# Esplanade Presents **Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts 2021** 10 – 27 Jun 2021

www.esplanade.com/pestaraya



**Update:** With the further tightening of safe management measures announced on 14 May 2021 to reduce the risk of community spread of COVID-19, several programmes and workshops at Pesta Raya have been cancelled. We sincerely apologise for the inconvenience caused and hope to bring these performances and workshops back when the situation improves.

Pesta Raya continues to bring an exciting line-up of programmes online. More details can be found in the annex below and at <u>www.esplanade.com/pestaraya</u>.

The year 2021 is a special one for *Pesta Raya* – *Malay Festival of Arts* as we mark the 20th edition of the festival which will take place from 10 – 27 Jun 2021. Though joy and a sense of pride fill our hearts for reaching this milestone, one can't help but feel a little nostalgic as we reflect on the past—the artists, arts groups, collaborative partners, sponsors and patrons that have journeyed with us thus far. *Pesta Raya* has, for the last two decades, been a platform where a wide range of works from the Nusantara are presented and appreciated. It has always been heartwarming to see the centre abuzz and filled with not just the artists in their colourful costumes on the various stages, but also our wonderful audience who come dressed to the nines as they gather at Esplanade with friends and family members to watch the performances.

As we manoeuvre around the pandemic (this would be our second festival in the midst of the situation), we persevere and keep that spirit and energy going, and continue connecting with our audiences safely, even those beyond our borders. Hence, the festival this year will take myriad forms—live performances, digital performances via live streams, workshops and short films, which will be available for viewing on *Esplanade Offstage*. Even with smaller audience numbers due to the safe management measures and guidelines in place, we hope *Pesta Raya* continues to be a festival that shines the spotlight on some of the very best Singapore and the Nusantara can offer, and sparks joy for our audiences, locally and across the region.

Taking centre stage this year are 1970s Singapore icon, Sanisah Huri, who celebrates her 50th year in music in her first ever solo concert in the Esplanade Concert Hall and two productions commissioned for the festival—*Pulang Balik* a double-bill by Teater Ekamatra and *Tempoh* by Orkestar Trio (Singapore) and Djangat (Indonesia). *Pulang Balik* is written by renowned playwrights Aidli 'Alin' Mosbit and Zulfadli Rashid and *Tempoh* is a multimedia music presentation directed by Young Artist Award recipient Irfan Kasban featuring a daring exploration of traditional and folkloric music.

Though our friends from the Nusantara are unable to join us physically at the festival, they share their work with us online. This year the festival has commissioned a special dance film, *Sarung*, by acclaimed Indonesian film auteur Garin Nugroho, who celebrates his 40th anniversary in his craft. To commemorate the 20th edition of *Pesta Raya*, we will be featuring three special short films by established Singapore directors, Faisal Ishak, M. Raihan Halim and Sanif Olek. These free-to-access films will be released and made available exclusively on *Esplanade Offstage* on 10 Jun 2021.

We also take the opportunity to support and feature up-and-coming artists during the festival. Interactive dance performance *GARAP Garage* will give children above four and their caregivers an opportunity to contribute to the creative process by creating sounds and actions that will shape the eventual performance by three dancers including Young Artist Award recipient Sufri Juwahir.

The festival continues to be a platform for arts practitioners to expand their craft through collaborations. This year, *oud* master Azrin Abdullah and sound designer/producer Safuan Johari of Syndicate and NADA, fuse their worlds for the first time in *gambus electronica*. In *Gema Serumpun*, the Indonesian gamelan and Malay folk music come together in a collaboration between Gendang Akustika and Gamelan Asmarada, showcasing new compositions alongside new arrangements of folk standards.

We would like to thank our Supporting Sponsor The Silent Foundation for their generous support of *Pesta Raya 2021*.

So dust off your *baju raya* and commemorate our special edition of *Pesta Raya* this June with us. It is time once again to create new memories while celebrating our culture, our art and our Nusantara at Esplanade.

Hanie Nadia Hamzah Producer, The Esplanade Co Ltd

Last updated: 25 May 2021

#### About Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay

Esplanade is Singapore's national performing arts centre. It hosts a year-round line-up of about 3,500 live performances and activities presented by Esplanade, its partners and hirers. Esplanade also brings the arts virtually to audiences in Singapore and beyond, through its diverse range of digital programmes on *Esplanade Offstage*, an all-access backstage pass to the performing arts and guide to Singapore and Asian arts and culture, with videos, podcasts, articles, quizzes and resources.

As an arts centre for everyone, Esplanade also creates opportunities for seniors, youth, children and underserved communities to experience the arts. More than 70% of the shows that take place each year at the centre are non-ticketed.

The centre works in close partnership with local, regional and international artists to develop artistic capabilities and content, push artistic boundaries and engage audiences. Esplanade supports the creation of artistic content by commissioning and producing new Singapore and Asian work for the international stage. It also develops technical capabilities for the industry nationally.

To bring even more of the arts to a wider audience and provide more platforms to support Singapore's next generation of artists, Esplanade is building a new theatre along its busy waterfront. Named Singtel Waterfront Theatre, the 550-seat venue will open in 2022.

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay is operated by The Esplanade Co Ltd (TECL), which is a notfor-profit organisation, a registered Charity and an Institution of a Public Character. The Charity Council awarded TECL the Charity Governance Award – Special Commendation for Clarity of Strategy in 2016, and the Charity Transparency Award for four consecutive years since 2016.

TECL receives funding support from Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and its Community Programmes are supported by Tote Board Family, comprising Tote Board, Singapore Pools and Singapore Turf Club.

Visit Esplanade.com for more information.

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# <u>Annexe</u>

Esplanade Presents **Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts 2021** 10 – 27 Jun 2021 www.esplanade.com/pestaraya

Celebrate the icons and treasures of the Malay community in its diversity and richness through the best in theatre, dance, and music from the Nusantara (Malay Archipelago).

#### Advisory:

With the tightening of safe management measures announced on 14 May 2021 to reduce the risk of community spread of COVID-19, some of the *Pesta Raya 2021* programmes have been cancelled. Full refunds will be arranged for patrons who have bought tickets to these performances and SISTIC will be in touch shortly. We sincerely apologise for the inconvenience caused and hope to bring these performances back when the situation improves.

*Pesta Raya* continues to bring an exciting line-up of free programmes online, please visit <u>www.esplanade.com/pestaraya</u> for more details.

Continue to stay in touch with the arts through videos, podcasts, stories and more on <u>*Esplanade Offstage*</u>, our online all-access backstage pass and insider's guide to Singapore and Asian arts and culture.

Find out more on other things you can continue to enjoy at Esplanade here.

# **20th Edition Special Films**

To mark the 20th edition of *Pesta Raya,* and remain connected to artists in the region who are not able to be here physically, the festival has commissioned five films featuring Singapore and Indonesian film directors.

# Short Film Anthology By Sanif Olek, Faisal Ishak and M. Raihan Halim

10 Jun 2021, Thu 8pm Online (Available for viewing on *Esplanade Offstage* until 27 Jun 2021, Sun, 11.59pm)



Delve into the worlds of three short films that address themes of heritage, tradition and memory.

# Pendekar by Sanif Olek

Transported to the modern world, Pendekar learns how to navigate his new environment while reflecting upon his existence. In his journey, he meets LANUN, an encounter that causes a shift in his perspective.

Juxtaposed against various landscapes, Pendekar's moments are graced with a speciallywirtten *sajak* by Muhammad Salihin Sulaiman Jeem, winner of the Singapore Literature Prize (2008) and a recipient of the Golden Point Award (2003).

# About Sanif Olek

Sanif Olek is a Singapore-based film and television director. His filmography includes television productions, strategized messages for corporate organisations and commissioned works for statutory boards and museums. He is accomplished in several television genres, including dramas, documentaries and current affairs. Since 1996, he has received many nominations and earned multiple awards for his directing and writing at MediaCorp Suria's Pesta Perdana awards. His short films have also won international awards and received critical acclaim for telling authentic Singapore stories that address questions about identity and ironies of the human condition. His debut feature film, SAYANG DISAYANG was Singapore's official entry to the 2015 Oscars (Best Foreign Language Film) and is presently streaming on Netflix in Southeast Asia, Japan and Korea.

# Take a Bow by Faisal Ishak

Transformed into a toy, a broken violin bow is given to a little girl who twirls around and creates an imaginative world with it. As the sounds of *keroncong* play in the background, she notices the initials engrave onto the bow, not realising that they belong to her great-grandfather. A story of self-discovery, come on a journey with a young girl through the stages of her life and find an appreciation for a disappearing heritage.

# About Faisal Ishak

Having fallen in love with television and media as a child actor, Faisal Ishak naturally joined the entertainment industry in 1995 as a producer and director. Intrigued by the diversity of genres that television had to offer, he has produced and directed more than 800 hours of content, ranging across variety and entertainment shows, documentaries, children's shows and informative educational productions. Faisal found his true passion in directing, especially for both fictional and non-fictional dramas. Having grown up in a vibrant multiracial environment, he embraced the multiculturalism he grew up with, which is evident in the projects he has undertaken thus far.

Faisal has attained accolades both locally and overseas for several of his highly rated television series, such as *Rafflesia, Nur Kasih, Juyana, Ummi* and 7 *Hari.* These awards include Media Prima's TV3 *Anugerah Skrin,* 8TV's *Shout Awards,* MediaCorp's Suria *Pesta* Perdana and the Asian Television Awards. He has released four feature films to date, *Aliff Dalam 7 Dimensi* and the *Juvana* film trilogy, all of which were well-received by the public, with the latter trilogy having been nominated for several awards in Film Festival Malaysia and representing Malaysia at the recent Asian Film Festival in Macau, China. In recent years, he has been involved in and directed several notable productions made for streaming and pay-per-view platforms, namely *Qadr* and *Inayah* for Astro First, *Isteri Misteri* for VIU Malaysia, *The Fridge* and *Krono* for MediaCorp's MeWatch Singapore and the *KL Gangster Underworld* franchise for iFlix and WeTV.

# Arang by M. Raihan Halim

A young man and his grandfather discuss the power of keeping traditions and memories alive while baking *kueh bakar* in a traditional manner, over charcoal outside their HDB flat. Shot entirely in black and white, *Arang* is a poignant look at the relationship between tradition and memory.

# About M. Raihan Halim

Often calling himself a "part-time scriptwriter, full-time storyteller", M. Raihan Halim's career in television began after winning two Golden Pen Awards at IMDA's National Scriptwriting Competition in 2005 and 2007.

In 2014, Raihan embarked on his feature film project, *Banting*, which he wrote, produced and directed by himself. The film's commercial releases in Singapore and Malaysian theatres were met with overwhelming response. The film was also screened at the 34th Hawaii International Film Festival.

Raihan has since created award-winning shows *Firasat* and *SR115* for MediaCorp's Suria. In 2018, Raihan won the award for Best Original Script at the first Asian Academy Creative Awards for *SR115*. Now working on his next film, *La Luna*, Raihan looks forward to creating content for the worldwide audience. Until today, he still counts his *nenek* as his biggest fan in the world.

#### Sarung By Garin Nugroho (Indonesia)

10 Jun 2021, Thu 8pm

Online (Available for viewing on Esplanade Offstage until 27 Jun 2021, Sun, 11.59pm)



The humble *sarung* plays an important part in daily life, used not only as clothing but also to put children to sleep and to wrap and carry food. *Sarung* follows a dancer who is inspired by this versatile piece of cloth and begins creating new choreography. In the process, she is reminded of her mother whom she has not seen in a long time, spurring her to make the journey home. Sombre yet moving, this film reflects on the notions of home and familial bonds.

# About Garin Nugroho

Born in 1961 in Yogjakarta, Indonesia, Garin Nugroho is a director and producer. He graduated from Institute Kesenian Jakarta (IKJ) and Faculty of Law, University of Indonesia. He started making films at the age of 20 and his works have received commendations at both national and international levels. His works range across short films, documentaries, music videos, advertisements, theatre, performance art and art installation.

Garin is a recipient of various international awards, such as the Order of Arts and Letters from France, *Stella D'Italia Cavaliere* from Italy, Honourary Award at the Singapore International Film Festival, Lifetime Achievement Award from Bangkok ASEAN Film Festival and many more.

He is widely considered as the pioneer of new generation avant-garde films post1990. Aside from his creative practice, he is also an author and a founder of film and art festivals, such as the Jogja Asia Netpact Film Festival (JAFF). Additionally, he established Sains Estetika dan Teknologi, an NGO based in Indonesia that focuses on cultural experiences, democratic expressions and social issues.

Garin is currently active as a lecturer at Institut Seni Indonesia Yogyakarta

#### Warisan – A Short Film By Riri Riza (Indonesia)

10 Jun 2021, Thu

8pm

Online (Available for viewing on Esplanade Offstage until 27 Jun 2021, Sun, 11.59pm)



When we pass, what do we leave behind? *Warisan* follows director Riri Riza as he reflects on the packages left behind by his mother four years after her passing. He recollects and reflects on each item's significance, accompanied by a recording of his mother's message in *makassar*, the ethnic language of their ancestors in South Sulawesi, Indonesia. This deeply personal short film is an intimate portrayal of heritage, legacy and memory.

This film was initially produced as a response to Teater Ekamatra's production, *Pulang Balik*.

# About Riri Riza

Riri Riza (born 1970) is an Indonesian filmmaker. He has a Diploma in film directing from the Jakarta Arts institute. He earned his MA in Screenwriting at The Royal Holloway, University of London.

Riri Riza has a great interest in exploring the regional culture of Indonesia. His films have been well-received by critics and audiences alike, including *Sherina's Adventure* (2000), *Eliana Eliana* (2002), *Gie* (2005), *3 Days to Forever* (2007), *The Rainbow Troops* (2008), *The Dreamer* (2009), *Atambua 39° Celcius* (2012), *The Jungle School* (2013). Apart from box office success at home, his films have been officially selected for film festivals worldwide in countries such as Berlin, Tokyo, Busan, among others. His recent film, *Humba Dreams* (2019), tells the story of a film student reconnecting with his motherland.

Riri Riza is a lecturer of film direction at Jakarta Arts Institute.

# Free-to-access Online Programmes

# [LIVESTREAM] Enche Ahmad

10 Jun 2021, Thu 7.30pm Online (Available for viewing on Esplanade's *Pesta Raya* Facebook page until 27 Jun 2021, Sun, 11.59pm) 30mins



With nearly 20 years in the industry under their belt, Enche Ahmad will perform their original compositions that have shaped them into who they are today.

# About Enche Ahmad

Enche Ahmad consists of siblings, three of whom make up the music group 2D. The final member of the ensemble is the youngest sibling, Rico.

Although all members of Enche Ahmad have been active in producing music, they have never worked together and thus the group was born, with the intention to showcase their collective years of experience as well as their familial chemistry.

https://www.facebook.com/enche.ahmadd/ https://www.instagram.com/Enche.ahmad/

# [LIVESTREAM] Gema Serumpun By Gamelan Asmaradana & Gendang Akustika

10 Jun 2021, Thu 8.30pm Online (Available for viewing on Esplanade's *Pesta Raya* Facebook page until 27 Jun 2021, Sun, 11.59pm) 45mins



*Gema Serumpun (Kindred Resonance)* is a collaboration between music ensembles Gendang Akustika and Gamelan Asmaradana. Both groups pride themselves in innovation while upholding a strong belief in tradition. *Gema Serumpun* features the sounds of the Malay Archipelago, showcasing the gamelan of Indonesia and the syncretic instruments of Malay folk music. This collaboration will also showcase new compositions alongside new arrangements of folk standards from the region.

# About Gamelan Asmaradana

Gamelan Asmaradana is a non-profit arts organisation dedicated to promoting the appreciation of all styles and expressions of gamelan music. Established in 2004, Gamelan Asmaradana consists of three ensembles that specialises in different styles of gamelan. This includes Sudanese gamelan of West Java, represented by Degung Singalagena and led by *kedang* maestro Tatang Sofyan, more fondly known as Kang Atung.

# About Gendang Akustika

Gendang Akustika Limited is a non-profit arts organisation that champions the preservation and progression of urban-based Malay folk music performance and education in Singapore. Its namesake resident ensemble has been active in the arts scene and the entertainment industry since 2009. Under the direction of composer and musician Syafiqah 'Adha, the organisation endeavours to create fresh programmes and digital content that help to bridge communities and reach out to new audience in the effort of keeping a part of Singapore's traditional arts and heritage alive.

https://www.facebook.com/gamelanasmaradana https://www.facebook.com/gendangakustika https://www.youtube.com/c/GamelanAsmaradana https://www.youtube.com/c/GendangAkustika

# [LIVESTREAM] gambus electronica by Safuan Johari & Azrin Abdullah

11 Jun 2021, Fri 7.30pm Online (Available for viewing on Esplanade's *Pesta Raya* Facebook page until 27 Jun 2021, Sun, 11.59pm) 30mins



*gambus electronica* is an exploration into the fusion of the different worlds of its collaborators, Safuan Johari and Azrin Abdullah. The former is known for his experimentations in electronic sounds while the latter is synonymous with the world of traditional music through the *oud*. Though worlds apart in terms of musical experience and practice, the two share a common interest in exploring new sounds. For this debut collaboration, the duo will take listeners through a sonic journey which map out points of confluence and collision, layering traditional melodies with electronic rhythms and textures through improvisations and compositions.

# About Safuan Johari

Safuan Johari is a Singaporean sound designer, music producer and performer. He is also known as Max Lane, a pseudonym he christened himself for his solo production and performance adventures in the electronic realm. As a sound designer, Safuan has worked on various multimedia art installations and performance productions. He is also part of visual arts and sound duo, NADA, an outfit that explores the history of Malay popular culture.

# About Azrin Abdullah

Azrin Abdullah started learning acoustic guitar at the age of six, played his first musical performance at the age of nine and has not stopped playing music since. Currently an active member of the Malay traditional music ensemble Sri Mahligai, he has composed and arranged numerous musical pieces for Malay dance items and productions since 2003 and has been appointed as Music Director for a selection of productions.

In 2014, he furthered his knowledge of the *oud* by attending an advanced instrumental course at the National Conservatory of Arts in Kuala Lumpur. Under the guidance of Raja Zulkarnain Raja Mohd Yusof, he studied the playing styles of Necati Çelik, Munir Bashir, Riyadh Sunbaty, Nasseer Shamma, among others, and studied Arabic and Turkish music.

# [LIVESTREAM] Pesta Dangdut II By Masnie, Rahila Rashun & Sheer Angullia

11 Jun 2021, Fri 8.30pm Online (Available for viewing on Esplanade's *Pesta Raya* Facebook page until 12 Jun 2021, Sat, 11.59pm) 45mins



*Dangdut* is a popular folk music style that emerged in Indonesia since the late 1960s and has evolved over the decades. It is synonymous with energetic, percussion-driven pop music that is greatly influenced by Hindustani and Arabic music.

# About Masnie

Masnie, whose real name is Masni Mohamed, is well known in the Singapore *dangdut* circuit. She participated in *Asia Bagus* in 1991 before becoming a recording artiste and acted in 2007 Telemovie *Pawang Putih Pawang Merah*. With more than 10 years of experience singing in clubs, Masnie currently performs at Scarlet City Club and Happy Days Club with the Kalahari band.

# About Rahila Rashun

Nurul Rahila Rashun, better known as Rahila Rashun, is known for her participation in Malaysia singing competition *Akademi Fantasia 2016*. She reached the semi-finals stage of the competition and emerged as one of the top six. She also participated in *Dangdut Academy Asia 3*, competing with contestants from Indonesia, Malaysia, Timor Leste, Thailand and Brunei. She was the first Singapore contestant to make it into the top seven. Most recently, in 2019, Rahila entered SG Mania, a reality singing competition organised by Mediacorp's Suria, and emerged the winner.

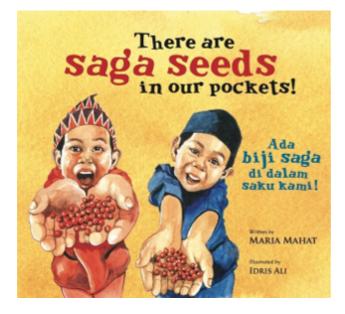
#### About Sheer Angullia

Vocalist Sheer Angullia is the modern day, versatile *Dangdut* performer to have hit the scene since returning from the regionally acclaimed Indonesian singing competition, Dangdut Academy Asia (Season 5). Apart from the viral YouTube performance videos, Sheer had also released a *Dangdut* single, *Rindu Yang Tak Semestinya*, during his stint in Indonesia.

Sheer is distinctively known for having nuances of Pop, Rock and Jazz exuding through his vocal notes when belting to the tunes of both classic and contemporary *Dangdut*. Also a musician since the tender age of eight, Sheer plays several musical instruments namely drums, percussions, and the bass guitar.

#### [PREMIERE] There are saga seeds in our pockets! Written by Maria Mahat Performed by Dalifah Shahril, Hafiz Sanusi & Rizal Rahiman

12 Jun 2021, Sat 3pm Online (Available for viewing on Esplanade's *Pesta Raya* Facebook page until 27 Jun 2021, Sun, 11.59pm) 30mins



An adaptation of the children's picture book *Ada Biji Saga Di Dalam Saku Kami!* (*There are saga seeds in our pockets!*), this performance follows characters Mahir and Aqil as they go on an excursion to the Malay Heritage Centre. Follow them as they discover more about Singapore's past, experience aspects of Malay culture and meet interesting friends along the way.

https://www.instagram.com/ungu\_pen/ https://www.facebook.com/UNGUPEN https://www.facebook.com/maria.mahat https://www.facebook.com/dalifah.shahril https://www.facebook.com/alhafizsanusi

Performed in Malay.

# [LIVESTREAM] Bloom (Mekar) By Ekta Singapura

12 Jun 2021, Sat 7.30pm Online (Available for viewing on Esplanade's *Pesta Raya* Facebook page until 13 Jun 2021, Sun, 11.59pm) 30mins



Mekar Setiap insan pasti akan mekar jika menari mengikut rentak kehidupan

Bloom—something every human being can do if they dance to the rhythms of life.

Music is a fundamental part of our evolution, linked strongly to our motivations, desires and social interactions. Join Ekta Singapura as they present the evolution of Malay identities through the past few decades of music, from the 1950s to present day. Led by co-founder Hafeez Hassan, the performance features a synthesis of *silat* and hip-hop, imbued with a contemporary edge and flow, with gestures and postures derived from both traditional and modern influences. Come bloom with Ekta Singapura in their debut at *Pesta Raya*!

# About Ekta

Ekta Singapura is a unique collective with distinctive style, consisting of artists who come from diverse movement backgrounds such as contemporary, ballet, jazz, hip hop, breakdance, *silat*, and many more. The group debuted at the iconic American festival Burning Man in 2018, which was well-received by festival goers. Since then, the group has continued performing at notable events and venues such as ZoukOut, Asian Civilisations Museum, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay and One Altitude, among others.

#### [LIVESTREAM] Kribo Records: Sounds of Lecak By The Kribo Brothers

12 Jun 2021, Sat 8.30pm Online (Available for viewing on Esplanade's *Pesta Raya* Facebook page until 27 Jun 2021, Sun, 11.59pm) 45mins



To singly categorise the style of the multi-faceted Kribo Records will not do them any justice. While genres like funk, disco and soul are the bedrock of the label, Kribo keeps their tonal horizons open in many directions to tell different stories and showcase their versatility. The label's diverse and talented line-up grace the stage with their vocals and guarantees an unforgettable night of party jams.

# **About The Kribo Brothers**

The Kribo Brothers are an independent label that incorporates the members' collective love of the vintage and the iconic history of retro-soul revival music of Asia in the 60s & 70s. Among other endeavours, Kribo aims to rekindle a newfound interest in genres like funk, soul, reggae and psychedelic rock. As the house band of Kribo Records, The Kribo Brothers commits themselves to producing eccentric mash-ups of sultry soul jams and poetry to create a unique and unparalleled listening experience.

https://www.facebook.com/kriborecords https://www.instagram.com/kriborecords/ Spotify Youtube

# [LIVESTREAM] Poe(M)usic; Blessed By Sofia Nin, Aisyah Liyana & NAMIE

13 Jun 2021, Sun 7.30pm Online (Available for viewing on Esplanade's *Pesta Raya* Facebook page until 27 Jun 2021, Sun, 11.59pm) 30mins



It's been an interesting year so far, hasn't it? Never knew time could fly... yet here we are in the second quarter of 2021. Despite all the challenges thrown at us, we are grateful for the little things that life has gifted us with. Let us share our experiences with you through our words and sonic layers.

# **About Sofia Nin**

Born in 1990, Radin Sofia Azrindawani, better known as Sofia Nin, started penning and posting poetry on her blog in 2008 without having received any formal training in writing. Her works eventually gained the attention of a publisher and she launched her first collection of poems, *Puisi Berantakan,* at the ASEAN Literary Festival in 2014. Sofia's writing style is strongly influenced by Indonesian literature owing to her Javanese-Sundanese background.

# About Aisyah Lyana

Aisyah Lyana has been active in the local and regional literary scene since 2016, when she was co-commissioned for the themed poem *Genggaman Sayang* for Singapore Writers Festival. Her poems have received the Honourable Mention twice under the National Arts Council's Golden Point Award, first in 2013 for *Impian Harimau* and in 2017 for *Taman Tembok* and *Kakitangan*.

In 2017, Aisyah co-founded the initiative Kelana Pantun Temasek to preserve the traditional form of Malay *pantun* among youths through workshops and public performances. She then expanded her knowledge of writing *pantun* and *cerpen* (short story) in 2018 at the Southeast Asian Literary Council (MASTERA) conferences in Brunei and Indonesia. Most recently, she represented Singapore at the 2nd Peace Summit for Young Emerging Leaders at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand, and became a Peace Ambassador at Humanitarian Affairs Asia through her writing.

Aisyah is currently a student at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the National University of Singapore, pursuing a double major in Global Studies and Malay Studies.

# About NAMIE

NAMIE is a Singaporean vocal artist whose music floats within the realms of avant-garde and experimental pop. Her first single, *Queenfisher*, was released in January 2020 as part of *The* 

*Great Singapore Replay* Season 2, which was then featured in the National Day Parade Evening Show 2020. Her most recent release is a 3-in-1 single called *life*, with the feature track *Origami*. Armed with cat-like curiosity and quirky charm, NAMIE set foot into the world of experimental music. With her meditative soundscapes and imagery-ridden songs, she lures you into a world of playfulness, exploration and introspection.

#### [PREMIERE] Rumahku By Azpirasi

13 Jun 2021, Sun 8.30pm Online (Available for viewing on Esplanade's *Pesta Raya* Facebook page until 27 Jun 2021, Sun, 11.59pm) 30mins



"Tegak rumah kerna sendi, Runtuh sendi rumah binasa."

A house is not just where we live, it is where we become ourselves.

Some may unknowingly take it for granted, treating it as just another structure. However, a home is only a home when people fill in the emptiness of such large spaces.

We may choose to ignore the passing of time and seek solace in its comfort, but is ignorance truly bliss?

Azpirasi presents *Rumahku (My Home)*, a poignant exploration of the idea of home and its importance to the self through the medium of dance.

#### **About Azpirasi**

Founded by Azmi Juhari in 2000 with fewer than 10 members, Azpirasi is slowly carving a name for itself in Singapore's dance scene. Its dancers are extremely committed and dedicated to their craft and have performed several shows all over the country. Azpirasi strives to heighten audience's sensorial experiences through a myriad of colours and sounds. The group has matured over the years through collaborations with other professional dance troupes in and around the region. What began as a vague dream for its main choreographer and founder has now evolved into a troupe with ambitions to constantly evolve, grow and refine the craft of dance.

**Azmi Juhari** started off as a self-made dancer in 1979 and has never looked back since. Azmi's involvement in Perkumpulan Seni provided a platform for him to learn more about the fine art of Malay dance under the tutorship of veteran choreographers like Mr. Ali Sungip, Mr. Idrias Abdullah and many other senior dancers of his time.

After the start of his career, he also had the privilege of working with renowned choreographers like Mr. Salleh Buang (Kemuning), Mdm Som Said (Sri Warisan), Mr. Naim Pani, Mr. Osman Hamid (People's Association), Mr. Onn Jaafar (Malaysia) and Mr. Tom Ibnur (Indonesia).

One whose creativity knows no boundaries, Azmi has been experimenting with contemporary Malay dance and traditional ethnic movements. His outstanding works have been showcased in People's Association's project GENTARASA, WorldDance Expo in Aichi, Japan as well as Contemporary Dance Festival in Indonesia.

With his vast experience, he formed Azpirasi Dance Group, where he is currently the Advisor and Choreographer. He aspires to develop young talents into dancers full of passion and interest in the arts.

#### About Azrin Abdullah

Azrin Abdullah started learning acoustic guitar at the age of six, played his first musical performance at the age of nine and has not stopped playing music since. Currently an active member of the Malay traditional music ensemble Sri Mahligai, he has composed and arranged numerous musical pieces for Malay dance items and productions since 2003 and has been appointed as Music Director for a selection of productions.

In 2014, he furthered his knowledge of the *oud* by attending an advanced instrumental course at the National Conservatory of Arts in Kuala Lumpur. Under the guidance of Raja Zulkarnain Raja Mohd Yusof, he studied the playing styles of Necati Çelik, Munir Bashir, Riyadh Sunbaty, Nasseer Shamma, among others, and studied Arabic and Turkish music.

https://www.facebook.com/Azpirasi/ https://www.instagram.com/azpirasi/ Youtube

# **Cancelled Programmes**

[Music] [CANCELLED] Sanisah Huri – The Lady in Concert 12 Jun 2021, Sat, 8pm 13 Jun 2021, Sun, 3pm Esplanade Concert Hall



Sanisah Huri – The Lady in Concert celebrates the achievements of one of Singapore's greatest entertainment icons through her journey and career over five decades.

Renowned for her powerful and sultry voice, Sanisah built her reputation as a successful teen star emerging as a technically-skilled singer and successful recording artist who is regarded as one of the region's most popular vocalists in pop music.

The 90-minute concert will be a momentous occasion for Singaporeans and her fans to reminisce their golden memories with her evergreen songs across diverse genres including *joget*, pop, *keroncong*, *asli* and modern.

"This is a first-ever concert by Sanisah Huri, presented by Esplanade as a recognition of her significant contribution to the Malay music scene. Sanisah dedicates this concert to her fans and everyone who loves her music. It is a great opportunity not to be missed as she will be singing 18 of her most popular songs that captures the soul of her 50-year journey in the entertainment scene." – Rusedah Tawahid, Concert Director.

#### About Sanisah Huri

Sanisah Huri began her music career at the young age of 15 when she got selected by Kassim Masdor, one of Singapore's greatest music composers, during a singing audition for a film produced by Shaw Brothers' Malay Film Production Limited, *A-Go-Go '67 (1967)*. She was given an opportunity to sing two songs, *Siapa Gerangan* and *Alam Seni,* accompanied by The Terwellos.

Following that, she recorded two other songs, *Si Baju Hijau* and *Cuti Sekolah*, accompanied by The Hooks. In 1969, Sanisah recorded the song *Selalu* accompanied by Orkes Dendang Perindu, led by Kassim Masdor.

In 1970, she began recording her songs accompanied by Indonesian band Clique Fantastique. She recorded two EPs, *Malam Minggu* and *Mana Utama*. One of her songs, *Sedih Sekelip Mata* was jointly penned by Kassim Masdor and Yusnor Ef and became a hit. Besides singing solo, she also showcased her ability to sing in a duet, with A. Ramlie in *Rambut* and *Hello Hello Sayang* and M. Ramlee in *Wajah Cermin Hatimu*. Sanisah last recorded a song in 1986.

Over five decades in the entertainment scene, Sanisah has recorded over 120 songs, many of which became hits.

(1hr 30min, no intermission.)

Recommended Age: 6 & up

Cat 1: \$45^ | Cat 2: \$35^\* Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$25\*

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials (26 Apr – 16 May 2021) Black & White: 20% savings | Discover: 15% savings

<sup>^</sup>Esplanade&Me Specials (from 17 May 2021) Black: 15% savings | White: 10% savings | Discover: 10% savings (Min. 2 tickets)

# [Music] [CANCELLED] Tempoh By Orkestar Trio & Djangat *An Esplanade Commission*

11 Jun 2021, Fri, 8pm 12 Jun 2021, Sat, 2pm, 4.30pm & 8pm 13 Jun 2021, Sun, 4.30pm & 8pm Esplanade Recital Studio



OrkeStar Trio embarks on a daring exploration, rooted in traditional, folkloric and sacred music practices to put forth an original concert that will take the audience on an emotional journey. *Tempoh* is set to be a landmark show of the trio, drawn from more than a decade's worth of work.

A word-play on the music term 'tempo', the show is a collaborative and communal concert between musicians OrkeStar Trio (Singapore) and Djangat (Pekanbaru, Indonesia).

Separated by the sea, both entities will present an array of original compositions and songs that depict the values, spirit and flavour of the people of the Nusantara.

Directed by Irfan Kasban, *Tempoh* is not your typical concert experience and is situated in an eclectic world complete with interactive elements, bringing music closer to the hearts and hands of the audience.

#### About OrkeStar Trio

OrkeStar Trio embodies the spirit of adventure by exploring the versatility and context of music in the Malay Archipelago in the modern world. Made up of three young artists with unique dispositions, the Trio believes in honouring cultural and traditional influences while pushing towards creating a new spectrum of sound. Their composition features a mash-up of various musical styles, reflecting the diversity of identities and interests among them.

In August 2011, the Trio launched their debut album, *OST*, a self-funded project that took approximately a year to produce. In June 2015, OrkeStar Trio released their second studio album entitled, *ORKESTARIUH!*, which features collaborations with local and regional musicians such as Nadi Singapura, Andy Chia, Natalie Alexandra Cheryl Ong from SAtheCollective, Nizar Fauzie, Yaziz Hassan, Azrin Abdullah, Abdul Shukor Jalil, Kazhendra Kazan, Mohamed Noor, the late Pak Ngah Suhaimi and Anggara Satria.

When they are not travelling, the trio captivates local audiences with their unique sounds and engaging performances back home in Singapore. This musical outfit possesses a strong desire to break the barriers between musical genres and share their voice to inspire.

#### **About Djangat**

Djangat is a group of musicians that create music based on the principle of "questioning". Formed as a group in 2002, Djangat started out as a small band of like-minded musicians, before becoming a proper musical group in 2011. Djangat actively pursues the vast horizons of Malay culture as their main inspiration, approaching their music using unconventional ways of making music. Their principle of exploration allows them to hope for the impossible.

#### About Irfan Kasban

Irfan Kasban's desire to find peace guides his artistic trajectory in various mediums and disciplines. Through writing, directing, designing and performing, he hopes to create intricate worlds as a way to make sense of this universe.

A freelance professional since 2006, Irfan humbly offers his energies by celebrating the collision of space and time. He is a proud recipient of the Young Artist Award 2020. Presently, he is interested in performance as ritual healing.

(1hr, no intermission.)

Arrive early and find yourselves a comfortable spot either on the floor, benches, chairs or high stools available in the Tempoh living room (Esplanade Recital Studio).

\*Choice of seats are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Recommended Age: 6 & up ^\$30 per ticket Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$21\*

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials (26 Apr – 16 May 2021) Black & White: 20% savings | Discover: 15% savings

<sup>^</sup>Esplanade&Me Specials (from 17 May 2021) Black: 15% savings | White: 10% savings | Discover: 10% savings (Min. 2 tickets) [Theatre] [CANCELLED] Pulang Balik By Teater Ekamatra *An Esplanade Commission* 10 & 11 Jun 2021, Thu & Fri, 8pm 12 & 13 Jun 2021, Sat & Sun, 3pm & 8pm Esplanade Theatre Studio



In 2003, Teater Ekamatra launched *Projek Suitcase*, a critically lauded series that utilised the format of poor theatre, involving a single actor with only one suitcase's worth of props in a performance space. An *Esplanade Commission*, this double bill production revives two of the most popular works from the *Projek Suitcase* archives, both of which deal with the themes of loss and longing.

# Mama Lekas Pulang

What happens when the only person who truly loves you doesn't even remember you exist?

*Mama Lekas Pulang* explores the world of dementia and how it affects even the simplest of relationships, one between a mother and her child. It investigates the feeling of loss, found memories, grief and the triumph of the soul. The script was inspired by the songs of Uji Rashid, an icon of Malay pop music during the 1970s.

#### Balik

Ain, a woman in her late thirties, has always had issues of abandonment. Overwhelmed by her mother's eventual demise, Ain grapples with the reality of redefining her existence, whilst trying to make meaning of the legacy of uncertainties that her parents left her with. As she seeks to excavate her family's secrets, she comes to realise that certain questions are better left disposed, while some answers are best left abandoned.

## Creative team for Mama Lekas Pulang

#### Aidli 'Alin' Mosbit | Playwright

'Alin' Mosbit graduated from Queensland University of Technology and has worked extensively with local companies like The Necessary Stage, Teater Kami, Wild Rice, Cake Theatre, Toy Factory, The Theatre Practice, Teater Ekamatra and Drama Box. With Noor Effendy Ibrahim and Alfian Sa'at, Aidli published an anthology of Malay plays in the book *BISIK*. She has toured to Scotland, Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Romania, Hong Kong and Hungary, performing Singapore-brand theatre. A recipient of the Young Artist Award for Theatre in 2008, she is currently working in Temasek Polytechnic as the Section Head of the Arts Division while pursuing her Master of Education.

#### Molizah Mohd Mohter (Moli) | Director

Moli has taken various positions in theatre since 1993, ranging across stage management, production coordination, acting, costuming, set design props and stage makeup. She has also written and directed shows in recent years. She wrote and directed *Constipated Again*, a monologue commissioned for Esplanade's *Pentas* in 2012. She also performed a monologue, *La Libre Latifa*, produced by Teater Ekamatra and commissioned for Esplanade's *Pesta Raya 2002*, under the direction of Aidli Mosbit. *La Libre Latifa* was also performed in Dewan Bahasa in Kuala Lumpur as part of Teater Ekamatra's Projek Suitcase 2003.

#### Elnie S Mashari | Performer

Elnie graduated with a BA in Theatre Studies from Queensland University of Technology, Australia. She is a prolific theatre practitioner who has spent almost two decades in various positions such as performing, production, stage managment, directing and training. As a performer, her stage credits include *My Name is Nadra, Ikan Cantik, Main-Main, Minah & Monyet* and *Betrayed Babies*. She has toured in Shanghai, Shenzhen, Hong Kong and Darwin as part of an ensemble cast under Theatre Practice's *Play Play*. Her last acting credit was *F*, a production by Panggung Arts. She is currently the Section Head of ITE Higher Nitec in Performance Production.

#### Creative team for *Balik*

# Zulfadli Rashid | Playwright

Zulfadli Rashid's notable works include *Alkesah, Harap* (an adaptation of Haresh Sharma's *Hope*) and *The Chronicles of One and Zero: Kancil and Balik.* His works have been produced and staged by Teater Ekamatra, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, Drama Box, and Panggung Arts, at local and international venues and performing arts festivals.

Zulfadli was the resident playwright and founding member of Panggung Arts and is currently an associate artist with Teater Ekamatra. He is also a founding member of the playwriting collective, Main Tulis Group. Looking forward to the future, Zulfadli hopes to collaborate with artists across disciplines, languages, cultures, and nationalities and to continue creating art that will entertain, enlighten and inspire.

#### Mohd Fared Jainal | Director

Fared engages in cross-disciplinary work that delves into the realms of both visual and performing arts, with a particular interest in space, body and design. A strong advocate of physical theatre, he is constantly exploring body craft in performance. He is also studying the relationships between elements, and principles of art and the human self, asserting these links to be in symmetry and simultaneously manipulative. Fared has collaborated extensively with various theatre and art groups in Singapore as a director, performer, visual artist and set designer. He is the founding member of neontights, a theatre design collective that creates innovative stage sets and props pieces. Fared teaches at School of the Arts (SOTA) and is also the Artistic Director of Teater Ekamatra.

# Farah Ong | Performer

Farah Ong is multi-disciplinary —actress, performance artist and an occasional art-maker who is exploring the cross-disciplinary practice of photography and performance. Rooted strongly in her theatre background, she is constantly working towards organic diversification of her artistic vocabulary. She feels that sometimes love makes us numb, culture turns us characterless and religion leaves us faithless. Her personal practice navigates around their inter-relatedness and contradictions. When not working, Farah enjoys her solitude and indulges in aimless joyrides on her Vespa. She likes chancing upon quiet spots in this not-so-quiet island.

(1hr, no intermission. Performed in English with Malay Surtitles)

Recommended Age: 12 & up ^\$30 per ticket Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$21\*

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials (26 Apr – 16 May 2021) Black & White: 20% savings | Discover: 15% savings

<sup>^</sup>Esplanade&Me Specials (from 17 May 2021) Black: 15% savings | White: 10% savings | Discover: 10% savings (Min. 2 tickets)

#### [Dance] [CANCELLED] GARAP Garage by Ismail Jemaah, Sufri Juwahir & Syimah Sabtu 12 & 13 Jun 2021, Sat & Sun, 11am, 2pm & 4pm Esplanade Annexe Studio



Welcome to GARAP Garage, where your imagination and ideas can come to life!

GARAP Garage is an interactive dance performance that integrates call-and-response in the making of the performance. Children and their caregivers are invited to contribute to the creative process by creating sounds and actions that become stimulus for the performers to embody. The audience are invited into a realm of play where they can explore a variety of stimuli using tools such as music instruments and imaginative objects, and are asked to make decisions on how the performance will progress. Interwoven with traditional Malay choreography and dance vocabulary, this performance excavates cultural notions of dance and movement through the exploration of Malay culture.

Put your imaginative hats on and fiddle with the tools in our garage. See how different movements, sounds and actions can become fuel for the dancers to move along to!

# About Ismail Jemaah – Artistic Director/Performer

A dancer and choreographer trained in Malay performing art forms, Ismail Jemaah explores contemporary dance by using his roots as a catalyst. He believes that the arts and the medium of movement provide the freedom for people to create connections, even across differing beliefs or opinions. Ismail is currently a resident instructor and choreographer with Azpirasi Dance Group, as well as an associate artist with P7:1SMA. Over the years, Ismail has enjoyed close relationships working with other companies and organisations such as Kaizen M.D. and Wright Assembly.

By using his body and its movements as a medium, Ismail seeks to observe how the world we live in can be shared with one another.

# About Sufri Juwahir

Sufi Juwahir (NAC Young Artist Award Recipient 2018) is a dancer and choreographer. He co-founded Soul Signature in 2015 with his dance partner, Sheriden Newman. Sufri constantly expands his movement vocabulary by learning different dance genres, from modern and contemporary dance to Indian classical forms such as *bharathanatyam*. He believes that the

sensitivities of physical exploration will be greatly heightened through learning, understanding and applying techniques into practice.

This approach not only allows the body to discover new ways of expression, but also allows for the opening of the mind for development and the discovery of new perspectives on the body and its physical progression.

#### About Syimah Sabtu

Syimah Sabtu is a dance artist from Singapore. She graduated from Republic Polytechnic (Theatre and Arts Management) and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (Dance).

Her practice is rooted in Malay folk dance and contemporary dance, where she examines the kinesics state of the dancer's body. She is currently researching on the dualities of being, exploring layered connections between personal histories, narratives and beliefs nestled within our bodies.

As a dance artist, she believes in the potentiality of collaboration, interaction and connection across various art forms, disciplines and walks of life.

(45mins, no intermission. Performed in English)

Recommended Age: 4 & up ^\$18 per ticket

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials (26 Apr – 16 May 2021) PIP's Club: 15% savings (Min. 2 tickets)

^Esplanade&Me Specials (from 17 May 2021) PIP's Club: 10% savings (Min. 2 tickets)

# [CANCELLED] Parent-child Workshop – Basic Malay Dance By Azpirasi

13 Jun 2021, Sun,11.30am & 2pm Esplanade Rehearsal Studio



Build a positive relationship with your child in this hour-long dance workshop! Learn basic Malay dance movement and exercise your imagination in play and performance at the end of the workshop.

#### About Azpirasi

Founded by Azmi Juhari in 2000 with fewer than 10 members, Azpirasi is slowly carving a name for itself in Singapore's dance scene. Its dancers are extremely committed and dedicated to their craft and have performed several shows all over the country. Azpirasi strives to heighten audience's sensorial experiences through a myriad of colours and sounds. The group has matured over the years through collaborations with other professional dance troupes in and around the region. What began as a vague dream for its main choreographer and founder has now evolved into a troupe with ambitions to constantly evolve, grow and refine the craft of dance.

#### **About Hasyimah Harith**

Based in Singapore, Hasyimah Harith is a Malay-Muslim female artist that has trained in Malay folk dance for 15 years. She performs, choreographs and teaches traditional Malay dance repertoires, such as *asli, inang, joget* and *zapin*. She is also a visual arts educator and co-founder of P7:1SMA, a dance company formed in 2016 that uses dance to confront and reimagine the Malay community's relationship with their identity.

#### **About Norhaizad Adam**

Norhaizad Adam is a Malay dancer, dance artist and choreographer who was born, raised and currently living in Singapura. He works across traditional and contemporary ideation to create brave spaces for narratives that are often unseen and unheard. He reimagines and uses the Malay folk dance form as a strategy to navigate social issues.

Since 2004, Haizad has spent his growing up years in Singapore as a Malay dancer under the tutelage of self-made Malay dance master practitioner, Azmi Juhari, at Azpirasi. Through Malay dance, Haizad continues to examine how individuals navigate complex issues of identity and society.

(1hr, no intermission.)

Recommended Age: 3 & up \$15 per ticket, Parent-Child pair or 1 parent with 2 children.

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#### [CANCELLED] Batik Painting Workshop By Kamal Arts Ltd

12 Jun 2021, Sat,11.30am & 2pm Esplanade Rehearsal Studio



Learn the basics of batik painting in this workshop with an exclusive pre-waxed *Pesta Raya* 2021 batik design!

Each participant will receive a craft set that includes:

- An exclusive pre-waxed Pesta Raya 2021 design
- Painting materials (A plastic palette, a set of dyes and a brush)
- Window frame card folder to mount your design for display

Singaporean artist Kamal Dollah has been fascinated by the beauty of batik since he was little. This fascination spurred him on many travels, eventually culminating in a Master of Arts degree with a focus on batik. Today, Kamal and his team actively promote the art form by teaching batik painting in schools, at their studio as well as through working on community projects.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission.)

Recommended Age: 6 & up \$20 per ticket

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials (26 Apr – 16 May 2021) Black & White: 20% savings | Discover: 15% savings

<sup>^</sup>Esplanade&Me Specials (from 17 May 2021) Black: 15% savings | White: 10% savings | Discover: 10% savings (Min. 2 tickets) [CANCELLED] "Pang Tung!" – Body Percussion & Kayat Vocals Workshop by Riduan Zalani (OrkeStar Trio) & Anggara Satria (Djangat) 13 Jun 2021, Sun, 2pm Zoom (via SISTIC)



A music workshop presenting rhythms and melodies from the Malay community from the Nusantara, through interactive usage of body percussion and voice.

Participants will be introduced to the core Malay rhythms and learn how to recreate these rhythms, without the need to use any drums, just through body percussion.

The workshop will also highlight a unique vocal delivery style of the traditional *pantun* (rhyme/poetry), called *Kayat*, which developed from the Rantau Kuantan community in Riau.

The panel will also be sharing insights on several compositional ideas and the process taken by both ensembles to produce *Tempoh* despite being miles apart.

#### About Riduan Zalani

Riduan Zalani is a versatile percussionist with a keen interest in developing Southeast Asian ethnic drumming in contemporary settings and spotlighting Asian musical traditions on a global stage. This multi-award-winning performer has performed in numerous local and international programmes, which culminated in him earning the prestigious National Arts Council's Young Artist Award in 2015. Riduan is also one of the co-founders and musicians in OrkeStar Trio.

#### About Anggara Satria

Anggara Satria is a respected multi-instrumentalist and music director from Pekanbaru, Indonesia. A familiar name in the regional traditional Malay music scene, Anggara has been invited to be the music director for numerous dance and theatre productions in Malaysia and Singapore. Back home in Pekanbaru, Anggara enjoys the process of creating new sounds and music with band members from Djangat.

#### About OrkeStar Trio

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# **About Djangat**

Djangat is a group of musicians that create music based on the principle of "questioning". Formed as a group in 2002, Djangat started out as a small band of like-minded musicians, before becoming a proper musical group in 2011. Djangat actively pursues the vast horizons of Malay culture as their main inspiration, approaching their music using unconventional ways of making music. Their principle of exploration allows them to hope for the impossible.

Riduan Zalani Spotify OrkeStar Trio Spotify OrkeStar Trio YouTube Anggara Satria Spotify Djangat Youtube

(1hr, no intermission. Conducted in English & Bahasa Indonesia, via Zoom.)

You will need to download Zoom on either your computer or mobile phone to participate in this workshop. <u>https://zoom.us/download</u>

Participants do not need to have prior knowledge on drums or music to join the workshop. Admission for 6 years old and above.

\$10 per ticket

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# TICKETS ON SALE FROM 26 APR 2021

www.esplanade.com/pestaraya SISTIC Hotline: 6348 5555 School/Group Booking: 6828 8389 or email boxoffice@esplanade.com Minimum admission age varies. Children below age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Ticket prices exclude SISTIC fees. Tickets are required for all patrons. Terms and conditions apply. [CANCELLED] Pucuk Rebung: Bamboo Shoots By Fajrina Razak 10 – 13 Jun 2021 Esplanade Courtyard Green



Referencing the *pucuk rebung* (bamboo shoot) motif, this installation is a development and extension of Fajrina Razak's previous artworks, specifically *after life, reverse rituals* (2021) and *Verses of Form* (2020). Her interest in the *pucuk rebung* motif began in 2017 during her research into spirituality, cultural identities and native ancestral knowledge.

The *pucuk rebung* is comparable to the *gunungan* motif and is also said to symbolise the sacred mountains in the Nusantara with its triangular shape. Fajrina has been working with text in her artmaking practice since 2010, and has included her personal writings and reflections in her batik works in recent years, juxtaposed against the *pucuk rebung* motif.

Fajrina worked with youth to write *pantun*, 4-line poems reflecting their thoughts and speculations of a post-pandemic future, reminiscent of a past prior to the onset of Covid-19. These members of the youth community were also invited to co-create parts of the installation using batik techniques.

#### About Fajrina Razak

Fajrina Razak is a visual artist and art educator based in Singapore, whose practice concerns the notion of individuality and cultural identities. She is also driven by the aspects of emotions and spirituality, particularly as methods to excavate personal histories through questioning and investigating her own conservative background. Her practice layers traditional and contemporary motifs, primarily with the batik medium. Her works have also been translated across mediums such as photography and text-based art. Recent projects include the curation of the exhibition *Of Wax, Dyes and Labour* at Malay Heritage Centre and *Pneuma: Of Spirituality in Contemporary Age* at Stamford Arts Centre.

She is the founder of Vabrika Arts Textile Studio, as well as a member and current President of Angkatan Pelukis Aneka Daya (Association of Artists of Various Resources).

https://www.fajrina.net/