

FESTIVAL GUIDE  
UPDATED

26  
APR

12  
MAY

2018

singapore  
international  
festival of  
arts

Picture:  
...Sodade... by Cirque Rouages

Photo by E + N

S I F A . S G | # S I F A 2 0 1 8

# Special Thanks to

## PROGRAMME PARTNER



## OFFICIAL PARTNERS

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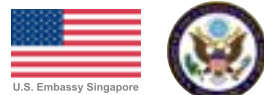
### SUPPORTING DIGITAL MEDIA



### SUPPORTING LIFESTYLE MEDIA



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“ Festivals bring people together to celebrate causes or to mark momentous occasions. Arts festivals allow us to not only appreciate the arts, they allow us to experience and form lasting and transformative memories. It is through shared experiences that we come to form communities.

The inaugural Singapore Festival of Arts began in 1977 as a national showcase of the vibrant art forms found within Singapore's diverse communities. In its many evolutions over the last four decades, the Festival has touched countless hearts, created invaluable experiences for many, and inspired even more to embrace the arts. From a time when Singapore was widely perceived as a cultural desert, the Festival has played an instrumental role in developing Singapore's arts landscape and shaped the city-state into one of Asia's leading cultural capitals.

This year, Singapore International Festival of Arts 2018 (SIFA 2018) marks the 41st year and kicks off a new era with Gaurav Kripalani at the helm as Festival Director for 2018 – 2020. Condensed into 17 days of artistic adventures, it is our hope that this exhilarating three-week format will create robust artistic engagement for a spectrum of diverse

audiences. The Arts House will be transformed into the Festival House, and within its intimate spaces, there will be meaningful discourses on the various themes presented in the festival.

Built upon the foundation and achievements of those who came before, Singapore International Festival of Arts is the sum of many parts made possible by a team of many talents who has worked tirelessly and passionately to deliver the Festival Director's vision. I thank everyone who has had a hand in shaping the Singapore International Festival of Arts into a tradition for both new and existing audiences and making it the stalwart of Singapore's dedication to artistic excellence.

Gaurav and the team have put together a festival of multiple layers allowing you to make up your own artistic adventures. It is my hope that you will walk away with unique memories of the Festival. ”

**Sarah Martin**  
CEO, Arts House Limited

MESSAGE  
FROM THE  
CEO





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**1984 by George Orwell**  
*(Photo by Shane Reid)*



## ABOUT SIFA

Into its 41st year, **Singapore International Festival of Arts 2018** presents diverse and distinctive work from Singapore and around the world that ignites the imagination, inspires myriad audiences, and provokes reflection and dialogue.

Get ready for a plethora of theatre, music, dance, literary and visual arts at the pinnacle national arts festival that will happen over three weeks from 26 April to 12 May, and across ten performance spaces, including the Festival House, located at The Arts House.

## INTRODUCING FESTIVAL HOUSE

The Arts House will be transformed into Festival House for Singapore International Festival of Arts 2018. The mix of intimate spaces in the House lends itself to unique opportunities for performances, interactions and engagement for audiences and festival artists. The activities at Festival House offer avenues for reflection and discussion on concepts and themes in the Festival. The Arts House will be the pulse of the festival where audiences meet, discuss the works in the festival, eat, drink and hang out while taking in the Festival buzz.



“ I grew up looking forward to the Singapore Arts Festival every year. Watching shows across different genres from around the world played a big part in shaping my artistic sensibilities. Shows such as Ninagawa’s *Macbeth* (1992), for example, entirely changed my perception of how Shakespeare could be performed. In 1996, I acted in Singapore Repertory Theatre’s *Sing To The Dawn*; it was the first time a Singaporean musical opened the Singapore Arts Festival. Given this history, I was delighted and honoured to be asked to helm the Singapore International Festival of Arts for the next three years.

What is SIFA’s role? Where does it fit in the cultural landscape, both at home and internationally? Who does it serve? Where would I like it to be in three years? As I was thinking of how to shape the festival, what I did know was that I wanted to programme a festival that would inspire young people in the same way that I was impacted 25 years ago.

With the support of the phenomenal team at SIFA, I aspired to curate a season that would showcase different art forms and perspectives from Singapore and around the world. We also strove to programme a spectrum of shows that would appeal to a variety of audiences, from the first-time festival-goer to the seasoned art lover. We believe we have programmed artists who are game-changers in their fields.

In parallel, discussions commenced with several of the game-changers in the Singapore arts scene. One of SIFA’s roles is to commission and facilitate the creation of new Singaporean work - giving

artists the time and resources to develop shows over a two- or three-year horizon. We look forward to presenting the culmination of this process in SIFA 2019 and 2020.

Two memorable experiences from arts festivals I have attended around the world have been the free outdoor performances, and a festival ‘village’ – a place where artists and audiences can meet after a show and discuss what they’ve just seen. Both these elements can be found in SIFA 2018. The free outdoor programmes on the opening and closing weekends have some sensational performances to be enjoyed with family and friends. Over these three weeks, The Arts House will become Festival House. It will be the heartbeat of SIFA with performances, lectures, readings, music salons and, of course, a place to just hang out and chat. Artists will give talks, conduct masterclasses or host Q&As, and hopefully we will build relationships with them that last beyond the festival.

A key initiative that I introduced this year is the \$10 front-row student ticket. I want the next generation of Singaporeans to know that they matter to SIFA. My hope is that they will fall in love with the arts in the same way I did at their age.

I would like to thank Sarah Martin and the incredible team of people I work with at SIFA and at Arts House Limited. Despite the tight six-month runway to programme this festival, they have been nothing short of amazing and have worked tirelessly to produce a Festival that we hope resonates with you as much as it does with us.

Most of all, thank you for your support. The scope, breadth and reach of shows in SIFA will continue to grow over the next three years. We look forward to taking you on this exciting journey with us. ”

**Gaurav Kripalani**  
Festival Director



## FESTIVAL MESSAGE



## OPENING WEEKEND

**An enchanting French evening of aerial circus performed to live music.**

*Every stormy evening, an old man, exiled for a long time, approaches the sea side. When the wind caresses his skin, he returns into his indelible memories. A daydream of sweet nostalgia, not to ever forget, and continue to live whatever it takes.*

...Sodade... is a nostalgic ode to life, a fable of love and loss in the air as told by two musicians playing and singing on a unique circus structure of huge twin wheels, each over two metres in width, between which a 21-metre long tightrope cable is strung.

A captivating French aerial circus that tells of impossible longing and remembering to survive.

BY CIRQUE ROUAGES (FRANCE)

# ...SODADE...

Created by Cirque Rouages, a collective based in Lorraine, France that has inspired audiences all over the world with their imaginative sets and performances, ...Sodade... celebrated its 100th performance in 2017 and has played in France and abroad, including in Switzerland and South Korea. An enchanting outdoor evening of live music and acrobatics suitable for all ages.

SUPPORTER



INSTITUT  
FRANÇAIS  
SINGAPOUR

27 – 29 Apr  
FRI, 7.30PM & 9.30PM  
SAT & SUN, 7PM & 9.30PM

Empress Lawn  
50m  
FREE

PHOTO BY E + N



OPENING WEEKEND

# 24 HOURS IN LAPA

BY TAMIL ROGEON (AUSTRALIA) FEATURING METROPOLITAN FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA (SINGAPORE)

27 Apr  
FRI, 8.30PM & 10.30PM  
EMPRESS LAWN  
FREE  
45m

**A transcendental electro-orchestral suite inspired by a tragic tale.**

From the seeds of tragedy comes an emotionally-charged 12-part song cycle built on Brazilian rhythms, orchestral scoring, diverse vocal performances and subtle electronics.

Written by Tamil Rogeon, one of Australia's most innovative composers, this cinematic suite is a meditation on the themes of vice, impetuosity and extinguished youth, as it paints the final hours of a young man who was gunned down by off-duty police whilst

celebrating his 30th birthday in the Rio de Janeiro party district of Lapa.

Joining Tamil are leading Australian musicians Doug de Vries, Ben Vanderwal, Dan West and Bobby Valentine, and Singapore's Metropolitan Festival Orchestra, a professional ensemble which shares a rich history with SIFA as it first started out as the resident orchestra for the Singapore Arts Festival in 2007.

PHOTO BY TONY OWCZAREK

**TCHEKA**  
(CAPE VERDE)

**A captivating solo performance, brimming with distinctive sounds of Cape Verde and other global music influences.**

Singer, songwriter and guitarist Tcheka brings his distinctive Cape Verde-influenced sounds to Singapore audiences for the first time in a one-man showcase of deeply soulful vocals accompanied by an inimitable form and mastery on guitar like you have never heard it played.

Tcheka grew up performing traditional Cape Verdean songs with his family, and these references to multiple genres – *batuku*, *funaná*, *finason*, *tabanka*, *morna* and *coladera* – are evident in his compositions. But the influences do not stop there. Tcheka's music is also a busy intersection of Brazilian and African pop, traditional forms,

folk, jazz, blues, rock, literature, anthropology and film.

Tcheka has created a unique and exquisite style that is a testament to the global influences he has embraced in his hard-to-define music. His essence is impossible to grasp, let alone pin down. This is a performance that is never just Cape Verdean, never just music, but is always captivating.

28 Apr  
SAT, 8.15PM  
EMPRESS LAWN  
FREE  
1h

28 Apr  
SAT, 10.30PM  
EMPRESS LAWN  
FREE  
50m

**SULTAN OF THE DISCO**  
(KOREA)

**Time to relive the disco days so put on your dancing shoes and groove along!**

South Korean indie band *Sultan of the Disco* returns to Singapore shores with its quirky brand of vintage sounds for modern listeners. Named after the song *Sultan of Swing* by British rock band Dire Straits, the five-man band takes its inspiration from soul and funk music from the golden age of disco – as performed by bands like Chic, Kool and the Gang, and Jackson 5 in the 1970s.

The combination of exceptional music, hilarious antics and wacky costumes has fuelled the band's popularity and taken them to major international festivals like the Glastonbury Festival in the UK where they have performed twice, the Summer Sonic in Japan, and CMJ Music Marathon in the US.

**An award-winning quartet who serves up masterful jazz-pop concoctions laced with a tinge of bossa beats.**

Japanese instrumental jazz act *bohemianvoodoo* is set to wow Singapore audiences in this electrifying debut show here that highlights selections from their diverse repertoire, including big hits fans will be well-acquainted with.

The four-man band that came together a decade ago in a jazz bar had started out performing on the live circuit, playing shows in Tokyo and Kanagawa Prefecture.

Their groovy, melodious jazz-pop tunes caught the attention of audiences and critics, and they have since swept up multiple awards in Japan and played in numerous sold-out shows. Notable performances included their Blue Note Tokyo appearance, as well as their showcase at 2015's edition of Tokyo Jazz Festival.

Join the unstoppable quartet as they immerse you in an evening of Japanese jazz sounds created for a modern, urban generation.

**bohemianvoodoo** (JAPAN)

29 Apr  
SUN, 8.15PM  
EMPRESS LAWN  
FREE  
50m



## OPENING WEEKEND

26 – 29 Apr  
THU – SUN

Various timings  
Various locations  
30m

# POP-UP DUETS

(fragments of love)

BY JANIS CLAXTON DANCE  
(UNITED KINGDOM)

MUSIC BY PIPPA MURPHY

**A series of dance encounters in public places,  
drawing on the theme of love.**

Dressed in unassuming clothes, four lithe dancers blend in effortlessly with an unsuspecting audience, until each pair emerges to command the makeshift stage and captivate with their dynamic *pas de deux* of playful flirtation, passionate combat or tender love.

*POP-UP Duets* is Edinburgh-based dancer and choreographer Janis Claxton's inspired endeavour at bringing high-quality dance to public places for unsuspecting audiences. In a collaboration with Scottish sound designer and composer Pippa Murphy, each of the site-specific duets is performed to an original track specifically written to the choreography – energetic, organic dance encounters that evolve from simple everyday interactions.

Viewed by over 10,000 people since it premiered in Scotland in 2016, the free series will “pop-up” in Singapore and around the Empress Lawn, against the elegant backdrop of the Victoria Theatre and Concert Hall. Hopeful spectators can track down the performances by following the aural cues.

Rating: General

Be our friend at [f sifa.sg](#) [sifa\\_sg](#) [sifa\\_sg](#)  
for timings and locations!

POP-UP Duets is supported by Creative Scotland for creation and touring

PHOTO BY LUCAS KAO

## 2018 singapore international festival of arts

### FESTIVAL OPENING WEEKEND 27-29 APR

Take your pick from our wide-ranging performances to kick start the festival

### “BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU.”

GEORGE ORWELL, 1984

#### 1984 by George Orwell

26–29 Apr  
Thu, 8pm  
Fri, 7.45pm  
Sat & Sun, 3pm & 8pm  
Esplanade Theatre

“... so current and terrifying”  
– Los Angeles Times

TICKETS FROM  
**\$35**

#### Jacob Collier (UK)

27 Apr, Fri, 8pm  
Victoria Theatre

28 Apr, Sat, 8pm (NEW SHOW)  
Victoria Theatre

“Jazz’s new messiah”  
– The Guardian

TICKETS AT  
**\$40**

#### Rhymes of Love: An Evening of Poetry and Conversation with Javed Akhtar & Shabana Azmi (IN)

27 & 28 Apr, Fri & Sat, 7.30pm  
Victoria Concert Hall

TICKETS FROM  
**\$35**

#### 0600 by Ground Z-0 (SG)

27 Apr–12 May,  
Tue–Sun,  
Various timings  
National Gallery Singapore

TICKETS AT  
**\$20**

#### Jazz at Play I, II & III

28–30 Apr  
Sat, 9pm  
Sun & Mon, 8pm  
Play Den, Festival House

TICKETS AT  
**\$25**

### FREE PROGRAMMES @ EMPRESS LAWN



#### ...Sodade... by Cirque Rouages (FR)

27–29 Apr, Fri–Sun,  
Various timings  
Empress Lawn



#### 24 Hours in Lapa by Tamil Ragoon (AU) featuring Metropolitan Festival Orchestra (SG)

27 Apr, Fri, 8.30pm & 10.30pm  
Empress Lawn



#### Tcheka (CV)

28 Apr, Sat, 8.15pm  
Empress Lawn



#### Sultan of the Disco (KR)

28 Apr, Sat, 10.30pm  
Empress Lawn



#### bohemianvoodoo (JP)

29 Apr, Sun, 8.15pm  
Empress Lawn

**ALSO HAPPENING:** Talks, discussions, book clubs, films & more

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**JUST FOR YOU! 1-FOR-1\* DRINKS  
AT THE FESTIVAL BAR - HOUSE POUR**  
Located at the Festival House (The Arts House)  
(27–29 Apr, Fri–Sun)  
\*While stocks last.  
Terms & conditions apply



**An enchanting evening of lyrical poetry,  
and discussion with acclaimed poet Javed Akhtar  
and his wife, renowned actress Shabana Azmi.**

**27 & 28 Apr**  
**FRI & SAT, 7.30PM**

**Victoria Concert Hall**  
1h 30m, no intermission

**\$35\*, \$60\*, \$80**

\*Limited concessions available  
for students, NSFs and seniors

Limited student tickets at \$10

Javed Akhtar, noted Indian script writer, lyricist and poet, and his wife Shabana Azmi, renowned actress and activist come together for a mesmerising evening of poetry followed by invigorating conversation on poetry, cinema, the arts and social issues – topics close to their hearts. Javed, an eminent writer who is also a social activist and commentator, will recite a selection of his poetry in Urdu while Shabana complements his recitation with translations of the poems into English.

The two hail from well-known Indian families distinguished in the arts. Javed continues a family lineage of Urdu writers spanning seven generations. Shabana is the daughter of Kaifi Azmi, considered to be one of the greatest Urdu poets of 20th century, and Shaukat Kaifi a well-known stage actress. Both have the distinct honour of being given the National Award five times in their respective fields with three of them in a row – an unparalleled achievement. They are also the only couple in the history of India's Parliament who have been nominated to the Rajya Sabha ( the Upper House ) by the President of India.

An enchanting 90 minutes of poetry and discussion with the power couple.

*Performed in English and Urdu*

# RHYMES OF LOVE:

**AN EVENING OF POETRY  
AND CONVERSATION WITH  
JAVED AKHTAR &  
SHABANA AZMI  
(INDIA)**

*Rating to be advised*



28 Apr  
SAT, 2PM

Blue Room, Festival House  
1h 30m, no intermission  
  
Free with registration  
at sifa.sg

IN CONVERSATION WITH  
**SHABANA  
AZMI**  
(INDIA)

Join highly acclaimed actress Shabana Azmi in this conversation about women in film, as she shares her experiences, struggles and achievements in her 30-year-long career with India's film industry.



JW Marriott Singapore South Beach

Room 501 - Bedroom

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(access via Nicoll Highway)



Blue Room Kitchen

Room 501 - Living Room



# 1984

BY GEORGE ORWELL

A new adaptation created by Robert Icke and Duncan Macmillan

**Orwell's fiction has become our reality: Big Brother is watching.**

April, 1984. 13:00. Comrade 6079, Winston Smith, thinks a thought, starts a diary, and falls in love. But Big Brother is always watching. Set in a world where an invasive government keeps a malevolently watchful eye on its citizens, this radical and much-lauded staging of the literary classic explores surveillance, identity and why Orwell's vision of the future is as relevant now as ever.

A literary masterpiece meets sheer theatrical ambition as one of the 20th century's greatest novels is given new life by some of the British theatre's fastest rising stars.

1984. Book now. Big Brother is watching!

1984 is a Headlong, Nottingham Playhouse and Almeida Theatre production, presented by Singapore International Festival of Arts, and GWB Entertainment in association with State Theatre Company of South Australia.

26 - 29 Apr  
THU, 8PM  
FRI, 7.45PM  
SAT & SUN, 3PM & 8PM

Esplanade Theatre  
SOUTHEAST ASIAN PREMIERE  
1h 45m, no intermission

\$35\*, \$60\*, \$80

\*Limited concessions available for students, NSFs and seniors

Limited student tickets at \$10

Tote Board subsidy is applicable for this performance, please visit [sifa.sg](http://sifa.sg)



PHOTO BY SHANE REID

★★★★★

"Chilling, Ingenious 100 minutes. I urge you to see this stunning show"

- THE TIMES

"This is a production of sharp ingenuity and jolting dramatic clout"

- THE TELEGRAPH

"Orwell's '1984' has never seemed so current and terrifying"

- LOS ANGELES TIMES

Advisory (Some Mature Content)  
This production contains flashing lights, strobe effects, loud noises, gunshots, and graphic depictions of violence and torture. Recommended for 13 years and above.



# 1984

## - THE BOOK CLUB

HOSTED BY DR GWEE LI SUI (SINGAPORE)

***Dr Gwee Li Sui will lead discussions on George Orwell's seminal novel, 1984.***

• FULLY SUBSCRIBED •

26 Apr  
THU, 8PM

Blue Room, Festival House  
1h, no intermission

Free with registration  
at sifa.sg

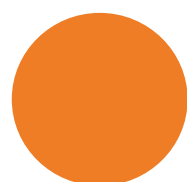
Patrons are advised to be seated 15 minutes before the programme begins. Unclaimed seats may be given away to walk-in patrons.

Singapore poet, graphic artist and literary critic Dr Gwee Li Sui leads a thought-provoking discussion on George Orwell's magnum opus, *1984*. Published over half a century ago in 1949, the cautionary tale about state surveillance and big government has never went out of style, in fact enjoying a recent renaissance on bestselling lists driven by growing concerns over fake news proliferation, online data privacy, and the global rise of strongmen politicians.

Orwell's ground-breaking story is a fictional metaphor with an outsized influence, with numerous references from the dystopian tale now in mainstream lexicon: "big brother" used to describe authoritarian behaviour; "doublespeak" a synonym for deceptive, euphemistic language. And surpassing these, "Orwellian" – an adjective derived from the English novelist's last name – immediately brings to mind the absolute authority described in the world of *1984*.

Join Dr Gwee as he journeys with you into this Orwellian world. Limited spaces, so register early for this stimulating discussion.

PHOTO BY SHANE REID



• FULLY SUBSCRIBED •

29 Apr  
SUN, 4PM

Blue Room, Festival House  
1h, no intermission

Free with registration  
at sifa.sg

Patrons are advised to be seated 15 minutes before the programme begins. Unclaimed seats may be given away to walk-in patrons.

# 1984

## - THE LECTURE

BY DR GWEE LI SUI (SINGAPORE)

George Orwell's *1984* has captivated and terrified generations of readers since its publication in 1949. The novel describes a futuristic society where a shadowy government exercises absolute control over the lives of its citizens. This chilling imagination of state power is prescient and casts a dark shadow over modern-day politics as we know it. It opens our minds to the effects of global war, the instruments of totalitarianism, the threat of mass media, and the abuse of language.

Dr Gwee Li Sui will also be delivering this insightful lecture that draws out these Orwellian lessons for our time. The original *1984* will be analysed in a way that will also shed light on Robert Icke and Duncan MacMillian's powerful stage adaptation. Dr Gwee will assess the damage to individuality under oppressive conditions created by propaganda, fake news, surveillance, and indoctrination. He will also discuss the novel's cultural impact and changing relevance across almost seven decades.







# A DREAM UNDER THE SOUTHERN BOUGH - THE BEGINNING

BY TOY FACTORY PRODUCTIONS  
TOY 肥料厂 (SINGAPORE)

30 Apr & 1 May  
MON, 8PM  
TUE, 3PM & 8PM

四月三十日与五月一日  
星期一, 8PM  
星期二, 3PM & 8PM

SOTA Studio Theatre  
FESTIVAL COMMISSION  
委约作品

1h, no intermission  
时长约1小时, 无中场休息

\$35\*

\*Limited concessions available  
for students, NSFs and seniors  
\*在籍学生、国民服役人员及乐龄  
人士能获得有限优惠票

Festival Tickets on sale at sifa.sg  
and SISTIC authorised agents  
赶紧购票!  
门票可在sifa.sg与各SISTIC售票处购得

*Toy Factory presents a contemporary  
adaptation of the epic Ming Dynasty opera  
that examines the thin line between living  
and dreaming.*

"When existence in dream is more perceptible  
than reality, do you wake up or stay asleep?"  
Toy Factory Productions dangles this conundrum  
before audiences in its ambitious modern  
adaptation of this 16th century epic Kun Opera  
play by revered Chinese Ming Dynasty playwright  
Tang Xian Zu.

The company reinterprets this evocative  
masterpiece *A Dream Under the Southern Bough*,  
tracing disgraced naval officer Chun Yu Fen's  
intoxicated dreamland escapades into a mighty  
Ant Kingdom, all while slumbering under an old  
sophora tree.

Bravely taking up the challenge of adapting  
the first five chapters as a play rather than  
an opera, founder and award-winning director  
Goh Boon Teck has produced a beguiling, lyrical  
prelude to the enchanted passage of a pensive  
dream. Audiences are encouraged not to awaken,  
but to dream...

This is part one of Toy Factory's ambitious trilogy,  
with plans for the next two parts, *Reverie and  
Existence*, slated for the next couple of years.

*A Dream Under the Southern Bough -  
The Beginning* will keep viewers adrift from  
the concept of time, and make you question  
reality altogether.

Performed in Mandarin with English surtitles  
Rating: General

TOY肥料厂改编明代戏曲作品, 以当代戏剧  
演绎薄如蝉翼的梦境与现实。

"当你在梦中游走, 感觉一切事物都是那么的美  
好, 此时, 你是醒来还是继续睡去?"

中国明代剧作家汤显祖16世纪所写的史诗剧作  
《南柯记》, 是TOY肥料厂又一雄心力作。  
导演吴文德将从原著中提取五场作为序幕演出,  
为观众打造一个引人入胜的旖旎前奏, 与戏入梦。

《南柯一梦》总共将分为三个部分, "入梦"、  
"如梦"和"辱梦"。在序幕演出后TOY将会陆  
续完  
成三部曲的后两部, 渐次精彩呈现男主人公淳于  
梦的二十年梦境与遐想人生。

TOY肥料厂大胆挑战古典文学作品之演绎,  
《南柯一梦》之"入梦", 让你漫游在时光的廊  
道中, 思考着何为梦境何为现实.....

华语演出, 附英文字幕。

分级制: 普通级



29 Apr  
SUN, 3PM

Living Room, Festival House  
1h, no intermission

Free with registration  
at sifa.sg



## AN INTRODUCTION TO TANG XIANZU & HIS PLAY A DREAM UNDER THE SOUTHERN BOUGH

BY BOK ZHONG MING (SINGAPORE)

*A Dream Under the Southern Bough*, written in 1600, is an iconic work of distinguished Ming Dynasty playwright, Tang Xianzu. The talk covers a brief introduction of the author, as well as an overview of the plot and its historical and cultural contexts. It is conducted by Bok Zhong Ming who is the President of the Text and Image Studies Society.

Currently, he is pursuing a Master by Research degree at the School of Humanities in Nanyang Technological University. Prior to this, he earned his Bachelor of Arts in Chinese with First Class Honours from the same institution. His research interests include classical and modern text and image studies.

## DECIPHERING THE OPERATIC CADENCE OF RHYME AND METER

BY QIN ZHAN BAO & TIAN PING (SINGAPORE)

*A Dream Under the Southern Bough* is part of *Four Dreams*, a series of major works penned by Ming dynasty playwright Tang Xianzu. The most classic renditions of these four scripts were staged as traditional Kun opera, which is one of the oldest forms of Chinese opera.

The scripts of these traditional opera practices are of high literary quality so there is a rhyming and rhythmic element to the recitations in addition to the arias. This works in tandem with the stylised choreography which is graceful and dance-like.

These techniques of acting and singing adhere to "four skills and five methods", a codification of training areas that opera performers aspire to master and also a measure for the most well-rounded and thoroughly trained performers.

Peking opera and Kun opera, both widely known to be among the pillars of Chinese cultural arts, differ in their singing styles. While Peking opera music is largely classified by meter, Kun opera music is classified by tunes. The *jinghu* is the most prominent musical instrument in Peking opera, while the *dizi* is the leading instrument in the Kun opera ensemble.

Experience the nuances of these art forms first hand by joining Peking opera maestros Tian Ping and Qin Zhan Bao, as well as Singapore *dizi* musician Ong Jie Ying at a live demonstration of traditional opera techniques.

Conducted in Mandarin, with English translation.



Ong Jie Ying



Qin Zhan Bao



Tian Ping

### 解读戏曲韵律

《南柯一梦》是明代戏曲家汤显祖的临川四梦之一，其他三梦为《还魂记》、《紫钗记》和《邯郸记》。这四部剧作都曾以传统戏曲演绎，而最为经典的首推“百戏之母”昆曲的版本。

传统戏曲剧本是以有韵律的诗句编写成的，基本上就是合辙押韵的“诗剧”。为此，传统戏曲发展出一整套的韵律程式，比如：无声不歌，无动不舞，举手投足之间行，走，坐，卧等韵律，也就是戏曲中的四功五法；虚拟的程式，恰恰同文本诗意的如梦似幻契合。

同为中国国粹的京剧与昆曲，两者的分别在很大程度上是在声腔上，比如：京剧是板腔体，而昆曲则是曲牌联套体；而京剧乐队的主奏是京胡，昆曲则为竹笛。至于唱做念打，四功五法自是相同的。

在这场戏曲欣赏讲座上，戏曲大师秦占宝与田平将现场示范传统戏曲的表演功架，新加坡的竹笛演奏家王洁盈也将作现场伴奏，同观众一起体验具有600多年历史的戏曲演唱。



• FULLY SUBSCRIBED •

6 May  
SUN, 3.30PM

Living Room, Festival House  
2h, no intermission

Free with registration  
at [sifa.sg](http://sifa.sg)

Patrons are advised to be seated 15 minutes before the programme begins. Unclaimed seats may be given away to walk-in patrons.



# FIRST READS

BY DARK MATTER THEATRICS (SINGAPORE)

As the saying goes, you always remember your first time... reading a great play that is! As theatre is ultimately communal, the artists at Dark Matter Theatrics (DMT) firmly believe a first read is best experienced with a group. In *First Reads*, DMT invites the public to join them at the first reading of a brand-new play, not just to listen or observe but to read along with them! The event will also feature a special guest, so if you've ever had the desire to read alongside a professional actor, come and join the *First Reads* community.

For more information on *First Reads*, please visit [sifa.sg](http://sifa.sg).

Dark Matter Theatrics is a theatre collective consisting of Christopher Fok, Lian Sutton and Marcia Vanderstraaten.

Rating to be advised

• FULLY SUBSCRIBED •

12 May  
SAT, 4PM

Blue Room, Festival House  
1h, no intermission

Free with registration  
at [sifa.sg](http://sifa.sg)

Patrons are advised to be seated 15 minutes before the programme begins. Unclaimed seats may be given away to walk-in patrons.

## TRACING THE DISPLACED: PROCESS INSIGHT TALK

BY HUZIR SULAIMAN /  
CHECKPOINT THEATRE (SINGAPORE)

Playwright Huzir Sulaiman of Checkpoint Theatre is preparing for his 2019 Festival commission, *Displaced Persons' Welcome Dinner* (working title). It will be a multidisciplinary theatre piece dealing with the themes of fragility, mortality and faith, and set in the world of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

In this talk, a year before the premiere of this new work, Huzir will lay bare his methods and approaches, from his research findings to the evolution of his ideas. Join us for an invaluable behind-the-scenes peek into the creative process of one of Singapore's most lyrical and thought-provoking theatre-makers.

PHOTO BY ZAKARIA ZAINAL

Huzir Sulaiman is the co-founder and Joint Artistic Director of Checkpoint Theatre. A critically acclaimed and award-winning playwright, his *Collected Plays 1998-2012* was published in 2013. His plays have been translated into German, Japanese, Polish, Indonesian and Mandarin. Currently an Adjunct Associate Professor with the National University of Singapore's University Scholars Programme, he has taught playwriting at several institutions. Huzir was educated at Princeton University and is a Yale World Fellow.



# TAHA

BY AMER HLEHEL (PALESTINE)

***A moving monologue capturing the life story of celebrated Palestinian poet Taha Muhammad Ali.***

TAHA is a beautiful optimistic picture of the Palestinian people – of all of us. In his beloved verses, Taha documents hopeful survival after 50 years of loss – loss of his home, his lover, his friends and his shop in Galilee.

Adapted from Adina Hoffman's critically acclaimed book of the poet's life and works, writer-performer Amer Hlehel has created a *tour de force* solo performance interweaving Taha's singular and exquisite poetry with his compelling life journey. Born in a village in Galilee in 1931, Taha fled with his family to a refugee camp in Lebanon in 1948 before returning to Nazareth where he ran a souvenir shop and taught himself classical Arabic literature and learnt English.

Masterfully performed by Hlehel in both Arabic and English versions under the sensitive direction of Amir Nizar Zuabi, founder of theatre company ShiberHur, TAHA powerfully communicates the sorrow, humour, resilience and tender humanity of this extraordinary man and artist. The one-man production, performed on a stage bare except for a bench and a yellow square, is the purest evidence of the ability of good theatre, free of superlatives, to move hearts and minds.

4 & 5 May  
FRI & SAT, 8PM

KC Arts Centre –  
Home of SRT  
1h, no intermission

**\$35\***

\*Limited concessions available  
for students, NSFs and seniors

Limited student tickets at \$10

"Pure poetry blossoms in  
deceptively simple show"  
- THE EVENING STANDARD

"An inspiring piece,  
delicate, deeply affecting.  
Warmly recommended"  
- INDEPENDENT

"A gently compelling tale,  
honouring the power of words  
above everything else"  
- TIME OUT LONDON



Rating: General



IN CONVERSATION WITH

**AMER HLEHEL**

(PALESTINE)

**5 May**  
SAT, 2PM**Blue Room, Festival House**  
1h 30m, no intermissionFree with registration  
at [sifa.sg](http://sifa.sg)

Get up close and personal to actor, playwright & director Amer Hlehel who both wrote the lyrical play *TAHA* based on the life of the Palestinian poet, and acts in it. In this session, Hlehel shares his thoughts on the one-man show he fronts, and talks about his artistic practice based out of Haifa and which has taken him around the world.

A Sundance Institute Theatre Program alumnus and former artistic director of Arabic-speaking Al-Midan Theatre in Haifa,

Hlehel holds a prolific portfolio that extends beyond theatre into film. In fact, one of his early roles was in the critically acclaimed *Paradise Now*, a movie that won the Golden Globe in 2006 for best foreign language film, and was nominated for an Oscars in the same category. Hlehel is the director of the Arab Culture Association in Haifa.

Don't miss this rare opportunity for a tête-à-tête with the talented performer.

**27 & 28 Apr**  
FRI, 8PM  
SAT, 6.30PM**Living Room, Festival House**  
45m, no intermissionFree with registration  
at [sifa.sg](http://sifa.sg)**VERSES OF LOVE & LIFE****SELECTED POEMS OF TAHA MUHAMMAD ALI**DIRECTED BY **AIDLI MOSBIT** (SINGAPORE)

Discover the poetry of celebrated Palestinian poet Taha Muhammad Ali in this enthralling evening of poetry and music. Find yourself carried away on the crests and troughs of life evoked by the master storyteller's verses that speak so disarmingly of his experiences – from love lost, to an exodus from home, and finally of personal equanimity.

The power of Taha's gentle poetry comes from his unflinching channelling of his experiences living in exile as a child in a Lebanon refugee camp and his unfailing ability to rise above personal tragedy to celebrate life, love and human dignity. The evening will feature poetry from *So What*, a translated English selection of the poet's beloved works from 1971 to 2005.

Rounding up the sensorial experience are performers Azrin Abdullah, Fareez Najid, Riduan Zalani, Rebekah Sangeetha Dorai and Tan Shou Chen. Under the direction of theatre practitioner and educator Aidlí Mosbit.

Rating: *General*

PHOTO BY TAN NGIAP HENG



3 - 6 May  
THU & SUN, 7.30PM  
FRI & SAT, 7.30PM & 9.30PM

Armenian Church  
Meeting point: Main gate  
of Armenian Church  
FESTIVAL COMMISSION  
1h, no intermission

\$15\*  
\*Limited concessions available  
for students, NSFs and seniors

# THE HIDDEN

BY KAMINI RAMACHANDRAN (SINGAPORE)

"Its deep history makes the Armenian  
Church a favourite stop for tourists"  
- THE STRAITS TIMES

**Listen for the traces of voices, stories, dreams  
of those who came before.**

Harking back to a time when traditional storytellers and musicians travelled from place to place, connecting their listeners to their locales through stories and song, audiences will roam the Armenian Church's grounds with Kamini Ramachandran, a pioneer Asian storyteller.

Centred in three locations within Singapore's oldest Christian church, *The Hidden* is an intimate site-specific storytelling performance that takes place in this 183-year-old setting. Guided by a voice and live music, step into the chapel, then through the restored parsonage and into the memorial garden as tales unfold. Who was here before? Why were they here, what were they seeking? Travellers, lovers, heroes from realms real

and unreal. What of their lives? Invisible threads will connect you, as, among the silent tombstones, you too are wrapped in time and space.

For close to two centuries, the Armenian Church sat quietly in its secret garden in the heart of the city, a sanctuary for the soul and a place for remembrance. *The Hidden* invites audiences to step into this refuge, to contemplate our relationship with these stories and the monument.

*Admission only for audiences aged 15 years and above  
Rating to be advised*

*Comfortable footwear is recommended for the performance.  
The Armenian Church is a place of devotion and as a sign of respect, it is advised to dress appropriately and modestly.*

PHOTO BY KARNAN BALAKRISHNAN

27 Apr - 12 May  
FRI, 9.30PM & 10.45PM,  
THU & SAT, 7.30PM, 8.45PM, 10PM  
TUE, WED & SUN, 7.30PM, 8.45PM

National Gallery Singapore  
Meeting point: Beside the holding  
cells, Supreme Court Wing Level 1  
45m, no intermission

\$20\*  
\*Limited concessions available  
for students, NSFs and seniors

# 0600

BY GROUND Z-0 (SINGAPORE)

**What do you think of the death penalty? Reserve  
your judgements until after you have seen this  
mixed-media presentation of death penalty  
cases.**

A newly formed collective-Ground Z-0 (founded by Singapore artist Zelda Tatiana Ng) has resurrected a slice of National Gallery Singapore's recent history through a mixed-media presentation. Audiences are led on an interactive tour that retraces the steps of defendants in some of the country's most notorious criminal cases.

While most know that the gallery is housed under the combined roofs of two of Singapore's most distinctive colonial-era buildings – the former Supreme Court and the City Hall – many may not have realised that before its present incarnation, the former was Singapore's highest court where many of the country's most shocking criminal cases, punishable by death, were brought to be tried.

Through multilingual performances, Ground Z-0 invites audiences to step into the shoes of all parties involved in death penalty cases – victims and their family members, death row inmates and their families, defendant lawyer, prosecutor, prison warden and witnesses – as they walk along a route leading from what were former holding cells for defendants, to the courtroom. The aim? Not to shock or scandalise, but that through immersion in the stories recreated of real-life people involved in the complex issue of capital punishment, and through post-show discussions on social media, audiences might contemplate the issue from all sides and from there, draw their own conclusions.

*Admission only for audiences aged 15 years and above  
Rating to be advised*

*Please note that this performance is not suitable for patrons with mobility issues.*



11 & 12 May  
FRI & SAT, 8PM

Esplanade Theatre  
SOUTHEAST ASIAN PREMIERE  
2h 30m, no intermission

\$35\*, \$60\*, \$80

\*Limited concessions available  
for students, NSFs and seniors

Limited student tickets at \$10

***Celebrated German director Thomas Ostermeier takes on Ibsen's 19th century play in a radical stage production.***

With his signature aesthetic and gritty realism, to a Southeast Asia stage for the first time, the internationally renowned theatre director Thomas Ostermeier's take on Henrik Ibsen's play about a man's crusade to tell the truth at all costs. In between a rock band rehearsal, hipster costumes, riffs from David Bowie, and an electrifying climax where the audience is called upon to participate in a rowdy debate, the remarkable production boldly tackles very contemporary dilemmas that seem to have added resonance six years on.

*An Enemy of the People* follows the journey of Dr Stockmann who discovers that the drinking water in his spa town is contaminated by industrial waste, and the persecution he faces when his exposé becomes inconvenient to the tourism the town depends on.

This stunning production has played to rave reviews from critics and audiences alike in Buenos Aires, Copenhagen, Istanbul, Melbourne and Seoul, just to name a few cities. There is no reason why audiences in Singapore will be an exception.

*Performed in German with English surtitles  
Rating to be advised*

*Note: Audiences seated in the first three rows may get splashed with water soluble paints. A protective sheet will be provided.*

# AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE

BY SCHAUBÜHNE BERLIN (GERMANY)

"Ibsen's drama scales new heights of excitement and fascination"

- THE TIMES

"It is a show where the perspicacity of its original author has never seemed starker"

- THE TELEGRAPH

"This take on Ibsen is the next best thing to a classic"

- THE GLOBE AND MAIL

PROGRAMME PARTNER



SUPPORTED BY



Federal Foreign Office

PHOTO BY ARNO DECLAIR

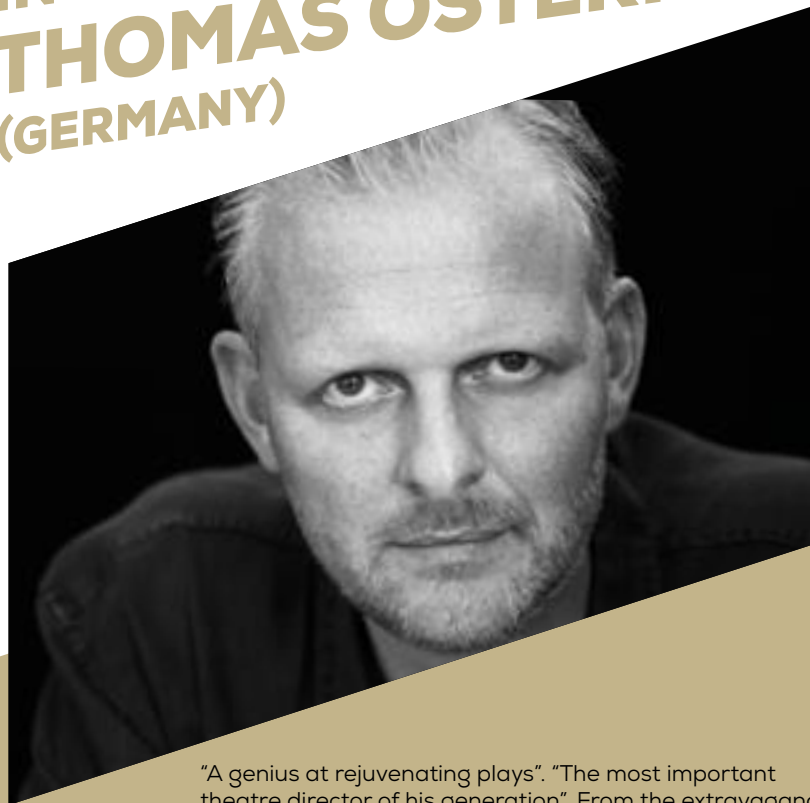


• NEW DETAILS •

11 May  
FRI, 6PM

Esplanade Theatre  
Circle 3 Foyer  
1h, no intermission

# IN CONVERSATION WITH THOMAS OSTERMEIER (GERMANY)



"A genius at rejuvenating plays". "The most important theatre director of his generation". From the extravagance of praise often used to describe German theatre director Thomas Ostermeier, one quickly realises he is of a calibre one does not get to meet very often. Much less sit down to a conversation with. So expect this invigorating talk with the internationally-renowned director of the much lauded *An Enemy of the People* to fill up quickly.

The artistic director at Schaubühne Berlin theatre, a role Ostermeier has held for the past 18 years, he is known for the signature aesthetic and gritty realism he applies in his contemporary updates of classic dramas like Henrik Ibsen's *Enemy of the People*. His contribution to art has been recognised in Germany and beyond. In 2009, he was appointed Officier des Arts et des Lettres by the French ministry of culture, and in 2015, promoted to the degree of Commandeur. In 2011, he received the Golden Lion of the Venice Biennale for the entirety of his work.

A rare chance to hear from this highly respected director.

PHOTO BY BRIGITTE LACOMBE

• FULLY SUBSCRIBED •

5 May  
SAT, 4PM

Living Room, Festival House  
1h, no intermission

Free with registration  
at [sifa.sg](http://sifa.sg)

Patrons are advised to be seated 15 minutes before the programme begins. Unclaimed seats may be given away to walk-in patrons.

## IDEALISM, INTEGRITY AND THE INDIVIDUAL: DR STOCKMANN'S DILEMMA

BY DR MELVIN CHEN (SINGAPORE)



Imagine you are a member of a spa town community whose spas are the principal source of income. It comes to your realisation that the water in these health baths is contaminated and could harm the health of their patrons. What would you do? Call for an urgent closure of these baths or suppress the information in the economic interests of your community?

Using the moral dilemma that confronts the central character Dr Stockmann in Henrik Ibsen's 19th century play *An Enemy of the People*, lecturer Dr Melvin Chen explores idealism, integrity and the individual in this public lecture. Situating the discussion within the context of Ibsen's oeuvre, Dr Chen delves into how the Norwegian's plays put our ideals to the litmus test, and argues for a renewed sense of both the value of ideals and the complexity of the world in which we seek to realise them.

A philosophy lecturer who also writes poetry and paints, Dr Chen is a faculty member of the University Scholars Programme at Nanyang Technological University and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Literature from the National University of Singapore, a Masters in Philosophy in Ibsen Studies from the University of Oslo, and a PhD in Philosophy from Cardiff University.



26 APR THU

## BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU



1984 by George Orwell

**D POP-UP Duets**  
26 Apr, 1pm & 6.30pm  
Various Location

**T 1984 by George Orwell**  
26 Apr, 8pm  
Esplanade Theatre

**F G 1984 - The Book Club**  
26 Apr, 8pm [FULL]  
Festival House

OPENING WEEKEND

27-29 APR FRI-SUN

**T 1984 by George Orwell**  
27 Apr, 7.45pm  
28 & 29 Apr, 3pm & 8pm  
Esplanade Theatre

**T 0600**  
27 Apr, 9.30pm & 10.45pm  
28 Apr, 7.30pm, 8.45pm  
& 10pm  
29 Apr, 7.30pm & 8.45pm  
National Gallery Singapore

**L Rhymes of Love:  
An Evening of Poetry and  
Conversation with Javed  
Akhtar & Shabana Azmi**  
27 & 28 Apr, 7.30pm  
Victoria Concert Hall

**F L Verses of Love & Life-  
Selected Poems of Taha  
Muhammad Ali**  
27 Apr, 8pm  
28 Apr, 6.30pm  
Festival House

**F T ...Sodade....**  
27 Apr, 7.30pm & 9.30pm  
28 & 29 Apr, 7pm & 9.30pm  
Empress Lawn

**F D POP-UP Duets**  
27 Apr, 1pm, 6.30pm & 9pm  
28-29 Apr, 6.30pm & 9pm  
Various Locations

**M Jacob Collier**  
27 Apr, 8pm [SOLD OUT]  
28 Apr, 8pm [NEW SHOW]  
Victoria Theatre

**F M 24 Hours in Lapa**  
27 Apr, 8.30pm & 10.30pm  
Empress Lawn

**F G Octavia E. Butler's  
Parable of the Sower -  
The Book Club**  
28 Apr, 11am  
Festival House

**F G Jacob Collier  
on Harmony & Groove**  
28 Apr, 11.30am  
[New Timing!]  
Festival House

**F G In Conversation  
with Shabana Azmi**  
28 Apr, 2pm  
Festival House

**F G This is How the  
Future Catches Up:  
Extra-Terrestrial  
Exploration and the  
Performing Arts in the  
21st Century**  
28 Apr, 4pm  
Festival House

**M Jazz at Play I**  
28 Apr, 9pm  
Festival House

**F M Tcheka**  
28 Apr, 8.15pm  
Empress Lawn

**F M Sultan of the Disco**  
28 Apr, 10.30pm  
Empress Lawn

**F G 1984 - The Lecture**  
29 Apr, 4pm [FULL]  
Festival House

**F M bohemianvoodoo**  
29 Apr, 8.15pm  
Empress Lawn

**M Jazz at Play II**  
29 Apr, 8pm  
Festival House

**F G Deciphering the  
Operatic Cadence of  
Rhyme and Meter**  
29 Apr, 2pm  
Festival House

**F G An Introduction to  
Tang Xianzu and his play**  
29 Apr, 3pm  
Festival House

30 APR MON

**M Jazz At Play III**  
30 Apr, 8pm  
Festival House

**T A Dream Under  
the Southern Bough -  
The Beginning**  
30 Apr, 8pm  
SOTA Studio Theatre



Jazz at Play I, II & III

1 MAY TUE

**T A Dream Under  
the Southern Bough -  
The Beginning**  
1 May, 3pm & 8pm  
SOTA Studio Theatre

**T 0600**  
1 May, 7.30pm & 8.45pm  
National Gallery Singapore



A Dream Under the  
Southern Bough -  
The Beginning

2 MAY WED

**T 0600**  
2 May, 7.30pm & 8.45pm  
National Gallery Singapore

**F G In Conversation  
with Wang Meiying**  
2 May, 8pm  
Festival House



The Hidden  
Photo by Karnan Balakrishnan

**T 0600**  
3 May, 7.30pm, 8.45pm  
& 10pm  
National Gallery Singapore

**T The Hidden**  
3 May, 7.30pm  
Armenian Church



0600

**V Singular Screens**

27 Apr-12 May, 10am-10pm Festival House

**F V Already Elsewhere | The Lapse Project | Four Decades**

26 Apr-12 May, 10am-10pm Festival House

SECOND WEEKEND

4-6 MAY FRI-SUN



Taha

**T Taha**  
4 & 5 May, 8pm  
KC Arts Centre -  
Home of SRT

**T The Hidden**  
4 & 5 May, 7.30pm & 9.30pm  
6 May, 7.30pm  
Armenian Church

**T 0600**  
4 May, 9.30pm & 10.45pm  
5 May, 7.30pm, 8.45pm  
& 10pm  
6 May, 7.30pm & 8.45pm  
National Gallery Singapore

**D OCD Love**  
5 & 6 May, 8pm  
SOTA Drama Theatre

**M Octavia E. Butler's  
Parable of the Sower**  
4 & 5 May, 8pm  
Victoria Theatre

**M Anticipation of One**  
4 May, 9pm  
5 May, 10pm  
Festival House

**M Temporal**  
4 May, 8pm & 10pm  
Festival House

**F G In Conversation  
with Amer Hlehel**  
5 May, 2pm  
Festival House

**F G Idealism, Integrity  
& the Individual:  
Dr Stockmann's Dilemma**  
5 May, 4pm  
Festival House



Octavia E. Butler's  
Parable of the Sower  
Photo by Paul Marotta

**D Tap Masterclass with  
Michelle Dorrance**  
6 May, 10am  
Victoria Theatre Dance Studio

**F T First Reads**  
6 May, 3.30pm [FULL]  
Festival House

**F G In Conversation  
with Michelle Dorrance**  
6 May, 2pm  
Festival House

**D Contemporary Dance  
Masterclass**  
6 May, 2pm  
Victoria Theatre Dance Studio

8 MAY TUE

**D The Blues Project**  
8 May, 8pm  
Victoria Theatre

**T 0600**  
8 May, 7.30pm & 8.45pm  
National Gallery Singapore

**F V SKY KAVE**  
6 May, 10am-10pm  
Festival House



The Blues Project  
Photo by Em Watson

9 MAY WED

**D The Blues Project**  
9 May, 8pm  
Victoria Theatre

**D Playlist #1**  
9 May, 8pm  
SOTA Drama Theatre

**T 0600**  
9 May, 7.30pm & 8.45pm  
National Gallery Singapore

**F V SKY KAVE**  
9 May, 10am-10pm  
Festival House

10 MAY THU



Playlist #1

**D Playlist #1**  
10 May, 8pm  
SOTA Drama Theatre

**T 0600**  
10 May, 7.30pm, 8.45pm &  
10pm  
National Gallery Singapore

**F V SKY KAVE**  
10 May, 10am-5pm  
Festival House

**F M V SKY KAVE -  
Performances**  
10 May, 7.30pm & 8.30pm  
Festival House [FULL]

CLOSING WEEKEND

11 & 12 MAY FRI & SAT

**T 0600**  
11 May, 9.30pm & 10.45pm  
12 May, 7.30pm, 8.45pm  
& 10pm  
National Gallery Singapore

**F G In Conversation  
with Thomas Ostermeier**  
11 May, 6pm  
Esplanade Theatre  
Circle 3 Foyer

**F V SKY KAVE**  
11 & 12 May, 10am-5pm  
Festival House

**F M V SKY KAVE -  
Performances**  
11 & 12 May, 7.30pm &  
8.30pm  
Festival House



An Enemy of the People

**T An Enemy of the People**  
11 & 12 May, 8pm  
Esplanade Theatre

**F G Tracing the Displaced:  
Process Insight Talk by  
Huzir Sulaiman**  
12 May, 4pm [FULL]  
Festival House

**G Points of View Public  
Forum**  
12 May, 5.30pm  
Festival House

**M Nico Muhly  
Speaks Volumes**  
12 May, 8pm  
SOTA Drama Theatre



Nico Muhly  
Speaks Volumes  
Photo by Ana Cuba



**F M Duke Ellington  
Orchestra**  
12 May, 6pm  
Shaw Foundation  
Symphony Stage,  
Singapore Botanic Gardens

**F V Singular Screens**

27 Apr-12 May, Festival House

**F G Points of View**

4 -12 May

**F V Already Elsewhere | The Lapse Project | Four Decades**

26 Apr-12 May, 10am-10pm Festival House

\* All information is correct at time of print. Schedule subject to change without prior notice.



BY L-E-V DANCE COMPANY (ISRAEL)

# OCD

# LOVE

5 & 6 May  
SAT & SUN, 8PM

SOTA Drama Theatre  
1h, no intermission

**\$35\*, \$50**

\*Limited concessions available  
for students, NSFs and seniors

**Limited student tickets at \$10**

Tote Board subsidy is applicable  
for this performance, please visit  
[sifa.sg](http://sifa.sg)

**Israeli dance company L-E-V's visceral and  
mesmerising study of love.**

There is definitely something compulsive about *OCD Love*, a dance inspired by a forlorn spoken word poem by Neil Hilborn about love lost due to the protagonist's obsessive compulsive disorder. Visceral, stirring and stylistically abstract, Israeli dance company L-E-V's creation is a powerful study about matters of the heart that is danced to relentless techno beats mixed live by musician and DJ Ori Lichtik.

In a mesmerising hour fusing movement, music, lighting and technology, bodies moving with technical precision orbit each other in a space, pulsating in between light and shadows, full of yearning yet always unable to connect. Dancer Sharon Eyal, with long-time collaborator Gai Behar, both key figures in Israel's thriving arts scene and co-founders of L-E-V with Lichtik, have created a contemporary piece about incomprehensible and pathological love – one whose lovers keep missing each other because they are constantly out-of-step, yet are chronically and incurably unable to break free from the other.

Again and again, these paradoxes are personified by L-E-V's dancers – in each suspension and fall of a torso, with each extension of sinuous arms, and on every arabesque. *OCD Love* is an irresistible visual treat that will grip contemporary dance lovers with its mysterious exploration of imperfect and obsessive love.

*Advisory (Some Mature Content)*

"Hugely striking. Full of startling originality" - EVENING STANDARD

"The piece is intermittently powerful and certainly never boring" - THE TIMES

"Gravely beautiful exploration of the obsessive-compulsive state" - THE GUARDIAN



6 May  
SUN, 2PM

Victoria Theatre Dance Studio  
1h 30m, no intermission

\$20

Interested applicants must meet minimum requirements to participate. Please submit your application via [sifa.sg](http://sifa.sg).

## CONTEMPORARY DANCE MASTERCLASS BY L-E-V DANCE COMPANY (ISRAEL)

Join one of the dancers from *OCD Love*, Rebecca Hytting, in a rare opportunity to immerse in the powerful choreography of Sharon Eyal and Gai Behar. Participants of this masterclass will undergo an improvisation-based warm up session led by Hytting before they go on to learn one of the routines from the L-E-V Dance Company repertoire.

Hytting hails from Huskvarna, Sweden, where she grew up. After completing her education in Stockholm, she joined Batsheva Ensemble, Batsheva Dance Company, Carte Blanche Contemporary Dance Company, and the Gothenburg Opera Danskomani. She is currently collaborating with Sharon Eyal and Gai Behar in their project, L-E-V.

# POV

4 to 12 May 2018

Points of View:

Critical Frames for

Performance Writing and Making

**POV** is a nine-day programme for young performing arts writers and makers to explore various ways of viewing and approaching artistic works. Held as part of Singapore International Festival of Arts (SIFA), successful applicants will:

- Experience selected SIFA performances for free
- Engage in critical dialogue with SIFA artists, organisers, industry experts and fellow thinkers
- Contribute to discussions, tutorials and other workshop activities with programme facilitators
- Share their experiences in a public forum on 12 May, 5.30pm



### YOU MUST BE

- Interested in performance writing or performance making
  - Between 18 and 30 years old
  - A Singapore resident
- Confident in both written and spoken English
- Actively involved in performance writing/making/studies/practice, either as a student, recent graduate or practitioner
- Able to commit to the entire programme from 4 to 12 May 2018

### TWO TRACKS

#### Performance Writing

For those interested in critical writing, including reviewing, research, arts journalism and arts administration.

#### Performance Making

For those interested in critical dialogue about performance making, including directing, acting, designing, playwriting and dramaturgy.

### TO APPLY

Download the **application form** from [www.asiandramaturgs.com](http://www.asiandramaturgs.com).

Email the completed form to [info@asiandramaturgs.com](mailto:info@asiandramaturgs.com).

**No fees** are required for registration or participation.

Applications will close on **Sunday, 25 March 2018, 11.59PM (SGT)**.

Application outcomes will be announced on **6 April 2018**.

Developed by:



Part of:



Presented by:

2018  
singapore  
international  
festival of  
arts



8 & 9 May  
TUE & WED, 8PM

Victoria Theatre  
ASIAN PREMIERE  
1h, no intermission

\$35\*, \$50

\*Limited concessions available  
for students, NSFs and seniors  
Limited student tickets at \$10

**A spectacular evening of tap dancing set to emotive blues music.**

Created by the world-class powerhouse team of Michelle Dorrance, Derick K. Grant, Toshi Reagon, and Dormeshia Sumbry-Edwards, *The Blues Project* brings together some of today's best tap artists, musicians, and choreographers in an innovative evening of rhythm, original live music, explosive energy, and raw emotion. Featuring performances by Bessie award-winning tap dance company Dorrance Dance with acclaimed singer-songwriter-guitarist Toshi Reagon and BIGLovely, *The Blues Project* is a creative collaboration that explores the relationship between music, sound, and movement.

As described by the Washington Post, "[the] intimate and rowdy merging of dance and music, with one disappearing into the other, hits you like a sonic distillation of a blistering American past and its perilous present, with a transcendent strength of spirit woven through." This 60-minute production features an original score composed by Reagon, and performed live with her five-piece band, BIGLovely. Choreography by Dorrance, Grant, and Sumbry-Edwards, coupled with improvisations by the versatile dancers of Dorrance Dance, drives home the powerful conversation between live music and tap dance as its own musical score.

Winner of a Bessie Award in 2015 for outstanding production, *The Blues Project* brings together two dynamic ensembles for a transfixing program that expands and shatters notions about their respective art forms.

Rating to be advised

SUPPORTER



PHOTO BY EM WATSON

# THE BLUES PROJECT

CREATED BY MICHELLE DORRANCE, DERICK K. GRANT, TOSHI REAGON,  
AND DORMESHIA SUMBRY-EDWARDS  
FEATURING DORRANCE DANCE WITH TOSHI REAGON AND BIGLOVELY (UNITED STATES)

"...entirely glorious...Better yet was the collaboration of  
dance with Ms Reagon and other musicians"  
- NEW YORK TIMES

"'The Blues Project' commands the stage with joyous tap"  
- SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

"Their show ... really should be called 'The Bliss Project'  
- THE WASHINGTON POST



6 May  
SUN, 2PM

Blue Room, Festival House  
1h 30m, no intermission

Free with registration  
at [sifa.sg](http://sifa.sg)

## IN CONVERSATION WITH MICHELLE DORRANCE (UNITED STATES)

Michelle Dorrance, solo artist and founder and Artistic Director of New York-based dance company Dorrance Dance, has toured the world as a tap dancer/performer/musician for two decades. Her award-winning company places at its core an aim to "honour tap dance's uniquely beautiful history in a new, dynamic and compelling context" pushing it rhythmically, technically, and conceptually while respecting its origins and traditions.

A dynamic powerhouse who performs, choreographs, directs and teaches, Michelle Dorrance grew up with her mother who is a classical ballet dancer and teacher, but segued into tap dancing at the age of three. Come join her in this conversation about her evolution as an artist and her passion for dance and music.

6 May  
SUN, 10AM

Victoria Theatre Dance Studio  
1h 30mins, no intermission

\$20

Interested applicants must meet minimum requirements to participate. Please submit your application via [sifa.sg](http://sifa.sg)

## TAP MASTERCLASS WITH MICHELLE DORRANCE (UNITED STATES)

Join 2015 MacArthur Fellow and acclaimed dancer, choreographer, and teacher, Michelle Dorrance for an intermediate tap dance masterclass. This class focuses on technique through challenging drills with emphasis on clarity, time, and musicality in order to develop the strongest possible technical range for each student. The class provides a fun and positive atmosphere for learning this powerful American art form and hopes to keep the teachings of the master hoofers alive and well for generations to come.



9 & 10 May  
WED & THU, 8PM

SOTA Drama Theatre  
1h 25m, no intermission

\$35\*, \$50

\*Limited concessions available  
for students, NSFs and seniors

Limited student tickets at \$10

Tote Board subsidy is applicable for  
this performance, please visit [sifa.sg](http://sifa.sg)

**Fairytales and Parisian haute couture captured in  
the French choreographer's ageless repertoire .**

Those well-acquainted with the sublime ballets of French dancer and contemporary dance choreographer Angelin Preljocaj will rejoice. *Playlist #1* is not one dance, but a long choreographic repertoire of excerpts from ten of his most beautiful solos, duos and ensembles from 1994 till now, in a single show. Those less familiar will find it a wondrous gateway into the works of the much-awarded dancer and artistic director of the Ballet Preljocaj.

*Playlist #1* expresses the entire breadth of Preljocaj's choreographic vocabulary, his predilection for written texts, his taste for the introspection of human beings and the value of symbols. It is an extra pure concentrate of virtuoso dance that plunges us into a state of grace or ecstatic contemplation. It is haute couture, made-to-measure to fit the skin and the flesh of the dancers who give life to his inspiration.

Highlights include: the otherworldly Spectral Evidence commissioned by New York City Ballet and set to music by experimental composer John Cage; the narrative ballet Snow White that sees dancers outfitted in costumes by Jean Paul Gaultier; and Le Parc, a ballet about love and lust, created for the Opéra de Paris.

*Playlist #1* is a repertoire that testifies to a journey through Preljocaj's work and through time.

Advisory 16 (Some Nudity)

# PLAYLIST #1

BY BALLET PRELJOCAJ (FRANCE)

"One of the most original and immersive dance productions of recent times"  
- THE WASHINGTON POST

SUPPORTER



INSTITUT  
FRANÇAIS  
SINGAPOUR

PHOTO BY JEAN-CLAUDE CARBONNE



# JACOB COLLIER

(UNITED KINGDOM)

• SOLD OUT •

27 Apr  
FRI, 8PM

Victoria Theatre  
1h 15m, no intermission

## SECOND SHOW ADDED!

28 Apr  
SAT, 8PM

\$40\*

\*Limited concessions available for students, NSFs and seniors

Limited student tickets at \$10

Tote Board subsidy is applicable for this performance, please visit [sifa.sg](http://sifa.sg)

*"Jazz's new messiah"*

- THE GUARDIAN

*"I have never in my life seen a talent like this... Beyond category"*

- QUINCY JONES

*"He is to me one of a very, very small handful of truly great artists in the world today"*

- HANS ZIMMER

**Hailed as one of the most prodigious and innovative musicians of his generation, witness the two-time Grammy Award winner's virtuosity in this debut concert.**

Jacob Collier has proven himself worthy of every superlative that has been used to describe him. Hailed as one of the world's most prodigious and innovative musicians of his generation, the London-based autodidactic multi-instrumentalist, singer, composer, arranger and producer is a two-time Grammy Award winner at only just 23 years old.

Defying labels in his music but often referred to as a jazz genius, the young virtuoso grew up in a musical family and first rose to popularity when his homemade multi-track YouTube videos went viral. Collier's musical style is a fusion of jazz, a cappella, groove, folk, electronic music, gospel, soul and improvisation, and often features extreme use of re-harmonisation. His impressive interpretations of popular songs attracted legendary fans in the jazz community including record producer Quincy Jones who was so impressed, he signed Collier up to his management company.

In July 2016, Collier released his debut album, *In My Room*, recorded, composed and produced entirely by him in his London home. Critically well-received, the album went on to top jazz charts and win him two Grammys. Don't miss this opportunity to witness his multi-instrumental, multi-visual performance on stage.



NEW TIMING!

28 Apr  
SAT, 11.30AM

Blue Room, Festival House  
1h 30m, no intermission

Free with registration  
at sifa.sg

# JACOB COLLIER ON HARMONY & GROOVE

BY JACOB COLLIER (UNITED KINGDOM)

Two-time Grammy award winner Jacob Collier has made a name for himself for his inventive use of multi-part vocal harmonies in his one-man music videos, in which he also plays multiple instruments. This workshop provides musicians, novices and fans alike with a rare opportunity to hear the London-based singer, composer, arranger and producer speak about how he adapts and brings his multi-instrumental, multi-visual format to his stage performances.

Described in turn as a "prodigy" and a "phenomenon", the talented millennial musician embraces technology enthusiastically in his music, constantly pushing the boundaries of what can be done in a live show. Collier will explain some of the unique technology he uses to achieve his signature vocal layering, including the custom-built harmoniser he uses in his performances. Attendees will also hear about his creative approaches to and interpretations of harmonies, which he will illustrate using the keyboard.

A masterclass not to be missed by music aficionados!

## VOLUNTEER WITH US!

If you love the arts, meeting new people and want to be a part of Singapore's pinnacle arts festival, join us as a Festival Ambassador! As a Festival Ambassador, you will work directly with the festival's creative team, meet like-minded arts fans and get a glimpse of what goes on behind-the-scenes of SIFA!

### Perks of being a SIFA Festival Ambassador:

- Opportunity to work closely with international and local artists as well as the SIFA creative team
- Exclusive SIFA Merchandise
- Certificate of participation
- Attractive ticket discounts
- LIFETIME BRAGGING RIGHTS!
- And more

Register your interest at [sifavolunteer@artshouse.sg](mailto:sifavolunteer@artshouse.sg)

Closing date for SIFA Festival Ambassador registration: **13 Mar 2018, Tue**

## JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!

Want to be kept up-to-date with the latest festival news and promotions? Join our mailing list and get festival updates sent right to your mailbox.

 [sifa.sg](https://www.facebook.com/sifa.sg)  [sifa\\_sg](https://www.instagram.com/sifa_sg)  [sifa\\_sg](https://twitter.com/sifa_sg)



# JAZZ AT PLAY I, II & III

28 - 30 Apr  
SAT, 9PM  
SUN & MON, 8PM

Play Den, Festival House  
3h 30m, with two 15mins breaks  
in between the sets

\$25\*

\*Limited concessions available  
for students, NSFs and seniors

This is a Free Seating and  
Standing Event  
Free seating is limited and on a  
first-come-first-served basis

## SAT

FEAT. THE SUITCASE,  
ALEMAY FERNANDEZ AND  
CHOK KERONG ORGAN TRIO  
(SINGAPORE)



Alemay Fernandez

Jase Sng,  
*The Suitcase*



## SUN

FEAT. WVC MALAYSIAN JAZZ ENSEMBLE  
(MALAYSIA), DEIXA (AUSTRALIA) AND  
ALINA RAMIREZ AND  
MARIO LOPEZ LATIN JAZZ QUARTET  
(SINGAPORE)

## MON

FEAT. AYA SEKINE, RANI SINGAM AND  
ANDREW LIM, AND  
CHRISTY'S COMMUNICATIVE ARTISTS  
(SINGAPORE)



KJ Wong,  
WVC Malaysian  
Jazz Ensemble



Doug de Vries, Deixa



Aya Sekine



Rani Singam



Andrew Lim

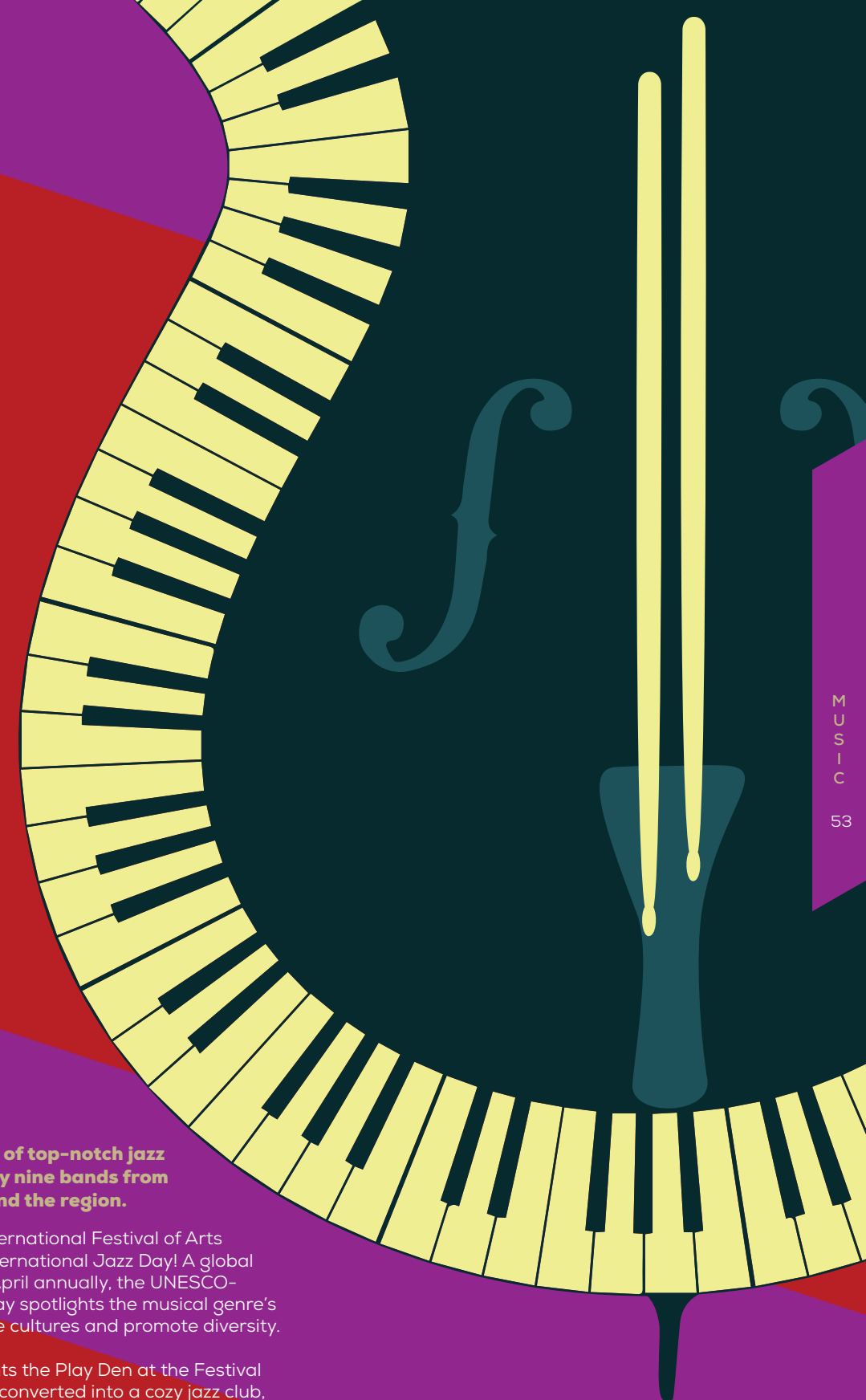


Christy Smith

Three nights of top-notch jazz  
performed by nine bands from  
Singapore and the region.

Singapore International Festival of Arts  
celebrates International Jazz Day! A global  
event on 30 April annually, the UNESCO-  
designated day spotlights the musical genre's  
power to unite cultures and promote diversity.

For three nights the Play Den at the Festival  
House will be converted into a cozy jazz club,  
featuring performances by some of  
Singapore's most beloved jazz musicians,  
as well as friends from the region.







4 & 5 May  
FRI & SAT, 8PM

Victoria Theatre  
2h, no intermission

\$35\*, \$50

\*Limited concessions available  
for students, NSFs and seniors

Limited student tickets at \$10

**A genre-defying work that harnesses 200 years  
of rousing Black American music to tell a  
post-apocalyptic tale of survival through song.**

*Parable of the Sower* fuses science fiction, African-American spiritualism, deep insights into gender and race, and climate activism to construct a mesmerising meditation on the future of human civilisation.

Written by Toshi Reagon and Bernice Johnson Reagon, the musical adaptation of *Parable of the Sower* follows Octavia E. Butler's novel in chronicling the spiritual awakening of young Lauren Olamina, amidst a dystopian America wracked by the violence brought on by climate change, unrelenting greed, and systemic injustice. It is eerily prescient.

A multi-talented singer, songwriter, composer and music director, Toshi Reagon is one of the most accomplished musicians of our times. American music and entertainment magazine *Vibe* described her as "one helluva rock'n'roller-coaster ride" while cultural magazine *PopMatters* called her a "treasure waiting to be found". Octavia E. Butler's *Parable of the Sower* is Toshi's latest collaboration with her mother, Bernice Johnson Reagon, an iconic singer, scholar, activist and founder of Sweet Honey in the Rock, who has been a profound contributor to African American and American culture for over half a century.

This captivating theatrical work of rare power and beauty is directed by Obie award-winning director Eric Ting, and produced by Singapore-born, US-based director and producer Wang Meiyin.

Rating: General

# OCTAVIA E. BUTLER'S PARABLE OF THE SOWER

CREATED BY TOSHI REAGON AND BERNICE JOHNSON REAGON (UNITED STATES)  
MUSIC AND LYRICS BY TOSHI REAGON AND BERNICE JOHNSON REAGON (UNITED STATES)  
DIRECTED BY ERIC TING (UNITED STATES)

"A Prescient Sci-Fi 'Parable' Gets  
Set to Music"  
- NEW YORK TIMES

"Difficult to imagine a performance that  
could be more filmic, visceral or dramatic"  
- THE NATIONAL, UAE



28 Apr  
SAT, 4PM

Living Room, Festival House  
1h, no intermission

Free with registration  
at sifa.sg



## THIS IS HOW THE FUTURE CATCHES UP: EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL EXPLORATION AND THE PERFORMING ARTS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

BY **FELIPE CERVERA** (MEXICO & SINGAPORE)

The space race of the 21st century is evolving rapidly, with fiction often piling next to reality. Today, the solar system is being mapped in increasing detail, NASA is working towards a Solar System Internet, and the race between corporations such as Space X and Boeing is on to transport humans to Mars. How has artistic media and artists responded to extraterrestrial topics in the face of rapidly progressing science and technology?

In this talk, theatre-maker and academic Felipe Cervera will look into the works of artists who are experimenting with new ways of envisioning extraterrestrial exploration. Referencing artists like Scottish Katie Paterson, Australian Sara Morawetz, Mexican Nahum, and Indonesian Venzha Christ, Cervera reflects on the ways in which their art encourages us to think of our place and agency in the universe.

## IN CONVERSATION WITH WANG MEIYIN

(UNITED STATES & SINGAPORE)

Singapore-born theatre practitioner Wang Mei Yin gives insights into her experiences as a producer on Octavia E. Butler's *Parable of the Sower* as well as insights into the global arts festival circuit.

A familiar face on New York City's theatre scene, Wang was previously co-director of the city's highly-regarded Under the Radar Festival, an annual festival by non-profit The Public Theatre. She is currently the director of La Jolla Playhouse's Without Walls festival, a site-specific and experiential city-wide performance festival in San Diego.

## OCTAVIA E. BUTLER'S PARABLE OF THE SOWER – THE BOOK CLUB

BY **JASON ERIK LUNDBERG** (SINGAPORE)

This discussion of Octavia E. Butler's 1993 science fiction book, *Parable of the Sower*, will be led by Jason Erik Lundberg, a Singapore-based American author and anthologist of more than 20 books. Butler's post-apocalyptic novel (which was followed up by a sequel, *Parable of the Talents*), is centred around the spiritual awakening of a young woman named Lauren Olamina, amidst a dystopian America wracked by the violence brought on by climate change, unrelenting greed and systemic injustice.

Lundberg, who is also the fiction editor at Epigram Books and founding editor of LONTAR: The Journal of Southeast Asian Speculative Fiction, will walk participants through the novel's hopeful tale set in the now not-so-distant year of 2024. He will also introduce

2 May  
WED, 8PM  
Living Room, Festival House  
1h 30m, no intermission

Free with registration  
at sifa.sg

Now based in the Bay Area as a producer and curator, Wang works on a prolific range of theatre projects internationally. Having grown up in Singapore until she left to study at Yale University, Wang continues to maintain professional links to her home through her role as associate artist with Singapore Repertory Theatre. She holds a BA in Political Science and Theatre.



28 Apr  
SAT, 11AM  
Living Room, Festival House  
2h, no intermission

Free with registration  
at sifa.sg

participants to Butler herself – a recipient of a MacArthur "Genius" Grant and a PEN Lifetime Achievement Award for her body of work, who gained prominence as one of the first African American women writers within science fiction.



# NICO MUHLY SPEAKS VOLUMES

BY NICO MUHLY (UNITED STATES)  
WITH LIM YAN (SINGAPORE)  
LISA LIU (UNITED STATES)  
MATT ALBERT (UNITED STATES)  
PAUL WIANCKO (UNITED STATES) AND  
RAMU THIRUYANAM (SINGAPORE)

PHOTO BY ANA CUBA

12 May  
SAT, 8PM

SOTA Drama Theatre  
1h 30m, with a 20m intermission

**\$40\***

\*Limited concessions available for students, NSFs and seniors

**Limited student tickets at \$10**

Tote Board subsidy is applicable for this performance, please visit [sifa.sg](http://sifa.sg)

## Composer Nico Muhly debuts in Singapore with an evening of exceptional music.

New York-based classical music composer Nico Muhly makes his concert debut in Singapore with a repertoire named after his first solo album. In this 90-min show, Muhly comes together with his closest American collaborators and Singaporean musicians pianist Lim Yan and percussionist Ramu Thiruyanam to perform a comprehensive selection of his compositions for solos, duos and small ensembles.

A much sought-after collaborator whose influences range from American minimalism to the Anglican choral tradition, the Juilliard-educated 37-year-old has achieved a level of success many composers can only dream of. His artistry also reflects a versatility that has seen him collaborate with musicians as diverse as Bjork, Hilary Hahn, Emanuel Ax and the Paris Opéra Ballet.

Greatly influenced by the work of Philip Glass, Muhly has written over 80 works. Notable ones for the stage and cinema include scores for the 2013 Broadway revival of *The Glass Menagerie* and for the films *Kill Your Darlings*; *Me, Earl And The Dying Girl*; and the Academy Award-winning *The Reader*. Most recently he produced *Looking Up* (2017), a work for choir and orchestra for the Cathedral Choral Society.

For the show at SOTA Drama Theatre, the ensemble will perform Nico's works including *A Hudson Cycle*, *Honest Music*, and *Skip Town*. He will also perform some of his commissioned pieces, including *No Uncertain Terms*, a 2017 piece commissioned by Carnegie Hall, in celebration of Steve Reich's 80th birthday, and *Drones & Viola*, commissioned by the Muziekgebouw.

Classical music fans can expect nothing less than an evening of virtuosic and exceptional music.



FESTIVAL CLOSING

# DUKE ELLINGTON ORCHESTRA

(UNITED STATES)

12 May  
SAT, 6PM

Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage,  
Singapore Botanic Gardens

FREE

1h 15m

Concert-goers are advised to take public transport

***Duke Ellington's legendary jazz orchestra performs his landmark works.***

The legendary Duke Ellington Orchestra, founded by and named after one of the 20th century's most prolific American composers, will play some of the late composer and musician's landmark jazz pieces for Singapore music lovers in a lively 75-minute performance amid the lush greenery of the Singapore Botanic Gardens.

One of the most influential figures in jazz, if not all American music, Duke Ellington is widely considered one of the best known African American personalities of the last century. Over a colourful career that spanned more than 50 years till his death at the age of 75 in May 1974, Duke Ellington influenced millions of people both around the world and in America with his

innovative compositions that challenged the conventions of his time.

Duke Ellington's illustrious career included leading his eponymous orchestra, composing an inexhaustible songbook, scoring for movies, composing stage musicals and world tours. In his lifetime, he had played over 20,000 performances in Europe, Latin America and the Middle East as well as Asia.

The Duke Ellington Orchestra has carried on the influential composer's legacy under the guidance of two successive generations of the Ellington family. Hear them perform live the music of one of the jazz world's most pivotal figures.

Singapore musicians Alemay Fernandez and Nick Zavior are guest vocalists for this concert.

SUPPORTER



VENUE PARTNER



Singapore  
Botanic Gardens



# ANTICIPATION OF ONE

BY SA X NADA X BRANDON TAY (SINGAPORE)

**A collective audiovisual performance by six inventive local artists, exploring the convergence of multiple selves.**

*Selves don't exist firmly in the present; they are "just coming into life in the flow of time" by virtue of their dependence on future loci of interpretation – future semiotic selves – that will come to interpret them. All semiosis, then, creates future. – Eduardo Kohn, How Forests Think: An Anthropology Beyond the Human*

Six artists, each a point of convergence between multiple pasts, presents, and futures, meld into their multiple selves, entangled in a web of collaboration and co-existence. SA x NADA x Brandon Tay is the inventive collective result, an ensemble audiovisual performance that explores the amalgamation of these individual selves from three distinct bodies of art.

4 & 5 May  
FRI, 9PM  
SAT, 10PM

Play Den, Festival House  
1h 10m, no intermission

\$25\*

\*Limited concessions available for students, NSFs and seniors

This is a Free Standing Event

SA (E), a triplet band trained in traditional Chinese music, explores identity through the creation of original soundscapes with an inventive approach to Chinese musical instruments; visual arts and sound duo NADA, conjure up sights and sounds of bygone eras through a contemporary approach to Southeast Asian music. An audiovisual performer whose multifaceted approach spans multiple mediums, Brandon Tay plays both co-composer and conductor, using media as both the stimulus and accompaniment to SA and NADA's music.

The audience is invited to travel unencumbered by time as both voyeur and voyager, indexing sounds and images as they come to life in the flow of time.

Rating to be advised

# TEMPORAL

BY INTRIGUANT + FLEX (SINGAPORE)

4 May  
FRI, 8PM & 10PM

Chamber, Festival House  
1h, no intermission

\$15

\*Limited concessions available for students, NSFs and seniors



**Past, present and future collide within the atmospheric centre of Singapore's Old Parliament House.**

Within the historical interior of the Chamber, musicians conjure up a soundscape of beats with new original music produced by Intriguant and lighting design by Flex, in this immersive audiovisual showcase.

Flex is a digital, visual and light artist who has created visual and projection mapping projects for world renowned brands and collaborated with artists, photographer and fashion designers.

Intriguant is a Singapore-based electronic music producer and DJ. Inspired by his surroundings, He uses textural sounds recorded through the years, and backed them with syncopated beats, fusing the physical with the spiritual. He melds soundscapes and rhythms with a wide spectrum of influences that include Hip Hop, Soul and Electronica.

Rating to be advised





26 Apr – 12 May  
DAILY, 10AM – 10PM

Gallery I, Festival House  
FREE

# ALREADY ELSEWHERE

BY GEOFF COBHAM (AUSTRALIA)

**Step into this immersive installation and bask in the wonder of light.**

Light is charged with creation. With the elemental. Volcanoes spewing molten rocks. The rising slant of a new day. The aloof light of a star. The bioluminescence of a firefly. Inspired by a moment of sublime disbelief on the edge of a Balinese rice paddy on the rim of a volcano, *Already Elsewhere* is an immersive light and sound installation by Adelaide-based artist Geoff Cobham that uses light to transform space and alter perception.

Cobham is an award-winning artist and designer whose extensive practice has seen him work with many of Australia's top choreographers and allowed him to explore for more than 30 years, endless combinations of colour, angle, intensity, and movement of light. In *Already Elsewhere*, he harnesses this elemental form and offers it transfigured, providing an arresting display which invites each audience member to experience light spatially, poetically and subjectively.

*Already Elsewhere* is a collaboration between Cobham and Chris Petridis, a lighting and video designer also from Adelaide.

SUPPORTER



26 Apr – 12 May  
DAILY, 10AM – 10PM

Gallery II, Festival House  
FREE



# THE LAPSE PROJECT

BY INTER-MISSION (SINGAPORE)

**Does technology help us to remember, or forget?**

As we develop new visions and modes of interaction with Singapore the city, how does our relationship to her monuments change? What constitutes our collective reality?

Taggling between the physical and the imaginary, and responding to the accelerated digitisation of our environment, *The Lapse Project* imagines a world that is constituted through interfaces where places of artistic and cultural identities become editable, and can just as easily be switched on or off. Through processes of digital manipulation, the multimedia installation 'erases' familiar landmarks that now serve as spaces for the arts around Singapore's Civic District – Singapore's oldest building,

The Arts House; National Gallery Singapore; National Museum of Singapore; and the Singapore Art Museum.

*The Lapse Project* takes a multi-dimensional approach to question memory, space and legacy through lapses in structure, time, particle, text and image. Visitors are invited to embody these lapses, contemplating the presence and absence of sights and sites.

Step into The Arts House to ponder where reality ends and the virtual begins. Exhibit runs for the entire duration of the Singapore International Festival of Arts 2018.

SUPPORTER

**SAMSUNG**



8 - 9 May  
TUE - WED, 10AM - 10PM  
10 - 12 May  
THU - SAT, 10AM - 5PM

Play Den, Festival House  
FREE

# SKY KAVE

BY FERRY (SINGAPORE)

**Unlock new dimensions to experiencing sound in this tactile music installation.**

Why just hear sound when one can also feel and see it? This is the premise of *SKY KAVE*, a music and visual art installation by Singapore multidisciplinary artist *FERRY* and technical collaborator Rong Zhao. The artists have created a suspended projection screen and a "Kave" floor – platforms equipped with tactile sound transducers—that enables the transmission of sound frequencies into physical vibrations felt by lying down on it.

The wireless headphones provided give audiences the choice of listening to the accompanying soundtracks. But *SKY KAVE* isn't so much about hearing sound and music, rather, by adding touch and sight to the experience, one can discover and experience new ways of enjoying it.

*SKY KAVE* performances will consist of collaborations between artists from differing backgrounds and disciplines, utilising the platforms to explore where rhythms and music go beyond what can just be heard and focus equally on what can be felt.

A multi-sensory experience for audiences from all walks of life including those with different sensory abilities, be treated to a carefully curated multimedia show involving music, film and projections, set within the world of the Play Den.

10 - 12 May  
THU - SAT,  
7.30PM & 8.30PM

Play Den, Festival House  
30m, no intermission  
Free with registration  
at [sifa.sg](http://sifa.sg)

Patrons are advised to be seated 15 minutes before the programme begins. Unclaimed seats may be given away to walk-in patrons.

28 Apr - 11 May Screening Room, Festival House  
Join our mailing list to receive updates on this programme.

# SINGULAR SCREENS

CURATED BY THE  
ASIAN FILM ARCHIVE

The film programme for Singapore Festival of Arts 2018, curated by the Asian Film Archive, features an international selection of exceptional new works celebrating independent voices across the world. From the adversity of fictive or real-life icons to the positions of the marginalised, the constellation of films hopes to respond to the broader sentiment of the festival programming with ideas revolving around the notion of resistance and the experience of the individual.

Continuing the trend from past SIFA film programmes, this individualism can also be experienced and translated on screen through the singular visions embodied by the filmmakers. Valuing the ingenious and the risk-taking in cinema, *Singular Screens* hopes not only to be diverse in representation but bold in putting together its palette of cinematic adventures. Whether as illustrations of resilience, peculiarity or the extraordinary, the films and their characters will continue to project imagined futures and aspire for alternate possibilities amid their own circumstances.

The full film line-up and schedule will be announced by 1 April. Visit [sifa.sg](http://sifa.sg) for updates on this programme.

• FULLY SUBSCRIBED •

SKY KAVE -  
PERFORMANCE



26 Apr - 12 May The Arts House, Level 2 Corridors  
With support from Centre 42  
FREE



# FOUR DECADES

In the fast-paced ever-shifting landscape of Singapore where memories are often short, looking back and taking stock becomes more urgent and important. Forty-one years ago, Singapore launched its first festival to celebrate the performing arts. How do we look back on arts festivals? How has the scale, ambition and achievement of each festival changed over the years?

What remains after the final curtain call of a festival? *Four Decades* is a retrospective of our national arts festivals through the years, in an exhibition of festival ephemera (items that were originally meant to be discarded after use but have since become collectibles) dating back to the 1970s. Take a trip back in time to trace the evolution of Singapore's pinnacle arts festival.

# VENUES

SIFA'S PROGRAMMES WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE FOLLOWING VENUES

**1**  **THE ARTS HOUSE IS FESTIVAL HOUSE**  
1 Old Parliament Lane, Singapore 179429

**2**  **VICTORIA THEATRE & VICTORIA CONCERT HALL**  
9 Empress Place, Singapore 179556

**3**  **EMPRESS LAWN**  
Open space in front of Victoria Theatre & Victoria Concert Hall

**4**  **NATIONAL GALLERY SINGAPORE**  
1 St Andrew's Rd, Singapore 178957

**5**  **ESPLANADE - THEATRES ON THE BAY**  
1 Esplanade Drive, Singapore 038981

**6**  **ARMENIAN CHURCH**  
60 Hill Street, Singapore 179366

**7**  **SCHOOL OF THE ARTS SINGAPORE (SOTA)**  
1 Zubir Said Drive, Singapore 227968

**8**  **KC ARTS CENTRE - HOME OF SRT**  
20 Merbau Road, Singapore 239035

**9**  **THE SHAW FOUNDATION SYMPHONY STAGE**  
Singapore Botanic Gardens, 1 Cluny Rd, Singapore 259569



📌 MY SIFA CHECKLIST		PAGE	26 Apr THU	27 Apr FRI	28 Apr SAT	29 Apr SUN	30 Apr MON	1 May TUE	2 May WED	3 May THU	4 May FRI	5 May SAT	6 May SUN	7 May MON	8 May TUE	9 May WED	10 May THU	11 May FRI	12 May SAT
THEATRE																			
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 ...Sodade... Empress Lawn	06			7.30pm, 9.30pm	7pm, 9.30pm	7pm, 9.30pm													
<input type="checkbox"/> 0600 National Gallery Singapore	31			9.30pm, 10.45pm	7.30pm, 8.45pm, 10pm	7.30pm, 8.45pm		7.30pm, 8.45pm	7.30pm, 8.45pm	7.30pm, 8.45pm, 10pm	9.30pm, 10.45pm	7.30pm, 8.45pm, 10pm	7.30pm, 8.45pm		7.30pm, 8.45pm	7.30pm, 8.45pm	7.30pm, 8.45pm, 10pm	9.30pm, 10.45pm	7.30pm, 8.45pm, 10pm
<input type="checkbox"/> 1984 by George Orwell Esplanade Theatre	16	8pm	7.45pm	3pm, 8pm	3pm, 8pm														
<input type="checkbox"/> A Dream Under the Southern Bough - The Beginning SOTA Studio Theatre	20						8pm	3pm 8pm											
<input type="checkbox"/> An Enemy of the People Esplanade Theatre	32																	8pm	8pm
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 First Reads Living Room, Festival House	24												3.30pm [FULL]						
<input type="checkbox"/> TAHA KC Arts Centre - Home of SRT	26										8pm	8pm							
<input type="checkbox"/> The Hidden Armenian Church	30									7.30pm	7.30pm, 9.30pm	7.30pm, 9.30pm	7.30pm						
MUSIC																			
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 24 Hours in Lapa Empress Lawn	08			8.30pm, 10.30pm															
<input type="checkbox"/> Anticipation of One Play Den, Festival House	62										9pm	10pm							
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 bohemianvoodoo Empress Lawn	09					8.15pm													
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 Duke Ellington Orchestra Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage, Singapore Botanic Gardens	60																		6pm
<input type="checkbox"/> Jacob Collier Victoria Theatre	48		8pm [SOLD OUT]	8pm															
<input type="checkbox"/> Jazz At Play I Play Den, Festival House	52			9pm															
<input type="checkbox"/> Jazz At Play II Play Den, Festival House	52				8pm														
<input type="checkbox"/> Jazz At Play III Play Den, Festival House	52					8pm													
<input type="checkbox"/> Nico Muhly Speaks Volumes SOTA Drama Theatre	58																		8pm
<input type="checkbox"/> Octavia E. Butler's Parable of the Sower Victoria Theatre	54										8pm	8pm							
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 Sultan of the Disco Empress Lawn	09			10.30pm															
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 Tcheka Empress Lawn	08			8.15pm															
<input type="checkbox"/> Temporal Chamber, Festival House	63										8pm, 10pm								
DANCE																			
<input type="checkbox"/> Contemporary Dance Masterclass Victoria Theatre Dance Studio	40												2pm						
<input type="checkbox"/> OCD Love SOTA Drama Theatre	38											8pm	8pm						
<input type="checkbox"/> Playlist #1 SOTA Drama Theatre	46														8pm	8pm			
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 POP-UP Duets (fragments of love) Various Locations	10	1pm, 6.30pm	1pm, 6.30pm, 9pm	6.30pm, 9pm	6.30pm, 9pm														
<input type="checkbox"/> Tap Masterclass with Michelle Dorrance Victoria Theatre Dance Studio	45												10am						
<input type="checkbox"/> The Blues Project Victoria Theatre	42														8pm	8pm			
LITERARY ARTS																			
<input type="checkbox"/> Rhymes of Love: An Evening of Poetry and Conversation with Javed Akhtar & Shabana Azmi Victoria Concert Hall	12		7.30pm	7.30pm															
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 Verses of Love & Life: Selected Poems of Taha Muhammad Ali Living Room, Festival House	29		8pm	6.30pm															
VISUAL ARTS																			
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 Already Elsewhere Gallery I, Festival House	64	←									10am–10pm								→
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 Four Decades The Arts House, Level 2 Corridors	68	←																	→
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 Singular Screens Screening Room, Festival House	67			←															→
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 SKY KAVE Play Den, Festival House	66														10am–10pm	10am–10pm	10am–5pm	10am–5pm	10am–5pm
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 SKY KAVE – Performances Play Den, Festival House	66																7.30pm, 8.30pm	7.30pm, 8.30pm	7.30pm, 8.30pm
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 The Lapse Project Gallery II, Festival House	65	←									10am–10pm								→
CONVERSATIONS, TALKS & DISCUSSIONS																			
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 1984 - The Book Club Blue Room, Festival House	18	8pm [FULL]																	
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 1984 - The Lecture Blue Room, Festival House	19				4pm [FULL]														
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 An Introduction to Tang Xianzu & his play Living Room, Festival House	22				3pm														
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 Deciphering the Operatic Cadence of Rhyme and Meter Blue Room, Festival House	23				2pm														
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 Idealism, Integrity & the Individual: Dr Stockmann's Dilemma Living Room, Festival House	35											4pm							
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 In Conversation with Amer Hlehel Blue Room, Festival House	28											2pm							
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 In Conversation with Michelle Dorrance Blue Room, Festival House	44												2pm						
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 In Conversation with Shabana Azmi Blue Room, Festival House	14			2pm															
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 In Conversation with Thomas Ostermeier Esplanade Theatre	34																	6pm	
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 In Conversation with Wang Meiyin Living Room, Festival House	57							8pm											
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 Jacob Collier on Harmony & Groove Blue Room, Festival House	50			11.30am [New Timing!]															
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 Octavia E. Butler's Parable of the Sower – The Book Club Living Room, Festival House	57			11am								8pm	8pm						
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 Points of View Public Forum Living Room, Festival House	41																		5.30pm
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 This is How the Future Catches Up: Extra-Terrestrial Exploration and the Performing Arts in the 21st Century Living Room, Festival House	56				4pm														
<input type="checkbox"/> 📌 Tracing the Displaced: Process Insight Talk Blue Room, Festival House	25																		4pm [FULL]



## TICKET HOLDER PRIVILEGES

# FLASH YOUR SIFA 2018 TICKET TO ENJOY ATTRACTIVE DISCOUNTS AT OUR F&B PARTNER OUTLETS



### HOUSE POUR @FESTIVAL HOUSE

The Arts House, 1 Old Parliament Lane  
Singapore 179429

Chill out and soak in the festival buzz  
at House Pour @Festival House.

Enjoy special promotions on drinks and  
light bites by simply presenting your  
SIFA 2018 ticket stub. Visit [sifa.sg](http://sifa.sg) for  
more exciting deals and promotions.



### COURTYARD CAFÉ & LOUNGE

Supreme Court Wing, #01-02A/ #01-K1,  
National Gallery Singapore,  
1 St Andrew's Road, Singapore 178957

All SIFA 2018 ticket holders are entitled  
to a 10% discount on all food and  
beverages at Courtyard Café & Lounge.

*This promotion is valid only upon presentation  
of a SIFA ticket (physical ticket, e-ticket), from 26  
April till 13 May before payment.*



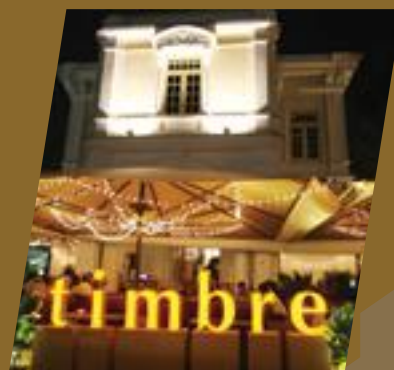
### ESPLANADE MALL

Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay,  
8 Raffles Avenue, Singapore 039802

1984 and *Enemy of the People* ticket  
holders are entitled to ticket holder  
privileges at Esplanade Mall.

*This discount is valid only upon presentation of  
1984 or Enemy of the People ticket (physical  
ticket and/or e-ticket), on the day of the  
performance.*

For more information, visit: [https://  
www.esplanade.com/explore-  
esplanade/ticket-holder-privileges](https://www.esplanade.com/explore-esplanade/ticket-holder-privileges)



### TIMBRE @ THE ARTS HOUSE AND BARBER SHOP BY TIMBRE

The Arts House, #01-04,  
Annex Building, 1 Old Parliament  
Lane, Singapore 179429

All SIFA 2018 ticket holders  
are entitled to the following  
special F&B promotions at  
Timbre @ The Arts House and  
Barber Shop by Timbre.

*This promotion is valid only upon  
presentation of a SIFA ticket (physical  
ticket, e-ticket), from 26 April till 13  
May before payment.*

- Pizza Set and Twin Half Pints  
of Archipelago @\$31++
- Twin Glasses of Red or  
White Wine @\$20++
- Twin Pints of Archipelago  
@ \$30++
- Pizza Set and Twin Glasses  
of Wine @ \$31++

For more festival deals, please visit [sifa.sg](http://sifa.sg)

#### Terms & Conditions

Unless otherwise stated, all promotions are valid till 13 May, Sun. Not applicable with other promotions, discounts, vouchers and offers by credit or privilege cards. Ticket stubs presented must be in its original condition. Management reserves the right to amend any promotional terms and conditions without prior notice. Merchants' terms and conditions apply.

## SIFA TICKETING & PACKAGES

**BOOK NOW!**  
FESTIVAL TICKETS  
ON SALE AT [SIFA.SG](http://SIFA.SG) AND [SISTIC](http://SISTIC).  
TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY

### Early Bird

(From 5 Feb till  
5 Mar 2018)

### 20% off ticket purchases

Applicable to Cat 1 and/or Cat 2 tickets across all programmes  
except 0600, The Hidden, Temporal, Films & Masterclasses.

### SIFA Bundle of 3

(From 5 Feb onwards)

### 15% off ticket purchases

Valid with a minimum purchase of 3 SIFA productions.

Applicable to Cat 1 and/or Cat 2 tickets across selected programmes  
except 0600, The Hidden, Temporal, Films & Masterclasses.

### SIFA Bundle of 5

(From 5 Feb onwards)

### 25% off ticket purchases

Valid with a minimum purchase of 5 SIFA productions.

Applicable to Cat 1 and/or Cat 2 tickets across selected programmes  
except 0600, The Hidden, Temporal, Films & Masterclasses.

### Festival Starter Pass #2:

**\$130\***

(From 5 Mar onwards)

**Get access to 3 specially selected shows across 3 genres  
to get your SIFA experience started! Your pass includes:**

1 x Cat 2 ticket to **1984 by George Orwell** [Theatre]  
1 x Cat 2 ticket to **Octavia E. Butler's Parable of the Sower** [Music]  
1 x Cat 2 ticket to **Playlist #1** [Dance]

*\*usual SISTIC charges apply*

**PLUS: Get a complimentary drink from House Pour  
(located at the Festival House) during the festival!**

## CONCESSIONS (Limited)

SIFA offers 20% off ticket purchases to  
local and international students, NSFs, and  
seniors aged 55 and above (valid for selected  
categories only).

## \$10 FRONT ROW STUDENT TICKETS

Students are entitled to front row tickets at \$10 for  
selected programmes. Details at [sifa.sg/ticketing](http://sifa.sg/ticketing)

## SCHOOL BOOKINGS

SIFA offers special ticketing packages for school  
bookings.

### TOTE BOARD ARTS GRANT

For selected shows approved by the Tote  
Board Arts Grants, government schools may  
enjoy subsidies up to 50% of the ticket price.  
Applicable for Secondary Schools, Junior  
Colleges, Centralised Institute and Institute of  
Technical Education (ITE) levels.

Special Education Schools may use the Tote  
Board Arts Grant to subsidise up to 70% of the  
programme cost.

For School bookings or Tote Board Arts Grant,  
please email: [sifatickets@artshouse.sg](mailto:sifatickets@artshouse.sg)

## PARTNERSHIP

If you would like to explore partnership opportunities, please contact:

### Payal Michelle Parekhji

Head, Partnership  
Development

E | [payal@artshouse.sg](mailto:payal@artshouse.sg)

### Norita Senin

Manager, Partnership  
Development

E | [norita@artshouse.sg](mailto:norita@artshouse.sg)

### Tan Yanru

Executive, Partnership  
Development

E | [tanyanru@artshouse.sg](mailto:tanyanru@artshouse.sg)

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Host your guests with us at the  
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options including reserved performance  
tickets.

For Corporate bookings, please email:  
[hospitality@artshouse.sg](mailto:hospitality@artshouse.sg)



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