



2015  
singapore  
international  
festival of  
arts

EMPIRES  
POST

6 AUG - 19 SEP 2015

Second Edition with VENUE CHANGES,  
new highlights & ticket packages

# Message from the Festival Director

On behalf of everyone at Singapore International Festival of Arts (SIFA), I would like to extend a warm welcome to our audiences, as well as thank everyone who has made the 2015 edition of the Festival possible.

## POST-Play

What does Singapore's 2015 mean to international audiences? Can Singapore engage in international dialogues and play a meaningful role as a dynamic hybrid arts player at the crossroads of multiplicities and differences? After all, we are one of the few Asian metropolises with English as our lingua franca, an inspired direction taken by Mr Lee Kuan Yew.

At the international level, we have witnessed a globalisation of life after colonial regimes, after dictatorship and after communism. **Symbolic of POST-Empires is the moment when characters decline their Destiny as proposed by the Author.** They reclaim their lives and, in so doing, refuse the power of the Author. Can we rewrite the History which has been written for us? This is the exact proposition of Emmanuel Demarcy-Mota's emotional production of *Six Characters In Search Of An Author*.

Ultimately, how do we live with the global networks and monopolies of power that define the age we live in? We live in the Nation, and we live with neo-liberal capitalism, which gives us the impression we are free. But **What Remains After** the Empire?

SIFA proposes that **Art and the Tenderness of the human individual remain as vital forces.** To this end, we have invited some of the top contemporary artists in the world to play with us: William Kentridge, Matthias Goerne and Markus Hinterhäuser, who recreate Franz Schubert's enduring *Winterreise*; Daniel Buren, who brings to us the frailty and vulnerability of one human being in a circus tent; and Kornél Mundruczó, who comments on the destructive effects of the market on human individuals in **POST-Socialist** Hungary. *dirtsong* muses on the reclamation of loss in **POST-Colonialism**. *Taiwan Dreams* aggregates different answers from its entire cast of artists to form a cogent, independent multitude of voices from the bottom up, rather than a monolithic voice from the top down.

A major development in 2015 is that SIFA will bring the Festival and the arts closer to everyone living in Singapore. Kumar, Singapore's beloved pop artist, will travel with a cohort of stand-up comedians to the HDB heartlands. Laughter shares the same **transformative power of the arts.** In a unique move, SIFA will collaborate with PAssionArts of People's Association to transform neighbourhood residents' living rooms into theatres! Homes will be opened to the public as gestures of convivial hospitality. In this way, we will grow a SIFA network of informal performance venues all over the island of Singapore.

Bridging the gap between the peoples of Singapore and the arts is a major mission of SIFA 2015. This will be achieved through mobilising memories, narratives and experiences, of both the young and the old, and folding them into the art we will see onstage.

An unprecedented feature of this year's Festival is the progressive reach of the Singapore commissions – 12 in total. To enrich the festivities, Tang Quartet and Drama Box have been invited to curate two series this year. With the new, young artists, the productions are equally impressive. Some, like Cake Theatrical Productions, are set to surpass their previous artistic limits. A new company, One Kind Theatre, has been formed and will present its first Mandarin musical, one that takes inspiration from the archives of the *Nanyang* painters and features compositions by the best songwriters in the industry. SIFA has proudly invited three Singapore doyens of performance back onstage with new works: the much-missed Goh Lay Kuan returns with transformational energy after decades of absence; Santha Bhaskar scintillatingly rewrites diaspora by returning to Kerala to collaborate with top performers there; and our very own madcap concert pianist Margaret Leng Tan returns to us all the way from Brooklyn, New York.

The commissioning brief to the Singapore artists was simple: to create Festival productions that they cannot normally produce themselves. SIFA shoulders the first risk to nurture a creative, artistic atmosphere during the Festival months of August and September. Hence, we have seen the proliferation of unusual productions. Tang Quartet responded playfully with its brainwave of creating three new quartets, from children to young adults, a **POST-TQ** invention. Drama Box's **POST-Capitalism** works stretch from forum theatre to verbatim theatre, playing out in unexpected locations like Bukit Brown Cemetery at dawn. *The Incredible Adventures Of Border Crossers* proposes a **POST-Nation** scenario through 22 international residents of Singapore who, with little formal experience in theatre, perform a five-hour fashion show and karaoke extravaganza in a video-sound installation. *HOTEL*, an epic production in two parts by WILD RICE, engages with the archives of a hotel over the course of Singapore's last century. SIFA has commissioned Wang Chong, one of Beijing theatre's brightest sparks, to create an ambitious work with LASALLE's Faculty of Performing Arts. This production will look at the archives of Madame Mao and the Cultural Revolution which changed China.

Finally, how do we generate from the potentiality of infrastructures left behind by others from a different time or space? SIFA's international commission, *Dance Marathon – OPEN WITH A PUNK SPIRIT!*, tackles this question head-on. This is the challenge of **Archives**, which have become increasingly important for all of us today. How can we rewrite the monument into different manifestations with empathy? How can human individuals transform established structures with tenderness to form different independent pathways?

Singaporeans will have to find this out for ourselves, in the world that comes after the towering Lee Kuan Yew.

**Ong Keng Sen**  
Singapore International Festival of Arts





Image courtesy of Douglas Maczobi

# The Incredible Adventures Of Border Crossers

17, 18, 19 September  
6.30pm  
National Museum of Singapore,  
Exhibition Gallery 1 & 2  
6h durational performance  
(come and go as you please)

## COMMISSION

BY **ONG KENG SEN** **KAFFE MATTHEWS**  
**CHRIS LEE** **BRIAN GOTHONG TAN**  
**RECKLESS ERICKA** **FRANCIS NG**

Commissioned for the opening of *Singapour en France - le festival* at Palais de Tokyo in Paris in March 2015, Ong Keng Sen creates *The Incredible Adventures Of Border Crossers*, a new performance forged in collaboration with creative talents specialising in design, photography, video and sound (Chris Lee of Asylum, Reckless Ericka, Francis Ng, Brian Gothong Tan, Kaffe Matthews).

It tells a story of past-present-future through the voices of border crossers. Real-life border crossers who have never acted before (from Europe, the Americas and the Asia-Pacific) are invited to be performers in this piece. Sharing their everyday stories as incredible adventures, they inhabit the installation – singing, dancing, and invoking pioneer travellers who were captured by the Lee Brothers Studio in Singapore, a unique photo salon, in 1910.

Unlike theatre, this is a performance that is at once installation, karaoke and fashion runway. *The Incredible Adventures Of Border Crossers* is a stunning combination of music, visual culture, live video, fashion, documentary and performance that envisions communications in a not-so-distant future megapolis, amidst a heterotopia of individuals.

Performed in English, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, French, German, Burmese, Lao, Cambodian, Vietnamese, Thai, Tagalog, Bahasa Indonesia, Mandarin, Korean, Japanese, Hindi and other languages of the border crossers.

With English surtitles.

PROGRAMME PARTNER EQUIPMENT PARTNER



**72-13**

## TICKETS

**\$45**  
10% discount for students, NSFs  
and seniors aged 55 and above.  
Rating TBC

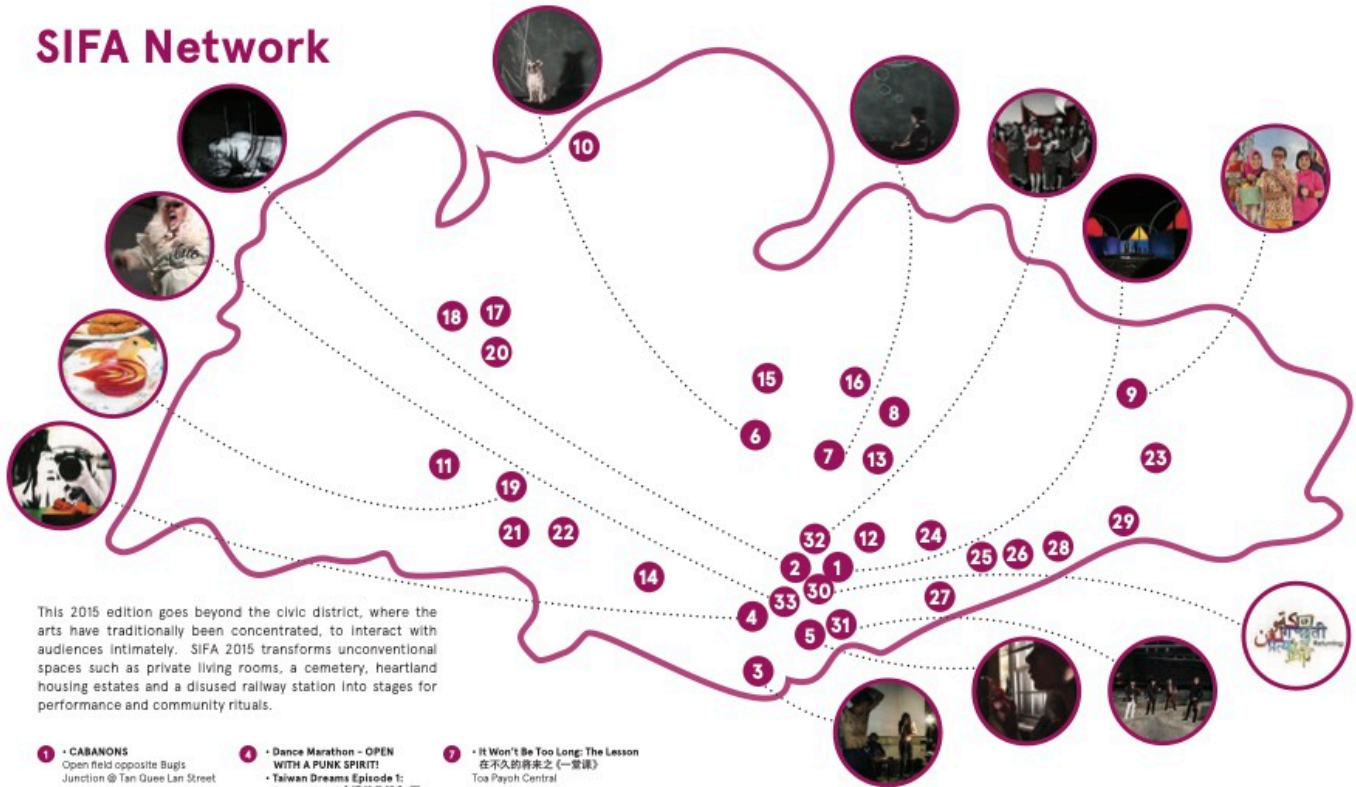
## SUPPORTING PARTNERS



**N S M**  
**National Museum**  
**of Singapore**



# SIFA Network

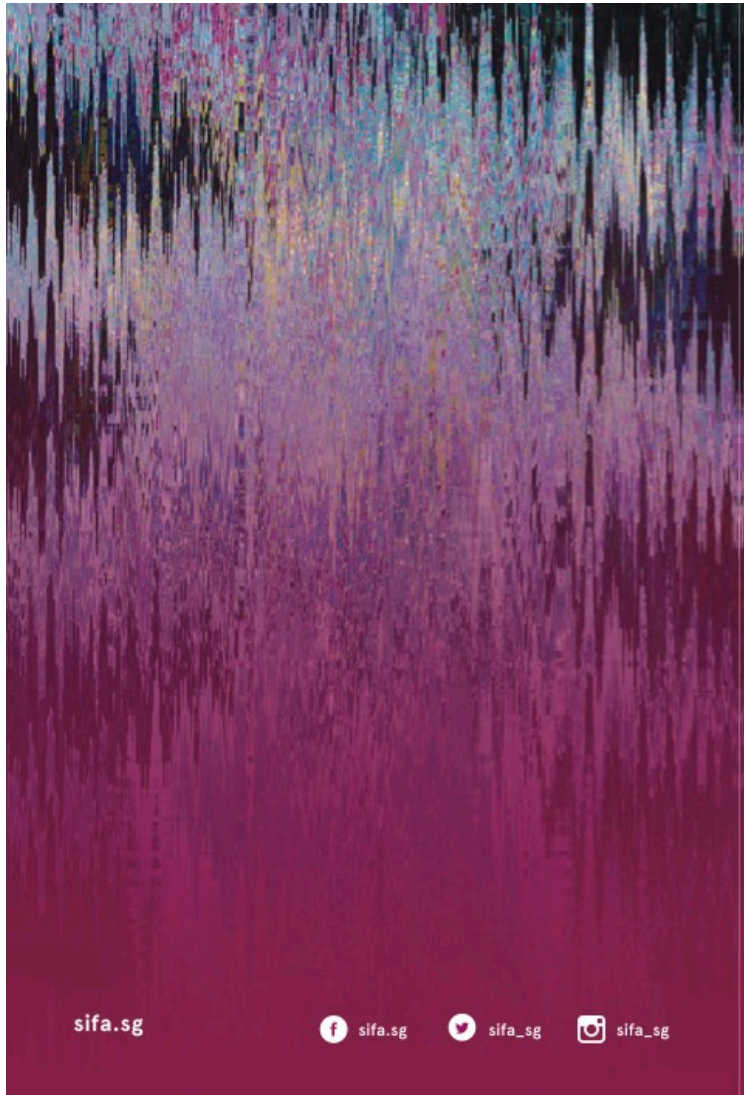


This 2015 edition goes beyond the civic district, where the arts have traditionally been concentrated, to interact with audiences intimately. SIFA 2015 transforms unconventional spaces such as private living rooms, a cemetery, heartland housing estates and a disused railway station into stages for performance and community rituals.

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|---|--|---|--|----------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|---|
| <p><b>1</b> • CABANONS<br/>Open field opposite Bugis Junction @ Tan Quee Lan Street</p> <p><b>2</b> • Cabinet Of Curiosities<br/>• Dance Marathon - OPEN WITH A PUNK SPIRIT!<br/>• It Won't Be Too Long: The Cemetery 在不久的将来之(坟场)<br/>• T'ang Quartet Presents: Black Angels<br/>• T'ang Quartet Presents: Celestial Remnants<br/>• Versus<br/>• Winterreise<br/>SOTA</p> <p><b>3</b> • Dance Marathon - OPEN WITH A PUNK SPIRIT!<br/>Tanjong Pagar Railway Station</p> | <p><b>4</b> • Dance Marathon - OPEN WITH A PUNK SPIRIT!<br/>• Taiwan Dreams Episode 1: Dream Hotel 台湾梦首剧由: 西蒙波利 • 蝴蝶书<br/>72-13</p> <p><b>5</b> • Dementia<br/>• dirtsong<br/>• HOTEL<br/>• Six Characters in Search Of An Author<br/>• Smriti Padma (Memory Route)<br/>Victoria Theatre</p> <p><b>6</b> • It Won't Be Too Long: The Cemetery 在不久的将来之(坟场)<br/>Bukit Brown Cemetery</p> | <p><b>7</b> • It Won't Be Too Long: The Lesson 在不久的将来之(一堂课)<br/>Toa Payoh Central</p> <p><b>8</b> • Kumar's Living Together<br/>Multipurpose Hall, Blk 464<br/>Upper Serangoon Road</p> <p><b>9</b> Tampines Festival Park,<br/>Tampines St 21 between Blks 254 and 257</p> <p><b>10</b> Amphitheatre, Blk 204 Marsiling Drive</p> <p><b>11</b> Community Plaza, Jurong East<br/>St 32 between Blks 312 and 316</p> | <p><b>Open Homes</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>Central</b></td> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>12</b> Jalan Besar</td> <td><b>17</b> Chestnut Close</td> <td><b>23</b> Changi Simel</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>13</b> Potong Pasir</td> <td><b>18</b> Choa Chu Kang Loop</td> <td><b>24</b> Geylang Road</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>14</b> Queenstown</td> <td><b>19</b> Faber Green</td> <td><b>25</b> Joo Chiat Place</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>15</b> Upper Thomson</td> <td><b>20</b> Hazel Park Terrace</td> <td><b>26</b> Marine Parade</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>16</b> Yio Chu Kang</td> <td><b>21</b> West Coast Grove</td> <td><b>27</b> Mountbatten Road</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>22</b> West Coast Road</td> <td><b>28</b> Siglap Road</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td><b>29</b> Upper East Coast Road</td> </tr> </table> | <b>Central</b> | <b>West</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>12</b> Jalan Besar | <b>17</b> Chestnut Close | <b>23</b> Changi Simel | <b>13</b> Potong Pasir | <b>18</b> Choa Chu Kang Loop | <b>24</b> Geylang Road | <b>14</b> Queenstown | <b>19</b> Faber Green | <b>25</b> Joo Chiat Place | <b>15</b> Upper Thomson | <b>20</b> Hazel Park Terrace | <b>26</b> Marine Parade | <b>16</b> Yio Chu Kang | <b>21</b> West Coast Grove | <b>27</b> Mountbatten Road |  | <b>22</b> West Coast Road | <b>28</b> Siglap Road |  |  | <b>29</b> Upper East Coast Road | <p><b>30</b> • NANYANG, The Musical 闽南洋<br/>• Returning<br/>Drama Centre Theatre</p> <p><b>31</b> • T'ang Quartet Presents: Guts &amp; Steel<br/>Victoria Concert Hall</p> <p><b>32</b> • The Revolutionary Model Play 2.0<br/>LASALLE College of the Arts</p> <p><b>33</b> • The Incredible Adventures Of Border Crossers<br/>National Museum of Singapore</p> |
| <b>Central</b>  | <b>West</b>  | <b>East</b>   |  |                |             |             |                       |                          |                        |                        |                              |                        |                      |                       |                           |                         |                              |                         |                        |                            |                            |  |                           |                       |  |  |                                 |   |
| <b>12</b> Jalan Besar   | <b>17</b> Chestnut Close   | <b>23</b> Changi Simel  |  |                |             |             |                       |                          |                        |                        |                              |                        |                      |                       |                           |                         |                              |                         |                        |                            |                            |  |                           |                       |  |  |                                 |   |
| <b>13</b> Potong Pasir  | <b>18</b> Choa Chu Kang Loop   | <b>24</b> Geylang Road  |  |                |             |             |                       |                          |                        |                        |                              |                        |                      |                       |                           |                         |                              |                         |                        |                            |                            |  |                           |                       |  |  |                                 |   |
| <b>14</b> Queenstown  | <b>19</b> Faber Green  | <b>25</b> Joo Chiat Place   |  |                |             |             |                       |                          |                        |                        |                              |                        |                      |                       |                           |                         |                              |                         |                        |                            |                            |  |                           |                       |  |  |                                 |   |
| <b>15</b> Upper Thomson   | <b>20</b> Hazel Park Terrace   | <b>26</b> Marine Parade   |  |                |             |             |                       |                          |                        |                        |                              |                        |                      |                       |                           |                         |                              |                         |                        |                            |                            |  |                           |                       |  |  |                                 |   |
| <b>16</b> Yio Chu Kang  | <b>21</b> West Coast Grove   | <b>27</b> Mountbatten Road  |  |                |             |             |                       |                          |                        |                        |                              |                        |                      |                       |                           |                         |                              |                         |                        |                            |                            |  |                           |                       |  |  |                                 |   |
|   | <b>22</b> West Coast Road  | <b>28</b> Siglap Road   |  |                |             |             |                       |                          |                        |                        |                              |                        |                      |                       |                           |                         |                              |                         |                        |                            |                            |  |                           |                       |  |  |                                 |   |
|   |  | <b>29</b> Upper East Coast Road   |  |                |             |             |                       |                          |                        |                        |                              |                        |                      |                       |                           |                         |                              |                         |                        |                            |                            |  |                           |                       |  |  |                                 |   |

## Festival Calendar: Weeks 5-7

SHOW	PAGE	WEEK 5						WEEK 6						
		31 Aug	1 Sep	2 Sep	3 Sep	4 Sep	5 Sep	6 Sep	7 Sep	9 Sep	10 Sep	11 Sep	12 Sep	13 Sep
<b>Dance Marathon – OPEN WITH A PUNK SPIRIT!</b> The Projectionist Tanjong Pagar Railway Station	D17	19:00												
<b>Eyes Open, Eyes Closed</b> (a.k.a. Trailblitz) and <b>My Mothers And I</b> SOTA Studio Theatre	D19-21		20:00											
<b>Future Memory</b> 72-13	D23			20:00										
<b>Light Doesn't Have Arms To Carry Us</b> SOTA Studio Theatre	D25				20:00									
<b>The Daily Life Of Ms. D and Passage On Blur</b> Tanjong Pagar Railway Station	D27-29					20:00								
<b>Archive Box 2</b> 72-13	D31							20:00						
<b>CABANONS</b> Open field opposite Bugis Junction @ Tan Quee Lan Street	25			20:00	20:00	20:00	20:00	20:00						
<b>The Revolutionary Model Play 2.0</b> The Singapore Alifines Theatre, LASALLE	27			20:00	20:00	20:00								
<b>Smriti Padha (Memory Route)</b> Victoria Theatre	29					20:00	20:00							
<b>Winterreise</b> SOTA Concert Hall	31					20:00	20:00							
<b>Open Homes</b> Open houses all over Singapore	33							← Various Times →				← Various Times →		
<b>Festival Heart – It Won't Be Too Long: The Lesson</b> 在不久的将来之一堂课 Goli – The Moving Theatre Outside Toa Payoh Public Library Toa Payoh Central	35									In Mandarin 20:00	In English 20:00	In Mandarin 20:00	In English 20:00	
<b>Six Characters In Search Of An Author</b> Victoria Theatre	39									20:00	20:00	20:00	20:00	
<b>Taiwan Dreams Episode 1: Dream Hotel</b> 台湾梦首部曲: 百夏旅馆 · 蝴蝶书 72-13	41									20:00	20:00	20:00	20:00	
<b>T'ang Quartet Presents: Black Angels</b> SOTA Studio Theatre	15												20:00	
<b>SHOW</b>		<b>WEEK 7</b>												
		17 Sep			18 Sep			19 Sep						
<b>The Incredible Adventures Of Border Crossers</b> National Museum of Singapore, Exhibition Gallery 1 & 2	43		18:30 Onwards				18:30 Onwards						18:30 Onwards	
<b>Festival Heart – It Won't Be Too Long: The Cemetery</b> 在不久的将来之一坟场 Down: Bukit Brown Cemetery Dusk: SOTA Studio Theatre	37						05:30 20:00						05:30 20:00	
<b>T'ang Quartet Presents: Celestial Remnants</b> SOTA Concert Hall	15												20:00	



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