



**National
Heritage
Board**



PRESS ADVISORY

For release on 9 May 2011

STEP INTO THE WORLD OF CHILDREN'S SEASON 2011 WITH A KALEIDOSCOPE OF DREAMS

Singapore, 9 May 2011 – Make this school holiday a fun-filled one as the eagerly-awaited *Children's Season* returns – bigger, better and bolder – for its fourth run this year. For the first time, more than 20 Museum Roundtable members will participate in *Children's Season* which takes place between 14 May and 31 July 2011 and seeks to engage, educate and inspire children and their families with a playful lineup of exciting programmes.

A stalwart and pioneer of this iconic festival since 2008, the National Museum of Singapore will kick-start *Children's Season 2011* with the anchor event, *The PlayDome*, from 14 May to 26 June 2011. At *The Playdome*, children will be able to observe and create aesthetic forms on screen, stage and other platforms, and in doing so, stimulate their exploration, expression and perception of the world through their senses.

In keeping with its theme *Kaleidoscope of Dreams*, the National Museum will showcase a not-to-be-missed performance fittingly entitled *Museum of Dreams* which will make its international debut at *Children's Season*. A visual adventure told entirely without words, *Museum of Dreams* is an enchanted place built specially for small people with big imaginations. Held from 19 to 22 May 2011, and created and directed by Gul Hollands and puppet-maker, Ailie Cohen, *Museum of Dreams* will transport the audience to a world of dreams through 'live' physical performance, puppetry and projection.

And if the above showstopper whets your appetite for more excitement, there are other original interactive works, projects, workshops and discovery trails by over 10 local and international artists and creative professionals to be explored at *The PlayDome*. Young ones will be able to stretch their imagination through facial masks in the *Wayang Play Stage*, create their own dramatic costumes together with their families in *Dress*, or compose their own musical stories, inspired by the content of the National Museum, in *Rhythm and Rhyme, Sing and it's Mine!*

These abovementioned activities all draw inspiration from the Museum's iconic Dome and collection in its permanent galleries and are designed to encourage children to express themselves and learn more about Singapore's rich history and heritage. *The PlayDome* is co-curated with international award-winning children's museum initiative Playeum[®], The Play Museum. Built on the concept of museums as a place of inspiration and learning, it serves as an extension of that unique museum experience by empowering young visitors to imagine a world beyond what it seems.

For more programme details and ticketing information on *The PlayDome*, please refer to **Annex A** or visit www.nationalmuseum.sg.

The Playdome at the National Museum of Singapore, together with other programmes by the National Heritage Board and Museum Roundtable members, will take this year's *Children's Season* to a totally different level by offering a kaleidoscopic range of children-centric programmes, fun-filled family activities and innovative exhibits. Look out for the smorgasbord of fun at all participating museums and other venues, which will introduce a sense of wonder and bring forth a penchant for play for both the young and young-at-heart.

-END-

Media Invitation to the Launch of *Children's Season*

We warmly invite you and your photographer/cameraman to the official launch of *Children's Season* and to explore *The PlayDome* and other programmes with us.

Date: 18 May 2011 (Wednesday)

Time: 10.15am – noon

Venue: National Museum of Singapore (The Salon, Level 1), 93 Stamford Road S(178897)

Guest of Honour: Mr Lui Tuck Yew, Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts

Please RSVP by 13 May 2011 (Friday) to Antoinette Hendricks:
antoinette.hendricks@commsdna.com / +65 6327 7122

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About the National Heritage Board

The National Heritage Board (NHB) champions the development and promotion of a vibrant cultural and heritage sector in Singapore. It makes heritage enriching, relevant and accessible to all through staging innovative programmes and forging partnerships. NHB leverages on technology and refreshing new approaches to make heritage more dynamic, alive and exciting. It also manages both national and public museums, the National Archives of Singapore, the Preservation of Monuments Board and the Heritage Conservation Centre. NHB was formed on 1 August 1993 as a statutory board under the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts (MICA). Please visit www.nhb.gov.sg for more information.

About the National Museum of Singapore

With a history dating back to its inception in 1887, the National Museum of Singapore is the nation's oldest museum with a young soul. Designed to be the people's museum, the National Museum is a custodian of the 11 National Treasures, and its Singapore History and Living Galleries adopt cutting-edge and varied ways of presenting history and culture to redefine conventional museum experience.

A cultural and architectural landmark in Singapore, the Museum hosts vibrant festivals and events all year round – the dynamic Night Festival, visually arresting art installations, as well as amazing performances and film screenings – in addition to presenting lauded exhibitions and precious artefacts. The programming is supported by a wide range of facilities and services including F&B, retail and a Resource Centre. The National Museum of Singapore re-opened in December 2006 after a three-year redevelopment.

For details, please visit www.nationalmuseum.sg.

About Children's Season

Children's Season 2011 seeks to inspire, engage and educate children through experiential exhibits and educational children's programmes. Jointly organised by the National Heritage Board and Museum Roundtable, the fourth *Children's Season* will be held from 14 May to 31 July 2011. This year's *Children's Season* will feature two anchor events at the National Museum of Singapore and Singapore Art Museum as well as children's exhibits and programmes at more than 20 Museum Roundtable members! Interested participants can visit the *Children's Season* hub at the heart of Orchard Road or www.museums.com.sg to find out more about programmes offered by participating Museum Roundtable members as well as special *Children's Season* promotional premiums.

National Archives of Singapore

Annex A

Sampling of Programmes at The PlayDome at National Museum of Singapore

1. Museum of Dreams

by Citizens Theatre (UK)

A TAG production

Thu 19 May & Fri 20 May 2011 | 10am, 2pm & 5pm

Sat 21 May & Sun 22 May 2011 | 11am, 2pm & 5pm

S\$20 | Free Seating

Gallery Theatre, Basement | 45 mins | Best for children aged 5 to 9 years old

No admission for infant in arms



© Photograph courtesy of Eamonn McGoldrick

Synopsis

A snooze-worthy museum opens its dusty doors to visitors who are all set for a visual adventure. As the museum attendant ushers the children and their parents in, the audience enters into the magical space of Museum of Dreams and along comes the unexpected arrival of a new exhibit, a little pretty puppet girl. Will she be able to help the sad and grumpy museum attendant finally find the happiness he has longed for?

The Museum of Dreams is an enchanted place built specially for small people with big imaginations. Created and directed by Guy Hollands and puppet-maker Ailie Cohen, *Museum of Dreams* will transport the audience to a world of dreams through live physical performance, puppetry and projection.

This production is performed entirely without words.

Company Profile

TAG creates high quality touring theatre productions and an extensive range of creative learning projects for children and young people. The company also tours internationally with recent performances in The Netherlands, Germany and USA. TAG produces all of the Citizens Theatre's work for children and young people. In 2007, TAG won the Best Show for Children and Young People at the TMA Awards for its acclaimed production of David Greig's *Yellow Moon*.

2. **Front Lawn and Garden @ The Playdome with Playeum®**
14 May – 26 June 2011
Free admission

Domescape by Butterpaper Designs, BusyBody and Lin Zihao (Singapore)



Artists' impressions of Domescape
© Butterpaper Designs, BusyBody and Lin ZiHao

Description of Work

Domescape is an interactive contemporary art installation and the visual insignia of *The PlayDome: Kaleidoscope of Dreams*. It is also a landscape seen through the curious eyes of children, stretching their imagination beyond the visible in the environment. By using the viewing scope as an apparatus, the children are guided to see the Museum's Dome as more than a mere institutional symbol and are introduced to elements of endless possibilities.

Continuing from the Front Lawn, the Garden invites children and parents to become co-creators of various perspectives. The children create a composite image with their families on the lenses to juxtapose their interpretation of the Dome against traditional and institutional architecture. This work symbolises the new philosophy and direction of *The PlayDome with Playeum®* as a space that welcomes children and families in an authentic experiential manner.

Artists' Bio

Butterpaper Designs is founded by Chaw Chih Wen (MArch, BA Architecture), practising architectural designer, and BusyBody by Ho Shok Wan (MArch, BA Architecture). Upon his return from New York and Shanghai, Chih Wen has been a prolific artist. He and Shok Wan designed his most recent work, *Luxury Brand Konbini*, exhibited at Tokyo's Designer's Week 2010. He also developed two new interactive art installations for families with Playeum®: *Spinning Columns* and *Shadow Table*, which are being tested for use in local pre-schools.

Shok Wan, an architectural designer with DP Architects, pursues her dream of creating artistic work through her new operation BusyBody.

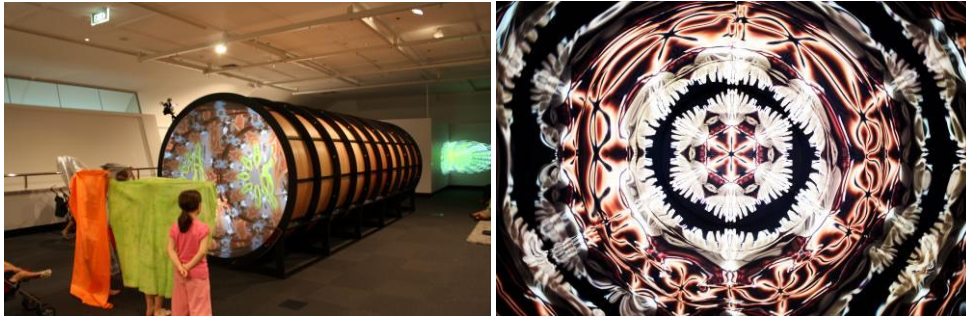
Lin Zihao, also an architect, joined ARC10 studio Architecture and Urbanism upon graduation, where he worked for two years. In addition to architectural projects during his two years with ARC10 studio, Zihao had the chance to facilitate three children's workshops as part of the firm's passion for education.

3. THE PLAYDOME WITH PLAYEUM® @ LEVEL 3

i. **Black Box (The Atelier)**

The Atelier transforms into a Black Box where children can explore traditional practices in film and theatre, and give their own contemporary interpretations of the exhibition through performance play. The use of media, technology, physical props and fine art methods within this space presents multiple options for children and families to express themselves.

a. **The Real Thing by Jordana Maisie, courtesy of Ipswich Art Gallery (Australia)** **Sat 14 May – Sun 26 Jun | 10am – 6pm (Closed on Mondays)**



© Ipswich Art Gallery

Description of Work

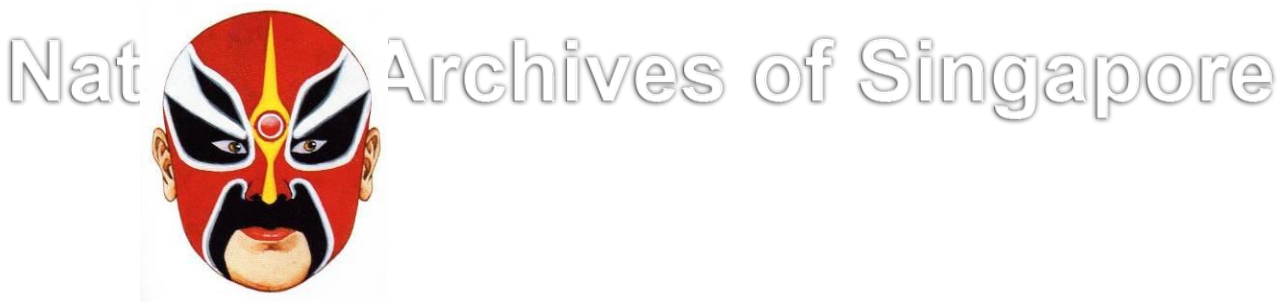
The Real Thing is a literal yet contemporary, representation of this year's theme of *Kaleidoscope of Dreams*, and is the artist's conscious play with the viewer as witness, co-creator and interpreter of 'truth'. In this exhibit, children can create one-of-a-kind magical visual patterns and images!

This is the international debut of *The Real Thing* outside of Australia, and is on loan courtesy of Ipswich Art Gallery.

Artist Bio

Jordana Maisie is a Sydney-based New Media and electronic artist of photography, video, sound and interactive installations. Her practice integrates technology, physical space and the body.

b. **Wayang Play Stage by Anita Nevens (Singapore, Belgium)** **Sat 14 May – Sun 26 Jun | 10am – 6pm (Closed on Mondays)**



© National Museum of Singapore

Description of Work

An interactive installation, *Wayang Play Stage* inspired by the Fashion and Film & Wayang Galleries to investigate the seamless relationship between art and architecture through fabric and performance, welcomes children to play with face paints and perform their stories on a fabric-inspired modern dramatic set. The installation provides room for imagination and interaction with others through role-playing and experimenting with face paints.

Artist Bio

An artist and designer, Anita Nevens graduated with a Master's degree in Fine Arts. She is currently a part-time lecturer at Lasalle, College of the Arts and Sint Lucas, Ghent, Belgium. Her projects include collaborations with the Design Museum of Ghent, Belgium on the "Fantasy Design Workshop" for children. Her main body of work comprises spatial installations, sculptural furniture and objects dealing with the potential of space and the rituals of daily living.

- c. **Dress by Tay Bee Aye (Singapore)**
Sat 14 May – Sun 5 June 2011 | 10am – 6pm (Closed on Mondays)



© Tay Bee Aye

Description of Work

Drawing inspiration from the Fashion Gallery at the National Museum, this modern installation is an invitation to children and families to co-create dramatic costumes following the artist's own practice of weaving and knotting to fabricate soft sculptures.

Artist Bio

Tay Bee Aye is a multidisciplinary visual artist and a leading pioneer in innovative and interactive contemporary work for children in Singapore for more than 10 years. She studied Fine Art at the LaSalle-SIA College of the Arts, with a Georgette Chen Art Scholarship awarded by NAC. Since her graduation in 1999, Bee Aye actively participates in many arts activities and festivals, such as Nokia Singapore Art, Singapore Art Exhibition, Art Festival projects at Clifford Pier for "Tracking Time" and St James Power Station for the exhibition "Reconstruction of a City". Her signature creations of soft sculptures and site-specific installation works using fabric-based materials have been exhibited in various locations in Singapore such as Suntec City, Singapore Management University, Singapore General Hospital and the Esplanade.

National Archives of Singapore

- d. **2 and a half D Cinema by Isabelle Desjeux and Russell Morton (Singapore)**
Mon 6 Jun – Sun 26 June 2011 | 10am – 6pm (Closed on Mondays)



© National Museum of Singapore, Isabelle Desjeux

Description of Work

Presented for the first time in Singapore, this is an innovative original work created by Desjeux and Morton. The artists invite children to “walk into” the movies and play with the characters on the screen, hence creating a new composition of the old and the new. The work aims to use technology to engage the children and aid their understanding of a different period of time, resulting in a completely new and unscripted interpretation of the footage!

Artist Bio

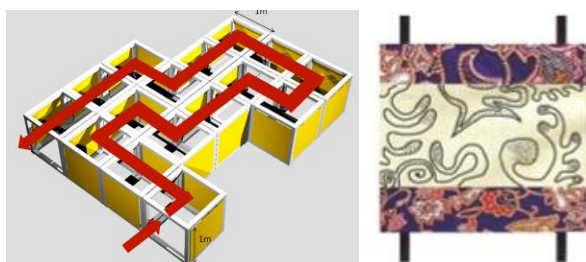
Although Isabelle Desjeux was trained as a Bio-Scientist, she also has a Master’s degree in Fine Art. A mother of three children, Desjeux divides her time between honing her artistic skills, teaching and drawing with children. Her art is mostly self-taught and ranges from expressive figure drawing, print-making and papier mâché, to videos and performances for the past 10 years.

ii. Sensory Studio (The Lab)

The Sensory Studio welcomes children to experiment and express themselves through creative art play. It is a space where children enhance their experiences and express themselves through the use of all their senses and tactile engagement. Children and families are invited to experience and create collaboratively, guided by the artists and play facilitators.

Activities change every two weeks.

a. Transforming Passages by Playeum[®], The Play Museum Sat 14 May – Sun 29 May 2011 | 10am – 6pm



© Playeum[®], The Play Museum

This contemporary art installation invites children to design their own fabric patterns, inspired by designs and geometry in traditional and fashion fabrics used over different time periods. At the same time, children can remove the panels to create passages and tunnels within the installation, transforming it into a morphing landscape for physical and creative interaction.

b. Clay Musescapes by Teo Huey Ling Tue 31 May – Sun 12 Jun 2011 | 10am – 6pm



© Teo Huey Ling

Children can look forward to getting their hands messy when they take part in creating a large scale work of an entire museum-scape, which will cover almost the entire Sensory Lab at the end of its exhibition period.

Artist Bio

Teo Huey Ling studied Fine Arts at the National Art School Sydney and graduated with High Distinction in Ceramics and Drawing. Her works were exhibited in many galleries, art and culture centres, and educational institutions, such as Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) and Esplanade Jendela Gallery. Pursuing her interest in ceramics, Teo took part in several prestigious art events that are ceramic-specific: National Ceramics Conference in Philadelphia, USA as well as the Sydney Ceramic Triennale. Besides creating sculptures, Teo is also teaching at Temasek Polytechnic and NAFA. In 2006, Teo was a recipient of National Art Council Bursary.

c. **Happy Hawkers by Playeum® , The Play Museum** **Sat 14 May – Sun 26 Jun 2011 | 10am – 6pm**

Inspired by the street food setting presented in the Food Gallery of the National Museum, *Happy Hawkers* is an interactive set for pretend play by children as they make their own food and peddle them in makeshift stalls.

4. **Workshops @ The Playdome with Playeum®**

The workshops at The PlayDome with Playeum are designed with play, interactivity and novelty in mind. This year's workshops involve hands-on and multi-disciplinary sessions, including movement through the galleries and the spaces in the National Museum. Children are acknowledged as creators of the work alongside the artist and are therefore invited to contribute and craft their art with the artists.

For enquiries and school bookings, please email our education officers at nhb_nm_schools@nhb.gov.sg

- a. **Rhythm and Rhyme, Sing and It's Mine! – A Create-Your-Own-Song Workshop**
by Corinne Gibbons (Singapore)
Sat 21 May & Sun 22 May 2011 | 11am & 1.30pm
\$33 / \$27 Concession rate (for one child and one adult)
Seminar Rooms, Level 2 | 60 mins | Best for children aged 5 to 9 years old
Limited to 13 pairs of participants



© Playeum, The Play Museum

Synopsis

In this workshop, parents can join their children to create their own original songs. Led by singer-songwriter Corinne Gibbons, teams of parent and child will be inspired by the contents of the National Museum and express their ideas in words. Rhythm, meter and rhyme are weaved into the participants' stories about their favourite foods, films and fashion to create their very own unique songs to take home!

Artist Bio

Corinne is passionate about creating musical experiences for children and assisting them to access their own creativity. She has composed songs for three children's musicals, including *The Jungle Book* and *Bear and Chicken Go Camping* for the Singapore Repertory Theatre,

conducted community choirs and conducting singing and song-writing workshops for children. She is currently writing a music programme for The Island Foundation Charity for Children in Indonesia and conducting regular workshops in the schools in Pulau Bintan.

- b. **I'm a Storyteller! – An interactive workshop**
by Kamini Ramachadran (Singapore)
Sat 28 May, Sat 4 Jun & Sun 5 Jun 2011 | 11am & 2pm
\$38 / \$31 Concession rate (for one child and one adult)
Seminar Rooms, Level 2 | 90 mins | Best for children aged 5 to 9 years old
Limited to 12 pairs of participants



© Playeum, The Play Museum

Synopsis

Join professional storyteller, Kamini Ramachandran as she guides parents and children to create their own stories using the National Museum's handling collection as tools and props for storytelling. Children's imagination will surely soar while learning to express themselves in this workshop, where a good dose of interactive storytelling will also be demonstrated.

Artist Bio

Fluent in both English and Malay, Kamini studied English Literature & Language at the University of Reading (UK) and taught Speech and Drama privately in Kuala Lumpur before becoming a mother.

Kamini joined forces with Verena Tay to found MoonShadow Stories in November 2004 with the

aim of promoting the lost art of the oral narrative. Drawing on her extensive knowledge of stories and the storytelling craft, Kamini has provided storytelling consultancy services and conducted numerous storytelling workshops for a variety of museums, educational institutions and organizations, as well as researched and created storytelling content for animation projects, folklore publications as well as curated museum exhibitions. She also helped found the Storytelling Association Singapore (SAS) in early 2006, and is currently serving her fourth term as the Association's President.

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- c. **Sensorial Wonderland – A Multi-Sensory Workshop**
by Roundangle Theatre (Australia)
Sat 11 Jun, Sun 12 Jun, Sat 18 Jun & Sun 19 Jun 2011 | 11am & 1.30pm
\$33 / \$27 Concession rate (for one child and one adult)
Seminar Rooms, Level 2 | 60 mins | Best for children aged 5 to 9 years old
Limited to 12 pairs of participants



© Jodie Ahrens

Synopsis

Join the artists from Roundangle (Australia) on an imaginative journey to the wonderlands of scent, sound, texture and taste. Through their intense sensorial experience, participants are guided to see the world in a different light while celebrating and appreciating each other's uniqueness, strengths as well as gifts.

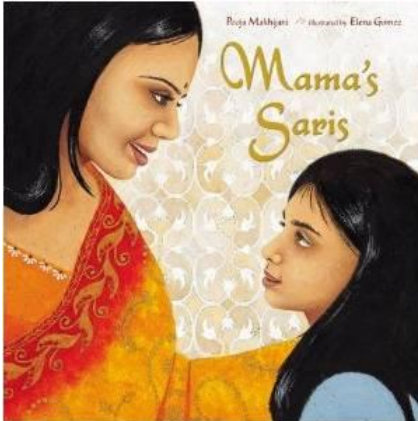
Artist Bio

Jodie Ahrens, Artistic Director of Roundangle, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Drama) from Queensland University of Technology in 1996. Will Tait, performer and producer of Roundangle, is also a writer and a musician. Both of Jodie and Will have been driving the multi-sensory work of Roundangle for the past four years. Most notably, Roundangle's *Source/Sauce* won several awards at the 2006 Melbourne Fringe Festival: The Visionary Award, The Go Full Tilt Award, The Melbourne International Arts Festival Award (to Sound Artists – Madeleine Flynn and Tim Humphrey) and a highly commended for the Abbotsford Convent Award. Jodie and Will also run Our Planet Enterprises, which creates and tours environmentally themed performances and workshops.

Jodie will be joined by Bikki Roydon, Conor Fox and Annabel Ling. A Singapore, Annabel Ling joins the group on this journey to tailor the performance for the children of Singapore.

National Archives of Singapore

- d. **Saris Galore! – A Interactive Workshop**
by Pooja Makhijani (Singapore / USA)
Sat 25 Jun & Sun 26 Jun 2011 | 11am & 2pm
\$33 / \$27 Concession rate (for one child and one adult)
Seminar Rooms, Level 2 | 60 mins | Best for children aged 4 to 7 years old
Limited to 12 pairs of participants



© Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

Synopsis

Using her book *Mama's Saris* in this workshop, author Pooja Makhijani will lead the children to explore the colours, textures and patterns of fabrics and to express themselves using body

language, voices and everyday objects. They will also learn the traditional art of draping a sari and discover more about Singapore's multicultural society.

Artist Bio

Pooja Makhijani, the author of [Mama's Saris](#), has taught writing and children's literature at Western

Connecticut State University and Middlesex County College, as well as conducted [writing workshops and presentations](#) at a number of colleges and universities, schools, libraries, and other educational institutions all over the United States. Her essays and short fiction have been published in a number of children's literary magazines, including *Cicada*, *Kahani*, and *New Moon*.

Pooja has worked in educational media throughout her career. Most recently, at Sesame Workshop, the non-profit behind Sesame Street, she developed curricula and content across media in the United States, India, Bangladesh, and Tanzania. Prior to Sesame Workshop, Pooja was an associate editor at *Weekly Reader*, a classroom news magazine reaching 11 million elementary school children.

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