

Esplanade Presents

Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts

16 – 19 Apr 2026

www.esplanade.com/pestaraya



Dear friends from the media,

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay welcomes everyone to our 25th edition of *Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts*, taking place from 16 – 19 Apr 2026. Over the past 25 years, *Pesta Raya* has grown into a leading platform for the presentation, celebration and renewal of the Nusantara through the arts, galvanising communities while celebrating the richness, diversity and living traditions of the region.

This milestone edition reflects Esplanade's commitment to cultural stewardship, artistic excellence and public access. We are deeply grateful to our artists, collaborators and audiences who have journeyed with us through the years. Your trust and participation have shaped *Pesta Raya* into a festival of enduring relevance, and affirmed its role in deepening cultural understanding through the performing arts.

Theatre takes centre stage with *La Luna*, an Esplanade Commission by **Teater Ekamatra**, presented at the Singtel Waterfront Theatre. Adapted from the film by Singapore filmmaker M. Raihan Halim, the production reveals how resistance can begin quietly, across walls and generations. Having performed during Esplanade's 20th anniversary

celebrations in 2022, the acclaimed **Papermoon Puppet Theatre** from Indonesia returns with *PUNO: Sewing Memories*, a poignant new work reflecting on how loss and death shape our lives. From Malaysia, **ASWARA**'s multi award-winning *Randai Macbeth* reimagines Shakespeare's dark tragedy through *randai*, a traditional folk theatre form rooted in Negeri Sembilan's Minangkabau heritage.

Music highlights bring together returning favourites and new voices. Anchoring the celebrations is the legendary **Dato' Zainalabidin**, who last performed at the festival in 2019, and is now launching his 50th anniversary concert at the Esplanade Concert Hall. Indonesian alternative indie band **The Trees & The Wild**, last seen at Esplanade in 2012 during *Baybeats*, will present an Asia-exclusive concert at the Annexe Studio. Indonesian singer-songwriter **Adrian Khalif** also makes his Singapore debut at this year's festival.

The festival also comes alive across Esplanade's public spaces. The opening *randai* performance by **ASWARA** will take place at the Courtyard, and singers led by **Nana Karia**, pay tribute to rock in *Rock Kapak*, a genre of music that is close to the hearts of many in the community. **Persatuan Pemuzik Tradisional Melayu Singapura** fills the DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre with Malay traditional music, while the festival closes with a high-energy *Zapin Battle* by **P7:1SMA**.

We would like to thank our Principal Sponsor, **Naturel** for their generous support of *Pesta Raya 2026*.

As we reflect on the past editions of *Pesta Raya*, we are heartened by the memories created, the artists nurtured, and the generations of audiences welcomed. Building on this legacy, *Pesta Raya* continues to be a platform artists aspire to perform at, and a source of inspiration, pride and belonging for the community.

We look forward to welcoming you to this year's *Pesta Raya* at Esplanade and invite you to join us dressed in your Nusantara best!

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 [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.

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

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Issued by *The Esplanade Co Ltd.*

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Annexe

Esplanade Presents

Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts

16 – 19 Apr 2026

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

An Esplanade Commission

La Luna by Teater Ekamatra

16 – 19 Apr 2026

Thu & Fri, 8pm

Sat, 3pm & 8pm

Sun, 3pm

Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade



Inspired by the acclaimed 2023 film by director M. Raihan (Clover Films and Papahan Films), *La Luna* follows the quiet upheaval of a small village after the arrival of a modern lingerie shop run by an unwelcome newcomer, Hanie. Her presence unsettles long-held social codes, awakening desires that have long remained unspoken.

As relationships deepen and tensions simmer beneath the village's carefully maintained façade, the community is forced to confront its own hypocrisies and contradictions between tradition and change, conformity and desire, belief and personal freedom.

Premiering in 2023, the film *La Luna* was Singapore's entry to the 97th Academy Awards (Oscars) in 2025, for the Best International Feature Film category. It has been screened at numerous film festivals including the Tokyo International Film Festival, the Jogja-Netpac Asian Film Festival, International Film Festival Rotterdam, and the Shanghai International Film Festival. This inaugural stage adaptation is led by an all-star cast of theatre heavyweights including Munah Bagharib, Fir Rahman, Farhana M Noor, Sani Hussin, Fauzie Laily, Siti Khalijah Zainal, Rizman Putra, Haziqah Hashir and Ali Mazrin.

Together with a powerhouse creative team comprising of playwright Ridhwan Saidi, director and production designer Mohd Fared Jainal, lighting designer Adrian Tan and sound designer Safuan Johari, *La Luna* captures the same spirit of its namesake film and promises to be a sharp, heartfelt comedy that is as provocative as it is entertaining.

2hrs, no intermission

Admission age: 6 and above, recommended for 13 and above.

Performed in Malay with English surtitles.

About Teater Ekamatra

Teater Ekamatra is an established and exciting Singaporean arts company that spotlights artists of diverse ethnicities. The company lives out their vision of being at the heart of theatre by staging daring works that address socio-political issues.

Teater Ekamatra has been commissioned by notable international arts festivals and has also won numerous accolades, especially at Singapore's highest platform for excellence in theatre, The Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards, with numerous accolades such as Best Director, Best Actor, Best Costume and Best Original Script, won several times over the years.

Guided by values of diversity, inclusivity, integrity, accountability, and people-centredness, Teater Ekamatra is committed to their mission of creating engaging art that inspires, as well as incubating emerging talents, expanding diversity within the industry.

Production Credits

Inspired by the motion picture *La Luna* by director M. Raihan with credit to Clover Films and Papahan Films

Cast: Munah Bagharib, Fir Rahman, Rizman Putra, Siti Khalijah Zainal, Farhana M Noor, Haziqah Hashir, Ali Mazrin, Sani Hussin, and Fauzie Laily

Playwright: Ridhwan Saidi

Director and Production Designer: Mohd Fared Jainal

Lighting Designer: Adrian Tan

Sound Designer: Safuan Johari
Assistant Director: Irsyad Dawood
Choreographer: Al-Hafiz Hosni
Vocal Coach: Babes Conde

\$50^, \$65*^

*Limited concessions for seniors, NSFIs, students and PWDs: \$55.25

[^]Esplanade&Me Specials Early Bird (12 Feb – 18 Feb 2026)

Black: 20% savings

White: 15% savings

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

[^]Esplanade&Me Specials (From 19 Feb 2026)

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SG Culture Pass

This event is eligible for SG Culture Pass credits, starting from 20 Feb 2026.

Dato' Zainalabidin – 50th Anniversary Concert (Malaysia)

17 Apr 2026, Fri, 8pm

Esplanade Concert Hall



Legendary Malaysian artist Dato' Zainalabidin returns to Singapore for the first time since 2019 to celebrate 50 years in the music industry!

Bursting onto the Malaysian music scene in 1977 as the lead vocalist of the rock band Headwind, Zainal grew into his own identity as a solo artist upon the release of his self-titled solo debut album in 1991. This record, *Zainal Abidin*, also featured the hit single *Hijau*, which has become one of his most iconic songs. Recognised for his socially-conscious lyrics and social advocacy, his distinct sound blends traditional Malaysian sounds with contemporary styles, drawing inspiration from Afro-Asian music and world music culture.

To commemorate more than five decades in the music industry and as a tribute to his devoted fans in Singapore, Zainal returns with a special concert musically directed by the legendary artist himself. This 90-min concert also features an accompanying big band, led by renowned pianist and producer Michael Veerapen. The repertoire represents the music that has shaped Zainal's career, from musical inspirations like Sting and Stevie Wonder to original songs like *Hijau*, *Puteri*, *Kau Di Hatiku*, *Debu Liar* and many more.

Don't miss your chance to hear this defining voice of the region's rich music scene live in concert!

1hr 30mins, no intermission

Performed in Malay.

\$40*, \$60*, \$90^, \$120^

*Limited concessions for seniors, NSFIs, students and PWDs: \$34, \$51

\$150 VIP Experience (Limited tickets)

Includes the following:

- Choice of any Category 1 ticket
- Autographed concert poster
- Post-show meet and greet with Dato' Zainalabidin

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PUNO: Sewing Memories by Papermoon Puppet Theatre (Indonesia)

17 – 19 Apr 2026

Fri, 8pm

Sat, 3pm (Relaxed Performance)

Sat, 8pm

Sun, 3pm (Relaxed Performance)

Esplanade Recital Studio



Using non-verbal storytelling, original music, mask theatre and techniques inspired by Japanese *bunraku* and *kuruma ningyo*, Papermoon Puppet Theatre tells the story of single father Puno and his daughter, Tala, in this exploration of life, death and legacy.

Life, death and the memories that shape us—internationally acclaimed theatre company Papermoon Puppet Theatre invite you to explore the stories woven into the fabric of our lives in *PUNO: Sewing Memories*.

This story follows Puno, a single dad and a tailor, who tries to sew threads of memories with his daughter, Tala. He tries to provide for his daughter's needs, building her self-confidence and abilities so that Tala can one day continue her journey on her own.

PUNO: Sewing Memories bears all the hallmarks of a Papermoon production, one that audiences around the world have come to love. This non-verbal play uses the universal language of puppetry and movement to tell the story, evoking emotion through stunning visual design and an original musical score. Several puppetry techniques are incorporated in the show—mask theatre and movements inspired by Japanese *kuruma ningyo* and a *bunraku* form of manipulation—each one carefully selected to move the story forward.

Stitching the threads and fabric of their work, Papermoon asks us to consider the different ways that death shapes us, and to recognise the significance of the lives of our loved ones beyond the moment of their passing.

1hr, no intermission

Admission age: 4 and above, recommended for 6 and above.

Advisory

- This production explores the topic of love, loss and death through puppetry.
- Children must be accompanied by an adult. Accompanying adult must be 16 years old and above.

About Papermoon Puppet Theatre

Papermoon Puppet Theatre was founded in 2006 by illustrator, writer and theatre performer Maria (Ria) Tri Sulistyani, who together with visual artist Iwan Effendi, leads the company's many activities from a studio and workshop they built outside of Yogyakarta, Indonesia, in central Java. These days they work together with four members of Papermoon, namely Anton Fajri, Beni Sanjaya, Pambo Priyojati and Hardiansyah Yoga.

In a country with world-renowned puppetry traditions, the expert artists of Papermoon Puppet Theatre have created a distinct body of work. They have presented 30 mixed-media productions, visual art installations and exhibitions that tell stories about the choices, circumstances and conflicts of everyday life. “Our stories are personal and focus on individuals. From there, we can see the bigger issues.” – Ria Sulistyani

Papermoon has shared their work in more than a dozen countries. They collaborate with other puppeteers around the globe, and welcome artists in residence and audiences to their studio and residency compound in Yogyakarta. In 2008, Papermoon launched Pesta Boneka – an international puppetry biennale where puppeteers share their work in a community setting, with the next edition taking place in 2026. In 2020, responding to the isolation of the global COVID pandemic, Papermoon began creating puppetry works for film; these have been screened widely and featured at international film festivals. At home and on tour, they also host puppet labs and workshops.

Papermoon Puppet Theatre believes that anything can come alive. Every creature, every object, every single thing in the world holds life somewhere inside of it. With their performances, installations, workshops, collaborations and festivals, they hope to bring those things to life and nurture the good things around and within us.

Production Credits

Conceived and Produced by Papermoon Puppet Theatre

Artistic Directors: Maria Tri Sulistyani and Iwan Effendi

Director & Playwright: Maria Tri Sulistyani

Music Director: Iwan Effendi

Technical & Set Engineer: Anton Fajri

Puppet Builders: Anton Fajri, Beni Sanjaya, Pambo Priyjati, Hardiansyah Yoga, Iwan Effendi, Maria Tri Sulistyani

Puppeteers: Pambo Priyjati, Beni Sanjaya, Hardiansyah Yoga, Anton Fajri

Costume Maker: Retno Intiani

Music Composer: Yennu Ariendra

Music Operator: Febrinawan Prestianto

Video and Photography: Rangga Yudhistira

Lighting and Technical Director: Andreas Praditya

\$35*^

*Limited concessions for seniors, NSFIs, students and PWDs: \$29.75

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18 & 19 Apr 2026, Sat & Sun, 3pm

Relaxed Performance (RP)

This is a Relaxed Performance (RP). A Relaxed Performance provides a welcoming and relaxed environment for those who are on the autism spectrum or have sensory sensitivities. Special modifications are incorporated into the performance to make it relaxed.

Randai Macbeth by ASWARA (Malaysia)

16 – 19 Apr 2026

Thu & Fri, 8pm

Sat, 8pm

Sun, 3pm

Esplanade Theatre Studio



“*Randai MacBeth* is a testament that tradition, when respected and reimagined, has the power to endure.” – Eksentrika

This is Shakespeare like you've never seen before: Reimagined through Minangkabau traditions and Malay cultural identity, *Randai Macbeth* is a thrilling adaptation of a popular Shakespeare classic by one of Malaysia's most inventive playwrights and directors, Dr. Norzizi Zulkifli.

Keeping true to the original text, *Randai Macbeth* follows the story of a hero named Macbeth, who receives a prediction from three witches about his fate to become King. When his wife discovers this, she plots to murder the existing King so that both herself and her husband can ascend to power, resulting in worse misfortune when this tragic murder haunts both their lives.

This production by ASWARA's Traditional Performing Arts Centre (PuTRA) from Malaysia reimagines the tragedy of Macbeth through the Malaysian theatre form, *randai*. Originating from the Minangkabau in West Sumatra, Indonesia, *randai* is actively performed by diasporic communities throughout Malaysia. This theatre tradition combines music, singing, dance, drama and the martial art *silat*.

In 2025, the production won a staggering eight awards at the 20th BOH Cameronian Arts Awards, Malaysia's premier performing arts awards. *Randai Macbeth* was awarded Best Director, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor, Best Music Director, Best ensemble and Best Costume, Make-up and Styling, and also clinched one of the coveted Best Of honours, Best Production of 2024. Drawing parallels between the character tropes and cultural nuances found in both Western and Malay culture, this bold and inventive production shows the enduring power of traditional theatre and its potential for relevance in contemporary times.

1hr 50mins, no intermission

Admission age: 6 and above

Performed in Malay with English surtitles

About ASWARA

National Academy of Arts, Cultural and Heritage of Malaysia, also known as ASWARA, is the only higher institute that offers an arts degree under the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Malaysia. Established in 1994, graduating students often end up in careers pathways as artists, performers and arts managers in various areas including theatre, dance, music, filmmaking, creative writing, animation, multimedia, and the fine arts. Since its inception, ASWARA has produced many performances both locally and internationally. Under their umbrella is PuTRA, the centre which focuses on traditional and contemporary traditional theatre performance forms including *mak yong*, shadow play, *bangsawan* (Malay opera), *randai* and *mek mulong*. Under PuTRA, traditional theatre classes are conducted every year, with these classes actively producing theatre performances as well.

\$35*^

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The Trees & The Wild (Indonesia)
with supporting act **SCALLER**
18 Apr 2026, Sat, 7.30pm
Esplanade Annexe Studio



As part of *Pesta Raya 2026*, Indonesian alternative stalwarts The Trees & The Wild presents an Asia-exclusive concert, marking a rare opportunity to experience the band in an intimate live setting.

Emerging in 2005, the band quickly became one of Indonesia's most quietly influential alternative bands thanks to their poetic introspection, lyricism and expansive, genre-defying soundscapes. Whether through hushed, intimate passages or sweeping crescendos, The Trees & The Wild create songs that feel both personal and communal. Over the last two decades, the band has continually evolved, exploring indie rock, post-rock, folk and experimental textures without losing their deep emotional core.

Their album *Zaman, Zaman*—home to beloved songs such as *Empati Tamako*—is heralded by fans and critics alike for its sheer emotional intensity, fluidly moving between moments of quiet vulnerability and cathartic sonic peaks. These sonic moments translate to equally, if not more, evocative live performances, where audiences are invited into a shared space of reflection, release and connection.

After making a highly anticipated live performance return at Indonesia's Synchronize Fest in October 2025, the band makes their way back to Singapore in April 2026, more than 10 years after their last performance at Esplanade's *Baybeats* and *Mosaic Music Festival*. Fans new and old are invited to immerse in the artistic depth of one of the region's most revered musical forces.

2hrs 30mins, including a 20mins intermission

Admission age: 6 and above

Performed in Bahasa Indonesia

Advisory: Standing room only.

\$40*^

*Limited concessions for seniors, NSFIs, students and PWDs: \$34

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Adrian Khalif (Indonesia)
19 Apr 2026, Sun, 8pm
Esplanade Annexe Studio



Be swept away by the soulful charm of Indonesian R&B sensation, Adrian Khalif, as he makes his Esplanade debut at *Pesta Raya 2026*!

Born in and currently based in Jakarta, Indonesia, Adrian's distinct cosmopolitan swagger comes from his experiences at home and abroad, having been raised across cities like Geneva, Canberra, New York and London. After graduating from the University of Indonesia in 2016, Adrian signed a recording contract with E-motion Entertainment in 2017, releasing his debut single *Made in Jakarta*. Adrian's popularity skyrocketed upon the release of the songs *Sialan*—a collaboration with label mates Juicy Luicy band—and his solo release *Menawan*. Racking up millions of streams, views and followers within a short three years, Adrian quickly became one to watch in Indonesia's rich contemporary music landscape.

Recognised for his smooth vocals, emotive lyrics and seamless fusion of R&B, hip hop and pop, this R&B crooner promises an introspective set about love and identity, showcasing fan favourites alongside deeper cuts. Don't miss out!

1hr, no intermission
Admission age: 6 and above
Performed in Bahasa Indonesia.

Advisory: Standing room only.

\$40*^

*Limited concessions for seniors, NSFIs, students and PWDs: \$34

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Parent-Child Workshop: Mask Making with Papermoon Puppet Theatre

19 Apr 2026, Sun, 11am

Esplanade Rehearsal Studio



Join the Papermoon Puppet Theatre team and create your very own mask! Let your wildest imagination run free with the guidance of the Papermoon team, and be inspired to create your own unique mask using recycled cardboard. Then, create a story with this mask and share it with your friends.

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.

Nusantara in the Kitchen: The Ancient Art of Herbal Healing (Demo)

19 Apr 2026, Sun, 11am

Esplanade Black Room



Nusantara in the Kitchen: The Ancient Art of Herbal Healing is an interactive workshop centred on *jamu*, a traditional herbal medicine rooted in Nusantara home practices. Featuring ginger varieties sourced from Siti Flower Power, one of Singapore's few remaining traditional medicine shops, the programme weaves together storytelling, sensory interaction, and a guided *jamu* tasting.

1hr 30mins, no intermission

Admission age: 13 and above

About Suria Insyirah

Suria Insyirah is a passionate cook and founder of Dapur Cahaya, a community-rooted culinary platform dedicated to preserving and celebrating Malay cuisine. She creates spaces for curiosity and exploration, inspiring communities to gather and reconnect through flavours, sensory memory, and the warmth of coming together through food.

About Hafiz Rashid

Hafiz Rashid is an experienced museum docent, storyteller, and heritage advocate with a deep passion for the history, culture, folklore, and languages of the Nusantara (Malay Archipelago), with a special focus on textiles. He has been volunteering with the National Heritage Board since 2013 and has performed at various events and venues such as Storyfest at the Arts House and Singapore Heritagefest.

\$20