

## ***La Vie en Rose* – A Concert of Exhilarating Talent**



**Singapore, 17 March 2015** - Join Singapore's most acclaimed artists and celebrate the 100th anniversary of Edith Piaf's birth with ***La Vie en Rose***, a concert that raises a toast to the passion and spirit of the most celebrated French music icon of all time.

Running from **27 to 30 May 2015** at the **Victoria Theatre**, this 90-minutes concert by Sing'theatre is a showcase of her classic hits that will be reinterpreted into contemporary genres. *La Vie en Rose* will feature the talents of Dream Academy® Artist Sebastian Tan, theatre actor Lim Kay Siu, performers Linden Furnell and Robin Goh, and singers Rani Singam and Leandra Leandra. The production will also mark singer L.A Benjamin's stage debut in Singapore.

Each of these artists will put their own personal spin on Piaf's timeless songs by drawing on their own life experiences. Their various renditions will range from jazz and pop to classic, rock and latin, thus showing that the beauty of Piaf's melodies carry through regardless of musical genre. This confluence of styles and perspectives ties in with Sing'theatre's philosophy of creating a cultural bridge between Singapore and France. Singaporean audiences, especially, will be in for a treat as this will be a rare opportunity for them to watch Lim Kay Siu, known for his roles in theatre, singing on stage or to watch Sebastian Tan performing outside of his popular Broadway Beng® persona.

“This is a very special year for both Singapore and France, the former for having entered its jubilee year and the latter for entering the centennial of the birth of Edith Piaf. For the first time ever, we have decided to celebrate this milestone with a concert that brings Piaf’s joie de vivre to life. Not only will *La Vie en Rose* show off her more exuberant side, it will also demonstrate the timelessness and versatility of her songs,” explains Ms Nathalie Ribette, Founder of Sing’theatre and the Director and Producer of *La Vie en Rose*.

“To me, Edith Piaf has always been a symbol of hope and inspiration. She started from such a humble beginning and yet managed to fight her way to the top of the music world. I am honoured to be a part of this production and I look forward to sharing my reinterpretation of her songs with our audience,” says Sebastian Tan, Dream Academy® Artist.

*La Vie en Rose* will run from 27 to 30 May 2015 at the Victoria Theatre. Tickets will be available through SISTIC **from 27 March 2015** onwards.

For more information, please log on to: [www.facebook.com/singtheatre](http://www.facebook.com/singtheatre).

**Notes to editors:**

- Interviews are available upon request with the following:
  - Director and Producer Nathalie Ribette.
  - Performers LA Benjamin, Linden Furnell, Robin Goh, Leandra Leandra, Lim Kay Siu, Rani Singam and Sebastian Tan.

**For media enquiries, please contact:**

Claude VUILLE-LESSARD  
[media@singtheatre.com](mailto:media@singtheatre.com)  
(65) 9002 2381 – (65) 6251 4174  
[www.singtheatre.com](http://www.singtheatre.com)

#####

**About Edith Piaf**

Born into a life of squalor, Edith Piaf was abandoned by her mother and was raised in a cheap Normandy brothel. As a child, she became blind, but miraculously recovered a few years later. Her first big break came thanks to the cabaret owner Louis Leplée, who taught her the basics of stage presence and told her to wear a black dress, which later became her signature apparel. Her only child died of meningitis at the age of two. And her great romance with the boxer Marcel Cerdan ended in tragedy, as her lover died in a plane crash on his way to meet her in New York.

Some of her songs include *La Vie en rose*, *No Regrets*, *Hymn to Love* and *My Man*. Love, separation and abandonment played an important part in her songs, giving them authenticity and power. By 1946, she had not only won the hearts of those in Europe, but had also received rapturous reviews for her performances in the United States despite failing to attract large audiences for her first concerts. Piaf’s *La Vie en rose* earned a Grammy Hall of Fame Award in 1998. More recently, audiences everywhere celebrated her life, making the 2007 biopic *La Vie en Rose*, the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest grossing French language film in the United States since 1980.

Marion Cotillard's interpretation of Piaf or "the Sparrow" earned her an Academy Award for 'Best Actress' and a BAFTA Award for 'Best Actress in a Leading Role'.

### **About Sing'theatre**

Sing'theatre is a non-profit theatre company created in 2006 to promote cultural exchanges and contribute to Singapore's nationwide efforts to bring arts and culture to everyone, everywhere, every day.

It is the first local company to produce shows in English, with Singapore-based artists, drawing on French cultural heritage.

Following Sing'theatre's efforts to build bridges and mutual understanding between European and Singaporean cultures, Sing'theatre was recognized in May 2011 by the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts (MICA) for its contribution to Singapore and was granted Institution of Public Character status (IPC).

For the past 8 years, Sing'theatre has staged productions presenting iconic French and European singers, as well as plays and musicals written in Singapore.

**The best of Singapore-based artists performed for Sing'theatre:** Hossan Leong, Sebastian Tan, the late Emma Yong, Denise Tan, Robin Goh, George Chan, Tony Mc Gill, Daniel Jenkins, Lim Yu Beng, Linden Furnell, Tan Kheng Hua, Neo Swee Lin, Serene Chen, Daisy Irani and many more.

### **Previous Productions:**

*A Singaporean in Paris* - 2014 & 2010

*A French Kiss in Singapore* - 2013

*8 WOMEN* - 2013

*No Regrets, A tribute to Edith Piaf* - 2011, 2007, 2004

*Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris* - 2008

*Members Only* - 2009

### **Awards:**

**April 2007:** Sing'theatre's founder and artistic director, Nathalie Ribette is recognized by the American Women Association (AWA) for "*extraordinary effort and outstanding contributions to the arts, culture and education in Singapore*".

**January 2010:** Nathalie Ribette is conferred the award of **Knight in the Order of Arts and Letters** by the French Ministry of Culture.

**March 2010:** Sing'theatre's 1<sup>st</sup> play, *Members Only* is nominated for 'Best Actor' at the **LIFE! Theatre Award 2009** (for Lim Yu Beng).

**March 2014:** Sing'theatre's 2d play, *8 Women* received the 'Best Supporting Actress' at the **LIFE! Theatre Award 2013** (for Serene Chen).

**FAST FACTS**

<b>Title:</b>	LA VIE EN ROSE - THE CONCERT
<b>Directed by:</b>	Nathalie RIBETTE
<b>Produced by:</b>	Nathalie RIBETTE
<b>Cast:</b>	L.A BENJAMIN Linden FURNELL Robin GOH Leandra Leandra LIM Kay Siu Rani SINGAM Sebastian TAN
<b>Musical Direction by:</b>	BANG Wenfu
<b>Musicians:</b>	Sebastian HO – Guitar Brandon WONG – Double bass LEE Lin Chow – Drums August LUM – Piano Joanne HO – Violin / Keyboard
<b>Set Designer:</b>	WONG Chee Wai
<b>Lighting Designer:</b>	Petrina Dawn TAN
<b>Sound Designer:</b>	Joel Manuel FERNANDEZ
<b>Costume Designer:</b>	Laichan GOH
<b>Venue:</b>	Victoria Theatre 9 Empress Place Singapore 179556
<b>Dates:</b>	27 – 30 May 2015, 8 pm
<b>Tickets:</b>	Available through SISTIC from 27 March 2015 onwards (starts on 21 March for OCBC Cardholders)
<b>Ticket price:</b>	From \$ 45.00 (excluding SISTIC handling fee) Discounts available, see on <a href="http://www.sistic.com.sg">www.sistic.com.sg</a>

**ANNEX A: BIOGRAPHIES AND INDIVIDUAL PICTURES**

**L.A BENJAMIN**



*“What really inspires me about Piaf is her spirit and her determination. Her life story was full of ups and downs and, yet, not once did she ever give up.”*

– **L.A Benjamin**

LA’s warm and powerful voice has taken her all over the world including the US where she won several talent competitions. She also shared the stage with multi-platinum recording artists and spent two years as a featured vocalist with “**Cirque du Soleil.**”

She got her start performing in Toronto clubs in her teens and then moved to Montreal where she was featured at some of the city’s most popular clubs. LA’s talents brought her to Asia eight years ago where she’s been mesmerizing audiences ever since.

Her eclectic musical tastes allow her to switch styles with ease and her love for music shines through with every note.

LINDEN FURNELL



“Edith Piaf’s sensual charisma was legendary - her songs, a channel for her celebrated power to seduce.”  
– **Linden Furnell**

From Sydney, Australia, Linden moved to Singapore in 2009 to train in Musical Theatre, graduating with first class honours from Lasalle College of the Arts. Linden is an in-demand singer, actor, dancer and guitar-wielding songwriter.

Singapore theatre credits include *La Cage Aux Folles* (Cagelle), *The Cat in the Hat* (Fish), *Edges*, *Fayard - An original tap trio*, *Howie the Rookie* (Rookie), *Next To Normal* (Henry), *A French Kiss in Singapore*, *Manifest - A tribute to Christina Sergeant*, *The Last Five Years* (Jamie), *A Singaporean in Paris* (Terrence), *2 Houses* (Tim Vigors) and *Great World Cabaret*.

Linden has performed alongside Broadway and West End names in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and New York and plans to establish himself in Australia over the next few years in music, theatre and film before relocating to New York City. He has recently released his debut original EP.

Linden can be found on Instagram: @lindenfurnell

**ROBIN GOH**



*“Most people seem to remember Edith Piaf as a tragic figure. But what is truly tragic is that her passion for life and for love seems to have been forgotten.”*

– **Robin Goh**

Robin Goh is a singer, actor and radio DJ. Currently, he co-hosts the morning drive time radio show on 883JiaFM, the only bilingual radio programme in Singapore.

He has sung at various venues in Singapore, including the Esplanade Outdoor Theatre and the Esplanade Concert Hall, with numerous small groups, as well as the Singapore Chinese Orchestra for their Casual Concert Series.

In theatre, he has been seen in plays and musicals such as *Chang and Eng*, *Asian Boys Volumes 2 & 3*, *A Language of Their Own* and *12 Angry Men* as well as his own one-man show, *Happy Robin*, among many others.

He has appeared in most of Sing'theatre's musicals like *A Singaporean in Paris*, *A French Kiss in Singapore* and *No Regrets, a tribute to Edith Piaf*.

Robin has sung Edith Piaf for years, but singing these songs at the Victoria Theatre is something he has dreamt of for a long time!



LEANDRA LEANDRA



*"She was such an amazingly talented person; that voice of hers could move mountains and yet, she remained as down-to-earth as anyone else. Even when she became famous, she was known as someone approachable, a quality every aspiring artiste should possess."*

– **Leandra Leandra**

Coming directly from Motown bloodline, Leandra Leandra is an African-American-Dutch Eurasian singer-songwriter, host and dancer.

She took part in the pioneer season of *Singapore Idol* where she came in the top five. She performed in private audience for Michael Jackson, the Supremes, the Shirelles, the Braxtons, Pharell and was the opening act for Ziggy Marley and Rick Price.

Leandra has also had performing arts training at prestigious schools in Sydney and Los Angeles. She has had acting experience on the "Kids Central" channel in Singapore and was even invited to host the Spongebob Squarepants Asian tour "The Sponge who could fly!" when it came to Singapore.

In 2013, she proudly announced that she opened a music company called "Hip Hip Hoorah" for both kids and adults and hopes to have an EP come out soon.



## LIM KAY SIU



*“Edith Piaf is a muse for the ages. Her ability to craft such timeless lyrics, that appeal to so many, shows that her songs will always find an audience, be it in this century or the next.”*

– **Lim Kay Siu**

Lim Kay Siu has been acting professionally since 1985 in Singapore, America, London and Germany. Stage credits include *Drift* with Drama Box, *Enchanted Tales* with Finger Players; *Memory: Human Remains & Virus* with Collective Mayhem; *4.44* (Decimal Points) and *Cheek* with CAKE Theatre; *Lao Jiu The Musical* (in Mandarin) with The Theatre Practice; *Romeo and Juliet*, *Family Outing*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Animal Farm*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* with WILD RICE; *3 Japanese Women* for Mu-Lan in London; *The Letter* for the Lyric Hammersmith, London; *7<sup>th</sup> Drawer*, *Morning People* and *Army Daze* for Toy Factory; *Death of a Salesman* and *Oleanna* for SRT.

Musicals include *Beauty World*, *Fried Rice Paradise* (TheatreWorks), and *Nagrland* (lead role and assistant director), all by Dick Lee; *Piaf* for TheatreWorks and last December he appeared as King Bull in the pantomime *Monkey Goes West!* by WILD RICE.

Kay Siu also went to directing school in London at the Central School for Speech and Drama in 1994, and directed *Half Lives* by Chai Yew for TheatreWorks, which was selected as ‘Play of the Year’ by the Straits Times in 1997; *Balls!* by Ming Wong for SRT, and *Club Tempest* for 3.14.

TV credits include *Tenko Reunion* for BBC, *Holoponono* for RTL, *Happy Belly*, *PCK* and *Drive* in Singapore, and *Monkey King* for Hallmark.

Movie credits include *Nightwatch* for Lion Films; *Anna and the King* for Fox, and *Avatar* (Independent).

**RANI SINGAM**



*“Edith Piaf has such a beautiful voice that you can’t help but feel swept away, even if one does not understand French. Her spirit and energy shine through her distinctive voice, cutting across all languages and cultures.”*

– **Rani Singam**

Rani Singam has been a leading figure in the Singapore jazz scene for over 10 years performing both jazz standards and original compositions.

Her strong vocals and fine interpretive skills have also made her sought after at festivals and events in the region.

She is named in “The Jazz Singers, The Ultimate Guide”, a 2008 Hal Leonard publication which serves as an encyclopedic guide on the important jazz singers in the world.

Rani recorded her debut album in Los Angeles *With A Song In My Heart*. Produced by the legendary Jeremy Monteiro, the album was rated 4/4 in O’s Place Jazz Newsletter 2008, a leading jazz publication in the United States.

In 2011, Rani produced her second album “Contentment” which was recorded at Bennett Studios, USA. A fresh approach to jazz vocals, this album is also a showcase of Rani’s song writing skills comprising primarily original compositions. Both albums are available worldwide including CDBaby & iTunes.

## SEBASTIAN TAN



*"To me, Edith Piaf has always been a symbol of hope and inspiration. She started from such a humble beginning and yet managed to fight her way to the top of the music world."*

– Sebastian Tan

Sebastian Tan has been a Dream Academy® Artist since 2006.

Having directed *Honk!* and *Just So* for SMU's Arts Festival 2009-2010, Sebastian made his professional directorial debut in 2014 with Wild Rice's critically-acclaimed pantomime *Monkey Goes West*, earning a Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards nomination for 'Best Director'.

Notable musical and theatre credits include the *Broadway Beng*® series, *Happy Ever Laughter*® series, *Crazy Christmas*™ series, *Hansel & Gretel*, *Into The Woods*, *SING Dollar*, *Cinderel-LAH!*, *Snow White*, *Jack & The Beansprout*, *Asian Boys Vol. 2*, *Fried Rice Paradise*, *Twist of Fate*, *Forbidden City*, *Titoudao*, *Miss Saigon* (UK tour).

TV credits include *Payday*, *First Class – Seasons 1 & 2*, *Sayang Sayang Season 2*, *The Noose*, *Police & Thief*, *City-Spy Singapore*, *My Big Brother*, *Odd Squad*. Film credits: *The Blue Mansion* and *Judgment Day*.

Vocal recordings include TV serial theme songs: *Price of Peace* (Best Theme Song, Star Awards 1997), *Will You* (National Day 2007 theme song), and *Fire in Snow*, Chingay 2013 theme song.

Sebastian won 'Best Supporting Actor' in STLife! Theatre Awards 2009 for the role of "The Queen" in *Snow White* (Wild Rice). Other awards include 'Best Ensemble' (STLife! Theatre Awards 2010), 'Actor of the Year' (Elle Awards 2007), and winner of Talent Search 1996.

He was the emcee for National Day Parade 2013 and also appeared as Broadway Beng® in the pre-parade segment.

**ANNEX B: GROUP PICTURE**

(High res. picture available upon request)

