



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**41 Homegrown Songs For Singapore's 41<sup>st</sup> Birthday**

***Esplanade kicks off National Day celebrations with local talents in series of free performances and outdoor activities over six days***

**SINGAPORE, 17 July 2006** - Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay marks the nation's forty-first birthday with forty-one of the country's most popular home-grown songs, guaranteed to stir memories and reconnect audiences with home.

*41 of Singapore's Favourite Songs* launches *National Day Celebrations 2006* - six days of free, fun-packed activities from 4-9 August. Local artists will perform past and present Singapore favourites in English, Mandarin, Malay and Tamil on different evenings in the countdown to National Day.

Throughout the week, other performances by local bands and roving artists promise a pulsing good time along the waterfront, while an indoor concert-cum-sing along session offers visitors a unique experience of Esplanade's world-class Concert Hall.

As with all community events at Esplanade, festive occasions are celebrated through the arts, made accessible to all audiences through a wide range of different art forms.

Young talents bring street verve to the festivities with graffiti art and body painting to engage visitors, and hip-hop artists and beat boxers (urban vocal percussionists) add guerrilla rhythms for an infectious good time.

Turning up the heat are fire-twirlers who will amaze audiences with their grace and speed as they dance and twist their way in a show of pyrotechnic artistry.

All this culminates on National Day itself, which will see in addition, face painters who will help visitors get into party mode with colours to match, and creative hat making sessions to ensure visitors are toggled out right! Starting late afternoon, energy-laded acts from a percussion band, a cheerleading team, a children's choir and a jazz ensemble, deliver something for everyone at the waterfront. Indoors, *Singapore Sings!* offers members of the public a chance to test the acoustics

of Esplanade's acclaimed Concert Hall, as they form part of a 1,600-strong chorus, with local celebrities leading sing-along sessions of familiar national day and community songs.

For parade die-hards, telecasts will be screened live outdoors as well as in the Concert Hall. To cap it all, there will be bursts of red and white confetti on the Waterfront to add to patriot fever – a guaranteed hit with children and adults alike.

As with all programmes at Esplanade, visual arts complement the activities and contribute to the festive feel at the centre. For the thousands who penned their wishes on wishing cards at last year's New Year's Eve celebrations, Esplanade invites them now to revisit their wishes at the Forecourt. The display of these wishes, eight months on, offers a poignant platform for visitors to glimpse the hopes of fellow Singaporeans, and for those who made the wishes, to recall their dreams at the turn of the year and to track where they may be today.

At the courtyard, billowy clouds of red and white flutter in the wind and welcome visitors, while indoors at the Concourse, interactive displays of light transform the space into a twinkling tribute to Singapore.

Esplanade will offer an excellent vantage point as four nights of stunning fireworks displays on the 5, 8, 11 and 12 August at Marina Bay cap each evening in a soaring burst of colour, in keeping with the nation's celebratory spirit.

Esplanade wishes everyone a Happy National Day.

### **About Esplanade – Theatres On The Bay**

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay is one of the world's busiest performing 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 emphasis on Asian arts.

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 Russell Johnson of Artec Consultants, and the 2,000-seat theatre, an adaptation of traditional European opera houses in horseshoe form.

In the past year, Esplanade has welcomed seven million visitors and presented over 1,800 performances.

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**Appendix**

**41 of Singapore's Favourite Songs**

**4 – 9 Aug, Fri –Wed, From 7.30pm**

**Outdoor Theatre**

We've got 41 of Singapore's favourite songs on our play list, and it's okay if you don't remember the words. Just hum to the tunes, sing along and groove to these home-made top-pick melodies performed by Typhoon band, West Grand Boulevard, Ahlifiqir, Tribal Taal, Cai Lee Lian and more.

(Performed in English/Mandarin/Malay/Tamil)

**All Urban at the Alley**

**5 - 9 Aug, Fri-Wed, From 5pm**

**Waterfront Canopy**

Get into the scene down at the alley! There, graffiti art and body painting by young talents, hip-hop artists and beat-boxers create an urban buzz that brings the beat of the street to our Waterfront.

**Street Artists**

**8 Aug, Tue, From 6.45pm**

**9 Aug, Wed, From 5pm**

**Courtyard**

Prepare for a truly sizzling experience - watch our street artists play with fire! Dressed in the nation's striking red and white colours, they turn up the heat of the carnival atmosphere with nifty dance steps and fire-twirling acts.

**Face off, Hats on!**

**9 Aug, Wed, From 4pm**

**Waterfront**

Put a party face on...literally! Our face painters help you get in the festive mood by painting your face in gorgeous colours to celebrate this special day. Then to really top it all, create your own festive hat! This calls for a party!

**National Day Concert**

**9 Aug, Wed, 4.30 – 6pm**

**Stage@Powerhouse**

Get into the groove with our high-energy acts! Set your heart thumping and feet pumping with uAN mix that uses standard and self-made instruments. Get all revved up with our cheerleading team in *Cheerobics*! These cheerleaders' high-octane energy will pump up the volume and the patriotic mood to the max.

Then be moved by a children's choir of angelic voices from Pasir Ris Primary School as they sing in harmony.

And don't miss Singapore's premier jazz ensemble, Thomson Big Band. Their jazzy versions of well-loved Singaporean folk songs like "Rasa Sayang" will get you grooving!

**Singapore Sings!**  
**9 Aug, Wed, 5pm**  
**Concert Hall**

Sing along with your favourite stars this National Day at Esplanade!

Bring your loved ones and family to the centre and be a part of a unique 1600-strong chorus, led by well-known local celebrities such as Jeff Wang, Maggie Theng, Max Surin and Annetha Ayyavoo, and hosted by former radio DJ Jun Wei. You'll enjoy their performances as well as the sing-along sessions they will lead - croon along to familiar national day and community songs in Esplanade's world-class Concert Hall, and celebrate the nation's birthday in a special way!

For those who just can't miss the National Day Parade, stay back and catch our live screening of the parade in the Concert Hall right after the concert.

Admission is on a first-come-first-served basis. As community groups have indicated strong interest in the programme, do come early to avoid disappointment!

(Performed in English/Mandarin/Malay/Tamil)

**Live Telecast of National Day Parade 2006**  
**9 Aug, Wed, From 6pm**  
**Stage@Powerhouse / Concert Hall**

If you can't get tickets to the National Day Parade, don't fret. Come with your family and friends as we have a giant LED screen in two venues – indoors at our Concert Hall or outdoors at our Stage@Powerhouse - broadcasting the parade live from the National Stadium! Bring along your picnic baskets or get your tummies filled at our many dining outlets. All are welcome.

**It's Raining Confetti!**  
**9 Aug, Wed, 8.30pm**  
**Outdoor Theatre**

Get showered by colour, magic and patriotism as our burst of red and white confetti rains on the Waterfront, delighting the young and old alike.

**Visual Arts**

**Wishes...**

**22 Jul – 9 Aug, Forecourt**

Thousands penned their personal wishes at last year's New Year's Eve celebration. Now those 'gems' of wishes will make their appearance at Esplanade Forecourt. We renew those wishes for one and all...May they come true...

**Soaring Colours II**

**By Lee Meiling**

**22 Jul – 9 Aug, Courtyard**

Walk beneath a graceful flutter of red and white at the Courtyard. This installation transforms the public space into a magical sea of our national colours.

**Cing**

**by Teddy Lo and Yeow, Hong Kong/Singapore**

**15 Jul - 17 Sep, Concourse**

Be fascinated at the Concourse by our interactive display of red and white LED lighting.

**Singapore Fireworks Festival 2006**

**5, 8, 11 & 12 Aug**

Enjoy four nights of stunning fireworks display at Marina Bay where Esplanade will offer an excellent vantage point.