



**I'M A**  
**CULTURE**  
**SHAPER**



# Singapore

As a UNESCO Creative City of Design, Singapore presents many possibilities for culture shapers. It is a multi-faceted design city where culture shapers can indulge their passions with a robust offering of creative works and a burgeoning local arts scene led by homegrown, internationally-recognised talents. Whether you're checking out the local and international artwork at galleries and museums or

walking the heritage trails, this diversity of arts and culture is evident all over the island. If you're passionate about the arts, craft and culture, here's where the culture shapers maestros, craftsmen, performers and artisans meet.

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## Singapore's Celebration of **ART & CULTURE**



### **SINGAPORE Art Week**

From exhibitions, walking tours, talks and art fairs happening in various points in the city, the Singapore Art Week is an annual celebration of visual arts taking place in the month of January. This festival is jointly organised by National Arts Council, Singapore Tourism Board, and the Singapore Economic Development Board with an aim

to promote art appreciation to both local residents and international visitors.

You can look forward to discovering innovative art and lifestyle concepts through the various art events and exhibitions held in the galleries and museums. The emphasis over the years has been to focus on and growing Southeast Asian art.

### **SINGAPORE Night Festival**

As night falls, there's another side of Singapore waiting to excite audiences. The Singapore Night Festival celebrates arts and Singapore's rich cultural heritage.

You'll get to see the Bras Basah. Bugis precinct transformed into works of wonder as night falls. Many of the events are held at locations around the precinct such as

the National Museum of Singapore, the Peranakan Museum, Singapore Philatelic Museum, Singapore Art Museum, Timbre @ The Substation and more. If you're into pop up events, be sure to check out the DUO After Dark. Happening in August, you'll enjoy free outdoor movie screenings, a club-themed workout, art workshops and live music.



### **SINGAPORE International Festival of Arts**

Started in 1977 as the national arts festival, The Singapore International Festival of Arts aims to embrace local arts through the country's diverse communities. It was also the biggest event in town showcasing arts from outside of Singapore to the local stage.

From theatres, dance and music performances, you'll get to be inspired by quality works of local and international artists.



# Shaping the City with Passion

## PERSONALITIES

The emergence of young and talented Singaporean artists has helped shaped the culture of the city with their passion and unique personalities. Meet some of the artists hailing from the city of vibrant art scene and engaging community.



### SKLO

Sam Lo (aka SKLO/ your friendly neighbourhood Sticker Lady) is a Singapore-based visual artist whose work revolves around social commentaries fuelled by daily observations of her surroundings and research into the socio-political climate. Her intrigue with the concept of culture and bold execution in some of her earliest forays into street art dubbed her the "Sticker Lady", a nickname lovingly given by the city in reference to the saga that was birthed from her work in the streets. Since then, the artist's work - whether installations, large scale murals or digital designs - has been centered on understanding the world around us and how our actions are interdependent on each other. Aside from visual art, Sam Lo is also founder of artist management and creative consultancy Project XIV as well as the online publication platform for Singaporean talent, RCGNTN.SG. Most recently, Sam co-curated the art installation experience at Keepers Playground of Infinite Happiness at the National Design Centre which drew just under 50,000 visitors over just 2 weekends. She was also responsible for the wildly popular Block Party and Playcourt installations there which brought together the work of 34 home-grown artists.



### TAN WEI TIAN

At the age of three, Tan Wei Tian started training in Teochew Opera. Her interest and passion grew when her grandparents took her to watch live opera performances where she was very much amazed by the colorful costumes and hair-dos. She is now a member of the Nam Hwa Opera Limited, a non-profit organisation and has been selected by Singapore Tourism Board as one of the Passion Ambassadors for the Singapore Passion Made Possible Brand. She has played the roles of young servant Taohua in Peach Blossom Takes the Ferry and doomed lover Zhu Yingtai from The Butterfly Lovers. "I love its expressiveness, colourful costumes, beautiful stories and how it is an important part of Chinese culture," Wei Tian shares. Despite being one of the youngest opera artists in Singapore, the 15-year old has done about 50 performances over the last 10 years of her opera career.



### JAHAN LOH

Singaporean contemporary artist, Jahan Loh is the first artist to bring street art to galleries in both Singapore and China. His interest and love for contrast is evident in one of his recent works - the 'Cherry Poke: Reconstituted Philosophy' exhibition. Growing up in Singapore, he believes that the exposure to different cultures has in a way helped develop the duality of East-meets-West in the society. In fact, Singapore's contrasting cultural landscape has been one of the influences on his passion for art.

### GLEN GOEI

Glen Goei has been in the scene for over 22 years. His first ever film, Forever Fever (1998) was "born out of a situation of sheer desperation," Glen shares. It was also the first Singapore film to be presented at Sundance Film Festival and achieved a worldwide commercial release. With a degree in Masters of Art in History from Cambridge University. He then studied Filmmaking at New York University. Glen views the nations films as visual documents of Singapore's culture, traditions, languages and history. His passion towards art and storytelling has driven him to produce other films like The Blue Mansion and has then received the National Youth Award for his contribution to the Arts from Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong.

# CULTURE & HERITAGE

## Discoveries

Singapore's rich cultural diversity has helped to shape the country's distinctive heritage. From the oldest Hindu temple to the oldest Christian church, the city has developed into a multi-faceted ecosystem that celebrates the rich heritage behind the façade of the modern city.

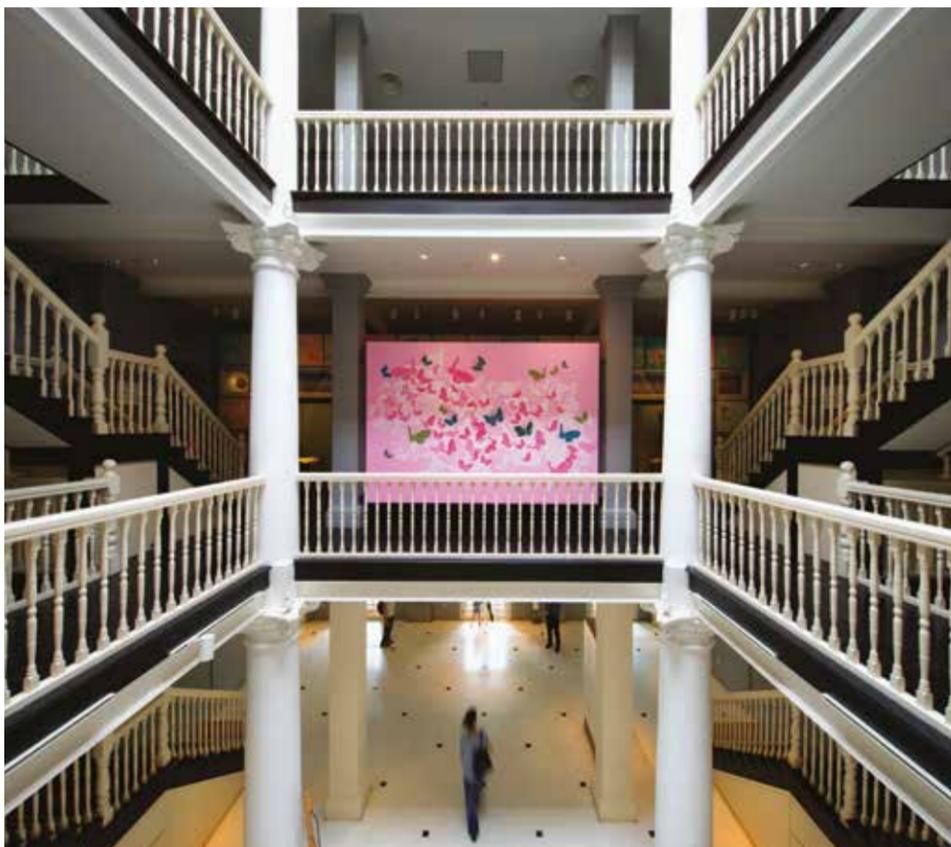


### Chinese

The Chinese in Singapore make up almost three-quarters of the country's population, making them the largest ethnic group. Many of the Chinese were immigrants from China's Southern provinces where they came here to escape for a better future.

Built in 1839 as a dedication to Mazu, the Goddess of the Sea, **Thian Hock Keng** is the oldest Chinese temple in Singapore. The temple, known to many for its remarkable architectural elements, is located in the heart of the city. An interesting fact about the temple: the entire structure was assembled without nails! This architectural masterpiece is built with stone, tiles and wood that form intricate sculptures and columns. Look out for the back wall of the temple, as you will find a 40-metre long mural by Yip Yew Chong, depicting the life of Singapore's early Hokkien immigrants. [📍 158 Telok Ayer Street](#)

Another place where you can fully experience the rich Chinese culture and heritage is at the **Chinatown Heritage Centre** located in beautifully restored shop houses in the heart of Chinatown. The Chinatown Heritage Centre has recreated the original interiors of its shop house tenants in the 1950s allowing visitors to catch a glimpse into the lives of the people who resided in Chinatown. You can also opt to complete your Chinatown exploration by taking on the award winning tour- The Original Singapore Walks. There's no better way to experience the Chinese culture than visiting wet markets, exploring back alleys and sampling local delights. [📍 48 Pagoda Street](#)



### Peranakan

A fascinating blend of cultures from the region, the Peranakans refer to the descendants from marriages between Chinese or Indian men and local Malay or Indonesian women.

A mere 10 minute walk from Bras Basah MRT Station; **Peranakan Museum** is the place for you to get an insight into the Peranakan vibrant community and history. It houses some of the world's finest collection of Peranakan artefacts- such



as jewellery, furniture and textiles. Now a National Monument, the Peranakan Museum is housed in a former school built in 1912. You can see exhibits of Peranakan wedding and stories of Peranakans in Singapore's history. [📍 39 Armenian St](#)





## Indian

The Indian community in Singapore makes up one of the largest overseas Indian populations. Many of whom came from Southern India after the British settled in Singapore back in 1819.

The best way to explore the ancient Indian culture is to visit the oldest Hindu temple in Singapore - **Sri Mariamman Temple**. Standing as a proud presentation of Hindu culture in Singapore, it is in the architectural style of Dravidian temples. At the entrance of the temple, you'll be amazed by the sight of gopuram (monumental tower) decorated by six tiers with colourful sculptures. Besides being a place

of worship, the temple served as an important place for community activities during the colonial era. **Here's a tip: visit the temple in the evening to see their daily Hindu rituals.**

📍 244 South Bridge Rd

Nestled away in the heart of Little India, the **Indian Heritage Centre** traces the history of the Indians in Singapore. Blending both traditional Indian as well as modern architectural elements, the four-storey building is an iconic landmark. The Centre that was designed based on the inspiration of baoli (Indian stepwell) houses five permanent galleries, a museum shop and activity spaces.

📍 5 Campbell Ln



## Malay

The Malays make up the second largest ethnic group in the country. Acting as the focal point for Singapore's Muslim community, the **Sultan Mosque** is the country's biggest mosque. Located in the Kampong Glam district, it was built in 1824 for the first Sultan of Singapore. You can easily spot its massive golden dome as you walk along Arab Street. There is no entrance fee but make sure you're dressed appropriately. While you're there, do look closely at the onion domes as each dome base is decorated with glass bottle ends donated by less fortunate Muslims during its construction. If you're up for some free

and educational agenda in your day, the Sultan Mosque is the place to visit.

📍 3 Muscat St

If you're keen on learning about the rich heritage and culture of Singapore's Malay community, a visit to the **Malay Heritage Centre** is a must. The beautifully restored Centre, sits within the grounds of Istana Kampong Glam, which was once the royal seat of the Malay sultans. You can soak in the Malay heritage and culture by visiting the Centre's museum where you'll find historical artefacts, interactive multimedia and colorful exhibits from Singapore's national collection. 📍 85 Sultan Gate

# CULTURE FIX FOR FREE

There are various activities in the city that offer you the full Singapore experience, FOR FREE!

## BIZARRE BELIEFS: Haw Par Villa

Set up in the 1930s by the Haw Par brothers as a place to teach the public about the morality values of the Chinese mythology, Haw Par Villa is the place to be for history buffs. The famous vivid depictions of the Ten Courts of Hell from Chinese folklore are worth the visit alone. Admission is free and you can explore the park on your own. However, if you're interested to delve deeper into the stories of the Haw Par Villa, the park provides the 'Finding Your Tao in Haw Par Villa: The Tiger Balm Garden Story' tour where you can learn more about the history of the park along with fascinating stories of Chinese folklore and philosophy.

📍 262 Pasir Panjang Road



## ORCHESTRATED SYMPHONIES: SSO Concerts @ Singapore Botanic Gardens

The Singapore Symphony Orchestra performs every year at The Straits Times concert held at Singapore Botanic Gardens. Founded in 1979, the Singapore Symphony Orchestra is known to be Singapore's flagship orchestra,

inspiring audiences with the gift of music. The orchestra is well loved for its outdoor and community appearances along with its significant role in educating the young to appreciate music. So the next time you're in town, check out The Straits Times concert and enjoy some orchestrated symphonies for free.

📍 1 Cluny Rd

## CONTEMPORARY CREATURES: Parkview Museum

Established by the Parkview Group, the Parkview Museum is a private museum that hosts exhibitions with an emphasis on contemporary art. Opened in 2017, the museum aims to encourage the integration and appreciation of art. It also provides a local and international platform to enrich the local arts scene and at the same time enhance the education on contemporary art. Check out the museum if you're in town and you might discover the inner contemporary artist in you!

📍 600 North Bridge Road

## CINEPHILES: The Cathay Gallery

Calling all movie buffs - here's one for you. Located at the second floor of The Cathay Cineplex, The Cathay Gallery is a time capsule of movie memorabilia. From antique cinema chairs and cameras to film projectors, this place has got all of the vintage vibes. While you're there, check out the gallery's permanent exhibition of vintage film posters of iconic films ever made, such as the animated classics The Jungle Book and The Sound of Music. The gallery opens everyday except Sunday and admission is free.

📍 Handy Rd, Former Cathay Building

# STREET ART HUNTING

As much as we love discovering hipster cafes and restaurants with unique interiors, we can't resist taking Insta-worthy photos at these various street art locations in Singapore.



## Tiong Bahru

Tiong Bahru, one of the hippest neighbourhood in Singapore has a lot to offer from cafes to bookstores. Take a trip to the oldest housing estate in Singapore and you'll find yourself soaking in the laid-back vibes. This is also the place that features cool Singapore heritage murals by Yip Yew Chong and friends. Somewhere near the Tiong Bahru market, you'll find three murals done by Yew

Chong depicting scenes that are part of Tiong Bahru's history - the Pasar and Fortune Teller; Home; and the Bird Singing Corner. Or head over to Seng Poh Garden and check out the Dancing Girl Sculpture, sculpted by Lim Nang Seng in 1972, the same sculptor that sculpted the iconic Merlion at Merlion Park. Check out the Tiong Bahru Heritage Trail, it is the best way to glimpse into how life was like in Tiong Bahru in the past.

## Little India

For a slice of the Indian culture, there is no place like Little India. Stroll down the streets and back alleys where the walls are featured with beautiful murals done by local artists. You even get to learn and explore its multicultural history through the murals on the walls. There are a number of murals featured in the vibrant precinct - the Alive @ CLIVE by Traseone depicting a traditional dancer on the walls of Dunlop Street; I am Still Here by Dyn where you'll see a mural of a girl in a dupatta (a traditional scarf); and the Kathaka by Didier 'Jaba' Mathieu with vibrant costumes, dramatic makeup and energetic movements of Traditional Indian dancers.



## Haji Lane

Filled with quirky shops and local eateries in this artsy neighbourhood, Haji Lane is considered as Singapore's last hidden gem. Avant-garde yet colourful, the narrow streets of Haji Lane are no strangers to the camera. Sitting at one of the corners of Haji Lane, is The Singapura Club bar with mural done by graffiti artist Ceno2. The mural which depicts a labourer wearing a turban, a Samsui woman and a Malay man refers to the multi-ethnic identity of the restaurant which serves Asian and North Indian food. Here's a tip: go early in the morning best before the crowds starts to flood Haji Lane.



Get your cameras ready and immerse yourself in the beauty of murals and street art!

# GUIDE TO PERFORMING ARTS

The Performing Arts scene ranging from vocal and instrumental music, dance or theatre, the scene continues to develop as the appreciation for the arts grows exponentially over the years. Here are some of the places that offer local and international performances for you to be consistently entertained and inspired.



## Esplanade - Theatres by the Bay

Nicknamed 'The Durian' by the locals for its resemblance to the popular fruit, Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay is the national performing arts centre. Esplanade's stunning concert hall is designed to have one of the best acoustics among concert halls

around the world. The Esplanade houses the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and Singapore Lyric Opera bringing you classical performances by both local and international performers. For information on performance dates and tickets, you can purchase tickets through Sistic ([www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg)).  **Esplanade Dr**

## Singapore Chinese Orchestra

The Singapore Chinese Orchestra is the only professional Chinese orchestra in Singapore. Established in 1997, the 85-musician orchestra has won several awards for its classic interpretations and you can catch their performance every two weeks at one of the national monuments - **Singapore Conference Hall**. The orchestra has also performed at various prestigious events such as the World Economic Forum and International Summit of Arts Council in 2003.  **7 Shenton Way**

## Singapore Repertory Theatre

Founded in 1993, Singapore Repertory Theatre (SRT) is one of the leading English-language theatres producers and presenters in Asia. It is a non-profit professional theatre company that aims to inspire, engage and entertain audiences of all ages. SRT also conducts regular Education and Development programmes, as well as fundraising activities. Regular programmes are held at **KC Arts Centre - Home of SRT**.  **20 Merbau Road**

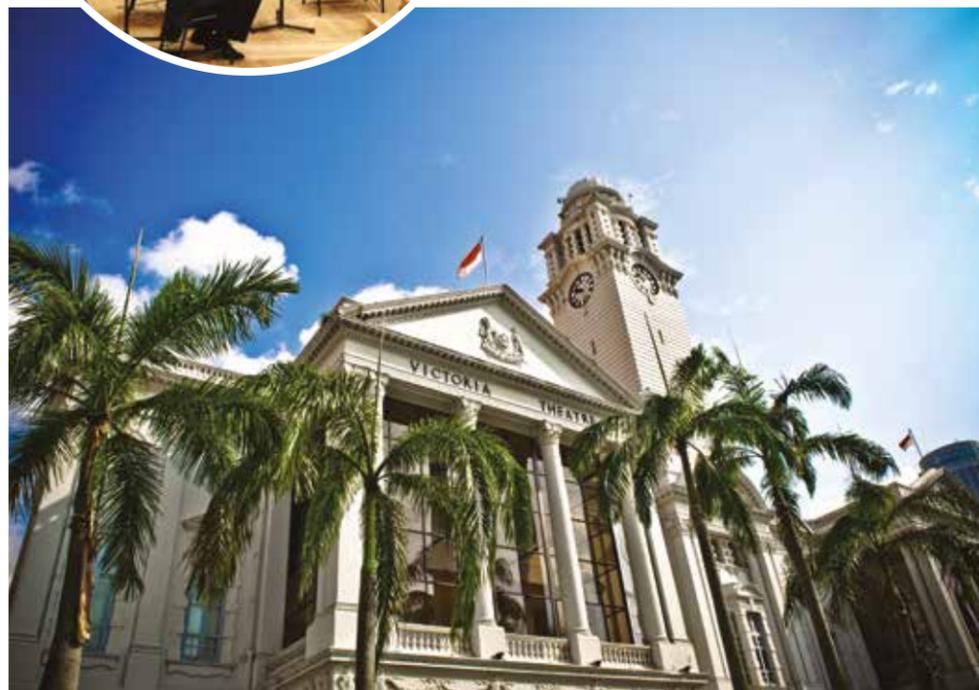
### SIDENOTE:

SISTIC is the leading ticketing provider in Singapore, selling tickets to events ranging from pop concerts, to musicals, theatre, family entertainment and sports. There are a few ways for ticket buyers to get hold of their event tickets. You can either browse and buy tickets through the SISTIC website or call the customer hotline at +65 6348 5555. Ideally, if you're always on the go, you can opt to purchase tickets from the SISTIC Mobile App. Alternatively, you can visit any of their **Authorised Agents or Box Offices** located in Singapore, Malaysia or Indonesia to buy or collect your tickets.



## Victoria Concert Hall

Preserving the elegant Victorian facade, we have one of the oldest performing arts venues in Singapore - Victoria Theatre and Victoria Concert Hall. It was reopened in 2014 after a 4-year refurbishment to restore its heritage elements while installing new facilities and amenities. It is home to the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, and you can also catch other orchestra, dance and choir performances. Event tickets are available through Sistic.  **11 Empress Place**



## Marina Bay Sands Theatre

Presenting blockbusters such as Singin' in the Rain, The Lion King and Wicked!, the Sands Theatres at Marina Bay Sands is another place not to be missed. Equipped with high-quality audio and visual

equipment, the theatre lets you enjoy your musical performances from the comfort of plush seats. It is conveniently located at The Shoppes at Marina Bay Sands so you can either shop or dine at the mall before catching a show at the theatre.  **4 Bayfront Ave**

# MUSEUMS OF INSPIRATION

If you're one that find museums and art galleries the places that feed your inspiration, here are the list of places for you to visit when you're in the city.

## National Gallery Singapore

Known as the Southeast Asian art museum, the National Gallery Singapore is a visual arts institution that houses a collection of modern Singapore and Southeast Asian art. It is located in the beautifully restored City Hall and former Supreme Court, located in the heart of the Civic District. The Gallery

has also worked with international museums to jointly present Southeast Asian art in the global context with the purpose to position Singapore as a regional and international hub for visual arts. Be sure to check out the Gallery if you would like to see unique art, heritage and history of the region.

📍 1 St Andrew's Rd





### The Arts House

There's no other way to discover art than to take a trip to The Arts House. Situated in the almost 200-year-old building that was once Singapore's first Parliament House, the Arts House plays an active role in the country's creative and art scene. From artworks and exhibits of budding Singaporean artists to artworks from established regional artists, the Arts House allows you to get a taste of the local arts scene and learn more about world-class collaborations. Admission to the galleries varies according to the exhibits therefore it is best to check the [website](#) for admission charges beforehand. 📍 *1 Old Parliament Lane*

### Asian Civilisations Museum

The only museum that explores the rich heritage of Asia, especially the ancestral cultures of Singaporeans, the Asian Civilisation Museum was founded in 1993 in its present building by the Singapore River. The museum then launched two new wings with new galleries in late 2015. The architecture of ACM was designed in a way that reflects Singapore's own urban architecture – a mix of the old and the new; the colonial and the contemporary. You can expect to learn the stories of Asian civilisations and see the ancient artefacts gathered from Singapore and the region at the museum. 📍 *1 Empress Place*



### National Museum of Singapore

Pop over for a visit to the oldest museum in Singapore, the National Museum of Singapore (NMS) for some stories of Singapore and the world. Whether you're a first-time visitor to Singapore or a local who has lived here all your life, the NMS is a place in which the story about the Singaporean culture unfolds. Unlike other museums, which follows the conventional arrangement of exhibits in a chronological order, the NMS arranges its exhibitions by themes such as film, photography, fashion and food. You can easily explore the museum according to your interest. With interactive exhibits and heavy emphasis on storytelling, you don't have to be a history-buff to enjoy all that the museum has to offer. 📍 *93 Stamford Road*



### Gillman Barracks

Built in 1936, the former military barracks is now the center for contemporary art. The building is surrounded by lush tropical greenery and was restored and launched in 2012. Home to leading international and homegrown galleries, Gillman Barracks has become a new hub for artists, curators and collectors to gather and work together. This is definitely the place to be for art lovers and anyone curious about art. Do look up information for exhibitions on their official website as individual gallery hours vary. 📍 *9 Lock Rd*

# FOR THE LITTLE CULTURE SHAPERS

As children grow, they learn to communicate and understand our world through the context of languages, traditions, behaviours, beliefs and values. While in Singapore, explore some activities that will allow your child to be exposed to the endless possibilities of the arts and culture.



## Performing Art Workshop And Drama Classes

If you would like your little one to get a dose of the performing arts, be it watching a theatre performance or joining a drama class, Singapore has got everything lined up for you. A non-profit group that organises a variety of kids' theatre classes and camps, **Buds Theatre Company** is a platform for young theatre graduates particularly children ages 3 to 15. The Buds Youth Theatre offers young people the opportunity to explore arts through theatre for free. They also have a range of interesting performances happening

throughout the year so do check out their website for more information.

**ACT 3 International** claims to be Singapore's leading Arts company for the young. With drama classes and camps for children as young as 18 months old, it aims to inspire the lives of the young not just as audiences but in the creative process as well. It is believed that to experience art, one has to be involved in art. Look out for more children theatre performances and concerts curated and presented by ACT 3 happening all year round.

📍 **ACT 3 International**. 126 Cairnhill Rd  
📍 **Buds Theatre Company**. 180 Joo Chiat Road, #02-01





## Classical Choral Singing Training

If your children like singing, the **Singapore Symphony Children's Choir (SSCC)** provides classical choral singing training. Formed in 2006, the Singapore Symphony Children's Choir has established itself as the leading children's choir in Singapore, enriching young singers through holistic choral training. The members ranging from children aged 9 to 18 are enrolled into either of the two phases depending on their musical proficiency. Each phase is focused on the development of good vocal technique, sight-singing skills and musicianship. The choirmaster, Wong Lai Foon has dedicated the past twelve years towards building the SSCC to become the leading children's choir in Singapore. Evidently, under her direction, SSCC has earned the commendation of "one of the best children's choirs in Asia" in a recent review. The choir is actively performing throughout the year and they have performed at the Istana for the prestigious Cultural Medallion & Young Artist Award.

📍 [Victoria Concert Hall, 11 Empress Place](#)



## Kids musicals: KidsFest SG, The Players Theatre, Singapore Chinese Orchestra

KidsFest Singapore, a three-week Festival of world-class theatre for young people is dedicated to promote the variety of performance styles from all around the world. Three fun-packed weeks where family can bring their children along to see some of the exciting kid-friendly theatre performances is a festival not to be missed. Compelling characters are brought to life and scenes from well-loved books are enacted vividly on stage. With almost 20 years of experience, **The Players Theatre** is one of the leading Children's Theatre companies in Singapore. It is a non-profit organisation that aims to reach the souls of kids, youth and their parents through high-quality performances and programmes.

Uniquely, the Theatre places great emphasis on equal opportunity where

anyone, regardless of ability and status, should be given a chance to experience the happiness that a professional theatre can provide. Therefore, these people are invited to see the shows at Players Theatre for free.

The Singapore National Youth Chinese Orchestra (SNYCO), under the management of **Singapore Chinese Orchestra**, is a group of talented musicians aged between 11 to 26. With the aim to nurture young musicians and groom them to be the future pillars of Singapore's Chinese music industry, the members are selected through auditions. The Young Children's concert is also organised by the Singapore Chinese Orchestra annually with different themes every year. If you would like your children to be immersed in the Chinese culture through classical Chinese musical instruments, stay tuned for more information on the Singapore Chinese Orchestra website.

📍 [The Players Theatre, 53 Watten Drive](#)

📍 [Singapore Chinese Orchestra, 7 Shenton Way, Singapore Conference Hall](#)

## Painting Workshop

Unleash the inner picasso in your children! The Creative Kids Art Immersion Course organised by the **Visual Arts Centre** provides your children a unique learning approach that allows your children to think out of the box. They will be able to explore and experiment with different mediums - jumping clay, drawing and colour pencils, crayons, markers, acrylic paint and multi-media collage. Set in a beautiful glasshouse, the Visual Arts Centre studio is located within the Dhoby Ghaut green lawn, providing a spacious and safe setting for children to rest and interact with each other before or after class. The classes are held every Sunday and each week there will be different themes covered such as Animal Kingdom, Nature, World Art, Geography, Science and many more. 📍 [#01-02 Dhoby Ghaut Green, 10 Penang Rd](#)

## Family programmes

**National Gallery** offers families a variety of ways to learn about art together. There are a few programmes developed to let parents bond with their children through the arts and stimulates the young minds. 2 of 3 events take place on the second Saturday. Stories in Art is where kids can listen and imagine along with professional storytellers through a treasure trove of art or let your kids learn more about the artist and art-making process through a guided discussion at Art Explorers. Otherwise, let your children pick up new art-making skills where they can create their own masterpiece at the Family Art Workshops.

📍 [National Gallery Singapore.](#)

[1 St Andrew's Rd](#)



# SINGAPORE

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