

Singapore Arts Festival 2009 – Fest Connect Highlights

The Singapore Arts Festival 2009 sees the introduction of a new impetus under the banner of Fest Connect, an extension of the Festival's existing arts education and audience development initiative designed to foster greater understanding of the Festival's performances, artists, and festival-making amongst schools, arts communities and the public.

Fest Connect aims to promote a wider discussion and feedback about the Singapore Arts Festival, the largest arts performance platform of international repute in the Singapore arts calendar. Through Fest Connect, a series of public engagement activities will connect arts practitioners and the public 6 weeks prior to the start of the Festival via multiple entry points (i.e. Festival Chats, Festival Forums and Festival Workshops).

Post-show dialogues will also showcase the creators to encourage greater insight into the artists' creative/reflective process, and deeper engagement between artists and audiences.

This year, Singapore Arts Festival will partner the National Library Board to offer schools, library users and audiences a more comprehensive arts experience through the Festival Chats series, Mobile Library efforts and a wider presence of the Festival among selected libraries.

FESTIVAL CHATS: LIVE @ ESPLANADE

Hello Festival 2009!

4 April 2009
Open Stage,
library@esplanade
4.30pm – 5.30pm
Free

The BODY work

4 April 2009
Open Stage,
library@esplanade
5.30pm – 6.30pm
Free

The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo

18 April 2009
Open Stage,
library@esplanade
4.30pm – 5.30pm
Free

Festival BEAT

18 April 2009
Open Stage,
library@esplanade
5.30pm – 6.30pm
Free

Of Memories and Poetry

16 May 2009
Open Stage,
library@esplanade
4.30pm – 5.30pm
Free

Of Living and Loving

16 May 2009
Open Stage,
library@esplanade
5.30pm – 6.30pm
Free

Playing Music

23 May 2009
Open Stage,
library@esplanade
4.30pm – 5.30pm
Free

Playing Dance

23 May 2009
Open Stage,
library@esplanade
5.30pm – 6.30pm
Free

Blanc Space: Chekov, Stanislavski and Moscow Art Theatre

6 June 2009
Open Stage,
library@esplanade
2.30pm – 4.00pm
Free

For media enquiries, please contact media.saf2009@bm.com.

FESTIVAL FORUMS

The Insider's Guide to Festival Commissions and Collaborations

30 May 2009
The Substation Gallery
3.00pm – 5.00pm
Free

"So, how was it for you?" A Round-up of the Festival Shows

14 June 2009
The Substation Theatre
3.00pm – 5.00pm
Free

To register, please send your name and contact details to admin@substation.org (Subject: Fest Connect) or call 6337 7800 (Mon to Fri: 12pm - 8.30pm). Registration deadlines for "The Insider's Guide" and "A Round Up" are 27 May and 11 June respectively.

FESTIVAL WORKSHOPS

Workshop and Jam by Grupo de Rua of H³

17 May 2009
Esplanade Rehearsal Studio
3.00pm – 5.00pm
\$15

To register, please send your details to admin@thetriqnaqi.com.sg or call 9005 0342. Closing date for registration is 6 May 2009.

Percussion Workshop by Isango Portobello on The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo

30 May 2009
Victoria Theatre
2.30pm – 4.00pm
\$15

To register, please send your details to michelle_pung@nac.gov.sg or call 6837 8452. Closing date for registration is 20 May 2009.

Cullberg Ballet Dance Workshop by Jane Hopper

6 June 2009
Singapore Dance Theatre
(Fort Canning Centre, 2nd Storey, Cox Terrace)
10.00am -11.30am
\$30

To register, please send your details to Lyana Wang at classes@singaporedanceatre.com or call 6338 0611. Closing date for registration is 20 May 2009.

ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAMMES (FOR SCHOOLS)

To further enhance the students' access and appreciation to the Singapore Arts Festival, the committee introduced the FEST CONNECT Arts Education Programmes (AEPs) for the first time. Eleven arts education programmes were specially developed in partnership with five training partners, (Singapore Drama Educators Association, Drama Box, Singapore Lyric Opera, MOVING ARTS and The Triqnaqi) in conjunction with eight Festival productions (*The Cherry Orchard*, *Long Life*, *Electra*, *Sutra*, *Seven Boards of Tricks*, *H³*, *Terima Kost* and *The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo*).

The AEPs offered are:

Title of Arts Education Programme	Conducted by	Corresponding Festival Production
"The Magic of Anton Chekhov"	Drama Box	<i>The Cherry Orchard</i>
"What would you ask Grandma had you the chance to?"	Singapore Drama Educators Association (SDEA)	<i>Long Life</i>

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“Objects That Speak”	SDEA	<i>Long Life</i>
“An introduction to <i>Electra</i> presented by The Suzuki Company of Toga”	SDEA	<i>Electra</i>
“Shape, Flow and Balance: An Introduction to Movement for Stage”	SDEA	<i>Seven Boards of Tricks</i>
“Asian Contemporary Movements”	MOVING ARTS	<i>Sutra</i>
“Movement of Joints”	MOVING ARTS	<i>H³ and Terima Kost</i>
“Introduction to Hip Hop – The Journey to <i>H³ and Terima Kost</i> ” (3 different formats available)	The Triqnaqi	<i>H³ and Terima Kost</i>
“Opera a la carte: Singapore Arts Festival Special on <i>The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo</i> ”	Singapore Lyric Opera	<i>The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo</i>

The Council shortlisted 24 programmes that are suitable for school bookings from primary to tertiary levels. The Council offers affordable performance tickets including \$15 student-priced tickets to the 24 productions and \$30 student-priced tickets in the higher price categories of *H³*, *The Magic Flute – Impempe Yomlingo*, *The Cherry Orchard* and *Sutra*. The Council also extends a 20% concession for school bookings when the above tickets are taken up. Schools are also eligible¹ to apply for the Tote Board Arts Grant subsidy² to enjoy reimbursements of up to 60%.

A special post-matinee showcase, aimed at enhancing the young audience’s appreciation of artistic and cultural exchange, will take place immediately after the *H³* matinee performance on 20 May 2009, where audiences (primarily students) will be treated to an informative post-show dialogue, as well as an exciting exhibition battle between *H³* performers and local break dancers.

¹ Eligible schools are: Primary & Secondary schools, Junior Colleges, ITEs and Centralised Institutes. Polytechnics are not eligible to tap on the subsidy for excursion programmes (including performances held outside of their campus).

² Subsidy applicable to all productions except *Etiquette* (due to limited seating capacity) and *Sin Sangre* (due to advisory).

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