

**SINGAPORE ARTS FESTIVAL 2009
CORE PROGRAMME**

DANCE

H³

**Grupo de Rua (Brazil)
Asian Premiere**

Grupo de Rua burst onto the international dance scene with its highly skilled street dancers that take hip hop to unprecedented new heights. *H³* raises hip hop to new levels of artistry, virtuosity and volatility, testing the limits of the body and stage space.

"In Beltrao's hands, hip-hop extricated itself from the clichés without losing a single heartbeat." – De Standaard

"It is Beltrao's most complex and compelling work to date." - CORPUS

19 May, 8pm & 20 May, 3pm
50 mins (without intermission)
Victoria Theatre,
\$50, \$35, \$25, \$16

Sutra

**Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui / Antony Gormley / Monks from the Shaolin Temple
(Belgium / U.K. / China)**

A dazzling alliance of martial arts and dance inspired by the skill, strength and spirituality of Shaolin Buddhist monks. *Sutra* unites world-acclaimed Belgian choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, British sculptor Antony Gormley and seventeen extraordinary Shaolin monks in a sensitive search for universality that everyone can relate to.

"*This unique, profoundly imagined work takes the concept of cultural exchange to a new level.*" - The Guardian

22 & 23 May, 8pm
80 mins (without intermission)
Esplanade Theatre
\$100, \$80, \$60, \$40, \$30, \$20

Terima Kost

Jecko Siempo (Indonesia)

Chasing big dreams in big cities, how do rural youths in Indonesia cope with new life in their tiny rented rooms ('kost') in metropolitan Jakarta? Traditional Papuan movement, hip hop and contemporary dance blend in a witty insight into their adventures and misadventures, created by rising Indonesian Papuan choreographic star Jecko Siempo.

27 & 28 May, 8pm

60 mins (without intermission)
Esplanade Theatre Studio
\$30

Anna Karenina
Finnish National Ballet (Finland)
Asian Premiere

Benois de la Danse Award for Choreography 2005

Tolstoy's emotional drama of love and sacrifice spectacularly performed by one of Scandinavia's oldest cultural institutions, in an award-winning choreography by Russian choreographer Alexei Ratmansky with a breath-taking design. Set to the evocative music of Schredrin performed by the Singapore Festival Orchestra.

"an action-packed and visually transporting dance drama" - Hufvudstadsbladet

29 & 30 May, 8pm
130 mins (with intermission)
Esplanade Theatre
\$120, \$100, \$80, \$60, \$45, \$35, \$20

Les sept planches de la ruse
Seven Boards of Tricks
Aurélien Bory
Compagnie 111 - Scènes de la Terre (France)

Seven giant boards effortlessly manipulated by Chinese acrobats and performers in a stunning production full of visual surprises. A work of incredible ingenuity inspired by the traditional Chinese puzzle game of tangram, created by one of France's leading proponents of new circus dance theatre.

Co-produced by Théâtre de la Ville – Paris, Direction de la Culture – Ville de Dalian, Equinoxe – Scène nationale de Châteauroux.

Residence: Scène nationale de Sénart

With the support of : Ministère de la culture/Direction Régionale des Affaires Culturelles Midi-Pyrénées, Région Midi-Pyrénées, Ville de Toulouse, Conseil Général de la Haute-Garonne, CulturesFrance

"Inventively conceived and flawlessly produced show" - The New York Times

2 & 3 June, 8pm
80 mins (without intermission)
Victoria Theatre
\$50, \$35, \$25, \$16

Cullberg Ballet (Sweden)

Asian Premiere

The technical virtuosity and lyrical brilliance set the Cullberg Ballet in a class on par with the likes of Nederlands Dans Theater. The Ballet presents a double-bill Asian Premiere of *Aluminium* and *As If*, two well-loved works created by famed choreographers Mat Eks and Johan Inger.

"A stylish performance with a good dose of humour" - Halsinge on *As If*

"Beautiful and clear" - Expressen on *Aluminium*

5 & 6 June, 8pm
100 mins (with intermission)
Esplanade Theatre
\$100, \$80, \$60, \$40, \$30, \$20

Forward Moves

***Body Swap* by Joavien Ng**
***Q & A* by daniel k (Singapore)**
Festival commission

Forward Moves alumni Joavien Ng and daniel k question perception and reception between two entities and realities. In *Body Swap*, Joavien house-swaps with a Berlin-based choreographer to re-live and re-imagine the experience of the other; and in *Q and A*, daniel k constructs a performance based on the experience and expectations of his audience.

6 June, 8pm & 7 June, 3pm
Esplanade Theatre Studio
\$36
110 minutes (with intermission)

Body Swap is co-commissioned and co-produced by the Singapore Arts Festival, Goethe Institut Singapore and Kampnagel (Hamburg).

THEATRE

Etiquette
Rotozaza (U.K.)

Be the stars of the performance! This is a play where you and another are the only actors and audience. Guided by headphones, two participants perform a half-hour drama at a table in a public café amidst patrons oblivious to the performance taking place!

"...if the line between audience and performer seems blurred, Etiquette...erases it entirely." - The International Herald Tribune

'A hyper reality... By creating an entirely private space in the public setting of a cafe, something extraordinary happens.' - The Guardian

16 May – 13 June
Performance starts on the hour at these times
Mon to Thu: 12pm – 2pm, 6pm – 9pm
Fri to Sat: 11am – 10pm
Sun: 11am – 8pm
30 mins (without intermission)
Dôme Marina Square #02-100
\$20

Visible Cities (Singapore/ Italy)
Written by Chay Yew
Directed by Giorgio Barberio Corsetti
World Premiere

New York-based Singapore playwright Chay Yew collaborates with Italian director Giorgio Barberio Corsetti in a cross-cultural foray featuring a mixed Italian and Asian cast from Singapore, China and America.

Inspired by Italo Calvino's *Invisible Cities* describing conversations on real and imagined cities between Marco Polo and Kublai Khan, *Visible Cities* is a modern tale that contemplates different cultural journeys, their historical and contemporary realities, and their common interest : trade.

A co-commission and co-production by the Singapore Arts Festival and the Napoli Teatro Festival Italia
In co-production with Fattore K

22 - 23 May
120 mins
Drama Centre Theatre
\$50, \$40, \$30, \$20

Sin Sangre (Without Blood)
Compañía Teatrocinema (Chile)

A woman sets out to look for the man who is her family's murderer and her saviour. In this artful blending of cinematography with theatre that blurs the line between the real and the celluloid, this tale of loss, guilt and revenge is a movie-theatre thriller not to be missed.

Performed in Spanish with English surtitles
Advisory: some strong language and violence

26 & 27 May, 8pm
90 mins (without intermission)
Drama Centre Theatre
\$50, \$40, \$30, \$20

RUHE
Muziektheater Transparant / Collegium Vocale Gent (Belgium)
Asian Premiere

A spellbinding theatre event where a recital of beautiful Schubert songs is interrupted by people who wish to talk about their voluntary enlistment in the SS in 1940. Based on real interviews with Nazi collaborators during the Second World War. This serves as a reminder that evil is never far away.

"one of the most original, haunting and troubling productions I have encountered in 20 years of Edinburgh Festival visits" - Daily Telegraph

26 – 29 May, 8pm
75 mins (without intermission)
The Salon, National Museum of Singapore
\$36

LIV
Full Frontal
Directed by Nelson Chia (Singapore)
Festival Commission

Four people come together with the same problem: sleep. Between sobriety and hallucination lies life; between dreaming and awakening lies living. Director Nelson Chia invites you to dream on the imitations of life and intimations on mortality. Original, wistful and whimsical.

2 & 3 June, 8pm
90 mins (without intermission)
Esplanade Theatre Studio
\$30

The Crab Flower Club
Toy Factory Productions Ltd (Singapore)
Festival Commission

Five daughters of a Qing household gather to prepare a sumptuous feast of crabs and to set up a poetry club. Singapore director Goh Boon Teck's portrayal of a lyrical world inspired by the poems of the *Dreams of the Red Chamber* comes alive with 'live' painting by artist Hong Sek Chern and Liszt preludes that will caress your innermost emotion and sensibilities.

Performed in English with Chinese surtitles

3 – 5 June, 8pm
85 minutes (no intermission)
Drama Centre Theatre
\$50, \$40, \$30, \$20

Electra
The Suzuki Company of Toga (Japan)
Directed by Suzuki Tadashi

World renowned theatre director and founder of the Suzuki Method of Actors Training brings his unique view of the world. *Electra* is set in a mental hospital, an allegory to the madness and violence the world is capable of descending into. Renowned for his potent mix of Greek

and Asian theatre forms, *Electra* is gripping theatre with a physical energy that transcends words.

Performed in Japanese and Korean with English surtitles

6 & 7 June, 8pm
70 mins (without intermission)
Victoria Theatre
\$60, \$40, \$30, \$20

Dream-Work / Dream-Home
spell#7 (Singapore) and Bodies In Flight (U.K.)
Festival Commission

An ambulant audio-performance: Dream-Work/Dream-Home is a two-part walking performance about who we are at work and play. Following performer-commuters during the a.m. and p.m. rush hours, audience members use headphones to listen in on the sounds, speech and songs that make up a life in the morning; and this cycle is repeated as the night closes in.

Co-commissioned by the Singapore Arts Festival and Inbetween Time Festival of Live Art and Intrigue.

Dream-Work
8 – 12 June, 7.30am, 8.30am & 9.30am
Chinatown MRT, Exit A (Street Level)
\$20

Dream-Home
8 – 12 June, 4.30pm, 5.30pm, 6.30pm & 7.30pm
Raffles Place MRT, Exit A (Street Level)
\$20
30mins

Long Life
New Riga Theatre (Latvia)

Grand PRIX, International Theatre Festival BITEF, 2005

A multiple award-winning production about ageing, this wordless tender and life-affirming play performed by young virtuoso actors follows one day in the lives of five retired elderly people sharing a communal flat in Riga. In their world, they communicate with each other through the objects and material things seemingly endowed with a life and soul of their own.

“A stunning achievement that brings poignancy, humour and humanity to the humdrum lives it portrays” - Variety

11 – 13 June, 8pm
100 mins (without intermission)

Esplanade Theatre Studio
\$36

**櫻桃園 *The Cherry Orchard*
Lin Zhaohua Theatre Studio (China)**

Lin Zhaohua, one of China's most accomplished and highly acclaimed directors, makes his Singapore debut with a stunning adaptation of one of Chekhov's most endearing works. The Esplanade Theatre stage transforms into a dreamy and surreal orchard in which the changing fortunes of a family unfold.

Performed in Mandarin with English and Chinese surtitles.

A co-production of Singapore Arts Festival and Lin Zhaohua Theatre Studio

12 – 14 June, 8pm
13 June, 3pm
120 mins (without intermission)
Esplanade Theatre
\$100, \$80, \$60, \$40, \$20

MUSIC

**Distant Worlds: Music from Final Fantasy
Arnie Roth with the Singapore Festival Orchestra / Victoria Chorale / The
Vocal Consort (USA / Singapore)
Asian Premiere**

Today's video games classic, *Final Fantasy's* most memorable state-of-the-art images and its award-winning game soundtrack composed by the "John Williams" of gaming music, Nobuo Uematsu, will mesmerise all who are both familiar and new to the world of video games.

"A concert like this is extremely hard to pass up. I highly urge you to be a part of the experience that is the modern musical legend, Nobuo Uematsu." -
www.gamernode.com

22 & 23 May, 7.30pm
105 mins (with intermission)
Esplanade Concert Hall
\$80, \$60, \$45, \$35, \$20

**The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo
an Eric Abraham & Isango Portobello production
adapted and directed by Mark Dornford-May (South Africa)**

Laurence Olivier Award (2008) for Best Musical Revival

A life-enhancing and joyous adaptation of Mozart's beloved opera as you have never heard it before - the South African way! An adventure, a fairy story, a comedy and a drama gloriously re-imagined with 35 singers and musicians on marimbas and drums drawn from across South African townships.

"Truly enchanting for children and adults. Warm, collective, universally accessible, musical magic" - Time Out

"Packing enough energy to power a couple of national grids, and enough decibels to lift several roofs... exhilarating and vibrant." - The Times

Performed in English and other languages of South Africa
Developed in association with the Young Vic

28 - 30 May, 8pm
135 mins (with intermission)
Victoria Theatre
\$70, \$55, \$40, \$25, \$16

**Jeremy Monteiro & T'ang Quartet (Singapore)
with special guests Randy Brecker , Ernie Watts and Richard Jackson(USA)**

For the first time, Singapore's premier jazz pianist and classical quartet meet in special musical adventure crossing jazz and classical music with re-orchestrations and original compositions. Joined by special guests, expect a concert of the highest level of music-making that is absorbing and thrilling.

"...one of the best exponents of Jazz Piano". - Swing Magazine of Switzerland on Jeremy Monteiro

"As a pianist, he is at the top of the tree." - allaboutjazz.com on Jeremy Monteiro
"The T'ang Quartet plays with... telepathic abilities of the best small chamber groups; they made every note seems right and significant." – Andante.com

29 & 30 May, 7.30pm
110 mins (with intermission)
Esplanade Concert Hall
\$80, \$60, \$50, \$40, \$30, \$20

***Invisible Room*
The Observatory
In collaboration with Ho Tzu Nyen (Singapore)
Festival Commission**

Known for its eclectic, genre-defying music, Singapore's premier indie rock band *The Observatory* explores music in an 'inverted' music space. Ensclosed in an intimate pentagonal chamber formed by projection screens, the aural and visual sensurround shifts audience's mental and psychological perceptions of freedom and entrapment. Created in collaboration with theatre director Kok Heng Leun as dramaturg and film-maker Ho Tzu Nyen that promises an evocative and deeply engaging evening.

"NO OTHER Singapore band, past or present, has captured the imagination quite like The Observatory... which everybody talks about with a kind of reverential hush." - Yeow Kai Chai, The Straits Times

Advisory : Proximity to screen may cause some mild momentary discomfort.
Comfortable attire advised.

Special thanks to Infinite Frameworks for the post-production services for the film.

5 & 6 June: 5pm, 8pm & 10pm
7 June: 3pm, 5pm, 8pm
50 mins (without intermission)
LASALLE College of the Arts, Flexible Performance Space
\$30

Ladysmith Black Mambazo (South Africa)
Grammy Award for Best Traditional World Music Album, 2005 & 2009

The celebrated Ladysmith Black Mambazo, winner of the 2005 and 2009 Grammy Award for the *Best Traditional World Music Recording*, performs its latest hits in a moving, exuberant and powerful performance rooted in South African pride and spiritual traditions.

"It's amazing what real music can do" - Timesunion.com

14 June, 7.30pm
110 mins (with intermission)
Esplanade Concert Hall
\$80, \$60, \$45, \$30, \$20

Joanna MacGregor (U.K.)

Joanna MacGregor's legendary eclecticism and musical explorations on the piano excite audiences around the world. A demanding programme of Preludes and Fugues by Bach and Shostakovich attest to her virtuosity and innovative spirit.

"One continuum of invention and imagination" - Times
"Classless category of aural excitement" - Time Out

10 June, 7.30pm
120 mins (with intermission)
Esplanade Concert Hall
\$70, \$50, \$40, \$30, \$20

Yuri Bashmet and the Moscow Soloists
Grammy Award for Best Small Ensemble, 2008

A three-concert special by two of Russia's most eminent ensembles!

Arguably the world's greatest living violist, Yuri Bashmet leads the 30-member Moscow Soloists in two concerts, the second one joined by the Moscow State Chamber Choir. The musical gems of Russian and European classicism and romanticism performed by two exquisite ensembles!

"Flamboyant and intense, he has transformed it (viola) into an instrument for the communication of Byronic emotional drama" - BBC Music Magazine

"A terrific example of ensemble string-playing... the dynamism of the Moscow Soloists' playing has freshness and life..." - The Telegraph

12 June, 7.30pm (Moscow Soloists with Yuri Bashmet & Moscow State Chamber Choir)

\$100, \$80, \$60, \$45, \$35, \$20

Esplanade Concert Hall

13 June, 7.30pm (Moscow Soloists with Yuri Bashmet)

\$100, \$80, \$60, \$45, \$35, \$20

Esplanade Concert Hall

Moscow State Chamber Choir (Russia)

The Moscow State Chamber Choir led by the venerable Vladimir Minin also enthalls with liturgical music rarely heard in Singapore in a third concert that ends with stirring Russian songs.

"a reputation of one of the best choirs of the planet." - Independent Newspaper, Russia

11 June, 7.30pm (Moscow State Chamber Choir)

\$60, \$40, \$25, \$16

Esplanade Concert Hall