
Media Release**BRAVE THE CHANGE
EMBRACE THE NEW
IN FUTURE WORLDS**

NUS Arts Festival 2017 challenges artists and audiences to consider the future, arts, science, and culture to realise their own Brave New Worlds.



Singapore, 1 February 2017

NUS Arts Festival, the flagship arts event of the National University of Singapore, returns this March with a calendar of performances and creative opportunities that challenge both artists and audiences to realise their own *Brave New Worlds*.

Running from 10 to 25 March 2017, the Festival includes over 25 events at venues across NUS' Kent Ridge Campus and at the Esplanade Theatres on the Bay and School of The Arts.

"The NUS Arts Festival is an annual event that champions ideas, collaboration and the importance of academic inquiry," says Festival Director, Mary Loh, "Drawing inspiration from Aldous Huxley's dystopian novel, artists in this year's Festival are sharing their visions of the future, and the paths they see that will take us there."

In line with NUS' commitment to academic inquiry, this edition of the NUS Arts Festival partners with:

- The Centre for Biomedical Ethics, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine;
- The Centre for Quantum Technologies;
- The Department of Architecture, School of Design and Environment; and
- The Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

These partners bring a wealth of sociological and technical knowledge; cutting edge information about our place in time and where we are likely to be going. This academic approach and the passion of the student and professional artists involved, create a calendar of festival events with depth, rigour and unique relevance to contemporary Singapore.

"Each iteration of the NUS Arts Festival explores a theme that is important to Singapore's young people," says NUS Centre For the Arts Director, Sharon Tan, "Ours is a festival that promotes collaboration between artists, academia and students. By challenging them to envision their own *Brave New Worlds*, we open up the space for them to fuse the unknown with the endless possibilities of the human imagination."

NUS Arts Festival 2017 Highlights

Opening the NUS Arts Festival 2017 is *Remember When...*, a contemplative performance piece from NUS Dance Ensemble which explores how changes in Singapore's urban landscape may affect the psyche of its people over time. Developed in partnership with the Department of Architecture, and the Department of Geography, *Remember When...* launches NUS Dance Ensemble's 25th year with the question: *If an individual's identity is linked to a building, a landmark, a space, what happens if that place is no longer there?*



Photo credit: Fang Yuan

Theoretical physics and the arts are intertwined in *Sambhavna 2.0* and *The Quantum Music Project*, both of which use creative expression to interpret the world of quantum physics. *Sambhavna 2.0*, is the full-length development of the popular work from last year's Festival. Conceived by Cultural Medallion recipient Mrs. Santha Bhaskar, in partnership with NUS Centre for Quantum Technologies (CQT) and together with interdisciplinary artist Kiran Kumar, *Sambhavna 2.0* explains quantum physics through traditional Bharatanatyam dance, poetry and music.



Photo credit: Back Alley Creations

In contrast, *The Quantum Music Project*, which was developed in Europe with the assistance of CQT and their global research partners, translates the mathematical equations of quantum calculation into music itself. Through digitally augmented grand pianos and the celebrated musical talents of LP Duo, the intangible realm of quantum physics become sound; music altered by the mathematics of a place beyond our reach.

NUS Chinese Drama will perform *Dear Miss Ye*, an adaptation of a classic Soviet era play in which four students visit their teacher on the pretense of celebrating her birthday. Good intentions turn sour, however, as the students' real desire, to find and change their exam results, is laid bare in a tense, claustrophobic clash of old and new systems of morality.



Photo credit: Back Alley Creations

Melding puppetry, shadow play, videography and performance art, Karla Kracht and Andrés Beladiez's *2062* is staged production unlike any that has been seen in the Festival before. Digital cameras capture hand-crafted characters, animation and lighting effects to create a compelling vision of the future, live on screen. Describing their process, the artists say; "We investigate, experiment, create and discard, destroy, make, re-combine and finally put everything in its place."

The Festival will close with stalwart Singapore art rock group The Observatory and the Asian debut of their show *Vibrational*. This singular musical performance is part rock show and part shout to the future, as the band is joined by thirty NUS guitarists to create harmonies that physically vibrate the air as you breathe, and the spirit as you listen.



More information and hi-res images for each festival show is available online at <http://bit.ly/NUSFestival>

Arts Out Loud and In-Conjunction Performances

To increase engagement with the main Festival, a fringe component has been introduced this year, together with performances by other arts groups.

The excitement starts on 10 March at Alice Lee Plaza with *Arts Out Loud*: an electrifying evening of Japanese electropop, starring Cobalt Bomb Ω together with live artist Ai*Madonna and NUS Electronic Music Lab alumni Cosmic Armchair and Kids with Laptops. In the week to follow, popup performances will surprise students and staff across the NUS campus, with creativity appearing where you least expect it.

This year's exciting slew of in-conjunction shows include performances by the famed NUSChoir, NUS Symphony Orchestra, NUS Piano Ensemble and more. NUS Dance Synergy will celebrate togetherness with their new production *Fuse(d)*; the NUS Indian Instrumental Ensemble's production chronicling the passage of life, will enchant listeners at the Esplanade Recital Studio; and NUS Jazz Band will take a leaf from Nina Simone's songbook with big band, vocal and rhythmic standards to warm the soul.

Stay in touch with the latest news and updates via nusartsfestival.com.

Special media access

Media fact sheets, along with key points of interest and hi-res images for each element of the Festival can be accessed online at bit.ly/NUSAF2017Media. These sheets, and the accompanying resources, will be updated periodically as the Festival draws closer.

For more information, or to arrange special media access to artists or performances, please contact:

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About the Centre For the Arts

Established in 1993, NUS Centre For the Arts (CFA) is a vibrant space for the appreciation of the arts and nurturing of the creative and inquiring spirit. We support student engagement with the arts and the integration of the arts into the life of the University.

We comprise the NUS Museum, NUS Baba House and a Talent and Development arm that oversees 22 student arts excellence groups. Through our myriad of programmes, practices, exhibitions, workshops and outreach, such as NUS Arts Festival and the ExxonMobil Campus Concerts, we enrich the university experience and contribute to the building of knowledge and transformation of students.

We also manage facilities such as the University Cultural Centre, with its 1600-seat Hall and 450-seat Theatre, and rehearsal spaces in Runme Shaw CFA Studios and University Town.

For more information, visit cfa.nus.edu.sg