

**Arts &
Disability
International
Conference
2018**

Contents

About Arts & Disability International Conference 2018	3
Organisers & Partners	4
Programme	6
Keynote Speakers	13
Speakers & Panellists	14
Moderators	21

Q&A Session

To participate in the Live Q&A, log on to <https://adic2018.i-vote.asia>
Type your question and send it in.

Arts & Disability International Conference 2018

The inaugural Conference focuses on innovative approaches in artistic practices, inclusive community engagement and bridging multi-sectorial partnerships. It also places the spotlight on persons with disabilities in leadership who play a critical role in shaping the arts as an inclusive platform. Innovation and leadership in enabling greater inclusion and diversity in the arts is the core underlying theme at the Arts & Disability International Conference (ADIC).

Jointly organised by Very Special Arts Singapore (VSA) and the National Arts Council (NAC), Arts & Disability International Conference (ADIC) 2018 aims to provide insights on innovative ways to increase arts

accessibility and facilitate sharing of best practices. The first of such in the ASEAN region, the Conference brings together international and local guest speakers and arts groups from Australia, Cambodia, Canada, Japan, Singapore and UK, arts practitioners and organisations, social professionals and key agencies to network and exchange insights and perspectives in arts and disability.

ADIC 2018 is a special event of True Colours Festival, the first Asia Pacific Celebration of Artistes with Disabilities. Presented by UNESCO and The Nippon Foundation, with Platinum Sponsor DBS, it is produced by VSA.



Presenter

The Nippon Foundation

The Nippon Foundation was established in 1962 as a non-profit philanthropic organisation, active in Japan and around the world. Initially our efforts focused largely on the maritime and shipping fields, but since then, the range of our activities has expanded to education, social welfare, public health, and other fields – carried out in more than 100 countries to date. Together with our more than 20 partner organisations in Japan and worldwide, we are funding and assisting community-led efforts aimed at realising a more peaceful and prosperous global society. To know more about The Nippon Foundation, visit www.nippon-foundation.or.jp/en/

Joint Organiser

Very Special Arts Singapore

Very Special Arts (Singapore) is the leading non-profit charity organisation dedicated to providing opportunities for PWDs to be involved in the arts. VSA works to create and provide access and opportunities for people with disabilities through the arts. It promotes the educational, social, rehabilitative and therapeutic benefits of the arts. VSA is the first Singapore organisation that works to enable people with disabilities to develop careers in the arts. It created Singapore's first inclusive theatre and first inclusive literary art programme, and was founded and launched in 1993 by Ambassador-at-Large Prof Tommy Koh.

Joint Organiser

National Arts Council

The National Arts Council champions the arts in Singapore. By nurturing creative excellence and supporting broad audience engagement, our diverse and distinctive arts inspire our people, connect communities and profile Singapore internationally. We preserve our rich, cultural traditions as we cultivate accomplished artists and vibrant companies for the future. Our support for the arts is comprehensive – from grants and partnerships to industry facilitation and arts housing. The Council welcomes greater private and corporate giving to and through the arts so that together we can make the arts an integral part of everyone's lives. For more information on the Council's mission and plans, visit www.nac.gov.sg.



Principal Partner

British Council

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We create friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and other countries. Using the UK's cultural resources, we make a positive contribution to the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust.



Principal Partner

Singapore International Foundation

The Singapore International Foundation makes friends for a better world. We build enduring relationships between Singaporeans and world communities, and harness these friendships to enrich lives and effect positive change. Our work is anchored in the belief that cross-cultural interactions provide insights that strengthen understanding. These exchanges inspire action and enable collaborations for good. Our programmes bring people together to share ideas, skills and experiences in areas such as healthcare, education, the environment, arts and culture, as well as livelihood and business. We do this because we believe we all can, and should, do our part to build a better world, one we envision as peaceful, inclusive and offering opportunities for all. Find out more at www.sif.org.sg

Day 1 Thursday, 22 March 2018

Arts & Disability International Conference @
Sands Expo and Convention Centre

Programme

0800 hrs	Registration Level 3, Begonia Ballroom
0900 hrs	Arrival of Guest-of-Honour Mr Baey Yam Keng Parliamentary Secretary Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth
0905 hrs	Introduction
0910 hrs	Welcome Address by Guest-of-Honour
0925 hrs	Opening Remarks by Mr Ichiro Kabasawa, Executive Director, The Nippon Foundation and Dr Indrajit Banerjee, Director, UNESCO Knowledge Societies Division
0940 hrs	Keynote Speech 1 Irregular Choice: The Importance of Disability Leadership in the Performing Arts by Ms Kate Hood, Artistic Director, Raspberry Ripple Productions (Australia) Ms Kate Hood will talk about the transformative nature of theatre and the arts, its broader effect on society in Australia, and why she formed her disability-led theatre company Raspberry Ripple Productions. This is a talk which encompasses Disability Arts in the past, the present and the future in Australia.
1030 hrs	Tea Break
1115 hrs	Keynote Speech 2 From Comparison to Co-creation, New value in Diversity by Ms Kris Yoshie, Director, SLOW LABEL (Japan) Ms Kris Yoshie will introduce a variety of SLOW LABEL's arts projects and elaborate on the co-creation elements between professional creators, companies and persons with disabilities to address how diversity can create broader social benefits.

Programme

1200 hrs	Panel Discussion Advancing Inclusion in the Arts Moderator: Mr Kenneth Kwok, Assistant Chief Executive National Arts Council (Singapore)	
	Panellists	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Kate Hood (Australia) Dr Justin Lee, Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore (Singapore) Mr Pete Sparkes, Artistic Director, Drake Music Scotland (United Kingdom) Dr Azariah Tan, Pianist (Singapore) Ms Kris Yoshie (Japan) 	
1300 hrs	Lunch Break	
1415 hrs	Breakout Sessions	
	Session A Angsana Ballroom	Session B Begonia Ballroom
	Session A1 20 Years of Making Music with Technology by Mr Pete Sparkes, Artistic Director, Drake Music Scotland (United Kingdom)	Session B1 The Epic Journey by Ms Sokny Onn, Co-Director & Mr Buntheng Ou, Operations and Tour Manager, Epic Arts (Cambodia)
	Mr Pete Sparkes will shed light on how Drake Music Scotland has created a varied programme of activity throughout Scotland, proving time and again that people with disabilities have the potential to make wonderful music. His sharing will also touch on commissioning composers and collaborating with other arts companies to create memorable and award winning performances, and ideas on building a team and structuring to enable collective music-making, and video examples of Drake Music's work.	Epic Arts will share their tips and strategies on nurturing multi-sectorial partnerships, both internationally and in Cambodia, to advance disability arts. They will also provide examples on cultivating local leadership in disability arts in Cambodia, educating on the change that is effected, and its impact.

1530 hrs

Session A2

Panel Discussion:
The Role(s) of the Arts
in Special Education

Moderator

Dr Wong Meng Ee, Associate Professor, Department of Early Childhood & Special Needs, National Institute of Education (Singapore)

The panel will discuss the current and future possible role(s) of the arts in SPED schools and explore how the arts can build bridges to community and improve the quality of life for our students. In what ways can the arts be integrated in other domains like literacy, numeracy, vocational skills and sexuality education? How can the arts support the fields of social, cognitive and emotional learning?

The panel will also propose how Singapore can find its own approach towards harnessing the arts in the SPED landscape for a better quality of life.

Panellists

1. Mr Bernard Chew, Director, Special Education Branch, Special Educational Needs Division, Ministry of Education (Singapore)

Session B2

Making Theatre for All
by Mr Alirio Zavarce, Director,
No Strings Attached (Australia)

Mr Alirio Zavarce will share useful advice on the best practices and approaches for effective community engagement tailored to the needs, abilities and skills of each participant, with or without disabilities.

2. Mrs Lisa Goh, Principal, Grace Orchard School (Singapore)
3. Mr Michael Cheng, Applied Drama Practitioner (Singapore)
4. Ms Faridah Ali Chang, Principal Trainer and Consultant, Rainbow Centre Training & Consultancy and Registered Psychologist (Singapore)

1645 hrs

Tea Break

1715 hrs

Performance*

Level 3, Begonia Ballroom

Mr Adrian Anantawan, Violinist (Canada)
and Dr Azariah Tan, Pianist (Singapore)

1730 hrs

Wrap-up

by Ms Maureen Goh, Executive Director, Very Special Arts (Singapore) and Dr Justin Lee, Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore (Singapore)

1750 hrs

End of Event

*Piano for the performance is proudly sponsored by Steinway & Sons and AXA Insurance.

Note:

- Live captioning and signing (Singapore Sign Language) will be provided for the morning keynote speeches and panel discussion
- Signing (Singapore Sign Language) will be provided for breakout sessions A1 and A2
- Live captioning will be provided for breakout sessions B1 and B2

Day 2 Friday, 23 March 2018

Arts & Disability International Conference @ Enabling Village

0830 hrs **Registration**
UOB Ability Hub (Auditorium)

0915 hrs **Welcome Speech**
by Representative of SG Enable (Singapore)

0930 - 1230 hrs	Workshop A/B/C	0930 hrs	Lecture	
			Breakfast	Guided Tour
		1000 hrs	Guided Tour	Breakfast
		1030 hrs	Speaker 1 Mr Adrian Anantawan, Violinist (Canada)	
		1110 hrs	Speaker 2 Mr Yoshihiro Kaiya, President, Japan Barrier-free Association (Japan)	
		1150 hrs	Speaker 3 Ms Kate Hood, Artistic Director, Raspberry Ripple Productions (Australia)	
1230 hrs	Guided Tour	1230 hrs	Live Q&A	

Note:

- No prior arts experience is required for all workshops
- Signing (Singapore Sign Language) will be provided at Workshops A, B and C upon request
- Signing (Singapore Sign Language) will be provided at Lecture D
- Information is accurate at time of print and may be subject to change



Workshop A
Only Connect - Digital Instruments and the Human Musician
by Mr Pete Sparkes,
Artistic Director,
Drake Music Scotland
(United Kingdom)

How do we choose the best technology to help someone with disabilities to explore and learn to play? What options do we have? We will explore in detail the way that Drake Music Scotland uses iPads, laptops, synthesisers and soundbeams as improvisations to ensure that potential musicians begin their journey to success with ease. Also, we will understand how notation and structuring music is a vital part of the creative process-leading to genuine progression and growth, and thus developing skills and confidence.



Workshop B
Every Person Counts
by Ms Sokny Onn, Co-Director
& Mr Buntheng Ou, Operations
and Tour Manager, Epic Arts
(Cambodia)

The focus of this workshop is to use the Epic Arts Manifesto to explore equality, acceptance, adaptability and difference. A workshop that uses creative movement based tasks to explore the principles that Epic Arts stands by to encourage a more inclusive society for everyone to live in.

Workshop C
Creating Together -
An Experiential Workshop
for Artists of all Abilities
and their Allies

by Mr Alirio Zavarce,
 Director, No Strings
 Attached (Australia)



A Practical Theatre Workshop that will allow you to experience methodologies, approaches and techniques for the creation of equal arts access and inclusive participation. A workshop that teaches you to brainstorm and experiment with approaches to planning, designing and implementing inclusive theatre workshops and activities.

Lecture

Voices for Arts,
Disability & Inclusion



Get up close and personal with our 3 distinguished speakers as they share their unique journeys in the pursuit of artistic excellence and tireless efforts to advance arts inclusion. Through their lived experience of disability, their perspectives and insights offer us an opportunity to consider how the arts can and should be for everyone.

Moving Music
Forward: Adaptation
and Evolution

by Mr Adrian Anantawan,
 Violinist (Canada)

Can Music and
Technology
Change the World?

by Mr Yoshihiro
 Kaiya, President,
 Japan Barrier-free
 Association (Japan)

Life after acquired
disability - as an
Individual, Artist and
Member of the
Community

by Ms Kate Hood,
 Artistic Director,
 Raspberry Ripple
 Productions (Australia)



Ms Kate Hood
 Artistic Director,
 Raspberry Ripple
 Productions (Australia)

Kate Hood has had a full career as an able-bodied actor, writer and director, which lasted for over 20 years. She has performed in classics and musicals, working for major theatres, commercial production companies, film and television. She has worked as a main promotional voice-over artist for the ABC, and directed for Melbourne Fringe, the Brisbane Festival, Opera Plus and Jane O'Toole Productions.

As a wheelchair user, Kate reinvented herself as a disabled actor. She now writes and performs her own work, which includes monologue, short story and spoken word. In 2016, Kate formed Raspberry Ripple Productions, and plans to collaborate with disabled and non-disabled performers to create work which dissolves the divide between the mainstream and disability arts sectors. She collaborates with others as director, mentor and dramaturge and has become a strong advocate for actors with a disability, sitting on the board of Arts Access Victoria and Actors Equity's Diversity Committee as Deputy Chair.



Ms Kris Yoshie
 Director,
 SLOW LABEL (Japan)

Kris Yoshie is a creative producer and director working across a wide range of fields in art and design, engaged in uncovering the extraordinary in the ordinary. In 2010, she was diagnosed with osteosarcoma and lost the function of lower part of her right leg. This led her to encounter welfare services for the disabled. She established SLOW LABEL in 2011 and also served as General Director of an international arts festival "Yokohama Paratriennale", bridging collaborations between people with disabilities and professional creators from varied fields. In addition, she is Programme Advisor for The Nippon Foundation Diversity In The Arts - Performing Arts Group. Kris is the winner of the "Contribution to the Arts and Culture Award" for the 65th Yokohama Culture Awards and the "Face of Tokyo" award for the Time-out Tokyo LOVE TOKYO AWARDS 2016.



Mr Adrian Anantawan
Violinist (Canada)

Adrian Anantawan holds degrees from the Curtis Institute of Music, Yale University and Harvard Graduate School of Education. Memorable moments include performances at the White House, the Opening Ceremonies of the Athens and Vancouver Olympic Games and the United Nations. He has played for the late Christopher Reeve and for Pope John Paul II, and His Holiness the Dalai Lama. In 2010 her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II awarded him a Diamond Jubilee Medal for his contributions to the Commonwealth. Currently Chair at the Music Department of Milton Academy in Boston, he also co-directed the Music Department at the Conservatory Lab Charter School from 2012 to 2016.

Adrian will perform with Pianist, Azariah Tan, on Day 1 of the Conference.



Ms Faridah Ali Chang
Principal Trainer and Consultant, Rainbow Centre Training & Consultancy and Registered Psychologist (Singapore)

Faridah Ali Chang is the principal trainer and consultant with RCTC and is a registered psychologist with 20 years experience in the area of disabilities e.g. Intellectual Disability, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Cerebral Palsy and many others. She is passionate about increasing the awareness on disabilities and hopes to one day see persons with various disabilities be a natural part of Singapore and the community at large. Faridah's post-graduate research is on the Quality of Life of Adults with Multiple Disabilities and Their Parents.



Mr Michael Cheng
Applied Drama Practitioner (Singapore)

Michael Cheng is an applied drama practitioner. His twin foci are participatory methods of community dialogue, and working with people with special needs.

Previously a special school teacher, he is now an artist-educator at Grace Orchard School (GOS) and Metta School. He works directly with students, designs curriculum, and trains teachers in methodology. Michael also serves as Artistic Director of Tapestry Playback Theatre, and Vice-Chair of the Centre for Playback Theatre.



Mr Bernard Chew
Director, Special Education Branch, Special Educational Needs Division, Ministry of Education (Singapore)

Passionate about the improving the quality of life for people with disabilities, Bernard Chew seeks to work with all parties vested in this community. As Director of the Special Education Branch in MOE, he works with a team deeply committed to improving the quality, accessibility and affordability of special education in Singapore. One important way to improve quality of SPED has been through working with SPED schools to review and improve curricula and pedagogy in different learning domains including the arts.



Mrs Lisa Goh
Principal, Grace Orchard School (Singapore)

Lisa Goh has been an educator for more than 30 years. For the last ten years, she has been with the SPED sector. Her journey started when she was appointed as a School Inspector in Special Education Branch. She believes that the arts can be a form of expression and engagement for children with special needs, gives children the platform and an alternative language to create, to imagine and to express their inner thoughts.

As a Principal of Grace Orchard School, Lisa believes that every child has talents and gifts which we need to discover and nurture to enable the child to make a difference to himself and others. She envisions Grace Orchard to be an Arts Hub where every child is given the opportunity to develop their talents in the arts.



Mr Yoshihiro Kaiya
President, Japan Barrier-free Association (Japan)

Yoshihiro Kaiya is not only the president of the Japan Barrier-free Association, he also works to promote disabled musicians through concerts across Japan. When not involved in his concert planning, he uses his experience as a disabled student in America to build bridges internationally and promote acceptance and integration of persons with disabilities within Japan.

Yoshihiro Kaiya is also a part-time lecturer at Kokushikan University and is a Barrier-free Education and Development Cooperation Researcher at the University of Tokyo Graduate School of Education. He is part of the committee at NHK Welfare and Culture Agency and also serves as a member in the Associative Council for Handicapped Railway Workers Social Welfare Corporation.



Dr Justin Lee
Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore (Singapore)

Justin Lee is a Research Fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies. He is interested in understanding the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable populations and is embarking on a project to crowdsource social needs with community partners using a wiki platform. He has studied what counts as inclusion of people with disabilities at work, and is hosting a Disability Network for voluntary and disabled people's organisations in Singapore. He is also Chairperson of ArtsWok Collaborative, a non-profit organisation engaged in artsbased community development projects that seek to build the capacity of socially engaged arts groups through training, research and advocacy.



Ms Sokny Onn
Co-Director, Epic Arts (Cambodia)

Sokny Onn is one of the Co-Directors at Epic Arts. She has worked for Epic Arts for 10 years, from her position as Accountants Assistant, to her current position as Co-Director. She is also a committee member for the Kampot Arts Festival.

She was awarded a place in the Creative Leadership programme with Cambodia Living Arts in January 2013, and in 2015, was one among five Living Arts Fellows. Through a year-long programme, Fellows developed in-depth expertise on universal themes related to culture, cultural leadership and a sustainable society. She is also one of the Fellows who took part in The Social Change Through The Arts programme leadership in the United States in 2017.

She strongly believes that culture and arts are essential tools for the development of a country. As an advocate for inclusive arts, she hopes that through her work at Epic Arts, she can help to promote the message that art is for all, regardless of ability, and that every person counts.



Mr Buntheng Ou
Operations and Tour
Manager, Epic Arts
(Cambodia)

Buntheng Ou is the Operations and Tour Manager for Epic Arts Kampot. He has worked with and supported artists living with disabilities to create creative dance gestures and performances that are showcased both locally and internationally.

He is also a strong advocate for inclusiveness and started his journey in the disability sector in 2012 as he was inspired by his son, Vathnak, who has Down Syndrome.

Buntheng believes that every person is a genius.



Mr Pete Sparkes
Artistic Director,
Drake Music Scotland
(United Kingdom)

Pete Sparkes is a musician and educator specialising in working with technology and inclusive methodology. Pete is Artistic Director of Drake Music Scotland and has also worked with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and various other UK music organisations. His particular specialism is working creatively with children and adults with additional support needs - including the creative use of music technology and other innovative tools like Figurenotes notation. He led the creation of the fabulous Digital Orchestra in 2016 and regularly presents on his work at conferences.



Dr Azariah Tan
Pianist (Singapore)

Azariah Tan, graduated with a Doctor in Musical Arts in Piano Performance from University of Michigan, under the guidance of Dr. Logan Skelton. The National Arts Council-Conservatory scholar and President's Young Performer, was placed on the Dean's List multiple times at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music and graduated with first-class honors in 2011. He went on to study at the Earl V. Moore School of Music, University of Michigan, graduating with two Master of Music degrees in Piano Performance and in Chamber Music with a nomination by the piano department for the Earl V. Moore Award.

Azariah was a recipient of the VSArts International Young Soloists Award in Washington, DC, the NUS Outstanding Young Alumni Award 2017, the NUSS Achievement Award for Outstanding Achievement (Arts & Culture) 2009, full scholarships from the University of Michigan, the National Arts Council of Singapore, and the Yamaha Music Foundation of Japan. He has been a first-prize winner at several national, as well as international piano competitions since 2005. More recently, he won the first prize for both the Solo and Concerto categories at the American Prize 2012, the "Laureate" title at the WPTA International Piano Competition 2013 and two top prizes in 2014 at The New York International Artists Association Piano Competition and The American Protégé International Concerto Competition.

Azariah will perform with Violinist, Adrian Anantawan, on Day 1 of the Conference.



Mr Alirio Zavarce
Director, No Strings
Attached (Australia)

A multi-award-winning director and theatre maker, Alirio Zavarce was born in Caracas, Venezuela and migrated to Australia in 1992, graduating from the Flinders University Drama Centre in 2000. He has numerous performance credits with theatre companies across Australia including Sydney Theatre Company, Victorian Opera, The Malthouse and State Theatre Company of South Australia. Alirio is currently the Artistic Director of AJZ Productions, True North Youth Theatre Ensemble and No Strings Attached Theatre of Disability. In 2015, Alirio received The Citizen of The Year Award from The City of Port Adelaide Enfield. He went on to direct 'A Kid Like Me' which was presented as part of the Come Out Festival for Children in May 2015, and represented Australia in the 2016 Worlds Festival for Children's Theatre in Canada, winning The Ruby Award 2016. His notable works for No Strings Attached Theatre of Disability include 'Trapped' (Winner of the 2011 Fringe Graham Smith Peace Trust Award) and 'Sons & Mothers' (Winner of the 2012 Fringe Best Theatre Production, Adelaide Festival Centre inSPACE development Award and The Adelaide Critics Circle Best in Fringe Award).

Alirio is currently developing "The Tower of Babel", "The Book of Errors" and "I Forgot to Remember To Forget" which will have its World Premiere at the True Colours Festival in Singapore 2018.



Mr Kenneth Kwok
Assistant Chief
Executive, National
Arts Council
(Singapore)

Kenneth Kwok is the Assistant Chief Executive (Planning and Engagement) at the National Arts Council and sits on the advisory committee of Very Special Theatrics. He was previously with the Ministry of Education as a secondary school classroom teacher, Head of Pupil Welfare, and Vice-Principal, and has taught Educational Drama at the National Institute of Education as an adjunct lecturer. He has a Masters in Arts in Education, and has worked with various Singapore arts groups over the years on a range of community arts and arts education programmes.



Dr Wong Meng Ee
Associate Professor,
Department of Early
Childhood & Special
Needs, National Institute
of Education
(Singapore)

Prof. Wong Meng Ee is tenured Associate Professor at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University. He earned his PhD from the University of Cambridge. He teaches special education at undergraduate and postgraduate level courses. He researches in special and inclusive education, disability sociology, assistive technology. He serves on several NPO boards including SG Enable, iC2PrepHouse. He is a keen sportsman, previously competing at numerous international meets. He was a double-bronze medalist in the 2015 ASEAN ParaGames in swimming.

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Presenter



Joint Organisers



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