



**EDINBURGH  
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FESTIVAL**

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**Edinburgh International Festival 2009**

# **DIASPORA**

By Ong Keng Sen

**TheatreWorks (Singapore)**  
**Singapore Chinese Orchestra**  
**European Premiere at the Edinburgh International Festival, 2009**

**Ong Keng Sen** Director and writer  
**Tsung Yeh** Conductor  
**Choy Ka Fai** Video installation  
**Toru Yamanaka** Electronic composer (DJ)  
**Scott Zielinski** Lighting designer

Video artists: **Rabiya Choudhry, Ariani Darmawan, Zai Kuning, Dinh Q. Le, Navin Rawanchaikul, Tintin Wulia** Actors: **Koh Boon Pin, Janice Koh, Lim Kay Tong, Nora Samosir**

*Diaspora*, a visionary production by director Ong Keng Sen, TheatreWorks and the Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO), makes its European premiere at Edinburgh International Festival this August.

A sweeping, panoramic performance *Diaspora* layers music, video and live story telling to explore memory, migration, assimilation and the triumph of the human spirit. A timeline of Chinese music spanning 2000 years underscores the production, from mountain songs to contemporary compositions. The music is performed live by the SCO and contemporary electronic musician Toru Yamanaka.

First created in 2006, Keng Sen and a group of visual artists searched for real-life stories of diaspora and displacement, using personal stories of Vietnamese Americans, Indonesian Chinese, Indians in South East Asia, Orang Laut (or sea nomads) Keng Sen explores notions of home, identity and the dispersion of peoples through war, birth and choice.

*Diaspora* is an evolving performance. In this Edinburgh version, Keng Sen is collaborating with Rabiya Choudhry, a Scottish visual artist who brings her own personal story of diaspora to the production through video art and a live painting performance.

Rabiya graduated from the Edinburgh College of Art with a Bachelor of Arts (with First Class Honours) in painting in 2004 and a Masters in Fine Art in 2006. She has

exhibited in Edinburgh at venues such as the Bongo Club, Dance Base, Blackhall and also for the Edinburgh International Conference Centre. Rabiya's works were also seen extensively in London at the Royal Academy of Arts, Five Years Gallery and even the London Zoo.

Ong Keng Sen is Leverhulme Artist in Residence at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Edinburgh.

**SEASON DETAILS:**

***Diaspora***

Saturday 15 & Sunday 16 August 8.00pm, The Edinburgh Playhouse

Tickets from £8

Supported by Homecoming Scotland, Visiting Arts, National Arts Council (Singapore) and Singapore Arts Festival

[eif.co.uk](http://eif.co.uk)

Hub Tickets: +44(0)131 473 2000

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Hub Tickets +44 (0)131 473 2000

Online booking and information at [www.eif.co.uk](http://www.eif.co.uk)

For more information on the programme and Edinburgh International Festival Director Jonathan Mills, please contact Edinburgh International Festival press office: +44 (0)131 473 2020 or [press@eif.co.uk](mailto:press@eif.co.uk)

Homecoming Scotland 2009 is a Scottish Government initiative managed by EventScotland in partnership with VisitScotland. Homecoming Scotland 2009 seeks to motivate people of Scottish descent, as well as those who simply love Scotland, to come home and join us in a national celebration of our culture, heritage and the many great contributions Scotland has given the world:  
[www.homecomingscotland2009.com](http://www.homecomingscotland2009.com)

If you would like more information on Homecoming Scotland please contact Leon Thompson, EventScotland Communications Manager, 0131 472 2312 / [leon.thompson@eventscotland.org](mailto:leon.thompson@eventscotland.org)

***Diaspora*** is also part of the Singapore Showcase in Edinburgh 2009. For more information visit [www.nac.gov.sg/singaporeshowcase](http://www.nac.gov.sg/singaporeshowcase)