

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Very Special Arts Singapore mark 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with inclusive musical**

***23 August 2018***

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To mark 25 years of its commitment to offer access and opportunities for people with disabilities through the arts, Very Special Arts (VSA) Singapore will present its first ever inclusive musical, “Free My Music!”, as part of its annual Welcome to My World national concert series by people with disabilities.

Directed by Artistic Director R Chandran, the founder-director of ACT 3 Theatrics and who has a special interest in arts education for special education schools, this inclusive musical is about the dreams, struggles and courage of a VSA Singapore beneficiary, who aspires to become a jazz performer. The production will be presented by VSA’s inclusive theatre company, Very Special Theatrics, and will star many of VSA’s up and coming actors.

Performers from the recent inaugural True Colours Festival, a performing arts extravaganza of music, dance and arts by artists and talents with disabilities, like Danial Bawthan and Redeafination will also be performing in “Free My Music!”.

“Free My Music!” will also feature performers from the Jazz Association Singapore, One Heart and One Voice, Adelyn Koh as well as new partners like Clement Chow and Maya Dance Theatre. Audiences will also get to enjoy a range of curated external fringe activities outside the auditorium that will include experiential workshops and classes with our training artists and partners in the disability sector, for example, Dialogue in the Dark.

VSA Singapore’s Executive Director, Ms Maureen Goh said: “We have nurtured, mentored and worked with young persons with disabilities for 25 years through art programmes, workshops, competitions and art exhibitions for the special needs community. And time and time again, we have never failed to be awestruck by their resilience, and their talents across different genres - from visual arts, literary arts to performing arts.

“We are committed to building a world where people with disabilities are empowered through the arts, and where they can contribute to and integrate with the community. Every year, we work with disabled artists, SPED schools and social service organisations to put up a concert. This year, we are so delighted that “Free Your

Music!” will yet provide another platform for our beneficiaries to showcase their talents. Your support will help to affirm what they are doing, and give them the confidence to move beyond their disabilities to realise their maximum potential.”

#### Ticketing Information

- Concert tickets at \$25.00
- Available online at <https://www.vsa.org.sg/product/welcome-to-my-world-2018-concert-tickets/>
- Sensory Friendly Show
- Wheelchair Accessible
- Sign interpretation during the performance
- Braille programme booklet available for blind and vision-impaired patrons

Please refer to Annex A for programme outline.

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#### **About Very Special Arts Singapore**

Very Special Arts Singapore Ltd (VSA) is a registered charity under National Council of Social Service in Singapore. VSA Singapore is also affiliated to VSA International in the United States. Founded by Singapore’s Ambassador-at-large, Professor Tommy Koh, on 27 September 1993, the mission of VSA is to create and provide access and opportunities for people with disabilities through the arts. To achieve this, VSA promotes the educational, social, rehabilitative and therapeutic benefits of visual, performing and literary arts. In March 2018, VSA Singapore produced and presented the inaugural Asia-Pacific performing arts festival, True Colours, which featured disabled dancers and musicians from Asia Pacific and invited performers from other parts of the world and Singapore.

## **ANNEX A**

### Scene 1

- Item #1 – SONG: CLEMENT CHOW
- Item #2 – SONG: CLEMENT CHOW & DEE (Aqiyah, VST artiste)
- Item #3 – CLEAN-UP DANCE: MAYA & VST

### Scene 2

- Item #4 – PUGILISTICS & SILAT: METTA SCHOOL & TANGLIN SCHOOL

### Scene 3

- Item #5 – DANCE: REDEAFINATION
- Item #6 – DI ZI MUSICAL: KOK WEE

### Scene 4

- Item #7 – SONGS: IRENE JANSEN & CHOIR
- Item #8 – BEAT BOX & ER-HU – WHEELSMITH (DANIAL BAWTHAN & AI HUI)

### Scene 5

- Item #9 – PERCUSSION ITEM BY BLOCO SINGAPURA

### Scene 6

- Item #10 - JAZZ NUMBER BY DAWN WONG WITH WEIXIANG TAN AND BENJAMIN POH
- Item #11 - PIANO PIECE BY KEITH (JOSHUA GERMAN)
- Item #12 - JAZZ NUMBER – SINGER ACCOMPANIED BY JOSHUA GERMAN
- Item #13 - FINALE