

In Collaboration
with Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay



GEMERSIK OMBAK

ALTER WAVES
BY AZPIRASI

20-22 OCT 2023

FRI & SAT, 8PM SAT & SUN, 3PM
ESPLANADE THEATRE STUDIO

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. 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. The Charity Council awarded TECL the Charity Governance Award – Special Commendation for Clarity of Strategy in 2016 and 2022, and the Charity Transparency Award from 2016 – 2019 and 2022. Esplanade is Singapore's first Dementia-Friendly Arts Venue and a certified Dementia Go-To Point, as well as a Guide-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.

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Foreword by Artistic Director

Azmi Junari



Gemersik Ombak 2023 is an extension of the dance-work in my life.

2002: *Gemersik Ombak* was created.

2021: *Gemersik Ombak – Introspect*

2023: *Gemersik Ombak – Alter Waves*

The life of an artist is a constant pursuit of perfection, perpetually evaluating the intricacies of their craft. Are we truly content with our dance abilities? To excel, it demands extensive refinement and dedicated practice, necessitating a substantial investment of time and resources. It is essential to comprehend the underlying science behind bodily movements.

Time marches on ceaselessly, giving rise to new dance forms that carry authoritative influence. While artistic culture evolves, the foundation of tradition remains intact. It is crucial to align oneself with their roots. The pursuit of knowledge never ceases, as it is driven by the perpetual development and evolution of time. Consequently, one must resist egotism and solipsism, embracing opposing perspectives and fostering agreements even amidst disagreements.

May the world of Malay dance in Singapore forever thrive through positive efforts and continuous progress in all facets.

A Message from Dramaturg

Zaini Tahir



I love challenges, and I love discussions about looking at things from different perspectives. *Gemersik Ombak* is about the waves of change, and change is always relevant. The original piece, though seemingly traditional, can be looked at from so many angles, and I hope this iteration's varied interpretation will strike a chord with each of our community. I love that we take care of our culture. While the form may change to find relevance (or perhaps we change), the spirit, the soul and the value of the art form is something that needs more conversations—would that be an absolute, or could that be a spectrum, or different versions of the absolute?

Gemersik Ombak – Alter Waves Synopsis



Choreographed by veteran dancer Azmi Juhari, *Zapin Gemersik Ombak* is a traditional Malay dance first created for and performed at the dance showcase *Gentarasa 2002*, held at the old Kallang Theatre in Singapore. After more than 20 years, this *zapin* dance is still favoured and performed at prolific events due to its dynamic rhythms and iconic wave-like movements. It is currently an iconic dance repertoire of Azpirasi, an established dance society led by Azmi Juhari since 2000.

Gemersik Ombak – Alter Waves presents a reimagination of *Zapin Gemersik Ombak* and its choreographic tools. This performance explores the movement vocabulary in relation to Malay history, culture and customs. Tapping on rich research data to showcase embodied forms, Azpirasi attempts to form alternative contemplations on ways to participate in our contemporary society.

(1hr, no intermission)

Excerpts

Segment 1: Whispers to Howls

In life, there is always a beginning. It starts with an intention that leads to an action. Every beginning is different. Sometimes it begins with greetings or a handshake between two individuals. And let's not forget, there are those that start with the recitation of words. Nevertheless, the start of something can change with the modernisation of time and the evolution of culture, as long as it brings happiness to both parties involved.

Segment 2: Nature's Blossom

Nature is the teacher that instructs us. Our five senses—sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch—bear witness to the knowledge we acquire. Knowledge is a form of understanding that is eventually implemented and communicated to others. Knowledge like water, needs to be shared to be beneficial. It should not be left stagnant; it is purer when it flows like waves ready to embrace the recipient.

Segment 3: Whispers of the Heart

Desires are hidden deep within the heart, whether expressed or unexpressed. It can be challenging to reveal and convey something. Thus, it is often easier to keep it within the heart. Time determines when those desires can be conveyed aloud.

Segment 4: The Body Trembles

Every individual yearns for progress and growth. The individual continues to strive to seek and achieve something different. Keep moving forward, never retreat because one should never surrender. The old is renewed, and the new is refined to become something of quality.

Segment 5: Thickening Growth

From nothing to something. Life is a journey that constantly changes based on the knowledge and experiences one accumulates. Let us not forget the strong support coupled with sincere sacrifices that allow everything to unfold beautifully. Success is the result of effort. Practice until you become skilled. Progress requires discipline and self-confidence. As the saying goes, united we stand, divided we fall. Our success is our pride, and it radiates around us.

Let it be known this be no ordinary dance,
Tis' the grace of Malays for you and me.
Do not take light of the lightness of dance,
For it breathes wisdom beyond that which you see.

Biographies

Azpirasi

Established in 2000 by Artistic Director, Azmi Juhari, dance society Azpirasi has shown an immense level of commitment and dedication to the Malay dance form over the years at several local and international festivals. Azpirasi has also collaborated with many notable professional dance companies in the region, such as Era Dance Theatre, P7:1SMA and Yayasan Warisan Johor.

Azpirasi strives to heighten its dancers' capabilities through sensorial experiences, delving into the physical and spiritual aspects of traditional and contemporary Malay dance.

Today, Azpirasi has grown to become a platform for young dancers to nurture their knowledge and skills in Malay dance. With its vision to empower and encourage youth to appreciate and preserve Malay culture, Azpirasi is now an important face of the local arts and cultural landscape. Azpirasi is also part of the Singapore Malay Dance Committee.



Azmi Juhari, Artistic Director

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

Azmi has been privileged enough to work 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 ethnic moves. His outstanding works have been and are continuously performed for People's Association's

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 advisor and choreographer. He aspires to develop young talents into dancers full of passion and interest in the arts.



Atikah Hasimen, Dance Artist

Atikah is an artist based in Singapore who works primarily in design and illustration. Atikah holds a Bachelor's degree in Communication from National Technical University of Singapore and now works as a freelancer. Trained in traditional and contemporary Malay dance, Atikah is also a dance artist and publicity designer for Azpirasi.



Farihin Ahmad, Dance Artist

Growing up in Singapore, Farihin has surrounded himself with passion and interest in the performing arts. More often than not, he finds himself taking part in Malay performing arts to discover more about his own Malay culture, while delving deeper into the performing art forms. He is grateful for all the opportunities that have allowed him to experience the joy of performing. Throughout his journey, he has had the chance to experience performing in a *kompang* ensemble, *dikir barat* group, as well as a Malay dance group.



Hasyimah Harith, Choreographer and Dance Artist

Hasyimah Harith is a Malay-Muslim female artist from Singapore that performs, choreographs and teaches Malay folk dance. Using her body as the starting point, Hasyimah works with Malay traditions and eroticism as a way to reclaim agency over her body. Her working methods involve strategies of boosting libido such as fantasy and intimacy. Her works hope to confront and overcome the conditioned shame and grief that is often attached to female eroticism. Hasyimah leads as Company Manager of P7:1SMA, a dance company which believes

that dance is a strategy, and being Malay is a concept. She is an Associate of Dance Nucleus, a choreographic centre for independent artists.

www.hasyimahharith.com



Ismail Jemaah, Choreographer and Dance Artist

A dancer and choreographer trained in Malay performing arts, Ismail Jemaah sometimes asks if we think too much. He indulges in the moment, while seeking to explore movement through the lens of his roots as a catalyst. Ismail seeks to observe how the world we live in can be shared through the body we move with.

Currently, Ismail is a resident instructor and choreographer in Azpirasi, and an associate artist with P7:1SMA.



Izznur Haikal Mohd Jeffrizain, Dance Artist

Izznur Haikal, also known as Georgie, embarked on his journey in the Malay dance scene in 2008. During his secondary school years, he delved deeper into Malay dance under the guidance of Cikgu Azmi Juhari, who then encouraged him to join Azpirasi in 2016.

In his tertiary years, Izznur joined Dharma Endari, where Cikgu Fathurrahman Said helped him refine his performance skills. Under the mentorship of these two instructors, he gained valuable experience in the Malay dance scene, performing at events like *Muara Dance Festival*, *Momentum*, *Tumasik*, and *Gentarasa*.

Known for his cheerful demeanour and curiosity, Izznur Haikal blends his acquired knowledge into his performances which incorporate traditional fundamentals.



Md Al-Hafiz Hosni, Dance Artist

Hafiz is a multifaceted artist who pursues the craft of performance and film making. With strong ambitions of directing and choreographing for both stage and film, he graduated from the LASALLE's BA(Hons) Musical Theatre programme. Prior to that, Hafiz had been training in traditional and contemporary Malay dance for a decade in Azpirasi. Further training includes an intermediate *pas de deux* mentorship programme with Acro Arts Sg and Steps On Broadway Summer Study in New York. Hafiz is currently a P7:1SMA dance associate, and the publicity manager for Azpirasi.

Some of his performance credits include *The Lee Kuan Yew Musical* (2022, dir. Steven Dexter); *Chicago: A Musical Vaudeville* (dir. Nikki Snelson); understudy for the role of Mr Adrian Heng in *Forever Young* (director's assistant, dir. Hossan Leong); Wickersham 2 in *Seussical The Musical* (dir. Edith Podesta); Madagascar Drummer and Undead Mummy in Hollywood Dreams Light-Up Parade; choreographer and performer for *Scarlet Mela Festival of the Arts* incubation programme; choreographer and performer of a solo dance performance for the *International Mask Festival* in Solo, Indonesia.



Norhaizad Adam, Choreographer and Dance Artist

Norhaizad Adam is a dance artist from Singapore. He performs and choreographs for unconventional community spaces, galleries and theatres. His works address behaviourism in Malay culture. Central to his Malay dance practice is considering the performativity of the everyday gestures and accessing tradition as a form of tool kit for living in global modernity or for the imagined future. Currently, he is the Artistic Director of P7:1SMA. He is also an Associate of Dance Nucleus and choreographer of Azpirasi. In 2021, he received the National Art Council's Young Artist Award.

www.haizad.info



Nur Afqah Azmi, Dance Artist

Nur Afqah Azmi was born into a Malay dance family. As she was growing up, she found that her passion for the dance form grew as well. Her 22 years of dance experience had exposed her to various types of dance styles like hip hop and Indian dance. Partaking in several international dance festivals in Asia has also made Afqah intrigued and curious to explore more movements and different types of rhythms.

Now that she is a full-time working mom, dance is where she gets to free herself. At the same time, she continues to introduce and share more about Malay dance to her children, in hopes that they will also share the same passion as her growing up years.



Nur Haini Mohd, Dance Artist

Haini Mohd has been training in Azpirasi under the tutelage of Azmi Juhari and Azpirasi's senior choreographers. In her years of training, she has performed and collaborated with performing artists locally and internationally. Besides venturing into choreography, she also assists in general administration and relationship management for Azpirasi.



Zaini Tahir, Dramaturg

As the Founder, Resident Choreographer and Artistic Director of NUS Dance Ensemble since 1992, Zaini has led the company of over 100 dancers to garner acclaim and establish itself as a contemporary Asian dance company, whose promise is evident in their annual concerts, The Next Wave, Dance Reflections and Evocation.

Firmly committed to developing the minds of our youths, he has also been the Artistic Director of a few massive projects such as Momentum Dance Festival (2008 – 2023) and Reflection Community Arts Festival (2008 – 2022) at Republic Polytechnic and Emblazon Dance Concert at ITE (2013 – 2023). His most recent Emblazon – Inspiring Artistes reached a new milestone with collaboration with National Gallery of Singapore. He has also been involved

in other epic events such as being the Chief Choreographer for National Day Parade (2014 – 2015 and 2018 – 2021) as well as directing a few dance projects like *FULL OUT! Next Gen* for Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay. Zaini has been part of the adjudication panel of MOE's Singapore Youth Festival Dance Presentation for over ten years.



Azrin Abdullah, Sound Artist

Azrin Abdullah started learning the acoustic guitar at the age of six. He gave his first musical performance when he was nine and has not looked back since. Azrin began his love affair with the *oud*, an Arabic lute-type stringed instrument, in 1999 when he was tasked to learn the exotic instrument as part of an endeavour to master traditional Malay music.

In 2014, Azrin was sponsored by the National Arts Council to pursue an advanced course at the National Conservatory of Arts in Kuala Lumpur to further his knowledge of the *oud*. After completing the course, he went on to produce the first Singapore Gambus Conference, which was held at the Malay Heritage Centre from 25 – 30 October 2016 in conjunction with the Malay Culture Festival. The well-attended event saw speakers and *gambus* enthusiasts from Singapore and around the world gather to share their knowledge of the instrument.

Azrin was also instrumental in forming Singapore Oudists (SGOudists), an online oud community that provides local oud players from all walks of life with a platform to get together and share techniques and playing styles. Azrin is currently an adjunct teacher with School of The Arts (SOTA) & President of Oudists Association of Singapore.



Govin Tan, Sound Artist

Govin Tan, a versatile World music percussionist and drummer, is driven to challenge conventions by integrating ethnic drumming into modern landscapes. His journey began in Singapore at age 12, immersing himself in the study of Indian music and refining his *tabla* skills during subsequent years in India.

A trailblazer, he secured victory as the first non-Indian in the National Indian Music Competition at 14 (*tabla* intermediate) and 16 (open category), attracting media attention from outlets like Channel News Asia, MTV Asia, and more. Fueled by curiosity, Govin embarked on a methodical exploration of global musical cultures, infusing this knowledge into his compositions and productions.

His unwavering dedication translated into participation in a multitude of local and international festivals, residencies, and performances across diverse countries, elevating his musical prowess. Notably, he assumed pivotal roles within Singaporean performing groups, earning recognition from the National Arts Council and Singapore Tourism Board for his global representation.

Presently, Govin, a second generation leader of Singapore music group Flame of the Forest, contributes to Open Score Project and SA the Collective, and ardently nurtures ethnic drumming through education. His ceaseless curiosity drives ongoing study and exploration of various world instruments.



Syafiq Halid, Sound Artist

Syafiq Halid is a manipulator of sound, electronic artist and experimental percussionist based in Singapore. He has worked in several traditional and contemporary performing arts projects regionally with various collaborators and companies at platforms like Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, National Gallery Singapore, ArtScience Museum, Nusasonic and Goethe Institute.

Drawing from sounds, aesthetics, and experiences of the Malay world, Syafiq's compositions traverse the grey realms that exist between the traditional and the contemporary. His creations deconstruct, exploit, and reimagine these sounds, manifesting them into an experimental sonic language unique to Southeast Asia.



Kaykay Nizam, Multimedia Artist

Kaykay Nizam is a multi-disciplinary artist based in Singapore graduating from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts with a B.A. (First Hons) in Theatre Arts. Since then, his career has spanned over 50 productions, having performed internationally in Beijing, Mongolia, Indonesia, London and New York. Moreover, Kaykay is an active educator of the arts, teaching theatre in primary and secondary schools all over Singapore.

As part of his practice, not only has he worked on stage but also served as one of the unseen heroes of the theatre, having assumed roles as producer, director, choreographer, set, sound, lighting and multimedia designer and production team.

Credits

Artistic Director

Azmi Juhari

Dramaturg

Zaini Tahir

Choreographers

Norhaizad Adam

Ismail Jemaah

Hasyimah Harith

Dance Artists

Azmi Juhari

Atikah Hasimen

Farihin Ahmad

Hasyimah Harith

Ismail Jemaah

Izznur Haikal Mohd Jeffrizain

Md Al-Hafiz Hosni

Norhaizad Adam

Nur Afiqah Azmi

Nur Haini Mohd

Sound Artists

Azrin Abdullah

Syafiq Halid

Govin Tan

Project Manager

Norshidah Yunos

Finance Manager

Siti Ayuni Mohd

Stage Manager

Lee Xinzhi

Assistant Stage Manager

Ali Mazrin

Set & Multimedia Designer

Kaykay Nizam

Lighting Designer

Syahrudin Pasha

Publicity Manager & Trailer Producer

Md Al-Hafiz Hosni

(Standstills Movement)

Poster photographer

Poh Yu Khing

(@pyk.photos)

Publicity Designer

Atikah Hasimen

(Tikxxdesign)

Special thanks:

Afiqah Mokhtar

Muhd Sharul Mohammed

Ucapan dari Pengarah Artistik

Azmi Junari



Gemersik Ombak 2023 adalah kesinambungan kerja-tarian dalam hidup saya.

2002: *Gemersik Ombak* dicipta.

2021: *Gemersik Ombak – Introspect*

2023: *Gemersik Ombak – Alter Waves*

Kehidupan seorang seniman sentiasa mencari kesempurnaan, menilai selok-belok karya seni mereka. Adakah kami benar-benar puas hati dengan keupayaan tarian kami? Untuk cemerlang, ia memerlukan penghalusan yang meluas dan latihan berdedikasi serta pelabuan masa dan sumber. Ia penting untuk memahami sains asas di sebalik gerakan tubuh.

Masa berlalu tanpa henti, menimbulkan bentuk tarian Melayu yang membawa pengaruh yang berwibawa. Sementara budaya seni berkembang, asas tradisi tetap utuh. Ia penting untuk menyelaraskan diri dengan akar seniman tari. Pencarian ilmu tidak akan henti kerana ia didorong oleh perkembangan dan evolusi masa. Lantaran itu, seseorang mesti menentang keegoaan dan solipsisme, menerima perspektif bertentangan dan memupuk perjanjian walaupun di tengah-tengah perselisihan.

Moga dunia tarian Melayu di Singapura selama-selamanya maju menerusi pelbagai usaha positif dan kemajuan berterusan dalam semua aspek.

Mesej dari Dramaturg

Zaini Tahir



Saya suka cabaran dan saya suka perbincangan yang melihat perkara daripada perspektif berbeza.

Gemersik Ombak mengenai gelombang perubahan dan perubahan sentiasa relevan. Karya seni asalnya, walaupun tampil tradisional, boleh dilihat daripada pelbagai sudut dan saya harap tafsiran luas reka bentuk tari ini dapat difahami setiap anggota masyarakat kita. Saya suka apabila kita memelihara budaya kita. Walaupun bentuk tari mungkin berubah supaya kekal relevan (atau mungkin kita yang berubah), kerohanian, jiwa dan nilai seni tarian Melayu memerlukan lebih banyak perbincangan - adakah itu mutlak atau satu spektrum atau versi mutlak yang berbeza?

Sinopsis Gemersik Ombak – Alter Waves



Direka bentuk oleh penari veteran, Azmi Juhari, *Zapin Gemersik Ombak* adalah sejenis tarian Melayu tradisional yang pertama kali dicipta untuk persembahan tarian *Gentarasa* 2002, diadakan di Teater Kallang lama di Singapura. Selepas melebihi 20 tahun, tarian zapin ini masih digemari dan dipersembahkan di acara-acara prolifik akibat irama dinamik dan gerakan seperti gelombang yang ikonik. Ia kini repertoire tarian ikonik Azpirasi, sebuah kumpulan tarian Melayu pimpinan Azmi Juhari sejak 2000.

Gemersik Ombak – Alter Waves mempersembahkan pembayangan semula *Zapin Gemersik Ombak* dan alat koreografinya. Persembahan ini mengupas kosa kata berkenaan sejarah, budaya dan adat Melayu. Dengan memanfaatkan data penyelidikan yang luas untuk memaparkan reka bentuk tari yang terkandung, Azpirasi cuba membentuk refleksi alternatif tentang cara mengambil bahagian dalam masyarakat kontemporari kita.

(1 jam, tanpa waktu rehat)

Babak

Segmen 1: Bisikan Jadi Laungan

Dalam kehidupan, pasti ada permulaan. Yang mulanya dengan niat hingga terlahir suatu perbuatan. Setiap permulaan berbeza. Ada kalanya dimulakan dengan ucapan salam mahupun bersalaman antara dua insan. Tidak lupa juga, ada yang dimulakan dengan bacaan kalimah. Meskipun begitu, permulaan sesuatu boleh berubah mengikut pemodenan masa serta budaya yang kian berkembang pesat asal dapat membahagiakan kedua-dua pihak.

Segmen 2: Kembang Alam

Alam ialah guru yang mengajar kita. 5 pancaindera, lihat, dengar, hidu, rasa dan sentuh menjadi saksi kepada ilmu yang diraih. Ilmu itu satu pengetahuan yang menjadi satu pelaksanaan hingga menjadi satu perkongsiaan. Ilmu itu ibarat air yang perlu disampaikan agar sentiasa kekal bermanfaat. Usah dibiarkan bertakung begitu sahaja. Lebih murni jika mengalir hingga menjadi ombak yang siap menggulung kepada si penerima.

Segmen 3: Hati Berbisik

Hasrat dipendam di lubuk hati. Tidak kira yang tersurat atau yang tersirat. Payah rasanya untuk mengungkapkan dan meluahkan sesuatu. Maka, lebih mudah disimpan di dalam hati. Masa menentukan bila hasrat itu dapat dilafazkan.

Segmen 4: Menggegar Tubuh

Setiap insan mendahagakan kemajuan serta perkembangan. Terus berusaha demi mencari dan mancapai satu kelainan. Terus maju ke hadapan, jangan pernah mengundur kerana diri ini tidak kenal erti menyerah. Yang lama diperbaharu, yang baharu diperhalus hingga menjadi suatu yang bermutu.

Segmen 5: Kental Menumbuh

Dari tiada hingga berada. Perjalanan hidup terus berubah berlandaskan ilmu dan pengalaman yang ada. Tidak lupa sokongan yang padu bersertakan pengorbanan yang ikhlas yang membolehkan segalanya berlaku dengan cukup indah. Usaha tangga kejayaan. Berlatih hingga menjadi mahir. Kemajuan memerlukan disiplin dan keyakinan diri. Bak kata pepatah, bersatu kita teguh, bercerai kita roboh. Berjaya kita, berbangga juga sekeliling kita.

Tari bukan sebarang tari
Tari Melayu kau dan aku
Menari jangan sebarang menari
Menari padat ilmu dan laku

Biografi

Azpirasi

Ditubuhkan pada 2000 oleh Pengarah Artistik, Azmi Juhari, kumpulan tarian Azpirasi telah menunjukkan tahap komitmen dan dedikasi yang tinggi kepada reka bentuk tari Melayu selama bertahun di pelbagai festival setempat dan antarabangsa. Azpirasi juga telah bergabung dengan pelbagai kumpulan tarian profesional terkenal di serantau seperti Era Dance Theatre, P7:1 SMA dan Yayasan Warisan Johor.

Azpirasi berusaha untuk meningkatkan keupayaan penarinya menerusi pengalaman deria, menyelami aspek fizikal dan kerohanian tarian tradisional dan kontemporari Melayu.

Hari ini, Azpirasi telah berkembang menjadi wadah untuk penari muda memupuk pengetahuan dan kemahiran mereka dalam tarian Melayu. Dengan visinya untuk memperkasa dan menggalak belia untuk menghargai dan memulihara Budaya Melayu, Azpirasi kini adalah kumpulan penting di lanskap kebudayaan dan kesenian setempat. Azpirasi juga adalah sebahagian daripada Jawatankuasa Tarian Melayu Singapura.



Azmi Juhari, Pengarah Seni

Azmi Juhari bermula sebagai penari pada 1979 dan tidak pernah menoleh ke belakang sejak itu. Penglibatannya dalam Perkumpulan Seni menawarkan wadah baginya mempelajari lebih mendalam tentang seni halus tarian Melayu dengan bimbingan koreografer veteran seperti Encik Ali Sungip, Encik Idrias Abdullah dan ramai lagi penari senior pada waktunya.

Azmi bertuah dapat bekerjasama dengan koreografer terunggul seperti Encik Salleh Buang (Kemuning), Cik Som Said (Sri Warisan), Encik Naim Pani, Encik Osman Hamid (Persatuan Rakyat), Encik Onn Jaafar (Malaysia) dan Encik Tom Ibnur (Indonesia).

Mempunyai kreativiti tanpa sempadan, Azmi telah bereksperimen dengan tarian Melayu kontemporari dan gerakan etniknya. Karya seni luar biasanya telah dan terus

dipersembahkan untuk persembahan GENTARASA oleh Persatuan Rakyat, WorldDance Expo di Aichi, Jepun serta Festival Tarian Kontemporari di Indonesia.

Dengan pengalaman luasnya, beliau membentuk Kumpulan Tari Azpirasi, di mana beliau kini merupakan penasihat dan koreografer. Beliau bercita-cita dapat membina bakat muda menjadi penari yang mempunyai minat mendalam dalam seni tari Melayu.



Atikah Hasimen, Penari

Atikah adalah seorang seniman yang berpangkalan di Singapura yang bertugas dalam bidang reka bentuk dan ilustrasi. Beliau mempunyai ijazah sarjana muda dalam komunikasi dari Universiti Teknologi Singapura dan kini seorang pekerja bebas. Dilatih dalam tarian tradisional dan kontemporari Melayu, Atikah juga seorang penari dan reka bentuk publisiti Azpirasi.



Farihin Ahmad, Penari

Membesar di Singapura, Farihin mempunyai minat mendalam dalam seni persembahan. Beliau seringkali menurut serta dalam persembahan seni Melayu untuk menerokai lebih lanjut tentang budaya Melayu sambil mendalami pelbagai seni persembahan. Beliau bersyukur mendapat peluang mengalami keseronokan membuat persembahan. Sepanjang perjalanannya, beliau berpeluang membuat persembahan dengan kumpulan kompang, kumpulan dikir barat dan kumpulan tarian Melayu.



Hasyimah Harith, Koreografer dan penari

Hasyimah Harith adalah seorang seniman wanita Melayu/ Islam yang membuat persembahan, mereka bentuk tari dan mengajar tarian rakyat Melayu. Menggunakan tubuh, Hasyimah menerapkan tradisi dan erotisme sebagai cara menguasai tubuhnya. Beliau menggunakan strategi yang meningkatkan libido seperti fantasi dan keintiman. Beliau berharap dapat menghadapi dan mengatasi rasa malu dan kesedihan yang seringkali dikaitkan dengan erotisme

wanita. Hasyimah merupakan pengurus syarikat bagi kumpulan tari P7:1SMA, yang percaya bahawa tarian adalah satu strategi dan menjadi Melayu sebagai satu konsep. beliau juga seorang Bersekutu Dance Nucleus, sebuah pusat koreografer bagi seniman berdikari.

www.hasyimahharith.com



Ismail Jemaah, Koreografer dan Penari

Seorang penari dan koreografer yang dilatih dalam bidang seni persembahan Melayu, Ismail Jemaah kadang kala menyual jika kami terlalu banyak berfikir. Beliau menyelami dalam sesuatu saat sambil cuba menerokai gerakan menerusi lensa akarnya sebagai pemangkin. Ismail cuba memerhatikan bagaimana dunia yang kita hidup boleh dikongsi menerusi tubuh gerakan kita.

Kini, Ismail adalah seorang jurulatih koreografer tetap di Azpirasi dan seorang seniman bersekutu bersama P7:1SMA.



Izznur Haikal Mohd Jeffrizain, Penari

Izznur Haikal, juga dikenali sebagai Georgie, mula perjalanannya dalam bidang tari pada 2008. Semasa di sekolah menengah, beliau mendalami tarian Melayu di bawah bimbingan Cikgu Azmi Juhari, yang kemudian menggalakkannya menyertai Azpirasi pada 2016.

Semasa di sekolah menengah, Izznur menyertai Dharma Endari, di mana Cikgu Fathurrahman Said membantunya memperhalusia kemahiran persembahannya. Di bawah bimbingan dua jurulatih tersebut, beliau menimba pengalaman dalam tarian Melayu, membuat persembahan di acara-acara seperti Festival Tarian Muara, Momentum, Tumasik, dan Gentarasa.

Dikenali dengan sifat ceria dan ingin tahu, Izznur Haikal menggabungkan ilmu yang diperolehi ke dalam persembahannya yang menerapkan asas-asas tradisional.



Md Al-Hafiz Hosni, Penari

Hafiz adalah seorang seniman pelbagai bakat yang menceburi kraf persembahan dan pembuatan filem. Dengan cita-cita tinggi dalam bidang pengarah dan reka bentuk buat kedua pentas dan filem, beliau berkelulusan ijazah sarjana muda dalam kesenian (kepujian) bagi program Teater Muzikal dari Lasalle. Sebelum itu, Hafiz telah melatih dalam tarian tradisional dan kontemporari Melayu selama sedekad di Azpirasi. Beliau turut menjalani latihan lanjutan bagi program bimbingan pas de deux bersama Acro Arts Sg dan Steps On Broadway Summer Study di New York. Hafiz kini adalah penari bersekutu P7:1SMA dan pengurus publisiti untuk Azpirasi.

Beberapa kredit persembahannya termasuk *Muzikal Lee Kuan Yew* (2022, arahan Steven Dexter); *Chicago: A Musical Vaudeville* (arahan Nikki Snelson); berlatih bagi peranan Encik Adrian Heng dalam *Forever Young* (penolong pengarah, arahan Hossan Leong); Wickersham 2 dalam *Seussical The Musical* (arahan Edith Podesta); Madagascar Drummer dan Undead Mummy di Perbarisan Pencahaya Hollywood Dreams; koreografer dan penari bagi program inkubasi *Festival Seni Scarlet Mela*; koreografer dan penari bagi persembahan tarian solo bagi *Festival Topeng Antarabangsa* di Solo, Indonesia.



Norhaizad Adam, Koreografer dan Penari

Norhaizad Adam adalah seorang penari dari Singapura. Beliau membuat persembahan dan koreograf untuk ruang masyarakat, galeri dan teater. Karyanya menyentuh tentang tingkah laku dalam budaya Melayu. He performs and choreographs for unconventional community spaces, galleries and theatres. His works address behaviourism in Malay culture. Intipati amalan tarian Melayunya ialah mempertimbangkan prestasi gerak isyarat harian dan mengakses tradisi sebagai satu bentuk kit alat untuk kehidupan dalam kemodenan global atau untuk masa depan yang dibayangkan. Kini, beliau adalah Pengarah Artistik P7:1SMA. Beliau juga Bersekutu Dance Nucleus dan

koreografer bagi Azpirasi. Pada 2021, beliau menerima Anugerah Seniman Muda Majlis Seni Kebangsaan.

www.haizad.info



Nur Afiqah Azmi, Penari

Nur Afiqah Azmi dilahirkan dalam keluarga tarian Melayu. Semasa beliau membesar, beliau mendapati minatnya dalam bidang seni turut berkembang. Pengalaman tariannya selama 22 tahun telah mendedahkan beliau kepada pelbagai jenis gaya tari seperti hip hop dan tarian India. Penglibatannya dalam pelbagai festival tarian antarabangsa di Asia juga telah membuat Afiqah lebih ingin tahu untuk menerokai lebih banyak pergerakan dan aneka jenis rentak berbeza.

Kini beliau merupakan ibu bekerja sepenuh masa di mana beliau membebaskan diri menerusi tarian. Pada masa yang sama, beliau terus memperkenalkan dan berkongsi tentang tarian Melayu kepada anak-anaknya dengan harapan agar mereka juga berkongsi minat yang sama semasa mereka membesar.



Nur Haini Mohd, Penari

Haini Mohd telah berlatih di Azpirasi di bawah bimbingan Azmi Juhari dan koreografer senior Azpirasi. Sepanjang latihannya yang bertahun-tahun, beliau telah membuat persembahan dan bergabung dengan seniman persembahan setempat dan antarabangsa. Selain menceburi bidang koreografi, beliau juga membantu dalam bidang pentadbiran am dan mengurus perhubungan bagi Azpirasi.



Zaini Tahir, Dramaturg

Sebagai pengasas, koreografer tetap dan pengarah artistik kumpulan tarian, NUS Dance Ensemble sejak 1992, Zaini telah memimpin melebihi 100 penari dari kumpulan itu untuk mencapai pengiktirafan dan menubuhkan sebuah kumpulan tarian Asia kontemporari, di mana bakat kumpulan itu terserlah dalam konsert-konsert tahunannya, *The Next Wave*, *Dance Reflections* dan *Evocation*.

Limited untuk membangun minda para belia, beliau juga telah menjadi Pengarah Artistik beberapa projek besar seperti *Festival Tarian Momentum* (2008 – 2023) dan *Festival Seni Masyarakat Refleksi* (2008 – 2022) di Politeknik Republic dan *Konsert Tarian Emblazon* di ITE (2013 – 2023). Acara *Emblazon – Artis Inspirasi* baru-baru ini telah mencapai pencapaian dengan gabungan bersama Galeri Nasional Singapura. Beliau juga telah terlibat dalam acara-acara epik lain seperti menjadi Ketua Koreografer bagi Perbarisan Hari Kebangsaan (2014 – 2015 dan 2018 – 2021) serta mengarah beberapa projek tarian seperti *FULL OUT! Next Gen* untuk Esplanade – Teater di Persiran. Zaini adalah sebahagian daripada anggota panel pengadilan bagi Persembahan Belia Singapura MOE selama melebihi 10 tahun.



Azrin Abdullah, Seniman Bunyi

Azrin Abdullah mula belajar bermain gitar akustik pada usia enam tahun. Beliau menyampaikan persembahan muzik pertamanya semasa beliau sembilan tahun dan tidak menoleh ke belakang sejak itu. Azrin mula jatuh cinta dengan oud, sejenis alat muzik Arab bertali pada 1999 apabila beliau ditugaskan untuk belajar alat muzik eksotik itu sebagai usaha untuk mempelajari muzik tradisional Melayu.

Pada 2014, Azrin ditaja Majlis Seni Kebangsaan untuk menceburi kursus lanjutan di Konservatori Kesenian Negara di Kuala Lumpur untuk melanjutkan pengetahuannya dalam alat muzik, oud. Selepas menyelesaikan kursus itu, beliau menganjurkan *Persidangan Gambus Singapura* pertamanya yang diadakan di Pusat Warisan Melayu dari 25 – 30 Oktober 2016 bersempena *Pesta Kebudayaan Melayu*. Acara yang dihadiri ramai itu menyaksikan speaker dan penggemar gambus dari Singapura dan merata dunia berkumpul untuk berkongsi pengetahuan mereka tentang alat muzik itu.

Azrin juga telah memainkan peranan penting dalam menubuhkan Singapore Oudists (SGOudists), komuniti dalam talian yang menawarkan pemain out setempat dari pelbagai latar belakang wadah untuk membuat persembahan bersama dan berkongsi teknik dan gaya

permainan. Azrin kini seorang gur adjunct dengan Sekolah Seni (SOTA) dan Presiden Persatuan Pemain Oud Singapura.



Govin Tan, Seniman Bunyi

Govin Tan, seorang pemain dram dan perkusi muzik versatil sedunia terdorong untuk mencabar konvensyen dengan menyepadukan genderang etnik kepada lanskap moden. Perjalannya bermula di Singapura pada usia 12 tahun, di mana beliau mengkaji muzik India dan memperhalusi kemahiran tablanya semasa berada di India.

Beliau berjaya mencapai kejayaan sebagai pemuzik bukan berbangsa India pertama di Pertandingan India Nasional pada 14 tahun (kategori intermediate tabla) dan 16 tahun (kategori terbuka), menarik perhatian media dari Channel News Asia, MTV Asia, dan banyak lagi. Didorong dengan rasa ingin tahun, Govin menerokai metod budaya muzik global, menggabungkan pengetahuannya dalam gubahan dan penerbitannya.

Dedikasi beliau melihatnya menyertai pelbagai festival setempat dan antarabangsa, residensi dan persembahan di pelbagai negara, meningkatkan lagi kemahiran muziknya. Beliau memainkan peranan penting dalam beberapa kumpulan persembahan Singapura, mendapat pengiktirafan dari Majlis Seni Kebangsaan dan Lembaga Pelancongan Singapura kerana perwakilan globalnya.

Kini, Govin, pemimpin generasi kedua kumpulan muzik Singapura, Flame of the Forest, menyumbang kepada Open Score Project dan SA the Collective, dan memupuk genderang etnik menerusi pendidikan. Sifat ingin tahun beliau mendorongnya untuk terus menyelidiki dan menerokai pelbagai alat muzik sedunia.



Syafiq Halid, Seniman Bunyi

Syafiq Halid adalah seorang manipulator bunyi, seniman elektronik dan pemain perkusi eksperimental yang berpangkalan di Singapura. Beliau telah terlibat dalam pelbagai projek seni persembahan kontemporari dan tradisional serantau dengan pelbagai penggabungan dan

syarikat seperti Esplanade – Teater di Persisiran, Galeri Nasional Singapura, Muzium ArtScience, Nusasonic dan Goethe Institute.

Mengambil inspirasi daripada bunyi, estetik dan pengalaman dunia Melayu, gubahan Syafiq merentasi antara seni tradisional dan kontemporari. Ciptaannya menyahkonstruksi, mengeksploitasi dan membayangkan semula bunyi-bunyi tersebut, menghasilkan mereka kepada bahasa sonik eksperimental unik di Asia Tenggara.



Kaykay Nizam, Seniman Multimedia

Kaykay Nizam adalah seorang seniman pelbagai disiplin yang berpangkalan di Singapura, berkelulusan ijazah sarjana muda (kepujian pertama) dalam jurusan Kesenian Teater dari Akademi Seni Halus Nanyang. Sejak itu, beliau telah menghasilkan melebihi 50 penerbitan dan membuat persembahan antarabangsa di Beijing, Mongolia, Indonesia, London dan New York. Selain itu, Kaykay juga seorang pendidik seni aktif, mengajar teater di sekolah rendah dan menengah di merata Singapura.

Sebagai sebahagian daripada amalan seninya, beliau bukan sahaja pernah membuat persembahan di atas pentas tetapi juga di sebaliknya, memegang peranan sebagai penerbit, pengarah, koreografer, pereka set, bunyi, pencahayaan dan multimedia serta anggota pasukan penerbitan.

Kredit

Pengarah Artistik

Azmi Juhari

Dramaturg

Zaini Tahir

Koreografer

Norhaizad Adam

Ismail Jemaah

Hasyimah Harith

Dance Artists

Azmi Juhari

Atikah Hasimen

Farihin Ahmad

Hasyimah Harith

Ismail Jemaah

Izznur Haikal Mohd Jeffrizain

Md Al-Hafiz Hosni

Norhaizad Adam

Nur Afiqah Azmi

Nur Haini Mohd

Seniman Bunyi

Azrin Abdullah

Syafiq Halid

Govin Tan

Pengurus Projek

Norshidah Yunos

Pengurus Kewangan

Siti Ayuni Mohd

Pengurus Pentas

Lee Xinzhi

Penolong Pengurus Pentas

Ali Mazrin

Pereka Set & Multimedia

Kaykay Nizam

Pereka Pencahayaann

Syahrudin Pasha

Pengurus Publisiti & Penerbit Trailer

Md Al-Hafiz Hosni

(Standstills Movement)

Jurugambar Poster

Poh Yu Khing

(@pyk.photos)

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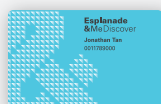


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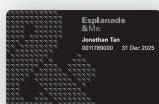
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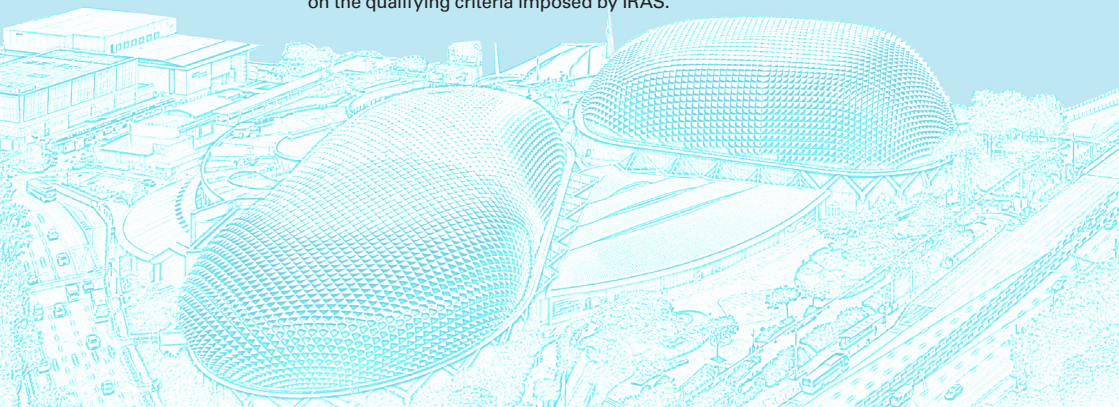
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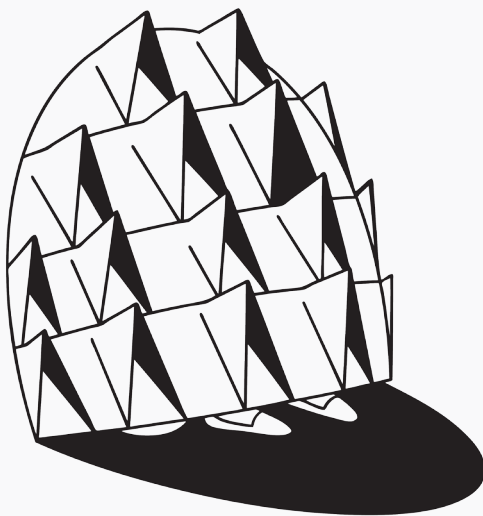
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