

Esplanade Presents

PESTA RAYA – MALAY FESTIVAL OF ARTS 2023

18 – 21 May 2023

www.esplanade.com/pestaraya



Dear friends of the media,

Selamat Datang everyone to *Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts 2023*! We are happy to welcome you to #mydurian once again to celebrate the best of the arts in the Nusantara. The festival takes place from 18 – 21 May 2023 at Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay.

One of the oldest art forms, storytelling is a powerful tool that is used to preserve and share memories, culture and tradition. Stories are a way for us to better connect with the world we are in. Told often, these tales become lessons or a source of inspiration. In this 22nd edition of *Pesta Raya*, we present a line-up of programmes that celebrate and explore stories that keep the rich culture of the Nusantara alive.

Teater Ekamatra's *Potong* presents the story of a Singaporean Malay-Muslim son as he struggles with family, identity and culture. In *Air Da Tohor*, Firdaus Sani and Asnida Daud, both descendants of Orang Laut/Pulau communities, explore the traits, energy and willpower of the people of the islands through spoken word, storytelling and movement. *Jalinan Kusam Di Lemari Sosi: Pieces of Reminiscence*, by Indonesia's Flying Balloons Puppet, uses intricate puppetry to explore the challenges and expectations facing women. Away from the more serious themes of alienation and belonging, YouTube and podcast personality KC Champion's immersive and spine-chilling *Malam Seram Lagi Seram* will thrill horror fanatics.

Music is often a bearer of a culture's stories and in *Simfoni Keroncong Nusantara* by Orkestra Melayu Singapura, we celebrate keroncong, the melodious and soulful music genre that is unique to the Malay Archipelago. In addition, Malaysia's dazzling R&B darling Dayang Nurfaizah and renowned Indonesian indie outfit Efek Rumah Kaca will both mark their long-awaited return to Singapore.

Join us at the festival's free programmes, as we honour traditional Nusantara storytelling forms. Be enchanted by the Awang Batil, the last living practitioner of the traditional form of storytelling and explore the legacy of bangsawan with Anggerik Temasek Bangsawan. The storytelling continues online with a presentation of specially commissioned short films by Malaysian film directors, Yusry Abd Halim, Sharifah Amani and Junad M. Nor.

This is my ninth year leading the festival and I still find much joy, excitement and amazement in putting together the line-up. I have utmost respect for all the artists who put their heart and soul into creating works that tell personal, historical and inspiring stories — tales that leave our hearts feeling tingly and warm. I also thank Bowen Enterprises Pte Ltd for their kind support of *Pesta Raya 2023* and hope that we will each find in this year's festival, that special moment that will live on in us as unique pieces of a larger story that tells who we are as people of the Nusantara.

Hanie Nadia Hamzah
Producer
The Esplanade Co Ltd

Last updated: 19 Apr 2023

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.

Visit [Esplanade.com](https://www.esplanade.com) for more information.

~ End ~

Issued by *The Esplanade Co Ltd*.

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Annexe

Esplanade Presents

PESTA RAYA – MALAY FESTIVAL OF ARTS 2023

18 – 21 May 2023

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

Simfoni Keroncong Nusantara

by Orkestra Melayu Singapura featuring Emilia Contessa, Dato Yusni Hamid, Eddy Ali, Suryana Norddin, Jamilah Abu Bakar, Liliek Jasqee & Andre Michiels
Hosted by Rudy Djoe and Marina Yusoff
(Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia)

19 May 2023, Fri, 8pm
Esplanade Concert Hall



Melodious and soulful, *keroncong* is a music genre unique to the Malay Archipelago, having developed from its folk roots into a celebrated cultural heritage. *Simfoni Keroncong Nusantara* celebrates the various styles and colours of *keroncong*, from its original sound in its birthplace, Jakarta, to its iterations in the rest of the archipelago.

Performed by Orkestra Melayu Singapura, this blockbuster show features guest performers Emilia Contessa, Dato Yusni Hamid, Eddy Ali, Suryana Norddin and Jamilah Abu Bakar. Be entertained and entranced by classic favourites like *Jali-Jali*, *Bengawan Solo*, *Sayang Di Sayang* as well as interpretations of pop favourites that have been given the unique *keroncong* touch.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)
Performed in Malay.

***\$30, \$50^, \$70^**

*Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$24

Limited concessions for PWDs: \$24

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials

Available from 16 Mar – 26 Mar. Limited tickets.

Black: 20% savings

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

^Esplanade&Me Specials

Available from 27 Mar, 9am.

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2) (Limited tickets)

Dayang Nurfaizah: Belagu (Malaysia) [Sold Out]

20 May 2023, Sat, 8pm
Esplanade Concert Hall



Malaysia's dazzling R&B darling Dayang Nurfaizah makes her return to Singapore at Esplanade Concert Hall, the first time since her sold-out show in 2018! Following her unprecedented success with *Belagu*, which won multiple awards at the recent Anugerah Industri Muzik 2023 (AIM23), Dayang now presents a one-night-only showcase of her signature soulful and sultry vocal stylings. Meaning "to sing" in the Sarawak Malay dialect, *Belagu* paid homage to classic Malay hits. She extends her love letter to Malay heritage and music in *Belagu II*, which was produced alongside the world-renowned Budapest Scoring Orchestra (BSO) and Malaysia's top musicians, resulting in an array of opulent tunes influenced by traditional genres such as *asli*, *joget* and *zapin*. Now, backed by an 18-piece concert band, Dayang will serenade the crowd with timeless favourites such as *Tudung Periuk*, *Nak Dara Rindu*, *Umpan Jinak Di Air Tenang*, *Dari Hati Ke Hati*, *Tak Seindah Wajah*, *Gurindam Jiwa*, and more. Don't miss your chance (again) to see this illustrious songstress in concert!

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)
Performed in Malay.

About Dayang Nurfaizah

Dayang Nurfaizah is Malaysia's own R&B singing sensation known for her sultry tone, unmistakably melodic, powerful, and distinctive raspy voice. Fondly known as Dayang, she has earned numerous awards and unparalleled accomplishments since her breakout success in Malaysia's music in 1999. Known for her bold experimentations with pop, R&B, and classic Malay numbers, Dayang is constantly reinventing herself—making her one of the most evolved and versatile singers in Malaysia.

With more than 20 years in music under her belt, Dayang's illustrious repertoire includes 10 studio albums, two live albums, various compilation albums and hit singles. She is at the peak of her career, with several critically acclaimed and commercially successful hits in recent years, proving she remains a force to be reckoned with.

***Esplanade&Me* members exclusive!**

\$250 VVIP, \$160 VIP

\$250 VVIP includes the following:

- Choice of any Category 1 ticket
- Autographed concert poster
- Priority post-show meet and greet with Dayang Nurfaizah
- Enjoy a 3-course meal and drink at The Malayan Council Esplanade, before the concert.

Each *Esplanade&Me* member can purchase up to 2 \$250 VVIP tickets.

\$160 VIP includes the following:

- Choice of any Category 1 ticket
- Autographed concert poster
- Post-show meet and greet with Dayang Nurfaizah

Each *Esplanade&Me* member can purchase up to 4 \$160 VIP tickets.

\$50*, \$75, \$100^, \$125^**

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$40*, \$60**

Limited concessions for PWDs: \$40

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Efek Rumah Kaca (Indonesia)

21 May 2023, Sun, 8pm
Esplanade Concert Hall



“Amongst independent musicians, Efek Rumah Kaca has built a name for themselves. Their music has travelled not only in Indonesia but also a few other neighbouring countries, showing that Indonesia can also take pride in their indie musicians.” – CNN Indonesia

Renowned Indonesian indie outfit Efek Rumah Kaca make their return to Singapore after 13 years, promising another memorable and blistering live performance. Translating to “Greenhouse Effect”, Efek Rumah Kaca rose to prominence with their self-titled album, as well as subsequent releases *Kamar Gelap* and *Sinestesia*. Anchored in alternative rock with traces of pop, the band is recognised for their satirical and thought-provoking lyrics about politics and society, set to striking melodies in lush, nearly orchestral arrangements. Its sound is made distinct through the voice of lead singer and guitarist Cholil Mahmud, whose pristine and haunting vocals soar through each record. Despite the sombre nature of their music and lyrics, their live shows are always brimming with energy thanks to loyal fans who faithfully sing-along to every song.

In January 2023, the band released the album *Rimpang*, their first full-length release since 2020’s *Jalan Enam Tiga*. Joined by its original line-up of members, Efek Rumah Kaca is ready to fill the Esplanade Concert Hall with their expansive discography, including material from the new album alongside fan favourites like *Desember*, *Sebelah Mata* and *Cinta Melulu*.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)
Performed in Bahasa Indonesia.

About the band

Efek Rumah Kaca (English: Greenhouse Effect) is an Indonesian indie rock band formed in 2001. The band comprises Cholil Mahmud (lead vocal, guitar), Airil "Poppie" Nur Abadiansyah (back vocals, bass), Reza Ryan (guitar, back vocals) and Akbar Bagus Sudibyo (drum, back vocals). With beautifully crafted lyrics, powerful melodies and rich arrangements, elevated by Cholil Mahmud's pristine and haunting vocals, Efek Rumah Kaca is a powerhouse in Indonesia independent scene. They are known for their satirical and thought-provoking lyrics—usually concerning politics or everyday society. They have released four albums and one EP, *Efek Rumah Kaca* (2007), *Kamar Gelap* (2008), *Sinestesia* (2015), *Jalan Enam Tiga* (2020), with the recent being *Rimpang* (2023).

\$55^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$44

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An Esplanade Commission

Potong

by Teater Ekamatra

Written by Johnny Jon Jon and directed by Mohd Fared Jainal

18 – 21 May 2023, Thu – Sun

Thu & Fri, 8pm

Sat, 3pm & 8pm

Sun, 3pm

Esplanade Theatre Studio



Adam is sent away by his mother, Siti, to undergo the rite of passage of every Singaporean son: National Service. Except, he was born in Australia and has no sense of what Singapore means to him. His return is further complicated by Siti's overzealous need for him to rekindle the ties she severed a long time ago—and experience the quintessential rite of passage of every Singaporean Malay-Muslim son: circumcision.

Aided by an uncle and grandmother who are not quite what they seem and an out of sorts 'maker of men' doctor, Adam journeys to be a man.

Potong is a theatrical journey that weaves together a rich tapestry of characters and intertwining experiences to unravel the intricate web of self-definition and the role of memories in shaping it. Liberally punctuated with both humour and pain, the play invites you to navigate the complexities around family, humanity, and love.

Written by Johnny Jon Jon and directed by Mohd Fared Jainal, *Potong* was first presented as part of Teater Ekamatra's 2018 main season offering, a company recognised for its honest, tender, and sensitive approach to thorny issues. This iteration stars actress Farah Ong in her original role, alongside performers Aisyah Aziz, Irsyad Dawood, and Jada.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)

Performed in English and Malay, with English surtitles.

Admission for ages 16 and above.

Advisory 16: Mature themes and coarse language.

About Teater Ekamatra

Teater Ekamatra is an established and exciting Singaporean arts company that spotlights artists of diverse ethnicities, living 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, notably at Singapore's highest platform for excellence in theatre, the Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards, clinching multiple awards for Best Original Script.

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

About Aisyah Aziz

Recognised for her sultry, sensual vocals as a singer-songwriter, Aisyah Aziz is well-known for her ability to switch from full to head voice and being able to tackle a dynamic range of music genres. She has collaborated with many other established artists including Charlie Lim, ShiGGa Shay and Malaysia's Lil J. Aisyah has also been commissioned by FASE and NDP for songwriting.

Aisyah first made her theatrical debut in the award-winning musical, *Bangsawan Gemala Malam* by Teater Ekamatra commissioned by Singapore International Festival of the Arts 2022. This year, Aisyah Aziz returns for her second stage appearance as Dr Dini in *Potong*.

About Irsyad Dawood

Irsyad Dawood is a performer/theatre-maker, amongst other things. His practice centers around various forms of performance including, but not limited to, acting, puppetry, and performance art. His recent performance credits include *T0701* (Zeugma), *Bangsawan Gemala Malam* (Teater Ekamatra) and *Pandancemic* (Singapore Art Museum). He dedicates every work to his mother and late father whom he loves dearly.

About Jada

Jada, a graduate of NAFA's Diploma in Dance, has been performing since the tender age of 16 years old, both locally and internationally. Jada's first debut performance was in a theatrical production, *Dhavirusya* by Teater Ekamatra in 1997. Jada has since explored being an actor, director, choreographer, and consultant before moving to Kuala Lumpur in 2000. Since semi-retiring from show business in 2016, Jada has worked as a makeup artist, barista, and most recently, a florist. Jada is now coming full circle to return to theatre, and is re-debuting with the role of Saleh in *Potong*.

Jada hopes to learn and grow through this role, and also to experience how the theatre scene has evolved, with the hope that more performing opportunities may present itself.

\$38^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$30

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An Esplanade Commission

Air Da Tohor (The tide is low)
by Firdaus Sani & Asnida Daud

19 May 2023, Fri, 8pm
Esplanade Recital Studio



Air Da Tohor (The tide is low) is a vernacular expression used by the *orang laut* / *orang pulau* to call for attention to low tides when fishing. Just as intertidal zones reflect where the ocean meets the land, in low tides more can be seen and revealed in life below water.

Asnida Daud and Firdaus Sani are two of Singapore's *orang pulau* and *orang laut* descendants whose families lived on Pulau Semakau and Pulau Sudong. These islands, located in the south of Singapore, were once home to indigenous *orang pulau* (people of the islands) community. In *Air Da Tohor*, they will attempt to navigate their complex identities, loss of cultural tradition and heritage through spoken word and movement.

The performance will flow through four segments, manifesting issues such as oral traditions, maritime craftsmanship, cuisine and environmentalism.

Mantera Laut (Mantras for the Ocean)

A culture that is rooted to its coastal environment and beliefs, the *orang laut/orang pulau* community are no strangers to animism. Crafted in a mother tongue unique to this community, this segment is inspired by the spoken and written words of healing and love mantras used in rituals and as a way of manifestation.

Rangka Bubu, Rangka Budaya (Frame of a Bubu fishing trap, Frame of our culture)

Focusing on the unique maritime craftsmanship of wired fish traps made by coastal communities, this segment dissects the anecdotes behind the unique traditions of *bubu*

trapping. With little to no access to land and sea, this dying tradition faces the challenge of having no torchbearers in the foreseeable future.

Kami tak akan mati (We will not cease to exist)

As natural food gatherers, the *orang pulau / orang laut* community often rely on their surroundings to source for food. This segment focuses on the unique perceptions to one particular species of seafood: the puffer fish. While it is infamously known as a highly poisonous fish, it is a delicacy among the coastal communities. From entrapment of the fish, de-poisoning, to its ritualistic practices, this story spotlights an underrepresented heritage forged by its unique cuisine.

Pelindung (Protector)

For decades, the stories and identities of the *orang laut / orang pulau* have been written by others. Inspired by sea rituals and mantras for protection, this segment hopes to embody the characteristics, energy and willpower of the *orang pulau / orang laut* community who are the respectful guardians and protectors of nature.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)

Performed in English and Malay with English surtitles.

About Asnida Daud

Asnida conceptualises, produces, directs, writes, acts, and sings in audio and video resources for national schools, a role that requires a high level of proficiency in the Malay language. Asnida is a representation of the Bahasa Budaya aspect of the Malay language as her involvement in the Malay arts and culture shows the language's pivotal role in understanding and preserving Singapore's national language heritage and culture.

About Firdaus Sani

Firdaus Sani is a fourth-generation *orang laut/pulau* descendant whose ancestry can be traced to the islanders of Singapore's Southern islands and the Riau Islands. His maternal grandparents used to live on Pulau Semakau, until 1977 before they had to leave their home for the mainland. While growing up, Firdaus visited Pulau Semakau on many occasions with his grandparents, where he learnt the traditions and the ways of life of the people who had a deep connection with the sea. Firdaus is the founder of Orang Laut SG ([@oranglautsg](#)), a page dedicated to reclaiming indigenous narratives. As an advocate for indigenous voices, Firdaus has spoken about his cultural heritage on platforms such as TedxYouth@Singapore and Singapore Writers Festival.

\$30^

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Malam Seram Lagi Seram [Sold Out]
by KC Champion (Singapore)

18 & 19 May 2023

Thu, 8pm

Fri, 8pm & 10.30pm

Esplanade Annexe Studio



What would you do if you encountered a mysterious lady in white? What would a conversation with a *djinn* sound like? Beloved podcast and radio personality KC Champion makes his highly anticipated return to *Pesta Raya* with *Malam Seram Lagi Seram*! Having previously drawn overwhelming crowds at Esplanade Concourse with his gripping storytelling, KC Champion elevates his craft higher at the Esplanade Annexe Studio, with this year's edition of *Malam Seram* featuring a proper set, better sound, visual media and more characters. Immersive and spine-chilling, these curated horror stories written by KC himself will not only scare you, but also have you on the edge of your seat waiting for more.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)

Performed in Malay, no surtitles.

Admission for ages 13 and above

About KC Champion

KC Champion needs no introduction to fans of horror in the region, especially in Singapore and Malaysia. Although his main YouTube channel, *Malam Seram*, is about all things scary,

his talk show is extremely family friendly as his fans are of all ages and includes children as young as pre-schoolers. KC's viewers are always impressed by his friendly and relatable demeanour, creativity, and impeccable Malay language.

His vast popularity is reflected in his huge following of followers and subscribers: thus far, he has amassed almost 300k followers on YouTube, 214k followers on Facebook and 59.5k followers on Instagram.

\$38^

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Jalanan Kusam di Lemari Sosi – Pieces of reminiscence by Flying Balloons Puppet (Indonesia)

20 & 21 May 2023
Sat, 8pm & 9.30pm
Sun, 3pm
Esplanade Annexe Studio



The jangling of keys, repeated over and over, a reminder of a past that is starting to fade...

Created by Indonesia's Flying Balloons Puppet, *Sosi: Pieces of Reminiscence* tells the story of an old woman living in her own mind and memory. As she searches for her keys, she unearths scattered memories and dreams buried in drawers, recognising the social constructs that have shaped her into who she is today. What would she have changed, if she could? How she was raised, the work she did, her life partner—what of the social pressures that lead her to make those choices?

Sosi represents the absurd reality of social and cultural pressures, touching on the very real challenges and expectations faced by women today. Having first premiered at the international puppet theatre festival Pesta Boneka in Yogyakarta and later developed and restaged at Helateater 2023 in Jakarta, *Sosi* uses intricate puppetry made from rattan, used wood, fabric and thread, manipulating both objects and actors to tell an honest and intimate story.

(40mins, no intermission)

This is a non-verbal performance.
Admission for ages 13 and above.

About Flying Balloons Puppet

Flying Balloons Puppet is a puppet theatre company based in Bantul, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The company was founded in 2015 by theatre practitioner Rangga Dwi Apriadinnur while studying at Arts Institute of Indonesia Yogyakarta. Since its conception in 2015, Flying Balloons Puppet has produced more than 10 productions including original and collaborative works. In 2018, Flying Balloons Puppet collaborated with Australian puppet artist Gwen Knox for the sixth edition of *Pesta Boneka* held by Papermoon Puppet Theatre, for the performance of *Sori in the Land of Lembuna* that discusses environmental pollution in river habitats. In 2019, the company debuted their latest production depicting orangutans and their home, *Pongo Abelii*, at Georgetown Festival.

\$18^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$15

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Free Programmes

Rasa Cinta by Nadi Singapura

18 – 21 May 2023, Thu – Sun
6.45pm
Esplanade Forecourt Garden

Festival Opening: 18 May, Thu, 6.45pm



The power and joy of drumming and music that Nadi Singapura brings in every performance is a treat not to be missed. The harmonious performance of the *rebana*, *jidur*, *marwas* and *talempong*, among other traditional Malay instruments, accompanied by dancing and singing, remains a highlight in their creative expression.

Don't miss *Rasa Cinta*, inspired by the customs and traditions practised by the Malay community in Singapore and the Nusantara, crafted by Nadi Singapura.
(15mins, no intermission)

About Nadi Singapura

Formed in November 2011, the Nadi Singapura ensemble is made up of young and aspiring musos who believe in uplifting traditional Malay drums and percussions. *Nadi*, which means pulse or flow of consciousness in Malay, features the most common Malayan drums found in Singapore namely the *kompang*, *rebana*, *jidur* and *gendang* in their performances.

The ensemble is led by two renowned individuals in the Singapore Malay Arts scene, *rebana* artist Yaziz Hassan and prominent drummer and percussionist, Riduan Zalani. Both founders aim to position Nadi Singapura as a dynamic ensemble which adopts an innovative approach in the use of the Malay Archipelago drums.

Lebaran Tales by Sri Warisan Som Said Performing Arts Ltd

18 May 2023, Thu
7pm, 8.15pm & 9.30pm
Esplanade Outdoor Theatre



Lebaran Tales is a colourful showcase of music and dance by homegrown performing arts company, Sri Warisan, that commemorates the Ramadan and *Lebaran* spirit of our forefathers. Immerse in the spirit of Ramadan and its many practices leading up to *Lebaran* such as *malam tujuh likur*, meaning the last 10 days of Ramadan. Sri Warisan will showcase a myriad of traditions and festivities of the Malay community such as the momentous Hari Raya dance, symbolic gestures for greetings such as the *salam*, beautiful traditional outfits and more. With captivating re-enactments and narration, *Lebaran Tales* will surely transport you back in time to the good old *kampung* days.

(45mins, no intermission)

About Sri Warisan

Sri Warisan is a performing arts company founded by Cultural Medallion recipient, Madam Som Said. Sri Warisan, formed in 1997, is one of the pivotal forces in Singapore's Malay dance scene. Blending rich traditional forms with contemporary techniques is Sri Warisan's trademark. Its performers are trained to excel in multi-disciplinary art-forms such as dance, music, theatre and multi-media.

Panggung by Syafiq Halid & Kicau-Bilau (Singapore & Malaysia)

18 May 2023, Thu
7.30pm, 8.30pm & 9.30pm
Esplanade Concourse



Panggung is a cross-causeway collaboration between Singapore's Syafiq Halid and Malaysia's Kicau-Bilau which challenges the boundaries of traditional artforms and sonic landscapes of the Malay world.

This experimentation with sound and multimedia is inspired by unique frequencies in disassembled Malay instruments and the intricate motifs of wood carvings in traditional Malay houses. Generative music, improvisation and audio-reactive visual projections complete the work. Audiences are invited to step into this world and imagine a *panggung*, meaning stage in Malay, of their own making.

(30mins, no intermission)

About Kicau-Bilau

A soundscape duo based in Malaysia that plays ambient, instrumental music using angklung and guitar. Founded in 2017, Kicau-Bilau is driven by collaborations with other creatives from different fields of the arts. Their name is a play on words, intended as an opposite to the Malay reduplicative word *kacau-bilau* which bears the similar meaning and linguistic trait of helter-skelter or topsy-turvy. Kicau-Bilau literally translates as 'arbitrary chirping'.

About Syafiq Halid

Syafiq Halid is a sound designer, electronic artist and percussionist based in Singapore. As a sound designer, he enjoys exploring and experimenting with sound in different forms. He discovered Ableton Live in 2012 and incorporated it into various theatre and dance performance productions.

Lantun Orchestra (Indonesia)

19 May 2023, Fri
7pm, 8.15pm & 9.30pm
Esplanade Outdoor Theatre



Lantun Orchestra presents an eclectic showcase of hybrid music, blending elements from traditional Indonesian music with jazz, often referred to as jazz *ondel-ondel*, *keroncong* jazz or *Betawi* jazz. Paying homage to various cultures and native tribes in Jakarta through music and clothing, they will also be dressed in garments that reflect the dynamics of life in a big city. Audiences can look forward to renditions of traditional Jakarta songs packaged in a medley such as *Lenggang Kangkung*, *Keroncong Kemayoran*, *Surilang* and *Kicir Kicir*. They will also be performing originals from their 2017 album, *Lantun Orchestra Collection*, as well as unreleased material from their upcoming album which first premiered in Singapore.

(45mins, no intermission)

About Lantun Orchestra

Lantun Orchestra was founded in 2014 by bassist, composer, and arranger, Chaka Priambudi. They have released two albums and appeared on various international stages such as Seoul Music Week and the National Museum of Korea.

Untuk Kau by FLQ

19 May 2023, Fri
7.30pm, 8.30pm & 9.30pm
Esplanade Concourse



Straight-ahead drums, rhythmically augmented with tantalising percussion and pops, carve out a groove worthy of every house party playlist.

An amalgamation of sounds gathered to accompany and flesh out many of life's bittersweet moments—from meeting up, to separation, confusion and panic attacks.

Songs from his recently released album *Untuk Kau* will be performed, conveying melancholic themes of a breakup. Denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance are among the complex and uplifting notes of his music.

(30mins, no intermission)

About FLQ

FLQ, aka Faliq, is a bedroom synth pop artist and producer from Malaysia. FLQ's debut release, *Untuk Kau*, is his self-produced album with collaborations with various local talents. The album features sounds and styles with influences from the 1980s city pop and nostalgia pop. The album's heart is a continuation of Faliq's previous producing works but with a different voice.

The album initially began its pre-production during the lockdown. Being isolated from the world, Faliq found his new voice by being immersed in his latest project.

Drawing inspiration from '80s Japanese and Indonesian city pop, FLQ creates his own sound

through seven original tracks composed and produced by himself, featuring upcoming and talented Malaysian next-gen collaborators such as Hullera, Dian, Acap LOKO, Pi'e Ramayan, EJ Safari, and Lola.

FLQ is signed to singer Yuna's independent record label, Yuna Room Records.

FLQ's first single *Menari dalam Memori* featuring Acap LOKO & Dian was released in December 2022, and his debut album was released in March 2023.

A Mesra-merising Night with Shazza & Friends

20 May 2023, Sat
7.30pm, 8.30pm & 9.30pm
Esplanade Concourse



Get ready for a thrilling night of Malay anthems galore with Shazza & Friends! Joined by special guests Umar Sirhan, Tiara Maimun and RHAUN, the singer-songwriter will be serenading audiences with iconic songs by P Ramlee, Siti Nurhaliza and Afgan, along with some of Shazza's own original hits.

(30mins, no intermission)

About Shazza

Shareefa Aminah, better known as Shazza, began writing songs when she was 11 and hasn't been able to stop since. The homegrown songstress debuted her hit single *Pity Party* early last year to acclaim, and has gone on to release three more well-received singles.

Expect even bigger plans for the future starting with the release of her fresh new bop, *Build A Home*, in late February. Inspired by ABBA, Taylor Swift, and Dolly Parton, Shazza makes full use of the freedom that music offers, aspiring towards a discography that speaks to just about anyone. Shazza strives to break boundaries, seeking to bring more representation to the table with her presence in the industry.

ROCK Latew! – Children's Storytelling by Kelana Purba

20 & 21 May 2023, Sat & Sun
2.30pm & 3.45pm
Esplanade Concourse



Lan Trouble, an arrogant rockstar, hits rock bottom when he fails to compose new music. He goes on a journey to find himself that brings him back to his roots and meets his father, the OG musician, Osman Gebu. His father teaches him respect, open-mindedness, courage and kindness, imparting wisdom and advice through Malay folk songs and nursery rhymes, as well as elements of *dikir barat*. This multifaceted storytelling session explores colours of music in genres such as rock, reggae, pop and *Melayu asli* through music, humour and fun interactions.

(30mins, no intermission)

About Kelana Purba

Kelana Purba is a well-known *dikir barat* group established since 1990. The group is known as one of the giants in the *dikir barat* scene for winning the national competition, Mega Perdana, a whopping seven times. The 80-strong active members are currently made up of experienced seniors and effervescent youths of all ages, always ready to put up an entertaining and energetic performance.

Balada Bayangan Di Latar Langgit by Akid Amir, Syed Ahmad, FLQ (Malaysia)

20 May 2023, Sat
7pm, 8.15pm & 9.30pm
Esplanade Outdoor Theatre



A collaboration between songsmiths Akid Amir, Syed Ahmad and Malaysian city pop artist FLQ, these soulful singers will serenade audiences with tunes of city life and love in a sonic synthesis of Malay soul, indie, hip hop, R&B and city pop.

Be romanced by a bygone era dreamt up by distinctively psychedelic waves of synth and feel-good grooves, unravelling long forgotten memories of tattered letters and faded film photographs.

Featuring Sappy Chill and friends.

(45mins, no intermission)

About FLQ

FLQ, also known as Faliq, is a bedroom synth pop artist and producer from Malaysia. FLQ's debut release, *Untuk Kau*, is his self-produced album with collaborations with various local talents. The album features sounds and styles with influences from 1980s city pop and nostalgia pop. The heart of the album is a continuation of Faliq's previous producing works but with a different voice.

The album initially began its pre-production during the lockdown. Being isolated from the world, Faliq found his new voice by being immersed in his latest project.

Drawing inspiration from '80s Japanese and Indonesian city pop, FLQ creates his own sound through seven original tracks composed and produced by himself, featuring upcoming and talented Malaysian next generation collaborators such as Hullera, Dian, Acap LOKO, Pi'e Ramayan, EJ Safari, and Lola. *Untuk Kau* conveys melancholic themes of a breakup. Each song romanticizes denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance but in an uplifting fashion.

FLQ is signed to singer Yuna's independent record label, Yuna Room Records.

FLQ's first single *Menari Dalam Memori* featuring Acap LOKO & Dian was released in December 2022, and his debut album was released March 2023.

About Sappy Chill

Made up of four members, Sappy Chill performed individually in other bands and collectives over the years. Now, as a unit, they're always looking for new ways to delight their listeners with their sappy tunes and a comedic twist.

About Syed Ahmad

Syed Ahmad has been at the helm of Bloco Singapura for over a decade, focusing on sharing his passion and knowledge of Brazilian rhythms and Carnival. His knowledge of Brazilian ethnomusicology and culture has led Syed Ahmad to work on many musical landmark events including Marina Barrage's Carnival!, and Sonic Spree Music Festival. Bloco Singapura has also performed in various musical festivals and samba events locally and internationally.

Aside from his work in Brazilian music, Syed Ahmad is also a studio producer, music and artistic director, composer, and choreographer. A champion of local music, Syed Ahmad is one half of Singapore's indie legends, The Stoned Revivals, drummer for the eccentric group Tiramisu, and head of new label Nuri Records, releasing a new eclectic mix of Singapore music and artists, based at his NovoStudio space.

Syed Ahmad is an educator, teaching at Lasalle College of the Arts in their diploma and degree programmes. He has also worked with numerous primary and secondary schools, and tertiary institutions, offering assembly shows, workshops and team building programmes.

JUARA MIC JUNIOR di Pesta Raya! by Stars of JMJ

20 & 21 May 2023, Sat & Sun
3pm & 4.15pm
Esplanade Outdoor Theatre



The top 16 juniors from season two and finalists from season one of Mediacorp's singing competition, Juara Mic Junior, will take you on a journey of self-discovery, living their dreams and celebrating the Malay language and culture through their music. Juara Mic Junior di Pesta Raya will be hosted by season one host, Farhana M Noor, and season two host, Nik Aqimi.

Underlining the friendship and teamwork that was forged during their competition, the showcase will also include exciting interactive games and quizzes with the audience.

(45mins, no intermission)

Bangsawan Bispuraja **by Anggerik Temasek Bangsawan**

21 May 2023, Sun
7.30pm & 8.30pm
Esplanade Concourse



Revel in the classic tale of *Bangsawan Bispuraja* originally written by the late Haji Hamid Bin Ahmad, hailed as Singapore's father of *Bangsawan*, presented in the traditional format. The performance showcases the trademark *lenggok Bangsawan Singapura*, meaning vocal expression, unique to the local *bangsawan* style, among the other *bangsawan* practices in the Nusantara region. It is performed by three generations of local *bangsawan* performers—the veterans, the youths and the children of *Anggerik Temasek Bangsawan*—reinstating *bangsawan* as the regal, classic Malay operatic theatrical experience for all walks of life. Catch the Extra Turn segment that features a modern-day star of the show also known as *seri panggung*, Tanty Yushida, with her upbeat medley rendition of familiar classical tunes.

(30mins, no intermission)

Sri Setia x Kicau Bilau (Singapore & Malaysia)

20 & 21 May 2023, Sat & Sun
8pm & 9pm
Esplanade Forecourt Garden



Immerse in a blend of traditional Malay *wayang kulit* and modern ambient soundscapes in Sri Setia Pulau Singa and Kicau-Bilau's first collaborative project.

Singaporean traditional Malay *wayang kulit* group, Sri Setia Pulau Singa, and Malaysian ambient soundscape artist duo, Kicau-Bilau, will be presenting a quintessential *wayang kulit* story with a modern music twist.

They will be presenting the tale of *Sirat Maharaja Buka Negeri*, which follows a king who searches for a state. Along the way, they encounter a mysterious princess—who is she and what will happen next? Join us to find out in this contemporary take on traditional *wayang kulit* performances.

(30mins, no intermission)

About Sri Setia Pulau

Singa Sri Setia Pulau Singa, a *wayang kulit* group named by Pak Soh, was formed on 26 March 2012 by a group of youth from Singapore. Coming from a dikir barat background, it is of surprise that members of Sri Setia Pulau Singa developed an interest in another Kelantan traditional artform, which is *wayang kulit* Kelantan. Sri Setia Pulau Singa, trained by Pak Soh, aims to bring *wayang kulit* Kelantan to the hearts of Singapore cultural enthusiasts.

About Kicau Bilau

A soundscape duo based in Malaysia that plays ambient, instrumental music using angklung and guitar. Founded in 2017, Kicau-Bilau is driven by collaborations with other creatives from different fields of the arts. Their name is a play on words, intended as an opposite to the Malay reduplicative word *kacau-bilau* which bears the similar meaning and linguistic trait of helter-skelter or topsy-turvy. Kicau-Bilau literally translates as 'arbitrary chirping'.

Nostalgia Dikir Nusantara by Sri Teruna Jaya & Genbano

21 May 2023, Sun
7pm, 8.15pm & 9.30pm
Esplanade Outdoor Theatre



Sri Teruna Jaya present an evening of evergreen *dikir barat* tunes once sung by the legendary *tukang karut*, meaning song initiator, and *tok juara*, meaning leader from their iconic group in the '80s and early '90s. With a special appearance by Genbano to amplify the show with their choral singing and the musical ensemble, audiences can look forward to unforgettable *dikir barat* classics like *Salawati*, *Awang Temberang*, *Ala Payong* and *Aidlifitri Terkenang*.

(45mins, no intermission)

About Sri Teruna Jaya & Genbano

Sri Teruna Jaya, established in 1983, is an iconic *dikir barat* group popular in the '80s and early '90s. This talented *dikir barat* troupe has won several national competitions and was the first in Singapore to record an album, titled *Dikir Nusantara* alongside Alang Ikan Dying.

Genbano is a group of traditional musicians who play Northern Malay Archipelago music and are active performers in *dikir barat* and Malay ethnic percussion ensembles.

Awang Batil of Perlis by Pak Romli Mahamud, PUSAKA (Malaysia)

19 – 21 May 2023, Fri – Sun

7.45pm

Esplanade Lawn, outside Singtel Waterfront Theatre



Awang batil is a traditional form of musical storytelling found in the state of Perlis in Malaysia. The *awang batil* is a solo performer who narrates his stories as he beats the *batil*, a brass bowl or *belanga*, a pot commonly used to store water. The storyteller also plays other instruments such as the violin, *serunai*, *rebana* and *gendang terinai*.

During the narration, the storyteller uses two masks, the *Hulubalang* mask and the *Wak Nujum* mask, when suitable characters appear in the stories to attract the audiences' attention. The most commonly told stories of the *awang batil* are *Raja Dewa Lok*, *Raja Bersiung*, *Raja Berdarah Putih*, *Anak Lang Pak Belang*, *Jabat Jabit*, *Abu Nawas*, *Cerita Angan-Angan* and *Awang Ada Duit Semua Jadi*.

The *awang batil* performances are usually held at weddings and evening festivities and will often continue till dawn, with some performances going on for two to five days. These longer stories are usually told when someone has personally invited the *awang batil* to his home, typically after the rice harvest season.

(30mins, no intermission)

About Pak Romli Mahamud

Pak Romli Mahamud is the last *awang batil* of Perlis. He comes from a lineage of *awang batil* storytellers who have passed on their legacy and stories. His late father, Mahmud Awang bin Wahid was the most famous storyteller from Kampung Pokok Sena in Chuping, Perlis. The *batil* that is used by Pak Romli has been handed down to him and is a relic of his father's spirit. Almost all the instruments used were made by Pak Romli and his family before him.

About PUSAKA

PUSAKA is a cultural organisation established to conduct research and create a comprehensive archive of traditional artforms in Malaysia, while strengthening the viability of these traditions at a community level. Through curating festivals, organising regular public

performances, and local instruction projects, PUSAKA supports the transmission of these performance traditions to succeeding generations while providing platforms that, above all, preserve the dignity and stature of the traditional performer. PUSAKA seeks to establish a deep interaction with aspects of history and contemporary ideas while illuminating and providing an intellectual context for the contemplation of broader aspects of culture, tradition and ideas.

Lenggang Raya by Jiwa Geloreez and P7:1SMA

20 & 21 May 2023, Sat & Sun

6pm

Esplanade Lawn, outside Singtel Waterfront Theatre



Lenggang has the meaning of being leisurely and walking in a slow and peaceful gait. This Malay dance performance by Montfort Care Goodlife! Bedok offers a reimagination of health and wellness. Moving towards a communal function of dancing, they will use movement to share personal stories during Hari Raya and build relationships through empathy.

Wellness is an active process through which people become aware of and make choices towards a more meaningful existence. Expanding on the Malay dance movement motif of *lenggang* which refers to the gentle swaying of arms when walking, this motif offers a symbolic and affective way of taking care of each other.

Artists-in-collaboration: Hasyimah Harith (P7:1SMA)

Montfort Care Goodlife! Bedok:

Mazni Binte Kaswani

Sazlinah Bte Haron

Amraini Bte Yaakob

Faridah Binte Rahmat

Samia Binte Mahmood

Halimah Bt Awang

Esah Binti Mahmood

Arfah Binte Bujang

Project Manager: Nur Arianty Djonaede

Writer-in-residence: Dia Hakim Khaeri

Film: Jangan Tanya, Jangan Canang by Sharifah Amani (Malaysia)

Premieres on 18 May 2023, Thu, 12pm

Available on Pesta Raya Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/pestarayafestival) and Esplanade YouTube (www.youtube.com/EsplanadeSG) till 4 Jun 2023



Translating to “don’t ask, don’t tell”, *Jangan Tanya, Jangan Canang* encapsulates the struggles of growing up in an Asian culture. The story follows two Malay families from different socio-political backgrounds who discover they have more in common than they thought when a family secret is revealed.

Touching on generational differences, culture and identity, the film exposes various contradictions in the characters’ feelings and behaviour that underscore a fear of judgment from others. Will the young ones, who stay quiet and observe from a distance, be able to save the day?

Starring Fatimah Abu Bakar, Melisa Saila, Sharifah Aleya, Mia Sabrina, Ali Alasri, Fahad Iman, Sobri Anuar, Fish Fadzil, Danish Hazriq, Aza Ameena and Asha Ameena.

About Sharifah Amani

From the very beginning, Sharifah Amani somehow knew she wanted to tell stories. She was fortunate enough to meet and work with a master storyteller, the late Yasmin Ahmad.

Sharifah Amani is also happy that apart from helping to weave other people's tales, she gets to tell hers—three of which were short films she directed, namely *Sangkar*, *Kampung Bangsar* and *Hawa*. All three films were screened at the Roppongi Malaysian Film Week in Tokyo, Japan in 2015. Her latest short film *5 minit* premiered at the 29th Singapore International Film Festival in 2018.

She is grateful to Him for the gifts of *Sepet*, *Gubra*, *Muallaf* and *Pigeon*—with *Pigeon* being one of the three films presented under the Asian Three-Fold Mirror 2016 by Japan Foundation Asia Center and Tokyo International Film Festival.

Sharifah Amani has also sat on many short film judging panels such as Tropfest, BMW Shorties, Singapore International Film Festival and Next New Wave, among others. There are many names for what she does but ultimately, all she wants to do is tell a story in hopes she inspires others to do the same.

Film: Kampong
by Yusry Abd Halim (Malaysia)

Premieres on 18 May 2023, Thu, 12pm

Available on Pesta Raya Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/pestarayafestival) and Esplanade YouTube (www.youtube.com/EsplanadeSG) till 4 Jun 2023



In his pristine home, Tuah busies himself with the upkeep of his home, playing the violin, listening to *Dondang Sayang* on his gramophone and writing letters to his son, Budi, who he awaits patiently for his return.

Starring Aziz M Osman.

About Yusry Abd Halim

Yusry started out as a member of Malaysia's boy band, KRU, with his two brothers, Norman and Edry, in 1992. In 1995, KRU starred in a movie *AWAS!* and later in *Cinta Metropolitan*. Aside from starring in various box office hits in the early millennium, Yusry delved into his current role of director in the film and television industry.

He has since produced and directed a variety of television programs for the Malaysian television stations as well as a string of box office hits such as the *Cicakman* trilogy, *Hikayat Merong Mahawangsa* and *Karak*.

Film: Awe
by Junad M Nor (Malaysia)

Premieres on 18 May 2023, Thu, 12pm

Available on Pesta Raya Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/pestarayafestival) and Esplanade YouTube (www.youtube.com/EsplanadeSG) till 4 Jun 2023



The finals of the annual dikir barat competition for primary schools is fast approaching and a 12-year-old boy knows that the fate of his school rests upon his shoulders. But when nature decides to intervene, he is left in a dilemma. Will he be able to overcome this challenge and emerge victorious in the upcoming competition?

About Junad M Nor

Junad M.Nor's works draw inspiration from everyday life and personal experiences, laced with her personal brand of humour. Junad's first short film, *Odah*, was screened at the Busan International Film Festival in South Korea. She has also worked on Disney sitcom, *Wizards of Warna Walk*, which launched in 2019. Clients for her commercial work include Netflix, McDonald's and Julie's Biscuits for whom she produced the highly acclaimed Hari Raya campaign.