

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**10 days of quality performances by outstanding Chinese artists in Esplanade's *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts 2010***

**SINGAPORE, 20 January 2010** – Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay celebrates the Lunar New Year through the arts with its eighth run of *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts* from 19 – 28 February 2010. The 10-day festival will feature a wide range of quality traditional and contemporary works – comprising free and ticketed performances and activities – by outstanding Chinese artists.

Highlights of the festival include *SCENES: Singapore's Chinese Language Theatre*, a festival commission co-produced by Esplanade and Drama Box (Singapore); acclaimed Hong Kong director Edward Lam's latest production, *Man and Woman, War and Peace; Peach Blossom Fan • 1699*, a Kun opera written by Confucius' descendant Kong Shangren; *Dream of the Red Chamber* performed by the Singapore Chinese Orchestra, leading Yue opera artists and the Victoria Choral; *Songs of Taiwan* by the Taipei Philharmonic Chamber Choir; *The Legend of Fu Gu Dian* with Chinese *guqin* master Chen Leiji; the *in::music* series showcasing Chinese independent singer-songwriters including Sandee Chan, Peggy Hsu and more, as well as free performances of Chinese traditional string puppetry, Chinese indie music, instrumental music, choral music and evergreen favourites.

Said Ms Mimi Yee, Producer, The Esplanade Co. Ltd: "One of the ways we profile our talent is to partner local arts companies to create new and meaningful works that our audience can enjoy. A key highlight this year is the festival commission, *SCENES*, where we are working with Drama Box to co-produce a programme comprising performances, a symposium, dramatised readings, showcases of theatre productions by local students and also an exhibition to introduce the history and events that have shaped the development of Singapore's Chinese language theatre."

**Festival Commission – *SCENES: Singapore's Chinese Language Theatre***

*SCENES*, the first *Huayi* festival commission that comprises five different components – *The Performances, The Exhibition, Fresh Takes, The Dramatised*

*Readings and The Symposium* – takes place from 30 January to 28 February 2010. Each component will examine the different elements that have created, shaped and defined Singapore's Chinese language theatre scene. Co-produced by Esplanade and Drama Box, the new project celebrates the triumphs of the Singapore's Chinese language theatre scene while also providing important documentation and a reflection on its development, going as far back as the 1920s. *SCENES* is directed by Drama Box's Artistic Director Kok Heng Leun and established theatre academic and playwright, Quah Sy Ren.

### **Theatre**

Chinese theatre has always been one of the key highlights of *Huayi*, and this year's festival opens with acclaimed Hong Kong director Edward Lam's latest production, *Man and Woman, War and Peace*, on 19 & 20 February at the Esplanade Theatre. The cleverly written piece delves into themes on gender roles and the perennial love/hate relationship between the sexes. Featuring Taiwanese idol Ariel Lin, who is making her debut in theatre performance with this production, renowned Hong Kong music producer and Cantopop star Denise Ho, and Taiwanese actor David Wang, this sharp and witty play is set to thrill audiences.

### **Opera**

Kun opera fans will have something to look forward to this Chinese New Year with Jiangsu Province Kunqu Opera's rendition of *Peach Blossom Fan • 1699*. Staged at the Esplanade Theatre's stage on 26 & 27 February, the opera portrays the fall of the late Ming Dynasty through the love story between a poet and a courtesan. Written by Confucius' descendant Kong Shangren and directed by the highly acclaimed Director of the National Theatre Company of China, Tian Qinxin, who is well-known for incorporating contemporary concepts into presentations of Chinese classics, this masterpiece, with its exquisite stage design, costumes and historical artefacts, will feature young Kun opera artists, Shan Wen and Shi Xiaming, and respected masters, Shi Xiaomei and Hu Jinfang.

Besides *Peach Blossom Fan*, another Chinese classic *Dream of the Red Chamber (Yue Opera in Concert)* will also be staged during *Huayi* on 27 February at the Esplanade Concert Hall. The performance will feature accomplished Yue opera artists from China, Zhao Zhigang (also known as the Prince of Yue Opera), Fang Yafen and Sun Yongqing, the Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO) helmed by Maestro Tsung Yeh as well as the Victoria Chorale led by Nelson Kwei. Co-produced by Esplanade and the SCO, the Yue opera version of this poignant love story

between Jia Baoyu and Lin Daiyu will bring to audiences some of the opera's most popular arias rearranged by Chinese composer Xu Jianqiang.

### **Music**

Take a peek into Taiwan's musical heritage with the Taipei Philharmonic Chamber Choir's performance of *Songs of Taiwan* on 21 February at the Esplanade Concert Hall. Conducted by internationally renowned music director Dirk DuHei and young conductor Yu-Chung Johnny Ku, this adventurous choir will belt out Taiwanese folk classics, aboriginal melodies, contemporary works and well-loved Chinese ballads.

Fast becoming a favourite at the festival is the *in::music* series which features the work of independent singer-songwriters from the region. Since its inception at *Huayi* 2008, the programme has evolved into a year-round series that introduces audiences to talented Chinese indie music artists. From 20 to 27 February, catch performances by inspiring Chinese indie bands and singer-songwriters including one of Taiwan's most talented female singer-songwriters, Sandee Chan; singer-songwriter Peggy Hsu (Taiwan), who is best known for her lovely ballad "Balloons" and clear, high vocals; young and bubbly four-member rock band, Cosmos People (Taiwan); 13band (Taiwan), nominee of the "Best Band" award at the 2007 and 2009 *Golden Melody Awards*, as well as electro-pop duo The Carrchy (China).

*Guqin* master Chen Leiji (China), whose exquisite performance at the opening of the Olympic Games in Beijing on August 2008 enthralled many, will partner Chinese flute master Du Cong and the Arts Sphere Chinese Chamber Ensemble (Singapore) led by renowned conductor Quek Ling Kiong, to transport audiences to the ancient palaces of the Northern Song era with *The Legend of Fu Gu Dian – Chen Leiji Guqin Concert* on 20 February at the Esplanade Recital Studio. The evening's repertoire will feature famous *guqin* solo works and ensemble performances.

### **Installation Performance**

To encourage an exchange of ideas across borders, a co-production of Esplanade and sonicbrat titled *The Boy Who Sees With Stones* will see three of our local artists, sonicbrat (Darren Ng), amberhaze (Giuliano Gullotti) and Ng Wen Lei, partnering Wu Ling Wei and bird (Lyu Shu-ya) from Taiwan. The public is invited to shape and inspire the contents of the performance by contributing their dreams and imaginations lost in the process of growing up at the dedicated website <http://www.tbwsws.com>. The collaborating artists will then use selected entries, and their own memories to propel the story forward.

### **Free Programmes & Visual Arts**

The festival will also offer a host of free programmes held at the Esplanade Forecourt, Outdoor Theatre, The Edge and Concourse from 19 to 28 February 2010. At the Forecourt, *Huayi* kicks off to an auspicious start on 19 February with a Lion Dance performance by Wenyang Sports Association, followed by Chinese winds and percussion performances by the City Chinese Orchestra from 19 to 21 February, and The Percussion Assembly from 22 to 28 February.

At the Outdoor Theatre, there will be music performances by local and regional Chinese indie bands including Blackforest, ah5ive, Elyzia and LGF from Singapore, and Xiao He and Glamorous Pharmacy from Beijing, as well as Chinese New Year festive tunes and evergreen music by Marcus Chin (Singapore), Deng Xue Hua (Singapore), Deng Rui Xia (Hong Kong), amongst others. Throughout the 10-day festival, audiences can also watch string puppetry acts performed by artists from the China Quanzhou Marionette Troupe, a variety of instrumental music, choral performances, short theatre pieces and Chinese indie band music.

At Jendela (*visual arts space*), festival commission *SCENES: The Exhibition*, which is curated by Quah Sy Ren and designed by Singapore's leading architect Tan Kay Ngee and his team, provides a thought-provoking overview on the history and development of Singapore's Chinese language theatre scene from 2 to 28 February. At the Esplanade Tunnel, audiences can view a new visual arts installation 圓圓 *Yuán Yuán* by Ernest Chan Tuck Yew (Singapore) from 29 January to 7 March. Ernest's latest series of works reveals his approach to art-making through imaginative play on the ambiguous relationship between reality and fantasy, fact and fiction.

### **Community Engagement Programme**

Helping to bring the joy of the arts to the community, a series of pre-festival diabolo workshops were organised as part of Esplanade's community engagement programme for *Huayi* 2010. Esplanade's community engagement programme, which leverages on the centre's accessible and wide-ranging annual calendar of 13 festivals and 21 programme series to bring the arts to community groups and beneficiaries of Voluntary Welfare Organisations (VWOs), aims to serve the needs of diverse groups in Singapore through specially-developed and sustained arts programmes.

The pre-festival diabolo workshops, which started on 30 November 2009, saw a group of 25 youths from the Singapore Boys' Home pick up the simple techniques of the diabolo. At the end of the three-month project, some of the youths will also take the opportunity to contribute back to the society by performing at a home for the elderly during the Chinese New Year period to share the festive cheer with those less fortunate amongst us.

*Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts 2010* is made possible with the generous support from Festival Supporting Sponsors, Gold Roast Instant Coffeemix and Hong Leong Foundation, as well as Studio Programme Supporters, Keppel Land International Limited and Polar Distilled Water.

Tickets for *Huayi* are available at the Esplanade's Box Office (Tel: +65 6828 8377), the SISTIC Hotline (Tel: +65 6348 5555) and authorised agents, and Esplanade's website at [www.esplanade.com](http://www.esplanade.com). More information may also be found at [www.huayifestival.com](http://www.huayifestival.com). (Please refer to the Annex for full festival line-up and details).

## **About Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay**

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay is one of the world's busiest arts centres, officially opened on 12 October 2002. This architectural icon with its distinctive twin shells is sited within Singapore's civic district, just by Marina Bay at the mouth of the Singapore River.

Esplanade aims to be a performing arts centre for everyone, and its programmes cater to its diverse audiences. Its programme line-up spans all genres to encompass music, dance, theatre and visual arts, with a special focus on Asian culture.

Esplanade houses world-class performance spaces, supported by a comprehensive range of professional support facilities and services. Its two main venues are the 1,600-seat Concert Hall, with acoustics by the late Russell Johnson of ARTEC Consultants, and a theatre with a capacity of 2,000 adapted from the traditional European opera houses in horseshoe form.

In the past year, Esplanade welcomed over seven million visitors and hosted over 2,400 performances.

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*Issued by The Esplanade Co Ltd.*

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## ANNEX

*Esplanade Presents*

### **HUAYI – CHINESE FESTIVAL OF ARTS 2010**

**19 – 28 Feb 2010**

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay celebrates the Lunar New Year through the arts with its eighth run of *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts* from 19 – 28 February 2010. The 10-day festival will feature a wide range of quality traditional and contemporary works – comprising free and ticketed performances and other activities – by outstanding Chinese artists.

#### **TICKETED PROGRAMMES**

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##### **Man and Woman, War and Peace**

by Edward Lam Dance Theatre (Hong Kong / Taiwan)

It is war between the sexes when characters in two competing TV shows about relationships turn the practice of love into a battlefield. But wait, the men seem to be boys and the women are turning into men!

Featuring Taiwanese idol Ariel Lin, Taiwanese actor David Wang and renowned Hong Kong music producer and Cantopop star Denise Ho among its young cast and crew.

*Man and Woman, War and Peace* is acclaimed Hong Kong director Edward Lam's latest production – a sharp, witty play about gender roles and the perennial love/hate relationship between the sexes, taking inspiration from classic screwball comedy, with a twist.

Advisory: This production contains coarse language and adult themes. Recommended for audiences aged 18 years and above.

(150mins, including 20min intermission. In Mandarin and Cantonese with English surtitles)

**19 Feb 2010, Fri, 8pm**

**20 Feb 2010, Sat, 2.30pm & 8pm**

Esplanade Theatre

**\$38\*, \$48\*\*, \$68, \$88, \$108**

Limited concessions for students, NSF & senior citizens: \$27\*, \$34\*\*

##### **Enjoy savings with *Huayi* packages!^**

Package of 4: 15% savings

Package of 2: 10% savings

^Limited tickets applicable across all *Huayi* shows. Not valid for concession tickets.

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##### **Peach Blossom Fan • 1699**

by Jiangsu Province Kunqu Opera (China)

Amidst a civil war, a fan – a token of love from a poet to his fiancée, a beautiful courtesan – is splattered with her blood when she resists being forced to marry another. A painter transforms the bloodstains into peach blossom petals. But nothing can alter the dynasty's slide into ruin or change the fates of the wretched lovers.

*Peach Blossom Fan*, written by Confucius' descendent Kong Shangren in 1699, is legendary for its tragic love story and extraordinary insight into the fall of an empire.

Experience that masterpiece reworked for the 21<sup>st</sup> century with contemporary direction and vivid sets with historical artefacts, and sparkling performances by young artists including Shan

Wen and Shi Xiaming in the first half, while the second half will star Kun opera masters, Shi Xiaomei and Hu Jinfang.

Directed by renowned theatre director Tian Qinxin, script consultancy by Taiwanese poet Yu Guangzhong and stage consultancy by Korean director Sohn Jin-Chaek.

Don't miss one of the most heartrending works of Chinese opera ever written, brought to life in Kun opera – an art form recognised by UNESCO as a world cultural heritage treasure.

(205mins, including 20min intermission. With English and Chinese surtitles)

**26 & 27 Feb 2010, Fri & Sat, 8pm**

Esplanade Theatre

**\$35\*, \$55\*\*, \$75, \$95**

Limited concessions for students, NSF & senior citizens: \$25\*, \$39\*\*

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### **Dream of the Red Chamber (Yue Opera in Concert)**

by Singapore Chinese Orchestra (Singapore / China)

Experience the poignant tale of Jia Baoyu and Lin Daiyu from 18<sup>th</sup> century novel, *Dream of the Red Chamber* in this concert featuring songs from the Yue opera version of this Chinese classic. Hear some of this opera's most popular arias – rearranged by Xu Jian Qiang – sung by accomplished Yue Opera artists Zhao Zhi Gang, Fang Ya Fen and Sun Yong Qing, together with the Victoria Chorale helmed by Nelson Kwei and the Singapore Chinese Orchestra led by Maestro Tsung Yeh. Costumes designed by Tan Hong Chye.

(95mins, including 20min intermission. With English and Chinese surtitles)

Co-produced by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay and Singapore Chinese Orchestra

**27 Feb 2010, Sat, 7.30pm**

Esplanade Concert Hall

**\$38\*, \$48, \$68**

Limited concessions for students, NSF & senior citizens: \$27\*

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### **Songs of Taiwan**

by Taipei Philharmonic Chamber Choir (Taiwan)

Be charmed by this award-winning choir as it gives audiences a taste of Taiwan's musical heritage, singing folk classics, aboriginal melodies, contemporary works, and well-loved Chinese ballads with lush vocal harmonies, sensitive arrangements, power and poignancy.

Conducted by internationally-renowned music director Dirk DuHei and young conductor Yu-Chung Johnny Ku.

(105mins, including 20min intermission. Performed in Mandarin)

**21 Feb 2010, Sun, 5pm**  
Esplanade Concert Hall

**\$38\*, \$48, \$68**

Limited concessions for students, NSF & senior citizens: \$27\*

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### **The Legend of Fu Gu Dian – Chen Leiji Guqin Concert (China)**

The Olympic Games in Beijing opened with an ancient tune that stunned its many spectators. Played by *guqin* master Chen Leiji, it brimmed with exquisite delicacy in a performance whose beautiful, ancient sounds lingered...

Be transported to the ancient palaces of the Northern Song era and experience the austere, pure sounds of *guqin* performed by Chen Leiji, together with Chinese flute master Du Cong and Singaporean music ensemble Arts Sphere Chinese Chamber Ensemble, led by renowned conductor Quek Ling Kiong.

The evening's repertoire will feature famous *guqin* solo works, *Flowing Water*, *The Melody of Guanglin* and *Plum Blossom Trilogy*, *guqin* and *xiao* duet *Wild Geese Alighting on Sand*, as well as ensemble performances of *Reflections of the Moon over River Erquan*, *Fire Phoenix* and *The Brahmin*.

(100mins, including 20min intermission)

**20 Feb 2010, Sat, 7.30pm**  
Esplanade Recital Studio

**\$30**

Limited concessions for students, NSF & senior citizens: \$21

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### **The Boy Who Sees with Stones**

by sonicbrat, amberhaze, lingwei, bird & lei (Singapore / Taiwan)

What will a boy see if he lives in a world of stone cold darkness? With eyes made of stones, he sees what he wants to see as he imagines a world through his mind's eyes.

*The Boy Who Sees With Stones* is a "collective musing" project that uses live music and sound, multi-media art and animation to unearth and draw out worlds of imagination lost in the process of growing up.

Advisory: Recommended for audiences aged 16 years and above. Audiences are required to lie down to watch the performance. Please dress appropriately.

(60mins, no intermission)

**24 & 25 Feb 2010, Wed & Thu**  
**7.30pm & 9.30pm**  
Esplanade Recital Studio

Co-produced by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay and sonicbrat.

**\$30**

Limited concessions for students, NSF & senior citizens: \$21

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Package of 2: 10% savings

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***in::music***

Catch some of the most inspiring Chinese indie bands and singer-songwriters performing their original compositions over two weekends, as part of *Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts 2010*.

• **Esplanade Concert Hall**

**20 Feb 2010, Sat      Sandee Chan      7.30pm**

(100mins, no intermission. Performed in Mandarin)

**\$45\*, \$65, \$85**

Limited concessions for students, NSF & senior citizens: \$32\*

• **Esplanade Recital Studio**

**21 Feb 2010, Sun      Cosmos People      3pm**  
**21 Feb 2010, Sun      13band      8pm**  
**26 Feb 2010, Fri      The Carrchy      8pm**  
**27 Feb 2010, Sat      Peggy Hsu      3pm & 8pm**

(60mins, no intermission. Performed in Mandarin)

**\$25 per show**

Limited concessions for students, NSF and senior citizens: \$20

Explorations: Post-performance Autograph Signing Session

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***in::music* – Sandee Chan (Taiwan)**

Her music is unconstrained by genre, from alternative folk to pop to electronic, the list goes on and on. Sandee Chan, arguably Taiwan's most talented female indie singer-songwriter, is affectionately known to her fans as 'Princess'. She has won numerous *Golden Melody* awards, the latest being the Best Female Singer award for her self-produced album *What If It Matters* in 2009.

Also one of the most prolific music producers, Sandee has written hundreds of hits and produced albums for pop artists such as Sammi Cheng, Nicholas Tse, Valen Hsu and Jolin Tsai, on top of writing songs for films such as *In the Mood for Love* directed by Wong Kar-Wai, and creating 11 solo albums.

**20 Feb 2010, Sat, 7.30pm**

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**in::music – Cosmos People (Taiwan)**

They're young, they're bouncy and their take on disco-funk is wholesome in a way that's never been heard before! They're the Cosmos People, the Taiwanese four who have grabbed the attention of Mando-pop audiences with their youthful, clean-faced brand of funk-lite – a slickly-produced blend of bass-driven pop music with a light funk groove.

In September 2009, Cosmos People released their self-titled debut album, a collection of 13 original songs which had a little bit of funk, a little bit of rock, a little bit of Jamiroquai, a couple of ballads, a few disco anthems, and a lot of tongue-in-cheek humour.

**21 Feb 2010, Sun, 3pm**

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**in::music – 13band (Taiwan)**

They emerged from the Taipei music underground in 2000 and blew audiences away with their rock songs and ballads blending influences of alt-pop, Brit-rock and Taiwanese folk-rock with raw energy, heartfelt lyrics, simple, Beatlesque arrangements and jangly guitar.

13band, made up of brothers Xiao Bao (vocals and songwriting), Xiao Yu (guitars), Jun Ping (bass) and Liao We (drums), has since released four acclaimed albums and EPs, and won awards such as *2005 Hohaiyan Rock Festival Best MV Prize*, and was nominated for the 2007 and 2009 *Golden Melody Awards*' "Best Band" award.

**21 Feb 2010, Sun, 8pm**

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**in::music – The Carrchy (China)**

Electro-pop duo The Carrchy makes the kind of music that lulls you into whimsical dreamlands as much as it propels you to bounce to the beat.

Featuring lilting vocals and sensitive lyrics by waif-like singer-songwriter Keli and light, ambient synth tracks by producer Fly, Qingdao-born The Carrchy is only four years old but already making waves in the Chinese music scene where its music has been described as a breath of fresh air, and its debut album *Sunshine Over the City* (2007) has begun topping Chinese music charts.

**26 Feb 2010, Fri, 8pm**

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**in::music – Peggy Hsu (Taiwan)**

Her lovely little ballads about balloons, finding Neverland, snow in Germany and imaginary friends may have a touch of childlike whimsy. But listen closely and you'll find in Taiwanese singer/songwriter/multi-instrumentalist/producer Peggy Hsu's songs a blossoming of mature beauty.

Singing with clear, high, girlish vocals, while playing on piano/keyboards, and sometimes backed by guitar, flute and drums, Peggy delivers beautifully-crafted songs in a range of styles – from the trippy folksiness of *Pink Dress* to the breezy, jazz-inspired *Snow in Germany* to the ethereal piano ballad *Fairy Dust*.

Since she exploded on the Mandarin music scene in 2001 with her self-written-and-produced debut album, *Balloon*, written when she was only 19, on her piano, Peggy has reaped "Best Songwriter", "Best Newcomer", "Top Lyricist" and other awards from the Taiwanese, Chinese, Singaporean and Hong Kong music industries, released two more hit albums, *Peggy's Wish Box* (2007) and *Beautiful* (2009), and also become a sought-after songwriter and producer for other artists such as Evonne Hsu, Tizzy Bac and Joi Chua.

This will be Peggy's first concert in Singapore in eight years. Fall under her spell as she performs, with a band, songs about life, love and magical dreams.

**27 Feb 2010, Sat, 3pm & 8pm**

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**SCENES: SINGAPORE'S CHINESE LANGUAGE THEATRE**

by Drama Box (Singapore)

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With more than 80 years in existence, Singapore's Chinese language theatre has truly constituted an important part of our cultural landscape, reflecting the changing identity of Chinese here, and constantly evolving in its aesthetic and relevance.

**SCENES** is a five-part project that celebrates Singapore's Chinese language theatre with *The Performances*, *The Symposium*, *The Exhibition*, *The Dramatised Readings* and *Fresh Takes*.

A *Huayi 2010* festival commission, co-produced by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay and Drama Box.

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**SCENES: The Performances**

**Invisibility/Breathing**

by Cake Theatrical Productions (Singapore)

The man is restless. One minute he is in a barren wasteland, the next he is in a public toilet in the city, the next he's sitting on a rock with a book, the next he's dragging body bags across endless dust. The man is restless. He wants to disappear. There is also a fisherman and a woman of great disrepute. They live and interact with the man. They know not why he's come nor where he's going. They don't care. They are tired and weary. Stretched thin, almost disappearing. The man, the fisherman and the woman of great disrepute, they are altogether strange, altogether sad. Hopefully they'll disappear. But it's never so easy.

*Invisibility/Breathing* is a theatrical response to Quah Sy Ren's *Invisibility* (1996), examining the hope and futility of restless people in a restless world.

Directed by Natalie Henedige.

(90mins, no intermission. In Mandarin with English surtitles)

**19 Feb 2010, Fri, 8pm**

**20 Feb 2010, Sat, 2pm**

Esplanade Theatre Studio

**\$30**

Limited concessions for students, NSF & senior citizens: \$21

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**SCENES: The Performances**

**K**

by Peter Sau (Singapore)

*An elegy of dehumanisation. A game of torment that never ends.*

In a period of constant change, seven Singaporeans transform into strange beings with keratin kernels, abruptly altering all their relationships with kith and kin.

Inspired by Czech writer Franz Kafka's bizarre short stories about transformation and alienation – *The Metamorphosis*, *A Hunger Artist* and *A Report to an Academy* – **K** was originally written by Goh Boon Teck in 1996. This interpretation, adapted and directed by Peter Sau, delves into the psyches of the seven trapped in a Kafkaesque reality.

Directed by Peter Sau.

(90mins, no intermission. In Mandarin with English surtitles)

**20 Feb 2010, Sat, 8.30pm**

**21 Feb 2010, Sun, 2pm**

Esplanade Theatre Studio

**\$30**

Limited concessions for students, NSF & senior citizens: \$21

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**SCENES: The Performances**

**The Coffin is Too Big for the Hole**

by Li Xie (Singapore)

*Beyond life and death, the most absurd funeral feud between the powerful and the powerless begins.*

A person dies; a funeral ensues; kinfolk amass.

A coffin for the dead; a hole for the coffin; a set of rules for the living.

What happens when the coffin is too big for the hole?

Who will budge in this tug-of-war between human compassion and the system?

Based on the original play written in 1985 by Singapore Cultural Medallion winner, Kuo Pao Kun. Directed and adapted by Li Xie.

Advisory: In relevance to the script, audiences will be placed in a funeral wake-like setting.

(90mins, no intermission. In Mandarin with English surtitles)

**23 & 24 Feb 2010, Tue & Wed, 8pm**

Esplanade Theatre Studio

**\$30**

Limited concessions for students, NSF & senior citizens: \$21

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**SCENES: The Performances**

**The Next Generations**

by Drama Box (Singapore)

*The Next Generations* is about the unfulfilled sentiments of three women from two generations who are trapped by the fact that there is only one male from the younger generation. It explores the status of the traditional versus the contemporary female in a male-oriented society.

The only male – the son – is an Aids-stricken homosexual, and his homosexuality terminates the family tree. It is a grave issue concerning blood ties and carrying on the family name. Against the Lim family's idea of collective interest, can females be ignored as human beings?

Original play by Lim Soon Lan in 1992, written under then The Practice Theatre Ensemble's (later renamed The Theatre Practice) scriptwriting programme.

Directed by Tang Shu-wing (Hong Kong).

Advisory: This production may contain mature themes.

(90mins, no intermission. In Mandarin with English surtitles)

**27 Feb 2010, Sat, 8pm**

**28 Feb 2010, Sun, 3pm & 8pm**

Esplanade Theatre Studio

**\$30**

Limited concessions for students, NSF & senior citizens: \$21

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**SCENES: The Symposium**

by Drama Box (Singapore)

Listen in on a vibrant discussion between critics and theatre practitioners from Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong about Singapore's Chinese language theatre. This symposium is a thought-provoking end to the two-week *SCENES* programme, and is made up of three parts.

The first features local Chinese language playwrights sharing with us their personal experiences as playwrights.

The second features critics and academics – including Yu Shan Lu (critic and academic, Taiwan), Andy Ng (actor and critic, Hong Kong), Robin Loon (playwright and academic, Singapore) and Quah Sy Ren (playwright, academic and critic, Singapore) -- discussing Singapore's Chinese language theatre from regional and cross-cultural perspectives.

The third engages the invited speakers, all the directors involved in *SCENES*, and you, the audience, in a discussion on *SCENES*.

**28 Feb 2010, Sun, 10am to 6pm**

Esplanade Recital Studio

**\$15**

Programme includes a break for lunch and short breaks at intervals, during which, participants are at liberty to partake of their own lunch and refreshments.

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**SCENES: The Exhibition**

Experience the world of Singapore's Chinese language theatre from the early 1920s to the present with this exhibition that takes you into scenes of the past with a tactile blend of material, space, light, sound and text.

Curated by Quah Sy Ren and designed by Singapore's leading architect Tan Kay Ngee and his team, *SCENES: The Exhibition* provides a thought-provoking overview on the history and development of our national Chinese language theatre amidst the emergence of a national consciousness and other socio-political-economic changes.

**2 Feb, Tue – 28 Feb 2010, Sun**

11am – 8.30pm, Mon – Fri

10am – 8.30pm, Sat & Sun

Esplanade Jendela (*Visual Arts Space*)

Free

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**SCENES: The Dramatised Readings**

Get a taste of plays written from the pre-war era to the present time.

Featuring read excerpts from seminal local Chinese language plays from the decades, *The Dramatised Readings*, curated by Nelson Chia and Koh Wan Ching, give a sense of how Singapore's Chinese language theatre has developed over the years. Each dramatised reading will be followed by a discussion that will enable all to consider the rich history of our cultural landscape with fresh eyes.

Performed in Mandarin.

**30 Jan 2010, Sat & 6 Feb 2010, Sat**

3pm – 4 30pm, 5pm – 6 30pm

library@esplanade

Free

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**SCENES: Fresh Takes**

*Fresh Takes* is a showcase of Chinese language theatre productions put up by Singapore schools, which have been an important nurturing ground for dramatic talent since the emergence of modern Chinese language theatre in Singapore in the early 20th Century.

Over the decades, many gifted and passionate students, with the guidance of their teachers, have created Chinese language theatre productions, giving us some of the most interesting work in the scene. Curated by Peter Sau and Kok Heng Leun, this programme pays homage to this important incubator of theatrical art, showcasing different works created by young talents.

Performed in Mandarin.

**20 & 21 Feb 2010, Sat & Sun**

3pm, 4pm & 5pm (30mins per performance)

Esplanade Concourse

Free

## **FREE PROGRAMMES**

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Celebrate Lunar New year with us as Huayi brings you a host of delightful programmes from 19 to 28 Feb for all in the family. Enjoy free musical concerts with our showcases of Chinese percussion, Chinese indie music, nostalgic favourites, as well as theatre and traditional puppetry performances!

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### **Esplanade Forecourt**

#### **Huayi Opening - Auspicious Lion Dance**

by Wenyang Sports Association

Get in the festive spirit as Huayi 2010 opens on an auspicious note with a rousing lion dance performance! Come witness the breathtaking stunts of the distinctive Southern Lions and sprightly Northern Lions.

19 Feb 2010, Fri, 7.15 – 7.30pm

#### **Chinese Wind and Percussion Fiesta**

by City Chinese Orchestra

Usher in Chinese New Year with spirited percussion performances presented by The City Chinese Orchestra, The Percussion Assembly and The Girls' Percussion Group, conceptualised by local young percussionist Quek Ling Kiong.

19 Feb 2010, Fri, 8 - 8.45pm, 9.15 – 10pm, 10.30 – 11.15pm

20 Feb 2010, Sat, 7.45 - 8.30pm, 9 – 9.45pm, 10.15 – 11pm

21 Feb 2010, Sun, 7.45 - 8.30pm, 9 – 9.45pm

#### **Legends of Chinese Drums**

by The Percussion Assembly

Stirring drumbeats by The Percussion Assembly awake the senses to a brand new start with rousing tunes such as *Tiger Grinding Its Teeth*, *The Rodent's Wedding*, *Chanting Dragon and Roaring Tiger*, *The Soaring Flying Crackers*, etc.

Also expect lively performances from The Girls' Percussion Group, conducted by Quek Ling Kiong, who will be performing together with The Percussion Assembly from 22 to 25 Feb.

22 Feb 2010, Sun – 25 Feb 2010, Thu & 28 Feb 2010, Sun  
7.45 - 8.30pm, 9 – 9.45pm

26 & 27 Feb 2010, Fri & Sat  
7.45 - 8.30pm, 9 – 9.45pm, 10.15 – 11pm

### **The Edge@Esplanade**

#### **The Art of String Puppetry**

by Quanzhou Marionette Troupe (China)

Be moved and mesmerized by the puppets manoeuvred by the Quanzhou Marionette Troupe, who had performed at the venerated Carnegie Hall, as well as the Opening ceremony of the recent Beijing Olympics, in four delightful tales – *The Young Monk Goes to Town*, *Ruolan's Journey*, *Drunken Zhong Kui*, *Three Battles with the Skeleton Enchantress*. Stay behind after the performances for puppetry demonstrations.

19 & 20 Feb 2010, Fri & Sat  
8.15 – 8.45pm, 9.30 – 10pm

22 Feb 2010, Mon – 27 Feb 2010, Sat  
8.15 – 8.45pm, 9.30 – 10pm

21 & 28 Feb 2010, Sun  
7.45 - 8.15pm, 9 – 9.30pm

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## **Esplanade Outdoor Theatre**

### **Chinese Indie Bands showcase**

Get into the groove with indie bands expressing their youthful vigour and creative energy through their own distinctive music in different styles ranging from rock'n'roll, hip hop to electronica.

❑ **Blackforest**

19 & 20 Feb 2010, Fri & Sat, 6.30 - 7.15pm

*Rock with this five-member band with their own compositions that include On The Other Side of the Waters, 100KG, as well as My Freedom, the theme song for local movie The Days.*

❑ **Manhand (Malaysia)**

19 & 20 Feb 2010, Fri & Sat  
7.45 – 8.30pm & 10 – 10.45pm

Be entertained by the refreshing and catchy music of this five-member band which specializes in Cantonese hip hop and rap.

❑ **Daydream (Malaysia)**

19 Feb 2010, Fri, 8.45 – 9.30pm

Catch Daydream performing their original compositions ranging from rock ballads to rap.

❑ **ah5ive**

20 Feb 2010, Sat, 8.45 – 9.30pm  
25 Feb 2010, Thu, 7.30 – 8.15pm

Be infused by the youthful enthusiasm of this unique rock group as they bring you on an alternative musical journey with their original songs.

❑ **Elyzia**

24 Feb 2010, Wed, 7.30 – 8.15pm  
25 Feb 2010, Thu, 8.45 – 9.30pm

This five-member band has received a rousing reception with their brand of music - an amalgamation of rock and metal, and they aim to keep this going with a blistering performance at Huayji!

❑ **LGF**

24 Feb 2010, Wed, 8.45 – 9.30pm

Energy that knows no bounds, infectious rhythms guaranteed to make you move - hear the voice of the young reflected in the music of LGF as they express the joy of being young and carefree!

- **Glorious Pharmacy** (China)  
26 & 27 Feb 2010, Fri & Sat  
7.30 – 8.15pm, 8.45 – 9.30pm, 10 – 10.45pm

Open your hearts and minds to the improvised sounds of Glamorous Pharmacy, one of China's leading rock bands, fronted by well-known folk singer Xiao He. *Glamorous Pharmacy* is an iconoclastic ensemble that plays jazzy folk rock & successfully allies acoustic instruments (guitar, saxophone, accordion, percussions) with odd samples – creating music that is somehow knowing & quietly incorporates elements of performance art which adds to their reputation for pushing the boundaries.

### **Rhythm of Spring** by TCR Music Station

Enjoy the breezy spring air under the stars as local singer Ye Zheng Wen and other musicians from the TCR Music Station belt out familiar tunes to evoke the festive mood.

21 Feb 2010, Sun  
7 – 7.45pm, 8.15 – 9pm, 9.30 – 10.15pm

### **Chinese Melodies Remixed**

Enjoy fresh new takes of familiar melodies injected with elements of jazz, funk and Brazilian Jazz by this musical group made up of Mike Chiang, Lu Jie, Mei Sheum and Tan Boon Kee playing the *erhu*, *sanxian*, keyboard and drums.

22 & 23 Feb 2010, Mon & Tue  
7.30 – 8.15pm, 8.45 – 9.30pm

### **Songs of Celebration**

Catch Hong Kong singer Deng Ruixia as well as local artistes Deng Xuehua and Marcus Chin in concert on the last night of the Chinese New Year celebrations where they will melt your hearts with all-time festive favourites and golden melodies.

28 Feb 2010, Sun

7 – 7.45pm:	Deng Ruixia
8.15 – 9pm:	Deng Xuehua
9.30 – 10.15pm:	Marcus Chin

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## **Esplanade Concourse**

### **East West Potpourri** by Zhu Weikang, Fu Huimin and Riduan Zalani

Enjoy the beautiful melodies of the *pipa*, *dizi* and pandeiro as the trio perform their brand of festive favourites.

19 Feb 2010, Fri  
6.45 – 7.15pm, 7.30 – 8pm, 8.45 – 9.15pm

20 & 21 Feb 2010, Sat & Sun  
7.15 – 7.45pm, 8.30 – 9pm, 9.45 – 10.15pm

## **SCENES: Singapore's Chinese Language Theatre Fresh Takes**

In Collaboration with NeNeMas and ARTivate

Savour this showcase of Chinese Language theatre productions put up by Singaporean schools.

This programme pays homage to this important incubator of theatrical art, showcasing different works created by young talents.

### **20 Feb 2010, Sat**

- ❑ **3 – 3.30pm: Escarpase by CHIJ St Nicholas Girls' School**  
Mr. Lim's factory is emitting poisonous gases that pose harm and danger to the environment. As the president of The Environmental Club, his wife can tolerate him no more. Unexpectedly, she leaves grimy and unfeeling Earth, and enters into a pollution-free Utopia...
- ❑ **4 – 4.30pm: Mosquitoes, I love you! by Hwa Chong Institution (Secondary)**  
At the campsite, a mosquito-catching competition is going on. With only five minutes to go, the lagging team tries desperately to catch up. Where and how can they find more mosquitoes?
- ❑ **5 – 5.30pm: The Patients by Millennia Institute**  
Through the stories of 3 patients who visit a psychiatrist, this play forces us to question ourselves and our sense of identity - do we know who we are or has the hectic pace of life eroded our sense of self?

### **21 Feb 2010, Sun**

- ❑ **3 – 3.30pm: Braised Pork Rib by Nanyang Junior College**  
A father and his son are drifting apart due to demands and pressures of a modern society, until the onset of the father's Alzheimer's disease. Can familial love truly survive anything?
- ❑ **4 – 4.30pm: Dreams of Blackie the Goldfish! by Raffles Girls' School (Secondary)**  
Blackie is not satisfied with life in a fishbowl and yearns to return to the vast sea. However, life was not any happier even after she embarks on a new journey to discover her paradise. Will Blackie eventually find her paradise?
- ❑ **5 – 5.30pm: Big and Small by River Valley High School**  
A Song dynasty General travels through time to land on a tiny island. He is amazed by the bizarre characters whom he encounters, including villains who exploit the kind, workers who dabble in office politics, students on a continual paper chase and an imprisoned Lion Fish...

### **Heralds of Spring**

by Chung Cheng High choir

Sing along with this 50-member four-part choir as they serenade the audience with all-time festive favourites.

22 Feb 2010, Mon, 7.15 – 7.45pm, 8.30 – 9pm

### **Joyous Voices**

by Kent Ridge Acapella

Revel in the acapella renditions of festive songs by this 20-member group who has performed to excellent reviews both locally and abroad.

22 Feb 2010, Mon, 9.45 – 10.15pm

### **Redpoll Melodies**

by Redpoll

Sway to the rhythm of this six-member folk rock band as they perform their brand of music that marries elements of folk, rock and the romantic, and featuring original songs with lyrics inspired by modern Chinese poets.

23 Feb 2010, Tue

7.15 – 7.45pm, 8.30 – 9pm, 9.45 – 10.15pm

### **Spring Kisses**

by Raffles Hall Chamber Music Ensemble

An ensemble of talents adept in various instruments such as the piano, violin, cello, *erhu* and guitar, the Raffles Hall Chamber music ensemble's repertoire ranges from pop to jazz and classical music. Immerse yourselves in the harmonious sounds of this ensemble as they present a mix of evergreens and popular chinese pop songs.

24 Feb 2010, Wed

7.15 – 7.45pm, 8.30 – 9pm, 9.45 – 10.15pm

### **Vox meets the Orient**

by Vox

Indulge in a night of beautiful music with festive favourites and golden melodies re-interpreted by this string quartet.

25 Feb 2010, Thu

7.15 – 7.45pm, 8.30 – 9pm, 9.45 – 10.15pm

### **Groovy Rhapsodies**

by Jazzy Spring Ensemble

Be amazed by the incredibly groovy sounds of this young jazz ensemble playing their own compositions and festive favourites.

26 Feb 2010, Fri

7.15 – 7.45pm, 8.30 – 9pm, 9.45 – 10.15pm

### **Local Singer-Songwriters In Concert**

27 Feb 2010, Sat

#### **□ 3 – 3.30pm: Hazel Lim Si Tong**

Let Hazel's velvety voice move you with her original songs, accompanied on guitar and piano played by Huang Yongan and Peng Chi Sheng respectively.

#### **□ 4 - 4.30pm: Ruth Ling**

Get acquainted with this local musical talent as she sings her Mandarin originals like *Simple Love Song*, *Language*, etc to the accompaniment of the guitar played by Daniel Chai.

□ **5 – 5.30pm: Serene Koong**

Watch this new face on the local music scene impress you with her unique voice as she sings her original songs as well as provide swing jazz renditions to all-time favourites such as *When the Spring Breeze Kisses My Face* and a funky interpretation of *New Year is Here*.

**Cross-Cultural Music Soiree**

by Fusion FM

Be charmed by the wondrous fusion of the *erhu*, keyboard and tabla as musicians play familiar tunes and compositions by local songwriters.

27 & 28 Feb 2010, Sat & Sun

7.15 – 7.45pm, 8.30 – 9pm, 9.45 – 10.15pm

**Joyous Reunion**

by Singapore Huay Kuan Arts and Cultural Youth Troupe- “Play”ground

Bring everyone in the family to this entertaining and heart-warming performance to learn about the traditions and customs related to Chinese New Year, in particular, the significance of the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the Chinese New Year, which falls on the very day of this performance.

28 Feb 2010, Sun

3 - 3.30pm, 4 – 4.30pm, 5 – 5.30pm