Esplanade Presents

Pesta Raya - Malay Festival of Arts

1 – 4 May 2025

www.esplanade.com/pestaraya



Dear friends of the media,

Step into the heart of the Nusantara as *Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts* returns for its 24th edition at Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay from 1 – 4 May 2025! A beloved celebration of Malay arts and culture, the festival is a highlight of the season that the community can look forward to during Hari Raya Aidilfitri. This year's festival features an array of music, dance, theatre and storytelling—each work rich in history, heritage and the creative spirit of our region.

Each year, as we put together the festival, we are reminded of how the arts often make us feel, such as the moments of joy, nostalgia, wonder and connection that it brings. It is not just about the performances but rather, the people behind them, the stories they carry, and the bonds that are formed through them.

This year, we have commissioned and warmly welcome back to the festival, **TEATER KAM***i*, a theatre company with a long and cherished history, as they breathe new life into A. Samad Said's literary classic *SALINA*. In a heartfelt and humorous turn, **Hafidz Rahman** takes us on a deeply personal journey with *My Name Is (NOT) Khan*, a monologue exploring his obsession with all things Bollywood.

For the first time, renowned Indonesian choreographer **Hartati** brings her work to our stage with *Jarum Dalam Jerami* (*Needle in a Haystack*), a contemporary dance performance where movement expresses what words cannot. Warning: there will be hay!

And what is the Nusantara without its rhythm and music? At the Esplanade Annexe Studio, three incredible artists from the region take us on a journey through folk, pop, and rap. Malaysia's **Noh Salleh**, Indonesia's **Pamungkas**, and Singapore's very own **G-Town Collective**, each bring their unique sound while speaking the universal language of rhythm and emotion.

In a special tribute, we come together to celebrate **Datuk Habsah Hassan**, a beloved lyricist whose words have shaped some of the most well-loved songs in our region. *Dari Sudut Hati, Habsah Hassan* is a star-studded concert honouring her artistry, which has given voice to love, longing and joy across generations.

Beyond the ticketed programmes, don't miss the chance to experience *Pesta Raya's* free programmes. This year, celebrate *dikir barat* group **Kelana Purba**'s 30th anniversary, enjoy pop hits from **Kaki Nyanyi**, alumni from Mediacorp's reality singing competition, and witness the grace and discipline of *silat* through performances around the centre. Finally, round up your *Pesta Raya* experience by wandering through the **Pesta Raya x Me-You Market**, where a curated selection of vendors from across the Nusantara bring together lifestyle, craft and culture!

Through the years, the festival reflects our shared roots and the many voices that shape our community. At its heart are the incredible artists we work with, our partners, supporters and our audience. We would like to thank our Principal Sponsor, **Naturel** for their generous support of *Pesta Raya 2025*.

We invite you to celebrate with us, come together to enjoy the arts, and embrace the stories and culture that remind us of who we are and where we come from.

See you at *Pesta Raya 2025*!

Hanie Nadia Hamzah Senior Producer The Esplanade Co Ltd

About Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay

Esplanade is Singapore's national performing arts centre. It hosts a year-round line-up of about 4,000 live performances and activities presented by Esplanade, its partners and hirers. 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 free for all to enjoy.

Esplanade also brings the arts virtually to audiences in Singapore and beyond, through its diverse range of digital programmes on <u>Esplanade Offstage</u>, 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.

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.

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay is operated by The Esplanade Co Ltd (TECL), which is a not-for-profit organisation, a registered Charity and an Institution of a Public Character. TECL received the Charity Governance Award – Special Commendation for Clarity of Strategy in 2016 and 2022, the Charity Transparency Award from 2016 – 2023, and the Charity Transparency Dedication Award in 2024. Esplanade is Singapore's first Dementia-Friendly Arts Venue and a certified Dementia Go-To Point, as well as a guide/assistance dog friendly centre.

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.

~ End ~

Issued by The Esplanade Co Ltd.

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<u>Annexe</u>

Esplanade Presents

Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts

1 – 4 May 2025

www.esplanade.com/pestaraya

About Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts

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).

Ticketed Programmes

My Name is (NOT) Khan
Written by Hafidz Rahman
Directed by Rizman Putra (Singapore)
1 – 4 May 2025
Thu & Fri, 8pm
Sat, 3pm & 8pm
Sun, 3pm
Esplanade Recital Studio



Harith knows his Bollywood inside out. He can tell Amrita Rao from Amrita Arora, Rimi Sen from Sushmita Sen. He knows Duggu, Lolo, and Bebo like they're old friends. He's memorised the *Navarasas*, the *Ankhein Khuli* choreography by the beat, and every lyric of *Bholi Si Surat*. But there's one thing he isn't: Indian. Harith is as Malay as they come.

Through humour, heart and a whole lot of film references, My Name is (NOT) Khan, a monologue by Hafidz Rahman navigates Harith's obsession with Indian Cinema, as he

celebrates the people around him and witnesses himself coming to terms with the duality of his identity.

Samosas sold separately.

About Hafidz Rahman

Hafidz Rahman is a multi-talented performer, content creator, and arts educator with a flair for comedy and storytelling. A LASALLE College of the Arts graduate, he has worked with leading theatre companies such as Teater Ekamatra, Checkpoint Theatre, and Dream Academy, earning a Best Actor nomination for *Make Hantus Great Again*. On screen, he has appeared in *Le Prawn Park*, *Dara Zara*, and *The Bellatrix Rise*, and co-hosted *Berani Nyanyi?* alongside industry legends. By night, he's a DJ on RIA 897, co-hosting *Malam Ini Kita Punya*. Online, Hafidz is best known for his hilarious Malay Aunty persona, "Bonda Bedah," on *Lepak One Korner*, where he blends sharp humour with social commentary.

Whether on stage, screen, airwaves, or social media, Hafidz always aims to entertain and engage audiences with his wit, versatility and undeniable charm.

Production Credits

Playwright: Hafidz Rahman Director: Rizman Putra

Choreographer: Zairin Abdul Latiff

Set Designer: Russell Goh Lighting Designer: Alberta Wileo

Sound and Multimedia Designer: Zaki Zainudin

Stage Manager: Giovanni Harris Assistant Stage Manager: Efhirddauus

Hair and Makeup: Hambali (Am)

1hr 15mins, no intermission Admission age: 16 and above

Advisory: Contains some coarse language

Performed in English.

\$40^

Limited concessions for Students, NSFs, Seniors & PWDs: \$32 ^Esplanade&Me Specials available

Esplanade&Me Specials

Early Bird (18 – 24 Mar 2025, limited tickets)

Black: 20% savings White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2 tickets)

From 25 Mar 2025, 10am

Black: 15% savings White: 10% savings

Dari Sudut Hati, Habsah Hassan

Featuring ORKESTRA TRADISIONAL MALAYSIA – SOUNDS OF MALAYSIA, Salamiah Hassan, Dato' Jamal Abdillah, Rahimah Rahim, Sufie Rashid, Rahilah Rashun, Arish & GTS (Malaysia/Singapore)

2 May 2025, Fri, 8pm Esplanade Concert Hall



With a masterful command of language and the ability to evoke powerful emotions, legendary lyricist Habsah Hassan has made an immense contribution to the Malay music scene. The songs she penned over her career have transcended generations, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of listeners of all ages, cementing her as a cornerstone of Malay musical heritage.

Whether it is the quiet ache of *Merisik Khabar* or the spirited call to unity in *Cinta Nusantara*, Habsah delicately crafts songs that serve as windows into the unique facets of the human experience, capturing emotions with grace and precision.

Her collaborations with legendary composers and some of the most recognisable voices in Malay music have propelled her to the forefront of the scene, making her one of the most respected and beloved figures in the industry.

With music by ORKESTRA TRADISIONAL MALAYSIA – SOUNDS OF MALAYSIA and performances by Salamiah Hassan, Dato' Jamal Abdillah, Rahimah Rahim, Sufie Rashid, Rahilah Rashun, Arish and GTS, *Dari Sudut Hati, Habsah Hassan* is a tribute concert that honours her exceptional legacy, reflecting the lasting impact of her work and the enduring power of her songs, crafted over the course of five remarkable decades.

About Habsah Hassan

Habsah Hassan is a celebrated Malay lyricist whose career spans over five decades, with more than 1,000 songs to her name. Known for her poetic storytelling and emotional depth, she has collaborated with iconic artists like Sudirman, Zaiton Sameon, and Siti Nurhaliza.

Amongst other awards that she has earned across the years, her extraordinary contributions were recognised in 2021 when she received the Anugerah Sepanjang Hayat (Lifetime Achievement Award) at the Anugerah Bintang Popular Berita Harian, cementing her as a legend in the Malay music scene.

1hr 30mins, no intermission Admission age: 6 and above Performed in Malay.

\$30*, \$50*, \$70^, \$100^
*Limited concessions for Students, NSFs & Seniors: \$24, \$40
Limited concessions for PWDs: \$24
^Esplanade&Me Specials available

Esplanade&Me Specials

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From 25 Mar 2025, 10am

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Noh Salleh (Malaysia) 2 May 2025, Fri, 8pm

Esplanade Annexe Studio



A defining voice in Malaysia's indie music scene, Noh Salleh has made his mark both as the frontman of Hujan and as a solo artist with a sound that blends rock and folk with his signature poetic lyricism. While Hujan's anthems like *Bila Aku Sudah Tiada* and *Pagi Yang Gelap* cemented his status in the scene, Noh's solo work showcases a more intimate, jazz and psychedelic-tinged side—most notably in his acclaimed debut studio album *Angin Kencang*.

Born in Sarawak and musically shaped by Kuala Lumpur's indie circuit, Noh's artistry is driven by storytelling and raw emotion. He constantly pushes his creative boundaries with each release, including his latest singles, *Nirmala* and *Rahsia Tuhan*, with the latter amassing over 12 million plays and its music video surpassing seven million views. The track was also featured in the original soundtrack for *Babah*, a poignant Malaysian film about a father's love and sacrifice.

He regularly performs across the region, from solo showcases like the Noh Salleh Intimate Showcase in Jakarta to major festivals such as Nyala Fest 2024 and the Majestic Johor Festival 2024, with his most recent performance being at Fast Culture Underground in Kuching.

Now, as part of *Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts*, Noh Salleh takes the stage for a night that invites listeners to bask in all his indie folk goodness, in a performance that will transport the audience into his world of heartfelt artistry.

1hr 30mins, no intermission Admission age: 6 and above Advisory: Standing room only. Performed in Malay. Limited concessions for Students, NSFs, Seniors & PWDs: \$32 ^Esplanade&Me Specials available

Esplanade&Me Specials

Early Bird (18 – 24 Mar 2025, limited tickets)

Black: 20% savings White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2 tickets)

From 25 Mar 2025, 10am

Black: 15% savings White: 10% savings

Jarum dalam Jerami (Needle in a Haystack) by Hartati (Indonesia)

2 & 3 May 2025, Fri & Sat, 8pm Esplanade Theatre Studio



"What Hartati ordered through this work is a 'pause', a moment to rethink social and political dynamics with a clear vision. Today's society, for Hartati, needs caution, precision, [and] vigilance to respond to the hustle and bustle of this era of freedom."

– Andesta Herli Wijaya, Validnews

Jarum dalam Jerami (Needle in a Haystack) (2022) is contemporary choreographer Hartati's powerful response to Indonesia's evolving social landscape over the past two decades. Rooted in the legacy of her mentor Gusmiati Suid's renowned *Api Dalam Sekam* (*Fire in the Husk*) (1997), a piece that reflects the turbulent political climate in Indonesia during the final years of the New Order regime under President Suharto, *Jarum dalam Jerami* goes beyond mere homage, creating a dialogue with the older work in a reflection of what is left behind when the world shifts around us.

Reinterpreting the saying "like looking for a needle in a haystack," Hartati shifts the focus to what happens when we finally uncover that needle, constructing a framework to understanding contemporary realities in the aftermath of the New Order's collapse in 1998. In a world buzzing with progress, the smallest yet most crucial details often slip past us, leaving us grappling with the unsettling consequences of ignoring these quiet, essential forces once excess fades.

Jarum dalam Jerami interrupts the euphoric celebrations of freedom post-New Order, urging us to slow down and recognise the subtle forces shaping our reality. Through intricate movement, Hartati captures the tension between excess and the unspoken, inviting us to reconsider the persistence of the unseen long after the noise fades. While grandeur is alluring, it is the quiet resilience of the overlooked that truly points the way forward.

Production Credits

Choreographer: Hartati

Music composer & musician: Jumaidil Firdaus Music composer & musician: Taufik Adam

Costume design: M. Fahmi Lighting design: Ricco Fadhillah

Dancers: M. Fitrik, Maria Bernadeta Aprianti, Siti Alisa Anjelira Fariza, Densiel P. Y. Lebang,

Daniel S. Pambudi, Deka A. Saputra, Aditya Warman, Dendy Wardiman & Salsabilla

Stage Manager: Rr. Firsty Dewi

Technical Manager: Danang A. Syahputra

Team Manager: Tiara Sasmita Producer: Keni Soeriaatmadja

About Hartati

Hartati is a celebrated Indonesian choreographer whose work bridges the rich traditions of Minangkabau culture with contemporary dance. Raised in West Sumatra, she was deeply influenced by her mentor, Gusmiati Suid, who shaped her approach to choreography—rooted in tradition yet boldly innovative.

Blending traditional forms with modern techniques, Hartati explores pressing social issues, creating space for marginalised voices within Indonesia's conservative cultural landscape. Her work highlights the complexities of identity, where gender, class, ethnicity and generational experiences intersect.

Her acclaimed choreographic works have graced prestigious stages such as the Jakarta Arts Building, Teater Salihara and the Indonesian Dance Festival, as well as numerous international festivals. Known for her ability to merge heritage with contemporary aesthetics, she has become one of Indonesia's most influential dance figures. In 2020, her contributions to the arts were recognised with The Indonesian Cultural Award from the Indonesian government.

1hr, no intermission

Admission age: 6 and above

Advisory: This performance includes the use of hay, which may produce dust.

\$35^

Limited concessions for Students, NSFs, Seniors & PWDs: \$28

^Esplanade&Me Specials available

Esplanade&Me Specials

Early Bird (18 – 24 Mar 2025, limited tickets)

Black: 20% savings White: 15% savings

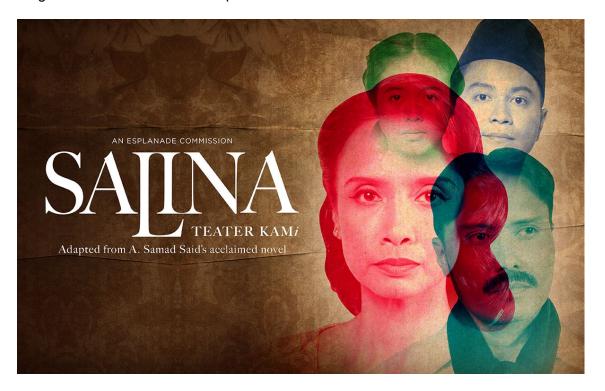
Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2 tickets)

From 25 Mar 2025, 10am

Black: 15% savings White: 10% savings

An Esplanade Commission SALINA by TEATER KAMi (Singapore)

2 – 4 May 2025 Fri, 8pm Sat, 3pm & 8pm Sun, 3pm Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade



In 1950s Kampung Kambing, Salina fights to survive the harsh realities of post-war Singapore—trapped in poverty, entangled in a toxic relationship, and forced by circumstance into work as an escort. Around her, a community of Malay and Indonesian migrants, once full of hope, now battle despair in a nation still reeling from the effects of World War II.

Adapted from the seminal novel by Malaysia's National Laureate A. Samad Said, *SALINA* is a gripping tale of resilience and survival, set against the backdrop of a community rebuilding itself. Drawing from his own childhood experiences under Japanese occupation, A. Samad Said infuses his work with piercing realism, giving voice to the struggles of a generation through vivid characters and sharp, evocative dialogue.

Brought to the stage by TEATER KAM*i*, this production is written for stage and directed by Cultural Medallion recipient Atin Amat. First staged in 1993 and reprised twice, *SALINA* returns with a stellar cast featuring Ariati Tyeb Papar, Fir Rahman, Rizal Aiman, Amirah Yahya, Suhaila M Sanif, Rusydina Afiqah, and Rafaat Hj. Hamzah.

About TEATER KAMi

TEATER KAMi Limited, founded by Atin Amat, is a pioneering theatre company in Singapore dedicated to producing Malay-language theatre productions since 1989. Known for its educational and culturally rich productions, the company highlights local narratives, often drawn from the Singapore Malay experience and heritage. Notable works include adaptations of iconic literature, such as previous stagings of *SALINA* and original pieces like *Anak Melayu*,

reflecting social issues. Under Atin Amat's leadership, the company has made significant contributions to the Singapore arts scene, earning recognition for its dedication to cultural storytelling. TEATER KAMi's impact extends beyond the stage, preserving the legacy of its productions through its extensive archive donations to the National Library Board.

2hrs, no intermission

Admission age: 13 and above

Advisory 16: Contains some mature content, including some sexual content and depictions of

violence.

Performed in Malay with English surtitles.

\$45^, \$60^*

*Limited concessions for Students, NSFs, Seniors & PWDs: \$48

^Esplanade&Me Specials available

Esplanade&Me Specials

Early Bird (18 – 24 Mar 2025, limited tickets)

Black: 20% savings White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2 tickets)

From 25 Mar 2025, 10am

Black: 15% savings White: 10% savings

Pamungkas (Indonesia)

3 May 2025, Sat, 8pm Esplanade Annexe Studio



Let Pamungkas' music wash over you with the gentle sway of emotive melodies and the raw honesty of his lyrics.

A self-taught musician, Pamungkas is known for his meticulous, hands-on approach to every aspect of his music—writing, production, mixing, mastering, and even designing his own album artwork. He also founded his own record label, Maspam Records, driven by his belief in forging his own path and shaping his unique creative journey.

He has performed a sold-out tour and graced the stages of renowned festivals such as We The Fest and Java Jazz 2020, earning recognition over the years as one of Indonesia's most exciting artists.

Fresh off the release of his highly anticipated fifth album, *Hardcore Romance*, the Indonesian singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist invites you into a world of reflective moments and smooth, infectious tunes that blend vulnerability with a sense of quiet strength.

Experience the soul-stirring tunes of Pamungkas live as he performs his biggest hits from *To The Bone* to *I Love You but I'm Letting Go*, capturing the highs and lows of love, loss and self-discovery, wrapped in a sound that feels both deeply personal and universally relatable.

1hr 30mins, no intermission Admission age: 6 and above Advisory: Standing room only Performed in Bahasa Indonesia.

\$40^

Limited concessions for Students, NSFs, Seniors & PWDs: \$32 ^Esplanade&Me Specials available

Esplanade&Me Specials

Early Bird (18 – 24 Mar 2025, limited tickets)

Black: 20% savings White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2 tickets)

From 25 Mar 2025, 10am

Black: 15% savings White: 10% savings

G-Town Open House: Klub Goyong Edition (Singapore)

4 May 2025, Sun, 7pm Esplanade Annexe Studio



What happens in Geylang...stays in Geylang? Not quite.

G-Town, a collective of artists from the dynamic neighbourhood of Geylang invites you to hang with them as they bring the vibrance and creative soul of their hood to *Pesta Raya*.

The evening features a diverse lineup of acts with Akid Amir, Maggot (Kribo Records), Aisyah Aziz, Bobby Joe, Sappy Chill (feat, Iloshix, Tengy and Fauxe), and Reptile Skin Business Club (feat. Abangsapau, Fariz Jabba, Mars B and Mediocre Haircut Crew), all performing their original tracks. The music will be accompanied by G-Town Satellite Funk band with pre-party tunes by DJ HZQ to kick things off.

Beyond the music, let the intricate, colour-drenched graffiti display by Boonbake and Alot1 draw you in as aromatic scents from Mood Scents by House of Gonjol curl through the air of Esplanade Annexe Studio.

An experience like no other, *G-Town Open House: Klub Goyong Edition*, brings together music, art and the spirit of *gotong royong* (mutual help) in a showcase of creativity, cultural pride and kampung spirit.

3hrs, including 20mins intermission Admission age: 6 and above Advisory: Standing room only. Performed in English and Malay.

\$40^

Limited concessions for Students, NSFs, Seniors & PWDs: \$32 ^Esplanade&Me Specials available Esplanade&Me Specials

Early Bird (18 – 24 Mar 2025, limited tickets)

Black: 20% savings White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2 tickets)

From 25 Mar 2025, 10am

Black: 15% savings White: 10% savings

Nusantara on a Plate: The Cultural Tapestry of Nasi Ulam (Demo) by Kebon Dapor & Dapur Cahaya (Singapore)

3 May 2025, Sat, 11am & 3pm Esplanade White Room



Embark on a sensory journey through tradition, taste, and togetherness at *Pesta Raya* with this inclusive hands-on workshop that explores the rich heritage of Nasi Ulam, a traditional Indonesian dish of steamed rice mixed with fresh herbs and vegetables.

Discover the art of foraging, learn about the healing benefits of native herbs, and experience the spirit of *gotong royong* while preparing this beloved Nusantara dish together. With fresh ingredients sourced from Kebon Dapor's garden and local markets, the workshops sheds light on how communities across the Nusantara have long embraced sustainability, well-being, and shared traditions through food.

No experience needed—just bring your curiosity, an open heart, and a love for good food! Whether you're chopping, mixing, or simply enjoying the conversation, this workshop is a celebration of culture, connection, and the simple joy of coming together over a meal.

About Kebon Dapor

Kebon Dapor, founded by Raja Mohd Fairuz as a passion project, is an urban farm and community space at City Sprouts Punggol, dedicated to preserving Malay culinary heritage and sustainable agriculture. The farm, inspired by the environment and houses of Malay kampungs, cultivates edibles traditionally used in Malay cuisine such as ulam raja, curry leaves, chilies, and other native herbs, offering a unique platform to reconnect with nature and cultural traditions.

About Dapur Cahaya

Dapur Cahaya is a culinary platform dedicated to embracing and illuminating traditional Malay cuisine. Founded by Suria Insyirah, it serves as a space to explore the rich flavours and ingredients of Malay heritage, while also sharing her family's stories and recipes. Through

engaging content and mini workshops, Dapur Cahaya invites others to join in the journey of rediscovering and preserving the essence of Malay culinary traditions.

2hrs, no intermission Admission age: 13 and above

\$20

Parent-Child Workshop: Silat untuk Rakyat by Silat World (Singapore)

4 May 2025, Sun, 11am Esplanade Rehearsal Studio



This parent-child workshop will introduce you to the powerful movements and cultural richness of *silat*, from its practical techniques to the beauty of its intricate, traditional attire. As you learn, you will gain a deeper connection to the history and cultural significance of the art form by experiencing its essence firsthand.

The workshop will be led by former national athletes, Raden Iskandar, a Southeast Asian (SEA) Games and World Championship competitor, and Zahid Saaban, a 2001 SEA Games gold medallist.

About Silat World

Silat World is a dynamic collective committed to bringing the art of *silat* to life through music and stage performances, in both digital and physical spaces. Founded during the COVID-19 era, its members are passionate about pushing the boundaries of tradition, blending the rich heritage of *silat* with cutting-edge technology to create bold, innovative expressions of this ancient martial art.

1hr 30mins, no intermission

Advisory: This workshop is recommended for children aged 6 to 12 years old. Each child must be accompanied by an adult. Accompanying adult must be 16 years old and above.

\$15

1 Adult + 1 Child (per session): \$30

2 Adults + 1 Child or 1 Adult + 2 Children (per session): \$45

Tickets must be purchased as an adult-child package.