

Singapore Arts Festival 2010 Ticketed Programme Highlights

1. Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields with Joshua Bell (UK)

Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields will share centrestage with conductor cum soloist Joshua Bell, presenting two different concerts with works by Beethoven & Mendelssohn. The Academy is firmly established as one of the world's leading chamber orchestras and is known for its superlative performances and award-winning recordings. Joshua Bell has captured the public's attention like no other classical violinist of his time and has performed with almost all of the world's major orchestras and conductors.

2. Acoustic Evening - Nitin Sawhney (UK)

Nitin Sawhney is one of today's most influential and versatile creative talents. He is firmly established as a producer, film composer, songwriter, DJ, multi-instrumentalist, orchestral composer and cultural pioneer. A highly trained flamenco guitarist and classical / jazz pianist, Sawhney has released eight studio albums to critical acclaim, as well as having been commissioned to perform with and write for many of the world's leading orchestras. The *Acoustic Evening* will present Nitin Sawhney unplugged, performing his own music together with an exciting line-up of international musicians.

3. Cargo Singapore - Rimini Protokoll (Germany)

Cargo Singapore will see 40 audiences travelling in a converted refrigerated truck, with two real life Singapore truck drivers driving through backstreets, service areas, port areas of Singapore - the 'unseen' arteries of Singapore's economic life.

4. Eleven and Twelve - Theatre du Bouffe du Nord (France)

Based on the novel "Life and Teaching of Tierno Bokar - The Sage of Bandigara" by the African writer Amadou Hampaté Bâ, "Eleven and Twelve" tells the extraordinary tale of a Sufi sage, Tierno Bokar, a humble and remarkable man who was the author's master. His story draws us deep into an Africa that is shaken by colonialism and torn apart by internal strife.

5. Emily of Emerald hill – Margaret Chan (Singapore)

Emily of Emerald Hill is a classic play written by Stella Kon, which has already seen more than 40 different productions in Singapore and Malaysia, and is arguably the most performed play in both Malaysia and Singapore since 1985. It is one of Singapore's most loved creations with many parts intrinsic to the Singapore identity: the search for true self, the celebration of our heritage, the fighting spirit to overcome odds through sheer perseverance, and the gritting of teeth, but all couched in universal truths. This restaging will see Margaret Chan returning to the stage. Fondly remembered as the actress with the commanding stage presence and booming voice, Chan will once again take on the role of the Peranakan matriarch.

6. Eonnagata - Sylvie Guillem/Robert Lepage/Russell Maliphant (France/Canada/UK)

Eonnagata tells the story of the Chevalier d'Éon, Charles de Beaumont - diplomat, writer, swordsman and a member of the King's Secret, a network of spies under the control of Louis XV. De Beaumont was perhaps the first spy to use transvestitism in the furtherance of his duties and until the day he died his true gender was a source of constant speculation, even provoking public bets in the late 18th century. A rare combination of three talented artists on the same stage!

7. Gatz - Elevator Repair Service (USA)

Six hours long and with a cast of 13, *Gatz* is by far Elevator Repair Service's most ambitious endeavor yet - not a stage adaptation of Fitzgerald's novel but a verbatim reading of the entire book, accomplished by the staff of a small office in the midst of their increasingly bewildering business operations.

8. Lady Macbeth - Theatre Moollee (Korea)

This creation by director Han Tae-Sook has received critical acclaim for its creative reinterpretation of *Macbeth*, unique artistic theatrical elements and inventive music score. Critics have applauded Han's ability to conduct an intercultural dialogue, and negotiate Western perspectives in Shakespeare's *Macbeth* with the traditional Confucian-shamanistic world view prominent in Korea.

9. Manganiyar Seduction - Roysten Abel (India)

Staged by the acclaimed Indian director Roysten Abel, over 40 Indian musicians and singers from three generations, present a highly theatrical evening of traditional Indian gypsy music. The Manganiyars, a community of travelling Muslim musicians, traditionally sang before the kings of Rajasthan; and in this show, they weave together their deeply rooted and complex history in a rousing array of choreography, song and rhythm.

10. Nijinsky Siam - Pichet Klunchen (Thailand)

Pichet Klunchun desires a dialogue with legendary dancer Nijinsky, to invoke his presence from painting and photograph to shadow puppetry, from light and shadow to human embodiment. This is the progression from which traditional dance originates in Thailand and Southeast Asia. This project is a co-production with the Theater der Welt.

11. On the String - Joyce Koh Bee Tuan & Khiew Huey Chian (Singapore)

A new commission of the Festival, this multi-disciplinary collaboration between a composer and installation artist creates an immersive environment that investigates the musicalisation of String Theory. Seated within the titanium string installation, the audiences aural environment is activated through the choreographed dance movements that 'excite' the strings.

12. Red Demon (Akaoni) - Makhampom Theatre Group (Thailand)

Akaoni is a contemporary Thai folk dance-drama (Likay), the result of a collaborative effort between Makhampom Foundation, Bangkok Theatre Network, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Space and the Jim Thompson Art Center. The work was created at the suggestion of Hideki Noda, an internationally famous Japanese director who asked Pradit Prasartthong, the first Silapathon award winner in performing arts (2004) from the Ministry of Culture, to create the work. The Thai artist was asked to create a Likay version of *Red Demon* by adapting Hideki's play script for the Mekong Festival 2009 in Tokyo. Pradit is the first to present an entirely new theme through Likay. His work is outstanding and has been widely acclaimed among viewers and peers.

13. Those Who Can't, Teach - The Necessary Stage (Singapore)

The Necessary Stage will revisit the production of *Those Who Can't, Teach*, which premiered in 1990 as part of The Substation's opening celebrations. Set in a secondary school, the play focuses on Mrs Phua Su-Lin, a teacher and single mother trying her best to manage both roles. Faced with constant and rapid changes in her life, she finds increasing difficulty coping with her two major roles. Further complications arise when there is news

that her school is moving to another district. Changes take place everywhere but what happens to those who are unable to adapt?

14. Wind shadows - Cloud Gate Dance Theatre (Taiwan)

Choreographic powerhouse Lin Hwai-Min has created a contemporary dance work that makes shadows come alive. Joining forces with leading Chinese visual artist Cai Guo-Qiang, Wind Shadows is a study of motion created through monochromatic palettes of black and white, and the use of light and shade.