

GEORGE TOWN FESTIVAL

HERE & NOW

19—28.
07.2024



HERE & NOW

About the Festival

George Town Festival is an annual celebration of arts, culture, heritage and community. Since its inception in 2010, it has established itself as one of the most significant arts events in the Asia-Pacific region, becoming a platform for artists across the globe to collaborate, create and connect. The festival has been integral in turning George Town into a creative city, a hub bursting with innovation and artistic energy. GTF has expanded Penang's economic possibilities to include the creative economy, proving that the arts are indispensable to economic progress.

Every year, local and international artists descend upon George Town, showcasing the depth, breadth and infinite possibilities of the arts. Spanning traditional and experimental events spotlighting different artistic mediums and amplifying unique creative voices, the varied programmes promote cultural exchange and celebrate the remarkable nature of the artistic spirit.

Here & Now

Taking place over 10 days from 19th to 28th July, George Town Festival(GTF) 2024 boasts over 80 programmes from homegrown and international acts. Encompassing a wide array of categories: performing arts, visual arts, film, workshops, family fun, community engagement and more, the spread of free and ticketed programmes promises to engage, educate and entertain audiences from all ages and backgrounds.

Speaking to our shared humanity, the arts help us make sense of our turbulent world, which is rife with unrest and inequality. Embracing the theme "Here & Now", this year's festival invites you to pause and reflect on the present moment, the intersection between our rich past and our unseen future. Embark on a journey of reflection, reimagination, celebration and transformation, as the programme line-up seeks to deepen the relationship between the festival, the city, and the community.

YAB CHOW KON YEOW

The Right Honourable Chief Minister
of Penang



It is with immense joy that we welcome the 15th edition of the George Town Festival (GTF), a landmark event that has been a beacon of Penang's creative energy for over a decade. This year, with new organiser Kerson Media Global Sdn Bhd, we embark on a brand-new chapter filled with innovative ideas and fresh experiences.

Under the theme "Here and Now", GTF 2024 invites us to fully embrace the present moment and revel in George Town's dynamic cultural tapestry. Over the years, GTF has grown into one of Asia's premier arts festivals, drawing artists, performers, and audiences from around the world. This round, we are thrilled to present over 80 programmes featuring talents from across the globe. The festival's expansive vision offers a platform for international performances and fosters connections among artists within Malaysia, Southeast Asia, and beyond, encouraging academic exchanges, forums, and multi-faceted collaborations.

The arts transcend mere entertainment; they serve as a vital force that unites us, fostering understanding and igniting the flames of learning. In line with the Penang2030 vision, our State is dedicated to enhancing arts facilities and creating a thriving ecosystem for the creative industries. We recognise that the arts

flourish within communities, and we are committed to supporting impactful initiatives like GTF 2024's Giant Puppet Community Project, which aligns with our goal of doubling community-based arts and cultural productions. Community outreach projects in Taman Sri Janggus, Machang Bubok, and Ban Liau, Bukit Tambun aim to engage residents and illuminate local narratives, enriching our collective cultural heritage.

I am particularly heartened by the festival's efforts to deepen public engagement with the arts, welcoming emerging artists and showcasing new works. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to the artists, organisers, sponsors, partners, and volunteers whose unwavering passion and dedication breathe life into this festival. I extend my warm congratulations to Kerson Media on their inaugural George Town Festival. With such collective dedication, I am confident that GTF will ascend to even greater heights.

To all, whether you are a Penangite or a visitor from afar, I invite you to immerse yourself in the vibrant experiences that GTF 2024 offers. It is my fervent hope that this festival will continue to thrive, shining a spotlight on Penang's bold artistic spirit and celebrating the transformative power of the arts in shaping our world.

YB WONG HON WAI

Penang State EXCO
for Tourism and Creative Economy
(PETACE)



For over a decade, George Town Festival has gone from strength to strength, attracting over 100,000 visitors annually to our city. The impressive turnout is a testament to the enduring appeal of the arts and the vibrant cultural scene we have cultivated here in Penang. Beyond the sheer numbers, it is important that we recognise the incredible impact the arts have on our creative economy and the transformative power they have in our wider community.

The arts are not just a form of entertainment; the arts have the power to inspire, to uplift, and to unite. They are a key driver of the nation's social and economic progress. The arts industry generates revenue, creates new jobs, develops communities and attracts tourists from far and wide.

From the artists and performers who breathe life into our festival, to the local businesses that benefit from the increased foot traffic, the arts play an essential role in stimulating economic activity and driving prosperity in our community. Through PETACE, we are committed to developing the state's growing creative economy ecosystem to showcase George Town's unique blend

of modernity and old-world charm to the globe.

GTF 2024's open call for proposals drew 364 applications from 56 countries, while their Artist-in-Residence open call earlier this year attracted 87 artists from 29 countries. This overwhelming response is evidence of the festival's reputation as a sought-after destination for international talents, and its potential to become one of the greatest arts events in Southeast Asia.

Let us reaffirm our commitment to supporting and promoting the arts in our community. Let us recognise the economic value of the arts and the indispensable role they play in enriching our lives, uniting communities and celebrating our shared humanity. Let us celebrate the artists, performers and cultural organisations that continue to spark inspiration with their talent, creativity and boundless passion.

Here and now, I hope everyone will join me in supporting the GTF 2024 team and their relentless efforts in making the festival the best it can be. Let us proudly show Penang's creative offerings to the rest of the world!

DR ANG MING CHEE

General Manager
George Town World Heritage Incorporated
(GTWHI)



4 George Town Heritage City has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2008, and is recognised for its Outstanding Universal Value in multicultural heritage, which is evident in its well-preserved architecture, diverse cultural festivals, and vibrant art.

The true spirit of George Town thrives within its people, embodying a living multicultural heritage. The city's diverse religions and cultures coexist harmoniously, influencing its historic buildings, linguistic diversity, culinary delights, and artistic expressions. While these elements are part of everyday life, they are best experienced through the George Town Festival.

The George Town Festival is a festival that brings our heritage to life through the arts. It offers a platform for storytelling, cultural perspectives, and human experiences in creative and engaging ways. The festival encourages interaction among everyone, inspiring us to foster mutual learning and build stronger and deeper connections for the future.

Importantly, the George Town Festival allows the public to be engaged and participate in preserving and safeguarding our multicultural heritage. It expands our understanding of heritage and promotes shared stories from around the world. By involving young people and children,

the festival helps ensure that the values of multicultural heritage preservation are passed onto future generations, keeping the spirit of our city alive.

The George Town Festival celebrates our collective heritage and reminds us of the importance of sustaining our culture and heritage for years to come.

I would like to thank the Penang State Government, George Town World Heritage Incorporated Board of Directors, and the PETACE office in supporting the George Town Festival. I also extend my gratitude to the organising team, participating artists, crew members, and volunteers who helped make this event a success.

Here's to a wonderful George Town Festival 2024, where we come together to celebrate our heritage, foster unity, and create lasting memories.

LING TANG

Artistic Director
George Town Festival 2024

CHIN TEO

Festival Director
George Town Festival 2024



Welcome to the 15th edition of the George Town Festival!

As we celebrate this milestone, it's hard not to see the festival as a vibrant and youthful teenager, full of energy and brimming with limitless possibilities. This year's theme, "Here & Now" invites us to pause and reflect on the present moment—this intersection of past and future.

When we began planning this year's festival, we asked ourselves several important questions: What kind of festival do people need? What kind of festival does this story-filled city need? And what is the relationship between the festival and the city? These reflections led us to create a festival that not only entertains but also resonates deeply with the essence of George Town and its diverse community.

The arts know no boundaries. They transcend physical, cultural, and societal boundaries, becoming a universal language that connects us and encourages us to see the world through the eyes of others. In this spirit, we have curated a festival that embraces unbridled imagination, bringing together artists from around the world and from various disciplines. Through this international perspective, we aim to foster a sense of identity and belonging, both locally and globally.

The arts are as essential as the air we breathe. They offer us a vision, revealing the extraordinary in the ordinary. The arts challenge us to think differently, to feel deeply, and to imagine without limits. This July, as you step into George Town, we invite you to slow down your pace. Take the time to explore and discover the beauty and surprises that await around hidden corners—wonders often overlooked but waiting to be rediscovered.

From captivating performances and eye-opening exhibitions to engaging workshops and vibrant street art, this year's festival promises a rich tapestry of experiences. We hope each moment will inspire you, provoke thought, spark joy and connect you with others.

Thank you for being a part of George Town Festival 2024. Your presence and participation are what make this celebration of arts and culture so special. Together, let's embrace the "Here & Now" and create unforgettable memories.

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

19 JULY FRIDAY

2:30pm-6pm	Asian Producers' Platform (APP) X GTF
6:30pm-7:30pm	Plant/Human Duo
7pm - 8:30pm	Pengalaman Prangin
8pm-9:35pm	Journal of Her House
8:30pm-9:30pm	Switchblade Op: A World in the City
8:30pm-10:15pm	Chacko Vadeketh: Songs & Stories
9pm-11pm	Romancing Penang

20 JULY SATURDAY

8:30am-12pm	The Kingdom of Childhood
9am-10:30am	Pengalaman Prangin
10am-1pm	Roundtable Discussion: The Penang Art Ecosystem: Its Past, Present & Future
10am-8pm	JOURNAL Creative Market
10am-10pm	Asian Board Games Festival
10:30am-12:30pm	Sortilegio
11am-12:30pm	Close to You Festival@GTF
11am-12:35pm	Journal of Her House
11:30am-2pm	Yam Seng Lah!
1pm-2pm	Free Lunchtime Organ Recital
2pm/3pm/4pm/5pm/6pm	The Story Traveller

2:30pm-4pm	Double Bill of Jingju Magic
2:30pm-4:05pm	Journal of Her House
3pm-3:30pm	PEON
3pm-4pm	House of Mask & Mime
3pm-4pm	The Story of My Wedding
3:30pm-7pm	The Kingdom of Childhood
5pm-6:30pm	Pengalaman Prangin
5pm-6:35pm	Journal of Her House
5pm-7pm	Sortilegio
6:30pm-7:30pm	Plant/Human Duo
6:30pm-9pm	Yam Seng Lah!
7pm-8:30pm	Pengalaman Prangin
7:30pm-10:30pm	C.O.R.E. Homegrown Concerts: Cultural
8pm-9:30pm	Close to You Festival@GTF
8:30pm-9pm	PEON
8:30pm-9:30pm	House of Mask & Mime
8:30pm-9:30pm	Switchblade Op: A World in the City
8:30pm-10:15pm	Chacko Vadeketh: Songs & Stories
9pm-11pm	Romancing Penang

21 JULY SUNDAY

8:30am-12pm	The Kingdom of Childhood
9am-10:30am	Pengalaman Prangin

10am-8pm	JOURNAL Creative Market
10am-10pm	Asian Board Games Festival
10:30am-12:30pm	Sortilegio
11am-12:30pm	Close to You Festival@GTF
11am-12:35pm	Journal of Her House
11:30am-2pm	Yam Seng Lah!
2pm/3pm/4pm/5pm/6pm	The Story Traveller
2:30pm-4pm	Double Bill of Jingju Magic
2:30pm-4:05pm	Journal of Her House
3pm-3:30pm	PEON
3pm-4pm	House of Mask & Mime
3pm-4pm	The Story of My Wedding
3:30pm-7pm	The Kingdom of Childhood
5pm-6:30pm	Pengalaman Prangin
5pm-6:35pm	Journal of Her House
6:30pm-7:30pm	Plant/Human Duo
6:30pm-9pm	Yam Seng Lah!
7pm-8:30pm	Pengalaman Prangin
7:30pm-10:30pm	C.O.R.E. Homegrown Concerts: Omni
8pm-9:30pm	Close to You Festival@GTF
8:30pm-9pm	PEON
8:30pm-9:30pm	Switchblade Op: A World in the City

22 JULY MONDAY

3pm-4:30pm	Close to You Festival@GTF
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4pm-6pm	CloudJoi Connect Ep.4: Seeing Beyond the Curtain 2
8pm-9:30pm	Close to You Festival@GTF
8pm-10pm	CloudJoi Connect Ep.4: Seeing Beyond the Curtain 2

23 JULY TUESDAY

3pm-4:30pm	Close to You Festival@GTF
8pm-9:30pm	An Extraordinary Journey in Everyday Spaces: A Close to You Festival Sharing Session

24 JULY WEDNESDAY

3pm-4:30pm	Close to You Festival@GTF
8pm-9:30pm	Close to You Festival@GTF

25 JULY THURSDAY

1pm-3pm	Theatre and (the process of) Democracy : Sharing by Artistic Director of Teater Garasi, Yudi Ahmad Tajudin
8pm-10pm	The Dye(ing) Resistant Process: A Preview Into Dato Tay Mo Leong

26 JULY FRIDAY

3pm-5pm	Show me the money! Expectations of a Producer
5pm-8:30pm	Experimental@the Courtyard ChinaHouse
7pm-8:30pm	Pengalaman Prangin
8pm-9:10pm	/// 1 0 /// (One Zero)
8pm-9:35pm	Journal of Her House
8pm-10:45pm	Women's Film Screening
8:30pm-9:30pm	Alle Armi
8:30pm-10:30pm	They All Die At The End

27 JULY SATURDAY

8:30am-12pm	The Kingdom of Childhood
9am-10:30am	Pengalaman Prangin
10am-8pm	JOURNAL Creative Market
10:30am-12:30pm	Sortilegio
11am-12pm	Hiss and Arf: Extended Family Edition
11am-12:30pm	Southeast Asian Choreolab
11am-12:35pm	Journal of Her House
11am-10:30pm	Women's Film Screening
11:30am-2pm	Yam Seng Lah!
1pm-2pm	Free Lunchtime Organ Recital
2pm/3pm/4pm/5pm/6pm	The Story Traveller
2pm-3:10pm	/// 1 0 /// (One Zero)
2pm-5pm	TAIPEI corners in PENANG
2:30pm-4:05pm	Journal of Her House
3pm-4pm	The Story of My Wedding
3pm-4:30pm	Southeast Asian Choreolab
3pm-5pm	They All Die At The End
3:30pm-7pm	The Kingdom of Childhood
4pm-5pm	Hiss and Arf: Extended Family Edition
5pm-6:30pm	Pengalaman Prangin
5pm-6:35pm	Journal of Her House
5pm-7pm	Je m'évanouis
5pm-7pm	Sortilegio
5pm-7pm	Dancing in Place
5pm-8:30pm	Experimental@the Courtyard ChinaHouse

6:30pm-9pm	Yam Seng Lah!
7pm-8:30pm	Pengalaman Prangin
7:30pm-10:30pm	C.O.R.E. Homegrown Concerts: Radiant
8pm-9:10pm	/// 1 0 /// (One Zero)
8:30pm-9:30pm	Alle Armi
8:30pm-9:30pm	#penangonebetter Stand-Up Comedy by Sai Wabikong
8:30pm-9:45pm	Waktu Batu. Rumah yang Terbakar (Time Stone. Our House is on Fire)
8:30pm-10:30pm	They All Die At The End

28 JULY SUNDAY

8:30am-12pm	The Kingdom of Childhood
9am-10:30am	Pengalaman Prangin
10am-8pm	JOURNAL Creative Market
10:30am-12:30pm	Sortilegio
11am-12:35pm	Journal of Her House
11am-10pm	Women's Film Screening
11:30am-2pm	Yam Seng Lah!
2pm/3pm/4pm/5pm/6pm	The Story Traveller
2pm-3:10pm	/// 1 0 /// (One Zero)
2:30pm-4:05pm	Journal of Her House
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3pm-5pm	They All Die At The End
3:30pm-7pm	The Kingdom of Childhood
5pm-6:30pm	Pengalaman Prangin
5pm-6:35pm	Journal of Her House

5pm-7pm	Je m'évanouis
5pm-7pm	Dancing in Place
6:30pm-9pm	Yam Seng Lah!
7:30pm-10:30pm	C.O.R.E. Homegrown Concerts: Erratic
8pm-9:10pm	/// 1 0 /// (One Zero)
8:30pm-9:30pm	Alle Armi
8:30pm-9:45pm	Waktu Batu. Rumah yang Terbakar (Time Stone. Our House is on Fire)

OTHER PROGRAMMES

As Light As Shadow II: King Ban Hui Illustration Exhibition 3-28 July 12pm-8pm	Miniature Public Art: Low Chee Peng Declining Artisans 19-28 July
Artisan 6-28 July 10am-6pm (Open Friday-Sunday)	Miniature Public Art: NOvia Shin A Piece or Two of Life's Bustle 19-28 July
Material.Quality.Aggregation 14-28 July 12pm-7pm	More Men(and a Woman)With Plants 19 July-19August 10am-6pm (Closed on Tuesday)
USM Fine Arts Showcase: Voyage of Discovery@GTF 15-28 July 12pm-8pm	Nigel Sense "Kopi Jackfruit Monkey" 19-28 July 1pm-8pm
Alive Thru Every Click - George Town Lomo Wall 19-28 July	Preserving Memories (Liquid Mirror) 19-28 July
Artistic Synergy: A Student and Lecturer Exhibition 19-28 July 11am-4pm (Weekdays only)	rehat 19-28 July 12pm-7pm
Ban Ban Kia: Penang Shop Signs 19-28 July 12pm-8pm	Same Same But Different 19-28 July 12pm-8pm
Galeri Khazanah Mini Exhibition: "Journeying Through Malaysian Art, Imagination and Legacy" 19 July-17 August 10am-5pm	Shadow Sculptures 19-28 July 9am-11am
Here & Now Art Exhibition 19-28 July 2pm-6pm (Open Friday-Sunday)	The Moments When You Suddenly Remember You Can Swim 19-28 July 1pm-8pm
"Jalan Balik": A Journey to Identity of Paulus Supomo's Seni Kanji 19-28 July 12pm-7pm	Young Arts Programme 19-28 July 12pm-8pm
Living Machines 19-28 July 12pm-7pm	63-65: Notes from a Separation Performance Workshop 19-20 July 10am
Miniature Public Art: Isaac Cordal Cement Eclipses 19-28 July	Real-Time Unconventional Instrument Workshop 21 July 10am
	The Greatness of the Miniature: A Lambe Lambe Theatre Workshop 22-25 July 7pm
	Hand in Glove: A Contemporary Puppetry Workshop 26 July 7pm
	Introductory workshop of Innercise—An Approach of Macrobio-Somatic 27 July 1pm
	Exploring self-care through the Alexander Technique - Caring for your body, empowering your mind 28 July 9am/ 2pm

Waktu Batu. Rumah yang Terbakar

Time Stone.
Our House is on Fire

Teater Garasi

INDONESIA

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As environmental destruction and climate change ravage the globe, can we do more than lament?

WAKTU BATU. RUMAH YANG TERBAKAR (WB.RYT) is an intermedial performance that shatters perceptions of what theatre can be. An interplay between stage, cinematography and video game, audiences bear witness to the interplay of mythology, colonial history, capitalism and patriarchy in forming our ecological grief.

With a narrative based on Javanese mythology and history, WB.RYT invites audiences to delve into the intricate transitional situations of Indonesia's contemporary society, rife with layers, cultural ruptures and environmental devastation.

Directed by prominent director Yudi Ahmad Tajudin in collaboration with

writer and dramaturg Urogran Prasad, this latest version of Teater Garasi's Waktu Batu involves collaboration with interdisciplinary artists such as Mella Jaarsma, DJ Y-Dra, pop-rock band Majelis Lidah Berduri, visual designers Deden Bulqini, Tomy Herseta and Tri Rimbawan, as well as nine intergenerational performers.

The house is on fire, so be prepared to plunge into its introspective flames.

Teater Garasi

Teater Garasi is an Indonesian interdisciplinary performance collective that uses performing arts as a conduit to reflect on social, political, economic and cultural issues in our ever-transforming world. A 2013 Prince Claus laureate, they have been honoured for "their adventurous spirit and groundbreaking work in stimulating performance arts in

Southeast Asia". The collective have made waves in the international performing arts circuit (Singapore, Australia, Japan, Germany, United States, etc).

Garasi Performance Institute is an initiative by the collective, to create a sustainable creative environment for performing artists in Indonesia and Asia through knowledge sharing, performance laboratories, archiving, publishing, artist-in-residence programmes and more. Since their inception, Teater Garasi have been conscious modernisers of Indonesian theatre for over 30 years.

Photo Credit: Erwin Octavianto

Supported by:



Official Projection Partner:

EPSON

Date and Time
27-28 July, 8:30pm

Duration
75 minutes without interval

Venue
One Theatre Hall
(formerly Penangpac Stage 1)

Language
Indonesian with English subtitles

Age Suitability
13+

Notes
- This performance contains haze effects and high volume music in some scenes.
- The venue is wheelchair accessible.

Post-Show Activities
30-minute talk (27 July)

Feature, Theatre, Live Music, Multidisciplinary

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Switchblade Op: A World in the City

Kongsi Petak

MALAYSIA

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Amongst the hustle and bustle of the city, past and present collide.

Switchblade Op is an exchange platform that reactivates and reinterprets Malaysian pioneer contemporary dance archives, to preserve history and showcase artistic evolution. In its second edition, Loke Soh Kim's A WORLD IN THE CITY, which was first presented at Komtar Auditorium A in 1994, returns to George Town for its 30-year anniversary as a full-length hour-long dance performance.

Reworked to respond to current contexts with a new line-up of dancers, A WORLD IN THE CITY follows a man made voiceless and incapable of controlling his own destiny. He lives in a world where his body and mind are made to obey and follow, where dreams never come true and his survival is all that matters.

It is time to reflect on modern life, to reconsider one's place under the all-consuming fast-paced urbanisation.

In this world in the city, the frustrations of our everyday reality are laid bare through the human body's raw movements.



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Kongsi Petak

Kongsi Petak began as a member of Kongsi Kolab in KongsiKL's artspace. Kongsi Petak believes in the importance of sharing and exchange, while maintaining a symbiotic relationship with the space they occupy. They foster interdisciplinary collaborations, nurturing talents and promoting knowledge exchange through various platforms like 'Seni Tiga' multidisciplinary project (2019-2022). Kongsi Petak was founded by acclaimed contemporary dance choreographer Loke Soh Kim, who has toured and performed in countries such as China, Canada, Japan, Singapore and the United States.

Photo Credit: Taka Chung

Date and Time

19-21 July, 8:30pm

Duration

60 minutes without interval

Venue

Majestic Theatre

Language

Non-Verbal

Age Suitability

7+

Children must be accompanied by an adult

Note

This performance contains haze effects.

Post-Show Activities

30-minute talk (20 July)

Feature, Dance

Double Bill of Jingju Magic

GuoGuang Opera Company

TAIWAN

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DOUBLE BILL OF JINGJU MAGIC consists of two excerpts: "Avenging Zidu" and "Zhuangzi Tests His Wife". Traditional opera meets modern theatre as these pieces examine the many facets of human nature, exploring the paradox of life and death, right and wrong, and cause and effect.

Dubbed "Eastern Macbeth" and considered one of the most challenging plays for wusheng (martial arts male role), "Avenging Zidu" is a tragedy dramatising the damaging psychological effects of ambition and jealousy. Witness a lightning-fast display of seemingly impossible physical feats and acrobatic stunts from award-winning wusheng Li Jia-de. Despite the heavy costume pieces, each movement he executes defies belief, showcasing skill, agility, precision and strength that push the very limits of human capability.

"Zhuangzi Tests His Wife" sees the philosopher Zhuangzi faking his death to test his wife Tian's fidelity. Ling Chia-lin gives a commanding performance as Tian, placing the internal conflict of the female character at the very core of the play. Zhuangzi brings two paper effigies to life to keep an eye on his wife, but once they become flesh and blood, who can keep them in check?

Not only is there magic in the plot, but Jingju actors themselves become spellcasters. The stage is their domain, where they create a captivating fantasy with their distinctive artistic approach. Within the confined space of a minimalist stage, they evoke audiences' imaginations with their stylised actions, bringing all things in the universe to life—be they mountains and rivers, grand palaces and small temples, realistic forms of living creatures or ethereal gods and ghosts.



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As you take your seat, prepare to be whisked away on a spellbinding journey through Jingju magic, with the actors as your masterful guides.

GuoGuang Opera Company

Formed in 1995 and currently Taiwan's only national Jingju troupe, GuoGuang is known for their innovative infusion of contemporary consciousness into traditional opera, allowing the genre to evolve with the times. They have been invited to captivate audiences in France, Prague, Shanghai, Hong Kong and even Singapore, where they have performed four times. Winning acclaim and support from audiences across generations, GuoGuang has given shape to a new school of Jingju and Kunqu aesthetics, allowing today's audiences to experience an art form that is over 200 years old.

Date and Time
20-21 July, 2:30pm

Duration
90 minutes without interval

Venue
Dewan Budaya USM

Language
Mandarin with Mandarin and English subtitles

Age Suitability
7+

Notes
- This performance contains fire effects.
- The venue is wheelchair accessible.

Post-Show Activities
- Photo session (20 July)
- 30-minute Q&A session (21 July)

Supported by:



駐馬來西亞臺北經濟文化辦事處
Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Malaysia



Official Projection Partner:

EPSON

Alle Armi

Hombre Collettivo

ITALY

16

A ball masked and armed to the teeth. An irreverent musical on the razor's edge. A toy weapon for playing war. And finally, a miniature desert.

ALLE ARMI does not speak of this or other wars; it is an experiment. Audiences are thrown into a toy supermarket, invited to explore the political and economic issue of the international arms market, a topic which has become dramatically current. Without relying on words but instead through the performative use of toys, ALLE ARMI will contaminate techniques and codes in search of a meeting point between civil and object theatre.

As they blur the boundaries between arms and toys, Hombre Collettivo invites audiences to consider the narrative possibilities of images and objects. The whimsical, childlike world of toys has always drawn nourishment from the world of weapons and war, but the inverse is rarely

explored. By amplifying the evocative power of toys and objects, ALLE ARMI is not just a title, but a formula: a declaration of intent and simultaneously a cry of alarm.

Special thanks to Ambasciata d'Italia Kuala Lumpur.

Hombre Collettivo

Originating in 2019 from the Animateria Professional Puppetry course, Hombre Collettivo thrives on researching and experimenting with different puppetry languages and techniques. The group focuses on the intersection between civil and political theatre and puppetry, particularly object theatre and visual theatre. Premiering in 2023, their new work ALLE ARMI was selected for the 2024 International Theatre Festival of Kerala (India) and International Theatre Festival Valise (Poland).



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Photo Credit: Alvise Crovato

Date and Time
26-28 July, 8:30pm

Duration
60 minutes

Venue
Auditorium P. Ramlee

Language
Non-Verbal, with some text displayed on LED bars

Age Suitability
14+

Note
This performance contains smoking and high-frequency sounds.

Post-Show Activities
30-minute talk (27 July)

Official Projection Partner:

EPSON

Feature, Theatre, Non-Verbal

House of Mask & Mime

House of Mask & Mime

THAILAND

Date and Time

20 July, 3:00pm & 8:30pm
21 July, 3:00pm

Duration

60 minutes without interval

Venue

Komtar Auditorium A

Language

Non-Verbal

Age Suitability

All ages

Post-Show Activities

Photo sessions after each show

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HOUSE OF MASK & MIME combines different types of acting, a fusion of mask, clown, mime and object theatre designed to transcend language barriers. Throughout the performance, audiences will experience firsthand the evocative power of body language and the emotive force of music.

This is a kaleidoscopic journey through seven stories: Big Eyes, Emoji, Karaoke, La Luna, Yellow Line, Light of Life and Homeless. Each story uses different masks and seeks to shatter the mould of traditional storytelling.

With the aim of bringing happiness to the hearts of others through theatre, the show makes its performances easily understandable and suitable for all ages, leaving children and families spellbound.

A reimaginative silent comedy oozing with family fun, HOUSE OF MASK & MIME has

brought smiles across the globe since its performance at France's Festival Off Avignon in 2022. The show's charming characters have also brightened the days of audiences in Japan and South Korea.

House of Mask & Mime

House of Mask & Mime is a company founded to present new ways of performing with masks, targeting audiences of all genders and ages. Originating from Lisa Sripatanasakul, a Thai mime performer recognised internationally, the company gathers actors, clowns, mimes, object theatre performers and physical movement performers. Recognising the power of mask performance, the company is committed to offering audiences a distinct and memorable experience.

Close To You Festival@GTF

TAIWAN

Duration

Approximately 90 minutes

Venue

Le Petit Four Pâtisserie & Han Jiang Ancestral Temple

Language

Non-Verbal

Age Suitability

12+

Post-Show Activities

15-20-minute talk after 3:00pm show (22-24 July)

*Kindly visit GTF 2024's website for more information.

Date and Time

20 July, 11:00am & 8:00pm
21 July, 11:00am & 8:00pm
22 July, 3:00pm & 8:00pm
23 July, 3:00pm
24 July, 3:00pm & 8:00pm

19

Founded in 2010 by Flying Group Theatre in Taipei, the Close to You Festival is an arts festival that promotes puppetry through object and puppet theatre.

By using unconventional spaces as performance venues, the festival minimises the traditional distance between performers and audiences, offering audiences an intimate way to appreciate the arts.

George Town Festival 2024 brings Close to You Festival to Penang for its first international outing, allowing participants to choose between two starting points to tour the city and experience two puppetry performances: A SUITCASE OF TAIPEI and HISS AND ARF.

As you walk from one performance venue to the next, we encourage you to take in the unique atmosphere of our urban spaces and consider the artistic

possibilities they hold.

*Founder of Close to You Festival, Shih Pei-Yu, will be having a sharing session on Tuesday 23 July (8:00 pm-9:30 pm), at Mano Plus Mini Cube.

Venue for A SUITCASE OF TAIPEI:

Le Petit Four Pâtisserie

Venue for HISS AND ARF:

Han Jiang Ancestral Temple

*Audiences may purchase tickets based on their preferred starting show:
Option A: A SUITCASE OF TAIPEI to HISS AND ARF
Option B: HISS AND ARF to A SUITCASE OF TAIPEI

Supported by:

駐馬六甲台北經濟文化辦事處
Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Malaysia

A Suitcase of Taipei

Flying Group Theatre

Close To You Festival@GTF
TAIWAN

20

Puppetry

The scene is set in Taipei, where a man and a woman are having a dinner date.

They ride a scooter through the city to buy ingredients. While they shop, the sights, smells and sounds of the market draw out the distinctive atmosphere of life in Taipei, the city's charms permeating the air. As they prepare the food, the two grow closer, becoming more intimately entangled with one another.

This non-verbal performance uses a suitcase as a small-scale backdrop, the closeness between audience and puppeteer reflecting the closed distance between the man and the woman.

Since its premiere at the Microfestival Fa. Versteeg in the Netherlands in 2019, A SUITCASE OF TAIPEI has toured at festivals such as the International Puppet Arts Festival in Saguenay, Canada.

Come closer, and watch a whimsical world of food and lust be revealed before your very eyes.

Flying Group Theatre

Founded in 2004, Flying Group Theatre aims to create artworks fuelled by the spirit of diversity and integration, and challenge traditionally accepted distances between the performer and the audience. Committed to the cultivation of young artists, the group established their "Puppet Lab" in 2018, providing young puppetry creators a platform to exchange ideas and create new works. Between 2010 and 2016, the company was invited to arts festivals in the Netherlands, France, Singapore, Japan, Turkey and Spain.

Hiss and Arf

Puppet on the Workbench

Close To You Festival@GTF
TAIWAN

Hiss and Arf: Extended Family Edition
Two additional performances especially for families.
*Kindly visit GTF 2024's website for more information.



21

Puppetry

Dogs versus cats. A rivalry as old as time. Are you a dog's best friend or a cat's loyal servant?

HISS AND ARF is a contemporary puppetry performance that employs traditional Taiwanese glove puppetry techniques. This wordless performance portrays the delightful and humorous life between an owner and his pets.

Cats hiss when they are angry, while dogs arf! With a cat on one hand and a dog on the other, who knows what wacky adventures the puppeteer will embark on with his furry duo? What comical and amusing things will happen in this furry world?

Since its premiere in 2018, HISS AND ARF has been performed throughout Taiwan and at the ISHARA International Puppet Theatre Festival in India.

*The puppeteer Chen Chia-Hao will be having a puppetry workshop on Friday 26 July (7:00pm-10:00pm), at Penang Harmony Centre. Registration required.

Puppet on the Workbench

After participating in several large-scale puppet shows, puppet designer Liang Mong Han and puppeteer Chen Chia-Hao joined forces to establish Puppet on the Workbench, focusing on small-scale puppet shows. The group is built upon the discovery that the most attractive part of puppetry is the infinite imagination that can be triggered by delicate manipulation. By applying traditional puppet manipulation techniques to contemporary puppet creation, they seek to discover more diverse aspects of Taiwanese puppetry. Examples of their works include HISS AND ARF and Planting a Baby, which premiered in 2018 and 2020 respectively.

/// 1 0 ///

One Zero

Ng Siu Yee X
Austin (Steve) Goh

MALAYSIA

22

As we are swept up in the wave of technological progress, will the arts keep up or will the art of storytelling be left drowning in its wake?

/// 1 0 /// is a collaborative project between composer and musician Ng Siu Yee and dancer and choreographer Austin (Steve) Goh. As artists who witnessed the emergence of the digital era, Ng and Goh derive enjoyment from experimenting with tools, machines and the human body to push the boundaries of traditional art forms.

At the core of this experimental venture is the concept of a monster, a creature known by many, who yet remains abstract and undefined. /// 1 0 ///, like the ever-changing idea of the monster, is a show that is mythical, fluid and imaginative. The monster is a symbol that will encourage viewers to engage with challenging themes, such as human nature and the fears of society.

At this intersection of dance, music and technology, meet the monster and witness how technology expands storytelling possibilities.

Photo Credit: Ho Ai Ling



23

Ng Siu Yee

Ng Siu Yee has collaborated with international musicians and has performed globally. In 2015, she won the BOH Cameronian Arts Award for Best Musical Director alongside co-music director Jack Wan. Her musical experience is culturally diverse, having trained in and explored contemporary Malay Gamelan, Western instruments, West African music, Balinese Gamelan and more.

Austin (Steve) Goh

Austin (Steve) Goh is a Sabah native dancer, choreographer and dance teacher, hailed as one of Malaysia's best male dancers. He has won numerous awards at the BOH Cameronian Arts Awards, and has performed with various local and international dance companies in Austria, Australia, Denmark, Japan, Korea, Paris and more.

Date and Time

26 July, 8:00pm
27 July, 2:00pm & 8:00pm
28 July, 2:00pm & 8:00pm

Duration

70 minutes without interval

Venue

Jetty 35 Hall 1

Language

Non-Verbal

Age Suitability

8+

Official Projection Partner:

EPSON

Multidisciplinary, Music, Dance

Pengalaman Prangin

Moka Mocha Ink

in collaboration with

Siring Siring Production

Ensembel Teater Kaos Nol

MALAYSIA

24

25

PENGALAMAN PRANGIN is a speculative roving performance that is part theatre, part time-travel, and part collective experience on memory, history and spatial sensibilities between geomorphology and the built environment.

Participants will be guided to walk and cycle around Sia Boey Urban Archaeological Park leading up towards Lorong Prangin. From Sia Boey Market to Beach Street's past as a coastal road, participants will listen to audio narration and soundscapes and experience live performances scattered throughout the route, each offering a speculative interpretation of the cultural, historical, and urban morphology tapestry that George Town has evolved into.

The past is not a distant memory—it is ever-present in its lingering traces. With each step or pedal, unveil new narratives and see familiar streets, alleyways and

corners in a brand new light.

Moka Mocha Ink

Moka Mocha Ink started as a book publishing house in 2011, and later expanded to become a theatre and film production company with projects such as Tahun-Tahun Seorang Novelis (theatre, 2022). It is run by Nurul Aizam and Ridhwan Saidi, along with collaborators from various fields and disciplines (visual anthropology, dance-choreography, etc.). Working in an interdisciplinary manner, Moka Mocha Ink explores the possibility of participation, developing in-depth conversations, research and poetry.

Date and Time

19 July, 7:00pm
20 July, 9:00am & 5:00pm & 7:00pm
21 July, 9:00am & 5:00pm & 7:00pm
26 July, 7:00pm
27 July, 9:00am & 5:00pm & 7:00pm
28 July, 9:00am & 5:00pm

Duration

90 minutes without interval

Venue

GTF @ Capri Penang (Gathering Point)

Language

Multilingual (Malay, English and Hokkien)

Age Suitability

13+
(Due to the nature of the performance, infants-in-arms are unable to be admitted)

*Kindly visit GTF 2024's website for more information.

Site-specific, Multidisciplinary, Outdoor

Journal of Her House

Ong Han Loon
Neighborhood Performance Group
Nineties Production
Noise Performance House

MALAYSIA

26

Three Penang local theatre companies. One immersive journey to uncover lesser-known history.

Neighborhood Performance Group, Nineties Production and Noise Performance House come together to collaborate in depth for the very first time, creating a unique site-specific experience. Directed and co-produced by Ong Han Loon, JOURNAL OF HER HOUSE is a George Town Festival co-production taking place in Journal Georgetown.

Underneath Journal Georgetown's visage lies a rich history. The space was once the house of a *Majie*, women who migrated from China to work as domestic servants. They fashioned their hair like married women through certain rituals, displaying their commitment to not marry.

This theatrical collaboration transforms Journal's heritage building into

an immersive historic storytelling experience. Audiences navigate through maze-like spaces, experiencing the challenges and dilemmas of *Majie*.

Ong Han Loon

Ong Han Loon possesses a broad range of experience in the performing arts, including roles as a director, playwright, actor and vocal coach. He has worked as a music director, music writer, composer, lyricist and singer. His works have been featured in albums by singers from Malaysia, China, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Neighborhood Performance Group

Since their inception in 2010, Neighborhood Performance Group is committed to expressing humanistic concerns through the art of theatre, driven by the belief that theatre education has the power to shape the minds and hearts

of young talents.

Nineties Production

Established in 2018 by a group of drama enthusiasts born in the 1990s, Nineties Production is dedicated to fostering a vibrant theatre community. The group has organised drama camps, offering opportunities for drama enthusiasts to come together, interact and share their experiences.

Noise Performance House

Founded in 2000, Noise places a great emphasis on the education of youths through theatre. In 2022, the troupe was granted PIP Cultural Industries authorisation from Hong Kong to bring classic children's play Opps! Belle the Witch is Gone! to Penang, and was nominated at the 18th ADA Drama Awards.

Date and Time

19 July, 8:00pm
20 July, 11:00am & 2:30pm & 5:00pm
21 July, 11:00am & 2:30pm & 5:00pm
26 July, 8:00pm
27 July, 11:00am & 2:30pm & 5:00pm
28 July, 11:00am & 2:30pm & 5:00pm

Duration

95 minutes

Venue

Journal Georgetown

Language

Mandarin, Hokkien, Cantonese

Age Suitability

13+

Post-Show Activities

30-minute talk after 5:00pm show (20 July)

27

They All Die at the End

Theatresauce

MALAYSIA

Date and Time

26 July, 8:30pm
27 July, 3:00pm & 8:30pm
28 July, 3:00pm

Duration

120 minutes with 15-minute interval

Venue

Komtar Auditorium A

Language

English, Tamil, Malay

Age Suitability

For mature audiences

Note

This performance contains loud sounds, bright lights and strobe lights.

Content Warning

The show contains satire, strong language and themes involving violence and sexuality. Viewer discretion is advised.

28

Theatre, Satire

What does it mean to be a Malaysian Indian man in 2024? What does it mean to love, to exist, and to live as brown men?

THEY ALL DIE AT THE END (TADATE) is a brown boy fantasia that tells the story of love, family, identity and country. Featuring an all Malaysian Indian male ensemble, it is a reflection and interrogation on what it means to be Malaysian and Indian, in the past, present and imagination.

Combining poetic text, dialogue, music and movement, the show explores painful realities and joy-filled spaces. A collection of over 20 short pieces, it invites audiences into a world where brown men can be who they want to be and say what they want to say.

Originally presented in May 2023 in collaboration with the Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (klpac), TADATE

premiered to sold out shows, receiving requests for restages.

Theatresauce

A director and creation-driven collective founded in 2016 by Kelvin Wong. Through their theatre-making, the company is committed to draw from and represent the experiences and stories of urban Malaysians. Today, led by new Artistic Director Dhinesha Karthigesu, the company aims to centre and hold space for narratives, identities and bodies that are underrepresented in the media landscape, that go beyond the typical binaries of race, gender, sexualities and backgrounds.

Photo Credit: Abdul Sami and Theatresauce

Plant/Human Duo

Mirian Kolev

BULGARIA

Date and Time

19-21 July, 6:30pm

Duration

60 minutes

Venue

The Courtyard@Beach Street (Unit 23 K&L)

Language

Non-Verbal

Age Suitability

All ages



29

Music

Music does not only spring forth from human hands. Here, plants wield the power to orchestrate symphonies.

PLANT/HUMAN DUO is a concert in which sounds are generated from different plants. Using devices and sensors attached to plant leaves, the plants' biorhythms are converted into sound waves and are further manipulated using real-time sound effects.

The show's unique sound has filled the air at Innsaevi Art Festival 2022 in Iceland, and it has toured across Bulgaria. PLANT/HUMAN DUO demonstrates how technology can allow us to better understand and interact with our environment, amidst progress and the ecological crisis. Instead of trembling under the threat of technological advancements, perhaps nature and technology can find harmonious balance and make sweet sounds together.

*The artist will be having an unconventional music instrument workshop on Sunday 21 July (10:00am - 11:30am), at The Courtyard @Beach Street. Registration required.

Mirian Kolev

Mirian Kolev is a musician, composer and multidisciplinary artist, whose work focuses on sound art and music that is experimental, electroacoustic, ambient and improvisational. Otherwise known for his solo ambient music project E.U.E.R.P.I., he has participated in festivals and stages in more than 25 countries across Europe and Asia. With guitar in hand, he utilises software effects and other non-traditional objects and instruments, driven by the belief that music is capable of expressing emotions in their purest form.

Photo Credit: Mood Textures

Sortilegio

Omayra Martínez Garzón

COLOMBIA

Date and Time

20 July, 10:30am & 5:00pm
21 July, 10:30am
27 July, 10:30am & 5:00pm
28 July, 10:30am

Duration

120 minutes
(Approximately 5 minutes per person)

Venue

Big Tree@Armenian Street

Language

Non-Verbal

Age Suitability

6+

Note

This is a puppetry performance for one person at a time, and each person's session will take approximately five minutes.

30

Puppetry, Outdoor, Family Fun

SORTILEGIO is a magical and mystical game where analog meets digital. Your imagination and the spirit of the wind become essential elements in creating a vivid world governed by cosmic forces.

Lambe Lambe Theatre forms the foundation of this intimate puppetry showcase. It is an artistic language where shows are presented inside a closed box. Spectators will peer through the peephole to uncover the world unfolding from within.

Inspired by "Creation of the Birds" by Spanish painter Remedios Varo, SORTILEGIO is an audio-visual puppetry experience for one person at a time, with each performance lasting approximately five minutes. Audiences will listen to soundscapes using headphones, and watch as miniature puppets and holographic projections create a world of wonder.

Peer into the Lambe Lambe theatre, where

it's just you, tiny puppets, and grand stories.

*The artist will be having a four-day Lambe Theatre workshop, from 22 to 25 July (7:00pm - 10:00pm), at Penang Harmony Centre. Registration required.

Omayra Martínez Garzón

Omayra Martínez Garzón is a puppeteer and actress, whose creations have been supported by the National Institute of Theatre and Proteatro of Argentina and Iberescena of Spain. She has presented Lambe Lambe Theatre performances at festivals in countries such as Germany, Chile, Romania, Brazil, Peru and France. In recent years, she has delivered workshops in Germany, Spain, Argentina, Colombia and Romania, contributing to the advancement of the Lambe Lambe Theatre movement.

Photo Credit: Rodrigo Chavero

Chacko Vadaketh: Songs & Stories

Chacko Vadaketh

MALAYSIA

Date and Time

18-20 July, 8:30pm

Duration

105 minutes
(Two 45-minute sets with a 15-minute interval)

Venue

BATU Cafe & Bar

Language

English

Age Suitability

16+

31

Cabaret, Live Music

What happens when songs from beloved musicals meet personal stories full of humour and heart?

CHACKO VADAKETH: SONGS & STORIES is a solo show featuring popular Malaysian actor Chacko Vadaketh, with delightful accompaniment from an accomplished ensemble of musicians. It is a celebration of both his life and of Malaysia through his favourite songs and stories that sold out in Kuala Lumpur last year.

Featuring anecdotes of his colourful life: from his childhood in Kerala, carefree student days in Cambridge, to being a lawyer in Kuala Lumpur, an actor in Los Angeles and beyond.

CHACKO VADAKETH: SONGS & STORIES takes audiences on a fun, cheeky, yet thoughtful journey of a shared history, of family and friends, and of nationhood.

Chacko Vadaketh

Chacko Vadaketh is an actor, producer, voice-over artist and host with over 30 years of experience, having worked in Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and Los Angeles. A former lawyer who studied acting in the United States, Chacko has appeared in shows on CBS, ASTRO, BBC and Mediacorp. He has appeared in numerous stage productions throughout his illustrious career, including the sellout Shakespeare Goes Bollywood at the Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (klpac).

The Story of My Wedding

Spice & Curry

MALAYSIA

Date and Time
20 July, 3:00pm
21 July, 3:00pm
27 July, 3:00pm
28 July, 3:00pm

Duration
60 minutes

Venue
Sardaari - Flavours of Punjab

Language
English, Punjabi, Hindi
(with English subtitles)

Age Suitability
6+

Spice & Curry

Established in 2023, Spice & Curry aims to create a space for Indian performing arts. Backed by actors, dancers and musicians, they strive to expose audiences to the diverse ethnic backgrounds that Malaysian Indians comprise: Tamils, Malayalees, Gujaratis, Telugus and Punjabis.

THE STORY OF MY WEDDING is a musical play unveiling the story of a single, 35-year-old Punjabi lady. Content with her independent life, a good, well-paid job, and friends who fill her days with activities, she is suddenly matchmade. Though reluctant at first, she marries the man after much persuasion from her family, her feelings towards him growing. The story takes the audience through the whole process, from wedding preparations to the grim reality of terrible society.

THE STORY OF MY WEDDING tells a tale of kindness taken advantage of, of cultural struggles that often fall through the cracks.

PEON

Patblas Creative

MALAYSIA

Date and Time
20-21 July, 3:00pm & 8:30pm

Duration
30 minutes without interval

Venue
Jetty 35 Hall 4

Language
English and Malay

Age Suitability
13+

Patblas Creative

A creative production company in Malaysia that offers a wide range of creative services, including theatre productions, short films, web series and backstage work. Formerly known as Patblas Studio, the company was founded in 2014 by a group of undergraduates from the National Academy of Arts, Culture and Heritage (ASWARA).

Are you the master of your mobile phone?
Or are you a mere puppet on its strings?

PEON, meaning a courier of goods or dispatch in Malay, is an interactive play that critiques the current generation's manic obsession with handheld technology.

Set in a not-so-distant future, three "Peon" delivery boys are trapped on a train. After receiving a mysterious message, they suspect that their packages are loaded with ticking bombs.

First performed in 2017 at Markas Kota Damansara and Kotak, Five Arts Centre, the play was reworked to become an interactive performance at the Ipoh Collective Festival in 2019. George Town Festival will be the production's latest outing, where it will be presented within a local context.

Yam Seng Lah!

Dabble Dabble Jer Collective X Curios-City

MALAYSIA

34

YAM SENG LAH! is a theatre and dining experience by the award-winning Dabble Dabble Jer Collective, in collaboration with Michelin selected (2023 & 2024) casual dining restaurant Curios-City, Penang.

In **YAM SENG LAH!**, audiences will dine on a menu creatively curated by Adrian Tan, culinary artist and head chef of Curios-City. The food pairings are intrinsically related to an anthology of personal narratives, promising a deliciously sensorial journey into the rich tapestry of shared-identity, culinary heritage, and Malaysian culture.

Through hearty generational recipes and the warmth of shared meals, **YAM SENG LAH!** invites you to a truly memorable experience reflective of the people who came before, and the people we are today.

Dabble Dabble Jer Collective

Founded in December 2022, Dabble Dabble Jer Collective features original voices that question the norm, diving deep into the hidden, neglected and forgotten aspects of society and community. They produce artistic works and performances that contribute to the contemporary arts landscape in Penang and Malaysia. DDJ.Co currently produce the literary event called Readings@Tanjong and are working on restaging Burden of Proof in Kuala Lumpur, scheduled for 2025. Earlier this year, they won Best Community Support at the Kita Mereka 2.0 Creative Hub Awards. Follow their journey at dabbledabblejer.co.

Adrian Tan

25-year-old Adrian Tan hails from Kelantan, Malaysia, and serves as the Head Chef of Curios-City and Culinary Artist for **YAM SENG LAH!**. Adrian is the brains behind the decadent offerings at Curios-City, earning the restaurant its consecutive Michelin selections for 2023 & 2024. His philosophy is to highlight the richness of Penang's diverse cultural and ethnic flavours, often sourcing inspirations from local markets and bringing creative interpretations to each plate. Adrian aspires to spark a profound appreciation for local cuisine in diners through innovative presentation and techniques, cementing his growing reputation as a culinary artist dedicated to elevating Malaysian gastronomy.

Date and Time

20 July, 11:30am & 6:30pm
21 July, 11:30am & 6:30pm
27 July, 11:30am & 6:30pm
28 July, 11:30am & 6:30pm

Duration

Approximately 150 minutes
(Including the 30 minutes after doors open)

Venue

Curios-City

Language

English

Age Suitability

16+
(Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult)

*Kindly visit GTF 2024's website for more information.

Site-Specific, Immersive Theatre, Dining

35

Je m'évanouis

Agnė Muralytė

LITHUANIA

Date and Time
27 July, 5:00pm-7:00pm
28 July, 5:00pm-7:00pm

Duration
25-minute performance
(Followed by a public interaction session)

Venue
Sia Boey Urban Archaeological Park (Deck)

Language
Non-Verbal

Age Suitability
All Ages

Free Admission

36

Puppetry, Outdoor, Free

In puppetry performances, where does the puppeteer end and the puppet begin?

In JE M'ÉVANOUIS, the puppeteer does not only control the puppet, she becomes an integral part of the puppet itself. Her hands breathe life into his limbs, while her legs form his feet. Their performance speaks of the fragility of human existence, telling the tale of one man's life and the situations he got into.

With a human-sized puppet created by artist Martynas Lukošius, the show is driven entirely by movement and non-verbal acting. Performer Agnė Muralytė looks for a relationship with the puppet both as a puppeteer and as a character, allowing herself to appear and disappear behind the puppet.

A simple story that is poetic, sensitive yet comic, JE M'ÉVANOUIS is where puppet and puppeteer literally become one.

Agnė Muralytė

Agnė Muralytė is a performer working with both theatre companies and as an independent artist taking part in educational and socially engaged artistic projects. Her professional interests lie in theatrical movement, body expression and working with objects. Her work has been strongly influenced by movement practises with director Claire Heggen, a founder of "Théâtre du Mouvement". Throughout her career, she has participated in numerous workshops, arts festivals, artistic residencies and more. She performed JE M'ÉVANOUIS in 2023 at the Karosta Festival in Latvia.

Photo Credit: Arvydo Gudo

#penangonebetter

Stand-Up Comedy

Sai Wabikong

MALAYSIA

Date and Time
27 July, 8:30pm

Duration
60 minutes without interval

Venue
The FOUNDERS Hutton

Language
Mandarin and Hokkien

37

Comedy

Laksa better or char koay teow better?

This comedy show led by internet-famous Sai Wabikong will show you why Penang really is better than the rest!

Since its beginning in 2020, #penangonebetter has brought smiles and laughter online, showcasing Penang's unique charms through comedy infused with unmistakable local flavour.

From Penang's beloved char koay teow and refreshing water tasting better, to even the literal air from Penang smelling better, this stand-up comedy performance featuring secret guest(s) is a side-splitting explosion of laughter and a celebration of what makes Penang so special.

Whether you're a proud Penangite or a visitor tasting Penang food for the very first time, come along for a laughter-filled journey.

Sai Wabikong

Known online as Penang Guy, Sai has been a fervent advocate for his hometown of Penang since he embarked on his content creation journey in 2019. Following his high school graduation, Sai spent 6 years in Japan pursuing engineering studies and subsequently worked as a process engineer at Bosch Japan for a year. However, homesickness eventually led him to make the bold decision to return to Malaysia, where he relinquished his engineering career to pursue life as a content creator.

C.O.R.E. Homegrown Concerts: Cultural Uah Music Culture

MALAYSIA

Date and Time
20 July, 7:30pm

Duration
180 minutes

Venue
Sia Boey Urban Archaeological Park

Age Suitability
All Ages

Free Admission

C.O.R.E. Homegrown Concerts: Omni Uah Music Culture

MALAYSIA

Date and Time
21 July, 7:30pm

Duration
180 minutes

Venue
Sia Boey Urban Archaeological Park

Age Suitability
All Ages

Free Admission

Music, Free

Curated by Penang independent music label Uah Music Culture, this independent music series aims to showcase the city's soul through music. Each concert represents a different facet of George Town, using each letter in the word CORE to name a concert.

Through a showcase of cultural and world music, this concert shines a spotlight on the city's multicultural fusion and the confluence of cultures that give it its characteristic charm.

Anak Borneo

Anak Borneo was founded in 2017 by Evan Lee, an independent songwriter and music producer. Focusing on world music, alternative rock and progressive music with an infusion of traditional music, he highlights his local culture and folklore, environmental issues and more.

Avartana

Founded in 2019, Avartana is an innovative Indian classical fusion band, skillfully blending Hindustani and Carnatic classical music with a modern touch. They take listeners on a spellbinding journey through vibrant ragas and intricate tala patterns.

Culture Shot

Imagine the melancholic sounds of an Er-hu, the strumming of a Lang Ting Tang (Hokkien Beggar Guitar), the melodic rhythm of a Rebana coupled with gongs, and the interlocking beats of a Gendang with a splash of Chinese cymbals. An amalgamation of ethnic sonorities, Culture Shot serves up a taste of Penang.

Curated by Penang independent music label Uah Music Culture, this independent music series aims to showcase the city's soul through music. Each concert represents a different facet of George Town, using each letter in the word CORE to name a concert.

Through an eclectic meeting of pop, rock and acoustic tunes, this concert highlights everyday wonders, capturing the vibrant daily life of the beloved city.

Isaac Ho

Penning down ideas and slivers of thought, Isaac Ho has always dreamed of airwaves. The Penang-based singer-songwriter paints his soundscapes with ethereal vocals and heartfelt lyrics, accompanied by his looper station. He takes audiences on a melodic journey, illuminating the colourful spectrum of people and life through his sound.

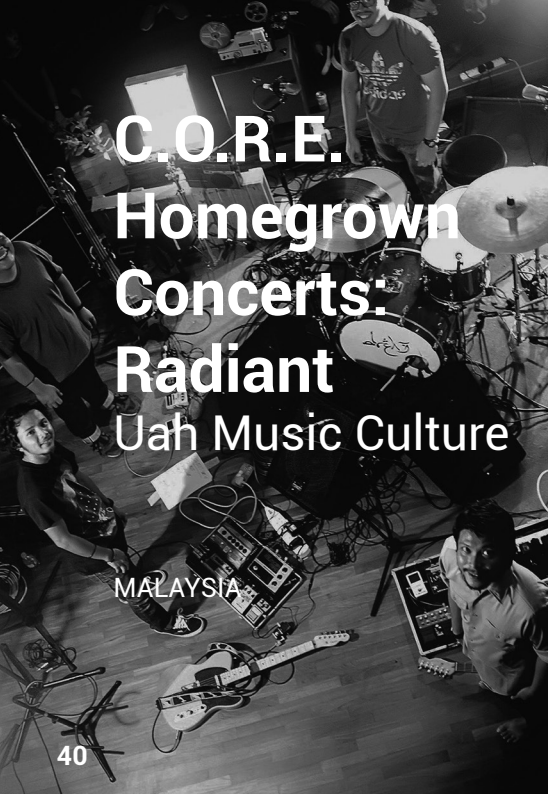
ARVAN

With nearly 20 years of experience in the music industry, the seasoned musicians of ARVAN create sounds blending heavy metal, post-rock and emotional ballads, resulting in an eclectic mix of music that evokes a sense of boundless freedom. They received the prestigious Best Band award at the Malaysian AIM Chinese Music Awards in 2020.

Demondolls

Demondolls emerged as a creative endeavour between frontman Maha Jeffrey and guitarist Riz Rashid during the pandemic. Fueled by a shared vision to establish themselves as Malaysia's powerhouse of rock, the band is celebrated by both rock aficionados and casual listeners alike for their raw energy and undeniable talent.

Music, Free



Curated by Penang independent music label Uah Music Culture, this independent music series aims to showcase the city's soul through music. Each concert represents a different facet of George Town, using each letter in the word CORE to name a concert.

Bask in the glory of the past, and witness the city's historical splendour come alive through post-rock and ambient music.

One Morr Time

One Morr Time is a Penang-born indie rock band. Their unique sound is formed from multiple elements, including post-rock, traditional music and heavy metal. Their performances involve a wide range of emotional expressions, from soft whispering to powerful outbursts, telling stories about seldomly explored aspects of human nature.

Damn Dirty Apes

Known as the first post-rock group in Malaysia and having influenced a new generation of rockers, Damn Dirty Apes have dominated the airwaves since their debut EP "Valve State Dreams" in 2002. The EP for their single "Charlie" sold more than 5,000 units in six months, a testament to the irresistibility of their unique sound.

Deepset

Hailing from Klang Valley, Deepset began in 2002 when a group of music lovers discovered the independent rock era of the 90s. Performing at underground independent gigs in and around Malaysia and Southeast Asia, Deepset captures the honest emotions portrayed in the day-to-day trials and tribulations of life.

Curated by Penang independent music label Uah Music Culture, this independent music series aims to showcase the city's soul through music. Each concert represents a different facet of George Town, using each letter in the word CORE to name a concert.

Punk and metal music allow us to find order in chaos, expressing the beauty of the city's orderly disorder amidst the turbulent times we live in.

Pickmystrings

Going by the artist name Pickmystrings, Evan Tan hails from the realm of symphonic prog, his captivating soundscapes taking listeners on a soul-stirring journey. He released his debut album "Restore" in 2022, and has released two more singles since then.

GAND

A band fueled by psychedelic energy, GAND is renowned for their captivating and electrifying live performances. With their distinctive blend of catchy melodies, powerful grooves, haunting vocals and skillful instrumental solos, they create an unforgettable musical experience, taking audiences on a journey of sonic bliss.

Ling

Hailing from Penang, Ling is not just a band, they are storytellers of the human experience. Drawing inspiration from a diverse palette of punk-rock, doom and cinematic landscapes, Ling orchestrates a mesmerising fusion of sound. Their performances are not mere concerts but immersive experiences, where theatrical elements leave audiences spellbound in awe.

Free Lunchtime Organ Recital

Leonard Selva
Gurunathan

MALAYSIA

42

Music, Free

George Town is a musical treasure trove, home to Malaysia's largest church pipe organ.

Erected in 1914 and assembled in Penang by 1916, Church of the Assumption pipe organ was restored in 2013. In 2017, St. George's Church added to this rich musical history with the installation of a new pipe organ.

Nestled within the heart of the city, these two instruments are situated within mere walking distance of each other. Audiences will lend their ears to a diverse selection of music performed by organists from both churches. Specially arranged for the organ, timeless classics by Penang-born musical icons like Jimmy Boyle and Tan Sri P. Ramlee will join the mix, allowing the city's vibrant musical heritage to fill the air.

Date and Time

20 July, 1:00pm
27 July, 1:00pm

Duration

60 minutes with introduction included

Venue

20 July, St. George's Church
27 July, Church of the Assumption

Language

English

Age Suitability

All Ages

Free Admission

Romancing Penang

MODE-X
(Kate Chan
& Alan S)

MALAYSIA

43

Music

Alan S and Kate Chan are Mode-X, short for Models with X factor. The latter's voice is a sweet show stealer, while the former's deep voice offers the perfect accompaniment to Jazz music.

Alan and Kate's chemistry and the harmonious fusion of their voices promise to win the hearts and souls of the audience. From Alan Walker to Bruno Mars, the duo's repertoire ranges from touching ballads and heart-tugging duets to house-rocking upbeat numbers.

Not only do they look good, but they sound good.

Date and Time

19-20 July, 9:00pm

Duration

105 minutes with 15-minute interval

Venue

Begin Bubbles Bar, Gurney Drive

Age Suitability

21+

Miniature Public Art

Introduction

Date
19-28 July

Street art isn't always gigantic.

One of the highlights of GTF 2024's visual arts line-up, **MINIATURE PUBLIC ART** is an initiative that integrates art with the urban landscape, to foster a deeper connection between artistic expression and the city.

Dwarfed by their monstrous surroundings, these tiny artworks reinvigorate the forgotten corners they inhabit with their larger-than-life charm. They invite people to seek them out and become an active part of the artistic process, unlocking new ways of looking at urban corners that have become too common.

As you traverse the streets and look up at the huge art embedded on the walls, we encourage you to also look at the unassuming nooks and crannies, because who knows what delightful surprises you'll find?

In these participatory art installations, the miniatures will invite play, conversation and reflection, exploring societal issues that plague our gigantic world.

Cement Eclipses Isaac Cordal

SPAIN

Venue
Happening around the George Town World Heritage Site, to be discovered by you.



When you turn the corner and look up, a pair of tiny eyes stare back.

CEMENT ECLIPSES is an ongoing project by renowned artist Isaac Cordal. Through miniaturisation and thoughtful placement, he invites pedestrians to search for his sculptures on the street.

Tiny men and women are suspended and isolated in poses that take on many meanings. Opening doors to a new world, these figures are strange yet familiar, easy to relate to and laugh with.

The figurines highlight the imperfect construction of our society and the absurdity of our existence through a tiny lens. Tucked in unusual and unlikely places, they are waiting to be discovered. How many can you find?

Isaac Cordal

Spanish Galician artist Isaac Cordal works with sculpture, installations and photography in public and exhibition spaces.

He is most known for his nomadic project **CEMENT ECLIPSES**, where small sculptures highlight large social issues affecting everyday life. Beginning in 2006 and still ongoing, the statuettes have made interventions in Berlin, London, Brussels, Vienna, Taipei, Montreal, New York, Paris, Hanoi, etc.

International Partner:



Declining Artisans

Low Chee Peng

MALAYSIA

Venue

Happening around the George Town World Heritage Site, to be discovered by you.



Through sculptures depicting tradespeople, **DECLINING ARTISANS** invites viewers to feel the atmosphere that once thrived within these buildings, and step into the lives of traditional artisans in little George Town.

Low Chee Peng

Penang-born Low Chee Peng is a self-taught sculptor of 30 years experience. He has represented Malaysia in the Asia Contemporary Sculptors International Exchange (China, 2013) and the Oita Asia Sculpture Exhibition (Japan, 2016). He won the Jury Award in the first Online International Sculpture Symposium in 2020, and his work has been collected by the National Art Gallery and Penang State Art Museum. Chee Peng's works celebrate the human, the marks people make in their community. His works are a reminder to treasure the local, the small-scaled, and the seemingly ordinary.

When a craftsman passes on, what can we do to preserve their memory?

DECLINING ARTISANS is a sculpture series capturing traditional artisans at work, their breaths and their measured movements. Since the 20th century, many tradespeople have set up shop in Penang, quietly cultivating their skills and passing them on to the next generation. Today, Penang boasts over fifty types of traditional trades, however many have disappeared over the years, due to rising rental costs and lack of succession following the passing of artisans.

Traditional trades inject soul and charm into George Town's old houses. If a house loses its soul, only an empty shell is left behind. How can we recall the warm atmosphere that once filled these houses with life?

A Piece or Two of Life's Bustle

NOvia Shin

MALAYSIA

Venue

GTF @ Capri Penang



Should old houses be preserved, or should their past make way for new life and meaning to be injected?

A PIECE OR TWO OF LIFE'S BUSTLE is a project sparked by the artist's experiences owning and living in an old house. George Town is full of old houses that are alive with echoes of the past, remnants of the laughter and tears that once graced their halls. Should these buildings be renovated? Restored? Innovated?

Through this miniature project, NOvia Shin explores the interplay between appropriation and reconstruction concerning old houses, hoping to find her way forward. Drawing inspiration from traditional Penang cut porcelain carving, she searches for answers amidst the intricacies of cut porcelain pieces.

Do we honour the past or pave the way for a new beginning? **A PIECE OR TWO**

OF LIFE'S BUSTLE seeks to reconcile this conundrum.

NOvia Shin

NOvia (Shin Pui San) is passionate about documenting local culture and natural history. Believing that global conflicts often arise from historical biases, she has ventured into various mediums throughout her career—such as illustration, paper craft, miniature art, comics, animation and installation art, sharing the alternative history of Malaysia.

She has had solo and group exhibitions in Malaysia, Taiwan and Hong Kong. She worked on the art for *The Secret Life of Durian Trees*, which was nominated for the Best Animation Award at the 13th International KL Eco Film Fest 2020.

Preserving Memories (Liquid Mirror)

Kaito Sakuma

JAPAN

Date

19-21; 26-28 July

Venue

Happening around the George Town World Heritage Site

*Kindly refer to GTF 2024's website for more information.



moment, and take in the here and now.

Kaito Sakuma

Kaito Sakuma is a sound artist across multiple fields, from digital media to real space. Driven by the theme "raw existence", he creates sound spaces that spark thoughts and expand cognition. Known for his mirror speakers (otherwise referred to as liquid mirrors), Kaito was awarded the Newcomer's Award at the Japan Media Arts Festival 2021. He has toured and exhibited around the world, and has recently relocated to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

International Partner:



Shadow Sculptures

Gav Barbey

AUSTRALIA

Date and Time

19-28 July, 9:00am-11:00am

Venue

Happening around the George Town World Heritage Site

*Kindly refer to GTF 2024's website for more information.



Shadows are temporary, fleeting creatures that come and go with the sun, while sculptures typically stand the test of time.

SHADOW SCULPTURES invites you to become aware of the colours, textures, tones, shapes and forms you are drawn towards in nature.

The titular sculptures are ephemeral. They are nature-based immersive and participatory artworks created in various locations by you. Cast your shadow upon the landscape, and fill the shadows with nature's treasures—leaves, sticks, stones, flowers and more.

Open yourself up to the deep ecology of the sensuous world we are a part of, and let nature be your art materials and canvas.

Gav Barbey

Gav Barbey is an interdisciplinary creative artist with a strong emphasis on immersive and participatory art. A film and theatre maker, he is also a qualified yoga and meditation teacher, spending the past 6 years studying the somatic movement practice of Body Mind Centring. Gav's interests lie within collaborative processes based on immersive movement, inviting the audience to participate in the co-creation of works. His latest collaborative works include Painted City Forest, a refugee camp project that invites refugees to paint a significant plant upon their shelters, creating a virtual forest.

International Partner:



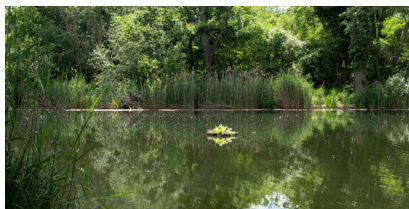


Living Machines by CMD | Malaysia

Venue
The Courtyard @ Beach Street (Unit 23J)

Exhibition
19-28 July, 12:00pm-7:00pm

***Artist Sharing and Exhibition Walkthrough**
21 July, 1:00pm-2:30pm



The Moments When You Suddenly Remember You Can Swim by Ting-Ting, Cheng | Taiwan/Vienna/Austria

Venue
Fiesta by Beverly Chill

Exhibition
19-28 July, 1:00pm-8:00pm

***Workshop by Artist Ting-Ting, Cheng**
27 July, 2:00pm-4:00pm



rehat by Mahyuddin Chan | Singapore

Venue
Biscotti Cafe

Exhibition
19-28 July, 12:00pm-7:00pm

***Artist Sharing & Exhibition Walkthrough**
21 July, 4:00pm-5:30pm



Nigel Sense "Kopi Jackfruit Monkey" by Nigel Sense | Australia

Venue
Fiesta by Beverly Chill

Exhibition
19-28 July, 1:00pm-8:00pm

***Opening Exhibition Walkthrough**
20 July, 4:00pm

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Technocentric Art Installation, Immersive, Free

LIVING MACHINES is an interactive spatial installation that delves into the intersection of machines and the organic world.

With their sensors and motors, the installation's post-organic machines mimic life's basic functions. They exist in a standby state, breathing and pulsing with a semblance of life, their lights mimicking breaths as their limb-like branches sway.

As you engage with the machines, they seem to come alive, spreading their limbs as if welcoming you. Through machines that teeter between the organic and the inorganic, LIVING MACHINES invites you to question your relationship with the machine.

How does the human experience shape living machines, and what do machine lives offer in return?

If a utopia, an unattainable perfect world, is an island that cannot be reached, aren't we constantly in water, endlessly swimming?

This is a participatory project by the artist during her artist-in-residency in Salettl, Vienna. It is a continuation of her research on islands as a symbol of utopia, exploring swimming as a means of becoming closer to our utopia and as a symbol of social movement. During the residency, Cheng invited participants to picture their own ideal society and swim towards an island she built while carrying items representing their own utopia.

The process was documented and edited into this three-channelled video installation.

Equipment Partner:

filamen

Video Art Installation, Site-Specific, Free

Immersive, Therapeutic Art, Free

rehat, which is Malay for 'rest', is a room for respite from the festivities, away from overstimulating noises and the endless rush of excitement.

Embedded with gentle nooks for rest and artworks one can interact with, the space will bring forth moments of much-needed calm as one weaves through the therapeutic tapestry.

This is an exercise in presenting artworks beyond the conventional white cube, in an environment that centres the visitor's physical and mental comfort.

Step into the calming embrace of *rehat* and relax, and offer yourself a moment to take a breather.

Official Projection Partner:

EPSON

What does Penang look like through the eyes of an artist?

Join artist Nigel Sense on his artistic journey and step into a world shaped by his experiences as an Australian navigating the cultural landscape of Penang.

Set against the backdrop of a kopitiam in Pulau Tikus, everyday experiences are transformed into vibrant canvases echoing the pulse of urban life.

The pieces capture overheard conversations, the artist's imperfect attempts at speaking Malay, and the bustling atmosphere of crowds at breakfast spots. Every brushstroke, every splash of colour, is a celebration of the eclectic tapestry that defines Penang.

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Solo Exhibition, Free

"Jalan Balik": A Journey to Identity of Paulus Supomo's Seni Kanji

Co-curated by
Muhammad Irfan
and Lee Cheah Ni

INDONESIA/MALAYSIA

Venue
Soundmaker Studio

Exhibition
19-28 July, 12:00pm-7:00pm

"Jalan Balik" SENI KANJI Sharing and
Music Performance By Muhammad Irfan
"Popish"
20 July, 8:00pm-10:00pm

Seni Kanji

Paulus Supomo was not your typical artist. The late 66-year-old illustrator, armed with A2 paper and felt tip markers, portrayed the casual lives of people in the real world and social media.

After spending most of his life as a factory worker in Bandung and only drawing as a hobby, Supomo delved into an invigorating journey of artistic and self-discovery. Collaborating with his son, he broke boundaries, becoming one of Indonesia's hippest illustrators. His work became a way for him to reconnect with his Tionghoa Indonesian roots.

Despite his passing in 2021, Supomo's legacy remains. This exhibition features 25 original works by Supomo that capture not only aspects of society, but also his bond with his son.

Muhammad Irfan (AKA Irfan Popish)

Muhamad Irfan is a writer, music subculture researcher and organiser. Moving to Taiwan to pursue a Masters in Inter-Asia Cultural Studies, he was involved in the exchange of youth cultures between Indonesia and Taiwan.



More Men (and a Woman) with Plants

Venue
ChinaHouse

Exhibition
19 July-19 August, 10:00am-6:00pm (Closed on Tuesdays)

A foray into the world using botanical themes, by various Penang-based artists using their different disciplines.

The artists involved are:
Fuan Wong, glass artist/horticulturist
Tan Wei Ming with Zack Low, space imager/landscape artist
Howard Tan, photographer/collagist
Esther Geh, botanical artist
MK Cheah, glass artist/mosaicist
Jonathan Yun, sculptural silversmith
Hoo FanChon, artist in multimedia



Here & Now Art Exhibition

Venue
The Art Gallery, Penang

Exhibition
19-28 July, 2:00pm-6:00pm (Friday-Sunday)

Experience the vibrant streets of Penang like never before, through an electrifying showcase of sketches by Urban Sketchers (USK) Penang.

From bustling streets to tranquil waterfronts, immerse yourself in the unique interpretations of 12 artists. Presented by The Art Gallery, Penang, Here & Now beckons you to witness Penang's treasures, immortalised one delicate brushstroke at a time.

As Light As Shadow II: King Ban Hui Illustration Exhibition

Venue
COEX @ Kilang Besi

Exhibition
3-28 July, 12:00pm-8:00pm

With the publication of the illustration collection As Light As Shadow II, this exhibition showcases King Ban Hui's illustration works from 2018 to 2024, presented as hand-drawn originals. King Ban Hui is a Malaysian-Chinese writer and artist, whose illustrations are featured in newspapers, magazines and book covers in Taiwan and Malaysia.

In addition to his exhibition, he will engage in a conversation with artist Ch'ng Kiah Kiean on Sunday 14 July. Kindly visit GTF 2024's website for more details.





Ban Ban Kia: Penang Shop Signs by Joel Lim Du Bois and Tan Sneh Li | Malaysia

Venue
GTF @ Capri Penang

Exhibition
19-28 July, 12:00pm-8:00pm

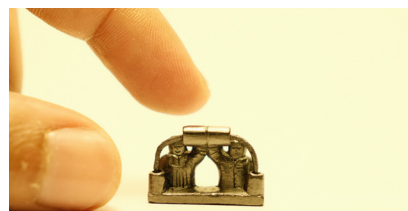
*Kindly visit GTF 2024's website for more information on the walking tours and workshops. Pre-registration required.



Artisan by O Sculpture | Malaysia

Venue
O Sculpture @ Hin Bus Depot

Exhibition
6-28 July, 10:00am-6:00pm (Friday-Sunday)

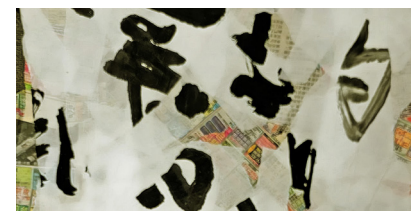


Same Same But Different by Sasank Gopinathan | India

Venue
The FOUNDERS Hutton

Exhibition
19-28 July, 12:00pm-8:00pm

***Artist Sharing & Exhibition Walkthrough**
21 July, 11:00am-12:30pm



Material.Quality.Aggregation by Chao Kai Chih | Taiwan

Venue
The Courtyard @ Beach Street (Unit 23B)

Exhibition
14-28 July, 12:00pm-7:00pm

***Exhibition Opening**
13 July, 6:30pm-8:30pm

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Typography, Archive, Free

As you drive past Penang's old shops, do you pay attention to their signages?

Penang has a rich heritage of shop signs, rooted in its history as a hub of commerce, cultures and creative production. Designed to be both functional and eye-catching, each sign is a work of art painstakingly created by a skilled craftsman. Despite their intricate beauty, they are now ignored and underappreciated, disappearing with each passing day.

BAN BAN KIA: PENANG SHOP SIGNS beckons you to slow down and pay attention to Penang's old shop signs before it is too late. Penang is an open-air art gallery of old signs, and through an exhibition, walking tours, talks and workshops, the treasures and stories behind these typographical reminders of the past will be revealed.

Traditional craftsmen are the heart and soul of George Town. Their trades breathe vibrant charm into the city streets, an essence that is palpable at every turn. These artisans have spent half their lives, and some even their entire lives, toiling away in old houses. These houses witnessed every sweat shed and every painstaking effort made.

As these traditional artisans fade with time, whether from moving away or passing on, these old houses become nothing but empty shells.

Sculptures hold powerful potential for storytelling and connection, freezing moments in time with intricate craftsmanship. This group exhibition showcases mixed media sculptures, depicting artisans in George Town working on their crafts. From rattan and cane weaving to songkok making, viewers are invited to reminisce about the lives of these master artisans.

Group Exhibition, Sculpture, Miniature, Free

Sculpture, Photography, Free

Penang is a state in West Malaysia. Kerala is a state in the Southwest of India. But what is it that ties these places together?

SAME SAME BUT DIFFERENT is a collection of iconic elements found between two states in two different countries. Hailing from Kerala and currently residing in Penang, the artist visualises the cultural and physical elements found in both regions, carving graphite (pencil lead) by hand with an assortment of blades to form sculptures.

With their mesmerising monolithic colour and stone-like look, these sculptures embody the artist's desire to showcase how culturally similar the two states are, while also introducing unique cultural elements from both sides.

Renowned artist Chao Kai Chih is not merely a creator; he is a visionary navigator, boldly charting a course where East meets West, an artistic path marked by innovation and cultural synthesis. In his work, cultural boundaries dissolve into a seamless fusion of cultural aesthetics.

His works encompass flatness, sculptural elements, abstraction and more. Incorporating Eastern materials like paper and calligraphy, his works evoke subtlety and poetry in equal measure.

Solo Exhibition, Free

Young Arts Programme

George Town Festival

MALAYSIA

Venue
GTF @ Capri Penang

Exhibition
19-28 July, 12:00pm-8:00pm



The Dye(ing) Resistant Process: A Preview Into Dato Tay Mo Leong
by Dato Tay Mo Leong, Joshua Kok and Teo Xu Jen | Malaysia

Venue
Penang Institute

Screening and Sharing
25 July, 8:00pm-10:00pm



"Journeying Through Malaysian Art, Imagination and Legacy"
A Galeri Khazanah Mini Exhibition
by Khazanah Nasional Berhad | Malaysia

Venue
Think City @ Bangunan UAB

Exhibition
19 July-17 August, 10:00am-5:00pm

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Group Exhibition, Free

Emerging talent should not be stifled but nurtured continuously in order to grow, blossom and rise up to their full potential.

George Town Festival's YOUNG ARTS PROGRAMME showcases the works of student artists from various institutions, with the aim of exposing their respective creative visions to wider audiences.

Not only will the artists have the space to display their work, but they will engage in fruitful dialogue. From artwork installation to exhibition curation, their diverse artistic backgrounds will make way for an enriching exchange of ideas and experiences.

The aim is to create a community spirit among young artists that burns bold and bright, fostering a welcoming environment where artists grow alongside one another, to keep the essence of homegrown Malaysian art alive and kicking.

Artists participating in the programme:

- Chong Hui Shien
- Choong Guey Syuen
- Ho Su San
- Yap Shin Yin
- Mindy Tee Hwee Miin
- Teh Qi Hong
- Hoe Wei Yin
- Lim Jia En
- Law Shi Qi

Official Projection Partner:



Documentary Screening, Free

To Dato Tay Mo Leong, batik is more than a craft—it's a way of life, a means of expressing cultural identity and preserving heritage.

This is a pre-launch of a work-in-progress documentary on Dato Tay Mo Leong: THE DYE(ING) RESISTANT PROCESS, a project undertaken by filmmaker Joshua Kok and producer Teo Xu Jen over the past five years. The documentary's title encapsulates the essence of Dato Tay Mo Leong's artistic journey, speaking to the inherent challenges he has faced—balancing tradition with innovation while maintaining the integrity of his craft.

Focusing on his journey, philosophy and artistic prowess, the documentary follows him through his daily life and creative process, offering a candid look at this living legend of the Malaysian batik scene, now in his 80s and continuing to push boundaries.

Khazanah Nasional Berhad marks its 30th anniversary this year, and to celebrate the diversity of Malaysian arts and culture, Galeri Khazanah hosts an art exhibition at the U.A.B Building, a 1930s Art Deco architectural style heritage building in Penang. This exhibition features a selection of over 40 modern and contemporary artworks from Khazanah's collection, reflecting their ongoing commitment to support and promote Malaysian artists and their creative endeavours.

As part of Khazanah's effort in building capacity and vibrant communities, 10 Khazanah Nasional Artist Associate Residency Programme artists will also be featured. Immerse yourself in the specially curated selection and witness the evolution of Malaysian art over the past three decades and learn about the art, culture and heritage on a global stage.

Group Exhibition, Free



Alive Thru Every Click - George Town Lomo Wall

ATEC College

Venue

Sia Boey Urban Archaeological Park

Exhibition

19-28 July

With every click in lomography, a story unfolds—a snapshot of life in Penang's bustling streets, with blurred edges and saturated colours.

ALIVE THRU EVERY CLICK - GEORGE TOWN LOMO WALL is more than an exhibition; it is a testament to the ever-evolving identity of Penang—a city that thrives on the synergy between tradition and innovation, past and present. The distinctive Lomo images will showcase this duality in a fresh perspective.

Gaze upon the Lomo Wall, and get a glimpse of the city through a uniquely colourful and dreamlike lens.



Artistic Synergy: A Student and Lecturer Exhibition

Equator College

Venue

Equator College, Leith Street Campus

Exhibition

19-28 July, 11:00am-4:00pm (Monday-Friday)

This is more than a showcase of artwork, it is a celebration of creativity, collaboration and community. Students and lecturers display their artistic skills and visions, spanning various mediums, styles and themes.

Through exhibitions, installations, panel discussions and workshops, attendees will be able to engage with promising young talents and seasoned professionals, and witness firsthand the depth and breadth of human creativity.



USM Fine Arts Showcase: Voyage of Discovery @GTF

USM - School of the Arts

Venue

GTF @ Capri Penang

Exhibition

15-28 July, 12:00pm-8:00pm

Exhibition Walkthrough

21 July, 8:00pm

Student artists from the Fine Arts Department of the School of the Arts at Universiti Sains Malaysia present artworks exploring the depths of the ocean, drawing inspiration from Pulau Arman and the Centre for Marine and Coastal Studies (CEMACS).

Despite facing the unknown, these artists are spurred on by their curiosity, discovering new facets of themselves. They are not only attracted to the ocean's beauty, but they also uncover the crises people inflict on it, leading to reflection and contemplation.

Asian Producers' Platform (APP) X GTF

InSitu Arts Management Consultancy

MALAYSIA

Date and Time

19 July, 2:30pm

Duration

3.5 hours (Two 1.5-hour forum sessions, with 30 minutes in between)

Venue

Digital Penang Event Hall

Language

English



THE ASIAN PRODUCERS' PLATFORM (APP) began in 2014, and has since brought together over 100 performing arts producers through a series of intensive camps in South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Australia, Indonesia, Thailand and more. It is driven by a core mission to understand the arts and culture ecosystem and working landscape on a deeper level, nurture producers through peer-to-peer learning practices and increase exchange and collaboration among Asian practitioners and countries.

APP brings two forum sessions to George Town, revolving around discussions on "Festival":

APP X GTF: Open Forum 1

WHY FESTIVAL? (2:30pm-4:00pm)

An international panel of speakers share their ideas and experiences and delve deep into their vision of festivals as welcoming platforms that nurture creativity and foster innovation.

APP X GTF: Open Forum 2

HOW WE FEST? (4:30pm-6:00pm)

This all-Malaysian panel shares how they have relentlessly pulled resources together to maintain their festivals as stages for artistic expression, despite the challenging work environment.

CloudJoi Connect Ep.4: Seeing Beyond the Curtain 2

CloudJoi

MALAYSIA

Date and Time

22 July, 4:00pm & 8:00pm

Duration

2 hours per session

Venue

Digital Penang Event Hall

Language

English



**An Extraordinary Journey in
Everyday Spaces: A Close to
You Festival Sharing Session**
by Shih Pei-Yu (Flying Group
Theatre) | Taiwan

Date and Time

23 July, 8:00pm

Venue

Mano Plus Mini Cube

Language

Mandarin with English Interpretation



**Theatre and (the process of)
Democracy: Sharing by Artistic
Director of Teater Garasi**
by Yudi Ahmad Tajudin (Teater
Garasi) | Indonesia

Date and Time

25 July, 1:00pm

Venue

Think City @ Bangunan UAB

Language

English

60

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Artists are not always solitary, for the arts industry thrives on collaboration and connection.

CLOUDJOI CONNECT is an event designed to unite the arts community, to explore new opportunities, promote collaboration and encourage resource sharing. And it arrives on Penang's shores this July!

This edition builds on CloudJoi's forum SEEING BEYOND THE CURTAIN, which featured producers from theatre, music, dance and comedy reflecting on CloudJoi's Data Reports in 2023 and future trends. These conversations will be extended in Penang, through engaging forums, lightning sessions promoting collaboration and networking sessions to match resources.

CloudJoi

CloudJoi is dedicated to providing premier ticketing services and an advanced streaming platform tailor-made for the world of performing arts. Since it began in May 2020, CloudJoi has grown into a transformative force, unburdening productions from the complexities of ticketing, marketing and resource procurement. Having facilitated the sale of 380,000+ tickets, CloudJoi drives innovation and fosters a sense of unity and collaboration within the artistic community.

Many years ago, puppeteer Shih Pei-Yu visited Dordrecht in the south of Netherlands, where puppet master Damiët van Dalsum hosted the annual International Puppet Festival. She witnessed unprecedented forms of puppetry that used seemingly ordinary spaces as extraordinary performance venues –the corner of a library, living rooms, and even a backyard.

Inspired by these bold ideas, she founded the first Close to You Festival in Taipei in 2010. It shattered audiences' perceptions of what a puppet theatre space can be and bridged the distance between viewers and puppeteers. In this illuminating session, she will share her experiences of organising and curating such a festival.

Supported by:

駐馬來西亞台北經濟文化辦事處
Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Malaysia

With the dominance of the internet and electronic mass media, can theatre still be a meeting ground where societal issues are exposed, debated and contested?

Teater Garasi is a collective of multidisciplinary young artists in Indonesia, using theatre to investigate, unveil and perform societal concerns to understand the ever-changing realities. In 2013, the collective was named a Prince Claus Laureate for "their adventurous spirit and groundbreaking work in stimulating performing arts in Southeast Asia". Ahead of their GTF 2024 performance, Artistic Director Yudi Ahmad Tajudin will share how Teater Garasi engages in critical dialogue with society through their work.

Moderator: Muhammad Febriansyah
(Lecturer specialising in cultural politics and social movement in Indonesia and Malaysia)

The Penang Art Ecosystem: Its Past, Present & Future

**Roundtable Discussion:
The Penang Art Ecosystem:
Its Past, Present & Future**
by George Town Festival

Date and Time
20 July, 10:00am

Venue
Think City @ Bangunan UAB

Language
English



**Show me the money!
Expectations of a Producer**
by June Tan | Malaysia

Date and Time
26 July, 3:00pm

Venue
Think City @ Bangunan UAB

Language
English



**A New Aesthetic Approach to
Jingju**
by GuoGuang Opera Company
| Taiwan

**Talk & Demonstration I:
Role Types and Their Skills and Canons**
17 July, 7:30pm-9:00pm
Venue: COEX @ Kilang Besi
Language: Mandarin

**Talk & Demonstration II:
Exploring Female Consciousness**
19 July, 7:30pm-9:00pm
Venue: Gerakbudaya Bookshop @ Hikayat
Language: Mandarin with English interpretation



TAIPEI corners in PENANG
by Songshan Cultural and
Creative Park | Taiwan

Date and Time
27 July, 2:00pm-5:00pm

Venue
Mano Plus Select Store

This roundtable discussion is a golden opportunity for artists, stakeholders, and policymakers alike to engage in constructive dialogue on Penang's art ecosystem.

Amid globalisation and digitalisation, the art ecosystem has undergone a myriad of changes. This has motivated discourse in changing artist needs and unveiled new industry requirements, which have implications on policy and practice.

Conversations will address the past, present and foreseeable future challenges that will hinder the growth and sustainability of Penang's art scene, and chart a course towards meaningful change.

Producers are familiar and ever-present in credits lists, like silent architects crafting your favourite arts projects. But have you ever wondered what a producer actually does?

In this two-hour sharing session, attendees will hear from June Tan, a producer from Five Arts Centre, a collective of Malaysian artists, activists and producers dedicated to generating alternative art forms in the contemporary arts landscape. She will share her thoughts and experiences from being a producer of performing arts in Malaysia.

June will offer insights into the role and importance of producers in arts projects, as well as outline the important elements of a cohesive and effective arts proposal. Attendees will also learn budgeting tips and long-term practices for sustainability that will enrich their arts-producing careers moving forward.

Before world-renowned GuoGuang Opera Company takes the stage at the festival's opening weekend, its CEO Chang Yu-hua will share the company's journey of revitalising the age-old artform of *jingju*, how GuoGuang adheres to traditional conventions whilst staying relevant and fresh in modern times. The talks will be paired with demonstrations by GuoGuang performers, showcasing the training and prowess required for each role.

*Kindly visit GTF 2024's website for more information. Pre-registration required.

Supported by:



Cultures are not meant to exist in isolation, but thrive off interaction and exchange.

In TAIPEI corners in PENANG, witness an illuminating and insightful creative exchange between prominent designers and experts from Taiwan and Malaysia. Cultural borders dissolve as diverse perspectives blend.

In addition to an eye-opening talk, a mini Taiwanese-style creative market is ready for attendees to browse. Twelve distinctive design brands will arrive on the shores of Penang, right in the heart of George Town, whisking you away to Taipei. Immerse yourself in the richness of Taiwanese culture and embrace the freedom and openness of creative design.

Artist-in-Residence

Introduction

The ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE programme will not only foster connections between art and the city's residents, but it will stimulate the creation of unique artworks that draw inspiration from the vibrant history, breathtaking architecture and diverse communities that characterise George Town.



Penang Hybrid Frequency
by Juan Arminandi | Indonesia

Exhibition

19-28 July, 12:00pm-7:00pm
Soundmaker Studio

Performance

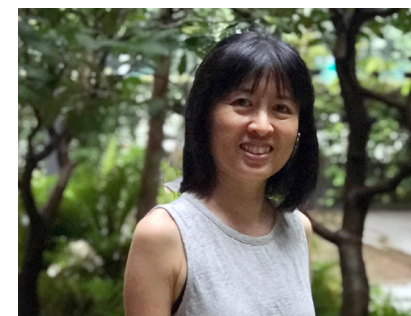
19 July, 8:30pm
Soundmaker Studio



From Somewhere Inside
by Charuwan Noprumpha
| Thailand

Exhibition

19-28 July, 12:00pm-8:00pm
GTF @ Capri Penang



Georgie Porgie Laksa & Ang Koo Kueh
by Chin Pik Wun | Malaysia

Exhibition

23-28 July, 12:00pm-7:00pm
Fiesta by Beaverly Chill

Artists are invited for a one-to two-month residency, with accommodation and working space provided by George Town Festival. Over the course of their residency, the artists form their own unique interpretations of the city, each viewing the city through a different lens and responding to the festival's overarching theme "Here & Now". Through dynamic interactions with the city and its people, they will transform their experiences into compelling works that will join the festival line-up.

The ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE programme is one of the highlights of GTF 2024. Three artists, selected through an open call, embark on a journey of creative expression. Immersing themselves in the heart of George Town, they will have a one-of-a-kind residency experience.

PENANG HYBRID FREQUENCY is born from the interaction between human, environmental, social and cultural surroundings in an experimental process. The artist becomes a human recorder, his five senses recording the sights, sounds, smells and feelings of George Town. His observations will be codified into local data concepts, and turned into musical instruments through collaborations with local communities. Culminating in a musical performance, this project responds to and is a reminder of the pressing issues affecting the present.

Juan Arminandi is a musician, composer and instrument builder who finds and creates authentic sounds from one-of-a-kind self-made instruments, created from recycled materials in response to environmental issues. He has had residencies in France, United States and Berlin, and has performed across Indonesia and at the Holland Festival in Amsterdam.

Music

Participatory Art

FROM SOMEWHERE INSIDE will search for traces of living that are shown through people, their belongings, their environment and their everyday lives. By entering dwellings and areas where local communities live, the artist observes, chats and exchanges thoughts and feelings with the people that inhabit George Town's historical spaces. In this participatory project, she collects items from locals, items brimming with memories and untold stories. Turning these conversations and objects into content for the creative process, the resulting artwork captures moments in the lives of individuals, allowing the viewer to see their space through the eyes of an outsider.

Charuwan Noprumpha is a visual artist whose work begins with impressions of nature and the observation of everyday life, translating them in abstract ways through form, line and colour. She has had solo and group exhibitions in Thailand, France, Germany and Belgium.

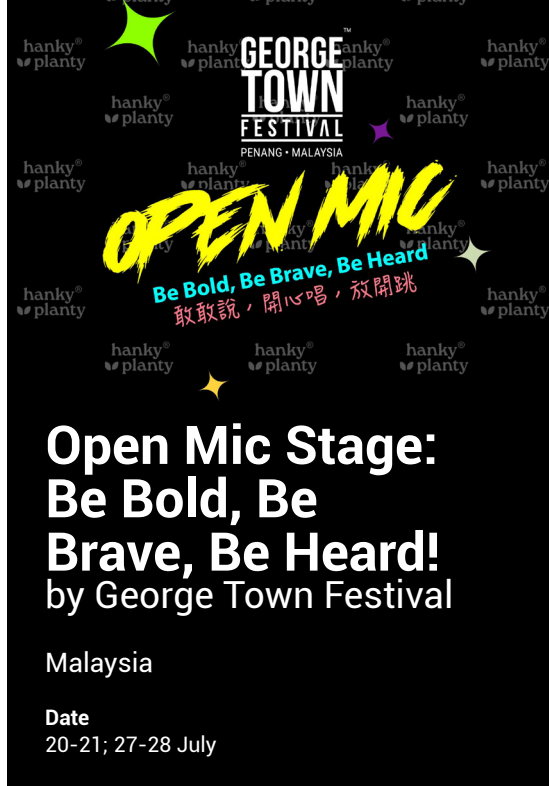
GEORGIE PORGIE LAKSA & ANG KOO KUEH encourages us to think about food waste. It is a contemplative gastronomic invitation, to appreciate the beauty of food and honour their journey from soil to table and back to compost. Gathering fruit and vegetable cuttings from the heart of George Town, the project highlights how our food waste speaks a thousand words about our place in the world, about where we are in time. At the end of the project, compost from the collected food scraps will be gifted to restaurants and households for their contributions. The compost will nourish a new generation of crops, fostering a cycle of growth that echoes the spirit of our circular economy.

Chin Pik Wun is a graphic designer by trade with over 20 years in professional and volunteer roles. Pik Wun uses her design skills to support environmental and societal causes. Committed to sustainability, her work focuses on conservation and community.

Why Community Engagement?

Art is not created in isolation, but emerges from shared experiences, stories and dreams.

The following programmes seek to collaborate and engage with local communities from different angles and on a deeper level.



hanky® planty

GEORGE TOWN FESTIVAL
PENANG • MALAYSIA

OPEN MIC
Be Bold, Be Brave, Be Heard
敢說, 開心唱, 放開跳

**Open Mic Stage:
Be Bold, Be
Brave, Be Heard!**
by George Town Festival

Malaysia

Date
20-21; 27-28 July



Giant Puppet Community Project
Boxcutter Collective

Local Artists:
Fairuz Sulaiman
Forrest Wong
Low Khay Hooi
Wong Siew Juiann
William Koong

Associate Programmer:
Chung Lun Liu
(Mimi Liu)

UNITED STATES & MALAYSIA

Supported by:
PENANG 2030
DENANG JALAN TERUHI
NPKK KAMPUNG BUKIT TAMBUN

The arts are not only for the elite or the artistically-trained, they belong to everyone, inviting all to contribute to the rich tapestry of cultural expression that envelops our world.

From an open mic for the public to a giant puppet project with local communities, we hope to cultivate a sense of ownership and belonging, empowering individuals to shape their creative voice and celebrate their unique identities.

The stage is yours for the taking, so step into the spotlight and find your voice.

Introducing GTF 2024's OPEN MIC STAGE! Whether you are a seasoned performer and no stranger to the stage, or you've never performed for an audience before, we welcome solo acts and small group performances (up to three people) to showcase their talents for 3 to 8 minutes.

Beatbox, tell a story, strum the guitar, perform a comedy routine, street dance—the possibilities are endless!

*Kindly visit GTF 2024's website and social media for more details.

Enter the GIANT PUPPET COMMUNITY PROJECT, a mentor-mentee initiative where United States puppet theatre troupe Boxcutter Collective collaborates with Malaysian artists. The artists venture into the heart of two local communities outside of George Town: Taman Sri Janggus in Machang Bubuk and Ban Liau in Bukit Tambun.

Through the experience, participants acquire tools and learn methodologies on creating compelling community arts projects. This multi-layered collaboration and creative exchange will culminate in the creation of giant puppets, which will be showcased within the communities and in a magnificent puppet parade through George Town.

As the colossal figures traverse the winding city streets, they breathe life into the stories of these communities, beckoning you to witness their living histories.

Boxcutter Collective

Boxcutter Collective is a New York City-based puppet troupe founded in 2016. The founding members had worked together at Bread and Puppet Theater, one of the oldest nonprofit theatre companies in the United States, founded in 1963. Boxcutter Collective strives to harness the power of puppet shows for the forces of good, engaging with students, artists and other participants of all ages to create work that has been performed in theatres, schools, libraries, parks and on the streets.

Over the years, they have been awarded grants to support their boundary-pushing work, including the Jim Henson Foundation Grant, New York State Council for the Arts Grant, AgitArte's Sustaining Grant for Political Artists and more.

Meet The Communities

Taman Sri Janggus, Machang Bubuk, Bukit Mertajam

Over the past 20 to 25 years, this area has transformed from an oil palm plantation into a vibrant residential area, home to approximately 700 households.

An area rich with history, nature and culture, one of its most renowned landmarks is the Minor Basilica of St. Anne, whose origin can be traced back to as early as 1833. The annual Feast of St. Anne draws visitors from near and far, adding to the community's vibrant cultural tapestry. Nearby areas like Cherok To'kun and Bukit Seraya house a vacant dam and reservoir from the British administration era—popular spots for hikers to breathe the fresh air and gaze at scenic views.



This community outreach programme is supported by and in collaboration with YB Steven Sim Chee Keong (Member of Parliament for Bukit Mertajam), YB Lee Khai Loon (Assemblyman for Machang Bubuk) and the Village Community Management Council (MPKK) of Taman Sri Janggus.

Ban Liau, Bukit Tambun, Batu Kawan

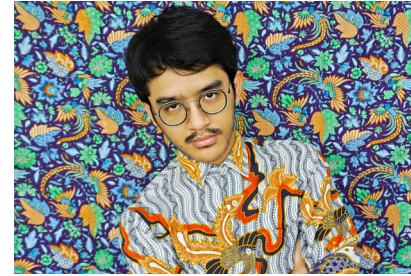
Ban Liau, derived from the Hokkien word meaning "net house", is a quaint fishing village in Seberang Perai, Penang. Here, fishermen dry their nets in front of their houses every day after returning from sea.



Formerly a coastal swamp, Ban Liau holds a history that spans 100 years. Transporting rocks, red clays and weeds from the nearby hill, the villagers themselves layered the swamp to create solid land for house building. This tranquil village is within Bukit Tambun, a suburb famous for its seafood and delectable Tambun biscuits. For generations, the humble locals have celebrated the 15th day of the Chinese lunar calendar with a lantern parade and cultural performances.

This community outreach programme is supported by YAB Chow Kon Yeow (Member of Parliament for Batu Kawan) and YB Goh Choon Aik (Assemblyman for Bukit Tambun), in collaboration with the Village Community Management Council (MPKK) of Kampung Bagan Bukit Tambun.

Local Artists Participating in This Project:



Fairuz Sulaiman

Fairuz, an interdisciplinary artist from Selangor, works with both digital and analogue visual formats. His practice includes creating visuals for large displays and building facades to complement performance art, theatre productions and live music events. His ongoing project Sekolah Main Wayang features a series of wayang performance workshops for underprivileged and marginalised youths, centring their stories.



William Koong

William is a visionary multidisciplinary sculptor born in Ipoh and based in Klang. Renowned for his transformative artistry, his works showcase his specialisation in repurposing metal waste from old car parts and construction materials, transcending conventional boundaries. Creating a captivating blend of the industrial and the imaginative, his pieces

embody a fusion of steampunk, fantasy and science fiction.



Forrest Wong

Born in Seremban, Forrest has been actively creating work that intertwines his personal history with imagination. His works invite viewers to explore the irrational and nonsensical before reaching a full understanding. A finalist for Malaysia's Bakat Muda Sezaman Award in 2019, Forrest participated in Japan's Setouchi Triennale, and has exhibited in Taiwan, United States, Indonesia and Malaysia.



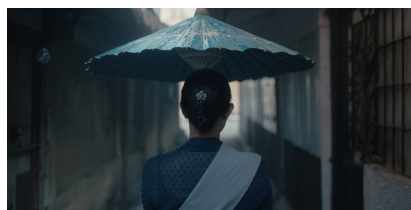
Low Khay Hooi & Wong Siew Juani (Art Generation Studio Baiduren)

This dynamic duo are artists, printmakers, illustrators and art teachers. Participating in community art projects is a significant part of their artistic expeditions. With their active involvement in arts education, they have participated in many national arts festivals, performed internationally, received recognition through various arts awards and published multiple wildlife conservation picture books.

Women's Film Screening: "A Woman's Body"

Venue
Digital Penang Event Hall

FREE ADMISSION
*Pre-registration required.



Before, Now & Then

Directed by Kamila Andini | Indonesia | 2021 | Feature Film | 103 minutes

Language
Sundanese with English subtitles

Age Suitability
Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a guardian.

Content Warning
The film may contain content that could cause discomfort for some viewers.

Date and Time
26 July, 8:00pm

Post-Screening Talk with Kamila Andini



The Boys Club

Directed by Chen Yih Wen | Malaysia | 2021 | Short Documentary | 23 minutes

Language
English with English subtitles

Age Suitability
Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a guardian.

Content Warning
The film may contain content that could cause discomfort for some viewers.

Date and Time
27 July, 11:00am

Post-Screening Talk with Chen Yih Wen



Mian Bao Nv Hai

Directed by Charlotte Lim | Malaysia | 2016 | Short Film | 30 minutes

Language
Mandarin with English and Mandarin subtitles

Age Suitability
Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a guardian.

Content Warning
The film may contain content that could cause discomfort for some viewers.

Date and Time
27 July, 11:30am

Post-Screening Talk with Charlotte Lim and Licensed Counsellor Wong Su Zane

With the theme of "A WOMAN'S BODY", this curated selection of five international films and four Malaysian films by female directors seeks to focus on the Asian female perspective, shatter stereotypes and biases, and reveal the lived truth of inequality affecting women today. The female body is not only a physical existence, but the carrier of the social, cultural and political issues that mark it.

Through these screenings, panel discussions and post-screening Q&A sessions, we seek to expand the horizons of local audiences and provide a space to amplify historically ignored voices. This space fosters open dialogue and in-depth exchange, delving deep into issues like bodily autonomy, gender equality, and workplace challenges. We hope you will bear witness to the power of cinematic art as a force of cultural resistance and resilience, paving the way for an inclusive society that celebrates differences and stands against injustice.

The late 1960s. Having lost her family to the war in West Java, Nana remarries and begins a new life. But the past lives on in her dreams. Nana suffers in silence until she meets one of her husband's mistresses. The bond the two women share becomes a crucial lifeline, as they hope for independence.

Kamila Andini

Kamila Andini is an award-winning Indonesian film director and scriptwriter working in films, theatre, visual art, TV and more. Her film Yuni won the grand prix at Toronto International Film Festival 2021. Last year she released Indonesia's first Netflix series Cigarette Girl, following her passion to create more modern and local female-driven stories for a global audience.

This documentary reveals a Malaysian director's deeply personal and harrowing filmmaking journey, marked by traumatic hardships and the silence unjustly imposed on her. Through raw candour, this candid documentary exposes a troubling reality: the suppression of women's voices, the apathy towards women's issues, and an oppressive environment where women are neither seen nor heard.

Chen Yih Wen

Chen Yih Wen is a Malaysian documentary filmmaker and journalist, having worked on international documentaries for Netflix, BBC, History Channel, Crime & Investigation Network, Business Insider and CNA. Currently, she is working on her second feature documentary about marginalised communities in Malaysia, supported by Hot Docs CrossCurrents Fund.

In this small, yet sensitive story, an ordinary nine-year-old Chinese school girl is cautiously introduced to a world she had not imagined before. When she has not seen her mother for a week, her library teacher comforts her and later asks her to take off her dress. The girl is puzzled.

Charlotte Lim

Charlotte Lim is a Malaysian filmmaker whose work draws heavily on the poetic, using her life experiences to shape her filmmaking. Her feature debut My Daughter received the Jury Award at the Marrakech International Film Festival 2009, and was praised as 'pure cinema'.



In Her Words: The Journey of Indian Women

Directed by Annie Zaidi | India | 2015 | Short Documentary | 44 minutes

Language
English and Hindi with English subtitles

Age Suitability
Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a guardian.

Content Warning
The film may contain content that could cause discomfort for some viewers.

Date and Time
27 July, 2:30pm

72 Post-Screening Talk with Annie Zaidi (Virtual)



Children of the Mist

Directed by Hà Lê Diễm | Vietnam | 2021 | Feature Documentary | 92 minutes

Language
Hmong and Vietnamese with English subtitles

Age Suitability
All ages

Date and Time
27 July, 8:00pm

Post-Screening Talk with Hà Lê Diễm

In the misty mountains of North Vietnam, a teenage Hmong girl walks the thin line between childhood and becoming an adult. Over a period of three years, girls in her minority are forced to lose their innocence, discover the traps of seduction and fight for their independence.

Hà Lê Diễm

Born into the Tay ethnic group in Northeast Vietnam, Hà Lê Diễm left her hometown at age 18 to study Journalism. CHILDREN OF THE MIST is her first feature documentary film project, winning awards at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam, Hong Kong International Film Festival, Cork International Film Festival, among others.



Teacher, The Tradition Bearer

Directed by Indrani Kopal | Malaysia | 2017 | Feature Documentary | 59 minutes

Language
English and Tamil with English subtitles

Age Suitability
All ages

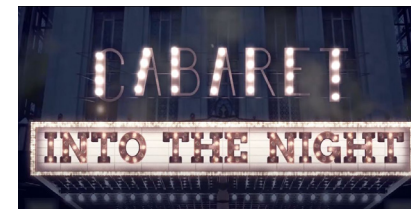
Date and Time
28 July, 11:00am

Post-Screening Talk with Teacher Indira Manikam

This documentary presents an intimate portrait of Malaysia's legendary Bharatanatyam dance teacher Indira Manikam, who has kept the sacred tradition alive for the past 50 years. After her marriage, she was barred from performing by her mother-in-law. Undeterred, she taught, choreographed and mentored many young Indian women, empowering them to shatter stereotypes.

Indrani Kopal

An award-winning Malaysian documentary filmmaker, Indrani Kopal is a former video journalist at Malaysiakini.tv with over six years of experience in online media production. Her documentary The Game Changer has been accepted into 17 film festivals, winning Best Documentary at the prestigious Cannes' American Pavilion Emerging Filmmaker Showcase in Cannes, France.



Into the Night

Directed by Jessica Lee Chu En | Singapore | 2022 | Short Documentary | 20 minutes

Language
English with English subtitles

Age Suitability
Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a guardian.

Content Warning
The film may contain content that could cause discomfort for some viewers.

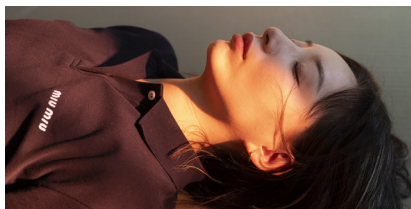
Date and Time
28 July, 2:00pm

Post-Screening Talk with Jessica Lee Chu En (Virtual)

In amusement parks such as New World and Great World, cabaret dancers like Rose Chan shone brightly. Despite the societal stigma surrounding their profession, these remarkable women exuded compassion towards the less fortunate. Championing charitable causes, they helped set up the Happy Charity School which provided free education to poor children in Singapore.

Jessica Lee Chu En

Jessica is an award-winning director and producer, and is the Head of Development at Beach House Pictures, one of Asia's largest independent production companies. She was the only Singaporean awarded the FreedomFilmFest Justin Louis award for directing the documentary The Shades of Love. She is an adjunct lecturer in documentary filmmaking at the National University of Singapore.



I Am The Beauty Of Your Beauty, I Am The Fear Of Your Fear

Directed by Tan Chui Mui | Malaysia | 2024 |
Short Film | 21 minutes

Language
Mandarin with English and Mandarin subtitles

Age Suitability
Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied
by a guardian.

Content Warning
The film may contain content that could cause
discomfort for some viewers.

Date and Time
28 July, 2:20pm



Hidden Letters

Directed by Violent Du Feng, Zhao Qing | China,
United States, Norway, Germany | 2022 | Feature
Documentary | 87 minutes

Language
Mandarin with English subtitles

Age Suitability
All ages

Date and Time
28 July, 8:00pm

Post-Screening Talk with Violet Du Feng (Virtual)

Women's Film 女性影展 Screening

A Woman's Body 女性・身躯

74

75

Women's Film Screening, Free

After tragedy strikes someone close to her, Gita leaves her hometown in China for Malaysia to search of herself. Haunted by the past, she finds solace in the embrace of a sisterhood that teach her how to fight. Gita's screaming rage and unbearable pain are transformed into physical and spiritual power through the bonds of friendship and the ferocity of combat.

Tan Chui Mui

Tan Chui Mui is a Malaysian director and film producer, who debuted in 2006 with her feature *Love Conquers All*, winning numerous prizes at film festivals abroad. Her 2021 feature, *Barbarian Invasion*, a meditation on motherhood and identity, was nominated at the 24th Shanghai International Film Festival Golden Ear Awards.

To cope with their oppressive marriages, women in China developed and shared a secret language among themselves called *Nūshu*, bringing generations together in a clandestine support system of sisterhood, hope and survival. Two millennial women, connected by their fascination with the language and their desire to safeguard its legacy, struggle to find balance as they forge their own paths in a patriarchal culture that often undermines female autonomy.

Violet Du Feng - Director, Producer
Violet Du Feng is a celebrated documentarian and was a co-producer on the critically acclaimed 2007 film *Nanking*, winning a Sundance Special Jury Award, a Peabody Award and an Emmy Award.

Zhao Qing - Co-Director
Zhao Qing is the director of the award-winning *Please Remember Me*, which is supported by the Sundance Documentary Fund, IDFA Bertha Fund and the Britdoc Connect Fund.

26 FRI	2000-2145	Before, Now & Then by Kamila Andini
	2145-2245	In-Person Sharing & Q&A session with Kamila Andini (1 hour)
27 SAT	1100-1130	The Boys Club by Chen Yih Wen
	1130-1200	Mian Bao Nv Hai by Charlotte Lim
	1200-1330	In-Person Sharing & Q&A session with Chen Yih Wen, Charlotte Lim & Licensed Counsellor Wong Su Zane (1.5 hours)
	1430-1515	In Her Words: The Journey of Indian Women by Annie Zaidi
	1515-1535	Virtual Q&A session with Annie Zaidi (20 minutes)
	1600-1800	Breaking the Silence: Gender-Based Violence and Inequality in Malaysia Panel Discussion with Karen Lai (Programme Director of WCC) & Wong Su Zane (Case Manager of ICMC)
	2000-2130	Children of the Mist by Hà Lê Diễm
	2130-2230	In-Person Sharing & Q&A session with Hà Lê Diễm (1 hour)

28 SUN	1100-1200	Teacher, The Tradition Bearer by Indrani Kopal
	1200-1230	In-Person Sharing & Q&A session with Teacher Indira Manikam (30 minutes)
	1400-1420	Into The Night by Jessica Lee Chu En
	1420-1440	I Am The Beauty Of Your Beauty, I Am The Fear Of Your Fear by Tan Chui Mui
	1440-1500	Virtual Q&A session with Jessica Lee Chu En (20 minutes)
	2000-2130	Hidden Letters by Violet Du Feng, Zhao Qing
	2130-2200	Virtual Q&A session with Violet Du Feng (30 minutes)

Women's Film Screening, Free

The Kingdom of Childhood

Waldorf Circle Penang

MALAYSIA

Date and Time

20-21 July,
8:30am-12:00pm & 3:30pm-7:00pm
27-28 July,
8:30am-12:00pm & 3:30pm-7:00pm

Duration

3.5 hours

Venue

Armenian Park



Waldorf Circle Penang

Waldorf Circle Penang is a community learning centre offering Steiner Waldorf-inspired learning. The educational style is holistic and experimental to develop students' intellectual, artistic and practical skills, with a focus on imagination and creativity. Established since 2011, Waldorf has cultivated a positive learning environment for children. What began with a mother, a tutor and two children is now a thriving and loving learning community based in Seberang Perai, with around 100 families and 150 children.

*Kindly visit GTF 2024's website for more information.

The Story Traveller

Kim Sir Storytelling

MALAYSIA

Date and Time

20-21; 27-28 July, 2:00pm-7:00pm

Duration

5 sessions (20 minutes each) between
2:00pm-7:00 pm

Venue

Behind Yap Temple (Lebuh Cannon-
Armenian Park back alley)

Language

English, Mandarin, Malay, Tamil, Hokkien

Age Suitability 4+



THE STORY TRAVELLER invites children to open their suitcases and embark on an adventure, uncovering timeless folktales along the way.

This storytelling experience will use five languages (Malay, Mandarin, English, Tamil, Hokkien) and share four stories: "The Princess of Mount Ledang", "The Legend of the Nian Beast", "The Elephant-Headed God Ganesha" and "The Princess of Tanjung Bungah". Each storytelling session will be in a different language, offering listeners a chance to experience stories from different cultures in their chosen language.

With a cosy back lane as the backdrop, story travellers will be whisked away to faraway lands. From magical princesses and great gods to local legends and a mythical Lunar New Year beast, each story carries travellers across cultures and through the centuries.

Kim Sir Storytelling

A professional international storyteller since 2012, Kim Sir is also an educator and children's book author. He has been actively involved in the local theatre scene, having worn many hats as an actor, scriptwriter and director. With Kim Sir Storytelling, he conducts more than 250 storytelling sessions and workshops each year. Spreading the joy of storytelling, he has not only performed in Malaysia, but in countries such as South Korea, China and United Arab Emirates as well, nourishing the souls of children.

Southeast Asian Choreolab

MyDance Alliance

MALAYSIA



Date and Time
27 July, 11:00am & 3:00pm

Duration
90 minutes

Venue
COEX @ Kilang Besi

Language
Non-Verbal

Age Suitability
All Ages

Supported by:



駐馬來西亞台北經濟文化辦事處
Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Malaysia

Introductory Workshop of Innercise—An Approach of Macrobio-Somatic

by MyDance Alliance | Malaysia

Date and Time
27 July, 1:00pm

Duration
2 hours

Venue
Penang Harmony Centre

Language
English

Age Suitability
18+ (Senior-Friendly)

78

Dance, Outdoor, Free

At the heart of Southeast Asia's rhythmic pulse, cultures collide and moving bodies intertwine.

MyDance Alliance's SOUTHEAST ASIAN CHOREOLAB beckons 15 contemporary dance choreographers from Southeast Asia, selected from an open call held in March-April 2024, to take part in a laboratory at Hin Bus Depot to enrich their choreographic craft.

Besides learning from and connecting with each other, they will learn from renowned Taiwanese choreographer Ho Hsiao-Mei, who serves as the choreolab's facilitator. With excursions to vibrant arts venues and performances in George Town, participants dive deep into the local artistic community, developing an understanding of the regional arts scene and forging links for future collaborations.

Two weeks of intense choreographic exploration culminate in two open studio showings, where audiences will be treated to an electrifying dance showcase by

participants. Audiences will also enjoy a candid peek behind the curtain, as participants share their creative process and artistic development.

SOUTHEAST ASIAN CHOREOLAB is supported by Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Malaysia, Taiwan's Ministry of Culture, The Actors Studio Foundation and Rimbun Dahan.

Participating choreographers:
Sreynoch Khun, Cambodia
Ny Lai, Cambodia
Silibangon Vongsa, Laos
Trần Minh Hải, Vietnam
Byutii Balaga, Philippines
Gerardo Hechanova, Philippines
Wayla Vawynn, Thailand
Puri Senja, Indonesia
Pebri Irawan, Indonesia
Syarifuddin Sahari, Singapore
Sonia Kwek, Singapore
Ethel Deidre Daniel, Malaysia
Lenzo Lim, Malaysia (Penang)
Zulkarnain Zuber, Malaysia
Chan Kar Kah, Malaysia

MyDance Alliance is an organisation that aims to support and promote dance in Malaysia. Since 2001, they have brought the local dance community together through festivals, capacity-building projects, performance platforms, workshops, conferences and many more. The organisation represents the Malaysian dance community in global networks.

Ho Hsiao-Mei is the artistic director and founder of MeimageDance, the recipient of the 19th National Award for Arts, professor and dean of the Dance School of the Taipei National University of the Arts and the curriculum consultant of Cloud Gate Dance Theatre's studio. A world-renowned dancer and choreographer who has performed in Taiwan, Beijing, United States, South Korea, Hong Kong and more, she is known for creating strong and unique visual effects on stage to depict humanity's inner thoughts in our modern society.

This workshop explores the mind-body connection and how your lifestyle choices affect your health.

"Macrobio-somatic" emerges from combining "macrobiotic" and "somatic", referring to a holistic approach that integrates aspects such as movement, diet and environment harmony, to achieve overall well-being and vitality.

This body-focused workshop is not just for professional dancers who wish to explore new creative perspectives and nurture their choreography development. The session also welcomes individuals of all ages who enjoy movement, whether through dance, yoga or self-care practices.

This workshop is supported by The Actors Studio Foundation.

*Kindly visit GTF 2024's website for more information.

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Dance, Workshop

Dancing in Place

MyDance Alliance

MALAYSIA

Date and Time

27-28 July, 5:00pm

Duration

120 minutes

Gathering Point

Lily of the Alley (beside Shop Howard)

Language

Non-Verbal

Age Suitability

All Ages



80

81

Dance, Site-Specific, Free

DANCING IN PLACE is a site-specific dance performance that uses living spaces to offer audiences a new experience of watching dance and redefine what constitutes a stage.

Beginning near Armenian Park, audiences are guided to travel from one location to another to experience short dance works. Non-traditional performance venues hold untapped infinite potential, and six choreographers will transform audiences' expectations of the places they visit, showcasing how dance can happen anywhere. As the dancers engage with Penang's architecture and respond to the environment with their every move, audiences will bear witness to the seamless interplay between physical body and place.

DANCING IN PLACE is supported by The Actors Studio Foundation.

Zibu 6bekas

Every human being faces different obstacles in life.

Choreographer: Mohd. Nur Failul bin Adam (Centre for Foundation Studies in Creative Arts, ASWARA)

Dancer: Lim Yee Qian

Hari yang Terang (Scorching Sky)

A choreography that draws inspiration from the looming spectre of global warming that threatens the world today.

Choreographer: Murni binti Omar (Faculty of Dance, ASWARA)

Dancers: Haiqal Zulfitri Bin Hadanan, Salahuddin Bin Arman, Syeik Putra Bin Halim

Manusia, Ruang dan Waktu (Humanity, Space and Time)

la akan terus bergerak bersama dalam membentuk proses peristiwa yang akan

menjadi sebuah makna kehidupan.

(Together, we will shape the moments that give life its meaning.)

Choreographer: Ealbie Breandent Abinus (Faculty of Music & Performing Arts, UPSI)

Dancers: Ealbie Breandent Abinus, Mohamad Adlan bin Sairin

H+A+V+E+N

Open your hearing, open your heart. There must be some details that have escaped your attention. Maybe it is this piece that forms the person or place you have missed for a long time. Waiting can be bitter or joyful, but as long as the smell of that place remains, I think we will still be willing to do so.

Choreographer: Chia Kai Xian (Ximply Dance Company)

Dancers: Chia Kai Xian, Chew Jian Yang, Chainny Teoh Jia Er, Ooi Ying Shian, Angie Loh

Sempit

What would you do, if everything is confined?

Choreographer: Nur Hilyati Ramli (KakiTari, School of the Arts, USM)

Dancers: Hilyati Ramli, Putri Nelissa

The Back Alley

I remember how you used to take me for walks from the back alley when I was a kid. When I snuck out of the house as a teenager, you would always wait for me there. How I wish there would always be a back alley where a mother would be waiting for her son.

Choreographer: Leng Poh Gee (Behrang Dance Station)

Dancers: Leng Poh Gee, Leng Zi Qian

Photo Credit: Azmil Photography

Dance, Site-Specific, Free

Isle to Isle

Programmes:

Double Bill of Jingju Magic
Close to You Festival@GTF
Hiss and Arf: Extended Family Edition
Southeast Asian Choreolab



82

Isle to Isle

ISLE TO ISLE is an initiative that celebrates the friendship between the islands of Penang and Taiwan. First launching in 2018, it has been part of George Town Festival's official programme ever since. Through collaborative efforts with the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Malaysia (TECO), ISLE TO ISLE brings outstanding artists and their works to GTF, with the aim of promoting dialogue and exchange with the people of Penang and beyond.

Ushering in the sixth edition of ISLE TO ISLE, audiences will be treated to a feast of staged drama in DOUBLE BILL OF JINGJU MAGIC by the highly acclaimed GuoGuang Opera Company. A mini version of CLOSE TO YOU FESTIVAL by Flying Group Theatre will string together multiple short and up-close puppetry shows. Through these works, audiences will be able to experience Taiwan's theatre that is both old and new, traditional and

contemporary, grand and sophisticated.

Additionally, SOUTHEAST ASIAN CHOREOLAB, a choreographic laboratory co-organised by MyDance Alliance and TECO, will see 15 emerging choreographers from eight Southeast Asian countries coming to Penang to live, work and explore together. They will be under the guidance of Taiwanese dance artist Ho Hsiao-Mei.

63-65: Notes From a Separation Performance Workshop

Bahri & Co

MALAYSIA & SINGAPORE



83

Workshops

63-65: NOTES FROM A SEPARATION is a performance workshop exploring parliamentary, archival and speculative documents on the separation between Singapore and Malaysia.

Engage in participatory activities and dialogue involving parliamentary speeches from Hansard and national archives, props and other relevant materials from 1963 to 1965.

This is more than a workshop, it is a speculative and interrogative experience. In the absence of written records, participants are invited to speculate on what might have happened through generative technology. Drawing from inflection points in the histories of both countries, the experience will encourage contemplation of our shared past, present and future.

It has been nearly 60 years since the separation, yet this period continues to arrest imaginations. Talks on declassifying the Albatross files, which document discussions leading up to the separation, remind us how closely intertwined Singapore and Malaysia still are today.

Date and Time
19-20 July, 10:00am

Duration
3 hours

Venue
Penang Harmony Centre

Language
English and Malay



Real-Time Unconventional Instrument Workshop

by Mirian Kolev | Bulgaria

Date and Time

21 July, 10:00am

Duration

1.5 hours

Venue

The Courtyard @ Beach Street
(Unit 23 K&L)

Language

English

*Kindly visit GTF 2024's website for more information.

This workshop focuses on improvising and creating real-time compositions through unconventional instruments. Under the guidance of musician and sound artist Mirian Kolev, participants of this experimental workshop will learn how we can create music in more expressive ways, and how any sound can become music.

Photo Credit: Mood Textures



The Greatness of the Miniature: A Lambe Lambe Theatre Workshop

by Omayra Martínez Garzón | Colombia

Date and Time

22-25 July, 7:00pm (4-day workshop)

Duration

3 hours

Venue

Penang Harmony Centre

Language

English

*Kindly visit GTF 2024's website for more information.

Lambe Lambe Theatre are shows represented inside a closed box, with a peephole to spy through and see the work unfolding from within, offering a one-of-a-kind intimate experience. In this four-day workshop, participants will create their very own Lambe Lambe Theatre show prototype, with guidance from performer and puppeteer Omayra Martínez Garzón.

Photo Credit: Titiriguada



Hand in Glove: A Contemporary Puppetry Workshop

by Chen Chia-Hao | Taiwan

Date and Time

26 July, 7:00pm

Duration

3 hours

Venue

Penang Harmony Centre

Language

Mandarin with English interpretation

*Kindly visit GTF 2024's website for more information.

Under the tutelage of experienced puppeteer Chen Chia-Hao, participants will explore various delicate hand movements, using Taiwanese traditional glove puppetry as a foundation. Through imaginative exercises, transform your hands and discover your very own "hand creatures".



Exploring Self-Care through the Alexander Technique—Caring for Your Body, Empowering Your Mind

by Goh Shian Li X Lee Aik Hooi | Malaysia

Date and Time

28 July, 9:00am & 2:00pm

Duration

3.5 hours

Venue

Penang Harmony Centre

Language

English

*Kindly visit GTF 2024's website for more information.

This workshop is an immersive exploration of posture and movement habits, enhancing bodily awareness and deepening mind-body connections through the transformative lens of the Alexander Technique.

JOURNAL Creative Market Journal Georgetown

MALAYSIA

Date and Time
20-21; 27-28 July, 10:00am-8:00pm

Venue
Sia Boey Urban Archaeological Park



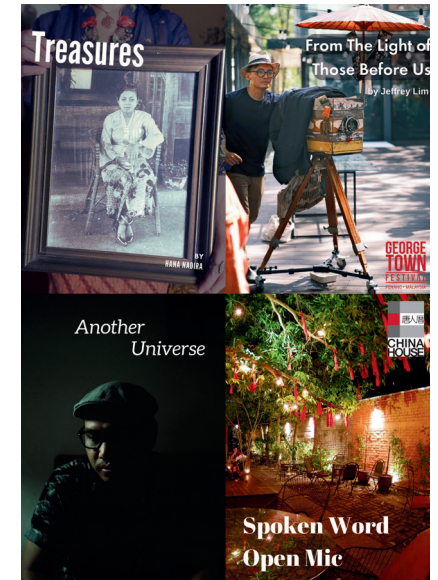
Experimental @the Courtyard ChinaHouse

MALAYSIA

Date and Time
26-27 July, 5:00pm-8:30pm

Venue
ChinaHouse

Language
English



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Market

A park is more than an open space, it is a canvas for the arts to thrive.

Over two weekends, a creative market of 80 booths will breathe life into Sia Boey Urban Archaeological Park. Sia Boey's past as a bustling trading area and the city's busiest market dating back to the 19th century underscores its identity as a place where people from all walks of life interact. The booths will transform the greenery into a buzzing creative space, transporting everyone back in time, to when sounds of buying and selling once permeated the air.

The stalls encompass creative products, apparel, food, novelties and more. Market goers can enjoy workshops on batik, acrylic painting, Peranakan beading and aromatherapy. Immersive site-specific performances make use of the park's spatial features, while live music fills the air with heart-thumping energy.

JOURNAL Creative Market is organised in collaboration with Journal Georgetown, inviting you to reconnect with nature, tap into your creative side, and explore the vibrant artistic soul of the city.

Journal Georgetown

Journal Georgetown is housed in a historic heritage building, a collection of multiple spaces including a café, hotel, co-working space, and multidisciplinary exhibition space. Strategically located in the heart of George Town, tucked in the street of Lebu Muntri, Journal aims to be a space where both locals and travellers can call home.

Embark on an illuminating evening, where play meets poetry, where music meets portraiture. This multidisciplinary showcase is a testament to the boundless potential of the arts for experimentation and expression.

Treasures

Through this play reading, Hana Nadira takes you on an enchanting journey as a mother and daughter embark on whimsical adventures in search of antique objects. Infused with humour and tenderness, their bond is unveiled along the way, offering a poignant reflection on self-realisation amidst the discovery of ADHD challenges.

Another Universe

Led by multi-hyphenate uzairsawal, this electronic music project interweaves sound designs, field recordings and

compositions.

From the light of those before us

Experience Jeffrey Lim's captivating exploration of traditional silverprint portraiture, where science and humanity intersect with the art of imagery.

Beginning with an instant portrait-making demonstration, this session unveils the magic of heirloom photographs, as Lim delves into semiotics and self-reflection within visual art.

Spoken Word Open Mic

An intimate world of words and rhythm awaits as spoken word artists take the stage. From heartfelt reflections to powerful narratives, join us for a night that celebrates the beauty and depth of poetic expression.

Poetry, Live Music, Sharing Session, Play Reading

87

Asian Board Games Festival

LUMA

MALAYSIA

Date and Time

20-21 July, 10:00am-10:00pm

Venue

1st Avenue Penang

Age Suitability

All Ages



ALSO IN PENANG

It's time to roll the dice, and play your way through Asia.

The Malaysian edition of the ASIAN BOARD GAMES FESTIVAL (ABGF MY) is proudly organised by LUMA and Origame, in partnership with George Town Festival. With over 50 tabletop games spread across two floors in 1st Avenue Mall, visitors can try out games designed and published by Malaysian and Singaporean creators.

In addition to free-to-play board games, Play Passports sold at RM10 each will offer visitors access to lucky draws and discount vouchers for the latest games.

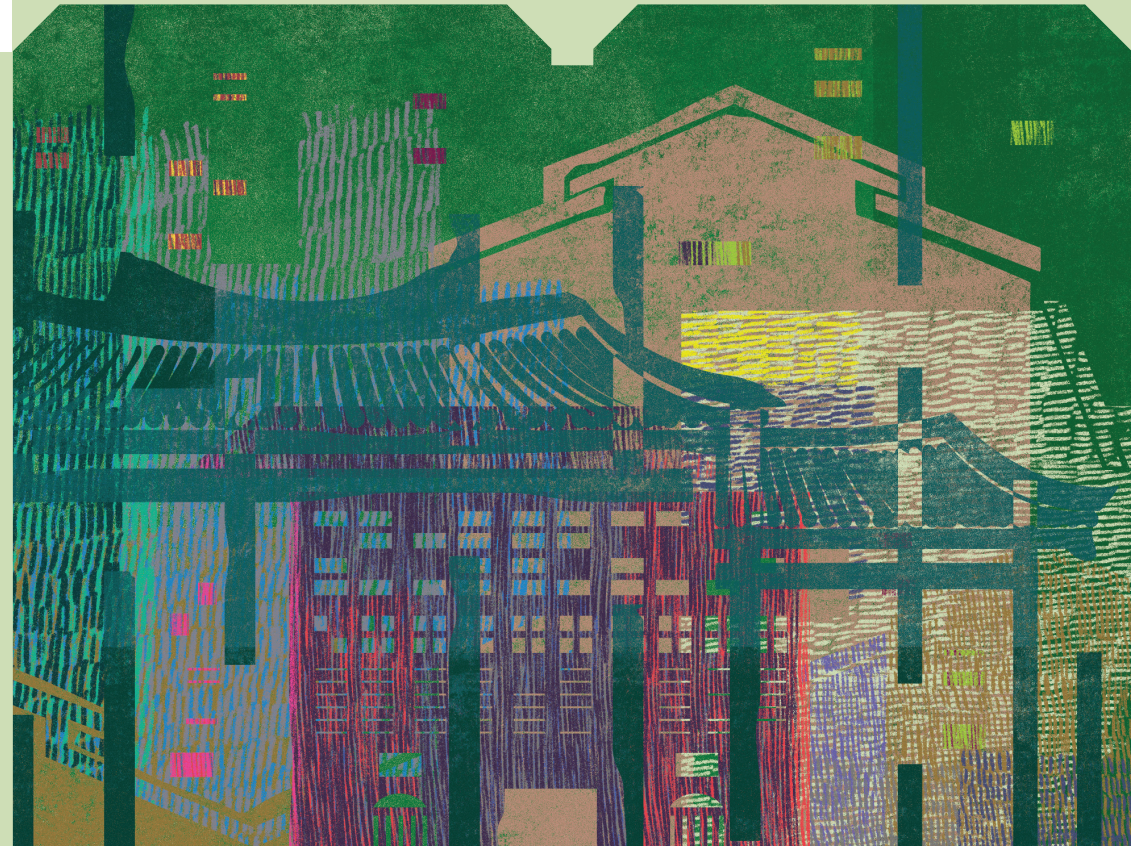
ABGF MY 2024 is made possible with venue sponsorship from 1st Avenue Mall and support from Kohii Boardgame Cafe, TTGDMY - Tabletop Game Designers of Malaysia, TLM EVENT, and Rakan Reka, Arts-ED, and Tropical Spice Garden.

LUMA

LUMA is the creative studio arm of LiveWire! Media, driven to light up Malaysia's arts and culture through media production and board game creation. Documenting cultural heritage through tabletop games, they have published Kaki Lima (2019) highlighting the five-foot ways of George Town and Bansan (2023) inspired by Penang's wet markets, and will be publishing three more games in 2024.

Origame

Origame is a globally acclaimed board game studio based in Singapore. With games that have been translated into over 10 languages, Origame aspires to showcase the best of Asian cultures, stories and visuals. Origame hosts the largest board game event in Southeast Asia—the ASIAN BOARD GAMES FESTIVAL.





Penang Digital Creative Week Showcasing 2024 Digital Penang | Malaysia

Date and Time: 20-21 July, 10:00am-6:00pm
Venue: Digital Penang Level 3

PENANG DIGITAL CREATIVE WEEK (PDCW) is an initiative by Digital Penang, charting a course to become a leading digital creative incubator and showcase for young and upcoming creative talents and creative tech companies. This showcase features exhibitions, sharings, a mini job fair, and chats with creative minds.



DÉJÀ VU Goh Hun Meng | Malaysia

Date and Time: 14-28 July, 11:00am-8:00pm
Venue: Jetty 35 Hall 2

DÉJÀ VU is an abstract mixed media experience involving Goh Hun Meng and his two sons, alluding to the joy of creative expression in its spontaneous form. Both old and young find a harmonious blend.



It depends...

Date and Time: 1 June-18 August, 12:00pm-7:00pm
(Open Friday-Sunday)
Venue: Blank Canvas

Presented in collaboration with co-curator sputnikforest, this exhibition invites viewers to experience physical artworks in a unique setting resembling dusk in a forest. The artworks, ranging from metal sculpture to micro photographs, evoke themes of mortality, relationships, power and belonging.



USM Fine Arts Showcase: Voyage of Discovery USM - School of the Arts | Malaysia

Date and Time: 11 June-16 August, 9:00am-5:00pm
(Open Monday-Friday, Saturdays by appointment)
Venue: Muzium & Galeri Tuanku Fauziah, USM

Student artists from the Fine Arts Department of the School of the Arts at Universiti Sains Malaysia present artworks exploring the depths of the ocean, drawing inspiration from Pulau Arman and the Centre for Marine and Coastal Studies (CEMACS).



Negaraku: A Collector's Show Bingley Sim and Ima Norbinsha | Malaysia

Date and Time: 13 July-11 August
12:00pm-7:00pm (Weekdays)
11:00am-7:00pm (Weekends)
Venue: Hin Bus Depot

NEGARAKU is an exhibition featuring curated works from the esteemed collection of Bingley Sim and Ima Norbinsha. It celebrates Malaysia's rich culture, history and beauty, paying homage to the spirit of the land and its people.



Mei Chee Seong's Travel Doodle Solo Exhibition Mei Chee Seong | Malaysia

Date and Time: 12 July-11 August, 9:00am-6:00pm
Venue: COEX @ Kilang Besi

Explore the world through Mei Chee Seong's joyful sketches. Through an exhibition, sharing session and sketching workshop, discover his travel experiences and pick up basic sketching skills to creatively capture your own adventures on paper.



From This Moment On, Reading the Island: A Book Sharing Session

Date and Time: 28 July, 2:00pm-4:00pm
Venue: COEX @ Kilang Besi

Moy Sook Ching, Chen Die and Tan Chee Hon embody old Penang through prose, poetry and novels, each capturing their lives and memories of the city through distinct literary genres. From this moment on, they will take us on a temporal journey through Penang's rich history and cultural landscape.



Connecting Cities, Countrysides and Islands A Documentary on Taiwan's Outlying Islands- Frontline Residents: An Island Story

Date and Time: 28 July, 7:00pm-9:30pm
Venue: COEX @ Kilang Besi

Cross the sea to Taiwan's three most important outlying islands: Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu. This documentary captures stories and rare images of the islands' residents, showcasing their unique personalities and rich personal histories in a tenacious, optimistic and imaginative manner.

FESTIVAL TEAM

Artistic Director
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Festival Producer
Assistant Producer
Programme Manager
Project Manager cum Programme Curator (Visual Art)
Project Manager
Programme Executive
Programme Coordinator
Branding Designer

Copywriter (English)
Head of Admin & Finance
Volunteer & FOH Manager
Head of Outreach Programme & Development
Production Manager (Outreach Programme)
Technical Director
Stage Manager
Event Coordinator
Logistic Coordinator
Project Coordinator

Production Coordinator
Production Assistant

Exhibition Coordination & Construction

Festival Crew

Publicist & Ticketing Coordinator
Web Designer
Video Editor

Design Support

Official Photography Team

Videographer
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Anielle Ng
Vanessa Howe
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Lee Cheah Ni
Beh Hoong Ling
Nurul Aizam
Jaslyn Niow
Lian Kian Lek [Putticoop]
Hung Man Po [Po Hung Design Lab]
Cheah Mi Chelle
Janet Wu
Cathfrine Low
Doris Lee
Lim Yi Zhe
Tan Eng Heng
Koe Mun Yoon
Tan Hock Kheng
Tan Chun Feng (Wind)
Lua Song Jie
Selwyn Yeoh Wooi See
Lim Wei Ming
Teoh Jia Yun
Lee Shui Hoek
Tan Wah Chew
Tay Lay Heong
Low Zhi Kai
Jing Ying
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Lim Tiong Eng
Tan Wah Chew
Natalie Chan Wei Ann
Sherwynd Rylan Kessler
Thum Chia Chieh
George Lai
Shaun Tye
Ng Aik Hong
Aida Redza
Prof Tan Sooi Beng
Grace Leong
Jack Wong

VENUE LIST

1) GTF @ Capri Penang
45, Jalan Magazine,
10300 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

2) Sia Boey Urban Archaeological Park
50, Jalan Dr Lim Chwee Leong,
10100 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

3) Fiesta by Beverly Chill
71, Lebuh Noordin,
10300 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

4) 1st Avenue Mall (Ground & 1st Floor)
182, Jalan Magazine,
10300 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

5) Komtar Auditorium A
Level 5, KOMTAR,
10450 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

6) O Sculpture Studio @ Hin Bus Depot
31A, Jalan Gurdwara,
10300 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

7) COEX @ Kilang Besi
123, Jalan Timah,
10150 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

8) Majestic Theatre
31, Jalan Phee Choon,
10050 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

9) The FOUNDERS Hutton
17, Jalan Hutton,
10050 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

10) Equator College, Leith Street Campus
7, Lebuh Leith,
10200 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

11) Journal Georgetown
29, Lebuh Muntri,
10200 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

12) Church of the Assumption
Lebuh Farquhar,
10450 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

13) St. George's Anglican Church
1, Lebuh Farquhar,
10200 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

14) Soundmaker Studio
18, Lebuh Bishop,
10200 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

15) The Courtyard @ Beach Street
23, Lebuh Pantai,
10300 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

16) Sardaarji - Flavours of Punjab
6, Lebuh China,
10200 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

17) Mano Plus
37A & B, Lebuh Pantai,
10300 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

18) Think City @ Bangunan UAB
Gat Lebuh China,
10300 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

19) Digital Penang
15B & 16B, Bangunan Wisma Yeap Chor Ee,
Pengkalan Weld,
10300 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

20) Jetty 35
35, Pengkalan Weld,
10300 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

21) Curios-City Penang
164A, Lebuh Victoria,
10300 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

22) ChinaHouse
153, Lebuh Pantai,
10300 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

23) Han Jiang Ancestral Temple
127, Lebuh Chulia,
10200 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

24) Lily of the Alley (beside Shop Howard)
154, Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling,
10200 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

25) Big Tree @ Armenian Street
164, Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling,
10200 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

26) Armenian Park
95, Lebuh Armenian,
10300 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

27) Behind Yap Temple
(Lebuh Cannon-Armenian Park Back Alley)
2, Lebuh Cannon,
10450 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

28) Le Petit Four Pâtisserie
310, Lebuh Pantai,
10300 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

29) Biscotti Café
261, Lebuh Pantai,
10300 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

30) Penang Institute
10, Jalan Brown,
10350 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

31) The Art Gallery, Penang
368-4-8, Bellisa Row, Jalan Burma, Pulau Tikus,
10350 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

32) Begin Bubbles Bar
68-3-2, Sunrise @ Gurney, Gurney Drive,
10250 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

33) BATU Cafe & Bar
46A, Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah,
10050 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

34) Dewan Budaya USM
Universiti Sains Malaysia,
11800 USM, Pulau Pinang.

35) Penang Harmony Centre
15, Jalan Scotland,
10450 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

36) Auditorium P. Ramlee
Lot 2180, Jalan P. Ramlee, Taman P. Ramlee,
10460 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

37) One Theatre Hall (former Penangpac Stage 1)
F17, Jalan Seri Tanjung Pinang, Seri Tanjung Pinang,
10470 Tanjung Tokong, Pulau Pinang.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Special Thanks

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Huge thank you to all volunteers, supporters and unsung heroes who made George Town Festival 2024 possible. Your commitment, enthusiasm and dedication to championing the arts are the heartbeat of the festival.

All information is accurate at the time of printing.
Programmes are subjected to change without prior notice.





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