that has found a rebirth within the multi-faceted cultures of Australia.

Chi Udaka is a work of legacy, integrity and joy, which we are thrilled to share with you. Thank you for your presence as we celebrate this Indian festival of arts together.

Warmly,

Anandavalli

Artistic Director Lingalayam Dance Company

Ian Cleworth

Artistic Director Taikoz | Percussion Australia



Chi: Earth (Japanese)

Udaka: Water (Sanskrit)

Chi, the Japanese word for earth and *udaka*, the Sanskrit word for water, are the traditional elements of solidity, fluidity and differentiation that shape and form the world, creating constant forces of movement. *Taiko* is commonly associated with earth: connected to the philosophy of Shintoism, it aligns with the natural forces of nature and the resonating tones of a matrix of vibrating sounds. The strong stances of *taiko* players, which gives them a low center of gravity, reflects a link to the earth, while a similar metaphor in Indian mythology portrays the sensuous vibration of the ethereal movements of *apsaras* (the celestial water nymphs) as the epitome of the perfect dancer. Thus, earth and water form the core theme of this collaborative partnership, where separate entities are constructed and transformed, creating a kaleidoscope of aural-visual energy, which can be identified as moving configurations. These constantly changing formations make the lines and shapes of the movement vocabulary that synthesise to form music in dance, and dance in music. From the breath of a faint breeze in the cool of the morning to the intensity of the noonday sun, *Chi Udaka* celebrates life as experienced in the course of a single day.



SCENE 1

Before Dawn | The Courtyard

SCENE 2

Dawn | Thath-Dith-Thom-Nom

SCENE 3

Early Morning | Entrance Of The Water Nymphs
(Thath-Dith-Thom-Nom 2)

SCENE 4

Mid-morning | Cascading Waterfall

SCENE 5

Afternoon | Puriya Dhanashree

SCENE 6

Dusk | Of The Fields

SCENE 7

Night | Misra

SCENE 8

Midnight | The Love-filled Hearts Merged

(1hr 25mins,
no intermission)



The Creatives

DIRECTION

Ian Cleworth, Anandavalli &
Tom Royce-Hampton

CHOREOGRAPHY

Anandavalli

COMPOSITION

Ian Cleworth, Riley Lee, John Napier,
Namrata Pulapaka & John Cleworth

DRAMATURGY

Tom Royce-Hampton

TAIKOZ CHOREOGRAPHY

Anton Lock

STAGE DESIGN

Bart Groen

LIGHTING DESIGN

Roderick van Gelder

ANIMATION

Bartek Reszelski

COSTUME DESIGN TAIKOZ

Alissa Bruce

COSTUME DESIGN LINGALAYAM

Anandavalli

PRODUCER

Lee McIver

The Performers

SOLOISTS

Riley Lee, shakuhachi
John Napier, cello
Namrata Pulapaka, voice

TAIKOZ

Ian Cleworth (Artistic Director)
Ryuji Hamada
Kerryn Joyce
Anton Lock
Nerida Wu

LINGALAYAM

Anandavalli (Artistic Director)
Ritika Ramaswamy
Vineetha Menon
Brindha Srinivasan
Aruthy Kumanan
Dhanya Karthikeyan
Aditi Manoharan



The Crew

PRODUCTION MANAGER TAIKOZ

Lee McIver

STAGE MANAGER

Ian Spence

AUDIO-VISION

Richard Hundy

LIGHTING OPERATOR

Roderick van Gelder

STAGE CREW

Bart Groen



About Taikoz

Ian Cleworth and Riley Lee formed Taikoz in 1997. Over the past twenty-six years, the group has developed a wide and original repertoire of works and productions that has seen them perform on the stages of Australia's finest concert halls, in the theatres of regional Australia, and in leading theatres and concert halls worldwide. Taikoz has performed in Japan, Paris, Bangkok, Taiwan, Abu Dhabi, and the USA where the ensemble headlined the Taiko Nation concerts at the 2014 World Taiko Gathering in Los Angeles. Most recently, Taikoz toured India, receiving much critical acclaim for *Chi Udaka*, their collaboration with Lingalayam Dance Company.

Esteemed collaborators include composers Sandy Evans, Lachlan Skipworth, Gerard Brophy, Andrea Molino and Michael Askill, and artists as diverse as John Bell and the Bell Shakespeare Company, *taiko* greats Eitetsu Hayashi, Yoshikazu Fujimoto, Chieko Kojima and Kaoru Watanabe, the Sydney Improvisers Composers Kollektiv Orchestra, First Nations Artist Waangenga Blanco, art-music ensembles Synergy Percussion and Ensemble Offspring, as well as distinguished choreographers Meryl Tankard and Anandavalli. The group has also collaborated with Kodo on a nation-wide tour of Australia.

Taikoz has appeared in concerto works that include 13 performances of Maki Ishii's ground-breaking *Mono-prism*, Gerard Brophy's *Book of Clouds* and Andrea Molino's multi-media *Winners*, which premiered at the Brisbane Festival and the Pompidou Centre in Paris. Collaborating orchestras are the Sydney, Melbourne, West Australian and Queensland Symphony Orchestras, as well as the Dresden Sinfoniker in Europe. Most recently, Taikoz, Riley Lee and Kaoru Watanabe were featured soloists with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, performing their own works in arrangements for the ensemble and orchestra, culminating in a newly commissioned work by Lachlan Skipworth, *The Breath of Thunder*.

In 2016, co-founders Ian and Riley were both awarded the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation for their contributions towards promoting friendship and goodwill between Australia and Japan.

About Lingalayam

“...one of Australia’s cultural treasures.” – Diana Simmonds

Lingalayam is an Australian arts organisation whose focus is the nurturing and strengthening of the appreciation and knowledge of Indian culture through art works of traditional genesis, presented in the context of our contemporary society’s cultural tapestry.

The Dance Company was established in 1996 as a permanent base for the graduates of the Academy (founded in 1986), whose aim was to become proficient and professional in this ancient art form.

Strongly emotive and visually compelling, Lingalayam’s creative body of work incorporates dance, live-music, text and design, and is created and performed by artists of world-class standing. The Lingalayam repertoire draws from the ancient dance forms of *bharathanatyam* and *kKuchipudi*, and is directed by legendary guru-dancer, choreographer, teacher and musician, Anandavalli.

As a central focus, the work of Anandavalli and the artists of Lingalayam express the unique role of women and dance in ancient India. These feminine themes are explored through vibrant Indian mythology to unveil both the universal and specific strengths of women. This is named and celebrated as *Shakthi* and is a vital basis for the content of many of Lingalayam’s creative works.

Over the past decade, Lingalayam has been fortunate to collaborate with artists of international repute. These experiences have challenged and enhanced the artistic practise within the company while expanding their horizons.

Biographies

IAN CLEWORTH

Taikoz Artistic Director | Composer | Performer

Ian co-founded Taikoz in 1997 and has been the ensemble's Artistic Director since. In 2005, he became full-time with the group after having spent 20 years as Principal Percussionist with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and 16 years with the percussion group Synergy. Ian is a performer, composer and teacher, and as a member of Taikoz has collaborated with and composed works for the ensemble and artists as diverse as John Bell and the Bell Shakespeare Company, *taiko* great Eitetsu Hayashi, koto virtuosi Kazue Sawai and Satsuki Odamura, and choreographers Meryl Tankard and Anandavalli. In the 1980s, Ian learnt *taiko* with Sen Amano of Yamanashi Prefecture, followed nearly two decades later by tutorship from Eitetsu Hayashi. In 2007, Ian received the APRA-AMC Classical Music Award for Long-term Contribution for the Advancement Of Australian Music.

ANANDAVALLI

Lingalayam Artistic Director | Choreographer | Performer

Anandavalli is a veteran classical Indian dancer with an international career spanning over 45 years. Born in Sri Lanka, she performed as a young prodigy across India and Europe under the tutelage of dance luminaries from both the East and the West.

In 1985 she migrated to Australia and founded Lingalayam Dance Company. Lingalayam's work incorporates dance, live music, text and design. The company's central focus is to express the timeless, unique role of women and dance in our society.

Through a series of innovative, national and international collaborative partnerships, today Lingalayam's choreographic vocabulary far transcends the boundaries of its original performative paradigms, and presents contemporary work founded on its classical origins.

RILEY LEE

Shakuhachi Soloist | Composer

Riley began playing the *shakuhachi* in Japan in 1971 under the guidance of Ichizan Hoshida II, Chikuho Sakai II and Katsuya Yokoyama. In the early 1970s, he became the first ever non-Japanese professional *taiko* player, as an original member of Sado no Kuni Ondekoza. In 1980, he also became the first non-Japanese to attain Grand Master (*dai shihan*) rank in *shakuhachi*. Riley has a PhD in ethnomusicology from Sydney University and a BA and MA in music from the University of Hawaii. He has made over 50 recordings, which are distributed worldwide. He was a Research Fellow at Osaka University from 1988 to 1989, and was a Visiting Fellow at Princeton University in 2006, 2009, 2011, 2014 and 2016, lecturing in the Comparative Literature and Music Departments. Riley co-founded Taikoz with Ian Cleworth in 1997.

JOHN NAPIER

Cello Soloist | Composer

John graduated from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music with the Medal for Excellence in 1983. A colourful performing career, ranging from international festivals to Darlinghurst squats, included groups such as Southern Crossings, the Mambologists and Sangam. In 1990, he began study of Indian classical music, taking the guidance of the late Pandit Ashok Roy. He has worked since then in a range of performances involving Indian musicians whilst continuing to work in other improvised genres and in classical music. These activities fed into postgraduate studies in ethnomusicology and eventually a role in educating young musicians at a tertiary level. He has just completed a twelve-year study of the epic performance traditions of beggar musicians in Rajasthan. The results of this work are found in his book, *They Sing the Wedding of God*. He is a Senior Lecturer in Musicology at the University of New South Wales and continues to perform regularly.

NAMRATA PULAPAKA

Vocal Soloist | Composer

Namrata is a distinguished Indian classical vocalist from Sydney, with years of training in Carnatic music. She has performed at several major festivals including the Sydney Festival, Biennale of Sydney, Swaralaya Music Festival and more. She is a graded artiste of the prestigious All India Radio and regularly presents vocal concerts in Australia and India. Passionate about preserving and promoting Indian musical heritage, Namrata teaches music to several students, and is a key member of Sanmarga Arts which promotes Carnatic music among the youth of Australia. A trained *bharatanatyam* dancer herself, she often composes and provides live vocal accompaniment to classical Indian dance shows.

TOM ROYCE-HAMPTON

Dramaturg

Tom Royce-Hampton is an actor, musician and physical theatre performer based in Sydney. Beginning as a classically trained musician, he completed a Bachelor of Music Performance at the Victorian College of the Arts School of Music, majoring in percussion. Tom joined Taikoz in 2007 and with them has worked with numerous major artists and companies, and created and directed performances in Australia and overseas. He has travelled extensively to Japan to study with traditional masters of various styles of wadaiko and dance. Tom has also completed an Advanced Diploma of Performing Arts (Acting) at Actors Centre Australia working with such directors as Anthony Skuse, Cristobel Sved and George Ogilvie. A large focus on movement and character studies has seen Tom develop a strong physical language and a fascination in the ability for story-telling to reside in the body.

ANTON LOCK

Taikoz Choreography

Since graduating from the Conservatorium of Music High School Sydney in 2003, Anton has pursued a successful and diverse professional musical career. In 2004, he became a full-time performing member of the renowned Australia-based *taiko* drumming group Taikoz, where as a young performer he was privileged to study under both Ian Cleworth and Riley Lee developing skills in performance, musical direction, live production and movement. These skills came to fruition through the many noteworthy collaborations and projects that followed including Meryl Tankard, The Bell Shakespeare Company, Kodo, Eitetsu Hayashi, and The Sydney Symphony Orchestra, as well as five national Australian tours, three regional Australian tours, and performing all across the globe in places including The Japanese National Theatre, The Pompidou Centre Paris, and the Sydney Opera House. In 2019, Anton was invited to join the esteemed Cirque Du Soleil company as a performing member, where he toured with the Kurios show, taking his performance career to another level.

TAIKOZ & LINGALAYAM WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONS WHO HAVE MADE THIS SEASON POSSIBLE:

Creative Australia, Music Australia, Create NSW, The Permsew Foundation, Helen Brown and the Board and administration of Percussion Australia.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body.



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da:ns



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Compagnie de Chaillot
(France)**

**"It's riveting and
rather wonderful,
full of athletic glory."
– The Guardian**

**6 & 7 Dec 2024
Fri & Sat, 8pm, Esplanade Theatre
\$40*, \$60^, \$80^
*Limited concessions: \$32**

This production is presented as part of *da:ns focus – Out of Site.*

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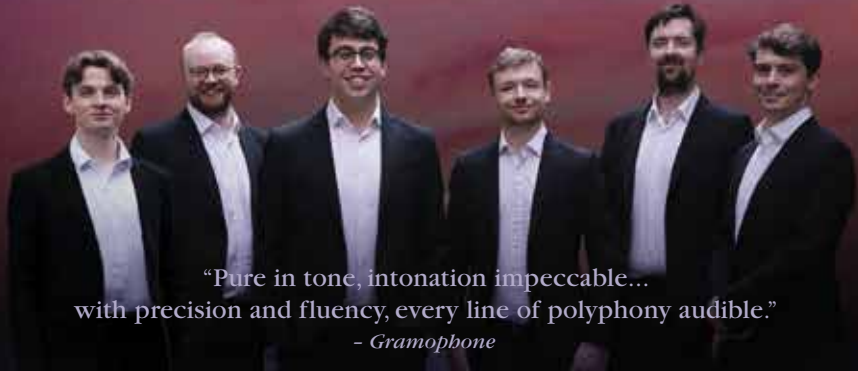


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- *Gramophone*

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(1hr 35mins, including 20min intermission)

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Limited concessions for Students, Senior Citizens, NSFs and PWDs: \$44*

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Like ABBA dipped in velvet."**

– Sydney Morning Herald

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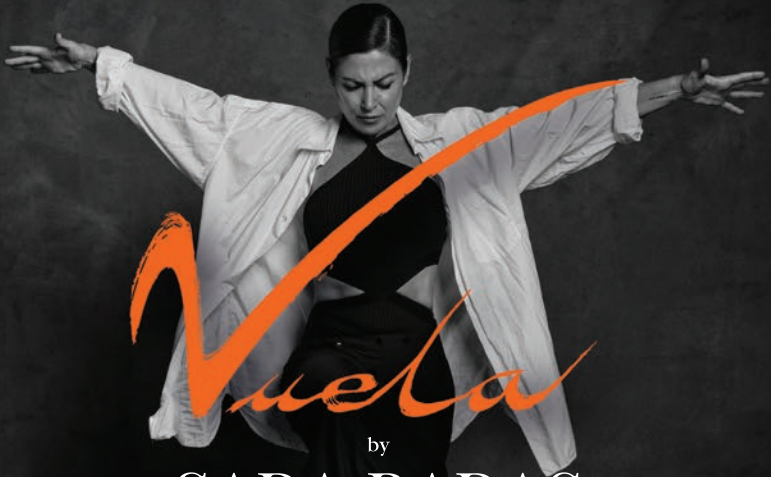
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(Spain)

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- *The Stage*

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Esplanade Theatre

\$40*, \$60*, \$80*, \$100^, \$120^

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- South China Morning Post



"A feat of fevered imagination"

- The Washington Post

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ESPLANADE THEATRE

TICKETS FROM \$28

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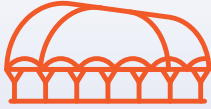


Esplanade is a charity and not-for-profit organisation. Help us bring the joy and inspiration of the arts to different communities, including the underserved.

www.esplanade.com EsplanadeSG
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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!



4,231

activities took place at Esplanade.



3,007

 Free

737

 Paid

3,809,486

People attended our activities at the centre.



Free

3,367,291

Paid

141,565

*Figures for Esplanade's activities from Apr 2023 to Mar 2024.



636

 Activities

17,949

 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!

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 positive impact to Singaporeans 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 contributions.

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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.

wonder here, at Esplanade Mall

Spark your emotions where arts meet life

Enjoy these exclusive promotions
from 1 Nov – 31 Dec 2024!



15% off Dolce Vita

Baia #04-01

Be awed by Baia's delightful tiramisu-inspired cocktail, the Dolce Vita.



20% off
Timeless Yuanyang

Foreword Coffee #03-02

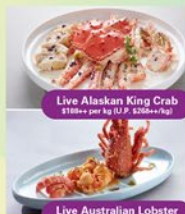
Enjoy a joyful mix of coffee and tea.



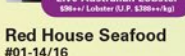
Daily lunch specials
from \$14.99++

Harry's #01-05/07

Share joyful moments with friends and family with a delightful mix of Asian and Western dishes!



Live Alaskan King Crab
\$180++ per kg (U.P. \$200++/kg)



Live Australian Lobster
\$260++ (U.P. \$300++/kg)

Red House Seafood #01-14/16

Experience the rich and exquisite flavours of the sea that will leave you in awe.



Order two or more
for \$18 (U.P. \$21)

Canopy Esplanade #01-10/12

Relive sweet memories with a *Remember When...* cocktail!



\$60 per pax (U.P. \$90)

Fort Sanctuary #02-04

Step back in time with a 45-minute tea experience inspired by the rich history of aged Wuyi tea to recreate the tastes and memories of Singapore's history.



Enjoy \$30 off courses

Lee Wei Song Music Academy #02-12

Discover your musical talent!

Photobooth Specials!

Photobytes (opposite Old School Delights, #02-25)

Celebrate the joy of togetherness by capturing the magic of the moment with exclusive *Wonder Here*-themed frames!



Terms & Conditions

- Limited complimentary redemptions are available while stocks last.
- Promotion is not valid in conjunction with other offers, discounts, privileges or vouchers (except cash vouchers).
- Prices are subject to prevailing government taxes and service charges.
- Participating merchants reserve the right to amend the terms and conditions without prior notice.
- Esplanade Mall shall not be liable in any way whatsoever for any matter arising from, relating to and/or attributable to such products and/or services.
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- Terms and conditions of Esplanade Mall and/or any participating merchants may apply in addition to these terms.

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From Ancient Roots to Modern Stages

How the eight Indian classical dance forms evolve with time
By: Mohanapriyan Thavarajah

Dive into the world of Indian classical dance, where every movement tells a story and every gesture speaks volumes. With its roots deeply entwined in India's history and spirituality, each classical dance form offers a window into a rich cultural heritage.

Discover the beauty and history behind these eight distinct dance forms, each with its own unique style. From the fluidity of *odissi* to the grandeur of *kathakali*, explore how these traditions have evolved over centuries and continue to captivate audiences worldwide.

Find out more on [*Esplanade Offstage*](#) about the dance forms that are as timeless as the stories they tell.



सत्यमेव जयते

**High Commission of India
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