

# LIBRARY DETAILS

## LIBRARY@ESPLANADE

### FAST FACTS

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Opening Date: 12 September 2002

Floor Area: 2,308 square meters

Collection Size: 120,000 volumes (print & AV)

Target Community: Users with varying levels of interest in the performing arts, from the casual browser and hobbyists, to arts students, teachers, practitioners and performers

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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4 “Villages” for Music, Dance, Theatre and Film

The library@esplanade is Singapore’s first public library dedicated to the performing arts, specialising in the areas of music, dance, theatre, and film.

The library is divided into four distinct themed areas also known as “Villages” – Music, Dance, Theatre, and Film. Each Village has its own ambience, colour theme, and character. Library resources are categorised by theme, with different media formats, print and non-print, found alongside each other, allowing for greater accessibility and convenience.

Special Facilities for Performing Arts

The library has facilities catered to the performing arts, including three Screening Rooms, a Piano Practice Room, and a Silent Studio where musicians can hold jamming sessions. Members of the public may rent these facilities at an hourly rate.

Apart from these, the library has the Open Stage, a programming zone that is fitted with a baby grand piano, and exhibition spaces like the Glass Showcase and the Gallery Wall at the Music Village.

Performing Arts Programmes

As a collaborative and dynamic niche library, the library works with various partners on programmes, exhibitions, education and outreach. It is host to a variety of programmes and exhibitions which seek to generate awareness and educate the community on the performing arts. These include talks, workshops and performances by artists, scholars and critics, as well as film screenings.

### COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

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library@esplanade's specialised collection includes books, music scores, movie screenplays, play scripts, dance notations, classical and popular CDs and video recordings of films in DVDs and Blu-Ray discs, operas, dance performances and theatre productions.

The collection is divided according to the Music, Film, Theatre and Dance Villages. Each Village has its own layout, designated facilities and unique character.

### **Music Village**

The creative output of classical and contemporary composers and singers are captured in various formats such as music scores, books, CDs and videos. Much of the diverse collection is available for loan. Music sampling posts are available for the public to listen to the CDs.

### **Dance Village**

The history and art of dance are recorded in formats such as books, dance notations and videos of performances. Instructional dance videos are also available for both children and adults.

### **Theatre Village**

The diverse expressions of theatre find their home in the collection that focuses on the art form as they appear in books, play scripts and videos.

### **Film Village**

The collection of books and film scripts illuminates the personalities and forces that have charted the course of film history. Students and fans of film can browse or borrow books and film scripts. They can also choose from a wide selection of films on DVDs and Blu-ray Discs.

### **Referenced Closed Access Section (RCLOS)**

The library also houses a reference closed access section (RCLOS) which includes the Asian Film Archive collection, the Arts Alive Collection and Wild Rice Collection, as well as unreleased films and recordings. Advance requests can be made to view the RCLOS on site at no charge.

## **LIBRARY HISTORY**

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The library@esplanade was officially opened on 12 September 2002 by Minister Khaw Boon Wan, then Senior Minister of State for Transport and Information, Communication and the Arts. It is Singapore's first and only public library dedicated to the performing arts, and one of the few libraries in the world to be located within a performing arts complex. The library can be found on the third level of the Esplanade Mall.

## **INTERESTING FACTS**

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As a tribute to Singapore's film heritage, refurbished vintage theatre chairs from the old Capitol Theatre donated by Capitol Investment Holdings were installed in the library in early 2014.

Apart from having a selection of foreign films, library@esplanade is the only public library in Singapore that has rated movies (NC16 and M18) DVDs and Blu-Ray Discs available for loan.