15 JUNE - 21 JULY 2019
10th edition
一个舞蹈节最重要的是什么？

在我们庆祝十周年的这个重要时刻里，我忍不住想要问这个问题。十年里，我们的社会大众有更认可当代舞提倡的多元和开放精神吗？对于不同的声音或个体的特殊性是否更懂得尊重与包容？

十年间，我们有培养出懂得分辨娱乐或艺术的差别，具有个人独立见解的当代舞忠实观众吗？这些人有在我们做的不够好时能温馨提醒，在需要的时候甚至亲身参与进程？

十年中，当我们坚定地支持那些坚持着同样理想的同行，我们有培养出新一代新锐的新血吗？十年很长，也很短。

我们有做到精彩新颖，大胆且具启发性？
在地，普及，改变生活的质量？
当我们开始强调具有互动性的思辩空间
我们是否培育了一股改进思维态度行为的力量？

在十周年温旧知新里，我们很开心兴奋；我们也很理智地发现，我们(和你)，可以做的需要做的还可以更多，很棒。

谢谢所有现在或过去一起努力付出的同事，一直支持我们的朋友和机构。特别是M1，滨海剧场和艺理会。要感激的人总是很多，就让我们把他们放在心里，除了谢谢还是谢谢。也让我们在庆祝中开始反思，同时期待更多人能肯定我们的工作，以他们舒服的方式支持我们！
What is the most crucial role of a dance festival?

As we gear up to celebrate the 10th edition of M1 CONTACT Contemporary Dance Festival and mark this decadal milestone, I find myself increasingly occupied with this question.

In these 10 years, has our society at large grown in the appreciation for the diversity and openness that contemporary dance champions? Are we more aware of the different opinions that can coexist and the unique characteristics that define us as individuals? More importantly, have we learnt to respect and embrace these differences?

Over the span of 10 years, have we nurtured an audience who can distinguish between dance as an art form and dance produced for entertainment? Do we have an ardent audience who can express their points of view and have developed their own distinct preferences?

When we face times of failed artistic risks or creative low tides, will these people stand by us and offer well-meaning, but critical advice? In times of need, will our audience personally partake in the laborious process of rebuilding, restarting, or even venturing into uncharted territory?

We have spent 10 years developing the contemporary dance scene and extending our resources to fellow artists whose visions and beliefs we share. In this time, have we done enough to cultivate a new generation of emergent talent?

10 years is a long time, but it also feels like it has passed in the blink of an eye.

Have we succeeded in our goal of producing innovative work that pushes boundaries, sparks excitement and inspires? Locally, have we created high-caliber work that stays relevant, has the ability to connect with the man-on-the-street, and spurs us to pursue a better quality of life?

As we begin to place more emphasis on the need to engage in discourse and carve out space for deeper contemplation, have we harnessed the strength to evoke positive changes in mindsets, attitudes and behaviours?

Marking a decadal milestone inevitably brings about a warm glow of nostalgia as we celebrate past achievements, take heart in seeing familiar faces, and welcome new friends into our community. Yet, amidst our joy and excitement, we also find ourselves in a sobering moment at this juncture - to thoughtfully ponder over how we (and you) can – and must – do more, and do it better.

Our heartfelt thanks to every colleague, past and present, who has contributed in various significant ways, and to our long-time friends and supporters, in particular - M1, Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay, and the National Arts Council. We are indebted to countless people, all of whom we hold dear to our heart; for them, there can never be enough thank-you’s to convey our gratitude.
Asian Festivals Exchange (AFX) returns as Co.Lab. Asians! Dance artists from different countries and backgrounds, including those from Asia, join hands to create original new dance works – in just under six weeks. A marathon exercise of creativity, communication and ingenuity, these artistic collaborations often breed unexpected, unique performances that span cultures.

In a duet performance, Lee Ren Xin and Miwa Okuno reunite from their 2014 AFX collaboration to delve into the different conscious states of the forgotten body to find its voice in today’s disembodied way of life.

How would an angular stone roll? This quirky work, Rolling Stone by Ji Kyungmin uses speed and music to take “rolling” to a whole new level. Together with dancers from T.H.E Second Company, Ji leaves no stone unturned as he embarks on a mind-boggling journey of getting sharp-cornered “human stones” to roll as smoothly as soccer balls.

Exploring the human condition, Isabella Giustina and T.H.E Second Company present Hanging in the Balance. In a world where we often endeavour to hide our insecurities and fears amidst our convictions, could there be a superhuman power behind our fragility?
This 10th anniversary edition of *Binary – International Artists Showcase* presents two unforgettable past Festival artists hailed for their commanding stage presence and artistry.

For those who missed its highly-acclaimed 2013 staging at the Festival, here's your chance to catch *Stigma*, a dark, enigmatic solo performance by Danish dance artist Kitt Johnson. Hailed as one of the *New York Times’* Top 10 Dance Performances of 2003, this extraordinary work has lost none of its visceral power and hypnotic intensity 20 years after its astonishing debut.

Last seen at the Festival in 2014, Japanese dance artist Shintaro Oue presents *Dan-su*, marking the Singapore premiere of this adventurous full-length work. Stripping away all dance rules, the work lets go of perfection to courageously explore states of uncertainty. Both a dance and a dialogue, the choreography develops from the myriad expressions of the body, as its three performers shape-shift in every scene.

A reflection on the life of creating and performing, *Binary – International Artists Showcase* celebrates the evolution and beauty of these artistic journeys.
For the very first time, DiverCity presents three new creations by a fresh breed of Singaporean independent dance artists, in a season showcasing the bold energy and dynamism of our evolving local dance scene.

Adele Goh’s solo performance, created in collaboration with Germaine Cheng, poses searing questions to rediscover the power, joy and necessity of the body as space. When do we perceive a space to be architectural or habitable? What keeps us holding on to spaces that are exclusive or social, dangerous or safe?

Presented in the Festival’s Off Stage platform in 2018, Amelia Chong’s NAMUH caught the eye of Supercell: Festival of Contemporary Dance’s co-founder and curator Kate Usher, leading to its further development and Australian premiere at this year’s edition of the Brisbane festival. This latest rendition, refined over the last year, sees Chong flipping humanity on its head to investigate the complexities and strangeness of the human form.

Taking us back to our senses is DBL.TAP by Edwin Wee and Rachel Lum. The duo takes on the phenomenon of social media addiction to ask: Are we lost in a fantasised version of who we think we are, and are we becoming more disconnected than ever in this era of lauded connectivity?
Real Love is a stunning, engrossing exploration on the mystery of birth, passing, and death, performed by three women at different stages of their lives.

For more than a decade, Polish dance company, Zawirowania Dance Theatre has been harnessing the power of story to create contemporary dance works driven by compelling narratives. In Real Love, Daniel Abreu crafts a choreographic poem filled with moments of intense lyricism, as the experiences of the three women collide in their search for the meaning of real love. Is love the tenderness of a mother towards a child? How does a mother face the reality of her mortality?

Raw, honest, and utterly essential, Real Love speaks to our shared humanity and the meaning of the changing seasons of our life.
A highlight at the Festival since 2017, **Dance at Dusk** is a family-friendly, free performance showcasing the many facets of contemporary dance.

This year’s event returns with excerpts from one of Kuik Swee Boon’s most contemplative works, *Silence*. Since it was first commissioned by Esplanade da:ns Festival in 2007, *Silence* has continued to evolve and was last seen in Singapore a decade ago, when it was presented as a full-length work at the Esplanade Theatre as part of T.H.E Dance Company’s first anniversary.

Now performed by dancers from T.H.E Second Company, the timeless piece continues to deal with the concept of communication breakdown, and investigates the depths of one’s connection to the surroundings in this age of information overload.

As part of the Festival’s efforts to explore the accessibility of contemporary dance performances, **Dance at Dusk** will be adapted to encompass greater engagement and participation this year. Curated in collaboration with Access Path Productions, the shows will be made more meaningful and enjoyable especially for audiences with disabilities or sensory sensitivities.*

*Audience members who may require additional access support or are interested to know more about these shows can contact hello@accesspathproductions.com for more information.
Off Stage

Syimah Sabtu (Singapore)  
Zunnur Zhafirah (Singapore)  
Michelle Lim (Singapore)  
Moh Hariyanto (Indonesia)

Off Stage is a no-holds-barred, intimate studio showcase of new works-in-progress by local and regional dance artists.

Shifting the focus away from the finished product, Off Stage invites you to share in the artists’ creative journeys, and to respond and critique their works in a session of performances and live discussion. You’ll also get to exchange views with international festival directors and programmers in attendance.

Watch H A S E R by local choreographer Syimah Sabtu, as she challenges societal norms and the co-existence of femininity and masculinity. A Singaporean dance artist with the Hofesh Shechter Company, Zunnur Zhafirah’s introspective work, Luna(s), reflects upon intimacy and the process of transcending the ego, through the tantra method of soul gazing.

Michelle Lim, the first Singaporean dancer at The Juilliard School, presents HOME SICK, an exploration of displacement, identity and belonging. SILA by Indonesian choreographer Moh Hariyanto adapts elements from ritual culture that connects the body with God.
A n invitation to watch and be watched. A tennis player’s obsession with victory. A dancer wonders if the body holds a separate memory bank. Daring, exuberant and utterly contemporary, M1 Open Stage is the Festival’s annual excursion into the curious minds of choreographic talents from Singapore, Southeast Asia and beyond.

Selected by an international panel from almost 200 entries, these 12 works are a fascinating glimpse into the creative processes and themes that drive the current generation of contemporary dance artists. At once profound and questioning, playful and reflective, come delve into the creativity and passion of these dance talents.

Programme A
(18 July, 8PM)
- **Tennis - Now or Never** by Nimrod Freed/Tami Dance Company (Israel)
- **Leftovers** by Josh Martin Company 605 (Canada)
- **Honey Bee And The Dandelion** by Hong Guofeng & Chua Chiok Woon (Singapore)
- **The Man** by Jan Möllmer & Tsai-Wei Tien/ Peculiar Man (Germany/Taiwan)

Programme B
(20 July, 3PM)
- **Monkey in a Diaper** by Reisa Shimojima (Japan)
- **Climacteric** by Natalie Allen (Australia)
- **Ghosting: Indelible in the Hippocampus** by Bernice Lee (Singapore)
- **Breathing Hole** by Lee Kyunggu & Lee Yeonju/ Goblin Party (South Korea)

Programme C
(20 July, 8PM)
- **Non(leg)azioni** by Daniele Ninarello (Italy)
- **Ignoramus** by Kim Hoyeon & Lim Jungha/ Dab Dance Project (South Korea) & Hwa Wei-An (Malaysia/Singapore)
- **Trikonanga** by Hemabharathy Palani (India)
- **Division** by Justyne Li & Wong Tan-Ki/ Neo Dance HK (Hong Kong)
Mr. Sign

Kim Jae Duk (South Korea) | T.H.E Dance Company (Singapore)

Dates
Fri, 19 July, 8PM
(+ 20-minute post-show dialogue)

Venue
Esplanade
Theatre Studio

Tickets
(excluding SISTIC booking fee)
Standard $38
Concession $23

Duration
60 minutes
(no intermission; duration excludes post-show dialogue)

Suffused with dark humour and inventiveness, Mr. Sign is an excavation into the workings of a hierarchal society – a furious search to locate one’s place within it and the meaning of human communication, explored through the lens of contemporary dance.

For its 10th edition, the Festival revives this acclaimed 2013 commission by award-winning choreographer Kim Jae Duk. The bold musical score arranged by Kim features an idiosyncratic mix of influences, from Tchaikovsky’s Swan Lake and Indonesian gamelan to traditional Korean trot music. Known for his high-octane performances, Kim translates the playfulness and metaphorical wit of his stylistic movements with an all-new six-member cast from T.H.E Dance Company.

Mr. Sign is also a featured programme as part of Esplanade’s Feed Your Imagination (F.Y.I) 2019, a dedicated series for schools.
Meet our Festival artists and deepen your engagement with contemporary dance through our diverse range of classes, workshops, intensives and talks.

**Classes. Workshops. Intensives**

@T.H.E Dance Company’s Studio

A Festival favourite, our classes, workshops and intensives are a great way to expand your dance practice, or for first-timers to try out contemporary dance.

**Classes & Workshops**

- **My Centre**
  by Isabella Giustina (Italy)
  15 & 16 June

- **Circumstances by Chance**
  by Ji Kyungmin (South Korea)
  15 June

- **Motivating Dance to the Motives**
  by Ji Kyungmin (South Korea)
  16 June

- **The Sustainable Body**
  by Kitt Johnson (Denmark)
  22 June

- **Contact Improvisation**
  by Shintaro Oue (Japan)
  23 & 24 June

- **Hollow Body with T.H.E**
  by Kuik Swee Boon (Singapore)
  11 July

- **Delicious Movement**
  by Nimrod Freed (Israel)
  17 July

- **The Interestingly Sensitive World**
  by Lee Kyunggu & Lee Yeonju (South Korea)
  18 July

- **Neo Dance HK’s Choreography**
  by Justyne Li and Wong Tan-Ki (Hong Kong)
  18 & 19 July

- **Trying Again**
  by Jan Möllmer & Tsai-Wei Tien
  (Germany/Taiwan)
  19 July

- **Bound Flow**
  by Josh Martin (Canada)
  19 & 20 July

- **A Holy Attitude - Repertory Workshop**
  by Kim Hoyeon & Lim Jungha (South Korea)
  20 July

- **Find Something New in the Old**
  by Natalie Allen (Australia)
  21 July

- **Resonant Architectures**
  by Daniele Ninarello (Italy)
  21 July

**Intensives**

- **Bones & Muscles Intensive**
  by Miwa Okuno (Japan)
  20 - 22 June

- **Hofesh Shechter Company Intensive**
  by Zunnur Zhafirah (Singapore)
  26 - 30 June

And more! Visit www.the-contact.org/programmes or look at the Festival Calendar for the full list.
Interviews & Insights

Gain a deeper perspective into the creation processes and the works of our Festival artists through our blog and at our popular post-show dialogues (refer to individual show pages for post show dialogue dates).

G Talks @ Ginett

In collaboration with Hotel G, the Festival’s Patron Hotel 2019, we will be presenting two free talks at Ginett Restaurant & Wine Bar:

**Afternoon Tea with Shintaro Oue**
**Sun, 23 June, 2:30PM - 3:30PM**

In this casual conversation, Sweden-based Japanese choreographer, Shintaro Oue, shares with us his twenty-year journey as an Asian independent dance artist in Europe. Recommended for independent artists and those interested to find out more about how artists make a living.

**Decoding Contemporary Dance**
**Sun, 21 July, 2:30PM - 3:30PM**

A session to spill out your rawest thoughts about contemporary dance! Hear insights from our Festival team and guests as we decode the art form and discuss its relevance to our daily lives. Recommended for anyone who will be attending a contemporary dance show for the first time at this year’s Festival.
STANDARD TICKET DISCOUNTS

(Not applicable for concession tickets)

M1 Open Stage Triplet Deal
(Triplet deal price includes SISTIC booking fee.)

A
B
C

Watch all 3 different programmes at a discounted price of $60.

10th Edition Special
If you’re looking to feast your eyes on the complete 10th edition performance lineup, here’s more! First 10 ticket buyers to contact us with proof of Show Bundle and M1 Open Stage Triplet Deal purchases will get a special discount code for shows held at T.H.E Dance Company’s studio. Fastest fingers first!

Show Bundle
(Bundle price includes SISTIC booking fee.)

Enjoy 20% savings when you purchase Co.Lab.Asians, Binary - International Artists Showcase, DiverCity & Mr. Sign as a bundle at $108.80.

Hot Tip:
This bundle is best combined with the M1 Open Stage Triplet Deal for a perfect taste of all seven different ticketed programmes at our national performing arts centre.

Deals for Classes, Workshops & Intensives
(Not applicable for concession tickets)

For every 5 classes/workshops or 5 intensive days purchased, enjoy a 20% discount.

General Discounts
(Only applicable to shows held at Esplanade and selected events held at T.H.E Dance Company’s studio.)

- 20% T.H.E Friends (with valid code) & Early Birds (till 15 April)
- 15% PAssion Card Members, OCBC Arts Platinum Card Members, Esplanade&Me Black Cardholders
- 10% OCBC Credit Card Members, Esplanade&Me White Cardholders, Group Bookings of ≥10
CONCESSION PERKS

NAC-AEP Tote Board Arts Grant
Secondary schools, JCs, CIs and ITEs may use NAC-AEP’s Tote Board Arts Grant to apply for a subsidy of up to 50% of concession ticket costs for selected shows.

Group Bookings
For every 20 student tickets purchased for a single show, an accompanying teacher or instructor gets a free ticket.

Aspiring Professional Dancers Incentive
Dance students enrolled in a full-time vocational dance course enjoy 3 free classes/workshops with a minimum purchase of $200 (excluding SISTIC booking fees). Simply email us proof of your current enrolment and a copy of your receipts and we will contact you to arrange for your free classes/workshops.

info@the-dancecompany.com

For all shows at Esplanade, get your tickets through:

🌐 www.sistic.com.sg
📱 SISTIC Mobile App
📞 +65 6348 5555
♭ SISTIC Authorised Agents

For all other shows, classes, workshops, intensives & talks, get your tickets through:

🌐 www.peatix.com
📱 Peatix Mobile App
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Beyond the aesthetics and physicality of the art form, contemporary dance promotes critical thinking, offers multiple perspectives, and pushes us to be more reflective about contemporary issues we face in the rapidly-changing world today.

As we reach our 10th edition this year, we want to keep this Festival growing and soaring for the next decade and beyond. If you'd like to support us by contributing financially, please visit www.the-contact.org/donate for more details. As a charity with IPC status, all cash donations are entitled to 250% tax deduction.