

MEDIA ALERT

Extra show for Jacob Collier and additional programmes to SIFA 2018 line-up



Photo: Andreas Schlieter

SINGAPORE, 7 March 2018 – Due to overwhelming demand, the Singapore International Festival of Arts (SIFA) is announcing an extra show for Grammy award winner Jacob Collier at the Victoria Theatre on 28 April 2018.

Four new programmes have also been added to this year's line-up, which include an artist masterclass at Victoria Theatre Dance Studio, as well as two talks and an exhibition at the Festival House:

1. **Contemporary Dance Masterclass** – 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.
2. **An Introduction to Tang Xianzu & his *Play A Dream Under the Southern Bough*** (Talk) – Learn more about Tang Xianzu (1550–1616), a distinguished Ming Dynasty playwright, and get an overview of the play's plot as well as its historical and cultural context.
3. **Deciphering the Operatic Cadence of Rhyme and Meter** (Talk) – Experience the nuances of Peking opera and Kun opera 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.
4. **Four Decades** (Exhibition) – Take a trip back in time to trace the evolution of Singapore's pinnacle arts festival since its inception in 1977. This exhibition offers a retrospective of our national arts festival 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.

Kindly find all details on the above programmes in the Annex. Hi-res images can be downloaded [here](#).

Commissioned by the National Arts Council and organised by Arts House Limited, the 41st year of SIFA will be held over 17 days from **26 April to 12 May 2018**, helmed by Festival Director Gaurav Kripalani.

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About the Singapore International Festival of Arts 2018

Into its 41st year, the Singapore International Festival of Arts 2018 draws from its legacy of more than 40 years, when it was first launched as the Singapore Festival of Arts in 1977. Since then, the highly-anticipated event in the arts and cultural calendar with an international line-up has developed in parallel with Singapore into the Festival it is today with a global standing. Under the helm of new Festival Director Gaurav Kripalani, the 2018 edition of the Festival presents diverse and distinctive work from Singapore and around the world that ignites the imagination, inspires myriad audiences, and provokes reflection and dialogue.

About Arts House Limited

Arts House Limited (AHL) is a not-for-profit organisation committed to enriching lives through the arts. AHL manages two key landmarks located in the heart of Singapore's Civic District – The Arts House, a multi-disciplinary arts centre with a focus on literary programming, and the Victoria Theatre & Victoria Concert Hall, a heritage building that is home to the Singapore Symphony Orchestra. It also runs the Goodman Arts Centre and Aliwal Arts Centre, two creative enclaves for artists, arts groups and creative businesses, and performing arts space Drama Centre. AHL presents the Singapore International Festival of Arts, the annual pinnacle celebration of performance and interdisciplinary arts in Singapore commissioned by the National Arts Council.

AHL was set up in 11 Dec 2002 as a company limited by guarantee (CLG) under the National Arts Council and was formerly known as The Old Parliament House Limited. It was officially renamed Arts House Limited on 19 Mar 2014.

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ANNEX: NEW PROGRAMME DETAILS

TICKETED

1) JACOB COLLIER (United Kingdom)
28 Apr, Sat
8pm
Victoria Theatre

\$40*

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

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 format on stage.

2) Contemporary Dance Masterclass by L-E-V Dance Company (Israel)
6 May, Sun
2pm
Victoria Theatre Dance Studio

\$20

**Interested applicants must meet minimum requirements to participate.
Please submit your application via sifa.sg.**

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.

NON-TICKETED

**3) An Introduction to Tang Xianzu & his Play A Dream Under the Southern Bough
by Bok Zhong Ming (Singapore)**

29 Apr, Sun

3pm

Living Room, Festival House

Free with registration at sifa.sg

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.

4) Deciphering the Operatic Cadence of Rhyme and Meter

by Qin Zhan Bao and Tian Ping (Singapore)

29 Apr, Sun

2pm

Blue Room, Festival House

Free with registration at sifa.sg

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.

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。

5) Four Decades
With support from Centre 42
26 Apr – 12 May
The Arts House, Level 2 Corridors
FREE

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.