

## 2006 Arts Awards

Get to know the top artists for the year



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Thank you to the record 279 sponsors who contributed to the arts in 2005

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Association of Asian Performing Arts Festivals unite arts festivals in the region

# CEO Writes

The annual Arts Awards ceremony is always a prestigious and memorable event in our arts calendar. We were honoured to have President S R Nathan grace the ceremony on 20 October 2006 and confer the Cultural Medallion on our top artists, violinist Lynnette Seah and painter Tan Choh Tee. His presence raised the prestige of the award ceremony and made it that much more special for our artists to receive the highest national accolade for artistic excellence. Eight young artists also received the Young Artist Award from Dr Lee Boon Yang, Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts on the same evening. I warmly congratulate our recipients of this year's Cultural Medallion and Young Artist Award.

After 10 weeks of buzz and excitement, the inaugural Singapore Biennale came to a successful close on 12 November. It drew 883,300 visitors, engaging people from all walks of life in Singapore in thought-provoking contemporary art. We received many compliments from both local and foreign visitors, invited guests and the media. The event has created opportunities

for exchange and dialogue with the global art community, raised the profile of Singapore art and our artists, and indeed, positioned Singapore strongly on the world map.

As part of continued efforts to integrate the arts into the lives of people throughout Singapore, we signed an MOU with the People's Association. This will see both organisations jointly develop promising artistic talents in the community, as well as provide more platforms for community engagement in the arts. The District Arts Festival by the North West Community Development Council is the first programme arising from this MOU.

I am particularly heartened that a record 279 individuals and organisations received this year's Patron of the Arts Awards for their contributions to the arts in 2005. We are grateful to the private sector for their generous contributions. I hope they will continue to support to the arts and that even more will come forth with their partnership and contributions.

As we approach the close of another fruitful year for the arts, I wish you an enjoyable holiday season. Here's to another invigorating year with the arts!



Lee Suan Hiang

On cover: 2006 Cultural Medallion recipients violinist Lynnette Seah and painter Tan Choh Tee

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## mission

To nurture the arts and make it an integral part of the lives of the people of singapore

# Viva Biennale at VivoCity!

**13** new artworks by six international artists in an accompanying programme to the Singapore Biennale (SB2006), have found a permanent home at the newly opened VivoCity shopping mall. Commissioned for more than \$1.5 million under the VivoCity Public Art Project, the works were official unveiled by Wong Kan Seng, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs (picture right, centre foreground), on 19 October 2006.

The Project was curated by SB2006 artistic director Fumio Nanjo (picture right, left foreground), who selected the artists as their works complemented the mall's "bold, fluid and iconic architecture." The artists are Choi Jeong-Hwa (Korea), Marc Ruygrok, Henk Visch (both The Netherlands), Hiroshi Yoshimizu (Japan), Michael Cheung (Hong Kong) and the four-strong ensemble *inges idée* (Germany), which consists of artists Hans Hemmert, Axel Lieber, Thomas A. Schmidt, and Georg Zey.

Through the works, Nanjo presented "a great opportunity for Singapore to think about art in public spaces within a framework of the Biennale, and also to create the opportunity for citizens, young and old to enjoy and remember art in life."

The artworks include a 6m spherical bouquet of colourful flowers, a 10m tall rocket, a gigantic skinny snowman, an enormous snowflake, a series of massive rose blooms, an engaging sculpture of a man on horizontal bars, as well as a series of colourful man-like figures in various poses (below). These larger-than-life pieces adorn various outdoor spaces



at VivoCity, such as the courtyard, the roof-top plaza, and its 300m boardwalk.

Vivocity is the only venue to install and permanently display artworks for the Singapore Biennale, which closed on 12 November. Designed by renowned architect Toyo Ito, the mall aims to include art as an integral lifestyle experience component and plans to grow and evolve its public art collection over time to showcase local and international art throughout the year.

NAC CEO Lee Suan Hiang expressed hopes "that more developers will recognise how the arts can add value to their businesses, and to the experiences of the people they serve".



## Six New Members on the Council

NAC welcomes six new members to the Council for a 2-year term which commenced on 1 September 2006. They are homegrown jazz great Jeremy Monteiro, batik artist Sarkasi Said, TheatreWorks artistic director Ong Keng Sen, Singapore Exchange CEO Hsieh Fu Hua, Art-2 Gallery owner Vera Ong, and Ng Cher Pong, divisional director at Ministry of Manpower's workplace policy and strategy division.

They join 12 other leading and prominent figures from the public and private sectors, as well as the arts community, on the Council led by Chairman Edmund Cheng. The 18-member Council guides the work of NAC and advises the management on its direction, formulation and implementation of arts policy and strategy for the development and promotion of the arts in Singapore.

The Council thanks former members theatre practitioner Noor Effendy bin Ibrahim, artist Matthew Ngui, master potter Iskandar Jalil, banker Paul Lawrence, businessman Lawrence Leow and principal private secretary to Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong, Albert Chua for their past contributions and services to the Council.

# Record Acts of Generosity

The 2006 Patron of the Arts Award recognised a record number of 44 individual and 235 corporate sponsors for their contributions towards the promotion and development of the arts in 2005. In total, \$32.7 million worth of in cash and in kind sponsorship was received, an 11% increase in contributions from 2004. 104 individual and corporate sponsors receive the Awards for the first time.

The record number of arts patrons reflect a growing pool of arts sponsors or corporations ready to take up opportunities to partner and support artists and arts organisations.

"Private sponsorship and support is critical to the development of the arts," said Lee Suan Hiang, CEO of NAC. "The growing vibrancy of the arts provides individuals and corporations more opportunities to partner the arts, and even more reasons to sustain and grow their sponsorship of the arts."

At the Awards ceremony on October 3, NAC Chairman Edmund Cheng underlined the importance of arts sponsorship in sustaining the arts and highlighted challenges in both sustaining and raising sponsorship for the arts. "The arts are essential to the quality of our lives and help make a community more attractive to live in," he said. "Ultimately, the arts affirm and celebrate who we are." He called on recipients to continue to help advocate and support the arts.



## Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award

For contributions above \$1,500,000 in a year or in total within the last 5 years.

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## Patron of the Arts Award

For contributions of \$300,000 and above.

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For contributions between \$100,000 and \$299,999.

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## Associate of the Arts Award

For contributions between \$50,000 and \$99,999.

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Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore

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The Swatch Group S.E.A (S) Pte Ltd  
Venture Corporation Limited  
Wing Tai Holdings Ltd  
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## Arts Supporter Award

For contributions between \$10,000 and \$49,999.

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Expat Magazine  
Field Catering & Supplies Pte Ltd  
First Printers Pte Ltd  
Fridae.com  
Goh Bak Heng, Derek (Mr)  
Goldzone Singapore

# Community ArtReach

**N**AC and People's Association (PA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 31 October 2006 to jointly develop community talents, grow arts interest groups and create platforms for community engagement. Under the MOU, NAC will work with PA to benchmark and develop its community arts groups for artistic excellence and nurture arts interest groups through training, workshops, performing opportunities and collaborative platforms between community and school-based arts groups with professional artists or arts groups. NAC will also provide community arts groups support in programming and marketing knowledge, share arts management expertise, and make available the relevant assistance schemes.

The MOU further moots the creation of platforms such as district arts festivals, to encourage greater participation of residents at the district level, enabling them to showcase their talents, while at the same time serve to promote and develop arts interest groups in the community.

Through this MOU, both PA and NAC aim to encourage public participation in the arts while achieving community bonding and social cohesion through the integration of arts into the life of the community. The PA-NAC MOU

will be effective for two years from 31 October 2006.

The MOU was signed by NAC CEO Lee Suan Hiang and PA Chief Executive Director Tan Boon Huat. Some 200 guests from the arts, grassroots and community development organisations witnessed the signing at The Arts House. They were treated to performances by school and community arts groups in collaboration with professional arts groups, such as the Anderson Junior College Choir with a capella group Budak Pantai, Heartbeat Percussion band and The Arts Fission Company.



## North West Arts Festival

26 Nov 2006 – 31 Dec 2006

The first District Arts Festival, presented by North West Community Development Council, is a one-month-long arts and cultural feast of multi-racial arts and cultural programmes.

The Festival will be launched by Khaw Boon Wan, Minister for Health at the open field behind North Point Shopping Centre. *Vasantha Oli*, a multi-cultural music and dance event, is the Festival's opening show and will include performances by renowned Indian artistes such as Pop Shalini and Reshimi.

The core programmes are two Hokkien



Opera Performances and two Community Development Council Roadshows. In addition, a variety of fringe activities will be organised. The Festival will close with a countdown party on New Year's

*Eve Rocking Into '07 With Dreams.*

The Festival aims to enrich the cultural life in the North West Community and also serves as a catalyst to promote community bonding.

## (Arts Supporter Award continued)

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South Eastern Oil (S) Pte Ltd  
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STAR Group Ltd  
State Street Bank and Trust Company  
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Yong Ying-I (Ms)  
Dr Zhou Degen

# Classical Indian Music Stars

The biennial National Indian Music Competition 2006, Singapore's biggest for classical Indian music, put the spotlight on 121 promising young talents in September. After 4 days of competition, adjudicated by a panel of five musical specialists from India, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan,

2nd Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts, presented the prizes to the top winners at the award ceremony on 8 September.

The top three winners of both solo and ensemble categories received trophies and cash prizes ranging from \$300 to \$1,200. Honourable mention prizes of \$100 were also given to deserving finalists. Total cash prizes for this year's competition amounted to \$27,500, a 14-percent increase from the last competition in 2004. All 1st-prize solo category winners and ensemble category finalists also performed at the ceremony.



Earlier in the day, adjudicators Neyvali Venkatesh (mridangam), Rajhesh Vaidhya (veena), Sanjay Subrahmanyam (carnatic vocal), Santhanam Varadarajan (violin) and Shubhada Aniruddha Deshpande (sitar) also conducted masterclasses with selected solo participants.

## SITAR

### Intermediate

3rd Rhea Chatterjea (16)

### Open

3rd Periya d/o Sundaram (17)

## MRIDANGAM

### Intermediate

1st Sanjay Vanen (14)

2nd Ganesh Jayabal (16)

3rd Jayagowtham s/o K Annadurai (15)

### Open

1st Sista Satish Chandra (27)

2nd Sudarshan Narasimhan (17)

## VEENA

### Intermediate

1st Gautham Viswanadam Abhirami (15)

2nd Aiswarya Mahadevan (15)

## VEENA

### Open

1st Ramaswamy Sandhya (17)

## VIOLIN

### Intermediate

1st Radhakrishnan Srikanth (13)

2nd Sriram Sami (12)

3rd Shreya Gopi (16)

## VIOLIN

### Open

3rd Nandita Krishnaswamy (17)

Honourable Mention Murali Bharatram (17)

## TABLA

### Intermediate

1st Tan Guo Jun Radha Govinda Dasa (14)

2nd Jayanth Ganapathy (16)

## VOCAL

### Intermediate

1st Radhakrishnan Srikanth (13)

2nd Rashmi Balasubramanian (15)

3rd Kadayam Suresh Kaushik (14)

### Open

1st P B Madhavan (29)

2nd Sindhu Sundar (23)

3rd Sudarshan Narasimhan (17)

## ENSEMBLE

### Open

1st SIOC (Singapore Indian Orchestra & Choir, People's Association)

2nd SIFAS (Singapore Indian Fine Arts Society)

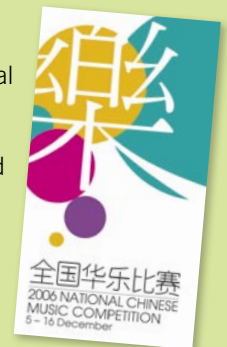
3rd SWATHI (Nriyalaya Aesthetic Society)



## Don't Miss This!

Catch the tension amidst lyrical melodies when the biennial National Chinese Music Competition returns!

Sponsored by the Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan, a record 265 entries were received in 6 solo instrument categories (erhu, guzheng, pipa, suona, yangqin, zhongruan) and the ensemble category. From 5 to 16 December 2006, participants will battle it out to win trophies, certificates, and cash prizes totalling \$64,200. Admission to the preliminary and final rounds of Competition is free.



The Competition is adjudicated by a panel of Chinese music luminaries from Singapore and China. The adjudicators will also be conducting Masterclasses on 15 December for selected participants, which are open to the public to observe. Selected first prize winners will give a preview of their outstanding talent at the Prize Winners' Concert & Prize Presentation Ceremony on 16 December. Tickets for the Masterclasses (\$5 per session) and Prize Winners' Concert & Prize Presentation Ceremony (\$10 per ticket) are available from Sistic at 6348 5555 or [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg). For Competition details, visit [www.nac.gov.sg](http://www.nac.gov.sg).

## Ng Siew Eng Arts Manager Extraordinaire

Few arts managers in Singapore have as long and as impressive a resume as Ng Siew Eng, General Manager of the Singapore Lyric Opera (SLO).

Her illustrious 27-year arts management career began in 1979, with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra (SSO). The orchestra was newly formed then. She rose through the ranks to become its Marketing and Communications Manager in 1985, and also assumed duties as acting General Manager for over a year. During her time, she initiated several programmes, including concerts at the Istana and community clubs, orchestra visits and arts education programmes in schools, and was the founding member and Secretary of the orchestra's Ladies League for fund-raising.

Ng joined the Singapore Dance Theatre (SDT) in May 1993 as Company Manager and was promoted to General Manager soon after. It was here she further established her reputation for daring to experiment and establishing new initiatives wherever she goes. Ng grew its number of dancers from 14 to 25, encourage young choreographic talents to work with the company while



**“My job is get more people to come and enjoy themselves. And we are also looking for new partnerships and sponsorships to see us through our work.”**

Ng Siew Eng, General Manager, Singapore Lyric Opera.

initiating several dance appreciation platforms for the community. She started the popular Ballet Under the Stars outdoor performance series in 1995 to draw people to the ballet. She also encouraged collaborations with leading Asian choreographers, such as Boi Sakti and Sakiko Oshima, and took the group on tour all over the world. Her efforts raised the company's profile into one of the leading arts organisation in Singapore and Asia-Pacific, labelled by the press as an “Asian Jewel”.

Ng joined the SLO in February 2006. She is arguably the only arts manager in Singapore to have handled three different performing art forms. She noted, “The SLO has done much over the years to promote appreciation of music in the operatic form. It has done well.”

Ng is now focussed on making SLO hit greater heights and develop a stronger rapport with young people and local audiences through singing.

In six months, she set up the SLO's Children's Choir with singers Adrian Poon and Khor Aiming, to take part in major opera productions and deliver their own concerts. The Choir makes its debut in December this year. Ng revamped the SLO Chorus with composer-conductor Dr Goh Toh Chai and Poon, and established the SLO Orchestra with musicians drawn from local music institutions or trained abroad for SLO's concerts and operas series, enabling more young musicians to participate in such full-scale music productions.

The tireless lady has served as member for several arts committees, panels and organisations. Ng is currently a member of the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts' Curriculum Development Advisory Committees for Music and Arts Management, and also lectures part-time for the school's Arts Management diploma module. She is also on the NAC's Arts Resource Panel for Dance and a member of the Ensemble Singers Vocal founded by Wilson Goh. Ng was awarded a Fellowship by the British Council for Orchestral Management in the United Kingdom.

## Making Their Mark



■ 32-year-old Art teacher Namiko Chan Takahashi won the top award at the 25th United Overseas Bank (UOB) Painting of the Year competition.

She beat a record 1,380 total entries from 954 artists to take home \$20,000.

First-prize winners in the abstract, representational and photography categories were Om Mee Ai, Hong Sek Chern, and Quek Jing Cheng. The UOB Most Promising Young Artist Award went to Christopher Tay Kong Soon in the Youth Section (6 to 12 years old), and Ashley Tan in the Junior Section (13 to 18 years old).

■ 26-year-old trumpet player, Mohamed Najib Wong, is the first distinction winner of the Goh Chok Tong Youth Promise Award. The Award was inaugurated last year to enable promising Muslim youths aged 18 to 35 to pursue their education in creative, artistic and sporting fields at home and abroad. Wong is currently studying at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, USA. He is a founding member of the Philharmonic Brass Quintet, and a co-founder of the Philharmonic Winds.



■ NAC's corporate website ([www.nac.gov.sg](http://www.nac.gov.sg)) received the Hitwise award for being the second most-visited website in the Entertainment – Performing Arts industry category for the period April to June 2006. Headquartered in New York, Hitwise was founded in 1997 with a presence in Singapore since 2001. It is a leading online competitive intelligence service which tracks the number of Singapore-based users visiting Singapore websites across each industry they monitor.

■ Conductor Darrell Ang topped the prestigious Antonio Pedrotti International Competition for Conductors in Trento, Italy, with the second prize. The talented 28 year old is Conductor Laureate of the St Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic as well as Guest Conductor of the St Petersburg Opera. He is also currently a Graduate Fellow at Yale University.

# Top Accolades for Artists

## 2006 Arts Awards

Lynnette Seah, pioneering member and co-leader of Singapore Symphony Orchestra, and Tan Choh Tee, respected second-generation painter, received Singapore's highest arts accolade, the Cultural Medallion, from President SR Nathan at the Istana on 20 October 2006.

The Medallion recognises artists who have achieved artistic excellence in their fields. This is the first time the President handed out the honour, further raising the prestige of the award. The Medallion was previously conferred by the Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts.

To date, a total of 88 artists have received the Medallion. All recipients can apply for the Cultural Medallion Grant to undertake an arts project and continue to create new and original works. From financial year 2007 onwards, the Cultural Medallion Grant will award up to \$80,000 per recipient, an increase of \$30,000 from the current quantum. This allows greater flexibility in arts creations, while taking note of prevailing costs in mounting new work.

At the same ceremony, eight young artists were conferred the Young Artist Award by Dr Lee Boon Yang, Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts. They are: Kelvin Tong for achievements in film; Lim Yan and Toh Ban Sheng



for music; Beatrice Chia-Richmond, Chong Tze Chien and Yo Shao Ann for theatre; and Francis Ng Teck Yong and Yeo Chee Kiong for visual arts.

The Award was first introduced in 1992 to recognise artists, aged 35 years old and below, who have shown promise of artistic excellence. To date, 86 artists have received the Award.

There were 31 nominees for the Cultural Medallion and 40 nominees for the Young Artist Award. All nominations were evaluated by six specialist panels for film, literature, dance, music, theatre and visual arts.

## 2006 Cultural Medallion Recipients



### Seh Mei Tsing, Lynnette, 48 Music

Seh is one of two remaining pioneer musicians who have witnessed and grown with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra (SSO)

since its inception in 1979. The Co-Leader of the SSO has won international acclaim as an outstanding violinist. She has performed as a soloist with numerous famous orchestras overseas. In 1995, Lynnette was invited to perform at the Bergen International Music Festival (Norway). She represented Singapore in the World Philharmonic Orchestra twice, in 1996 as Assistant Leader and again this year. The orchestra comprises accomplished musicians from top orchestras all over the world.

For all her successes, Seh remained in Singapore to be part of the development of the local music scene. In 1997, the Composers and Authors Society of Singapore conferred on Seh the Excellence Award in recognition of her contribution to Singapore's classical music scene.

Seh is the first Singapore violinist to have a concerto specially written for her. Composed by Singaporean physicist-composer Professor Bernard Tan, she performed its world premiere this year at the Esplanade Concert Hall with the SSO.

An active recitalist and chamber music promoter, Seh founded the Jade Quartet and led the group in numerous successful performances in Asia.

Seh is a member of the Ministry of Education's Arts Education Committee, which oversees various arts institutions such as the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory and LASALLE-SIA College of the Arts. She also served on the NAC's 2005 National Piano and Violin Competition advisory committee.



### Tan Choh Tee, 64 Visual Arts

For over 30 years, Tan has made a name for himself as one of Singapore's foremost artists capturing fleeting images of nostalgic beauty.

A second-generation artist, Tan first studied art in China before migrating to Singapore in the 50s. Here, he studied at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and was tutored by pioneer artists such as Cheong Soo Pieng, Georgette Chen, Liu Kang and Chen Wen-Hsi. Tan was also a graduate of the Beijing Central Academy of Fine Arts.

Tan specialises in oil painting, preferring to paint on the spot, tempered by his own responses and sensitivity to the subject. He cultivates his path passionately. His works are widely collected worldwide and regularly accepted by auction houses such as Christie's and Sotheby's, for his artistic acumen.

Tan has held nine solo exhibitions and participated in more than 50 group exhibitions world wide. He also embarked on study tours all over Europe, USA and China including the Dun-Huang caves. Last year, he joined the Tsunami 2005 Charity Fund Painting Expedition in Phuket. Among his numerous awards is the Creative Visual Art Award 2005 from his alma mater, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and the 2006 Asian Art Prize at the Asian Art Exhibition in Seoul by the Korean National Cultural Research Organisation.



## 2006 Young Artist Award Recipients



**Kelvin Tong, 33**  
Film

Arthouse or mainstream cinema, Tong balances artistic sensibility with market demands.

His film career started in 1995 when his short film, *Moveable Feast* garnered a Special Mention at

France's 1996 Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival. It is the only made-in-Singapore film to be showcased at the prestigious Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Tong's first feature film, *Eating Air* (1999) received The Young Cinema Award at the 2000 Singapore International Film Festival, the FIPRESCI prize at the 2000 Stockholm International Film Festival and competed in the 2000 Golden Horse Awards. It was screened at Hollywood American Cinematheque screening in Los Angeles in 2001 to much acclaim.

Tong's second feature, *The Maid* (2005) is the highest-grossing locally-made horror movie to date and was acquired by Fortissimo Films for worldwide distribution. He is currently working on its sequel with Singapore's Raintree Pictures. His latest release *Love Story*, financed by Hong Kong's Focus Films, won the Best Director Award at the 2006 Singapore International Film Festival and was the closing film for the 2006 Locarno International Film Festival.



**Toh Ban Sheng, 36**  
Music

A self-taught musician with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Education, Toh also holds two Master of Music degrees, in Choral Conducting and Voice, from the University of South Carolina.

Toh earned his first music qualification at the age of 26, following music lessons with Cultural Medallion recipient Choo Hwee Lim. An active soloist in singing during his post-graduate studies, he was awarded 2nd place in the Southern Region Audition by the National Association of Teachers of Singing in USA.

The former Music Specialist at the Co-Curricular Activities Branch of the Ministry of Education has led his choirs to 14 gold national awards, including Best Choir of the Year title. He conducted the 800-strong National Day Parade Combined Choir in 1999 and the Singapore Youth Festival Combined Choir in 1998.

Toh brought fame to Singapore at prestigious choir competitions in the Czech Republic, Finland and Germany with eight gold and three silver medals. He has conducted in England, France, Hungary, Italy and Austria, and was awarded the Conductor's Prize and Repertoire

Prize in 2003 at the 4th International Competition Festival of Advent and Christmas Music in Prague.



**Lim Yan, 26**  
Music

Lim won the 1st prize in the Piano Open Category at the National Piano and Violin Competition in 1997. He went on to complete his undergraduate and postgraduate studies in piano performance in 2003 at the Royal

Northern College of Music in Manchester, UK.

Since then, Lim performs annually with the SSO as a soloist, including under the baton of SSO Principal Guest Conductor, Okko Kamu and playing the highly-demanding piano solo part in Beethoven's Choral Fantasia to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Singapore Symphony Chorus in 2005.

Lim was the first young Singaporean pianist to inaugurate the annual Young Virtuoso Recital series of the Singapore International Piano Festival in July 2005. His demanding repertoire of Bach-Rachmaninov, Schubert, Poulenc, Barber and Ravel, showcased his uncanny comprehension and versatility in handling different styles and unveiled an artist of distinction for the international concert circuit.



**Beatrice Chia-Richmond, 32**  
Theatre

The Artistic Director of Toy Factory Theatre Ensemble, Chia-Richmond's work is a cutting-edge combination of strong text, bold designs and incisive direction.

With an Honours degree in Performing Arts from UK's Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Chia-Richmond performed in theatre productions and worked on films for BBC Wales and other independent projects in the UK before returning to Singapore in 1998. Her acting credits include Toy Factory Theatre Ensemble's *Titoudao* (2000) and Luna-Id's *Popcorn* (2003). She was named Best Actress at the 2005 Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards for her role in Escape Theatre's *Dead Curtain*.

Chia-Richmond's directorial debut *Shopping and F\*\*\*ing* won two awards at the 2001 DBS Life! Theatre Awards, including Best Director. Her production of *Bent* grabbed Play of the Year and Best Actor at the 2003 Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards.

In 2003, Chia-Richmond was Assistant Director in *Prism*, a multi-national, cross-cultural collaboration between six countries. She received a grant by the Media Development Authority and the Association of Singapore Actors to pursue a certificate in film-making at New York University's Tisch School for the Arts in 2005. Her most recent work is the acclaimed big-budget musical production, *Cabaret*.



### Chong Tze Chien, 30 Theatre

A National University of Singapore graduate who majored in Theatre Studies and English Language, Chong came into public notice in 1998. His play, Pan Island Expressway (PIE), took the first prize in the Singapore Dramatist Award and was subsequently staged by TheatreWorks to critical and commercial success.

Chong was company playwright with The Necessary Stage for four years. In 2004, he joined The Finger Players as Company Director. He played a vital role expanding the group into a full-fledged adult theatre company. Critically acclaimed works such as Furthest North, Deepest South won Best Production of the Year in the 5th Life! Theatre Awards while Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea took home the award for Best Director at the 6th Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards.

Chong co-wrote 100 Years in Waiting with Haresh Sharma and the late Kuo Pao Kun for the Singapore Arts Festival 2001. His plays have been read and dramatised abroad. These include Royal Court's (UK) Exposure: Young Writers Dramatised Readings in 2000, and Singapore Playhouse London's adaptation of PIE and SPOILT in 2006. Furthest North, Deepest South recently made its international premiere at the 14th Sziget Festival in Budapest, Hungary.

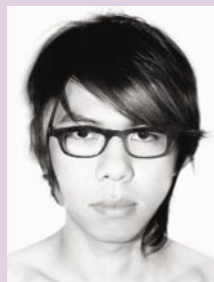


### Yo Shao Ann, 35 Technical Theatre

The Resident Lighting Designer of Singapore Repertory Theatre, Yo holds a Master of Fine Arts in Theatre from the University of California, San Diego.

Creating lighting designs for the stage since 1993, Yo is regarded as a pioneer of technical theatre and one of the best in Singapore. He has worked with major theatre companies in Singapore and with companies such as Asian American Repertory Theatre, Diversionary Theatre and La Jolla Playhouse in the United States. He also collaborated with dance companies including Ah Hock and Peng Yu, Ecnad Project, Singapore Dance Theatre, The Arts Fission Company, and Patricia Rincon Collective (USA).

A 2001 recipient of the Asian Cultural Council Fellowship (USA), Yo also received an Honorable Mention for Moving Gods, by The Theatre Practice in 2004, at the 4th Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards. He is a founding member and secretary of the Technical Theatre Association of Singapore and lectures in LASALLE-SIA College of the Arts' Technical Theatre Arts programme.



### Ng Teck Yong, Francis, 30 Visual Arts

Multi-disciplinary in approach, Ng's art covers a wide spectrum from photography to installation to sculpture and invite viewers to respond to issues on spaces and identity. A lecturer at the Nanyang

Academy of Fine Arts, Ng's unforgettable photographic images capture the essence of change and the relationship between the individual and his surroundings. He won the Grand Prize in the 2002 Philip Morris Group of Companies ASEAN Art Awards for Constructing Construction #1. He also clinched the first prize for Intimate Spaces #1, in the 23rd UOB Painting of the Year Competition (Photography) in 2004.

Ng presented a massive and physically haunting installation piece titled Delocating Margins in 2001. He has exhibited at the President's Young Talent Exhibition and Venice Biennale in 2003 and in the Gwangju Biennale in 2004. In 2004, he took his works out of the gallery with the immensely popular sculpture I WAS HERE that has been making its rounds in Singapore.



### Yeo Chee Kiong, 36 Visual Arts

President of Sculpture Society (Singapore), Yeo holds a Diploma in Fine Arts (Sculpture) from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and a Master of Fine Art degree from the Glasgow School of Art with a Dr. Mary Doughty

Smith Scholarship and National Arts Council Overseas Studies Bursary.

Yeo's unique work titled The Wind, Her Rain, and A Cloud Meets With A Tree In The Monsoon Season won the grand prize in the City Development Limited (CDL) Singapore Sculpture Award in 2005. Skilled in traditional methods of rendering three-dimensional forms, his body of work also includes installation works and video presentations. His solo exhibition, titled Sculpture by Yeo Chee Kiong, held at The Substation, received much praise for its lively images and unconventional elements.

A part-time lecturer at NAFA, Yeo represented Singapore at the prestigious International Competition for Young Sculptors in Milan, Italy this year. His work was among the 25 short-listed from a total of 574 international entries.

## Nominate Your Cultural heroes!

Recognise deserving artists and increase our pool of cultural heroes by nominating them for the 2007 Arts Awards. Nominations can be made in four categories: literary arts, performing arts, visual arts and film. Nominees must be Singaporean or permanent residents of Singapore. Visit [www.nac.gov.sg](http://www.nac.gov.sg) for details and to make your nomination. Closing date: 12 January 2007.

## Going the Extra Mile for the Arts ExxonMobil Asia Pacific Pte Ltd

A leading name in the world of petrochemicals, ExxonMobil Asia Pacific Pte Ltd (ExxonMobil) believes very strongly in giving back and contributing to the community in which it operates in. In Singapore, ExxonMobil fulfils its belief through its generous patronage of the local arts scene.

Through its unwavering support for the Concert in the Park series, the series celebrated its 10th anniversary at the Botanic Gardens in July. ExxonMobil helped paved the way for the arts to be brought to the masses at various national and neighbourhood parks.

The company also understands the importance of nurturing arts appreciation from an early age. It has been an active sponsor of the Singapore Repertory Theatre (SRT) since its inception in 1993, in particular SRT's The Little Company and The Young Company. The latter drama

groups cultivate young talents and an interest in the arts among youths. ExxonMobil extends a 20% discount on ticket purchases to its employees to encourage them to attend Little Company performances.

Chairman and Managing Director of ExxonMobil, Mr Kwa Chong Seng says, "Why the Arts? People are our most precious resource and we need to work together to develop a cohesive civil society. Through the arts, we learn to appreciate the full range and capacity of the human spirit that can be harnessed to build a more gracious society. Sponsorship of the arts, especially for the young, contributes to a well-rounded education for our young. We are therefore proud to be associated with the arts in Singapore."

In addition, ExxonMobil has sponsored campus concerts at the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University (NTU)



and National Institute of Education (NIE) since 1986, 1988 and 1995 respectively. These well-established programmes have encouraged the development of art and cultural appreciation on the campuses. The NTU and NIE campus concerts were combined in 2002 into the ExxonMobil-NTU Exploration in the Arts Series.

Three public sculptures from the People of the River series found along the Singapore River on the steps leading to the Asian Civilisations Museum are lasting examples of ExxonMobil's commitment to the arts.

## International Appearances

■ T.H.E Dance Theatre performed at the 8th Asian Arts Festival in Beijing, China from 28 August to 3 September.

■ Wild Rice Ltd performed *Second Link: The Singapore Malaysia Text Exchange* in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 28 August to 3 September.

■ Wong Wai Yen Audrey, Artistic Co-Director of The Substation, participated in *Intra Asia Network 2006 Symposium & Workshop: New Ways of Engaging Asia – Artists Mobility and Artist-in-Residencies* at Ssamzie Art Space, Seoul, Korea from 8 to 12 September.



■ The Theatre Practice performed *Play Play* at Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre, Shenzhen University, Centro Cultural de Macau, Cattle Depot Artist Village, Hong Kong from 10 to 25 September.

■ I Theatre was invited by Indigo Kids to present *Rainbow Fish Goes To India!* in a four-city tour of India from 19 September

to 1 October. The production performed to some 15,000 audiences, selling out all its shows, including additional performances, in Bangalore, Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai.

■ Jason Lim was invited to participate in the 14th Performance Art Conference at Ho Chi Minh Fine Art Museum & Dalat from 30 September to 9 October.

■ Ng Hwee Chin and Sherman Ong were invited to participate in Noorderlicht Photo Festival 2006, Holland from 30 September to 9 October.

■ Ceramicist Wee Hong Ling was invited to participate in the 2006-2007 Freeman Foundation Asian Artist Fellowship at The Vermont Studio, USA from 14th October to 11th November 2006.

■ Cultural Medallion 2005 recipient and performance artist Lee Wen participated in the the 1st Bienal Internacional de Performance DEFORMES 2006 in Chile from 24 October to 4 November 2006.

■ Dancers Nirmala Seshadri and Priyalatha Arun, flautist Xu Kai Xiang Rit and a cappella group Juz B, were selected to participate in the 2nd China-ASEAN Dance Forum in Nanning, China and Southeast Asia Night in end October.

■ Heman Chong conducts a workshop and exhibits his works at Philip in Project Arts Centre, Dublin, Ireland from 2nd November 2006 to 14 January 2007.

■ Musician Kenneth Shaun Hogan performed at the World Performing and Visual Arts Festival at Lahore, Pakistan from 7 – 12 November.

■ Then Chih Wey exhibits at the CHOB1 MELA IV International Festival of Photography in Dhaka from 9 - 30 November.

■ Choral ensemble, The Singers, perform at the 16th International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music in the Czech Republic and in Slovakia from 28 November to 12 December. Pianist Shane Thio, collaborates with the group for the two festivals and provides choral accompaniment.

■ Charles Lim presents new media works involving technology in alpha 4, an international group exhibition organized by MAAP in Brisbane from 30 November to 25 January.

■ Visual artist Tan Wyn-Lyn participates in the Red Gate Gallery Residency Program at the Bei Gao Studio, Beijing from 1 - 31 December.

■ Nine Singaporean artists perform in *Birds Migration: Indonesia International Performance Art Event* from 7 Dec – 9 Dec '06 at Jakarta's National Gallery. They are: Julianan Mohd Yasin, Angie Seah, Jeremy Hiah, Kai Lam Hoi Lit, Lee Wen, Lina Adam, Rezman Putra, Sophia Natasha Wei and Tang Da Wu.

■ Local graphic novelist, Foo Swee Chin a.k.a. FSC, participates in the Comic Market 71 in Tokyo on 29 December.

# Asian Arts Festivals Unite

## Association of Asian Performing Arts Festivals

The bamboo is a quintessential Asian symbol that reflects the values of strength, grace, beauty and uniqueness.

Fittingly, it is the inspiration for the logo of the Association of Asian Performing Arts Festivals (AAPAF). It was inaugurated in Singapore in June 2004 to nurture the growth of arts festivals in Asia by fostering collaborations and sharing of best practices among arts festivals in the region and beyond.

The Executive Council of AAPAF is chaired by Ms Goh Ching Lee, director



of the Singapore Arts Festival. Other founding members are the China Shanghai International Arts Festival, the Jakarta International Arts Festival, the Singapore Arts Festival, and the Hong Kong Arts Festival. In two years, the association has grown its network to include arts organisations and festivals based in Mexico, Russia, the United States, New Zealand and Palestine.

Members of AAPAF explore co-sharing and co-commissioning new works, or launching joint marketing efforts to develop and promote new artists and productions. The Singapore Arts Festival and Seoul International Dance Festival co-produced 12 SMS Across the Mountains (left) by Arts Fission Company (Singapore) and Dance Theatre CcadoO (South Korea) in 2004. A co-commissioning by Singapore Arts Festival, Hong Kong Arts Festival and the National Theatre Company of China (NTCC) resulted in sell-out shows of



Amber by NTCC in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Beijing in 2005.

The Association also facilitates the sharing of operational experience and knowledge between members. As a large representative body, it engages other similar networks, and can better tap sharing and arts funding beyond Asia. For example, AAPAF jointly organised the Critically Speaking, the Asia-Europe Contemporary Performing Arts Colloquium in June 2005 with Informal European Theatre Meeting and SEAMEO Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts. The Colloquium, which comprised nine sessions in all, promoted dialogue and networking among 142 artists, curators, programmers and cultural officials representing 100 organisations in 33 countries. For more on AAPAF, visit [www.aapaf.org](http://www.aapaf.org).

## Free ArtReach Events



### NAC-ExxonMobil Concert In The Park presents Just Kidding!

Sun 26 Nov 2006, Pasir Ris Park (near carpark E & F), 4.30 to 6.30pm (concert starts at 5pm)

Catch talented kids in action! Be captivated by acclaimed puppetry group, The Finger Players, who will bring life to their puppets and inspire your imagination. Look out also for the roving balloon sculptor, clowns and juggler, and get hands-on at our arts and crafts corner!

Sponsored by ExxonMobil, and supported by National Parks Board. More information available from Andrew Wong at 6227 7087.

### NAC-Shell Community Art Series

Sat 16 Dec 06, Open space next to Hougang MRT station (TBC), 4.30 - 6.30pm

Imagine traditional Chinese and western music coming together and dance that incorporates both Chinese and Indian elements. Experience a fusion of arts that will bear witness that there is no barrier between art forms and instruments of different cultural heritage.

Sponsored by Shell Companies in Singapore. More information available from John Tan at 6545 0111

### The Stage is Yours @ South East

Sat 2 Dec 06, Bedok Central, 5.00 - 6.30pm

Co-organised with South East Community Development Council. More information available from John Tan at 6545 0111

### The Stage is Yours @ Central Singapore

Sat 9 Dec 06, Ang Mo Kio Central, 7.30 - 9.00pm

Co-organised with Central Singapore Community Development Council. More information available from Andrew Wong at 6227 7087.

Concerts featuring the best in home-grown talents from the South East and Central Singapore districts! Catch them in a range of items from song, dance to instrumental performances.



For the ArtReach calendar, visit [www.nac.gov.sg/art/art02a.asp](http://www.nac.gov.sg/art/art02a.asp)

### OCBC Arts Card



Apply for the OCBC Arts Card and enjoy exclusive privileges from performing arts organisations such as the SSO, SLO, The Necessary Stage etc.

To apply, simply visit [www.ocbc.com](http://www.ocbc.com) or call our hotline on 1800 363 3333.

### Get Listed!

Get free listings of your arts events in the fortnightly guide to arts events, Arts Xplosion.

Simply email [artsexplosion@newstoday.com.sg](mailto:artsexplosion@newstoday.com.sg) or fax 6534 4217 (Attn: Arts Xplosion) the following details at least five weeks ahead of the event: Name of event, time, venue, price, ticketing details and phone number. You can also email high-resolution digital photos or send non-returnable photographs to: **Arts Xplosion, 24 Raffles Place, #28-01, Clifford Centre, S(048621)**. Publication is subject to space availability.

