



MEDIA ADVISORY

Sentosa Buskers Festival Back with New Tricks

Singapore, 24 August 2011 – The Sentosa Buskers Festival returns for a second year and is set to exceed last year's turnout of 100,000 spectators by 10 per cent with a bigger ensemble of 13 acts and a focus on charity. The buskers will be out in force on Sentosa during the school holiday week from 3 to 11 September, a deliberate shift from last year's festival period in end-November.

Bigger ensemble

Thirteen acts from nine countries will add to the buzz at four locations around Sentosa - Merlion Plaza, Imbiah Garden (Amphitheatre), Songs of the Sea (Forecourt) and Siloso Beach (Area opposite Skyline Luge Sentosa). From a juggler to a portrait master and a circus comedian and more, the international motley crew of buskers will inject colours, sounds and playful energy to Sentosa's sunny outdoors. More than 180 live performances are lined up over the nine-day Festival.

Focus on charity

Increasing the public's delight, the buskers will turn the spotlight on the less fortunate by giving all donations collected at the end of each performance to the Community Chest.

The charity component is in conjunction with the launch of Sentosa's inaugural charity initiative called Sentosa Gives which gets underway from 2 to 11 September, and will feature a week-long programme for groups identified by the National Council of Social Services.

"For a second year, the Sentosa Buskers Festival will create more unique play time for families and friends. This year, we are reaching out to voluntary welfare organisations because we want them to enjoy bonding together at Asia's favourite playground", said Jimmy Wong, Events Director for Sentosa Leisure Group. "The intriguing acts are not just entertaining, they showcase the tenacity of the human spirit that fuels precision and perfection in a variety of art forms. We invite you to join us as we celebrate art and reach out to the community."

Confluence of Asian and Western Talents

The Festival introduces its first Asian act, which originated from traditional Japanese juggling used to ward off evil spirits. Presented by Senmaru and Yuki from Japan, the art of Edo-Daikagura now involves juggling of teapots, cups and other daily objects.

Visual arts also takes the spotlight for the first time this year in the form of John Gowdy's performance painting. The retired American captain blends his fluid movements of painting and sand-scattering with a rotating canvas to create spectacular portraits of familiar icons such as popular musician John Lennon.

Guests can also catch a familiar face during the Festival. Canadian Aytahn Ross is the last surviving member of a long line of circus performers, the Royal Blanzo, and has appeared on *Just for Laughs* on several occasions. With over 20 years of performing experience, his comedic timing is set to tickle guests of all ages.

The Festival is free of charge and is open to the public from 4pm to 10pm daily. All performances will be staged at four venues around Sentosa, namely the Merlion Plaza, Imbiah Garden (Amphitheatre), Songs of the Sea (Forecourt) and Siloso Beach (Area opposite Skyline Luge Sentosa). Island admission charges apply. For more details, please visit <http://buskers.sentosa.com.sg> or call 1800-SENTOSA.

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