

## arts

## New dance groups among recipients of NAC's Seed Grant



New dance group Re: Dance Theatre is one of the new recipients of NAC's Seed Grant. Photo: Robin Chee.

SINGAPORE — The local dance scene can expect a burst of new energy as a handful of emerging groups are set to get new grants this year.

Among the seven latest recipients of the National Arts Council's (NAC) Seed Grant are Re: Dance Theatre, Raw Moves and the Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan Dance Theatre. The first two are led by notable choreographer-dancers Albert Tiong and Ricky Sim, respectively, while the third is a new group formed from the SHHK Dance Troupe. Rounding up this year's recipients are: Malay percussion group NADI, Chinese literary association Burmese Hub, urban art collective RSCLS and Art Photography Centre, which organises the Singapore International Photography Festival.

Meanwhile, six of the 19 recipients of the NAC's Major Grant scheme this year are also first-timers. They are: experimental band The Observatory, Singapore Drama Educators Association, art education group Art Outreach, Ding Yi Music Company, Siong Leng Musical Association, and Era Dance Theatre.

The Seed Grant, which was launched last year, provides annual funding support of up to three years to new or emerging groups. The Major Grant, given to established arts groups, has now been turned into a three-year scheme to replace the previous one- and two-year schemes.

This year sees a significant boost in funding for the two grants, with recipients receiving a total of S\$8.6 million for 2013, an increase of 31 per cent from S\$6.5 million last year.