

## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### EVENT DATE & LOCATION

Date: 19-21 June 2026  
Location: Singapore

### CONTACT

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### WEBSITES

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[www.asef.org/aecfest/](http://www.asef.org/aecfest/)

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## Asia-Europe Cultural Festival (AECFest) 2026 – Closing Curtain in Singapore

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) is delighted to partner with con.tact Dance Festival to present the Closing Curtain of the AECFest 2026 in Singapore.

ASEF is delighted to partner with con.tact Dance Festival to present the Closing Curtain of the Asia-Europe Cultural Festival (AECFest) 2026 from 19 to 21 June 2026 at Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, Singapore. Bringing together contemporary dance artists from Asia and Europe, the event marks the culmination of AECFest 2026 and celebrates the enduring role of artistic exchange in fostering dialogue across cultures and communities.

The Closing Curtain holds particular significance as it takes place in Singapore, home to ASEF's headquarters. As one of Asia's foremost performing arts venues, the Esplanade provides a fitting setting for the festival's concluding chapter, bringing AECFest's transcontinental journey to a close in a city that has long served as a bridge between cultures and regions.

**AECFest is a multidisciplinary public arts festival** that alternates annually between Asia and Europe, foregrounding artistic collaborations across continents. Since its inception in 2018, the festival has traced the evolving dynamics of Asia-Europe cultural relations, cultivating projects that extend beyond presentation into sustained exchange, research and co-creation. The 2026 edition continued this trajectory through its "festival-in-a-festival" format, developed in collaboration with leading international festival platforms across both regions. Unfolding across three interconnected moments, it began with a Curtain Raiser presented in collaboration with Tai Kwun Arts Centre in Hong Kong, continued with the Main Programme co-presented with SPRING Performing Arts Festival in Utrecht, the Netherlands, and will conclude in Singapore on 19 June with the Closing Curtain in partnership with con.tact Dance Festival.

The collaboration between ASEF and con.tact Dance Festival reflects **a shared commitment to fostering artistic exchange through contemporary performance**. Bringing together artists from Italy, Germany, Singapore and South Korea, *Elusive* embodies the spirit of intercultural dialogue that lies at the heart of AECFest. Performed by T.H.E Dance Company's dance artists at the Esplanade Theatre Studio, the event presents the **world premiere of two international collaborations by Panzetti/Ticconi (Italy/Germany) and Art Project BORA (South Korea)**.

Panzetti/Ticconi unveils *CARILLON*, a hypnotic choreography inspired by the mechanics of the music box, where cycles, repetition and shifting tempo unfold with intricate precision. Art Project BORA presents *O:ro*, a work that transforms breath, vibration and resonance into a shared emotional landscape.

Through embodied practices of attention, relation and exchange, the double bill reflects on presence, connection and coexistence, creating a shared space where different artistic sensibilities meet and resonate across geographies. Developed in close collaboration with T.H.E's dancers, the double bill places the creative process at the centre of the encounter between choreographers and performers while reflecting the festival's continued commitment to artistic exchange and the creation of new works.

In a world shaped by shifting boundaries and shared urgencies, **AECFest 2026 invites audiences to encounter contemporary performance as a space of proximity and reflection**—where artistic exchange becomes a way of rethinking how we live, move and imagine together.

*EVENT DETAILS*

**Elusive – A Double Bill by T.H.E Dance Company**

Presented by The Human Expression (T.H.E) Dance Company

Co-presented with Asia-Europe Cultural Festival (AECFest) 2026 – Closing Curtain

In Collaboration with Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay

by T.H.E Dance Company (Singapore), Art Project BORA (South Korea),  
Panzetti/Ticconi (Italy/Germany)

19 Jun 2026, Fri, 7.30pm

20 Jun 2026, Sat, 7.30pm

21 Jun 2026, Sun, 1pm & 5pm

Venue: Esplanade Theatre Studio

**ASEF welcomes the attendance of journalists and media representatives. Those interested in attending are kindly invited to contact [com@asef.org](mailto:com@asef.org) to reserve a seat.**

## **About the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)**

ASEF is an inter-governmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM). ASEF promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the peoples, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF has run more than 280 projects, mainly seminars, workshops and lectures, together with over 230 partner organisations. [www.asef.org](http://www.asef.org)

## **About the Asia-Europe Meeting**

ASEM is an inter-governmental process established in 1996 to foster dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe. ASEM addresses political, economic, financial, social, cultural and educational issues of common interest, in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership. It comprises 53 partners: 21 Asian and 30 European countries, the ASEAN Secretariat and the EU. [www.ASEMinfoboard.org](http://www.ASEMinfoboard.org)

## **About contact Dance Festival**

Having started out as a simple week of dance events in 2010, contact Dance Festival has evolved into an annual celebration that bridges local and global dance communities. contact—meaning "continued act"—encapsulates the festival's enduring commitment to nurturing the contemporary dance landscape through celebrating diverse voices from around the world, embracing cultural differences, and uplifting emerging artists and arts thinkers across borders. Echoing the gesture of touch, or contact, contact celebrates dance as a universal force that transcends boundaries, bridges perspectives and experiences, and touches hearts and minds across cultures. [www.the-dancecompany.com/8-contact-festival](http://www.the-dancecompany.com/8-contact-festival)

## **About The Human Expression (T.H.E) Dance Company**

The Human Expression (T.H.E) Dance Company was founded in 2008 by Artistic Director Kuik Swee Boon. Rooted firmly in Singapore yet universal in its perspective, T.H.E's contemporary dance works reveal the body as a medium for exploring and celebrating the human condition. T.H.E has performed at numerous major festivals, including the Singapore Arts Festival, Esplanade's da:ns festival and Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts, SIDance Festival and Seoul Performing Arts Festival in South Korea, Beijing and Guangdong Dance Festival in China, Niigata International Dance Festival in Japan, Les Hivernales Festival in Avignon, France, as well as Italy's Oriente Occidente Festival in Rovereto, Inteatro Festival in Ancona, Cross Festival in Verbania, and Fabbrica Europa in Florence. [the-dancecompany.com](http://the-dancecompany.com)