

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**SING'THEATRE CELEBRATES ITS 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WITH AN INSPIRING SEASON**

*Commemorating 10 Years with a Rich Line-up of Community Outreach Programmes  
and a Singapore Premiere*



**Singapore, 27 March 2017** – Sing'theatre, Singapore's leading musical revue specialist, kicks off the 2017 season with its 10th anniversary celebrations that highlight multiculturalism and community in musical theatre. Since its founding in October 2006 by Nathalie Ribette, Sing'Theatre has staged over 12 productions ranging from locally-written plays and musicals interwoven with French and Singaporean

elements that bring social conversations and personal struggles to the stage, to tribute shows of iconic French and European singers. Reflecting Nathalie Ribette's vision for musical theatre to bridge cultures and communities and engage with current social issues in Singapore, Sing'theatre looks to the future with its new mission, 'Performing for a better society'. This will be brought to life by its stage shows, community outreach and academy.

Commemorating this milestone, Sing'theatre presents an inspiring 2017 season that includes year-long community outreach programmes at hospitals, new class at the Sing'theatre Academy with two showcases in June. This culminates to a star-studded Singapore premiere of the musical revue *Forever Young*.

### **Bringing Music to the Community**

Heralding the new season is *Once Upon A Song @ TTSH*, Sing'theatre's latest and third collaboration with a local hospital. Held on the first Monday of each month at Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH) commencing on 6 March 2017, *Once Upon A Song @ TTSH* takes patients, visitors and staff down memory lane with upbeat tunes and nostalgic songs. Titled 'Keep the Music Alive', the inaugural edition will see the likes of ukulele group Bishan Ukers, singer Peter Diaz and composer Hillary Francis taking the stage over the next few months.

Sing'theatre will also bring magic to the little ones at National University Hospital (NUH) with the launch of *Sing Me A Story @ NUH* on 19 April. Each week, performers dressed as superheroes or fairies will visit the children's wards at NUH, singing Disney songs, lullabies and more from bed to bed.

Additionally, the fifth edition *MusicFest @ SGH* on 26 May will bring a full day musical extravaganza to the Singapore General Hospital. Transforming the entire Singapore General Hospital (SGH) into a stage, the music festival stars everyone – from professional artistes to SGH nurses, patients and visitors.

Please refer to Annex A for the full programme.

## **Nurturing Singapore's Next Theatre Talents at the Sing'theatre Academy**

This year, 80 budding thespians and theatre enthusiasts will practise and learn from professional instructors at the Sing'theatre Academy. With three new classes in the 2016/17 season and two showcases this June under its belt, the Academy not only offers technical lessons but brings its students real stage experience and cultural insights. The Academy will also be holding voice workshops with world-class professionals, including esteemed voice coach Paul Carr as well as Amanda Colliver, vocal coach of Hugh Jackman, Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor. With the Academy, Sing'theatre is poised to contribute to theatre in Singapore.

## **Sing'theatre Premieres *Forever Young***

The musical revue *Forever Young* will be the highlight of Sing'theatre's 10th anniversary season. This Singapore premiere will end the season with a bang in October, starring renowned Singaporean actors such as Hossan Leong, Karen Tan, Tan Kheng Hua and Suhaimi Yusof.

With a perfect blend of humour and pathos as well as renditions of familiar songs such as Jay-Z's *Forever Young*, Amy Winehouse's *Rehab*, The Eagles' *Hotel California* and One Direction's *Story of My Life*, the eponymous musical revue will shine the spotlight on eldercare in Singapore. *Forever Young* puts in focus issues surrounding eldercare facilities and other related topics, bringing up difficult but important conversations about Singapore's current aging population.

"We are excited to be celebrating 10 years of Sing'theatre. Over the decade, we have evolved as a theatre company, from producing and staging musical revues to becoming much more engaged in community outreach through our work with the local hospitals. The inception of the Sing'theatre Academy, which provides first-class musical theatre training for youths, further cements our commitment to empower the community," says Nathalie Ribette, Artistic and Executive Director of Sing'theatre. She adds, "While we reflect on our past decade, we also look forward to the future. We are reinvigorated and recommitted to contributing to Singapore's theatre scene and local communities. We will continue to bring audiences quality musical revues that not only entertain but engage and empower as well."

For developments on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary season, follow Sing'theatre on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/Singtheatre](http://www.facebook.com/Singtheatre) for updates and show vignettes.

Also follow Sing'theatre at:

[www.singtheatre.com](http://www.singtheatre.com)

<https://www.instagram.com/singtheatre/>

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## About Sing'theatre

Sing'theatre is recognised in the Singapore scene as a musical theatre specialist. Since 2006, Sing'theatre has staged productions presenting iconic French and European singers, as well as plays and musicals written in Singapore. The company uses primarily the musical theatre genre and French cabaret style to bring social conversations and personal struggles to the stage. They take current issues in society, give them a unique perspective and make them resonate with Singaporeans. Through their work, Sing'theatre aims to promote multicultural interaction. Beyond the traditional stage, Sing'theatre brings music to the community through its various outreach programmes at hospitals and provide training to musical theatre lovers from all walks of life through its academy, upholding its mission to perform for a better society.

## ANNEX A – Community Outreach Programmes

### Once Upon A Song @ TTSH



**Theme:** Keep the Music Alive

**Date:** Every first Monday of the month, till December 2017

**Time:** 12.30pm – 1.30pm

**Venue:** Tan Tock Seng Hospital - Atrium Level 1

Launched in collaboration with Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH), Sing'theatre presents a series of lunchtime concerts at TTSH. This musical programme aims to bring back delightful music and memories to patients and illuminate the day of the patients and their families, staff and visitors. Performers are handpicked to reflect the patients' multi-ethnicities and backgrounds.

## Artist Line-Up

### **Bishan Ukers - 6 March 2017**

The Bishan Ukers are members of Bishan East Community Club Ukelele Interest Group. They meet regularly every Thursday evening from 7pm to 9pm at Bishan CC for jamming sessions, where they are able to pursue their passion for the ukulele, accompanied by singing and dancing as well. They are in general a fun-loving and active ageing group. They have performed for a wide spectrum of audiences at various venues, including hospitals, nursing homes, day care centres, clubs, hubs and also participated in several community events.

### **Peter Diaz - 3 April 2017**

Peter Diaz began his musical journey with 'The Surfers', who later changed their name to 'The October Cherries'. The band enjoyed tremendous success not only in Singapore but also in various parts of Asia and Europe. To list some of his many accomplishments in music, he wrote for Martin & Coulter Music Publishing and managed to secure record deals with Decibel Music of Belgium, the Synonym of 'David Scott' where he recorded and produced six well-known singles. Aside from composing and recording, he co-produced the soundtrack for the movie 'Forever Fever'.

### **Hillary Francis - 8 May 2017**

Hillary Francis is a composer who writes songs purely from his heart and creative talents with a feeling for people, his surroundings and greatest of all, his creator. He sings in many languages, plays the guitar, drums and been an entertainer since 1965. He has taught in music schools and is also a private music tutor for all ages. He has produced Charity CD albums entitled 'A Tribute to Mother Teresa' and 'Peace'. His amazing musical journey includes performing with Singapore Symphonic Orchestra at the Victoria Theatre, representing Singapore at the World Popular Song Festival in Budokan and Tokyo.



## Sing Me A Story @ NUH



**Date:** Every Wednesday, from 19 April 2017 till December 2017

**Time:** 2.00pm – 3.00pm

**Venue:** Children's Wards, National University Hospital

Sing'theatre brings magic to the little ones at National University Hospital (NUH) with *Sing Me A Story @ NUH*. Each week, performers dressed as superheroes or fairies will visit the children's wards at NUH, dancing and singing Disney songs, lullabies, children's tunes and more from bed to bed. With a magic wand in hand, the superhero or fairy aims to deliver joy to these children.

### Biographies of Artists

#### **TJ Taylor**

TJ is a musical theatre teacher, musical director and singing coach. Living in Singapore since 2013, TJ has taught at many of the top international schools and theatre academies, including LASALLE College of the Arts and Tanglin Trust School. In 2014, TJ was the vocal coach for the Von Trapp Children in the Singapore production of *Sound Of Music*. More recently, TJ is a full time performer and show host at Universal Studios Singapore. TJ graduated from the UK with A First Class Honours Musical Theatre Degree and has been working professionally in Singapore ever since.

#### **Jenilee Rawlins**

Jenilee is musical theatre teacher and practitioner. A Musical Theatre graduate from The Arts Education

School, London, Jenilee is a wealth of professional performing experience in the UK, Europe, South Africa and Asia, including 'Annie' the musical in Hong Kong and Singapore. She also volunteers part time for a children's education charity 'Caring for Cambodia'.



## MusicFest @ SGH



**Date:** 26 May 2017, Friday

**Time:** 10.30am – 8.00pm

**Venue:** Singapore General Hospital

The fifth edition MusicFest @ SGH on 26 May brings a full day musical extravaganza to the Singapore General Hospital. Transforming the entire Singapore General Hospital (SGH) into a stage, the music festival stars everyone – from professional artistes to SGH nurses, patients and visitors. Activities include singing classes, dance performances at the National Heart Center and an open mic at the SGH stage where veteran artists meet and perform with younger artists and/or SGH staff and patients. MusicFest will conclude with an exciting performance by the Nurses Choir.

## ANNEX B – Sing'theatre's Key Milestones

<b>October 2006:</b>	Nathalie Ribette founded Sing'Theatre.
<b>March 2007:</b>	Production of Sing'Theatre's first musical: <i>No Regrets, a Tribute to Edith Piaf</i> .
<b>May 2010:</b>	<i>A Singaporean in Paris</i> sold out after the first few days of performances.
<b>June 2013:</b>	The first 'Fete de la Musique' was showcased at <i>MusicFest @ SGH</i> .
<b>March 2014:</b>	Serene Chen was awarded Best Supporting Actress by the LIFE! Theatre Award for her role in comedy musical <i>8 WOMEN</i> , a Sing'theatre production in March 2013.
<b>March 2014:</b>	A new version of <i>A Singaporean in Paris</i> was performed to a full house again.
<b>September 2014:</b>	The Sing'theatre Academy held its first class.
<b>October 2014:</b>	The second edition of <i>MusicFest @ SGH</i> was bigger than the first and held with great success.
<b>April 2015:</b>	Sing'theatre held its first monthly musical programme at the National University Hospital: <i>Musical RendezVous@NUH</i> .
<b>May 2015:</b>	Sing'theatre presented <i>La Vie En Rose</i> at Victoria Theatre.
<b>June 2015:</b>	The Sing'theatre Academy held its first showcase.
<b>November 2015:</b>	Sing'theatre presented <i>Take Me Along! Robin Goh sings the legendary Charles Aznavour</i> at the Alliance Francaise Theatre.
<b>April 2016:</b>	The second edition of <i>Musical RendezVous@NUH</i> was held.
<b>May – June 2016:</b>	Sing'theatre presented musical revue <i>Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris</i> at SOTA Drama Centre.
<b>June 2016:</b>	The Sing'theatre Academy held its second showcase.
<b>October 2016:</b>	The fourth edition of <i>MusicFest @ SGH</i> – celebrating talents of tomorrow