

MEDIA FACTSHEET A

ORCHIDS OF THE AMAZON



Gardens by the Bay's Orchids of the Amazon display at Cloud Forest features exotic orchids that are native to the Amazon rainforest, and brings the beauty and diversity that exists there closer to Singapore.

Exotic epiphytic orchids from the faraway Amazon region are brought closer to Singapore in Cloud Forest's Orchids of the Amazon, where 50 varieties are showcased amidst a lush green landscape of ferns, aroids and bromeliads that bring to mind the dense foliage of the rainforest.

Spanning more than 6.8 million sq km, the Amazon is the largest river basin in the world, extending across nine South American countries: Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana, with Brazil holding the largest section at about 65 per cent.

Known as the world's largest tropical rainforest, the Amazon Rainforest is roughly 7,680 times the size of Singapore at 720 sq km, and is often referred to as the "Lungs of the World", producing up to 20 per cent of the world's oxygen.

The Amazon rainforest has unparalleled biodiversity, which includes over 700 orchid varieties. Gardens by the Bay's Orchids of the Amazon allows visitors to experience a tiny sample of this incredible range. Many of the orchids on show have interesting features. One species of note is *Polycycnis Silvana*, which bears numerous flowers which have arching columns that resemble the necks of graceful swans – "polycycnis" is derived from the Greek word for "many swans".



Another species to look out for is *Warczewiczella amazonica*, which is named after the Amazon, and whose lightly-scented white flowers are regarded as the largest in the *Warczewiczella* genus.

The display also includes replicas of animals from the region such as capybaras, sloths and macaws.

A part of the biannual changing orchid displays in Cloud Forest, Orchids of the Amazon is the second orchid display for this year.

Date: Thursday, 14 November 2019 – Sunday, 29 March 2020

Time: 9am – 9pm

Location: Cloud Forest

Details: Admission charge to the conservatories applies.

Highlights of Orchids of the Amazon

***Catasetum* Orchidglade 'Jack of Diamonds'**

An outstanding hybrid produced from two showy, large flower parents – *Catasetum pileatum*, a native to the northern parts of South America and *Catasetum expansum*, which is from Ecuador. *Catasetum pileatum* is known for having the largest lip among all the *catasetums* as well as its floriferous nature, while *Catasetum expansum* has a large flat 'spread out' lip with dark red callus. *Catasetum* Orchidglade 'Jack of Diamonds' is one of the most popular and best form of the breed because it has inherited the flatness, large-sized lip and rich coloration from its parents.



Catasetum pileatum* var *album

Otherwise known as the "Felt-capped *Catasetum*", this species grows in the Amazon rainforest, and is native to North Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Trinidad-Tobago and Venezuela. It is a hot-growing epiphyte that can be found at elevations between 100 and 200 metres. It was once the national flower of Venezuela until 1921, and was also featured on Venezuela's 500 bolivar currency note. This is the white flower form.



Cattleya lawrenceana* f. *coerulea

This species can be found in the Amazon rainforest and is native to the North of Brazil, Guyana and Venezuela. Growing at elevations between 250m and 1,200m, it is a hot to cool-growing epiphyte. It is named after Sir Trevor Lawrence, who was the president of The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) from 1885 to 1914. He helped to turn RHS into one of the greatest horticultural societies in the world. The orchid fraternity named two orchid species, this one and *Paphiopedilum lawrenceana* in Sir Lawrence's honour.



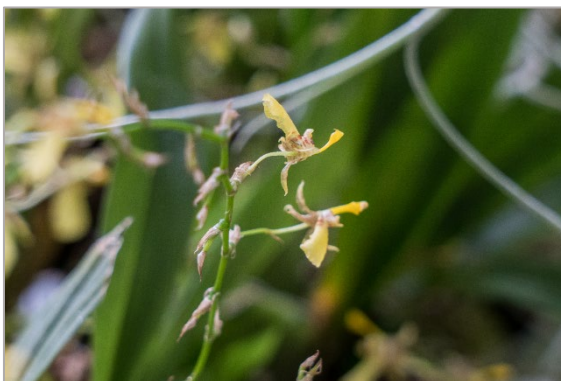
Maxillaria rufescens

Commonly known as the “Light Fox-Red Maxillaria”, the blooms of this species which arise from mature pseudobulbs are small. Ranging between 2.2cm and 5cm, these small flowers smell strongly of vanilla. A hot to cool-growing epiphyte, it is found at elevations between 200m and 1,700m in both the Amazon rainforest and Atlantic rainforest, and is native to countries in Tropical America.



Oncidium amazonicum

This species with small flowers of only 1.5cm grows in the Amazon rainforest, and is named after the Amazon. It is a hot-to-warm growing epiphyte that can be found at elevations between 100m and 1,000m at sea level.



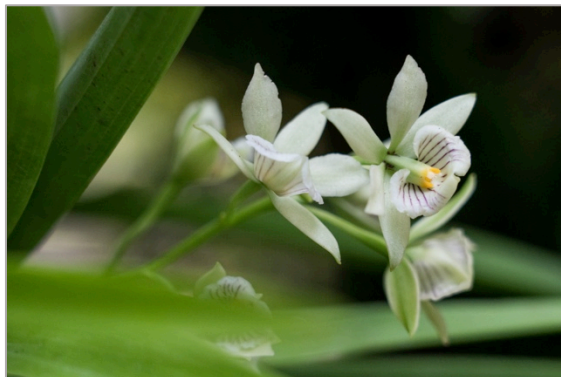
Polycycnis silvana

The numerous flowers of this species have arching columns that resemble the necks of graceful swans, hence its name *Polycycnis Silvana*. “Polycycnis” is derived from the Greek word for “many swans”. Found in the Atlantic rainforest of Northeast Brazil, it is also native to Bolivia and Peru. It resides in humid, shaded, low-to-mid elevation montane forests. The scented flowers are creamy white with brownish-pink blotches, and the lip is densely hairy. Its pollinator, the male Euglossine bee, uses scent derived from the flowers to attract females and battle rivals.



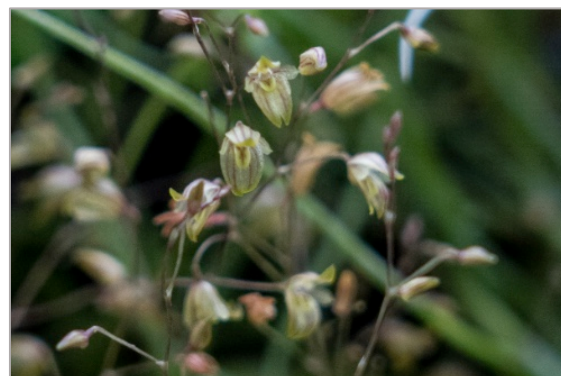
Prosthechea fragrans

As its name suggests, this species produces fragrant flowers. It is a warm to cool-growing epiphyte found in the rainforests of Mexico, Central and South America, and Peru at an elevation of up to 2,000m. The inflorescence is erect and few flowered, and flowers are white, cream or greenish-white with purple-veined lips. The lip of the flower does not rotate, and points upwards instead of downwards like most orchids.



Specklinia grobyi

The flowers of this miniature species are yellow with striped red throats. They grow easily to a large size and can be a stunning sight when flowering occurs en masse. Native to the countries in Tropical America, this is a cold to hot-growing species that can be found in the Amazon rainforest. It grows at elevations between 60m and 3,200m.



Warczewiczella amazonica

This species, which is also named after the Amazon, has lightly-scented white flowers that are regarded as the largest in the Warzewiczella genus. It grows in the Amazon rainforest and is native to North Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. It is a hot to warm-growing epiphyte, found at elevations between 150m and 1,000m.



MEDIA FACTSHEET B

PORTRAITS OF A MINIVERSE

Alongside the Orchids of the Amazon display is the Portraits of a Miniverse photo exhibition by Singaporean photographer Shannon Heng. In this exhibition, 24 photographs of miniature orchids which are endemic to the Amazon region showcase the unexpected beauty of such tiny blooms, the smallest of which only measures 3mm.

The first 12 photographs will be on display from November 14 until the end of the year. A new set of 12 photographs will be on show from January next year.

Date: Thursday, 14 November 2019 – Sunday, 16 February 2020

Time: 9am – 9pm

Location: Cloud Forest

Details: Admission charge to the conservatories applies.

For more information, visit www.gardensbythebay.com.sg/portraits.

About Shannon Heng

Growing up in Singapore with abundant exposure to the rich botanical world, Shannon brings his appreciation of flora to developing a unique style of Botanical Portraiture. His inspirations are drawn from lines, textures, colours and form to capture the essence of each subject he photographs.

He currently splits his time between Singapore and India, where he is a SIGMA Regional Ambassador for India. He is also a Senior Advisor with DCP Expeditions in Mumbai.



MEDIA FACTSHEET C

TREE



Tree allows users to “become” a rainforest tree through the use of virtual reality. They will feel what it is like growing from a seedling to a full-fledged tree, then meeting a fate determined by the callous acts of mankind.

This unique empathetic experience, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2017, is in Singapore for the first time, after travelling to countries like USA, Hong Kong, Dubai, Denmark and the Netherlands. This year, it was showcased at the World Economic Forum in Switzerland as well as the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Cloud Forest's Crystal Mountain section will house two booths where visitors can experience Tree. Tree at Gardens by the Bay is supported by Woh Hup, HP Inc, Bose Corporation and SUBPAC Inc.

Date: Thursday, 14 November 2019 – Sunday, 16 February 2020

Time: 9am – 9pm

Location: Cloud Forest

Details: Tickets to Tree are \$5 and can be purchased from the ticketing counter at The Canopy. Admission charge to the conservatories applies.

The people behind Tree

Milica Zec

Milica Zec is an award-winning Los Angeles-based film and virtual reality director. Her cinematic virtual reality projects *Giant* and *Tree* have been exhibited at Sundance, Cannes, IMAX, TED, and over 130 other festivals. Prior to that, Milica worked with the performance artist Marina Abramovic for nine years, where she had the experience of transforming audiences by making the viewer an active participant in the artwork. Milica has given keynotes and masterclasses at leading institutions around the world, including NYU, A&E Network and Siggraph.



Winslow Porter

Winslow Porter is a Brooklyn-based director, producer and creative technologist specialising in virtual reality and large-scale immersive installations. Winslow has always been fascinated with the possibilities of how the intersection of art and technology can elevate storytelling. In 2014, he produced the Tribeca Film Festival Transmedia Award-winning documentary *CLOUDS*, among other acclaimed new media projects. Winslow formed studio the New Reality Company with Milica Zec in 2016, creating the critically-acclaimed cinematic VR experiences *Giant* and *Tree*. They were both named designers in residence at *A/D/O*, a BMW sponsored design center in Greenpoint Brooklyn; last fall the two were selected to *Adweek's* Top 100 creatives as digital innovators. In 2018, *Tree* won the Lumiere award for Best Location Based VR Short at Warner Brothers Studios in Los Angeles, the Most Innovative Award at Games For Change, two Telly Gold Awards for Use of VR and Social Responsibility in Branded Content, and the Webby People's Voice Award for VR: Interactive, Game or Real-Time. Winslow is a 2018 and 2019 New Inc. Mentor.

