Esplanade Presents:

Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts

19 – 28 Feb 2027

www.esplanade.com/huayi



- The milestone 25th edition of *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts* returns from 19 – 28 Feb 2027, welcoming the Year of the Fire Goat by bringing the community dynamic forms of artistic expression by some of the Greatest Chinese artists Of All Time (G.O.A.T.).
- Esplanade continues to champion and develop Singapore artists and *Huayi 2027* opens with a commissioned work, *SOLO* directed and written by Goh Boon Teck of **Toy Factory**. In addition, theatre veteran Kuo Jian Hong will work with **Creative Society Theatre Group** (Taiwan) as the dramaturg for the new work *She Says, She Says*, an Esplanade co-commission with Taipei Performing Arts Center.
- Throughout the 10-day *Huayi*, there is also an array of free programmes and family-friendly performances and activities so that everyone, including our young ones, get to learn more about the Chinese language and culture in a fun way.

Dear friends from the media,

Presented by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, the milestone 25th edition of *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts* returns from 19 – 28 Feb 2027, celebrating Chinese New Year with the community. Welcoming the Year of the Fire Goat, the festival brings to audiences dynamic forms of artistic expression by some of the Greatest Chinese artists Of All Time (G.O.A.T.). Some of these are familiar faces well-loved by our audiences, and some are new friends whom we are happy to build relationships with, creating new work together.

The acclaimed **Edward Lam Dance Theatre** (Hong Kong) returns to *Huayi* with a multidimensional lecture performance, *Constellations* (adapted from the play by Nick Payne), where audiences will get to interact with the director and actors, and experience how a play is being created in real time. **Story Works** (Taiwan), which brought us much laughter and tears with *The Way of Zhuang Zi* (*Huayi 2019*) and *The Long Goodbye* (*Huayi 2020*), will once again charm our audiences with a comedic and heartwarming play, *Footnotes for Forever* that is also directed by Huang Chih-kai. Those who missed the sold-out performances by **Zi De Guqin Studio** (China) in *Huayi 2025* must catch *Longing for Jiangnan*, featuring tunes from the Ming Dynasty, and staged on a larger scale at the Esplanade Concert Hall this time round. "Songbird of Nanyang" **Yudi Yap** (Malaysia) will bring audiences back to the 1930s with timeless songs written by iconic composer Yao Min in *Melodies Across Generations* by Modern Nanyang.

As the national performing arts centre, Esplanade is committed to championing and developing Singapore artists and *Huayi* has always been a platform for them to explore new ideas to be presented to our audiences here. *Huayi 2027* opens with a commissioned work, *SOLO* by **Toy Factory**, marking Goh Boon Teck's first large-scale theatre production since he was awarded the Cultural Medallion in 2025. We are also proud to commission *THEY SAY – A Piano Soliloquy*, an intimate conversation in causality between an estranged man and an acoustic piano, conceived and directed by award-winning sound artist and music composer **Darren Ng**. Having successfully toured in major cities in China, **MengFM** (previously known as Dreamz FM)—comprising members Cavin Soh, Ric Liu and Jim Lim—returns home with *Stay With Me – MengFM 30th Anniversary Concert*.

In the past 25 years, *Huayi* has grown into one of the most warmly embraced and sought-after arts festivals, not just by audiences and artists in Singapore, but overseas too. This year, we continue to collaborate with Taipei Performing Arts Center to co-commission *She Says, She Says* by **Creative Society Theatre Group** (Taiwan), created by award-winning playwright and director Katherine Hui-ling Chou with dramaturgy by Singapore theatre veteran Kuo Jian Hong.

Over the years, we have been working hard to expand our network to introduce new artists and arts groups to audiences here too. New to the festival are **Beijing Quju Troupe** (China), which will be staging an adaptation of Lao She's classic novella *This Life of Mine*, as well as **Shimmering Production** (Taiwan), which will present *Islands*, a searching dance production featuring Taiwanese dancer Wang Yeu-Kwn and Indonesian dancer Danang Pamungkas. Alternative music lovers can look forward to concerts by **Wendy Wander**, **puppiebelly**, and **Soundtoy**, who will all be performing at Esplanade for the first time.

The arts play an important role in shaping and inspiring young minds and every year at *Huayi*, we make sure that there is an array of family-friendly performances and activities so that our young ones get to learn more about the Chinese language and culture in a fun way. One such programme is *On My Way to Buy Eggs* by **Taipei Blooming Troupe** (Taiwan), adapted from award-winning Taiwanese writer Chen Chih-Yuan's acclaimed

picture book, which premiered to a sold-out audience at the 2025 Taipei Children's Arts Festival, and restaged in 2026 due to popular demand. Others include craft activities, storytelling sessions, and more.

Despite the passage of time, two things remain constant for *Huayi*. One: it takes an entire "village" to bring a festival to our audiences. Many a time have I stopped, uncontrollably, in my tracks while rushing from venue to venue during a typical day of the festival, just to marvel and give thanks when I see how it all comes together. From front-of-house, where audiences stream in to watch free performances at our public spaces or queue in an orderly manner to get their e-tickets tripped, bags checked and off they go to their seats in the venues (or to collect a freebie or two from our sponsors after the show). To back-of-house, where artists are waiting in the wings and our technical production crew are standing-by for their cues. All of us in different roles working hand-in-hand, to give the best experience to our audiences and artists who have graced the festival. Every role is important, without the hard work of any one colleague, the festival would not run so smoothly.

Two: our sponsors, donors, media, supporters, volunteers and audiences, for your unwavering passion and assistance. Our heartfelt thanks go to our Principal Sponsor **Knife Cooking Oil**, and Supporting Sponsor **Berries 百力果**, for their support. Thank you all for believing in our mission to bring the joy of the arts to everyone!

We welcome everyone, from artists to audience members, to the 25th edition *Huayi*, and we look forward to connecting many more communities through the festival, for many more years to come!

Delvin Lee
Asst Head (Chinese Programmes), The Esplanade Co Ltd
Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts

About Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay

Esplanade is Singapore's national performing arts centre. It hosts a year-round line-up of about 4,000 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. TECL received the Charity Governance Award – Special Commendation for Clarity of Strategy in 2016 and 2022, the Charity Transparency Award from 2016 – 2023, and the Charity Transparency Dedication Award in 2024. 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.

Visit Esplanade.com for more information.

~ End ~

Issued by *The Esplanade Co Ltd*.

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Annexe

Esplanade Presents
Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts
19 – 28 Feb 2027
www.esplanade.com/huayi

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay invites everyone to an unforgettable experience in the arts at *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts* which will run from 19 – 28 Feb 2027. Into its 25th edition, this pinnacle arts festival that celebrates the Chinese New Year with the community will feature an exciting line-up of theatre, dance, and music programmes by outstanding Chinese artists from Singapore and beyond, for all to enjoy during the festive period.

Ticketed Workshops and Talks will be announced in Dec 2026.
Programme details on free programmes will be announced in Jan 2027.

TICKETED PROGRAMMES

An Esplanade Commission
SOLO
by Toy Factory (Singapore)



Who are we when everything else falls away?

Toy Factory presents an original musical about loss, solitude, resilience, and rediscovering yourself. *SOLO* follows Jing as she contemplates her midlife, inviting us to reflect on our own identities and responsibilities.

In a fast-moving modern city, we become accustomed to defining ourselves as children, partners, colleagues and friends. We rarely stop to ask: when these identities are stripped away, who are we really? For Jing, that question arrives without warning. At a turning point in her life, she loses her partner, her career and a parent. Suddenly, the life she once knew disappears, and she falls into an unfamiliar solitude.

Yet in the aftermath of loss, an unexpected stillness begins to emerge. Jing rediscovers the companionship of her dog, the presence of her truest friends, and dreams that have long been set aside.

Redefining the boundaries of stagecraft, *SOLO* integrates the intimacy of film with the raw energy of live theatre for an unprecedented visual experience. Featuring an all-Singapore creative and performing team, *SOLO* is written and directed by Cultural Medallion recipient Goh Boon Teck, with a cast that includes up-and-coming musical theatre star Vanessa Kee in her first leading role as Jing, popular cultural icon and one of Singapore's most recognisable television personalities Chen Liping in her theatrical debut as Jing's mother, and powerhouse vocalist Olinda Cho.

Come experience a contemporary story rooted in the realities, relationships and inner lives of people living in a modern Asian city.

Creative team

Director & Playwright	Goh Boon Teck
Producer	Justin Wong
Co-Playwrights	Sonya Wong Pei Min and Ong Siew Sze
Music Composer & Arranger	Liong Kit Yeng
Vocal Coach & Vocal Arrangement	Elaine Chan
Lighting & Multimedia Designer	Genevieve Peck
Sound Designer & Engineer	Vick Low
Costume Designer	Josiah Chua

Cast Team

Fang Ke Jing (Daughter)	Vanessa Kee
Xie Hui Qing (Mother)	Chen Li Ping
Qin (Best Friend)	Olinda Cho*
Eric (Boyfriend)	Timothy Wan*
Annie (Colleague)	Sharon Sum*
Fiona (Colleague)	Tan Rui Shan*
Fang Ke Fu (Brother)	Andy Yew*
Fang Zhong Tong (Father)	Zhuang Chu Hang*

*Also playing multiple roles in the musical.

(2hrs 20mins, including 20min intermission)
Performed in Mandarin and some dialects, with English and Chinese surtitles.

About Toy Factory (Singapore)

Founded in 1990, Toy Factory has had a rich history being a part of Singapore's amazing arts scene, generating a body of original and unique stories for Asia and beyond.

Priding itself on its all-inclusive approach, the theatre-maker is an advocate to creating a legacy of original Asian stories and quality adaptations on stage – often toggling between vastly different languages, dialects and styles in order to present the purest form of theatrical storytelling onto Singapore's main stage.

Toy Factory often ventures beyond Singapore to share its stories to the rest of the region. Between its inception and today, Toy Factory has collaborated with and worked with numerous different associations and festivals in major cities all around the world.

Above all other worldly factors, Toy Factory believes in creating an experience for the audience that will bring the world together: to share, to love and to be.

Playwright & Director, Goh Boon Teck

A distinguished Singaporean theatre director, playwright and production designer, Goh Boon Teck is a recipient of the Cultural Medallion 2025.

His theatrical works are soulful explorations of human issues, treated with contemporary sensitivity. He is the Chief Artistic Director of Singapore's leading bilingual theatre company, Toy Factory Productions Limited.

Titoudao, a play about his mother Madam Oon Ah Chiam which he wrote, directed and designed, is one of the most celebrated Singaporean theatre productions. It swept five out of the nine awards presented at the inaugural ST Life! Theatre Awards in 2000.

His commissioned works include *PRISM* (Japan's Kageboushi Theatre Company, 2003); *A Tinted Edge*, *Spirits*, *The Morning People*, *The Crab Flower Club* (Singapore Arts Festival, 2000–2009); *A Dream Under the Southern Bough* trilogy (Singapore International Festival of Arts, 2018–2021); *7 Sages of the Bamboo Grove*, *All the world is one's stage* (Esplanade's Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts, 2020–2021); *Masters of Comedy* duology, and *Ignite The Sun* (Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre's Cultural Extravaganza, 2018–2023) among others. He is known for his musical adaptations including *I Have A Date With Spring*, *December Rains*, *881 The Musical*, *Glass Anatomy*, *Ah Boys To Men The Musical*, *Innamorati* duology, *Sometime Moon*, *5lements* with Ding Yi Music Company, *PlotSEA 2024 Sang Sinxay* and *PlotSEA 2025 Thawathotsamat*. He held the role of Creative Director for Singapore's National Day Parade in 2007, 2008, and 2017, as well as Singapore Day 2011 in Shanghai.

Boon Teck was conferred the Young Artist Award in 2001 and Singapore Youth Award in 2005. He was presented the Elite Director Award in 2014 at One Drama Awards in Shanghai and was honoured with the 6th Singapore Chinese Cultural Contribution Award (Individual) in 2023.

Music Composer & Arranger, Liong Kit Yeng

Liong Kit Yeng's multifaceted career spans the arts, broadcasting and education. Her music has been featured on notable stages locally and internationally, including the Canberra International Music Festival, New York's Carnegie Hall, Japan's Takarazuka International Chamber Chorus Contest and the Singapore International Festival of Music. She has been commissioned and performed by Singapore Chinese Orchestra, Ding Yi Music Company, Voices of Singapore, Natus Cantorum (Taiwan), Hangzhou Polar Light Singers (China) and Ren Sing Choir (Malaysia). She also collaborates with Singapore's Ministry of Education to compose set pieces for primary school choir and Chinese orchestra.

As Assistant Conductor and Composer-in-Residence of The Purple Symphony, she leads the inclusive orchestra and its ensembles at major performances, including the 2017 National Day Parade and 2025 Singapore International Festival of Arts. Beyond composing, she is also a music critic, artistic consultant, curator, producer, and adjudicated for the Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation and Singapore Chinese Music Competition.

Lighting & Multimedia Designer, Genevieve Peck

Genevieve Peck is an established Singaporean lighting and multimedia designer. She graduated from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London in 2012 with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Theatre Practice, specialising in Lighting and Projection Design. In 2025, she was conferred the Young Artist Award by the National Arts Council Singapore in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the performing arts.

Over the years, Genevieve has worked extensively in Singapore's theatre scene, collaborating with companies including The Theatre Practice, Nine Years Theatre, Singapore Repertory Theatre, Pangdemonium, Wild Rice, Drama Box, and Toy Factory Productions. Her notable works include *Four Horse Road*, *Lao Jiu*, *Liao Zhai*, *King Lear*, *The Studios*, and *Prism*.

Combining lighting, space, and visual imagery, Genevieve creates evocative and layered visual experiences that enhance the emotional depth of performances, bringing distinctive artistic atmospheres and storytelling dimensions to the stage.

Sound Designer & Engineer, Vick Low

Vick is a Singaporean sound designer/electronic artist. Traditionally trained in the cello, he fuses both organic and electronic sonic elements to create soundscapes. His works are influenced by the genres of minimalism, electronica and ambient music, creating a space for organic and electronic elements to co-exist.

He is a part of Canvas Conversations, an electronic ambient quartet that won the Noise Singapore Award in 2015. They have also performed for Singapore Biennale 2016 and *Mosaic Music Series* 2017 at the Esplanade.

In 2019, he was nominated for Best Sound Design for The Straits Times Life Theatre Awards for *The Watching* (Toy Factory Productions).

Some of his sound design works include *Titoudao* (Toy Factory Productions), *Everything for You* (Nine Years Theatre), *Hutan* (2022 AWESOME Festival, Perth), *Windward Side of the Mountain* (SCCC Cultural Extravaganza 2022), *I Am Seaweed* (MASHH, M1 Singapore Fringe Festival 2025) and *Bodily Meander*: A site-specific movement connection by Chiew Peishan, presented by The Everyday Museum.

Costume Designer, Josiah Chua

Josiah Chua is a Singaporean fashion creative with 20 years of experience in the fashion and arts industry. A graduate of LASALLE College of the Arts, he holds a Master's in Cultural and Clothing Science from Bunka Gakuen University in Tokyo. Starting in fashion styling for magazines, he later expanded into drama series, theatre, and wardrobe direction, collaborating with various creators on diverse projects. Known for his versatility and eclectic visual storytelling, Josiah continues to explore new creative avenues. His passion for learning and constant reinvention fuels his evolving journey in fashion, performance, and the broader creative landscape.

19 & 20 Feb 2027
Fri & Sat, 8pm
Esplanade Theatre

Ticket Price: $48*, $68**, $88^, $108^
Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: $40*, $58**
Limited concession for PWD: $40

^*Esplanade&Me Specials*

Early Bird (26 Nov – 16 Dec 2026, limited tickets)
Black: 20% savings
White: 15% savings
Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2 tickets)

From 17 Dec 2026, 10am
Black: 15% savings
White: 10% savings
Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2 tickets, limited tickets)

This programme is eligible for SG Culture Pass credits from 26 Nov 2026 onwards.

Footnotes for Forever

by Story Works (Taiwan)



They wanted a dream wedding. Her family had other ideas.

Tao Caiwei is a writer who wanted to write her perfect wedding, but she discovers that it is the hardest tale she will ever have to write when family gets involved.

Her fiancé wants nothing more than a simple wedding, but quickly realises that he is up against a family with a long and complicated history.

Caiwei's largely absent biological father imposes himself on the preparations, while her dependable foster father still sees himself as an outsider. Who gets to wear the father's boutonnière? Which father gets to walk her down the aisle? Who gets a seat at the main table? What's worse, amidst the emotional turmoil, long-buried feelings of love, resentment and regret resurface between her biological father and mother.

As past regrets and incomprehensible childhood experiences come to light, they become notes for the answer to life's most enduring question—what is love?

Footnotes for Forever is a humorous and touching exploration of familial bonds and regrets. Against the boisterous backdrop of a wedding banquet, tangled relationships unravel and reveal themselves through laughter and tears. Join Caiwei and her family as they search for answers about love and discover what it truly means to be a family.

Footnotes for Forever is directed by Huang Chih-kai and stars two-time Golden Bell Awards-winning actor Li Tien-chu, renowned entertainer Kuo Tzu-chien, acclaimed performer Gwen Yao, celebrated stage veteran Liu Shan Shan and popular actress Lyan Cheng.

(2hrs 45mins, including 20min intermission)
Performed in Mandarin, with English surtitles

About Story Works

Story Works is a Taiwanese theatre company dedicated primarily to the creation of original theatrical productions. It is committed to nurturing professional theatre talent, advancing theatre education, fostering creative and cultural innovation, and building an interactive, human-centred theatrical environment. Through compelling stories, the company hopes to bring inspiration and nourishment from everyday life to communities across Taiwan.

Driven by a deep passion for theatre and a strong sense of mission, Story Works remains firmly rooted in Taiwan, bringing meaningful moments to life on stage. Its productions embrace the full spectrum of human emotions, sharing in the sorrows, struggles, joys and triumphs of audiences, and transforming the warmth of their tears and sweat into a life-giving river that leaves a lasting sense of resonance and fulfilment.

Founded in 2013, Story Works has presented 24 original productions to date, including *Three Zhuge Liangs*, *Unspoken*, *The Way of Zhuangzi*, *Little Son*, *The World Between Us: Referendum Edition*, *Tears of Fire: The Musical*, *The Last Session* and *Footnotes for Forever*.

Co-Playwright and Director, Huang Chih-kai

Founder and Artistic Director, Story Works; Playwright and Director

A graduate of the inaugural cohort of the Department of Drama and Theatre at National Taiwan University, Chih-kai has in recent years focused on developing genre-based theatre and exploring the visual possibilities of the stage. His works span diverse styles and examine social phenomena, often weaving comedic elements into serious themes to evoke a range of emotions in audiences. Beyond creating original works, he has also ventured into adaptations and cross-disciplinary collaborations. Guided by his motto, he strives to “make the world a place we love”.

Theatre Productions (Playwright and Director)

Story Works: *Tears on Fire* (musical), *Way Back Into Love*, *The Whistleblower*, *Ageless Addiction*, *The World Between Us* (referendum theatre edition), *Goodbye to Music Halls* (written by Chi Wei-Jan), *The Moon is Always Full*, *Sakurako’s Choice*, *The Long Goodbye*, *As You Like It* (original screenplay by Zero Chou; adapted for the stage by Zero Chou and Ouyang Yao; co-directed by Zero Chou), *The Way of Zhuang Zi*, *Three Storytellers*, and *Don Quixote*; Kuang Hong Arts X Story Works: *Wicked Wish*; Ming Hwa Yuan Culture & Arts Group: *The Storm Riders in LonckJau*, *The Legend of Babao Irrigation Canal*, *Zheng ZhiLong, The Pirate King of Formosa*, *Lin Shao-mao Taiwanese Knight-errant* (all of the above co-written with Wang Chiung-Ling), *Final Bow*; Ping-Fong Acting Troupe: *The Underworld Code*, *The First Lily*, *Legitimate Crimes*, and *Mad in Taiwan* (written by Chi Wei-Jan)

Published Works

Tears on Fire (musical), *Way Back Into Love*, *The Whistleblower*, *The World Between Us* (referendum theatre edition), *My Theatrical Life in 20 Minutes*, *The Moon is Always Full*, *The Long Goodbye*, *The Way of Zhuang Zi*, *Unspoken*, *Three Storytellers*, *Don Quixote*, *Hugh K.S. Lee's Classroom of Write, Act, and Direct*

Awards

2024 – Best Original Screenplay of the Year at the Shanghai One Drama Awards for *Way Back Into Love*

Cast

Li Tien-chu as Tao Yan
A member of the Lanlin Theatre Troupe, Tien-chu has made his mark across the Chinese-language theatre, film, and television industries. He won the Golden Bell Award for Best Actor twice, in 1982 and 2006, for his performances in the television drama series O*ur Land, Our People* and *The Golden Years* respectively.

Theatre Credits
Story Works: *The Long Goodbye*; Ping-Fong Acting Troupe: *Apocalypse of Beijing Opera*, *My Kid Sister*, *Shamlet*, *Part V of Can Three Make It: Empty City*; Lanlin Theatre Troupe: *Ho Chu's New Match*, and *Dai Mian*; Mr. Wing Theatre Company: *The Starlight Theatre*

Film Credits
Teenage Fugitive, *The Rule of the Game*, *Four Hands*, and *Lost in Perfection*

Television Credits
*Flower TV Series, The Golden Years, The Red (*also known as *That Year in Tongfu Li), The Glory of Tang Dynasty, Empresses in the Palace, Lovers Under the Rain, Our Land, Our People*, *Many Enchanting Nights, Lost Daughter,* and *Home Away from Home*

Kuo Tzu-chien as Ding Dang
A renowned actor and variety show host, Tzu-chien is known for his impersonations of more than 300 personalities, earning him the nicknames "Rubber Face" and "Master of Impersonation". In 2003, he won Best Host for a Variety Show at the Golden Bell Awards and was later nominated for Best Leading Actor in a Television Series at the 57th Golden Bell Awards for his performance in *Gold Leaf*. A key figure in the popular satirical variety shows *Everybody Speaks Nonsense* and *Celebrity Imitated Show*, Tzu-chien later carved out a new niche as an astrology expert. Through his book, *It's Not About Zodiac Signs, It's About Relationships*, he became a familiar presence on variety shows and a trusted source of advice for the audience. More recently, he launched an online course, *The Art of a Thousand Faces*, which teaches participants how to adopt different perspectives and develop effective communication skills.

Theatre Credits
Ping-Fong Acting Troupe: *Biographies and Annals*, *Republic of China 76 years Memorandum*, *The Cicada*, *Can Three Make It?*, *Shamlet*, and *Wedding Memories*; Godot Theatre Company: *Whose Wife Is It Anyway?*; Kuang Hong Arts: *Apocalypse of Beijing Opera*, and *The Half-Mile Great Wall*; Golden Star Limited: *Bravo! Bravo!*

Television Credits
Taipei Family, *Life Story*, *Nowhere Man*, *Gold Leaf*, *A Wonderful Journey*, *The Thrifty Family*, *Love Leads to the Success*, *City Founding Pioneer*, *Oops! I'm in Jail*, and *Agent From Above*

Lyan Cheng as Tao Caiwei
An actress, model, painter and writer, Lyan began her career in commercials before moving into television and film. She won Best Supporting Actress in a Miniseries or Television Film at the 57th Golden Bell Awards for her performance in *Fragrance of the First Flower*. Beyond acting, she continues to pursue her passion for the arts, holding a solo art exhibition titled *mirror mirror* in 2024, and publishing her book *restArt* in 2025. She is also set to collaborate with an art gallery on another solo art exhibition in late 2026, further expanding her artistic horizons.

Film Credits
Summer Blue Hour, *First of May*, *Do You Love Me As I Love You*, *Flash of Light*, *Piano Lesson*, and *My Egg Boy*

Television Credits
Had I Not Seen The Sun I & II, *Story Starts from Bed*, *A Wonderful Journey*, *Fragrance of the First Flower I & II*, *Million-Follower Detective*, *Best Interest I, II & III*

About the Original Work

Author of the Original Work and Playwright, Vivian Liu Chung-Wei

Born just as the first autumn leaf fell, Vivian's Chinese name references a rose, as her parents hoped that she would flourish like that lush flower. And flourish she has, through a life devoted to storytelling, filling countless pages with words. Her writing is warm and nuanced, often weaving tears into humour and finding hope amid regret. At home, she shares her days with her beloved yet occasionally exasperating husband, two mischievous children, her mother-in-law, and a hamster. Life is never dull, and there are more stories than she could ever tell.

Vivian graduated from National Chengchi University's Department of Radio and Television. She is a writer, screenwriter and lecturer who has taught at a university for over a decade. In recent years, she has hosted *Talking Intimacy, Exploring Relationships*, a podcast produced by the Family Education Center under the Taoyuan City Government, using stories to connect with and support families. In 2026, she served as a mentor for Mediacorp's *INKSPIRATION* screenwriting programme.

Playwriting Credits
Star Wish, *The Starting Point of Happiness*, *All Out of Love*, *The Little Angel Clinic*, *Mother to Be* (nominated for Best Writing for a Television Series at the 56th Golden Bell Awards and Best Original Screenplay at the Asian Academy Creative Awards), *Choobies* (a children's animated series nominated for Best Animated Programme at the 47th Golden Bell Awards), *Going Home* (an immersive production staged for 54 performances in Shanghai)

Published Works
Wife, Mother, and Occasionally Vivian: Accidental Marriage, and the Joys and Sorrows of Us and Me; *Have You Told Your Story Yet? The Essential Skill for Touching Hearts and Making Dreams Come True*; *Warmth in Life: Stories of Loving Well Enough*; *Giving You All the Warmth in the World: A Collection of Short Stories by Vivian Liu*; *Sunny Today*; *Love Where the World Begins: A Journey Through Mexico*; *The Endorphins of Love*

26 – 28 Feb 2027
Fri & Sat, 8pm | Sun, 3pm
Esplanade Theatre

Ticket Price: $48*, $68**, $98^, $118^, $138^
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Limited concession for PWD: $40

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Longing For Jiangnan

by Zide Guqin Studio (China)



"How beautiful Jiangnan is, these landscapes I know so well."
– Bai Juyi, Tang dynasty poet

Following its sold-out performance of *What Is Qin* at *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts* in 2025, Zide Guqin Studio returns with *Longing for Jiangnan*, a concert inspired by the Jiangnan region. Drawing on Jiangnan sizhu music, ancient *guqin* scores, and folk tunes, this presentation brings together the charm of traditional music and contemporary compositions.

The musical performance moves from a light-hearted innocence reminiscent of children's rhymes, to the quiet grace of orchids and dreams nestled deep within mountains and forests. There are moments of serenity after life's storms, and tender feelings that remain unspoken. The shimmering waters and verdant hills of Jiangnan come to life through the interplay of string and wind instruments, as subtle emotions gradually unfold with the melodies. The performance culminates in a lively blend of street sounds and sizhu music, capturing the vibrant energy of everyday life in Jiangnan.

With his verses portraying blossoms as brilliant as flames and spring waters as green as jade, Tang dynasty poet Bai Juyi immortalised Jiangnan in all its splendour. In the centuries since, the region's poetic essence has lived on in the misty willows lining its riverbanks, the melodies drifting through its alleyways, the pondside ruminations of its people, and the light-dappled passage of time beneath its trees. Jiangnan has never been merely a place on the map, but a way of life that is remembered and evoked, over and over again.

Since its founding in 2014, Zide Guqin Studio has dedicated itself to presenting traditional music in contemporary ways. As an influential member of a new generation of Chinese music ensembles, Zide continues to explore the many possibilities of Chinese music through the revival of ancient scores, original compositions, and its distinctive "ancient painting music" visual style, rooted in Eastern aesthetics.

For this performance, the musicians will don attire inspired by the distinctive character of Jiangnan during the Ming dynasty, with subtle motifs of bamboo, pine trees and cranes adorning their flowing robes. Costumes and sizhu music draw the audience into an immersive journey into the past, and invite them to revisit Jiangnan, where the rhythms of everyday life have endured for a thousand years.

Supported by the Minhang District Cultural Development Fund, Shanghai.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)

About Zide Guqin Studio
Founded in 2014, Zide Guqin Studio is an influential member of a new generation of traditional Chinese music ensembles, dedicated to presenting traditional music in contemporary ways.

The ensemble has devoted itself to reviving and reinterpreting ancient musical scores, as well as creating original compositions. Pushing artistic boundaries, it brings the sounds of traditional Chinese instrumental music to contemporary stages through a musical language that combines Eastern aesthetics with contemporary artistic sensibilities.

With an online audience of millions worldwide, Zide has developed a distinctive "living Chinese paintings" visual style. Its notable works include *Fragrance of Cassia Branches* and *The Great Xia*, while its concert series feature productions such as *What Is Qin*, *Beautiful Jiangnan* and *The Joy of Being*.

Zide has performed at major theatres and concert halls across China and has been invited to perform overseas as part of cultural exchange programmes. Through music, the ensemble seeks to share the beauty of Eastern culture with audiences around the world.

20 Feb 2027
Sat, 7.30pm
Esplanade Concert Hall

Ticket Price: $38*, $58**, $78^, $98^
Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: $32*, $50**
Limited concession for PWD: $32

^*Esplanade&Me Specials*

Early Bird (26 Nov – 16 Dec 2026, limited tickets)
Black: 20% savings
White: 15% savings
Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2 tickets)

From 17 Dec 2026, 10am
Black: 15% savings
White: 10% savings
Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2 tickets, limited tickets)

Stay With Me –- MengFM 30th Anniversary Concert
(Singapore)



MengFM commemorates the 30th year of their musical journey!

Also popularly known as Dreamz FM, these three musical kindred spirits, Cavin Soh, Ric Liu & Jim Lim, have been singing and creating music together since 1997. Their songs have formed the soundtrack to the coming-of-age of a generation, and still continue to resonate today with a new generation of fans!

In 2025, MengFM toured China and performed in Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Nanjing and Beijing. And now they return home to where their hearts belong to celebrate this momentous milestone with their fans in Singapore.

Come celebrate with MengFM as they thank you for staying with them through the years and embrace you with their sincerity, their voices, their laughter, and their songs.

MengFM:
“We’re coming home.
Will you be there?”

(2hrs 30mins, no intermission)
Performed in Mandarin.

27 Feb 2027, Sat, 7.30pm
Esplanade Concert Hall

Ticket Price: $68*, $88**, $108^, $138^
Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: $58*, $78**
Limited concession for PWD: $58

^*Esplanade&Me Specials*

Early Bird (26 Nov – 16 Dec 2026, limited tickets)
Black: 20% savings
White: 15% savings
Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2 tickets)

From 17 Dec 2026, 10am
Black: 15% savings
White: 10% savings
Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2 tickets, limited tickets)

This programme is eligible for SG Culture Pass credits from 26 Nov 2026 onwards.

An Esplanade Co-commission

She Says, She Says

by Creative Society Theatre Group (Taiwan)



"To me, fair friend, you never can be old,
For as you were when first your eye I ey'd,
Such seems your beauty still."
–-- *William Shakespeare*

In the 1940s, an era interwoven with war and migration, Kimberly Hsu and Evelyn Huang flee Shanghai, for very different reasons, to Taiwan. More than half a century later, a forgotten suitcase reveals the two women's mysterious pasts to their descendants—an adopted niece, the nephew's wife, and a grandniece. What was intended to be a brief escape became a lifetime of shared devotion and a dreamlike testament voiced by five women across three generations.

She Says, She Says is an enthralling saga that spans decades and the lives of many, moving between memory and oblivion. Through the fractured yet unyielding recollections, the story pieces together the most intimate and enduring bond between women.

This story belongs to women exiled beyond the institution of marriage—women who found refuge in one another and bore witness to each other's lives through triumphs and tragedies. Caught in the tug-of-war between love, identity, and fate, they speak to the world in a language at once defiant, delirious yet always tender.

She Says, She Says is created by award-winning playwright and director Katherine Hui-ling Chou with dramaturgy by Singapore theatre veteran Kuo Jian Hong and music design by Chen Chien-chi. The production features Taiwan's most celebrated stage talents Hsu Yen-Ling, Huang Yu-Lin^, Wu Wei-Wei, Datian, Lu Man-Yin, and Lin Zi-Heng. *She Says She Says* is co-commissioned by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay and Taipei Performing Arts Center.

^Currently a member of Guoguang Opera Company of the National Center for Traditional Arts.

(2hrs 35mins, with 20min intermission)
Performed in Mandarin and Shanghainese, with English & Chinese surtitles

There will be post-show dialogue conducted in Mandarin after the performance on 20 Feb, 3pm.

About Creative Society Theatre Group

Founded in 1997, Creative Society Theatre Group brings together leading talents in theatre and media to create original theatre productions that explore new aesthetic possibilities while addressing contemporary social issues. The diverse backgrounds of its founders—among whom are pioneering Japanese theatre artists including Chi Wei-Jan, Katherine Hui-Ling Chou, Wei Ying-Chuan, Li Huan-Hsiung—enrich an artistic vocabulary that spans from the clever play of everyday language in its debut production *Mahjong Game* (1997), to the exquisite fusion of traditional and modern theatre in *He Is My Wife, He Is My Mother* (2009).

Over its nearly 30-year journey, by expanding its artist collaborators, Creative Society Theatre Group has continued to pursue different artistic styles that embody a multicultural Taiwan while transcending existing boundaries. Many of its productions have earned critical and commercial acclaim, including the 2005 Taishin Arts Award in Performing Arts for *Who-ga-sha-ga*, and have been widely supported multiple times by the Ministry of Culture's flagship and interdisciplinary co-creation projects. Beyond domestic festivals, the group has toured extensively across the Sinophone world, with invitations to the Singapore International Festival of Arts (SIFA), ACT Shanghai Contemporary Theatre Festival, Taipei-Beijing Cross-Strait Arts Festival, among others.

Katherine Hui-ling Chou

Katherine Hui-ling Chou bridges the academic and creative worlds through her multifaceted work as a director, playwright, scholar, and professor. In 1997, Chou co-founded Creative Society Theatre Group, through which she presented *I Love You, I Love You Not* (2000)—a production integrating performance theory and gender performativity to explore love, pleasure, and gender crossing.

Since then, the interplay between gendered experiences, social realities, and historical narratives has always been her focus, as reflected in her later works, including *to be AND not to be*: *a dark fantasy about formosa*, *part two* (2005), *He is My Wife, He is My Mother* (2006), *Have Wok, Will Travel* (2011), *Jian Ji: A Just Life* (2018), *The Apocalypse of Fudingjin* (2020), among others.

Kuo Jian Hong

Artistic Director of The Theatre Practice (Practice), theatre director, designer, and filmmaker, Kuo Jian Hong has always taken on multi-faceted roles. She has led more than 200 theatre projects, in a career spanning more than three decades. Transcending themes, genres and forms, Jian Hong's vision encompasses Practice's broad spectrum of works. She is a leading proponent of the Chinese Language Original Musical Theatre genre, with award-winning works like *Lao Jiu: The Musical* and *Partial Eclipse Of The Heart* (returning April 2027), while her experimental ventures include *All The World's A Sea*. Under her direction, The Theatre Practice continues to be a vital voice in the Singapore arts scene.

19 – 21 Feb 2027
Fri, 7.30pm | Sat & Sun, 3pm
Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade

Ticket Price: $48*, $68^
Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: $40*
Limited concession for PWD: $40

^*Esplanade&Me Specials*

Early Bird (26 Nov – 16 Dec 2026, limited tickets)
Black: 20% savings
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Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2 tickets)

From 17 Dec 2026, 10am
Black: 15% savings
White: 10% savings
Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2 tickets, limited tickets)

This Life of Mine

by Beijing Quju Troupe (China)



A Lao She Classic X A Unique Local Art Form From Beijing

“I laugh and I laugh. By the time I’ve laughed my very last laugh, may this world have changed.”

Adapted from beloved Chinese literary icon Lao She’s classic novel of the same name Beijing Quju Troupe brings to the stage *This Life of Mine*, a story of an ordinary man who struggles to weather the tides of change as he navigates a life of turbulence.

Born into poverty and having mastered a traditional craft at an early age, our protagonist marries and starts a family in a noble quest for a stable and dignified life supported by honest labour. But time renders his craft obsolete, leaving him to resort to being a policeman, and his life is beset by unexpected turns as his hope is dashed by setback after setback. With his destiny no longer in his hands, he is left to wonder what he has to show for a lifetime of toil and struggle.

The evocative charm of traditional Chinese opera music and songs blends with contemporary theatrical expression in *This Life of Mine*, bringing to life Lao She’s signature atmosphere of bittersweet joy, as laughter brims with the pathos and helplessness of life. Drawing on Beijing Quju’s iconic vocal styles, narrative singing and naturalistic acting, the production paints a vivid portrait of Beijing of old.

Since its premiere in 2022, T*his Life of Mine* has been staged more than 60 times, including international performances at the 2024 BeSeTo Festival in South Korea and the 2025 Edinburgh Festival Fringe in the UK.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)
Performed in Mandarin, with English and Chinese surtitles.

About Beijing Quju artform

Beijing Quju is a unique traditional local art form originating from Beijing. It emerged in the early years of the founding of the People's Republic of China, with a history spanning over 70 years dating back to 1952, when the renowned writer Lao She bestowed the name "Quju" upon the genre. It was established by a generation of celebrated Chinese traditional folk arts artists, which most notably included Wei Xikui.

Born out of Beijing, a city with a rich history spanning over a thousand years, Beijing Quju is a distinctive local art form that is truly unique to the city. Its musical style and vocal melodies are developed from *danxian paiziqu* (a traditional storytelling and ballad-singing art form accompanied by traditional instruments). The spoken dialogue is primarily in Mandarin, while incorporating distinctive features of the Beijing dialect, giving the performances a strong Beijing character and flavour.

In 2021, Beijing Quju was included in the Fifth Batch of Beijing Municipal Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage Projects.

About Beijing Quju Troupe

Founded in 1959, Beijing Quju Troupe is the only professional Chinese opera company in Beijing, China, dedicated to producing and performing Beijing Quju. Named by esteemed writer Lao She in 1952, Beijing Quju draws its musical foundations from the tunes of *danxian*, or single-string storytelling. Its performances are rooted in everyday life, with dialogue that blends Standard Mandarin and the Beijing dialect, and features singing that is rich in distinctive Beijing flavour. In 2021, Beijing Quju was added to the Beijing Municipal Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Originally established as the Quju Division of the Beijing Traditional Folk Arts Troupe, the company adopted its present name in 1984. It has since created more than 200 productions, including classics such as *Teahouse*, *Dragon Beard Ditch*, and *Four Generations Under One Roof*. Its productions have received numerous accolades, including the "Five Top Projects" Award and the Wenhua Award for Best New Productions. In recent years, the troupe marked its 40th anniversary with a series of performances, staging notable works such as Beneath the Red Banner and Under the Lunar Glow, alongside original productions such as Wen Tianxiang and Kublai Khan and *Love* as part of its *New Era, New Melodies* series.

Committed to preserving tradition while embracing artistic innovation, the troupe continues to promote the Wei Xikui school of vocal performance through its talent development initiative. Its production of *This Life of Mine* was presented at the 2024 BeSeTo Festival in Gwangju, South Korea, before appearing at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in the UK in 2025. Meanwhile, Teahouse was selected for the Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism's China National Opera Audio-Visual Project. Featuring performers from three generations, the production reflects the enduring vitality and continued evolution of Beijing Quju.

26 – 28 Feb 2027
Fri, 8pm | Sat & Sun, 3pm
Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade

Ticket Price: $48*, $68^
Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: $40*
Limited concession for PWD: $40

^*Esplanade&Me Specials*

Early Bird (26 Nov – 16 Dec 2026, limited tickets)
Black: 20% savings
White: 15% savings
Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2 tickets)

From 17 Dec 2026, 10am
Black: 15% savings
White: 10% savings
Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2 tickets, limited tickets)

Melodies Across Generations

by Modern Nanyang (Malaysia)
Featuring Yudi Yap



"Songbird of Nanyang" Yudi Yap brings you on a nostalgic musical journey to celebrate iconic composer Yao Min's timeless songs.

Enjoy Yao Min's popular *shidaiqu* (时代曲) songs from the 1930s to 1960s that found their way from Shanghai to the Nanyang region. Relive the unforgettable musical era through songs from a remarkable body of work that resonated deeply with fans in Singapore and Malaysia such as *Speak Softly of Love*, *Malaysian Scenery* and *Nyonya and Baba*, bringing back memories and emotions that have endured across generations.

2027 marks the 60th anniversary of Yao Min's passing and a centenary of Chinese popular songs, and this tribute honours his more than three decades of creativity and influence that helped shape a golden age of Chinese popular music. A towering figure in his time, he rose to prominence in Shanghai in the 1930s and reached the height of his success in Hong Kong in the 1950s and 1960s, and leaves behind a remarkable catalogue of beloved classics. Among them, *Tears of a Lover*《情人的眼泪》remains one of his most enduring masterpieces. It was originally sung by S. K. Poon (潘秀琼), a Singaporean-Malaysian singer whom Yao Min personally mentored. Its English version, *Lover's Tears*, was recorded by another of his Singaporean protégées, Tang Shiao Ping (邓小萍).

Melodies Across Generations brings together musicians from Singapore and Malaysia led by renowned Malaysian singer Yudi Yap, beloved for both her songwriting and her distinctive interpretations of classic songs.

Programming Planning & Production: Modern Nanyang (Malaysia)
Vocalist: Yudi Yap (Malaysia)
Music Director & Arranger / Piano / Accordion: Ouke (Singapore)

Drums / Percussion: Govin Tan (Singapore)
Double Bass: Russell Seow (Singapore)
Chinese Flute / Ruan: HowZie (Malaysia)
Multimedia Designer: William Ang

(1hr 40min, no intermission)
Performed in Mandarin

19 & 20 Feb 2027
Fri & Sat, 7.30pm
Esplanade Recital Studio

Ticket Price: $45
Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWD: $40

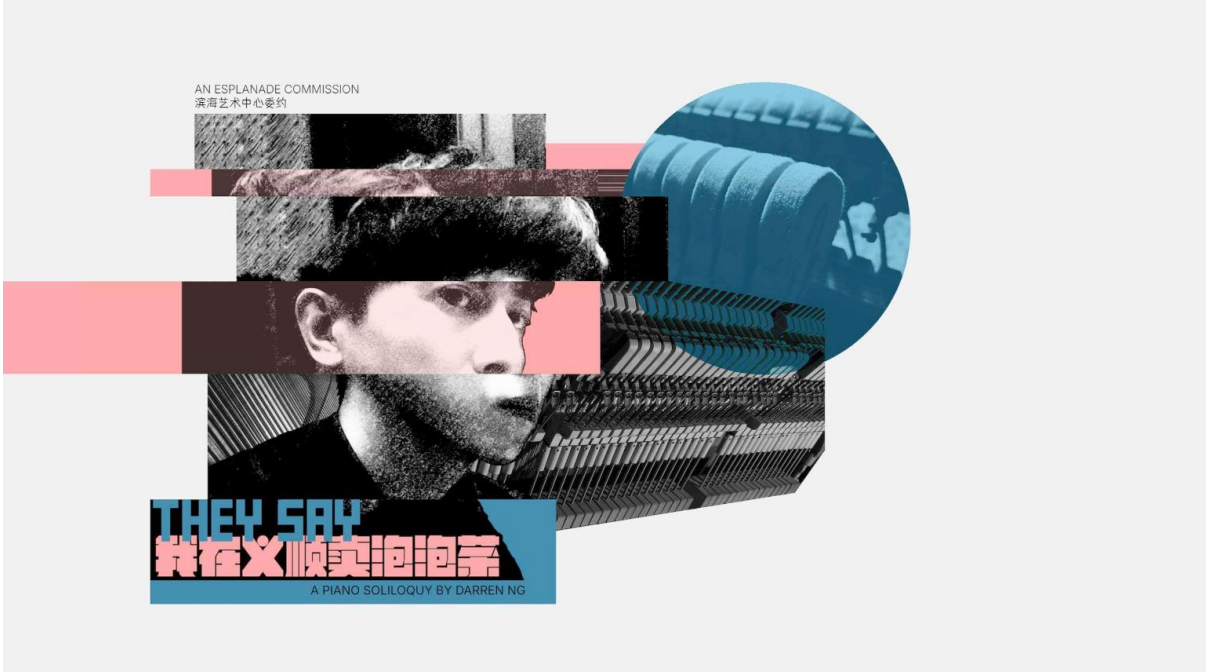
Esplanade&Me Specials

Early Bird (26 Nov – 16 Dec 2026, limited tickets)
Black: 20% savings
White: 15% savings
Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2 tickets)
From 17 Dec 2026, 10am
Black: 15% savings
White: 10% savings
Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2 tickets, limited tickets)

An Esplanade Commission

THEY SAY

A Piano Soliloquy by Darren Ng (Singapore)



A note went off, a note taken, leading to the next.

Within an empty room, sounds shift and phase between temporal boundaries, and the quiet hammering of notes blooms into amorphous sonic tapestries that eventually unfold, cascade and wilt into nothingness across time and space.

A quiet rumour paints an alternate reality where a man, intoxicated with a life of sound and music, ends up opening a bubble-tea shop in Yishun. It matters not if such a fractured narrative really did happen, or will happen—a non sequitur with no denouement.

THEY SAY is a pensive and exploratory journey through introspective musical improvisations. Conceived and directed by sound artist and music composer Darren Ng, the performance is an intimate conversation in causality between an estranged man and an acoustic piano.

(1hr, no intermission)

About Darren Ng

Darren Ng is a Singaporean sound artist and music composer whose cross-disciplinary works span theatre, installations, film, and digital media. Driven by a fascination with tactile and spatial acoustics, his sonic explorations inhabit liminal states and negative spaces—using a subtractive and distilling modus operandi to evoke subliminal emotional resonances. Beyond his sound design and music composition for the stage and screen, he releases neo-classical ambient music under the quiet moniker SONICBRAT, and is a co-founder of the multidisciplinary design collective INDEX.

26 – 28 Feb 2027
Fri & Sat, 7.30pm | Sun, 3pm
Esplanade Recital Studio

Ticket Price: $40
Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWD: $34

Esplanade&Me Specials

Early Bird (26 Nov – 16 Dec 2026, limited tickets)
Black: 20% savings
White: 15% savings
Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2 tickets)

From 17 Dec 2026, 10am
Black: 15% savings
White: 10% savings
Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2 tickets, limited tickets)

This programme is eligible for SG Culture Pass credits from 26 Nov 2026 onwards.

On My Way to Buy Eggs

by Taipei Blooming Troupe (Taiwan)



She went out to get some eggs, and came back with so much more.

One evening, Dad gives Shau-yu a task—buy some eggs! With a red-and-white- striped plastic bag in hand, Shau-yu heads out on an adventure. Every encounter she chances on in her journey—leaves, flowers, marbles, glasses, cats, dogs, chewing gum, a big fish, and even Mom!—transform into something wonderful as she lets her imagination run free. When she returns home, her plastic bag is still empty. But her heart is overflowing with delightful stories that she cannot wait to share with Dad.

In this captivating production, everyday city scenes come to enchanting life through the eyes of an imaginative and inquisitive child who is filled with wonder and joy. *On My Way to Buy Eggs* is a charming and enlightening tale that inspires us to discover the little moments of happiness that are right in front of our eyes!

Adapted from award-winning Taiwanese writer Chen Chih-Yuan's acclaimed picture book, this stage production premiered to a sold-out audience at the 2025 Taipei Children's Arts Festival and was restaged the following year due to popular demand.

Original Story *On My Way to Buy Eggs* | Chen Chih-Yuan
First Published | Hsin Yi Publications
Commissioned by Taipei Performing Arts Center

(55min, no intermission)
Performed in Mandarin, with no surtitles
Recommended for 5 years old and above
This is a Relaxed Environment RE performance.

About Taipei Blooming Troupe

Taipei Blooming values the power of fully expressing one's individuality and believes in a meaningful relationship between performing arts and life. True to its name, Taipei Blooming Troupe looks forward to the unexpected surprises and developments that bloom from collaborations between artists from different fields.

19 – 21 Feb 2027
Fri – Sun, 11am & 3pm
Esplanade Theatre Studio

Ticket Price: $35

Esplanade&Me Specials

Early Bird (26 Nov – 16 Dec 2026, limited tickets)
E&Me PIP's Club: 15% savings (Min. 2 tickets)

From 17 Dec 2026, 10am
E&Me PIP's Club: 10% savings (Min. 2 tickets)
E&Me PIP's Club: 15% savings (Package of 4, limited tickets)

Islands

by Shimmering Production (Taiwan)



A dual encounter between two islands.
The legend of a fisherman seeking his true self.

On a quest to unearth the legend of his own name, Taiwanese dancer Wang Yeu-Kwn sets sail for the southeastern island nations, where he engages Indonesian dancer Danang Pamungkas in a dialogue through physical and lived experiences. Together, they invite us to reflect on the bonds between humans and the places we call home.

Through a soul-searching story brought alive with graceful movements, they explore the weight of bodies anchored to land and air. Here, identity, like the shifting shores, ebbs and flows with the tides. From solitary striving to kindred companionship, this drifting journey allows us to glimpse the island's strength. The island carries its people with a delicate balance of gentleness and resilience. Perhaps, only when we venture beyond the island do we begin to truly know ourselves.

Islands garnered international attention following its highly acclaimed premiere at the 2024 Artquake In Autumn festival at the National Theater and Concert Hall. Additionally, the work has been nominated by Sadler's Wells in London and shortlisted for the "Bloom Prize" as part of the 2027 Rose International Dance Prize.

Islands was co-commissioned by the National Theater & Concert Hall and National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying), with residency support by Kinosaki International Arts Center and The Place, as well as production support by FACP – Clare C. & Friends Fellowship.

Choreography & Concept & Performer ｜Wang Yeu-kwn
Performers ｜Wang Yeu-kwn, Danang Pamungkas
Dramaturgy ｜Wang Shih-wei
Set Designer ｜Chen Guan-li

Technical Director & Lighting Design ｜Joanne Shyue
Music Design ｜Lin Yu-de
Epilogue Music ｜ *An Elephant*, Performed by Hualun
Rehearsal Director ｜Lee Yin-ying
International Strategy Development & Tour Manager ｜Kao Yi-kai

(55mins, no intermission)
Advisory: Performance will include use of loud sounds and smoke effects.

There will be a post-show dialogue conducted in Mandarin and English with the choreographer and performer after each performance.

About Shimmering Production
Facing the Body, Where Light Emerges.

Founded in 2019 by Wang Yeu-Kwn and Lee Yin-Ying, Shimmering Production focuses on exploring and questioning the body while creating contemporary dance works. They also launched the Hand in Hand, We Dance arts initiative, advocating that everyone can shine when they breathe and move with their bodies.

Since 2020, the company has been developing *A Trilogy: Quest of Relationships*, examining how the body connects with the world across different scales and dimensions. The first instalment, *Beings*, is a duet performed alongside paper and ink that has garnered wide international acclaim, touring across Japan, Greece, Germany, Portugal, Spain, and France. In 2024, the second instalment, *Islands*, premiered at the National Theater & Concert Hall of Taiwan's Autumn Artquake before embarking on tours both in Taiwan and abroad. Both works were selected as finalists for The Rose International Dance Prize at Sadler's Wells in London for 2025 and 2027 respectively, making Wang the first artist internationally to receive consecutive nominations for this prestigious honour.

In 2025, Shimmering Production was awarded "Creative Figures of the Year" at the La Vie Taiwan Creative 100 Biennial Awards. As the company continues to tour globally, it remains anchored to its core philosophy: breathing alongside the public and illuminating the subtle light within every body.

Choreography & Concept & Performer, Wang Yeu-kwn
Artistic Director of Shimmering Production and a certified fisherman, Wang Yeu-kwn has been selected as a 2025–2026 Artist-in-Residence at the National Theater & Concert Hall of Taiwan.

Wang is the first Taiwanese artist to receive three Awards at the Yokohama Dance Collection in Japan. He is also the first Taiwanese choreographer to be a finalist for The Rose Prize 2025 at Sadler's Wells in London. His work has been highly acclaimed, with *Dance Magazine Japan* recognizing him as a choreographer to watch.

His *A Trilogy – Question of Relationships* project, including the dance works *Beings* and *Islands*, has been invited to renowned theatres in France and the UK, as well as multiple touring engagements across Europe. His creations have sparked significant discussions in the international dance scene.

Performer, Danang Pamungkas

Dancer, Choreographer and Artistic Director of Dan's Dance Studio Solo. Danang Pamungkas was a professional dancer at Cloud Gate 2 in Taiwan. After returning to Indonesia in 2011, hez has continued his dance career and has actively studied traditional Javanese dance, using it as a basis for dissecting and exploring the realm of contemporary dance choreography. He is a frequent artist at the Theater Arena Surakarta and Jakarta Salihara Theater in Indonesia. In addition, he has been invited to perform at international festivals and stages including the Indonesian Dance Festival, Salihara Festival and Salihara Festival in Indonesia, the Artquake in Autumn Festival in Taiwan, Welt Museum in Vienna, Austria, the National Museum in Singapore, and Boston Arts Center.

27 & 28 Feb 2027
Sat, 8pm | Sun, 3pm
Esplanade Theatre Studio

Ticket Price: $40
Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWD: $34

Esplanade&Me Specials

Early Bird (26 Nov – 16 Dec 2026, limited tickets)
Black: 20% savings
White: 15% savings
Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2 tickets)

From 17 Dec 2026, 10am
Black: 15% savings
White: 10% savings
Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2 tickets, limited tickets)

Lecture Performance

Constellations by Nick Payne

By Edward Lam Dance Theatre (Hong Kong)



A multidimensional lecture performance presented by acclaimed Hong Kong theatre director Edward Lam that explores how tiny choices can result in vastly different outcomes in different universes.

Adapted from *Constellations* by Nick Payne, it tells the stories of Roland, the beekeeper, and Marianne, a physicist studying the multiverse. Their professions could not be more different, but their personalities are similarly introverted. Put together, how will the two of them navigate an intimacy that they have not encountered before?

This novel presentation takes the form of a lecture performance, and features Edward Lam as main facilitator, guiding audiences in script analysis, performance critique, and in moments of live audience interaction. Regardless of the individual's theatre going experience, audience members are given a rare opportunity to understand and see how a play is being created in real time, and also directly engage in the multi-faceted storytelling through interacting with Edward Lam, the actors and with each other.

In line with the play's concept of the multiverse, there are five variations of this presentation in *Huayi 2027*:

19 Feb 2027, Fri, 8pm: Timeline A - *Her Version*
20 Feb 2027, Sat, 1pm: Timeline B - *His Version*
20 Feb 2027, Sat, 5pm: Timeline C - *What She Says to Him*
21 Feb 2027, Sun, 1pm: Timeline D: *What He Says to Her*
21 Feb 2027, Sun, 5pm: Timeline E - *Hers and His Parallel Dialogue*

Audiences can expect to be richly rewarded by attending one session, or be thoroughly illuminated by attending more than one session. Through the exploration of five different

timelines in the show's multiverse, audience members experience not just a play, but a series of choices that are made by Roland and Marianne that lay stark the impossibility of control while embracing the endless possibilities of acceptance.

Come enter the Constellations multiverse for a refreshing experience to gain invaluable insights into a veteran director's craft and approach to theatre making.

(2hrs, no intermission)
Conducted in Mandarin.
Admission for ages 12 and above

About Edward Lam Dance Theatre
Founded in 1991, Edward Lam Dance Theatre is a recipient of the "Eminent Arts Group Scheme" supported by Hong Kong Arts Development Council. For the past 35 years, it has produced 77 pieces of original works covering various locations in the greater China area in terms of topics, audiences and influence. Working with outstanding performers and creators, the theatre is dedicated to exploring the modernity and possibility of the Chinese language theatre with forward-looking perspectives.

Edward Lam
Edward Lam founded Zuni Icosahedron with friends in the early 1980s and established Edward Lam Dance Theatre, where he serves as the artistic director, during his residence in London (1989-1995). Since returning to Hong Kong in 1995, he has devoted himself to theatre and directed 77 original productions. Lam was awarded Best Director at Shanghai theatre festival Modern Drama Valley's One Drama Awards on several occasions, including for *Men and Women*, *War and Peace* (2010), *The Doppelgänger* (2012), and *What is Sex?* (2017). A firm believer in education, Lam has given lectures at The University of Hong Kong, the Academy of Film at Hong Kong Baptist University, and The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.

In 2015, he launched the first edition of *ELDT On Screen*, a cinematic showcase of four of his adaptations of literary classics. He has also published books of collected essays, including *Waiting for Hong Kong*, *The Meaning of Entertainment*, *Evil But Glamorous*, *My TV Dinner Years*, and *Leading Ladies in the Mandarin Cinema*. In 2016, Taiwanese journal Performing Arts Review published *Who is Afraid of Edward Lam*, Hsu Yen-mei's analysis of Lam's stage productions from 2006 to 2015. Lam was named Artist of the Year (Theatre) by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council in 2017.

19 – 21 Feb 2027
Fri, 8pm | Sat & Sun, 1pm & 5pm
Esplanade Annexe Studio

Ticket Price: $48*^
Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWD: $40*

Three Timelines Package: $120
Purchase tickets to 3 different timelines. Limited tickets available. Terms and Conditions apply.

^*Esplanade&Me Specials*

Early Bird (26 Nov – 16 Dec 2026, limited tickets)
Black: 20% savings

White: 15% savings
Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2 tickets)

From 17 Dec 2026, 10am
Black: 15% savings
White: 10% savings
Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2 tickets, limited tickets)

WENDY WANDER 2026-2027 ASIA TOUR “THE HOUSE OF”
(Taiwan)



Come share in a new musical chapter of Taiwanese alternative pop band Wendy Wander’s music!

Step inside *The House Of* and immerse yourself in the album’s musical world as Wendy Wander makes their debut headlining Singapore concert.

Rooted in alternative pop, Wendy Wander’s music blends elements of indie pop, synth pop, rock, disco, and funk, and their discography spans from heartfelt ballads to soft groove-driven dance tracks. Their debut album, *Spring Spring*, was released to critical acclaim in 2020, followed by their EP *Lily* in 2021. They released their second full-length album, *Midnight Blue*, in 2023, marking the beginning of the band’s expansion into international markets.

From 2023 to 2025, Wendy Wander performed extensively at music festivals and on tours across Asia, steadily building their presence in the region. In 2026, the band released their third full-length album *The House Of*, heralding a new chapter in their creative journey.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)
Performed in Mandarin.
Standing room only.

26 Feb 2027, Fri, 8pm
Esplanade Annexe Studio

Ticket Price: $68
Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWD: $55

Esplanade&Me Specials

Early Bird (26 Nov – 16 Dec 2026, limited tickets)
Black: 20% savings
White: 15% savings
Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2 tickets)

From 17 Dec 2026, 10am
Black: 15% savings
White: 10% savings
Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2 tickets, limited tickets)

puppiebelly
(China)



Discover new possibilities and take flight in an evening with rising Chinese indie musician puppiebelly and her signature laid-back “burger pop” sound.

With two albums, *BURGER POP* and *blossom* 《少女，飞》 to her name, puppiebelly has emerged as one of the rising voices of China’s new generation of independent musicians. Her signature “burger pop” sound blends the laid-back charm of bedroom pop and indie pop with live band arrangements and Western pop influences.

She first caught listeners’ attention with the single *Cold Air*《冷空气》, a 2021 collaboration with Taiwanese pop band Sunset Rollercoaster, followed by the retro-tinged *Faster, slower* 《快一点，慢一点》 in 2023. Her song 《滥俗的歌》, featured in the hit film *Her Story*, further propelled her into the spotlight. puppiebellly’s music has also been covered by artists including Silence Wang, Elvira Cai, Wu Xuanyi and Teens in Times. Her 2025 album *blossom* received recognition from the NetEase Cloud Music Hard Rock Original Music Awards, QQ Music and the Midi Awards.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)
Performed in Mandarin.
Standing room only.

27 Feb 2027, Sat, 8pm
Esplanade Annexe Studio

Ticket Price: $68
Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWD: $55

Esplanade&Me Specials

Early Bird (26 Nov – 16 Dec 2026, limited tickets)
Black: 20% savings
White: 15% savings
Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2 tickets)

From 17 Dec 2026, 10am
Black: 15% savings
White: 10% savings
Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2 tickets, limited tickets)

Soundtoy
(China)



Chinese rock sensation Soundtoy present their debut Singapore concert at *Huayi*.

The sound of Soundtoy is not easy to describe. Romance and grandeur. Poetry and realism. Complexity and intuition. These seeming contradictions capture the distinct essence of Soundtoy's music and the expansive, captivating energy of their live performances.

From winning over audiences by making their way to the finals of The Big Band music competition to selling out arena shows, they have cemented their places as one of the most influential contemporary rock bands in China.

Whether you fell in love with them through iconic tracks like *Ailing* 《爱玲》, *No One Can Be Closer to Each Other Than Us* 《没有人能够比我们更接近对方》 or *Your City* 《你的城市》, or even if you have never heard these songs before but simply live for rock music, you are invited to witness Soundtoy's inaugural performance in Singapore.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)
Performed in Mandarin.
Standing room only.

28 Feb 2027, Sun, 5pm
Esplanade Annexe Studio

Ticket Price: $68
Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWD: $55

Esplanade&Me Specials

Early Bird (26 Nov – 16 Dec 2026, limited tickets)
Black: 20% savings
White: 15% savings
Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2 tickets)

From 17 Dec 2026, 10am
Black: 15% savings
White: 10% savings
Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2 tickets, limited tickets)

TICKETED WORKSHOPS

Hand in Hand, We Dance Workshop

Lee Yin-Ying, Director & Dancer of Shimmering Production (Taiwan)



©Kevin Im

Led by director and dancer of Shimmering Production Lee Yin-Ying, *Hand in Hand, We Dance* is a dance workshop that translates high level dance techniques into accessible body practices. Through a process grounded in professional somatic training and choreographic practice, participants are invited to begin from their own bodies and discover the joy and possibilities of movement.

The workshop begins with mutual introductions, using play to loosen habitual physical patterns. Then through breathing, stretching, locomotion and partnering, participants gradually unlock bodily perception and develop their own physical vocabulary.

Pre-registration is required and applicants should meet one of the following criteria:

- Practising dance or theatre professionals, or
- Full-time dance or theatre students aged 15 and above, or
- Dancers or theatre practitioners with a few years of dance and/or movement experience, or
- People with physical performance experience

Successful applicants will be contacted within five working days to purchase tickets for this workshop.

Islands produced by Shimmering Production, performed by Wang Yeu-kwn and Danang Pamungkas, will be taking place on 27 & 28 Feb 2027.

(1hr, no intermission)
Conducted in Mandarin.
For ages 15 and above.
Note: Please dress comfortably for this workshop.

About Lee Yin-Ying | Director & Dancer, Shimmering Production

Lee Yin-Ying was a full-time dancer with Cloud Gate 2 for a decade. In 2019, she co-founded Shimmering Production alongside Wang Yeu-Kwn. She was a featured performer in *Beings*, a work that garnered three awards at the Yokohama Dance Collection in 2021 and then went on extensive tours across Europe and Asia. Her solo work, *See Me*, has been invited for presentations in Tokyo and New York.

Yin-Ying is the long-standing facilitator of the *Hand in Hand, We Dance* initiative, leading workshops for non-professionals, seniors and youths to expand their physical expressiveness. The programme has taken place across Japan, as well as renowned venues in Taiwan including the National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying), Songshan Cultural and Creative Park, and Cloud Gate Theater. She also organised Peninsula, Let's Dance, a performance co-created with the community in Hengchun, Taiwan.

In 2019, Yin-Ying travelled to Japan to study Butoh, followed by intensive training in Noh theatre in 2023. Continually exploring the dialogue between movement and consciousness, she broadens the horizons of performance and somatic development—aspiring to help more people discover new facets of themselves through dance.

28 Feb 2027, Sun, 11am
Esplanade Rehearsal Studio

Ticket Price: $28