

Finally, after a wait which has felt like an eternity, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, Singapore's dazzling new waterfront arts centre, is ready to welcome the public.

Heralding what can only be described as a new beginning for the arts in Singapore, Esplanade will begin life with the biggest arts festival the country has ever seen. This three-week festival aims to offer a tantalising taste of the great things to come in the future. As such, the *Opening Festival* is a celebration of the finest popular and classical, traditional and contemporary forms of theatre, music, dance and visual arts. Presenting a combination of Eastern and Western flavours, starring acclaimed and fresh new faces, it promises to thrill a diverse range of audiences of all ages.

The action begins at 5pm on 12 October, 2002, with an outdoor carnival everyone is invited to. Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay is then officially opened by President SR Nathan, followed by a breathtaking fireworks display over the harbour. After Singapore Dance Theatre's rendering of Boi Sakti's *Reminiscing the Moon* opens the theatre, the party continues outside with a rousing multimedia show which brings together teams of international and local performing artists. Then it's three weeks of dramatic arts action – music fills the halls, dance will move you, the *Asian Contemporary Theatre Festival* offers cutting edge theatre, even the lobbies will be transformed by visual arts guaranteed to stop and astound you. So get out there, if only on the final Day Out, on 3 Nov,

FESTIVAL

First Night Opening Festival 2002

for free access to all venues, as well as over 30 free performances. The day kicks off with a parade and ends with a magnificent outdoor concert.

12 Oct to 3 Nov at Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay. Tickets from Sistic. For full programme, see pages 92-93.

On this occasion, *The Arts Magazine* would like to sincerely thank all our advertisers and partners for making this, our 5th Anniversary issue, our biggest and best yet. Here's to a great future.

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