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SINGAPORE'S DEFINITIVE ARTS & CULTURE GUIDE



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TO  
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2015

ISSUE 09

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cover illustration **TONY LAW**

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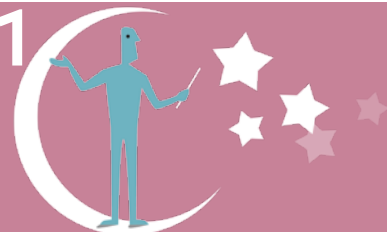
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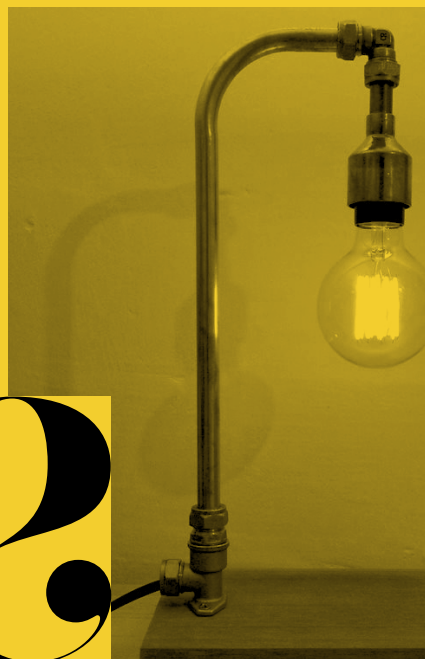
While Singapore isn't exactly the cheapest city to live in, locals can always expect free fun and complimentary culture.

TEXT BY JO TAN

*Yup!  
Never  
Bluff You!*

# free show

wh?



**T**he arts are for everyone, so don't imagine that a musical or theatre performance, exhibition or arts workshop is beyond your means. Don't skimp on those cultural cravings. In fact, indulge yourself with the following arty amusements — they're all absolutely free!



## LIBRARIES: Workshops & Clubs

**S**tride through the hushed halls of your friendly neighbourhood libraries islandwide to the enclaves of activity that are their programme zones — replete with free fun for all ages. The National Library Board, which manages the National Library, National Archives and 26 public libraries, offers a wide range of programmes for all ages. To participate, just register at [golibrary.nlb.gov.sg](http://golibrary.nlb.gov.sg).

For example, the hipster generation can check out the Press Play programmes for workshops on everything from Lomography to African percussion. Some events even help you save cash: instead of expensive Valentine's Day gifts, learn to make a personalised leathercraft wallet (left) or antique-style copper lamp — materials and expertise provided. For young'uns aged up to 12, the libraries' Bounce programme lets parents and tots enjoy family-friendly movie screenings or join clubs like the Young Author Club with mentors and activities to pave the way to a literary future.

## IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD: Performances & Artworks

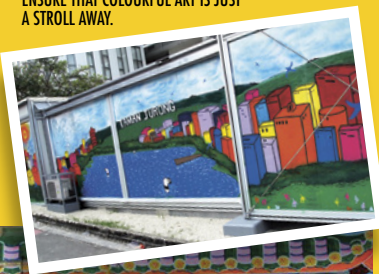
**W**ant to satisfy artistic yearnings without travelling out of your neighbourhood or forking out a cent? With performances and art installations travelling to the heartlands, you can do just that. Every month or so, you can probably find at least one walking-distance art-ivity at PAssionArts Hotspots islandwide. For instance, Toa Payoh Central has talents from the very neighbourhood strut their stuff on the last weekend of every month or more.

You can also catch visiting talents from outside the community (even out of town) at festivals like the PAssionArts Festival in May, or the Arts in Your Neighbourhood series throughout the year. The latter has showcased works of internationally-celebrated artists like Vertical Submarine's interactive installations, New Opera Singapore's operatic excerpts and award-winning theatre company The Theatre Practice's community shows, all in the vicinity of neighbourhood malls or supermarkets. Outside festival season, visit Community Arts and Culture hubs like Bedok, which hosts performances and activities on the last Sunday of each month in front of Blk 18 Bedok South Road. Check [www.passionarts.sg](http://www.passionarts.sg) for upcoming events.

Some professional arts companies even have their own community season. The Singapore Chinese Orchestra's SCO Community Series takes place from early- to mid-February at Ang Mo Kio, Yishun and Orchard Road, so make sure you pop down to enjoy their lush orchestral arrangements. More details at [www.sco.com.sg](http://www.sco.com.sg).

If you're up to it, go for a walk around the block. You're likely to come across interesting works ranging from massive public art sculptures to Community Art Galleries — which can take the form of paintings in void decks to Ang Mo Kio Avenue 1's Arts Bridge, festooned with photographs themed on 'Laughing With My Neighbours'. Taman Jurong even has its own community museum, Our Museum @ Taman Jurong, that showcases art by and about the community. See [www.facebook.com/omattj](http://www.facebook.com/omattj) for more.

**CLOSE TO YOUR ART** OUR MUSEUM @ TAMAN JURONG AND THE ESTABLISHED XIN YAN LING HOKKIEN OPERA TROUPE ENSURE THAT COLOURFUL ART IS JUST A STROLL AWAY.



**TUNE IN, BLISS OUT** EXPECT AN ORCHESTRAL SERENADE FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR COFFEESHOP WITH THE LAUDED LIKES OF THE SINGAPORE CHINESE ORCHESTRA.

## FINE PRINT: Readings & Poetry

**T**alk is cheap? We beg to differ. It's often free and by leading poets and wordsmiths, no less. Local book boutiques like BooksActually often host readings, talks and book launches featuring literary luminaries from the island and beyond. Check [booksactually.com](http://booksactually.com) for details on upcoming events.

Or pop down to the Arts House, where you can meet leading literati like Australian author Cate Kennedy or local poet Gwee Li Sui conducting workshops and talks. Also catch the works of budding writers at events like Captions Without Pictures (running till 8 February), which showcases promising bite-sized literature, ranging from aphorisms to micro-fiction by the students of the National University of Singapore's University Scholars Programme, under the mentorship of local writer Jason Wee. Details at [www.theartshouse.sg](http://www.theartshouse.sg).

If you like having romantic verse recited to you, check out Speakeasy, on 13 February at Artistry Café. In this special Valentine's outing, love poems curated by Singapore poet Pooja Nansi will be read to you by local bards. Speakeasy is, in fact, a regular poetry event at the cafe, taking place at least once every two months and attracting a good audience each time, thanks to the ready, heady wit of poets involved, Deborah Emmanuel or Ng Yi-Sheng being some of them. Check [www.artistryspace.com](http://www.artistryspace.com) for other events, which besides Speakeasy, also include visual art exhibitions.



PHOTOS: Jon Gresham  
[www.igloomeets.com](http://www.igloomeets.com)

PHOTO: Xin Yan Ling Hokkien Opera Troupe





PHOTO Tan Shou Chen

## ESPLANADE & MUSEUMS:

# Gigs & Exhibitions

While the Esplanade Theatre is the venue of choice for ticketed performances, visit the Esplanade Concourse for free views of visual-art installations and near-nightly performances. Fancy experiencing a show against a backdrop of sea and stars? The Esplanade's Outdoor Theatre along the waterfront hosts a constant stream of musical performances every weekend, eve of public holidays and public holidays.

While many museums are already free for Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents, these also boast free-for-all activities, such as talks with leading artists, in their foyers or smaller halls. For example, the Singapore Art Museum's Glass Hall often houses free workshops or talks, while the National Museum of Singapore's Stamford Gallery and Concourse often host entire exhibitions like *DiverseCity 2014*.

Arts festivals like the upcoming Huayi — Chinese Festival of the Arts also include complementary and complimentary programmes in their line-up, and you can view details at [www.huayifestival.com/2015](http://www.huayifestival.com/2015). Alternatively, you can pop into certain museums during their free-entry sessions. For the Singapore Art Museum ([www.singaporeartmuseum.sg](http://www.singaporeartmuseum.sg)), that's every Friday from 6pm – 9pm and on Open House days like New Year's Day. Or pay a visit to the smaller galleries and museums that are free almost all the time. Try MoCA@Loewen (which showcases contemporary arts) or the Substation Gallery. Check out their respective websites at [www.mocaloewen.sg](http://www.mocaloewen.sg) and [www.substation.org](http://www.substation.org) for more.

## APP-SOLUTELY COOL:

# Trails & Virtual Guides

Your mobile phone could be your best art accessory, what with mobile apps connecting you to the best cultural offerings from Singapore's past and present. Need a little poetry in your life? Download the Text in the City app, which has over 100 poems by local poets, with different ones triggered by the location you are in and recited aloud to you, like a soundtrack for your day.

Or put on your walking shoes and install apps to accompany you on the National Heritage Board's walking trails at numerous venues like Balestier and Kampong Glam. Check the app store for the name of the place and add 'heritage trail' at the back. These virtual tour guides will take you through the historic art and architecture in the areas.

Don't even feel like getting out of bed? Landmark local art is accessible with the swipe of a screen. The National Gallery's Liu Kang: Paintings and Places app showcases 10 of the famous artist's trademark depictions of uniquely Singapore scenes, including Samsui Women and National Day from years of yore. The app also allows you to explore the history surrounding the artwork.



## ARTS SCHOOLS:

# Theatre & Visual Arts

Catch good performers gratis before they hit the big time at arts-school productions: local screen and stage mainstays like Ebi Shankara and Sharda Harrison once flaunted their skills for free at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) and LASALLE College of the Arts respectively. For even fresher faces, check out the School of the Arts Singapore's periodic student showcases that span the spectrum from visual to performance art. Visit [www.nafa.edu.sg](http://www.nafa.edu.sg), [www.lasalle.edu.sg](http://www.lasalle.edu.sg) and [www.sota.edu.sg](http://www.sota.edu.sg) for information and to register for these free programmes.

Don't worry about performances coming across as amateurish. Tried-and-tested classic choreography or scripts are often performed at schools since they typically pay lower licensing fees to stage them than professional companies would. While some performers might be greener than others, the shows' choreographers/directors and designers are often stellar names with years of experience. For example, theatrical leading man and musical theatre academic Caleb Goh teaches LASALLE's Musical Theatre students and directs several of their shows; award-

PHOTO Caleb Goh

TESTING, TESTING OBSERVE AS NEW SCRIPTS, IDEAS AND ACTORS TEST THEIR MERITS IN THE NECESSARY STAGE'S ORANGE PLAYGROUND (BELOW) AND IN PRODUCTIONS BY LASALLE COLLEGE OF THE ARTS' MUSICAL THEATRE DEPARTMENT (OPPOSITE).



PHOTO Delvin Lee

winning actor Matt Grey teaches at NFA's theatre department and often directs their plays. Well-known guest choreographers and directors are sometimes also roped in, with The Finger Players' artistic director Chong Tze Chien premiering his rave-reviewed new work, *Starring Hitler as Jekyll and Hyde*, with LASALLE students in 2014.

The visual-arts departments of these schools also stage exhibitions at their campuses, so view their pieces and see if you can spot the next Ming Wong.

At the end of February, The Necessary Stage launches its The Orange Playground programme, where a myriad actors from new to known, including Siti Khalijah and Seong Hui Xuan, try out different devised ideas. Register for free tickets at [www.topshowcase.peatix.com](http://www.topshowcase.peatix.com). The sessions are so popular that tickets have been snapped up quickly. The above event is already fully-subscribed to.

GRASS ACT MANY MUSICAL PERFORMANCES TAKE PLACE AT THE SHAW FOUNDATION SYMPHONY STAGE. HERE, THE U.S. 7TH FLEET BAND IS DEPICTED SERENADING PARK-GOERS.

PHOTO U.S. Navy

CAFÉ CULTURE THAT SPARE ROOM AT THE FABULOUS BAKER BOY HAS HOSTED EXHIBITIONS BY THE LIKES OF CELEBRATED PHOTOGRAPHER SUNG LIN GUN, INCLUDING THIS PHOTO FROM SUNG'S STRANDED IN PARADISE SERIES THAT CAPTURED THE LIVES OF ORANG LAUT.



PHOTO Sung Lin Gun

## CAFÉ-GALLERIES:

# Exhibitions & Acoustic Sets

Sneak in a free art-appreciation experience with your beverage at cafes with gallery areas.

Examples include the abovementioned Artistry Café or The Fabulous Baker Boy which, other than well-reviewed cake, has an attached space named That Spare Room that has exhibited art by photographer Sung Lin Gun and hosted storytelling sessions. See [www.thatsspareroom.com](http://www.thatsspareroom.com) for details. Other boutique cafes with galleries include Cups n Canvas, designed with a studio adjacent to the eating area, where art is exhibited and painting classes are taught.

Even coffee conglomerates are in on the act. Starbucks Singapore not only sells CDs by local musicians, but also periodically hosts their acoustic sets at certain branches. Previous performers include The Ukulele Girls and Inch Chua (above), no less. Keep abreast of their activities at [www.facebook.com/StarbucksSingapore](http://www.facebook.com/StarbucksSingapore).



## GARDENS & PARKS: Concerts & Dance Acts

Catch shows with gorgeous greenery for a backdrop at parks like the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Its Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage regularly hosts free concerts ranging in genre from percussion to opera. Details at [www.sbg.org.sg](http://www.sbg.org.sg). Also making sure the hills (well, fields) are alive with the sound of music is the SPH Gift of Music Series, which showcases the most prestigious local ensembles — Singapore Symphony

Orchestra, Ding Yi Music Company, Singapore Wind Symphony Percussion Ensemble — at green spaces and other places. The National Arts Council's

ExxonMobil Concert in the Park series features hip and (often) young musicians displaying their talents at verdant venues around the island.

In the meantime, the Supertree Grove at Gardens by the Bay is often a site for free music and dance acts as well as workshops in its activity rooms. The Supertrees themselves, which become part of a light- and music-display (with the input of musical director Bang Wenfu and lighting designer Adrian Tan), can be enjoyed on Fridays, Saturdays, eves of public holidays and public holidays. Visit [www.gardensbythebay.com.sg](http://www.gardensbythebay.com.sg) for details. **A**





## LORONG BOYS

# TO MAKE A lorong STORY SHORT

The Lorong Boys are redefining classical music by taking it to Singapore streets. BY JO TAN



**“PEOPLE GO TO CONCERT HALLS ALL DRESSED UP WITH SERIOUS FACES AND CLAP OBEDIENTLY BETWEEN SONGS, IT’S BECOME THIS RITUAL,”** observes Jonathan Shin, pianist for the Lorong Boys, a five-man classically-trained ensemble making sweet melodies with guitar/

piano, violins, flute and percussion. “We’re trying to offer an alternative by taking music, even classical music, outside the concert hall.”

Indeed, since these students (and one graduate) of the National University of Singapore’s Jazz Module formed last year, they’ve played music ranging from pop

to Broadway to classical music around housing estates, in underpasses and even several times on the MRT to bemused commuters.

“We’ve seen Singaporeans loosening up. Before the Lorong Boys was formed, when two of our current members played on the MRT, maybe one or two people clapped. But over several gigs, we see more people clapping and singing along.”

Declares Shin, “Music for us has never been about the money. Everybody should have music and these gigs are for everyone, us included, to have fun. At the subway station in New York, I remember being astounded seeing an excellent cellist play spontaneously, just for the joy of it.”

Of course, man cannot live on passion alone, so the Lorong Boys are grateful for an increasing number of paid bookings at special events, like a well-attended 150-minute concert at the Esplanade last December. But even at those events, the Boys don’t adhere to what they feel are stereotypes of concert musicians.

“We want our audience to feel they have the freedom to enjoy themselves, to dance. I sometimes make silly faces when I play the piano because I feel like it, and audiences, especially children, will stare agape because it’s not what they expect from classical instrumentalists. But when just one person has fun, it gives wings to your audience.”

This year marks the exam-packed final semester in school for four of the Lorong Boys, with the future still uncertain.

“Will we still be able to play together as much? I don’t know,” confesses Shin. “The Lorong Boys have never been about its founding members, but the spirit it embodies: to bring music to everyone. We can and may take in more Lorong Boys, as long as they keep spreading the music.” **A**

# ONE SMALL VOICE!

See the set or lighting as another character on the stage, urges technical director Kenny Wong.

**IN A PERFORMANCE, EVERYTHING APART FROM THE ACTORS IS TECHNICAL THEATRE** — from costumes, makeup and hair to stage, set, lighting, video and sound. Most people have a misconception that technical theatre is 'technical'. So when I teach, I always impress upon my students that they're not technicians who fix lights. They're part of the creative process. They are there to value-add by providing solutions to directors who have a vision but not the technical know-how to make it come alive.

This is because there are always different ways to execute a concept based on a given budget, space and team. Collaboration with the team of writers, choreographers and designers is very important in technical theatre; I always tell my students this is a 'people business'.

In terms of technical expertise and skills specialisation, Singapore can learn from cities like London and New York, but we shouldn't strive to be exactly like them. Their whole eco-system is different from ours: they have big enough audiences

is good but not to the point of being impractical. We have to work within our own realities and find a Singapore way of working. The area I think Singapore is lagging behind is the crafts — crafts like prop-making and set-building. Perhaps it's a cultural mindset? Singaporeans see these as 'manual labour' and don't appreciate how much skill is required.

At Australia's National Institute of Dramatic Arts where I studied, Stage Carpentry is a degree programme. It's craftsmanship and in the past, was taught only through apprenticeship. But theatre-making in Singapore is very expensive, and having expert set- and prop-builders will further drive up costs, which local theatre companies are not able to afford.

When I wrote the Technical Theatre course for LASALLE College of the Arts, I included topics like script analysis, perspective drawing, art history and music history. To be effective, you need to see the set or lighting as another character on stage, as part of the storytelling.

At the end of the day, success to me is this: If I watch a performance and get drawn into the storytelling — if I don't even pay any attention to the technical — that's a good show. Technical theatre, to me, is that invisible art. **A**

**66** I always tell my students that technical theatre is a *people business*. **99**

**KENNY WONG** TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

I'm currently working with director Beatrice Chia-Richmond on the upcoming Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games). As technical director of the opening and closing ceremonies, I tell her to go wild with her ideas and I will do my best to make them happen. For the event, Beatrice is drawing her inspiration from the London Olympics and the Winter Olympics in Sochi, which makes my job more difficult but exciting!

When I first meet a director, I ask very little about the technical aspects. I'm more interested in the whole creative idea, the big picture.

to sustain many shows and hence, many specialised jobs. In Singapore, we don't have that luxury.

Here, production costs are high and manpower is limited. Specialisation



**KENNY WONG** is a pioneer in Singapore's technical theatre industry. He was the Esplanade's first production manager and founding president of the Technical Theatre Association of Singapore. Wong was also responsible for developing Singapore's first Bachelor's degree programme in Technical Theatre at LASALLE College of the Arts. Apart from working on productions by major companies like TheatreWorks and Toy Factory, he was also technical director for National Day Parade 2011 and production manager for Resorts World Sentosa's opening show, *Voyage de la Vie*.



# BUSK, THEY MUST!

In pragmatic Singapore, can the urban art of busking go beyond passion to become a sustainable business? TEXT BY **PAMELA HO**



**S**inger-songwriter Corrinne May has performed to packed audiences at the Esplanade and Gardens by the Bay, but between 2005 and 2006, this Los Angeles-based Singaporean artist busked fairly regularly at the Third Street Promenade in Santa Monica, California.

“It can be humbling because sometimes you can stand there and sing, and it feels like everybody is just walking past,” she shares. “But it’s also a very empowering experience

because you see first-hand which songs work to bring on a smile or a reaction from the audience.”

Among local buskers who’ve made a success of their passion is Kelvin Tan Wei Lian, winner of Ch 8’s *Project SuperStar 2005*. The visually-impaired, Tan was a Mandopop singer who earned his living as a busker before his win led to the eventual release of three albums.

Few know that music greats such as Rod Stewart, Tracy Chapman and Jewel started out as street performers. Current chart-topper, British singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran, also started out the same way.

## AN URBAN ART

Around the world, buskers are known to enliven streets and give character to a city. And they come as colourful as a painter’s palette: from musicians to mime artists, dancers to daredevils!

But street performing was discontinued in Singapore in 1994 when it gained a bad reputation after laws were flouted concerning performing in non-designated areas. Thankfully, the National Arts Council (NAC) and then-Singapore Tourist Promotion Board (now known as the Singapore Tourism Board) renewed the proposal to have busking in our city, and busking was re-introduced in 1997.

Today, the most common street-performance art form is music, followed by street theatre and visual arts. You’ll find street performances in many designated areas across the island: from Orchard Road, Marina Bay, Kampong Glam and Little India to public parks and open spaces at Sentosa, shopping malls and even the heartlands.



## WHY BUSK?

Like any other art form, busking requires a commitment to the craft. "You need patience and focus, but it keeps you on your toes and teaches you how to communicate with people," says Ed Johnson, a professional human statue and overseas busker who was invited twice to perform at the Sentosa Buskers Festival.

While challenging, street performing has its perks. "I've had people come up during a song and give me a flower, which is a bit embarrassing but super sweet, too," says Shannon, 12, who sings while her brother Christian, 14, plays the guitar and other instruments.

The talented teens (pictured on the opposite page, bottom) who call themselves Way Past Curfew were finalists in Okto channel's talent shows like *One Minute of Fame* in 2013 and *The Stage Is Yours* in 2014.

"They're both passionate about music and very self-driven," reveals their mum, Sandra Boesch. "Busking has been good for them because it requires planning, being professional, working together as a team and working through creative disagreements."

Way Past Curfew reveals that on a good day, they can earn over S\$100. While their parents hope they will get a university education, they are also supportive should the siblings decide to pursue music as a career.



PHOTOS: National Arts Council

**FINE FIDDLER** Busker Daniel Beng gave up his full-time teaching job to perform on our streets.

## THE BUSINESS OF BUSKING

For Daniel Beng, 42, what started out as a hobby soon turned into serious business. He recently left his job of 10 years — as a secondary school mathematics and music teacher — to be a full-time busking violinist.

"You only live once, and money isn't everything," he reasons. "What's more important is doing something meaningful that brings joy to others."

For Johnson, five years of busking for a living led to professional gigs and the setting up of his company, The Living Statue Company, based in the United Kingdom. Local street theatre magician Alexander Yuen also set up his company, Meta Illusions, after being engaged for corporate gigs.

To start busking in Singapore, it's as simple as going for an audition and being issued a Letter of Endorsement under NAC's Busking Scheme. This is valid for a year and allows you to busk at up to five designated locations.

But whether it becomes a viable business or not, Beng isn't worried. "The streets are where music is needed. I just believe anyone and everyone deserves to be treated to good music!" **A**

**STILL STANDING** Overseas busker Ed Johnson has performed at the Sentosa Buskers Festival.



## BUSKING TRIVIA

How much do you know about busking and buskers in Singapore?

### MOST POPULAR BUSKING STRETCH

Singapore River — the promenades flanking both sides of the river, from Kim Seng Road to Anderson Bridge.

### YOUNGEST ENDORSED BUSKER

Eleven-year-old Marco Zeng who plays the violin.

### OLDEST ENDORSED BUSKER

Tan Chai Heng, an 80-year-old Chinese traditional instrumentalist who plays the *erhu* and *dizhi*.

### WEIRDEST TALENT

'Woodball Woola Chains' by Oh Ow Kee — an elderly gentleman who performs the hula with long chains of wooden balls!

For more information on the Busking Scheme, visit [www.nac.gov.sg](http://www.nac.gov.sg)



**WOODBALLS HULA** Mr Oh Ow Kee, 70, can swing several of these chains at once, some up to 3.7m long and weighing 5kg!



Profile

## SHUEH-LI ONG

# CAN I TOUCH YOU THERE(MIN)?

No, she's not stabbing the air. Musician Shueh-li Ong is merely playing the theremin. BY PAMELA HO

SHUEH-LI ONG HAS BEEN HAILED 'SINGAPORE'S FIRST AND ONLY DIVA OF THE THEREMIN' BY THE STRAITS TIMES and indeed, this US-based Singapore artist remains one of a handful of professional thereminists in the world.

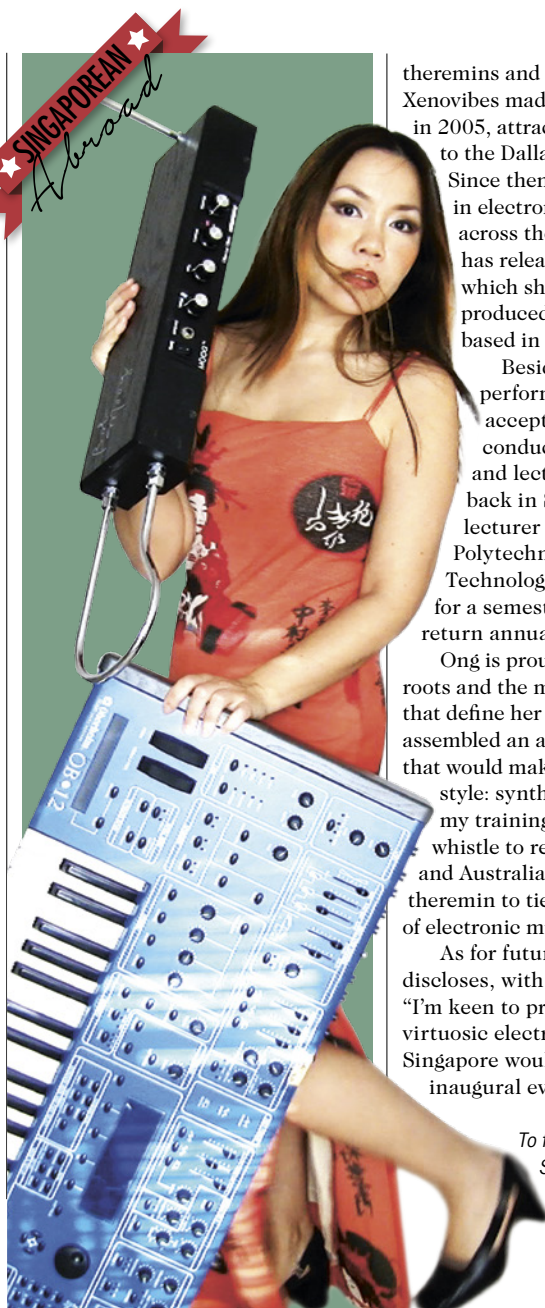
The theremin is one of the oldest electronic musical instruments and the only one played without touch. Invented by Russian Leon Theremin around 1919, it consists of a box-like body with two antennae: a vertical rod that controls pitch and a horizontal loop controlling volume.

"It may look to the audience like I'm stabbing the air or pulling an invisible string. Basically, I use discrete finger movements with the right hand for pitch and the left hand for articulation and phrasing," Ong explains.

Classically trained in piano, Ong holds a Bachelor of Music (Performance) from the University of Adelaide's Elder Conservatorium and a Graduate Diploma in Contemporary Music Technology from La Trobe University, Australia, specialising in sound engineering, computer programming and music synthesis.

Her unique combination of skills in music and technology led her to establish a performance art group, Electric Muse Singapore, in 1998. As director, she designs concerts and music for theatre and multimedia performances. In 2004, she launched her show concept, Xenovibes.

A sonic meeting of instruments ranging from synthesizers to



theremins and electronic drums, Xenovibes made its American debut in 2005, attracting over 4,000 people to the Dallas Museum of Art.

Since then, Ong has performed in electronic music festivals across the United States and has released four albums, which she wrote, recorded and produced. She is currently based in Nashville, Tennessee.

Besides public performances, Ong also accepts private students, conducts masterclasses and lectures. She's currently back in Singapore as adjunct lecturer for Singapore Polytechnic's Music & Audio Technology diploma course for a semester, and plans to return annually.

Ong is proud of her eclectic roots and the myriad influences that define her music style. "I assembled an arsenal of instruments that would make up my signature style: synthesizers to represent my training, the *guqin* and tin whistle to represent my Chinese and Australian heritage, and the theremin to tie me to the beginnings of electronic music."

As for future plans, Ong discloses, with a twinkle in her eye, "I'm keen to produce a festival of virtuosic electronic music. Perhaps Singapore would like to host the inaugural event?"

To find out more about Shueh-li Ong, visit [www.shuehli.com](http://www.shuehli.com).

BY JOEL TAN

## THEATRE

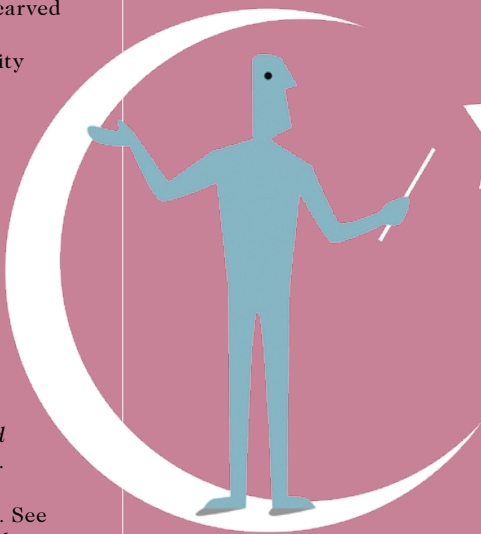
Theatre is one of Singapore's premier children's theatre companies. With a strong 13-year presence on the scene, the company, led by artistic director Brian Seward who directs, writes and designs many of the company's shows, puts up at least four full productions a year. I Theatre started out as ImagineArts, an arts-education company that branched into theatrical productions targeted mainly at youths.

The theatre wing later shifted its focus to children's theatre and has since carved a niche for itself with spectacular, high-quality musical theatre for children and families. Recent productions, many of them original and featuring the company's trademark elaborate puppetry, include *The Enormous Turnip* (2013), *Ashputtel — The Story of Cinderella* (2012) and *Hop and Honk — The Ugly Duckling and the Frog Prince* (2014). Upcoming productions include *Aesop's Fables*. See Listings pg 23 for details.

## INDIAN FINE ARTS SOCIETY SINGAPORE

The Singapore Indian Fine Arts Society is an academy that teaches classical Indian arts, offering classes in both Northern and Southern art forms. Carnatic and

Hindustani singing, Bharatanatyam and Kathak classical dance, as well as various Indian classical music instruments reflect the academy's comprehensive Pan-Indian approach. The society also provides internal examinations and certifications. Beginning life in 1949 with just 12 members, it has expanded to a network of almost 2,000 students, teachers and alumni. Although it began with a strong focus on staging concerts by local and international performers, in the 1950s, the society shifted its attention more towards education, transmitting an age-old culture to generations to come.



## ISKANDAR ISMAIL

Iskandar Ismail was one of Singapore's foremost composers, musical directors, recording producers and performers. He was awarded the Cultural Medallion in 2008 for his extensive contribution to Singapore's music industry. Well known for merging musical

styles, often crossing sounds from classical and pop music, as well as Western and Eastern melodies, Iskandar scored for the musical theatre, the classical music hall and large national projects like the National Day Parade and the 2010 Youth Olympics Games.

On home ground, Iskandar's arrangements were used in marquee stage productions such as *Kampung Amber* (1994), *Sing to the Dawn* (1996), *Snow Wolf Lake* (1997) and *Chang & Eng* (1997). Internationally, he arranged music for recording artists like

Sandy Lam, George Lam, Aaron Kwok and Jacky Cheung.

A graduate of Boston's Berklee College of Music, Iskandar received early recognition for his talent in jazz, winning the John Lewis Jazz Masters Award while studying at Berklee. Later in life, he would become director of the National University of Singapore Jazz Band, part of his efforts to mentor the next generation of Singapore musicians. He passed away at age 58 in 2014 after battling lung and brain cancer. **A**



# The Insider's Guide to MUSEUMS

Museum visits can be way more enriching than you imagine. Here's what the brochures don't tell you! TEXT BY TAN SHOU CHEN

PHOTO: iStock

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**D**ancing on butter, spicy encounters, eerie ritualistic tools, hopscotch on stamps.... Bet you never expected to find all these and more at the local museums. Join us as we toss out the brochures and create our own list of fun things to do at some of Singapore's favourite historical and cultural galleries.

## WALK ON THE WILD SIDE Asian Civilisations Museum

**WHY** Ancient Asian spiritual practices can be downright fascinating and the Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM) is a treasure trove of age-old artefacts that will send your imagination into overdrive. That, coupled with the fact that it is all housed in one of Singapore's oldest buildings, make for an interesting outing. You could possibly find inspiration for your next Halloween costume here.

**WHAT** For atmospheric effect, visit special exhibit, *Beginning of the Becoming: Batak Sculpture From Northern Sumatra*, after sundown. The lack of natural sunlight and shadowy muted lighting create just the right ambience to experience the North Sumatra Batak culture, known for its fearsome headhunting and shamanistic practices.

Particularly intriguing are actual ancient *tunggal panaluan*, staffs used by shamans. Even as you lean closer to examine the carvings of human and demonic creatures, let thoughts of witch doctors, human sacrifices and supernatural worlds send tingles down your spine.

**WHERE** 1 Empress Place, opens daily 10am-7pm (till 9pm on Fri). Free admission. [www.acm.org.sg](http://www.acm.org.sg)



PHOTO: National Museum of Singapore

## GREAT FOR FIRST DATES National Museum of Singapore

**WHY** Ditch the usual movie-and-meal routine for a stroll around the National Museum of Singapore. With so many galleries to explore and so much to captivate the attention, you can easily keep the fun and conversation flowing. Plus, the Museum's inviting spaciousness offers an oasis from the hustle and bustle of mall traffic.

**WHAT** Visit the *Singapura: 700 Years* exhibit, which traces Singapore's growth from her pre-colonial days. Check out the interactive exhibits together, tease your date with the aroma of spices (traded in Singapore) and let the various video exhibits provide opportunities to huddle together on intimate benches. You can carry on the museum experience by having a romantic dinner on site: Food for Thought for a casual meal; Chef Chan's Restaurant for fine Cantonese dining or Flutes for modern-European chic.

PHOTOS: Asian Civilisations Museum

**WHERE** 93 Stamford Road, opens daily 10am-6pm. Free admission for Singapore Citizens & Permanent Residents. Foreign visitors: \$6 (adult), \$3 (student with valid student pass). [www.nationalmuseum.sg](http://www.nationalmuseum.sg)



## CHASE THE COOL Singapore Art Museum

**WHY** Counter-culture, progressive and hip — that's how we'd describe both the Singapore Art Museum and the trend-spotting hipsters who trawl its galleries.

**WHAT** Peruse the Medium at Large exhibit, themed around unconventional media used to create art. Keep a lookout for Melati Suryodarmo's *Exergie* — *Butter Dance*, which includes a series of photos and a videographic record of the Indonesian performance artist dancing (and falling a lot) on butter. As absurd as it sounds, the work went viral online and earned the praise of performance artist extraordinaire Marina Abramovic. *The New York Times* and *Huffington Post* all agree that Suryodarmo is an artist to watch out for.

**WHERE** 71 Bras Basah Road, opens daily 10am-7pm (till 9pm on Fri). Free admission for Singapore Citizens & Permanent Residents. Foreign visitors: \$10 (adult), \$5 (student with valid student pass). [www.singaporeartmuseum.sg](http://www.singaporeartmuseum.sg)

PHOTO Singapore Art Museum

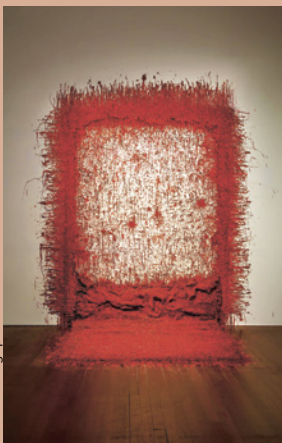


PHOTO Peranakan Museum



and Permanent Residents. Foreign visitors: \$6 (adult), \$3 (concession), 50 per cent discount on Fri, 7pm-9pm. [www.peranakanmuseum.org.sg](http://www.peranakanmuseum.org.sg)



## WORK THAT APPETITE Peranakan Museum

**WHY** Because Peranakans take their food, and its seductively *sedap* mix of flavours, very seriously.

**WHAT** Proceed to Gallery Three where Peranakan food culture is featured and *tok panjang* (festive feasting) is the star. Elaborate table setting, ambient sounds and mouth-watering descriptions of Peranakan favourites will leave you hungering for more. You'll want to make a stop at True Blue Pantry on the first floor after your visit.

The café sells and serves Peranakan nibbles that are perfect for tea. Try the pineapple tarts: while regular ones are only an inch big, those served here are double the size.

### WHERE 39

Armenian Street, opens 10am-7pm (till 9pm on Fri). Free admission for Singapore Citizens



PHOTO Singapore Philatelic Museum

## BOND WITH FAMILY Singapore Philatelic Museum

**WHY** Bright, cheery and full of interactive activities, everything is family-oriented at the Singapore Philatelic Museum. Put aside any assumption that stamp-collecting is boring because the museum does an excellent job of creating little nooks and fun corners that encourage curiosity and exploration.

**WHAT** Explore the Room of Rarities, which showcases the best of Singapore stamps and assorted postal matter. Postal stamps may not feature much in a child's life today, but there's no reason why kids can't learn more about these squares of gummed labels. Browse stamps and archival philatelic material from the 1800s to the present, as well as artefacts related to Singapore's postal history. After all that serious stuff, have fun on the hopscotch grid made of stamps, located in a hallway at the far end of the first floor.

**WHERE** 23B Coleman Street, opens 9.30am-7pm (Tue-Sun), 1pm-7pm (Mon). Free admission for Singapore Citizens & Permanent Residents. Foreign visitors: \$6 (adult), \$4 (child 3-12 years old). [www.spm.org.sg](http://www.spm.org.sg) **A**



PHOTO Singapore Philatelic Museum

PHOTO Singapore Art Museum



# the NEWS

Latest  
FROM THE ARTS SCENE

TEXT BY PAMELA HO



## Arts in the Arena

Creative team behind SEA Games 2015 reveals the game plan

**T**wenty-two years after the Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) were last held in Singapore, it's back — with spectacular Opening and Closing Ceremonies (OCC) planned. Creative director Beatrice Chia-Richmond helms a stellar creative team, which includes the likes of technical director Kenny Wong, production designer Goh Boon Teck, choreographer Jeffrey Tan and writer Haresh Sharma, plus artistic talents from the region.

Come 5 June, the National Stadium will morph into a 3D performance area, with 160 multimedia projectors transforming the floor into a giant high-definition screen, and an

extensive technical aerial system that can fly 14 performers and props at one time! Expect to see local band The Sam Willows, hip-hop artist Shigga Shay and violinist virtuoso Siow Lee Chin, among the performers. Let the games begin! For details, visit [www.seagames2015.com](http://www.seagames2015.com).

## A CHAT WITH MR PRESIDENT

Singapore's former President, SR Nathan, launches his new book

Last year, he turned 90. And few have followed the

historical milestones of Singapore's history as closely as former President, SR Nathan. In a series of casual conversations with Timothy Auger, former editorial director of Editions Didier Millet, Mr Nathan shares on topics ranging from complacency to the role of language. *SR Nathan in Conversation* is available at all major bookstores.



## FAMILY FRIDAYS!

Special deals for families at The ArtScience Museum.



PHOTO: Marina Bay Sands

**E**very Friday, up to two children under 12 years old can enter the ArtScience Museum, Marina Bay Sands, for free with every standard adult ticket purchased. Family Fridays is specially designed for families to relax, learn and have fun together at the museum. The series of child-friendly activities and programmes serve to complement on-going exhibitions. Supplementary activity booklets will even be provided to enhance a child's learning experience! **A**



## STAY SOCIAL & WIN!

GREAT WORLD CABARET will dazzle you with sequin-clad dancing girls, comedians, death-defying acrobats and snazzy musicians faster than you can say "Bo Bo Cha Cha"! Get social and stay tuned to our Instagram, Facebook and Twitter pages on how to win.

Follow us for updates, news and other surprises! Check out [f TheAListSG](#), [t AListSG](#) and [i alistsg](#) now.

# LISTINGS

YOUR 14-DAY GUIDE TO WHAT'S AHEAD

06 FEB TO 19 FEB 2015

## What's not to love?



1

### *Succumb* TO THEIR *overtures*

Swoon over SSO's romantic chamber music (p19)

2

### Explore love, sex & desire

Let contemporary artists  
from Asia and Europe stir you  
with *Mad Love* (p21)

3

### Relight your fire

Get your groove back with  
All-4-One, Color Me Badd and  
Tommy Page at *Retrolicious* (p18)



## DANCE

### Mukti Marga: The Path to Liberation

THE ESPLANADE CO LTD, RAGA

Acclaimed dancer Gayatri Sriram draws inspiration from the entire gamut of classical poetry by saint-poets to contemporary pieces about divine love, to perform this breathtaking piece of *bharatanatyam* dance.

**VENUE** ESPLANADE THEATRE STUDIO

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$22

**DATE** 6 & 7 Feb

**TIME** 8pm

**WEBSITE** [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg)



### Incidental Performance

THE ARTS FISSION COMPANY

As part of The ARTS FISSION Company's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, join existing and alumni members, as well as guest dance masters from Indonesia and Belgium's Compagnie Irene K, as they lend fresh takes to old highlights in the company's performance history.

**VENUE** NATIONAL DESIGN CENTRE

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$38

**DATE** 6 & 7 Feb

**TIME** 9.15pm

**WEBSITE** [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg)

### Discourse of Wind and Thunder

THE ARTS FISSION COMPANY

Rub shoulders with writers, musicians and visual or dance artists as you discuss how to fully engage with art and intensify your own experience of it. After the dialogue, expect to get up and walk the talk as you are taken through fun group exercises to stimulate thought about how to create and appreciate art. Hosted by Kenneth Kwok and Angela Liong.

**VENUE** PLAY DEN, THE ARTS HOUSE

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$15, \$25

**DATE** 7 Feb

**TIME** 11am

**WEBSITE** [www.bytes.sg](http://www.bytes.sg)



## FAMILY

### The Magic Ocean

THE ESPLANADE CO LTD, PLAYTIME!

They don't call it a play for nothing. Tots will be on their feet frolicking through most of this theatrical experience specially designed for two to four year-olds that combines interaction, shadow-play and music for a thrilling trip to an underwater wonderland.

**VENUE** ESPLANADE RECITAL STUDIO

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$18

**DATE** 6-15 Feb

**TIME** Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, 9.30am & 11am, Sat & Sun, 11am, 2pm & 4pm

**WEBSITE** [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg)

### Saturdays@ACM

ASIAN CIVILISATIONS MUSEUM

Watch and wonder at Asian performing arts, listen to storytellers spinning Asian tales or make your own masterpiece after learning an Asian art form at this free, fun-for-the-family festival at one of Singapore's favourite museums.

**VENUE** ASIAN CIVILISATIONS MUSEUM

**ADMISSION PRICE** Free

**DATE** 7 Feb, 7 Mar

**TIME** 1pm-5pm

**WEBSITE** [www.acm.org.sg](http://www.acm.org.sg)

### KidsFest! 2015

ABA PRODUCTIONS

This annual festival of children's theatre returns with acclaimed acts from Australia and the United Kingdom. Expect a line-up of fun page-to-stage adaptations to get kids interested in books. A must-see is the eye-popping *Earth's Dinosaur Zoo*, where incredibly life-like dinosaur puppets take over the theatre for kids to watch wide-eyed from a distance. Or get up close — if they dare!

**VENUE** DRAMA THEATRE, SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$42, \$52, \$62

**DATE** Till 1 Mar

**TIME** Various times

**WEBSITE** [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg)

### Rooted — A Triple Bill

SINGAPORE HOKKIEN HUAY KUAN DANCE THEATRE LIMITED

Four prolific choreographers from Singapore and Malaysia assemble diverse pieces of Chinese dance choreography, variously inspired by early Chinese immigrants, Malaysian educator and calligrapher Sim Mow Yu and legendary playwright Cao Yu's tempestuous trilogy *The Wilderness*.



**VENUE** VICTORIA THEATRE

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$28, \$38, \$48

**DATE** 6 & 7 Feb

**TIME** 8pm

**WEBSITE** [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg)



## My School Is Cool — A Story of Schools in Jurong

NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD

Jurong may be known for its industrial vibe, but it has its arty side, too. Visit Our Museum@Taman

Jurong, appropriately assembled out of three container-like structures, and check out this exhibit of student artworks and artefacts from schools in Jurong — some dating back as early as the 1930s.

**VENUE** OUR MUSEUM@TAMAN JURONG, 1 YUNG SHENG ROAD

**ADMISSION PRICE** Free

**DATE** Till 31 May

**TIME** Mon – Fri 3pm to 9pm, Sat 10am – 9pm, Sun 10am – 6pm. Closed on Public Holidays.

**WEBSITE** [www.facebook.com/OMATTJ](http://www.facebook.com/OMATTJ)

## Press Play

NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD

Participate in a spectrum of free activities such as Lomography, talks about making your own music (by local indie musicians like Esther Low) or even workshops on leather craft and antique lamp-making.

**VENUE** VARIOUS NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD LIBRARIES ISLANDWIDE

**ADMISSION PRICE** Free

**DATE** Till 14 Mar

**TIME** Various times

**WEBSITE** [golibrary.nlb.gov.sg](http://golibrary.nlb.gov.sg)



LITERARY

## Learning to Write Memoir Poetry

NATIONAL BOOK DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF SINGAPORE

Your child could well be a poet, so give him/her a chance to get wordy. This workshop by author Nilanja Sengupta teaches parents and teachers how to guide primary-school children to self-expression through the flexible but formidable format of memoir poetry.

**VENUE** SEMINAR ROOM, HERITAGE PLACE. #02-08, 21 TAN QUEE LAN STREET

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$70

**DATE** 7 Feb

**TIME** 9am

**WEBSITE** [www.eventbrite.sg](http://www.eventbrite.sg)

## Captions Without Pictures

THE ARTS HOUSE

See delicate prints by students of the National University of Singapore's University Scholars Programme, each containing an evocative aphorism or piece of micro-fiction as authored under the mentorship of Jason Wee who helms the Singapore Creative Writing Residency.

**VENUE** PRINT GALLERY, THE ARTS HOUSE

**ADMISSION PRICE** Free

**DATE** Till 8 Feb

**TIME** 10am-10pm

**WEBSITE** [www.theartshouse.sg](http://www.theartshouse.sg)

## Speakeasy

ARTISTRY CAFE

Luxuriate in the language of love as Singaporean poets perform love poetry at this romantic event, curated by local literary luminary Pooja Nansi.

**VENUE** ARTISTRY CAFE, 17 JALAN PINANG

**ADMISSION PRICE** Free

**DATE** 13 Feb

**TIME** 8pm

**WEBSITE** [www.artistrystspace.com](http://www.artistrystspace.com)



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# Indie Cinemas Around Town

Whether black- and white- oldies or *cheem* art-house films, here's where you can take a break from your run-of-the-mill blockbusters.

PHOTO Philip Aldrup



### THE PROJECTOR

**WHAT** The newest entrant to the cinema scene, two halls in the retro Golden Theatre at Golden Mile Tower have been given a hip new life.

**COMING SOON** Its opening line-up focuses on the movies of Stanley Kubrick, but watch out for local indie films too.

### ALLIANCE FRANCAISE

**WHAT** Get set for an eclectic selection where everything from opera to vintage French classics get a screening — in French, of course.

**COMING SOON** Screenings of filmed operas like *Carmen* and *La Traviata* throughout Feb.

### CINEMATHEQUE AT NATIONAL MUSEUM

**WHAT** The Museum's World Cinema Series brings specially-curated, somewhat obscure, art-house selections to Singapore audiences in this comfy 200-seater.

**COMING SOON** The films of Turkish director Nuri Bilge Ceylan will play 13-22 Feb.

TEXT Joel Tan



## MUSIC

### Anuar Zain Three Decades of Music Live in Singapore 2015

HYPE RECORDS

Model, singer and megastar of Malay music, Anuar Zain, celebrates his over 30 years of music with this one-night-only concert. Expect to hear the hottest hits from his three decades of tunes.

**VENUE** THE STAR THEATRE

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$45, \$78, \$98, \$128, \$158, \$188, \$228

**DATE** 7 Feb

**TIME** 8pm

**WEBSITE** [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg)

### Dreamland By the Vocal Consort

THE VOCAL CONSORT

Take in the richly-layered vocals of one of Singapore's premier community choral groups, The Vocal Consort, as they present soaring numbers from various composers ranging from Mendelssohn to local musician Zechariah Goh.



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**VENUE** VICTORIA CONCERT HALL

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$25

**DATE** 7 Feb

**TIME** 7.30pm

**WEBSITE** [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg)

### Hans Graf With the SSO

SINGAPORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Acclaimed Austrian conductor Hans Graf comes to brandish his baton in Singapore,



conducting the Singapore Symphony Orchestra as they play pieces by Beethoven and Shostakovich.

**VENUE** ESPLANADE CONCERT HALL

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$15, \$22, \$32, \$45, \$60, \$75

**DATE** 7 Feb

**TIME** 7.30pm

**WEBSITE** [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg)

### Retrolicious

FLY ENTERTAINMENT PTE LTD & CLASS 95FM

Expect crowds jumping, hearts thumping and fists pumping at this annual retro concert that unites music idols of the '80s and '90s such as Tommy Page, Color Me Badd and All-4-One, as they revive their chart-toppers.

**VENUE** FORT CANNING PARK

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$125

**DATE** 7 Feb

**TIME** 8pm

**WEBSITE** [www.sistic.com](http://www.sistic.com)



### SCO Community Series

SINGAPORE CHINESE ORCHESTRA

Why settle for piped-in mall music in your neighbourhood when you can have a whole orchestra serenade you? Join the celebrated Singapore Chinese Orchestra as they play favourites like 'Spring Festival Overture' and 'The Moon Represents My Heart' at various outdoor venues.

### 2015 Taeyang World Tour [Rise] in Singapore

FLABBERGAST LLP

Big Bang member and sometime singing-songwriting solo act Taeyang is set to dazzle Singapore with a high-octane, dance-filled, one-night-only concert.

**VENUE** SINGAPORE EXPO HALL 3

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$128, \$178, \$228, \$318

**DATE** 8 Feb

**TIME** 7pm

**WEBSITE** [www.sistic.com](http://www.sistic.com)

**VENUE** NEE SOON EAST COURTYARD, ANG MO KIO CENTRAL STAGE, FAR EAST PLAZA, MULTI-PURPOSE COURTS IN FRONT OF BLK 838 YISHUN STREET 81.

**ADMISSION PRICE** Free

**DATE** 7 Feb (Nee Soon), 8 Feb (Ang Mo Kio), 14 Feb (Far East Plaza), 15 Feb (Yishun Street 81)

**TIME** 7.30pm (7 & 8 Feb), 6pm (14 Feb), 7.30pm (15 Feb)

**WEBSITE** [www.sco.com.sg](http://www.sco.com.sg)



## New Found Glory Live in Singapore

IMPACT LIVE

Spend an evening with the Godfathers of Pop Punk, New Found Glory, as they take you through their hits from over a dozen successful albums.

**VENUE** \*SCAPE THE GROUND THEATRE

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$78, \$118

**DATE** 12 Feb

**TIME** 8pm

**WEBSITE** [www.peatix.com](http://www.peatix.com)



## SSO Pops Concert: Rhapsody in Blue

SINGAPORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Singapore Symphony Orchestra

gets sassy with jazz-inspired pieces by George Gershwin, Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn, in renditions featuring acclaimed Japanese jazz pianist Makoto Ozone.

**VENUE** ESPLANADE CONCERT HALL

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$20, \$38, \$58, \$78

**DATE** 13 Feb

**TIME** 7.30pm

**WEBSITE** [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg)

## Valentine's Day Concert: Souvenir de Florence

SINGAPORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

If music be the food of love, have your fill at this concert featuring the ultimate in romantic chamber pieces, with gorgeous pieces by Tchaikovsky, Piazzolla and Mike Mower, played by the Singapore Symphony Orchestra with flautist Jin Ta.

**VENUE** VICTORIA CONCERT HALL

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$22

**DATE** 14 Feb

**TIME** 4pm

**WEBSITE** [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg)

## What Is Traditional Chinese Music?

THE ESPLANADE CO LTD, BITESIZE

Traditional Chinese Music has not only thrived, it has found its way beyond China's shores, sometimes making surprise appearances in Western pop. Get to know this pervasive genre of music better in a lecture by award-winning *pipa* player and artistic director of The TENG

Company, Dr Samuel Wong, and learn the finer points of appreciating Chinese music, its various styles, genres and interpretations, plus new trends.

**VENUE** ESPLANADE REHEARSAL STUDIO

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$15

**DATE** 15 Feb

**TIME** 2pm

**WEBSITE** [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg)



**VISUAL**

## Make It New — Dance By Design

THE ARTS FISSION COMPANY

Performance and visual art are often closely complementary. See the surprisingly intricate elements of design that are showcased in dance performances, such as set, sound and light designs, plus exhibits from dance productions that show how these elements are used to breathtaking effect.

**VENUE** NATIONAL DESIGN CENTRE

**ADMISSION PRICE** Free

**DATE** Till 8 Feb

**TIME** 9am-9pm

**WEBSITE** [www.artsfission.org](http://www.artsfission.org)

## Leonardo Da Vinci's 'Earlier Mona Lisa'

THE MONA LISA FOUNDATION

Even the world's most famous masterpieces have first drafts. Come discover the pretty predecessor of the Louvre Museum's *Mona Lisa*, 10 years older but no less enigmatic, in this tablet-led interactive multimedia exhibition that explores the mysteries and histories surrounding this particular Leonardo Da Vinci portrait and the Renaissance world in which he lived. A detective-themed tour for tots also available.

**VENUE** THE ARTS HOUSE

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$14, \$15, \$20

**DATE** Till 11 Feb

**TIME** Various times

**WEBSITE** [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg)

## Art Discovered (Spring/Summer Edition)

THE ART FELLAS GALLERY

For the inaugural installment of the Art Discovered initiative showcasing budding art-makers, The Art Fellas Gallery presents diverse and delightful works from a blossoming baker's dozen of Singapore-based artists.

**VENUE** THE ART FELLAS GALLERY, 46 KIM YAM ROAD, #02-25, THE HERENCIA

**ADMISSION PRICE** Free

**DATE** 7-15 Feb

**TIME** Mon-Fri 9am-6pm, Sat & Sun 12pm-6pm

**WEBSITE** [www.theartfellas.com](http://www.theartfellas.com)



## Shirazeh Houshiary: Residency at the Singapore Tyler Print Institute

SINGAPORE TYLER PRINT INSTITUTE

The Singapore Tyler Print Institute, renowned for developing contemporary art practice in print and paper, offers a residency programme for leading artists from around the world. This month, the artist in question is the celebrated Shirazeh Houshiary, an Iran-born, London-based artist who applies Persian influences in her various genres, including painting, installation and film. Houshiary, who has exhibited in such hallowed halls as The Tate Modern and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, has also been shortlisted for the prestigious Turner Prize.

**VENUE** SINGAPORE TYLER PRINT INSTITUTE, 41 ROBERTSON QUAY

**ADMISSION PRICE** Free

**DATE** Till 18 Feb

**TIME** Tue-Fri 10am-7pm, Sat 9am-6pm

**WEBSITE** [www.stpi.com.sg](http://www.stpi.com.sg)



## Signature Art Prize

ASIA PACIFIC BREWERIES FOUNDATION

Set your sights on this triennial event honouring the most outstanding contemporary artworks from emerging and established artists all over the Asia-Pacific. Out of this year's 105 entries, only 15 finalists are presented to the public in a special exhibition at the Singapore Art Museum.

**VENUE** SINGAPORE ART MUSEUM

**ADMISSION PRICE** Normal admission charges of \$5, \$10; free for Singaporeans & Permanent Residents, and for all on Fri between 6pm-9pm.

**DATE** Till 15 Mar

**TIME** Sat-Thu 10am-7pm, Fri 10am-9pm

**WEBSITE** [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg)

## Liu Kuo-Sung 'The Father of Modern Ink Painting' Solo Exhibition

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS (MOCA@LOWEN)

As with signatures on a peace treaty, ink can transform everything. See how the modern brushstrokes of Liu Kuo-Sung create fantastic landscapes and how this trail-blazer transformed the traditional Oriental art forever, with influences felt as far as Korea, Japan, China and Southeast Asia since he revolutionised the genre five decades ago.

**VENUE** MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS (MOCA@LOWEN), 27A LOEWEN ROAD

**ADMISSION PRICE** Free

**DATE** Till 1 Mar

**TIME** 10am-6pm

**WEBSITE** [www.mocalowen.sg](http://www.mocalowen.sg)



## Medium at Large

SINGAPORE ART MUSEUM

What makes art? The Singapore Art Museum tackles the question literally, and the answer is everything, apparently. This intriguing collection features artworks created from rattan, human hair, whitening soap, live bullet shells, traditional media like paint and also some derived from nothing more than sound, language and text.

**VENUE** SINGAPORE ART MUSEUM

**ADMISSION PRICE** Free for Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents. Normal museum admission charges of \$5, \$10 for other visitors.

**DATE** Till May

**TIME** 10am-7pm. Open till 9pm on Fri.

**WEBSITE** [www.singaporeartmuseum.sg](http://www.singaporeartmuseum.sg)



PHOTO Autism Resource Centre & Pathlight School

## Art for Autism: Diversity

PATHLIGHT SCHOOL

See something really special at this exhibition. Autistic students of Pathlight School's Artist Development Programme have contributed these personal and impressive works, each demonstrating highly unique perspectives, meticulous focus, heightened attention to detail and palpable passion about topics close to their hearts. Expect amazingly-textured

and intricately-rendered images of dinosaurs, building facades and pachyderms, just to name a few.

**VENUE** EAST GARDEN FOYER GALLERY & THE FULLERTON HERITAGE GALLERY, THE FULLERTON HOTEL SINGAPORE

**ADMISSION PRICE** Free

**DATE** Till 2 Mar

**TIME** All day

**WEBSITE** [www.pathlight.org.sg/programmes/adp](http://www.pathlight.org.sg/programmes/adp)





## Mad Love

MAD MUSEUM OF ART & DESIGN

Artists from Europe and Asia plumb the dark, dizzy depths of love, sex and desire in this exciting exhibition featuring works by legendary Japanese photographer Daido Moriyama; Hong Kong photographer Wing Shya (known for his work with film-maker Wong Kar Wai) and Japanese street artist Madsaki, dubbed Japan's Banksy, just to name a fabulous few.

**VENUE** MAD MUSEUM OF ART & DESIGN,  
10 TANGLIN ROAD, #01-01/#02-01

**ADMISSION PRICE** Free

**DATE** Till 26 Apr

**TIME** 11am-8pm

**WEBSITE** [www.madmuseumsingapore.com](http://www.madmuseumsingapore.com)

## Prudential Singapore Eye Exhibition

SINGAPORE ART WEEK

Get an eyeful of stellar Singaporean contemporary artworks at the Prudential Singapore Eye Exhibition — the largest survey on Singapore contemporary art. Check out the artists and get to say you saw them first, before the stars of the selection go onto an exhibition at London's Saatchi Gallery.

**VENUE** ARTSCIENCE MUSEUM, MARINA  
BAY SANDS

**ADMISSION PRICE** Child \$5.50 (\$8 non-resident), senior \$8 (\$12 non-resident), adult \$9 (\$13 non-resident). Family packages available.

**DATE** Till 28 Jun

**TIME** 10am-7pm

**WEBSITE** [www.marinabaysands.com/museum/ticketing.html](http://www.marinabaysands.com/museum/ticketing.html)

## Da Vinci: Shaping the Future

MARINA BAY SANDS PTE LTD

Leonardo da Vinci was a true genius, making his mark on mathematics, natural sciences, technology, architecture and music. This epic exhibition displays original pages of the *Codex Atlanticus*, the legendary Italian's largest notebook, and a collection of some of his most important

# Books That Make You an Expert On...



**01 MUSIC** *How Music Works*, by David Byrne, former Talking Heads frontman, about listening to, making and selling music. \$S\$36.95. **02 BALLET** *The Faber Pocket Guide to Ballet*, by Deborah Bull & Luke Jennings. A pocket-sized idiot's guide to ballet appreciation, arranged according to major periods in ballet history. Useful glossary included. \$S\$24.61. **03 POETRY** *Fear No Poetry!* by Gwee Li Sui. Put together by a Singaporean poet and academic, this is a smart — but always fun and accessible — guide to reading poetry, with a great selection of Singapore poems to boot. \$S\$17.12. **04 SCULPTURE** *Learning to Look at Sculpture* by Mary Acton. Sculpture is an age-old discipline, but this straightforward, intro-level primer expands notions of sculpture to include public buildings, industrial design and furniture. \$S\$50.80.

All titles available at Books Kinokuniya.

drawings and writings. Be captivated too by other Da Vinci masterpieces hailing all the way from Milan.

**VENUE** ARTSCIENCE MUSEUM

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$10.50, \$15, \$17.50, \$19, \$23, \$25. Packages including entry to other exhibitions are also available.

**DATE** Till May

**TIME** 10am-7pm

**WEBSITE** [www.marinabaysands.com/museum/ticketing.html](http://www.marinabaysands.com/museum/ticketing.html)

## PLAY @ National Museum of Singapore

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE

Transform your iPad-obsessed child into a mini museum-goer! PLAY @ National Museum of Singapore, a dedicated area for young children to take their first steps towards museum-going, delights with interactive exhibits and special activities that encourage learning through play. Watch little ones explore, create and even perform.

**VENUE** LEVEL 3, NATIONAL MUSEUM  
OF SINGAPORE

**ADMISSION PRICE** Free

**DATE** Daily till further notice

**TIME** 10am-6pm

**WEBSITE** [www.nationalmuseum.sg](http://www.nationalmuseum.sg)

## Ancient Religions

ASIAN CIVILISATIONS MUSEUM

This new display at the Asian Civilisations Museum traces a millennium of sculpture demonstrating the spread of religions from India to China, Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia. Let the artworks depict how early cults developed into international forms of Hinduism and Buddhism.

**VENUE** ASIAN CIVILISATIONS MUSEUM

**ADMISSION PRICE** Normal admission charges of \$4, \$8. Free admission for all Singapore Citizens, Permanent Residents and visitors aged 6 and below.

**DATE** Till further notice

**TIME** Sat-Thu 10am-7pm, Fri 10am-9pm

**WEBSITE** [www.acm.org.sg](http://www.acm.org.sg)



## THEATRE

### The Danny Crowe Show

RDG'S HYPOKRITE

How real is reality TV? Talented young director Andy Pang directs this play about the fictional *Danny Crowe Show* that features messed-up folks with a penchant for the limelight. Lured by fame, a spotlight-starved young man murders his father to get on TV.

**VENUE** DRAMA CENTRE BLACK BOX

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$25

**DATE** 6 & 7 Feb

**TIME** Fri 8pm, Sat 3pm & 8pm

**WEBSITE** [www.ticketmash.sg](http://www.ticketmash.sg)

### Tartuffe

NINE YEARS THEATRE

Acclaimed theatre company Nine Years Theatre translates another European classic to Mandarin. This time, it's the French farce *Tartuffe* by Moliere. The titular Tartuffe is, apparently, such a holy man, Orgon wants to give his fortune and daughter to him. Everybody else can see past Tartuffe's charade, but how do you convince someone completely blinded by faith?

**VENUE** NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE GALLERY THEATRE

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$35

**DATE** 4-8 Feb

**TIME** Wed-Fri 8pm, Sat & Sun 3pm & 8pm

**WEBSITE** [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg)

### The Rishi and Sharul Show

RISHI BUDHRANI & SHARUL CHANNA

Get a voyeuristic view into the



married life of real-life comedy couple, Rishi Budhrani and Sharul Channa, both internationally-celebrated stand-up comedians, as they use stand-up and sketch comedy to share intimate details about love, sex, marriage and how a sense of humour can get you through any challenge.

**VENUE** BLACK BOX, GOODMAN ARTS CENTRE

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$35

**DATE** 5-7 Feb & 12-14 Feb

**TIME** Thu & Fri 8pm, Sat 4pm & 8pm

**WEBSITE** [www.peatix.com](http://www.peatix.com)

### RIOT! Hosted By Becca D'Bus

BECCA D'BUS

Fabulous and fearless, celebrated actor/writer/director/drag artiste Becca D'Bus, aka Eugene Tan, presents a hard-hitting, hilarious, incisive drag revue with a bevy of her best friends. They promise colourful makeup, costumes and also colourful language — so be warned.

**VENUE** TAB, #02-29 ORCHARD HOTEL

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$20, \$35, \$500

(VIP table for five, inclusive of one bottle)

**DATE** 14 Feb

**TIME** 7pm

**WEBSITE** [riot14feb2015.peatix.com](http://riot14feb2015.peatix.com)

### Circle Mirror Transformation

PANGDEMONIUM THEATRE COMPANY

Four stressed-out strangers join an acting class to get away from their private problems. But thanks to their earth-mother acting teacher, things get uncomfortably personal. As can be expected from Pangdemonium, the cast is stellar, with Nikki Muller, Adrian Pang, Neo Swee Lin and Daniel Jenkins headlining.

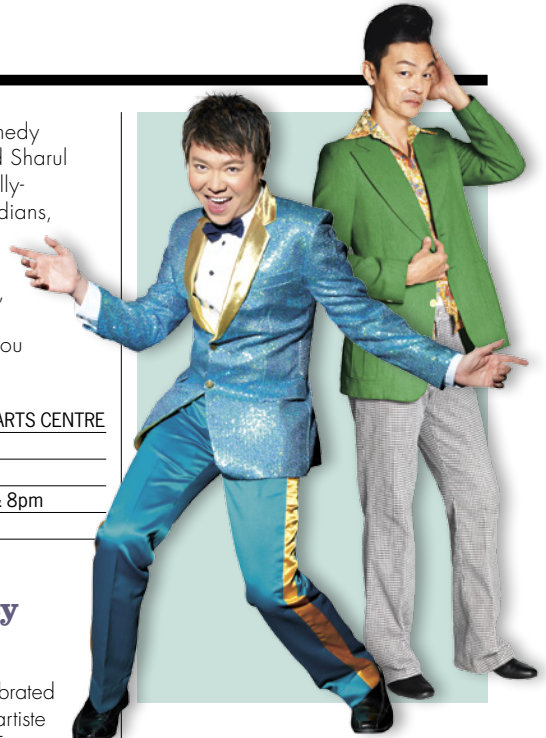
**VENUE** DBS ARTS CENTRE

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$30, \$40, \$45, \$50, \$55

**DATE** Till 15 Feb

**TIME** Tue-Fri 8pm, Sat 3pm & 8pm, Sun 3pm. Extra 8pm show on 15 Feb.

**WEBSITE** [www.sistic.com](http://www.sistic.com)



### Great World Cabaret — Let's Bo Bo Cha Cha

RESORTS WORLD SENTOSA & DREAM ACADEMY

Time travel with Singapore stage, screen and singing stars to the charm (and charmers) of old Singapore cabarets. Local lovelies Joanna Dong, Seong Hui Xuan and Aisyah Aziz perform as '60s and '70s nightlife legends Sakura Teng, Rose Chan and Katrina Dahari respectively, while comedians like Judee Tan, Sebastian Tan, Mark Lee and Hossan Leong take turns adding hilarity to the proceedings.

**VENUE** RESORTS WORLD THEATRE,

RESORTS WORLD SENTOSA

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$48, \$68, \$88, \$108, \$128

**DATE** 19 Feb-17 Mar

**TIME** Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri, 8pm; Sat & Sun, 3pm & 8pm

**WEBSITE** [www.sistic.com](http://www.sistic.com)

**\* HAVE AN ART AFFAIR YOU'D LIKE TO INCLUDE IN OUR LISTINGS?**

Simply send us details of the event at least 6 weeks before it takes place, at [a-list.sg/submit-an-event](http://a-list.sg/submit-an-event). (Listings are free but not guaranteed.) We'll help you get this arty started.



# COMING ATTRACTIONS!

## Aesop's Fables

I THEATRE

Enjoy a selection of Aesop's well-loved tales as I Theatre mixes and matches the legendary author's favourite fables into one fun, tot-friendly theatrical outing with the help of masks, puppetry and costumes.

**VENUE** JUBILEE HALL, RAFFLES HOTEL

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$30, \$32

**DATE** 26 Feb-21 Mar

**TIME** Tue-Fri, 10am & 2.30pm, Sat-Sun, 10.30am, 2.30pm & 5pm

**WEBSITE** [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg)



## An Evening With Arijit Singh

BAY ENTERTAINMENT PTE LTD

You're familiar with the faces of Bollywood movies, now here's your chance to meet the voice behind them. Arijit Singh, awarded Best Male Playback Singer in 2014 and the male voice behind multiple Bollywood blockbusters starring Sharukh Khan no less, entertains Singapore audiences with his stirring vocals.



**VENUE** THE STAR THEATRE

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$48, \$68, \$88, \$128, \$158, \$198, \$248, \$298

**DATE** 28 Feb

**TIME** 7.30pm

**WEBSITE** [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg)

## All In! Young Writers Media Festival



NATIONAL BOOK DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF SINGAPORE

This annual festival helps set would-be authors aged 13 to 25 on the write track, with major players in publishing, broadcasting, blogging, creative writing, screenwriting and journalism coming to meet, mingle with and mentor the festival attendees.

**VENUE** LIBRARY@ORCHARD

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$20, \$30, \$40

**DATE** 28 Feb & 1 Mar

**TIME** Various times

**WEBSITE** [www.all-in.bookcouncil.sg](http://www.all-in.bookcouncil.sg)



PHOTO: People's Association

## Chingay Parade Singapore 2015

PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION

This annual eye-popping, float-filled parade is one of the most impressive in Singapore. This year's installment promises to be the biggest of them all, with 11,000 multi-cultural performers presenting a wide range of assorted acts.

**VENUE** PROMENADE & F1 PIT BUILDING

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$28.50, \$40, \$50, \$60

**DATE** 27 & 28 Feb

**TIME** 8pm

**WEBSITE** [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg)



## Teahouse

THE ESPLANADE CO. LTD

Watch empires rise and fall from the comfort of a café — or the Chinese equivalent — in *Teahouse*, a rave-reviewed *tour de force* by Beijing People's Art Theatre. Weaving the lives of over 70 characters in a 19<sup>th</sup>-century Beijing teahouse, be immersed in their



struggle to weather the end of the Qing dynasty, the Republic era and the Japanese Occupation.

**VENUE** ESPLANADE THEATRE

**ADMISSION PRICE** \$48, \$68, \$88, \$108, \$128

**DATE** 5-8 Mar

**TIME** Thu-Sat, 8pm, Sun 2.30pm

**WEBSITE** [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg)



# EPILOGUE

BECAUSE ART IS LONG & LIFE IS SHORT

PHOTO BY DARREN SOH

“Home is in here.  
It takes a lifetime to  
know that.”

— Excerpt from ‘Between Stations’ by Boey Kim Cheng



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*This photo is featured in 'Along the Golden Mile: A Photographic Installation by Darren Soh', Objectifs Gallery (56A Arab Street), till 18 Feb. Boey Kim Cheng is a Singapore-born poet widely regarded as one of the most promising to emerge in the 1990s.*



# NOISE SINGAPORE 2015 **CALL FOR ENTRIES**



## Art & Design / Photography Moving Images / Music

Noise is 10! We've discovered so many talented young Singaporeans (ages 35 and below) these past 10 years, and we want you to join us in celebrating this milestone. Share your original creations with us and you might just find your works showcased at the Noise Singapore 2015 Festival (attended by 62,000 people in 2014) or one of our other platforms that we have throughout the year!

**APPLY BY 15 MARCH 2015**

### OPEN CATEGORIES

Do you create original works of art, design, photography or music? Looking for an opportunity to showcase your work? Submit them to Noise's Open Categories, and you could be featured in one of our various public platforms including exhibitions, concerts, print collaterals, online galleries and more.

### MENTORSHIP

If you are a budding artist or musician hoping to deepen your knowledge and skills, Noise's mentoring programmes can help you take that next step in your artistic journey by providing you with a 4-month mentorship experience with some of Singapore's most talented practitioners, as well as a public showcase opportunity!

[www.noisesingapore.com](http://www.noisesingapore.com) [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [@noisesingapore](#) [#no15e](#)

