

 **esplanade**

**Feed Your
Imagination**

An Esplanade Co-Production

A TALE OF TWO ISLANDS

By Ding Yi Music Company

15 – 17 Jul 2025, Tue – Thu



DIRECTORS' NOTES

Ahoy Island Hoppers!

We are so excited to have you on board *A Tale of Two Islands* today!

Did you know that you can hear the sea, wind, trees and even feelings when you listen to music? As we prepare to set sail through these shimmering sounds, you will hear marvellous songs written by two Singaporean composers that will be performed on traditional Chinese instruments.

Pay attention to what these instruments are saying, and you will discover the wonderful tales and legends hidden in Singapore's very own backyard—Sister's Islands and Kusu Island.

Enjoy the ride!

Wong De Li, Dedric
Music Director



DIRECTORS' NOTES



Hello Adventurers!

Welcome to *A Tale of Two Islands*—a journey filled with myths, music, and magic.

I've always been fascinated by the hidden stories that islands hold. What secrets lie beneath the waves? What legends whisper through the trees? In this theatrical music show, we bring those wonders to life with siblings, Maddy and Luke, and some special friends they meet along the way.

Theatre and music are powerful—they can turn simple stories into epic adventures. And the best part? You're not just watching—today you play an important role on this journey too! So don't sit back, bring your curiosity and imagination, and let us set sail!

Jasmin Wong
Playwright and Director

ACTIVITY 1: THE STORY OF SISTERS' ISLANDS

Story Jumble!

The story of the Sisters' Islands is shown in the five story strips below, but they are all mixed up! Read each part carefully and fill up the boxes with numbers in the correct order to complete the story.

One day, an unfamiliar man from a ship approached Linah and began to follow her.



A long time ago, two sisters, Minah and Linah, lived on a small island. They built a cozy home together and lived a happy life.





A big storm hit that night. When the sea was calm again in the morning, two small islands appeared where the sisters were. The villagers named them the Sisters' Islands to remember their loyalty and love towards each other.

The man was a pirate! He kidnapped Linah and took her onto the ship. When Minah ran to the shore, she saw the ship sailing away with Linah shouting for help. Minah jumped into the sea and swam to save her sister.



The waves were strong, and Minah was drowning. Linah escaped from the pirate and jumped into sea to save her. Unfortunately, both sisters drowned.



4	
3	5
1	2

Answer

Let's Talk About It!

The sisters showed **bravery**, **love**, and **selflessness** by putting each other first when they were in danger. Would you help your family or friends if they were in trouble? Why or why not?



ACTIVITY 2: THE STORY OF KUSU ISLAND

Look at the story wheel below. Some parts are missing!
Can you help complete the story wheel by filling in the correct story tiles?



STORY TILES:

- i. A shrine was built to thank the turtle.
- ii. The turtle turned into an island to save them.
- iii. A storm hit and damaged their boat.

Ans: a. (iii), b. (ii), c. (i)

Let's Talk About It!

- a. In the story, the giant turtle helped the sailors even though it didn't know them.
What words would you use to describe the turtle's actions?

Helping words: Kind, Caring, Helpful, Generous, Selfless

- b. Have you ever helped a stranger, even though you did not know them?
How did that make you feel?

Just like the turtle, we can be kind and helpful to others, even if we do not know them. Every small act of care at home, in school, or in your neighbourhood can make a big difference!

ACTIVITY 3: MEET THE PROTECTORS AND INSTRUMENTS

Let's Recall!

Traditional Chinese stringed instruments were used in the performance to represent each protector. Can you recognise any of them?



Guzheng – Protector of the Sea

I have a **long wooden** body with **21 strings**. Musicians wear **picks** on their fingers to **pluck** the strings. I sound **dreamy** and **flowy**.



Zhongruan – Protector of the Land

I have a **long neck**, a **round wooden body**, and **4 strings**. Musicians **pluck or strum** my strings with a **pick** or their **fingers**. I sound **warm** and **mellow**.

Yangqin – Protector of the Wind

I have about **144 strings** on my body. Musicians **hit** my strings with small **bamboo sticks** called **mallets**. I sound **bright** and **sparkly**.



Pipa – Protector of the Trees

I have a **pear-shaped body** with **4 strings**. Musicians **pluck** and **strum** my strings using **plastic or acrylic nails** taped on their **fingers**. I sound **crisp** and **shimmery**.



ACTIVITY 4: MATCH THE MOTIFS!

Did you notice that each Protector has a unique musical motif played by a specific instrument? Scan the QR codes to listen to them. Then match them to their Protector with the help of clues in the box! (The first one has been done for you)

Protector

What is their Musical Motif?

Guzheng – Protector of the Sea

Flowing, gliding sound, like rippling waves

<Hint: I am played by an instrument with a long wooden body and 21 strings>

Yangqin – Protector of the Wind

Swirling notes, quick and fluttering

<Hint: I am played by an instrument that is struck with small bamboo sticks called mallets>

Zhongruan – Protector of the Land

Grounded strums, like steady, rhythmic steps

<Hint: I am played by an instrument with a long neck, a round wooden body and 4 strings>

Pipa – Protector of the Trees

Rustling, shimmery sound, like leaves gently falling to the ground

<Hint: I am played by an instrument that is plucked and strummed using plastic or acrylic nails>

a.



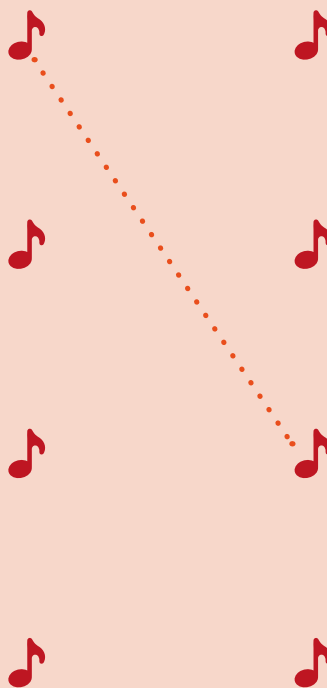
b.



c.



d.



Musical Motif

A short tune that helps you remember a character in a story – like a musical clue to show that the protector is nearby!



ACTIVITY 5: CREATING A MUSICAL PROTECTOR

Now, use what you have learned to create a musical motif for a new Protector. Think about what this Protector sounds like and what story they might have.



1. Name your Protector:

(e.g. Protector of the Sky)

2. Circle the Chinese instrument that you would use to represent this Protector.



Guzheng

(dreamy and flowy sound)



Zhongruan

(warm and mellow sound)



Yangqin

(bright and sparkly sound)



Pipa

(crisp and shimmering sound)

3. Circle the elements of music that you would use to create your music motif.

Melody:

Happy | Heroic | Sad

Tempo:

Fast | Slow

Pitch:

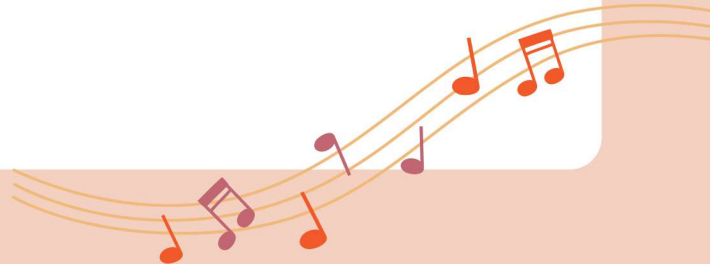
High | Low | Going up and down

Melody: The main tune of the song - it can make you feel different emotions!

Tempo: Speed of the music

Pitch: High or low sounds in the music

4. Draw your Protector using shapes and parts from the Chinese instrument you picked. You can also add cool improvements like a cape, shield, or magic wand to show its powers!



Discover More!

Explore the beginnings of the Chinese Chamber Music Ensemble and its instruments.



Explore the plucked string instruments in the Chinese chamber music ensemble.



Another Chinese instrument called the **dizi** appeared in the show during the Kusu Island theme. Find out more about the **dizi** here:



Let's Share!

If you could teach one thing you learned from the videos, what would that be?

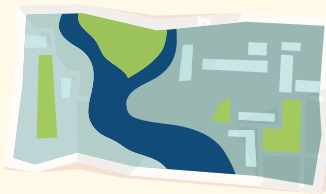
ACTIVITY 6: ISLAND DETECTIVE RESEARCH CHALLENGE

Your task:

Become a young Island Detective and learn about Kusu Island and Sisters' Islands. Use the links below to find out more about the islands. Pick one island and gather clues to solve the mystery: 'What makes this island special?'

Links to learn about Kusu Island

SG101 – Kusu Island



Marina South Ferries –
Kusu Island



Links to learn about Sisters' Islands

What to see and do at the
revamped Sisters' Islands
Marine Park



NParks Big Sister's Island
Marine Park Map



NParks Sisters' Islands
Marine Park



THE DETECTIVE'S NOTEBOOK



Island Name:

1. Brief introduction

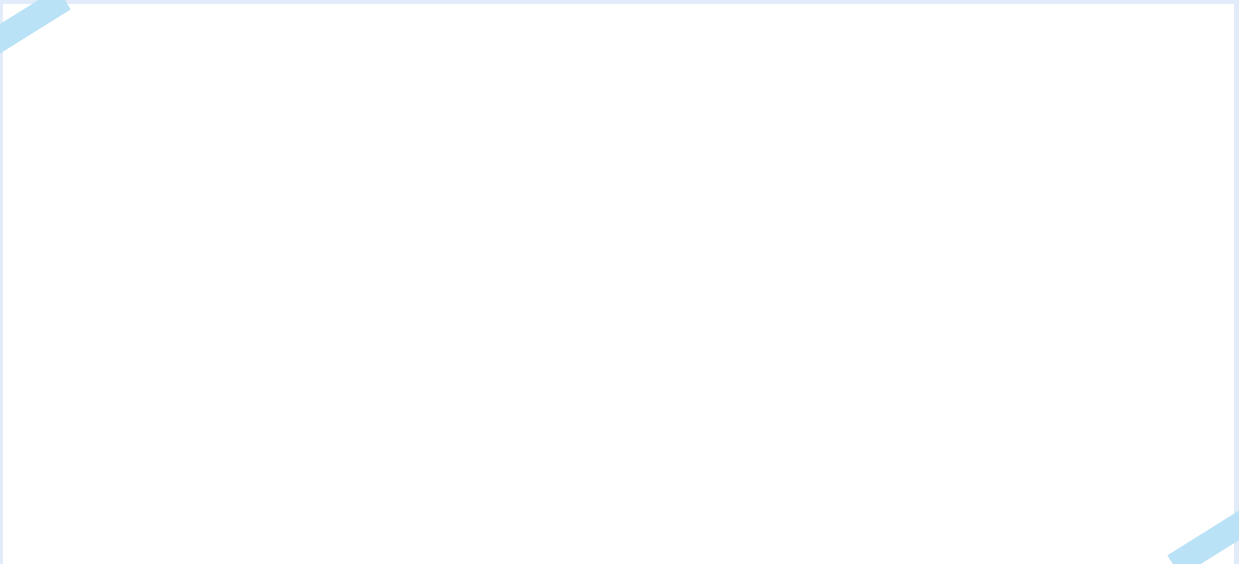
Which part of Singapore is the island located at? Does the island have other names?

2. One cool fact

What is one interesting feature about this island today?

3. My detective sketch

Draw an image of the island. *(You may refer to the island maps from the links).*



4. Why is this island special?

In your own words, explain why you think this island is special.

5. Detective's Thoughts

What will happen if we do not take care of this island? How can we play our part in preserving this special island?

BEHIND THE CURTAIN – MEET THE TEAM!



Music Director: Wong De Li, Dedric

As the music director of the show, Dedric has to work closely with everyone to curate the overall flow of music during the concert. Dedric studied music in Singapore and China, and has performed in many countries around the world. He enjoys teaching young people and hopes to inspire the next generation of musicians.



Playwright and Director: Jasmin Wong

Jasmin wrote the script and directed this show. She is an artmaker who loves mixing play, learning and imagination. She runs Taugeh Productions and believes the arts grow kinder and braver hearts. Jasmin directed *Rovin' Ride Through the Four Seasons*—a fun family show by Red Dot Baroque (2024). When not creating, she's cooking up tasty treats or making new animal buddies.



Composer: Phang Kok Jun

When Kok Jun was your age, he loved banging stuff around the house, like the pots and pans—his parents weren't too happy about it. But guess what? He turned that into music by becoming a composer. Now, he writes music and ask musicians to bang, pluck, pull, and hammer their instruments—and they actually do it!



Composer: Sulwyn Lok

Sulwyn Lok makes music for stories big and small—whether it's magical island adventures, saving the world from aliens or serious tales about identity and society (grown-up stuff!). His tunes have travelled to fancy festivals like Cannes and Busan, picking up a few shiny prizes along the way. Sulwyn works with orchestras, films, and shows like *A Tale of Two Islands*. He says music is the best way to go on adventures—no passport needed!

BEHIND THE CURTAIN – MEET THE TEAM!

Musicians: Ding Yi Music Company



Ding Yi Music Company performs the music you hear in this show. They play traditional Chinese music instruments and create music that fuses Chinese and modern styles, while also working with theatre and dance artists on exciting performances.



Cast: Cheryl Ho

Cheryl plays Tortoise and Linah. Cheryl is an actor, writer and facilitator. She works on projects that focus on care, creativity and inclusion. Her works tend to involve humour, drama and a healthy dose of introspection. She loves reading, enjoying nature and spending time with her loved ones. She prioritises creating environments and setting up systems for people to feel supported to do their best work.



Cast: Nicole Hofbauer

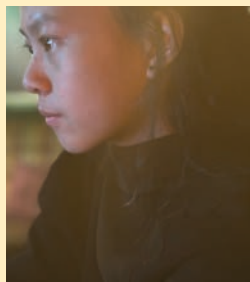
Nicole plays Sister (Maddy), Minah and Sailor. Nicole is an actor, storyteller and teacher. She works with people of all ages to explore the world around us through acting and drama. She believes that the magic of theatre is that it can help us see familiar things in totally new and exciting ways! When she's not exploring stories on stage or facilitating fun drama activities, she's likely dreaming about her next amazing sandwich.



Cast: Marc Valentine Chia

Marc plays Brother (Luke), Pirate and Sailor. He is an actor, storyteller, and proud portrayer of Anthony Heng on *Sunny Side Up*. When Marc is not filming awkward family dinners, he's on stage making big emotions (and bigger faces). Marc believes stories can open minds and spark imagination—especially yours. So sit back, enjoy the show, and remember: drama's not just for TV, it's for learning too!

BEHIND THE CURTAIN – MEET THE TEAM!



Set Designers: Studio Vagabond

Studio Vagabond is a creative team made up of set designers Reyn and Tong who work with different people to come up with new ideas for sets. Reyn and Tong love creating fun and exciting worlds to tell stories in cool ways. Together, their experience working on movies, stage shows, and TV helps them build amazing places that people love to see and be part of.



Lighting Designer: Alberta Wileo

Alberta is a lighting designer and theatre artist who makes shows sparkle with magic lights! His lighting adventure began way back in 2002. Since then, he's made stages glow for many amazing groups like Wild Rice, Singapore Repertory Theatre, Singapore Symphony Orchestra, and even cool dance and opera shows. His lights have travelled around the world—Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, USA, India, Indonesia and France. In 2023, he even won a big shiny award called the Straits Times Life Theatre Award for being the Best Lighting Designer!

Production and Stage Managers: The Presenting Company



As part of The Presenting Company (TPC), their production manager, Lim Ying Xuan and stage managers Deena and Sarah form the team behind the scenes making sure everything runs smoothly for this show. That way, you can laugh, learn, and enjoy every moment. They love creating theatre for young audiences and enjoyed bringing fun, wonder, and imagination to *A Tale of Two Islands!*

Educational Guide: Jessica Ding
Designer: Jayne Ong

Interested to learn more about the arts?
Check out www.esplanade.com/schools for more resources and content!

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