



28 November to 6 December 2008
Empress Place – Singapore River Celebrates!
SINGAPORE
www.asiaontheedge.com

ORIGIN – OPENING PERFORMANCE

The world premiere of a specially commissioned work which draws inspiration from the rich traditions of Korean, Mongolian, Indian, Chinese, Vietnamese, Malaysian, Taiwanese, Japanese and Indonesian performing arts. Featuring over 50 artists, *Origin* is a soulful and spiritual visual and movement theatre commemorating the birth of Asian's cultures and their origins.

Performed on an approximately 300m long stage on the historical Cavenagh Bridge, choreographed movements, enchanting music, creative projections and delightful props will be the highlights of *Origin*.

Part of the stage will also act as an art installation displaying the illustrious histories of the thirty one main rivers in Asia, bringing across the multi-textured cultures of the Asian countries to all visitors. This fun, interactive and educative art piece welcomes visitors of all ages to travel on the River Stage and immerse in this river of time after the performances. It will be a timeless and poetic interpretation on the colourful cultures of Asia.

Date : 28 November 2008, Friday | 29 November 2008, Saturday
Time : 8pm to 8.30pm | 9.30pm to 10pm
Venue : Cavenagh Bridge and Singapore River
Creative Team : Goh Boon Teck – Creative Director (Singapore), Jeffrey Tan – Choreographer (Singapore), Anthony Tan – Production Designer (Singapore), Dorothy Png – Lighting Designer (Singapore), and Winston Choo – Multimedia Artist (Singapore)
Ticket : Free

TEA: ETERNITY IN AN HOUR – CHARITY GALA RECEPTION

Cha, Chai, Teh or Tea – the world's most popular beverage has always played a part in the most important Asian ceremonies. Cultivated first by the Chinese, tea represents extreme cultural refinement, connecting the spiritual world through ritual that can be meditative and soothing – a state of mind where only the act of tea making exists and the greatest respect is paid to all the guests present.

At the opening of *Asia On The Edge* will mark the gathering of Asia's leading and upcoming thought leaders, innovators, and artists through a tea ceremony that represents the uniqueness of this "encounter" - the meeting of such highly-regarded individuals - with elegant cuisine, tranquil ceremony. As a fundraiser for the Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund and The Business Times Budding Artists Fund, the Opening Charity Gala heralds the future of Asia: its resilience and tenacity, growing from strength to strength - the compassion of the present for the children of the future.

Date : 28 November 2008, Friday
Time : 7pm to 10pm
Venue : Town Restaurant, Fullerton Hotel
Featuring : Chef Ayako Suwa (Japan), Chef Gene & Gino Gonzalez (Philippines), Chef Janice Wong (Singapore), Chefs from The Fullerton Hotel, Tea Ceremonies
Charity Ticket : \$300

ASIA ON THE GROOVE – CLOSING PARTY

Expect to see drum fireworks as the best modern drummers and percussionists from Singapore and around the region exchange and fuse into each other's styles at the party. Together with their own

bands, these leading musicians will display an upbeat energy of Asian drums and excellent technical fusion; and featuring a mix of modern drum sounds, East West drum fusion, experimental performances fusing DJ, beat masters, dance and live drums and showcases by traditional Asian drums and percussion groups. An excellent closing for the Festival to celebrate a dynamic and emerging Asia!

Date : 6 December 2008, Saturday
Time : 8pm to 1am
Venue : River Promenade, The Arts House
Ticket : Free

CORE PROGRAMMES

The festival is divided into four engaging core programmes: **Thought Leaders**; **Female Writers**; **Culinary Personalities**; and **Music Prodigies**.

1. **Thought Leaders** – Bringing together leading Asian intellectuals and thinkers to explore the meaning of being a contemporary Asian in the 21st century amidst globalisation, the trend-spotting forum and lectures seek to examine the national, social and cultural traditions of Asia and how its past has shaped the present Asia and will chart the future. Key speakers include:
 - Prasenjit Duara (India) – Director of Research in Humanities and Social Sciences at the National University of Singapore and Emeritus professor of History and East Asian Languages and Civilisations at the University of Chicago
 - Mechai Viravaidya (Thailand) – Social entrepreneur and Founder/ Chairman of the Population and Community Development Association
 - Farish Noor (Malaysia) – Political philosopher who has written widely on politics, history and social issues
 - Tay Kheng Soon (Singapore) – A professional architect since 1964 who is also an active academic, having published a series of notable papers and books

2. **Female Writers** – Featuring leading and emerging contemporary female writers across Asia whose books have captured the hearts and minds of readers regionally and all over the world, the talks and panel discussions will focus on how traditions, social values and cultural practices with regards to women in the Asian context are reflected in their works and examine the present and future roles of women across Asia. Featured authors include:
 - Mian Mian (China) – one of the first to openly address China's underworld of drugs and misfits
 - Zita Law (Hong Kong) – a bestselling author of romance-fiction that intertwines impeccable tales of love with fantasy
 - Hitomi Kanehara (Japan) – award-winning Japanese novelist
 - Ayu Utami (Indonesia) – openly addresses social and cultural conflicts of Indonesia
 - Catherine Lim (Singapore) – leading writer on issues such as Chinese culture, feminism and the clash of East and West
 - Zhang Lu (China/Singapore) – a notable entrepreneur who published collections of essays on various themes

3. **Culinary Personalities** – Through the series of dinners and talks hosted by iconic Asian culinary chefs and personalities who have pushed the boundaries of tradition and led the gastronomic revolution of Asia into new, unexplored dimensions, fascinating insights and experiences on the emergence of a contemporary Asian culinary culture and its impact on the international scene will be divulged. Featured icons include:
 - Jereme Leung (Hong Kong/China)
 - Ayako Suwa (Japan)
 - Noo Muenwang (Thailand)
 - Gene & Gino Gonzalez (Philippines)
 - Ng Vuong Quoc Bao (Vietnam)
 - Chookiat Kantha (Thailand)

- ArtWine(Singapore)
 - Cabbages & Condoms (Thailand)
 - Tea Specialists (Singapore)
4. **Music Prodigies** – Showcasing some of Asia’s most talented young musicians who have received numerous national and international awards, the concerts by these young cultural ambassadors of Asia will celebrate the joy and beauty of music in their personal styles and vernacular. They include:
- Utsav Lal (India)
 - Aileen Gozali (Indonesia/Singapore)
 - Aristo Sham (Hong Kong)
 - Taiga Onitsuka (Japan)

For programme schedule and ticketing information on core programmes, please visit www.asiaontheedge.com

ARTS / FILM

The Fountain Within – 3 Dimensional Art Exhibition

The Fountain Within, features five artists from South East Asia who share their sources of inspiration behind their art practices. This display of outdoor-based sculpture and installation works reveal to the audience a variety of ideals that speaks volumes in parallel with their imposing physical forms.

The exposition adopts an exploratory stance upon the notion of ‘Origins’ and ‘Asian-ness’, poised in a world in constant natural, cultural and economical transformation. One’s basic beliefs and practices are perennially challenged by these global trends and thus this enterprise uncovers different trajectories of issues faced by the artists.

Symptomatic to their environment, each work informs of the concerns that underpins the impetus of these artists to seek equilibrium within themselves and their surroundings. We witness the peaks and troughs of their personal journeys that perhaps reflect the emergence of Asian culture today.

Date : 28 November 2008 – 13 February 2009
Time : Full Day
Venue : Various Outdoor Spaces, Empress Place Precinct
Featuring : Sun Yu-Li (Singapore), Kumari Nahappan, Manop Suwanpinta (Thailand), Ramlan Abdullah (Malaysia and Eko Prawoto (Indonesia)
Ticket : Free

Cinema First – Film Screenings

Cinema First is a selection of some of the best films and documentaries showcased over the past years since the beginning of the Asia Pacific Festival of 1st Films in 2005. Most of the films have travelled and participated in renowned film festivals and henceforth setting the path to great cinematography debuts. Through these films, they will share Asia using their own Asian voices with inspiring scenes to the global audiences.

Date : 28 November – 6 December 2008
Time : Various Timings
Venue : Screening Room, The Arts House
Featuring : James C. Liu (Taiwan), Aureaus Solito (Philippines), Zhuang Yuxin (China), Wang Liren (China), Yu Guangyi (China), Hu Linping (Tibet) and Stephane Gauger (Vietnam)
Ticket : \$9 (Except outdoor screening – free)

Sensuous Food, Emotional Taste – Food Art Exhibition

Serving up sensuality with food combinations, evoking and indulging in the most pleasurable tastes but above all - her experimental mixtures are true visual delights. Ayako Suwa introduces the idea of food as an ultimate material to "deliver the concept to a stomach" and stimulate not only the taste but also the five senses, and to provoke an appetite. Sensuous Food, Emotional Taste is a delicate selection of her photography works, capturing the aesthetics of the creations to the point of savoury. The works were recently showcased at the Design Gallery of the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art in Kanazawa, Japan.

Also in this exhibition, Chef Pang evokes sheer pleasure of food with a mouth-watering chocolate sculpture inspired by an evolving and growing Asia.

Date : 28 November – 6 December 2008
Time : 10am – 8pm
Venue : Gallery, The Arts House
Featuring : Ayako Suwa (Japan) & Pang Kok Keong (Singapore)
Ticket : Free

Iruka: Are You Here? – Dance

One of Asia's leading contemporary dancers from Japan takes you on a journey between opposing elements and thoughts: ying and yang, negative and positive, stillness and movement. Characterised by deliberate movements that are sleek and elegant, yet quick and percussive, developing a choreography that is integrated with raw energy, strength and speed, Yamazaki's works have been distinctive in creating a style-blending contemporary, classical ballet and Asian-influenced dance forms.

Yamazaki's *Iruka* philosophical question asking "Are you here? ", questions contemporary civilization and attempts in challenging our daily notion of our existence – our physical and meta-physical selves. The Choreography will involve Butoh, which is also the origin of Japanese contemporary dance.

Date : 4 & 5 December 2008
Time : 8pm – 9pm
Venue : Play Den, The Arts House
Featuring : Kota Yamazaki (Japan)
Ticket : \$30 (\$25 for students and senior citizens)

IN-CONJUNCTION EVENTS

Asia Without Borders by Asian Geographic

A photo exhibition that showcases a selection of winning and short-listed photographs submitted for the Asia Without Borders Photo Competition in 2008. These photographs capture striking images of Asia's land, people, architecture or wildlife, and categorised into four different themes - The Land, Humanity, Wild Places, Man's Imprint.

Date : 28 November 2008 – 18 January 2009
Time : 10am – 10pm
Venue : Print & Film Galleries, The Arts House
Ticket : Free

Asia Pacific Festival Of 1st Films

An annual film and documentary festival that celebrates excellence for first time producers, directors, writers, cinematographers, actors and documentary makers from the people of Asia-Pacific origin. For more information on the film festival, please visit www.asianfirstfilms.com

Date : 4 – 10 December 2008

Time : Various Timings
Venue : Screening Room, The Arts House
Ticket : Please refer to www.asiaontheedge.com for updates on films, screening dates/times and ticket prices

Neither East Nor West: Asians in Monochrome Exhibition by Asian Civilisations Museum

This exhibition has a selection of over 50 photographs that provides a record of fashion, photographic technology, historical events and famous figures around the early 20th century. It also highlights the diplomatic relations between East and West at that time. This was a time of global expansion when communication and transportation were rapidly improving. More people could travel freely and were opening their eyes and minds to an exchange of dialogue, cultures and ideas. www.acm.org.sg

Date : 23 October 2008 – 1 February 2009
Time : Mon: 1pm – 7pm; Tue to Sun: 9am – 7pm (Fri: up to 9pm)
Venue : Special Exhibitions Gallery, Asian Civilisations Museum
Ticket : Admission Charges Apply

Ticketing Information

The Arts House Box Office

1 Old Parliament Lane Singapore 179429

Mon – Fri 10am – 8pm **Sat** 11am – 8pm **Sun** Closed
(For Sunday events, Box Office opens 1 hour before show time till 30 minutes after show starts)
T 65 6332 6919 **F** 65 6339 9695 **E** tickets@toph.com.sg **W** www.theartshouse.com.sg

Restaurants and Bar Reservations

- Restaurant 1827 | **T** 65 6337 1871
- Viet Lang Restaurant | **T** 65 6337 3379
- IndoChine Waterfront | **T** 65 6339 1720
- Earshot Café | **T** 65 6883 1019
- Timbre @ The Arts House | **T** 65 6336 3386

General Enquiries

T 65 6332 6900 **F** 65 6336 3021 **E** enquiries@toph.com.sg

Important Notice

All tickets (except for films) are subject to a ticketing fee of \$2 each. Please note that once a booking has been confirmed, no amendments, cancellations or refunds are permitted. Concession tickets for students and senior citizens (60 years old & above).

For free events (except film screening at the outdoor lawn), please register your seat with the Box Office at 6332 6919 or tickets@toph.com.sg

All information correct at time of printing. Programmes and schedules subject to change without prior notice. Kindly visit www.asiaontheedge.com for full programmes details and updates.