

GEORGE
TOWN
FESTIVAL

PENANG • MALAYSIA

04 - 12 December 2021

#gtf2021

9 DAYS
SHOWS

Contents

Shows Calendar	Pg 1
About George Town Festival	Pg 2
About Nine Days Eight Shows	Pg 3
Ibuki Hati: Bamboo Flute, Piano, Strings and Dance	Pg 4
The Senses	Pg 10
Kehebatan Hanuman by Wayang Pak Dain	Pg 16
Ciné France	Pg 20
Make Penang Laugh Again!	Pg 26
Paper Moon: Jazz in the City Purnama	Pg 32
Paper Moon: Jazz in the City Murakami and Jazz	Pg 40
All Together Now	Pg 46

Meanwhile...

Sound and Screen: Jazz Film Festival	Pg 56
Music Masterclasses: Jazz and Beyond	Pg 58

9 DAYS 8 SHOWS

SHOWS CALENDAR

Ibuki Hati:
Bamboo Flute, Piano,
Strings and Dance

4 & 5 DEC
8pm

The Senses

5 DEC
4.30pm - 7.00pm

Kehebatan Hanuman
by Wayang Pak Dain

6 DEC
6.30pm & 8.30pm

Ciné France

6 - 8 DEC
8pm

Make Penang
Laugh Again!

9 & 10 DEC
8pm

Paper Moon:
Jazz in the City
Purnama

11 DEC
8pm

Paper Moon:
Jazz in the City
Murakami and Jazz

12 DEC
8pm

All Together Now

11 & 12 DEC
8pm

GEORGE TOWN FESTIVAL 2021

About George Town Festival

George Town Festival is an annual festival held in Penang, Malaysia in honour of George Town's inscription as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2008. The Festival is committed to making arts accessible to everyone – from the festival-goers to the art communities, the general public and the underprivileged, regardless of age, ethnicity or background – all while aiming to inspire generations of arts lovers and practitioners. It also encourages creativity and originality by providing a platform for creative talents to showcase their works. Every year, the Festival presents a mix of arts and cultural programmes encompassing visual art, theatre, music, dance, film, photography and more in various settings ranging from indoor performing spaces to hidden spots and unique venues.

George Town Festival is growing into a major Asian arts event.

- The New York Times

One of Southeast Asia's most exciting celebrations of culture, heritage and community.

- The Guardian

Best of Penang rolled up in one big festival.

- CNN Travel

George Town Festival 2021 is a project by George Town World Heritage Incorporated (GTWHI), organised by TLM Event, endorsed by the Penang State Government and fully supported by the Penang State EXCO for Tourism and Creative Economy (PETACE), City Council of Penang Island (MBPP), and Penang Global Tourism (PGT).

About Nine Days Eight Shows

It's time to get immersed in the arts – physically! George Town Festival 2021 returns with its year-end campaigns, "Nine Days Eight Exhibitions" and "Nine Days Eight Shows", this November and December!

"Nine Days Eight Shows" will be carried out from 4 to 12 December 2021 at various locations in Penang. Festival-goers can look forward to impressive performances, such as cultural and contemporary dance, jazz, comedy, wayang kulit, and more. Best of all, the shows will comply with strict standard operating procedures and guidelines for your safety. See what's on, book tickets, view show details, and more at www.georgetownfestival.com.



04 - 12 December 2021

George Town Festival
Impress Creative and Editorial
Wind River Productions
present

IBUKI HATI

Japanese Music and
Contemporary Dance

featuring
Aida Redza
Andrew MacGregor

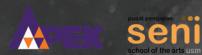
with
Quattro Voce String Quartet | Zhang Chi | Lee Jia Wei

Saturday 4 December 2021 | 8.00 pm
Sunday 5 December 2021 | 8.00 pm

Arena Stage, USM CREATE, Bangunan UAB,
21-25 Gat Lebuh China, 10300 George Town, Penang

Ticketed | RM60
www.georgetownfestival.com

Photo credit: SC Shekar ©2021



9 DAYS 8 SHOWS

Ibuki Hati: Bamboo Flute, Piano, Strings and Dance

Dates : 4 & 5 December 2021
Time : 8pm
Venue : Arena Stage, USM CREATE, Bangunan UAB,
George Town, Penang
Ticket Price : RM60

Ibuki Hati presents an hour-long concert featuring Japanese music and contemporary dance. Initiated by the choreographer and dancer Aida Redza and the *shakuhachi* (bamboo flute) player Andrew MacGregor, the narrative of the concert is carried by six pieces of music arranged in two parts, each interpreted through original dance performances. The first part features 'Dokuso Shakuhachi no Tame no Ni Sho' (Two Movements for Solo Shakuhachi), 'Ichijo' (Certainty), 'Ai for Shakuhachi and Strings' and 'Aki no Kyoku' (Autumn Fantasy), and is performed by Andrew MacGregor, Quattro Voce String Quartet and Zhang Chi; the second part presents 'Tanah Pusaka' and 'Village of Camellias', featuring keyboard–bamboo flute duets by Lee Jia Wei and Andrew MacGregor.

This unique concert is a true meeting of cross-cultural creativity in an innovative celebration through music and dance. The inspiration draws on the core elements that are immersed in these performing arts: breath (*ibu*), vital force (*ki*), heart (*hati*) – a breath of the heart or *Ibuki Hati*. By presenting the interplay of music and dance movement – as in a three-dimensional conversation – the concert offers a unique aesthetic and cultural experience, and suggests the intertwined emotions of sorrowful longing and yearning for a renewed world, embodied in the breath of the flute and the breath of the dance.

Co-sponsored by Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur

GEORGE TOWN FESTIVAL 2021

9 DAYS 8 SHOWS

About the Performers



Aida Redza (Artistic Director, Choreographer, Dancer)

Aida Redza is one of Malaysia's leading contemporary dancers and choreographers, noted for creating multimedia performances. Based in Penang, she is the founder of Wind River Productions, the artistic principal of Studio Pentas and a member of Ombak-Ombak ARTStudio. Her major recent productions as a performance-maker include *Semangat Restu Padi* (2021), *Wandering Padi* (Ansan Street Arts Festival, South Korea, 2019), *Reclaim* (George Town Festival, 2019), *Entranced: A Mystical Gathering* (Hamamatsu, Japan, 2018), *Call and Response: The Spaces Between* (Penang, 2018), *Entranced: An Evening with a Ghost* (DiverseCity KL International Arts Festival, 2017), *The Italian Restaurant* (George Town Festival, 2017) and *Moved By Padi* (George Town Festival, 2016). Aida has a strong commitment to international creative collaborations. She was the director of a workshop for international collaboration presented at the Tokyo Festival Asia Performing Arts Forum in 2016, and this led her to establish TradeWinds Arts Exchange to foster cultural relations between Penang and Japan, featuring her work with the celebrated Noh master Naohiko Umewaka. In 2018 Aida was named as Kakiseni's Gamechanger at the 15th BOH Cameronian Arts Awards.



Andrew MacGregor (Musical Director, Bamboo flute)

Andrew MacGregor, Australia's first *shakuhachi* master, started his training in 1985, and concentrated on music handed down through the Zen Buddhist tradition. In 1993, he spent an intensive period of study in Osaka as an *uchi deshi* (home student) with the renowned master Tajima Tadashi. He conducted his first solo recital in 1995, and since then has actively performed in Australia, Japan, the United States, the Netherlands and Malaysia. His interests extend to contemporary music and to help evolve the *shakuhachi* from its traditional setting. He has produced six CDs under his own name and was a finalist in the 2003 All-Japan National Music (Hōgaku) Competition. He has lived in Penang since 2015.



Quattro Voce String Quartet

Quattro Voce String Quartet (Leonard Lam, Isaac Yap, Tan Tze Jinn, Moses Cheng) is an award-winning chamber ensemble based in Penang. They are known for the breadth of their repertoire, ranging from Western classical composers to pop music and jazz, as well as their own compositions and arrangements. The quartet is in demand for concerts organised by Musica Sinfonietta as well as private functions and events. In 2019 they were the winners of the Penang edition of the Euroasia Strings Competition.

9 DAYS 8 SHOWS



Zhang Chi (Piano)

The pianist Zhang Chi lives in Penang. He graduated from Monash University, Australia, and has performed in Europe, China, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. He conducts masterclasses and is actively engaged in solo piano recitals, in concerto performances and in broadcasting. He is also a Steinway Artist.



Lee Jia Wei (Keyboards)

Penang-based Lee Jia Wei is a pianist and composer, and the music director of the band Mangroove. He has performed widely and has been an award-winning contestant in a number of composition competitions.



Aida Redza



THE SENSES

A RAINFOREST CONCERT

Featuring:

Buddha Beat | Kicau-Bilau | Darmas
www.georgetownfestival.com

5 December 2021
4.30pm - 7.00pm

**Curtis Crest Tree Top Walk
@ The Habitat Penang Hill**

Ticket Price: RM120

**Inclusive of Fast Lane Funicular Train Passes
& Entrance Fee

The Senses

Date : 5 December 2021
Time : 4.30pm - 7.00pm
Venue : Curtis Crest Tree Top Walk
@ The Habitat Penang Hill
Ticket Price : RM120
**Inclusive of Fast Lane Funicular
Train Passes & Entrance Fee

There's no better place to indulge your senses than at "The Senses". Set to take place at The Habitat Penang Hill's Curtis Crest, "The Senses" offers an all-round sensorial experience in the one-of-a-kind concert amid Penang's 130-million-year-old rainforest, 800 metres above sea level. Get ready to be blown away by the hypnotising sounds of bamboo flute, electric guitar, and Indian traditional music by Penang-based ethno-pop duo Buddha Beat. In another segment of the programme, "Nusantrik", soundscape duo Kicau-Bilau and performing artists Wak Kang and Mislina Mustaffa will translate the diverse culture and tradition of the Nusantara (Malay Archipelago) into an unforgettable performance of sounds, sights and lights. Darmas is set to liven up the show through the band's creative fusion of traditional Malay rhythms such as joget, zapin and canggung with tribal sounds of kulintangan. Best of all, audiences can take a walk at the renowned tree top walk (which is the highest viewing point in Penang) to take in the breathtaking 360-degree panoramic views of Penang island and beyond.

About the Performers

Buddha Beat

Penang-based Buddha Beat is a duo project by Cheong (Cole) and Krishna (Krish), playing a combination of bamboo flute, electric guitar, Indian traditional music, and occasionally mixing of kalimba and other electronic instruments.



Nusantrik by Kicau-Bilau

“Nusantrik” is an improvisational performance of live soundscape and contemporary dance performed by soundscape duo Kicau-Bilau and performing artists Wak Kang and Mislinia Mustaffa. Anchored by the soothing sounds of angklung and guitar by Kicau-Bilau and accompanied by a form of contemporary dance by Wak Kang and Mislinia Mustaffa, these collaborating artists bring elements of Malay culture to their repertoires in a contemporary context. Just like the music, the body movements respond in spontaneity to the sounds and surroundings. The session is site-specific, impromptu and arbitrary. “Nusantrik” (which is a combination of two Malay words: Nusantara and eksentrik) intends to translate the diverse culture and tradition of the Nusantara (Malay Archipelago) into an unforgettable performance of sounds, sights and light. In a nutshell, it is a showcase of Nusantara’s eccentricity you would not want to miss.



Darmas

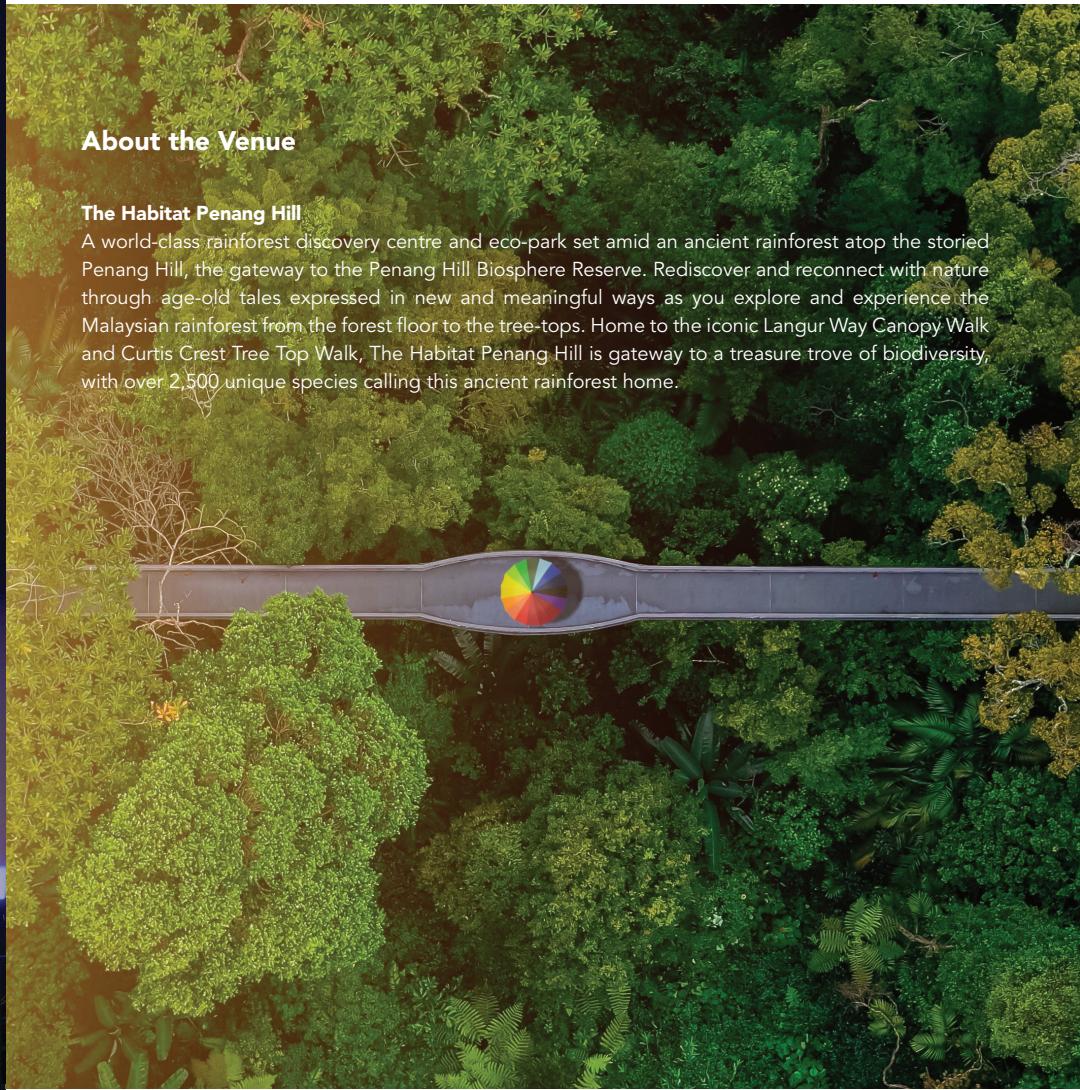
Six young musicians formed Darmas, a band propelled by the rhythms derived from traditional Malay classics like joget (a traditional Malay dance from Malacca influenced by the Portuguese colonist dance of Branyo), zapin (a Malay dance in Malaysia, Indonesia, and Brunei) and canggung (Malay dance with Thai influences). The central element in Darmas' sounds comes from kulintangan, an ancient series of gongs featured in many cultural festivities and traditional ceremonies of major tribes in Sabah, presenting a kaleidoscopic mix of Malaysian eclectic sounds.



About the Venue

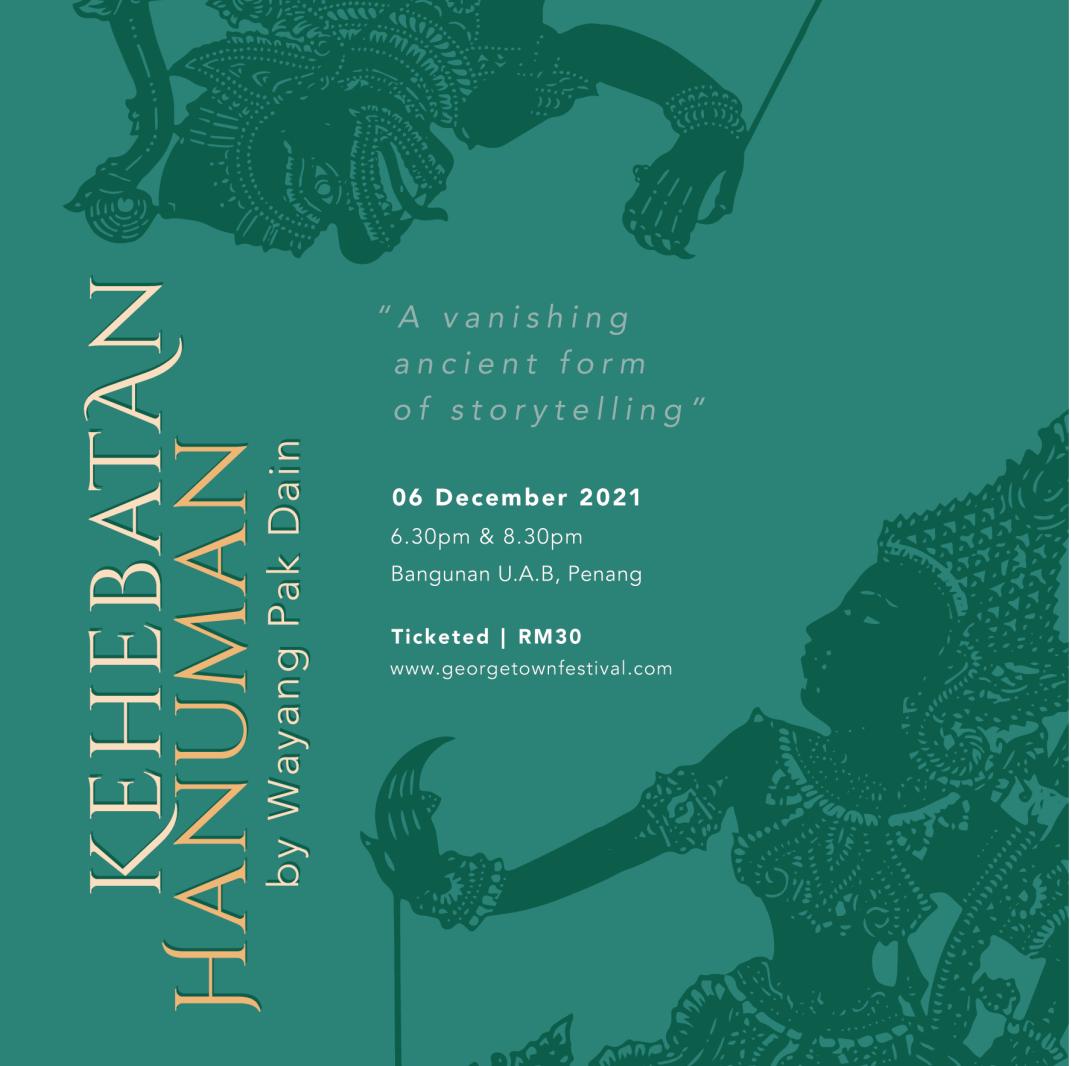
The Habitat Penang Hill

A world-class rainforest discovery centre and eco-park set amid an ancient rainforest atop the storied Penang Hill, the gateway to the Penang Hill Biosphere Reserve. Rediscover and reconnect with nature through age-old tales expressed in new and meaningful ways as you explore and experience the Malaysian rainforest from the forest floor to the tree-tops. Home to the iconic Langur Way Canopy Walk and Curtis Crest Tree Top Walk, The Habitat Penang Hill is gateway to a treasure trove of biodiversity, with over 2,500 unique species calling this ancient rainforest home.



KEHEBATAN HANUMAN

by Wayang Pak Dain



*"A vanishing
ancient form
of storytelling"*

06 December 2021

6.30pm & 8.30pm

Bangunan U.A.B, Penang

Ticketed | RM30

www.georgetownfestival.com

Kehebatan Hanuman by Wayang Pak Dain

Date : 6 December 2021
Times : 6.30pm & 8.30pm
Venue : Bangunan UAB, George Town, Penang
Ticket Price : RM30

Wayang kulit is an ancient form of storytelling with immense historical value and significance. It is renowned for its elaborate and orchestrated performance. For those born in the 90s, this traditional entertainment might not be familiar. This year, George Town Festival is bringing back traditional wayang kulit performance so that everyone could get reacquainted with this vanishing traditional art form. Presented by Wayang Pak Dain, "Kehebatan Hanuman" tells the story of Hanuman, who is helping his brother Lakjuna to fight Kesuma Lara and Kesuma Jaya. Although they have used all their physical and spiritual powers, Hanuman and Lakjuna still fail to defeat Kesuma Lara and Kesuma Jaya. Why can't Hanuman and Lakjuna kill Kesuma Lara and Kesuma Jaya? Is it because Kesuma Lara and Kesuma Jaya are too powerful? Are they superheroes? Little do they know that Kesuma Jaya and Kesuma Lara could only be killed using the power of knowledge and exploiting Kesuma Jaya and Kesuma Lara's strength. Find out the brothers' triumphant win in "Kehebatan Hanuman".

9 DAYS 8 SHOWS

About the Artist



Muhammad Dain Othman

Muhammad Dain Othman, also known as Pak Dain, is a Tok Dalang (master puppeteer and storyteller). He graduated from University Kebangsaan Malaysia with a bachelor's degree in anthropology in 1978. He is actively involved in the Wayang Kulit Melayu Tradisional Kelantan gallery and has performed locally and internationally since the 1990s. In 2004, Pak Dain joined the Sri Wayang Kampong Paloh 2 group. Today, Pak Dain continues to manage the Wayang Kulit Melayu Tradisional Kelantan gallery while recruiting more performers to continue the traditional Kelantanese Malay wayang kulit art.





TRADITIONAL PUPPET MAKING WORKSHOP

Date : 6 December 2021

Time : 1pm - 4pm

Venue : Bangunan UAB, George Town, Penang

Fee : RM100 per Puppet

Wayang kulit (shadow puppet theatre) is a unique, traditional storytelling artform executed masterfully through artfully crafted shadow puppets. Learn to make the stars of the traditional theatre – the shadow puppets – in this three-hour workshop. At the end of the workshop, you will learn the hard work that goes into creating the shadow puppets and get to bring home your masterpiece. The fee for the workshop is RM100 per puppet and per pax.

Ciné France

FRENCH MOVIE SCREENINGS

6-8 Dec 2021 | 8pm

The Whiteaways Arcade, Penang

Pre-registration is required.

To register or for more information, visit www.georgetownfestival.com

In Collaboration with:



af
Alliance Française
Penang

INSTITUT
FRANÇAIS



9 DAYS 8 SHOWS

Ciné France

Dates : 6 - 8 December 2021

Time : 8pm

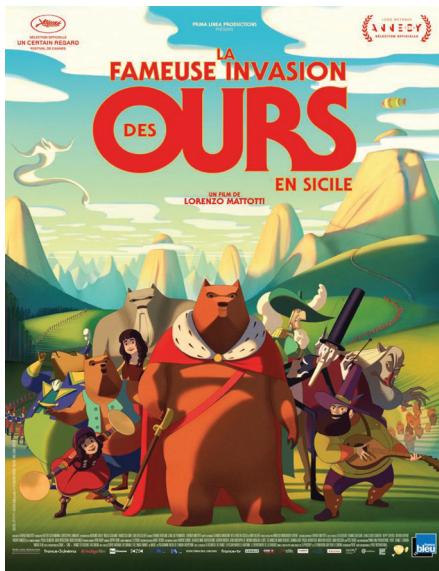
Venue : First Floor, The Whiteaways Arcade,
George Town, Penang

In collaboration with the Embassy of France in Malaysia and Alliance Française de Penang, George Town Festival is pleased to present "Ciné France" French movie screenings featuring three watch-worthy contemporary French films. Catch "The Bears' Famous Invasion of Sicily", which tells the story of warfare, friendship and corruption between anthropomorphic bears and humans. Don't miss out on the adventures and perils of young orphan Rémi and a travelling showman as they journey through 19th-century France, with a show dog and acrobatic monkey in tow in "Rémi, Nobody's Boy". For a tender and absurd feel-good comedy, be sure to watch "Felicità" which tells the adventures and misadventures of 11-year-old Tommy and her eccentric parents.

Free entrance. Pre-registration is required.

9 DAYS 8 SHOWS

Selection of Movies



6 December 2021

The Bears' Famous Invasion of Sicily, by Lorenzo Mattotti

Stars: Leïla Bekhti (voice), Thomas Bidegain (voice), Jean-Claude Carrière (voice)

To find his long-lost son and food to survive the winter, the great bear king leads his clan down from the mountains and into the world of men. After escaping terrible monsters and defeating an evil duke, the bears and men live together in peace – for a time.

- Animation - Adventure - Family
- Running time - 1 hour 22 minutes
- Distributor - Pathé films
- Year - 2019

9 DAYS 8 SHOWS



7 December 2021

Rémi, Nobody's Boy, by Antoine Blossier

Stars: Daniel Auteuil, Maleaume Paquin, Virginie Ledoyen

Raised by a kindly peasant woman after being found as a baby, ten-year-old Remi is brutally taken from his adopted mother and sold by her husband to Signor Vitalis, an old travelling street musician with a shadowy past. Remi sets off on a long journey through France with his new master, their faithful dog Capi and mischievous monkey Mister Joli-Cœur. From adventures to misadventures, young Remi endears himself to Vitalis, who teaches him to read and helps him discover his extraordinary singing talent. The boy learns the rough life of a travelling showman and suffers through hunger, cold and sometimes great injustice. He also learns life, makes great friends and gains a mentor and father in Vitalis. But when the clothes he was found in as an infant and a mysterious lullaby from his distant past bring him closer to his origins, Remi is suddenly faced with a new set of challenges that could reveal his true identity and change forever the course of his young life.

- Animation - Adventure - Drama
- Running time - 1 hour 49 minutes
- Distributor - TF1 droits audiovisuels
- Year - 2018

GEORGE TOWN FESTIVAL 2021

23

9 DAYS 8 SHOWS



8 December 2021

Felicità, by Bruno Merle

Stars: Pio Marmai, Rita Merle, Camille Rutherford

Tommy, 11 years old, is on the road again with her eccentric parents. This time, her freshly out-of-jail father has promised her that she won't miss the first day of the school term. That was before her dad stole a sports car, her mother disappeared and an astronaut popped by!

- Animation - Comedy - Drama
- Running time - 1 hour 22 minutes
- Distributor - Charades
- Year - 2020

9 DAYS 8 SHOWS

About Alliance Française de Penang

Alliance Française has been established in Penang since 1962. It is an educational and cultural institution dedicated to promote the French language and francophone culture and to foster relationships between people of all nationalities, ethnicities and backgrounds.

Alliance Française network is the largest and oldest network of French language and cultural centres globally, with 832 Alliance Française operating in 131 countries. Alliance Française was founded in Paris in 1883 and its continuity has been maintained since 1 January 2008 by the Fondation Alliance Française.

Learn more about Alliance Française de Penang at <https://afpenang.com>.



**Kuah
Jenhan**

**Kavin
Jay**

**Rizal
Van Geyzel**



MAKE PENANG LAUGH AGAIN

Hosted by
Keren Bala Devan

**8pm
09 & 10 DEC 2021
Auditorium A, KOMTAR**

**Ticketed | RM50
www.georgetownfestival.com**

9 DAYS 8 SHOWS

Make Penang Laugh Again!

Dates : 9 & 10 December 2021
Time : 8pm
Venue : Auditorium A, KOMTAR
Ticket Price : RM50
Age Suitability : 18+

Four of Malaysia's proudest comedy exports will appear together in Penang for a bumper stand-up comedy extravaganza! Get up close and personal with this unprecedented lineup of diverse Malaysian talents, all of whom have made a name for themselves locally and internationally with their exceptional comic skills. Hosted by the hilarious Keren Bala Devan (Comedy Central Asia, Iflix), "Make Penang Laugh Again!" will leave audiences in stitches with the undeniable comic stylings of quick-witted Kuah Jenhan (Astro, MACC), grumpy man extraordinaire Kavin Jay (Netflix) and mixed-heritage comic whirlwind Rizal Van Geyzel (Comedy Central Asia, BBC, Astro). All performers will be performing their extended headline sets, meaning you can enjoy over two hours of laugh-out-loud comedy in one unforgettable festival outing. Comedy fans of all ages are encouraged to book their seats early to avoid disappointment.

About the Comedians



Kavin Jay

Kavin Jayaram, better known as Kavin Jay, is a rapid-fire, grumpy joke-telling machine. He may be grouchy, but he does it with a panache that you cannot help but laugh out loud. His intense sense of humour has tickled ribs and charmed audiences of all shapes and backgrounds. The travelling comic has performed in numerous countries such as Singapore, India, Hong Kong, Australia and the United Kingdom.

Kavin is politically incorrect, intense and shows a warped sense of love, life and liver. As a Malaysian Indian, Kavin has lived life with a severe disability and was always destined to be angry and easily irritated. He was voted as Malaysia's grumpiest comedian because he rants about everything so that you do not have to.

In 2018, he was given the opportunity to host his own Netflix stand-up comedy special "Everybody Calm Down!", which was rated as one of the best specials that year by several media outlets.



Rizal Van Geyzel

Rizal Van Geyzel is a strong presence in Malaysia's stand-up comedy scene. He is well known as the co-founder of Malaysia's first dedicated comedy club, The Crackhouse Comedy Club KL, which is now in its seventh year running. He has performed across the world, from intimate clubs to major festivals in front of thousands of people. 0% politically correct yet 100% hilarious, Van Geyzel brings audiences anecdotes, stories, impersonations and observations through his rapid-fire wit and acid-sharp delivery. Landing somewhere between the profound and the absurd, Van Geyzel injects an honest form of humour into the local comedy scene.

Some of his most notable shows are "Kings & Queen of Comedy Asia" held at Singapore's Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay for two sold-out shows for a total of 6,000 people and "The Noose & Kakis" live show in front of an audience of 4,000 at Singapore's The Theatre at Mediacorp.

He hosted 22 shows with Douglas Lim at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival in 2017 and received an astounding four-star review by the Herald Sun. His TV appearances include Comedy Central Asia, BBC and Astro.



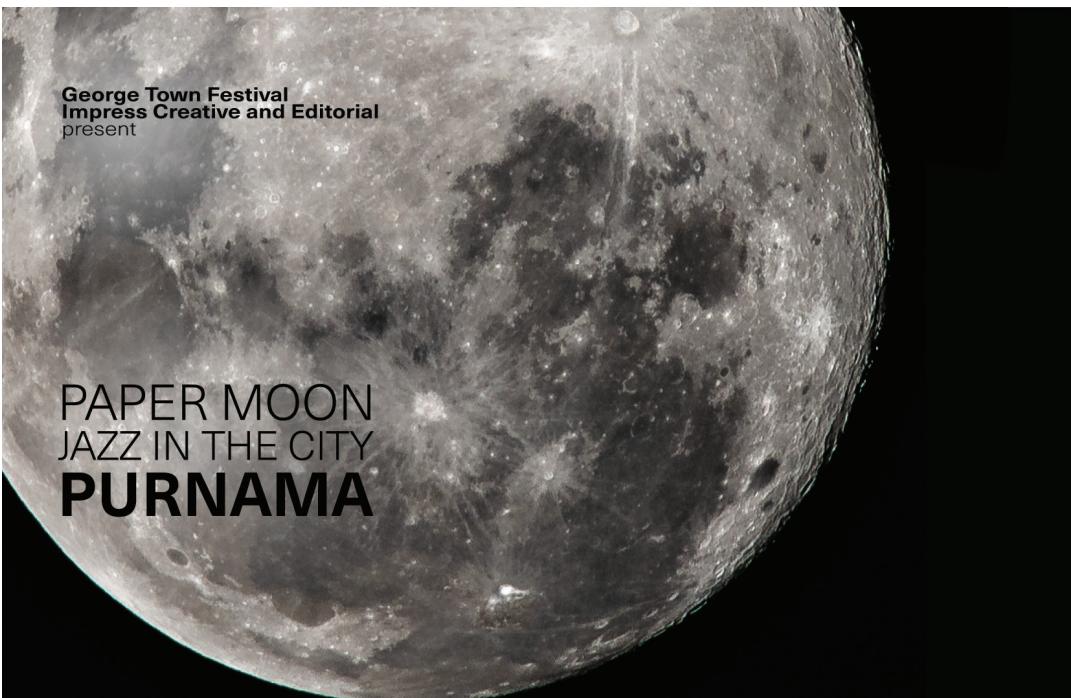
Kuah Jenhan

Kuah Jenhan was nominated for several prestigious awards, including the Perth Fringe World 2016 in the Best Comedy Show category and the BOH Cameronian Arts Awards 2012 in the Best Original Book and/or Lyrics category for his work in the musical "Lat Kampung Boy". He was also shortlisted as a finalist for his advertising campaign with Smirnoff Ice (Malaysia) at the Effie Awards 2015. Kuah has written and produced five solo comedy and theatre pieces, which have seen sold-out seasons in Malaysia and Australia. As part of the recently retired MACC (Malaysian Association of Chinese Comedians), their farewell tour sold more than 15,000 tickets across Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Australia. Other exciting projects include creating and conceptualising "North Bangsar", a fictional country that came to life as a mini-festival within Urbanscapes 2014. Kuah also started a band named The Impatient Brothers, a parody band of The Impatient Sisters. Venturing into filmmaking, he made his directorial debut with MACC in a six-episode mocku-series and directed Astro's first English language comedy special "MACCManiaX". Both these shows are currently available on Astro.



Keren Bala Devan (Host)

Keren Bala Devan is a stand-up comedian who loves to share his unique views about everything wrong with modern culture. Usually by complaining. A lot. His specific brand of comedy stems from years of observing how ridiculous things that are part of everyday life have come to be. From strange modern cultural habits to the annoying behaviour of the general populace, he always finds something to say and rant about. He has appeared in "Stand-Up, Asia!" (Comedy Central Asia), seasons 1 & 2 of "Komediri" (Astro), and "Oi! Jaga Mulut" (Iflix) and has headlined various shows in Malaysia and Singapore. He was also the head writer for "Kumar Fifty50" (Singapore-based stand-up comedian Kumar's Malaysian Tour in 2019).



George Town Festival
Impress Creative and Editorial
present

PAPER MOON JAZZ IN THE CITY **PURNAMA**

WVC Jazz

Tay Cher Siang | AJ Popshuvit | Adriel Wong

with Junji Delfino | Janet Lee | Jo Lixian | Rizal Tony
Tan Chee Shen | Tan Jie | Yow Weng Wai

Saturday 11 December 2021 | 8.00 pm
Black Kettle Beach Street, George Town, 10300 Penang

Ticketed | RM70
www.georgetownfestival.com

Photo credit: SC Shekar ©2021



Paper Moon: Jazz in the City Purnama

Date : 11 December 2021

Time : 8pm

Venue : Black Kettle, George Town, Penang

Ticket Price : RM70

Paper Moon: Jazz in the City brings together some of Malaysia's finest musicians in two complementary back-to-back concerts. The first, *Purnama*, is a premiere of the latest album from the award-winning group WVC Jazz. For this special occasion, they are joined by renowned names: guitarist Rizal Tony, saxophonist Yow Weng Wai, Tan Jie on *shakuhachi* (end-blown flute), together with singers Junji Delfino, Janet Lee, Jo and Tan Chee Shen. *Purnama* – a bright full moon – takes its inspiration from the music and songs of a different age: the era of Merdeka, when a new country was in the making. The lyrics of that time were beautiful, the sentiments hopeful, and the melodies grew out of the rich soil of this land. With all their eccentricities, foibles and imperfections, people lived together and shared a common musical language. And the image of a new moon seems somehow to capture the spirit of those times. Come and listen to great classic songs – "Hitam Manis", "Main Shayar to Nahin", "Putera Puteri", "Penang Samba", "Song of Crossing at Dawn" and more – in sparkling contemporary arrangements.

9 DAYS 8 SHOWS

About the Performing Group and Artists

WVC Jazz

Formed in 2006, WVC Jazz are one of Southeast Asia's leading contemporary jazz bands. The group has toured extensively in the region, recalling the spirit of being on the road – the lifestyle of touring jazz bands of old. The present incarnation of WVC consists of bandleader/composer/arranger/music director/pianist Tay Cher Siang, bassist AJ Popshuvit and drummer Adriel Wong. WVC have released six instrumental albums of original music: *WVC TRiO* (2008), *Eleven* (2009), *In the Dark, I See Her* (2011), *Waiting for That Day* (2014), *Do Not Go Gently* (2016) and *Give Thy Ear* (2018). Their most recent album, *Purnama* (2021), revisits songs from the era of Malaysian independence and presents them in fresh contemporary arrangements. WVC won three awards at the prestigious BOH Cameronian Arts Awards in 2016 and a further two awards in 2020. The band also appeared briefly in the Hollywood film, *Crazy Rich Asians*.



Tay Cher Siang (Musical Director, keyboards)

Tay Cher Siang is one of Southeast Asia's finest jazz pianists, composers, arrangers and producers, and currently lives in Kuala Lumpur. With an early training in classical music, he took up jazz in his teens and began a musical odyssey as a jazz pianist. He studied with the renowned teachers James Miltenberger and Paul Scea in the United States before returning to Malaysia to immerse himself in jazz education at a number of universities while also teaching at his private studio and giving masterclasses and jazz clinics. As a pianist and composer, Cher Siang has toured extensively, performing in Asia, the Middle East, Europe and North America with both the multinational band Unit Asia and with his own band WVC Jazz – one of Southeast Asia's leading contemporary jazz ensembles.



Adriel Wong (Drums)

Adriel Wong graduated in 2018 with a Bachelor of Music from Universiti Sains Malaysia. Being an alumnus of the Malaysian Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, he has received classical and contemporary orchestral music exposure. He actively pursues a full-time music career by engaging in projects with musicians locally and internationally, mainly as a jazz drummer. He is currently the drummer for WVC Jazz, and has been a sideman for notable musicians including Tay Cher Siang, Michael Veerapan, Julian Chan, Gabrielle Stravelli, Patrick O'Leary, Chi-Pin Hsieh, Kai-Ya Chang and Yuki Arimasa.



AJ Popshuvit (Bass)

AJ Popshuvit is a founder member and bassist of WVC Jazz, one of Southeast Asia's leading contemporary jazz bands, with whom he has toured extensively in the region. With WVC, he has played on seven albums of original music, and won three awards at the prestigious BOH Cameronian Arts Awards in 2016 and a further two awards in 2020. He also appeared briefly with the band in the Hollywood film, *Crazy Rich Asians*.



With...

Junji Delfino (Singer)

Junji Delfino is a name deeply etched in Malaysian jazz and performing arts circles. Born into a family whose name is synonymous with music in the Philippines, she has become a vocalist of critical and popular renown, developing a sound and a style all her own. A gifted songwriter, lyricist and composer, Junji has released two albums. Her solo album *Here I Am* (2010) received rave reviews both locally and internationally, and she released *It's Christmas Time Again* (with David Gomes, 2014) to great popular acclaim. She has appeared at several jazz festivals, including the first edition of the KL International Jazz Festival in 2012, with performances in Southeast Asia and the United States. In addition, Junji won the Best Vocal Performer Award at the BOH Cameronian Arts Awards in 2012 for her tribute, *Lush Life*.



Rizal Tony (Guitar)

Rizal Tony is a full-time music educator, jazz guitarist, musician, music director, music arranger and composer, affiliated with Universiti Teknologi MARA. He has collaborated widely with local and international musicians and artists working in jazz and popular music genres.



Janet Lee (Singer)

As a stage performer and vocalist, Janet Lee specialises in vintage music, regularly performing great songs from the 1920s to 1960s. Her unique musicality, vocals and stage presence deliver American songbook standards, Broadway show tunes, operatic arias, art songs, bossa nova and Shanghai jazz with inimitable flair and grace. Janet has released two studio albums: *Restless Heart* (2015) and *Cinnabar Rouge* (2017). She has staged and produced two solo concerts in conjunction with the album releases to packed houses and rave reviews. She is also a member of the Shang Sisters, Southeast Asia's leading Shanghai jazz trio.



Tan Chee Shen (Singer)

The tenor Tan Chee Shen is a winner of numerous awards, including the grand prize of The Voice Singapore-Malaysia competition and the Bangkok Opera South-East Asia vocal competition, and the bronze award of the NTD Television International Chinese Singing Competition in New York. He currently resides in Kuala Lumpur and is a full-time lecturer at the Institute of Music, UCSI University.



Jo Lixian (Singer)

Jo is a singer-songwriter and music educator. After graduating with a songwriting degree from Berklee College of Music, USA, in 2017, she started a trio called Jiwang with her sisters. She is also the founder and instructor of the Music Nation Music School and the Music Nation Speaks podcast host.



Yow Weng Wai (Saxophone)

Originally from Kota Kinabalu, Yow Weng Wai is a professional saxophonist performing and touring with many popular names in the Chinese pop music scene. When he is not touring, he also performs with Malaysian jazz bands such as Funkatorie, Urban Tribes and WVC Jazz.

9 DAYS 8 SHOWS



Tan Jie (Bamboo flute)

Tan Jie has been playing bamboo flutes (*dizi*, *xiao* and *shakuhachi*) for decades. As an educator, performer and proponent of bamboo flutes, he has appeared in various musical productions in Malaysia and internationally.

George Town Festival
Impress Creative and Editorial
present

PAPER MOON: JAZZ IN THE CITY **MURAKAMI AND JAZZ**



WVC Jazz

Tay Cher Siang | AJ Popshuvit | Adriel Wong
with Rizal Tony | Yow Weng Wai

featuring Junji Delfino | Janet Lee
Marina Tan | Gareth Richards

Sunday 12 December 2021 | 8.00 pm
Black Kettle Beach Street, George Town, 10300 Penang

Ticketed | RM70
www.georgetownfestival.com

Photo credit: SC Shekar ©2021

ASIA
center

IMPRESS
CREATIVE — EDITORIAL



Janet Lee

Paper Moon: Jazz in the City Murakami and Jazz

Date : 12 December 2021

Time : 8pm

Venue : Black Kettle, George Town, Penang

Ticket Price : RM70

Paper Moon: Jazz in the City brings together some of Malaysia's finest musicians in two complementary back-to-back concerts. The second, *Murakami and Jazz*, presents a unique tribute to one of Japan's greatest cultural icons, Haruki Murakami. As one of the best-known and most critically acclaimed writers working today, Murakami himself has had a lifelong love affair with all kinds of music, and especially jazz. His writing constantly draws inspiration and quotes from his favourite musicians. This unique multimedia concert combines three artistic elements: the narration of a specially written script based on Murakami's words – from novels, short stories and essays – featuring Marina Tan and Gareth Richards as the two narrators; music directly referenced in Murakami's texts and originals composed by Tay Cher Siang as a response to them, featuring WVC Jazz, Rizal Tony, Yow Weng Wai and singers Junji Delfino and Janet Lee; and a projected montage of images drawn from art and photography, including the work of leading Japanese artists. By presenting the interplay of words and music and images – as in a three-dimensional conversation – this concert draws attention to a sometimes overlooked facet of Murakami's literary output and showcases the creative response of Malaysian performing artists to a great writer.

Co-sponsored by Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur

GEORGE TOWN FESTIVAL 2021

About the Performing Group and Artists

WVC Jazz

Formed in 2006, WVC Jazz are one of Southeast Asia's leading contemporary jazz bands. The group has toured extensively in the region, recalling the spirit of being on the road – the lifestyle of touring jazz bands of old. The present incarnation of WVC consists of bandleader/composer/arranger/music director/pianist Tay Cher Siang, bassist AJ Popshuvit and drummer Adriel Wong. WVC have released six instrumental albums of original music: *WVC TRiO* (2008), *Eleven* (2009), *In the Dark, I See Her* (2011), *Waiting for That Day* (2014), *Do Not Go Gently* (2016) and *Give Thy Ear* (2018). Their most recent album, *Purnama* (2021), revisits songs from the era of Malaysian independence and presents them in fresh contemporary arrangements. WVC won three awards at the prestigious BOH Cameronian Arts Awards in 2016 and a further two awards in 2020. The band also appeared briefly in the Hollywood film, *Crazy Rich Asians*.



Tay Cher Siang
(Musical Director, keyboards)



Adriel Wong
(Drums)



AJ Popshuvit
(Bass)



With...

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Marina Tan (Narrator)

Marina Tan is an actor and playwright inspired by stories of humanity. Her stage credits include *What Am I, A Bloody Banyan Tree?* (2016), *The Italian Restaurant* (2017) and *The Glass Menagerie* (2019). She has been nominated for Best Supporting Actor at the BOH Cameronian Arts Awards and is a former recipient of a Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur grant for *Momotaro*, a project with children of diverse backgrounds. Other credits include onscreen, motion-capture acting and voice-overs.



Gareth Richards (Narrator)

Gareth Richards is a writer, editor and bookseller based in Penang. He is the founder of Impress Creative and Editorial, and Gerakbudaya Bookshop Penang, as well as co-founder of Hikayat. He is the author of *Portraits of Penang: Little India* (2011), *Panicrama* (2016) and *Discourses, Agency and Identity in Malaysia* (2021), among other publications. He previously performed with WVC Jazz in *Listen to the Wind Sing: Murakami and Jazz* (2019) and *Music of Words* (2020).

ALL TOGETHER NOW

A cultural and contemporary
dance performance commissioned by
George Town Festival 2021

Presented by:

11 & 12 DEC 2021 | 8.00PM

Dewan Sri Pinang, Penang

Ticketed | RM60

www.georgetownfestival.com



All Together Now

Dates : 11 & 12 December 2021
Time : 8pm
Venue : Dewan Sri Pinang, George Town, Penang
Ticket Price : RM60

"All Together Now" is a cultural and contemporary dance performance celebrating diversity and multiculturalism. Prepare to be mesmerised by ASK Dance Company, as they take you to explore the movement vocabulary of silat in "Langkah 17" and blow your mind with "Eclectic Shift" which combines various elements of traditional dances. Inspired by culture and nature, Dua Space Dance Theatre is set to present a dance interpretation of the philosophy of Mr. Sim Mow Yu (local educator and calligrapher) in "Ancient Inscriptions 万象甲骨". The same company also promises to deliver profound messages surrounding Mother Nature in "Black & White @ Variation – The Black Snake in the White". For a taste of contemporary and classical Indian dances, Sutra Foundation is delivering poignant homage to the Sun in "Aditya Archana (Odissi)" as well as to Rama and Siva in "Pibare Ramarasam & Exalted (Contemporary Indian Dance)". Don't miss out on "Satu", where Sutra Foundation, Dua Space Dance Theatre and ASK Dance Company take the stage together in a celebration of togetherness.

"All Together Now" is a commissioned work by George Town Festival 2021.

Repertoire

ASK Dance Company: Langkah 17

“Langkah 17” is inspired by the movement vocabulary of silat, a Malay martial art practised widely in Malaysia and Southeast Asia. Silat is known as strategic and tactical human combat, weaponry, and also philosophy. “Langkah 17” draws heavily on bunga silat, a type of the martial art which has 17 movements. By integrating soft, aesthetic movements with self-defense techniques, “Langkah 17” portrays different dynamics and strengths, transcending the physical defense aspect of the martial art to encompass the contemporary world.

Dua Space Dance Theatre: Ancient Inscriptions

万象甲骨

The late Mr. Sim Mow Yu was a respected educator and calligrapher. His philosophy was calligraphy reflects the writer's personality. As a nod to Mr. Sim's philosophy, this dance piece attempts to depict the great calligrapher's personalities: integrity, stability, certainty, dignity, generosity, and honesty. A cane will be used to symbolise the spirit of Mr. Sim, flexible yet gritty, that rooted deeply in his calligraphy.

Sutra Foundation: Aditya Archana (Odissi)

“Aditya”, another name of “Surya” or the Sun, is regarded as a visible divinity and the centre of creation. The Sun is the celestial form of fire – source of light, warmth, knowledge and therefore of life. It is the eye of the world, maker of the day and source of time. As the enchantment of the supreme being, the Sun is envisaged as perpetually creating, supporting, and destroying life, pleasing all by its multifold brilliance, thus, deserving of our adoration. The dance is performed by two generations of performers – senior and junior dancers of Sutra.

Sutra Foundation: Pibare Ramarasam & Exalted (Contemporary Indian Dance)

“Pibare Ramarasam”: Praised be Rama, Hero of the Ramayana, whose name is the immortal nectar we drink!

“Exalted”: Siva's Cosmic Dance represents the Cycle of Birth, Death, and Rebirth. From his dreadlocks, the River Ganga flows. As he dances his intoxicating dance, he wields the Trisula and is accompanied by Bhutaganas.

ASK Dance Company: Eclectic Shift

Combining various elements of traditional dances, "Eclectic Shift" is choreographed to display a "shift" from one form to another.

Dua Space Dance Theatre: Black & White @ Variation – The Black Snake in the White

This contemporary dance invokes deep reflection about "returning to innocence", while conveying a moving message about the erosion of ethical values and the reckless damage humans have done to Mother Nature. As grim realities of constant calamities haunting us, this work seeks to deliver another message – in the face of these disasters, how can we think of the future? Using the subtle power of the stage, Dua Space Dance Theatre sends a silent appeal to us against the reckless damage our darker nature has inflicted on Mother Nature and urges us to strive for higher ideals of morality and ethics. White is the colour of innocence and purity. Black, on the contrary, symbolises destruction and corruption. In "The Black Snake in the White", dancers in colour-coded balloon costumes duel with each other. It ends with the aggressive blacks devouring the elegant whites, bursting their balloons, depicting the destruction to all good and the reckless damage of nature.

Sutra Foundation, Dua Space Dance Theatre & ASK Dance Company: Satu

All embracing celebration of togetherness of the young with the more experienced.

"All Together Now"

Management Team

Datuk Ramli Bin Ibrahim - Chairman/Artistic Director of Sutra Foundation

Prof. Dr. Joseph Gonzales - Founder/Artistic Director of ASK Dance Company

Anthony Meh Kim Chuan - Founder/Managing Director of Dua Space Dance Theatre

Aman Yap Choong Boon - Founder/Artistic Director/Principal Dancer of Dua Space Dance Theatre

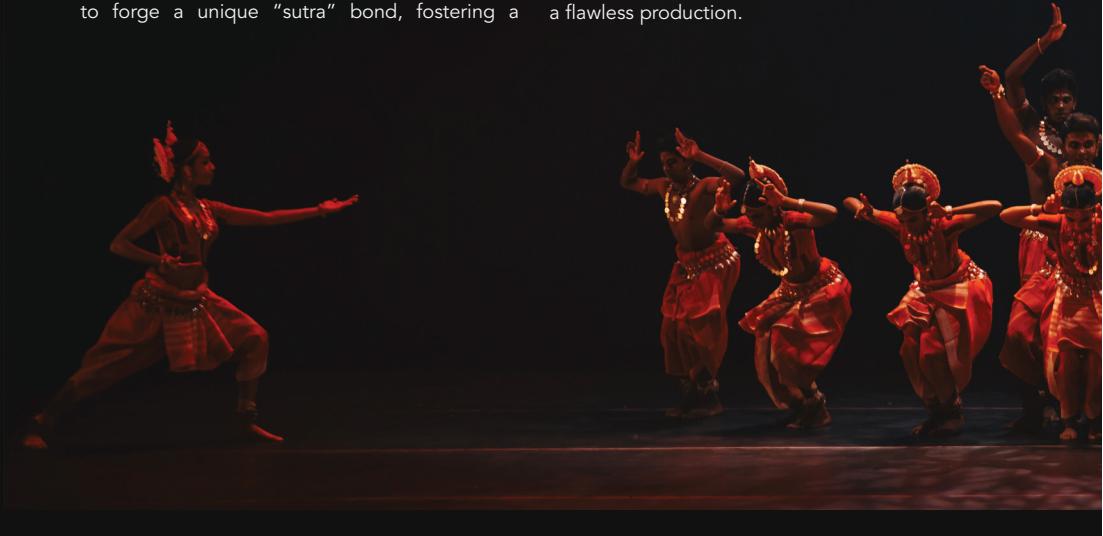
Mr Sivarajah Natarajan & Mr Tan Eng Heng - Lighting Designers

About the Dance Companies

Sutra Foundation

Sutra Foundation, a bastion of traditional and contemporary arts, is bequeathed to Malaysia by one of its sons, Datuk Ramli Ibrahim. It carries into the future the thread of Ramli's vision and contribution to the Malaysian arts scene by striving to develop the breadth and depth of Malaysian performing arts, stimulating the creative spirit of cross-cultural Malaysia. Sutra Foundation has presented outstanding national and international artists and has trained professional and creative staff in lighting, stage management, theatre production and administration, which endeavour to forge a unique "sutra" bond, fostering a

universal yet distinctively Malaysian interpretation of the arts. Sutra Foundation has been active during the challenging COVID-19 pandemic period in spearheading continuous and sustainable activities in the performing arts (Sutra Dance Theatre), exhibitions (Sutra & KamaRia Galleries) and teaching (Sutra Academy). Immense care goes into crafting a Sutra Production – be it in terms of impeccable design input, selection of dance talent, devising sets, costumes, lighting or graphics, and marrying them to the choreographic intent and presentation to assure a flawless production.





ASK Dance Company

ASK Dance Company is a Malaysian professional full-time dance company. The company's philosophy is that one must continuously learn and be unafraid to ASK pertinent questions to be alive. That's why the company's dance productions often serve as a platform to kickstart the dialogue, from disenfranchisement to celebrations of life. Through its repertoire and its members' ethnicity, ASK Dance Company is a shining example of Malaysia's plurality. The company aspires to

become a unique force with a distinct Malaysian identity providing employment, experience and a career pathway for outstanding dancers and choreographers. Additionally, the company intends to play a significant role in bridging boundaries and breaking glass ceilings, to bring important values to the forefront of national/international consciousness.





Dua Space Dance Theatre

Dua Space Dance Theatre is the first full-time professional contemporary dance company established in 1998. Since then, the company has been releasing full-length performances every year. The company's performances are internationally recognised, having been invited to participate in various international arts festivals such as Korea Cheng Mu International Dance Festival, Korea Incheon World Dance Festival, Beijing Dance Festival, Guangzhou Dance Festival, Japan Asia Dance Festival, India National Cultural Festival, Philippines International Dance Festival, Singapore Causeway Exchange Festival, Pakistan World Performing Arts Festival and more. The company has also performed in China, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan,

Pakistan, Indonesia, Britain, the Philippines, India, Spain and South America, including Chile, Peru, Argentina and Paraguay, bringing Malaysia's performing arts scene to the international arena. In 2018, Dua Space Dance Theatre collaborated with City Contemporary Dance Company Hong Kong at Istana Budaya Malaysia with the title "AMIDST THE WIND".





9 DAYS 8 SHOWS

George Town Festival
Hikayat
Impress Creative and Editorial
present

SOUND AND SCREEN JAZZ FILM FESTIVAL



Wednesday 1 December 2021 | 6.30pm
THE UNITED STATES VS BILLIE HOLIDAY
Dir. Lee Daniels | 2021 | 128 mins (Feature film)
starring Andra Day, Trevante Rhodes, Garrett Hedlund

Thursday 2 December 2021 | 6.30pm
BLUE NOTE RECORDS: BEYOND THE NOTES
Dir. Sophie Huber | USA | 2018 | 95 mins (Documentary)

Friday 3 December 2021 | 6.30pm
MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM
Dir. George C. Wolfe | USA | 2020 | 94 mins
(Feature film)
starring Viola Davis, Chadwick Boseman, Glynn Turman

Screenings and refreshments from RM15
Advanced booking is essential

T: 04 261 9001 (Hikayat)
04 261 8001 (Genk budaya Bookshop @ Hikayat)
E: info@hikayatasia.com

Hikayat
226 Beach Street
George Town
10300 Penang

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CREATIVE
EDITORIAL
HIKAYAT

Meanwhile...

Sound and Screen: Jazz Film Festival

Dates : 1 - 3 December 2021

Time : 6.30pm

Venue : Hikayat, George Town, Penang

As a complement to the two *Paper Moon* jazz concerts and three music masterclasses, Impress Creative and Editorial teams up with Hikayat to present *Sound and Screen*, a mini-festival of three recent award-winning jazz films. We begin with *The United States vs Billie Holiday*, a searing drama of the struggles of the great Billie Holiday with fame, addiction and political harassment. We then move on to a brilliant documentary chronicling the story of perhaps the most iconic of all jazz recording labels, *Blue Note Records*: an immaculate portrait of outstanding musicians and a label's mission to take jazz to the world. We round off with the critical and box office hit *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*. Set in the 1920s, the film is a biographical drama focusing on the life of the influential American blues singer and recording artist Ma Rainey.

1 December 2021

The United States vs Billie Holiday

Dir. Lee Daniels | 2021 | 126 mins (Feature film)
starring Andra Day, Trevante Rhodes, Garrett Hedlund

An outstanding biopic that follows the legendary jazz singer Billie Holiday during a career that brought her both triumph and troubles.

Winner, Best Actress, Golden Globes

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

'Day invests her performance with a vibrant strength that cannot be quelled' — Mark Kermode, *The Observer*

2 December 2021

Blue Note Records: Beyond the Notes

Dir. Sophie Huber | USA | 2018 | 95 mins (Documentary)

A revelatory, thrilling and emotional journey behind the scenes of Blue Note Records, the pioneering label that gave voice to some of the finest jazz artists of all time.

Winner, Jury Prize, Richmond International Film Festival

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

'a pristine doc of tonal clarity' — Leslie Felperin, *The Guardian*

3 December 2021

Ma Rainey's Black Bottom

Dir. George C. Wolfe | USA | 2020 | 94 mins (Feature film)

starring Viola Davis, Chadwick Boseman, Glynn Turman

Tensions and temperatures rise at a Chicago music studio in 1927 when fiery, fearless blues singer Ma Rainey joins her band for a recording session.

Winner, Best Actor, Screen Actors Guild Awards

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

'Ma Rainey's Black Bottom is pure art, just as beautiful as it is heartbreakin' — Arionne Nettles, *Chicago Reader*

Screenings and refreshments RM15

Advanced booking is essential

T: 04 261 9001 (Hikayat)

04 261 8001 (Gerakbudaya Bookshop @ Hikayat)

E: info@hikayat.asia

9 DAYS 8 SHOWS

Meanwhile...

George Town Festival
Impress Creative and Editorial
present

MUSIC MASTERCLASSES **JAZZ AND BEYOND**

In-person and online

Wednesday 8 December 2021 | 7.00–9.00 pm
Tay Cher Siang
What I Talk About When I Talk About Playing Piano

Thursday 9 December 2021 | 7.00–9.00 pm
Junji Delfino
All About the Singer and the Song

Friday 10 December 2021 | 7.00–9.00 pm
Rizal Tony
Improvisation Strategies for Jazz Guitar

Hikayat 228 Beach Street, George Town, 10300 Penang
A registration fee is required. To register or for more
information, visit www.georgetownfestival.com

IMPRESS
CREATIVE & EDITORIAL

HIKAYAT



Music Masterclasses: Jazz and Beyond

Dates : 8 - 10 December 2021

Time : 7pm - 9pm

Venue/Platform : Hikayat, George Town,
Penang/Zoom

Fee : RM10 per Masterclass

The *Music Masterclasses: Jazz and Beyond* series taps into the expertise of leading musicians and music educators to offer technical and performance-related insights for music practitioners, from keen hobbyists to potential professionals. Participants will learn how to prepare for performances, how to listen and practise better, how to infuse their own performances with creativity, and how to be more professional in their approach to music-making. The sessions are open to all those who have a keen interest in music, and preference is given to those who are practising musicians of any age with some level of prior experience.

8 December 2021

What I Talk About When I Talk About Playing Piano

Tay Cher Siang (Musical director, Pianist)

Tay Cher Siang discusses the role of a pianist – in a band setting, as accompanist or as a soloist. The session is a hands-on demonstration of various types of playing, what to listen to, how to react to musical ideas in real time, preparations, and the kind of practice that would improve playing.

9 December 2021

All About the Singer and the Song

Junji Delfino (Singer)

This masterclass is for singers and teachers wanting to delve deeper into what it takes to be a jazz singer. Get to understand more about the voice, and how to manage microphone technique, phrasing, style and improvisation. The focus is also on what it means to be a singer, learning to create a repertoire and how to direct, interact and groove with an instrumental ensemble. An ideal opportunity for those who want to explore the intimate relationship between the singer and the song with a true professional.

10 December 2021

Improvisation Strategies for Jazz Guitar

Rizal Tony (Guitarist)

For many performers, the obstacle that prevents them from being fluent during improvisation is the ability to develop an improvisational concept, shaping ideas and patterns into expressive content. There has to be a structure, system or method that applies: mental representation of a piece, patterns of practice and strategies that high-level performers adopt during improvisation. This masterclass led by Rizal Tony looks at how guitarists/musicians train, think and improvise. All guitarists, instrumentalists and voice enthusiasts are invited to join. Let's have some serious fun!

9 DAYS 8 SHOWS

About the Facilitators

Tay Cher Siang (Musical director, Pianist)

Tay Cher Siang is one of Southeast Asia's finest jazz pianists, composers, arrangers and producers, and currently lives in Kuala Lumpur. With an early training in classical music, he took up jazz in his teens and began a musical odyssey as a jazz pianist. He studied with the renowned teachers James Miltenberger and Paul Sceia in the United States, before returning to Malaysia to immerse himself in jazz education at a number of universities, while also teaching at his private studio and giving masterclasses and jazz clinics. As a pianist and composer, Cher Siang has toured extensively, performing in Asia, the Middle East, Europe and North America with both the multinational band Unit Asia, and with his own band WVC Jazz – one of Southeast Asia's leading contemporary jazz ensembles.

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For ticketing and registration, visit

www.georgetownfestival.com

*All information is accurate at time of printing.

*Programmes are subject to change without prior notice.