

**1-9
AUG 2026**

**GEORGETOWNTM
FESTIVAL**
PENANG • MALAYSIA

www.georgetownfestival.com





Message by

YAB Chow Kon Yeow
Chief Minister of Penang

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings on the occasion of George Town Festival 2026 and to commend the organising team for their dedication in bringing the 17th edition of this celebrated Festival to life.

Over the years, George Town Festival has become a cornerstone of Penang's cultural calendar, showcasing the richness of the arts while bringing together artists, creatives, and audiences from across Malaysia and beyond. Its continued success reflects Penang's standing as a vibrant hub for culture, creativity, and innovation.

This year's theme, "Beyond Boundaries", captures the ability of the arts to connect people, inspire fresh perspectives, and open new possibilities. It reminds us that creativity has the power to transcend differences, foster understanding, and strengthen the bonds that unite our communities.

These values resonate strongly with the aspirations of Penang2030. Through its diverse performances, exhibitions, workshops, and community programmes, the Festival enriches our cultural landscape while contributing to a more inclusive, connected, and liveable society.

I invite everyone to be part of George Town Festival 2026. May this Festival inspire us to look beyond boundaries and embrace the limitless possibilities that emerge when culture, creativity, and community come together.



Message by

YB Wong Hon Wai
Penang State EXCO
for Tourism and Creative Economy (PETACE)

First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the George Town Festival team on the successful presentation of the 17th edition of this beloved Festival. Reaching this milestone is no small achievement, and it is a testament to the dedication, creativity, and passion of everyone who has contributed to the Festival's journey over the years.

Since its beginnings, George Town Festival has become an important part of Penang's cultural calendar. What started as a celebration of George Town's UNESCO World Heritage Site inscription has evolved into an internationally recognised festival that brings together artists, communities, and audiences from near and far. Along the way, it has helped nurture our creative ecosystem, provided platforms for artistic expression, and strengthened Penang's reputation as a vibrant destination for arts, culture, and tourism.

This year's theme, "Beyond Boundaries", is a timely reminder that art has the power to connect people across cultures, generations, and perspectives. Through performances, exhibitions, workshops, and community programmes, the Festival invites us to see the world differently and discover new possibilities through creativity.

I invite you to explore the exciting programmes lined up this year. Be sure to mark your calendars, bring along your family and friends, and join us in celebrating the arts in all their forms. I look forward to seeing you at George Town Festival 2026.



Message by

Dr Ang Ming Chee

General Manager
George Town World Heritage Incorporated

Executive Producer
George Town Festival 2026

Beneath the vast celestial summer dome,
In the weave of historic loom,
George Town Festival becomes a vibrant home,
Where souls converge and stories bloom.

Fall in love, we shall,
Savour the moments, we must.

For nine wondrous days and nights,
Fill our soul with stirring trusts,
Shout with roaring voices,
Walk, talk and feast without earthly end,

Push to the edge where the stage lights gleam,
Let the echoes of applause collide,
Until the lights fade,
And the last prop is carried away.

This shall be the Festival,
One we shall remember,
For we meet,
Fall in love,
Share the moment,
And part once more.

As all beautiful things must.



Message by

Jack Wong

Festival Director
George Town Festival 2026

Since its inception, George Town Festival has grown into a platform where artists, audiences, and communities come together through the arts. This year, with the theme “Beyond Boundaries”, we invite you to embrace new perspectives and explore the possibilities that emerge when creativity, imagination, and ideas meet.

Art has the ability to transcend borders, bringing people together through shared experiences. The programmes presented this year reflect this spirit of exploration, bringing together diverse voices, ideas, and expressions through the arts. Whether through intimate performances, immersive installations, or unexpected encounters in public spaces, each experience offers an invitation to discover new perspectives and meaningful connections. Together, they transform George Town into a living stage where heritage meets contemporary creativity, and every encounter invites us to see, question, and imagine differently.

Since taking on this role in 2019, I have had the privilege of witnessing the Festival evolve through the dedication of artists, partners, crew members, volunteers, and supporters. My deepest appreciation goes to the George Town Festival team, both past and present, whose commitment and passion have helped shape the Festival throughout its journey.

Thank you for walking alongside us on this journey. Your trust, support, and belief in the arts continue to inspire us to create meaningful experiences and celebrate the endless possibilities of the arts.

About Us

George Town Festival 2026 invites you to journey “Beyond Boundaries”—to venture beyond the familiar, to listen for the stories yet untold, and to discover the possibilities that emerge when imagination is set free.

This year’s Festival celebrates curiosity, courage, and the connections forged when we dare to explore beyond what we know. It brings together artists who challenge conventions, cross creative borders, and reimagine the ways we experience the world. From performances and visual arts to music, film, community projects, and immersive experiences, the Festival creates spaces where diverse voices, ideas, and perspectives meet.

Here, art is not confined by walls, disciplines, or definitions. It flows between cultures, generations, and communities; it shifts perspectives, awakens emotions, and reveals the unseen threads that connect us. Every performance, exhibition, film, installation, and shared experience becomes an invitation to explore, to question, and to imagine anew.

Across nine days, George Town becomes a living canvas where heritage and contemporary expressions meet, where familiar streets hold new stories, and where unexpected moments unfold. The Festival embraces the endless journey of art—constantly evolving and brought to life through the people who create, experience, and carry it forward.

Beyond boundaries, there are new worlds to discover. Beyond the known, there are stories waiting to be told. Beyond imagination, there are possibilities without limits.



Festival Calendar

1 AUG 2026 (SAT)

Matahari Ticketed
Majestic Theatre | 3pm

The Web of Deceits
The Whiteaways Arcade | 5pm

Six to Eleven
Padang Kota Lama | 6pm - 11pm

2 AUG 2026 (SUN)

Matahari Ticketed
Majestic Theatre | 3pm

The Web of Deceits
The Whiteaways Arcade | 5pm

Six to Eleven
Padang Kota Lama | 6pm - 11pm

TEWAS: No Light at the End of the Tunnel Ticketed
The Courtyard, Beach Street | 8.45pm

Six to Eleven 1 & 2 AUG 2026 | Padang Kota Lama

Paint the Town___!
5pm - 11pm

DUNDU Sharing the Light
1 AUG 2026 | 6.30pm, 8pm & 9.30pm
2 AUG 2026 | 6.30pm, 7.45pm & 9.30pm

Jom Layan Selects
1 AUG 2026 | 6pm & 7pm
2 AUG 2026 | 6.30pm & 7.30pm

Thai Masked Dance
by Patong Wittaya Foundation School
2 AUG 2026 | 6pm

Stories Over(Seas): Cerita Malam
6pm & 7:30pm

Animal Parade
8pm

TERANG | Heritage in Motion
8pm - 11pm

Nalan!
9pm

Suara Rimba dan Arus
10pm



Festival Calendar

3 AUG 2026 (MON)

Flamenco Signature
Loft 29 | 8pm

TEWAS: No Light at the End of the Tunnel Ticketed
The Courtyard, Beach Street | 8.45pm

Wayang Pacak
Seh Tek Tong Cheah Kongsi | 9pm

4 AUG 2026 (TUE)

The Malaysian Real Book II: Past to Present Ticketed
Majestic Theatre | 8pm

TEWAS: No Light at the End of the Tunnel Ticketed
The Courtyard, Beach Street | 8.45pm

Wayang Pacak
Seh Tek Tong Cheah Kongsi | 9pm

5 AUG 2026 (WED)

The Malaysian Real Book II: Past to Present Ticketed
Majestic Theatre | 8pm

Wayang Pacak
Seh Tek Tong Cheah Kongsi | 9pm

6 AUG 2026 (THU)

FENCE
Gurney Plaza | 8pm

Wayang Pacak
Seh Tek Tong Cheah Kongsi | 9pm

7 AUG 2026 (FRI)

Ctrl A+C
Armenian Park

Wayang Pacak
Seh Tek Tong Cheah Kongsi | 9pm

Lament of the Wandering Head Ticketed
Bangunan U.A.B | 8pm

Asian Board Games Festival Malaysia
1st Avenue Mall, Penang | 10am - 7pm

Festival Calendar

8 AUG 2026 (SAT)

Ctrl A+C
Armenian Park

Dream Space Ticketed
Loft 29 | 12pm & 5pm

Lament of the Wandering Head Ticketed
Bangunan U.A.B | 3pm

Shakespeare Meets NOH: DESDEMONA Ticketed
Majestic Theatre | 5pm

Islander Surge 3.0 Ticketed
Khoo Kongsi | 6.30pm

When Spirits Meet: The Rainbow Bridge and Ocean Chants Ticketed
Dewan Sri Pinang | 8pm

Wayang Pacak
Seh Tek Tong Cheah Kongsi | 9pm

Asian Board Games Festival Malaysia
1st Avenue Mall, Penang | 10am - 7pm

9 AUG 2026 (SUN)

Ctrl A+C
Armenian Park

When Spirits Meet: The Rainbow Bridge and Ocean Chants Ticketed
Dewan Sri Pinang | 3pm

Shakespeare Meets NOH: DESDEMONA Ticketed
Majestic Theatre | 5pm

Dream Space Ticketed
Loft 29 | 5pm & 8pm

Wayang Pacak
Seh Tek Tong Cheah Kongsi | 9pm

Asian Board Games Festival Malaysia
1st Avenue Mall, Penang | 10am - 7pm

Ctrl A+C 7 - 9 AUG 2026 | Armenian Park & Armenian Street

Steamplant Movement
10am & 5pm

Beyond Borders
6pm & 9.30pm

Click Click
7 & 9 AUG 2026 | 8pm
8 AUG 2026 | 11am & 8pm

Nenda: Fruit in Palm
7pm

LOS | Kembali
8.30pm

FENCE
8 AUG 2026 | 4pm
9 AUG 2026 | 11am & 4pm



Festival Calendar

15 & 16 AUG 2026 (SAT & SUN)

**George Town Festival
x Ansan Street Arts Festival**
Design Village Outlet Mall
4pm - 10pm

5 SEPT 2026 (SAT)

Paya Terubong Fringe Festival
Padang Pasar Malam, Medan Angsana,
Bandar Baru Air Itam
6pm - 11pm

PROJECTION MAPPING SHOWCASE

1 - 9 AUG 2026

TERANG | Heritage in Motion
Padang Kota Lama | 8pm - 11pm

3 - 7 AUG 2026

Warung TERANG
Armenian Street | 8pm - 10.30pm

WORKSHOP

1 & 2 AUG 2026

Animal Parade
Padang Kota Lama | 2pm

**The Art of Wet Plate Collodion
Photography**
Hikayat | 2pm

Macam Macam Muka
Padang Kota Lama | 6pm - 9pm

**Jom Layan Vinyl Experience:
A Tactile Journey Through Analog
Soundscapes**
Padang Kota Lama | 7.30pm - 8.30pm

2 AUG 2026

Flamenco Workshop
Loft 29 | 8pm

6 AUG 2026

**When Spirits Meet - Taiwan
Indigenous Culture and Ritual Dance**
Gurney Plaza | 6pm

8 AUG 2026

Movement, Voice, and Play
Bangunan U.A.B | 10am

9 AUG 2026

**KEMBALI: A Living Introduction to
Semai Culture**
The Whiteaways Arcade | 11am - 1pm

Festival Calendar

EXHIBITION

31 JUL - 30 AUG 2026

**Collodion, Silver, Glass:
Contemporary Wet Plate Photography**
Hikayat | 11am - 6pm

1 - 9 AUG 2026

Street Fragments: Jalan Gurdwara
Hin Gallery, Hin Bus Depot
Weekdays, 12pm - 7pm
Weekends, 10am - 7pm

Shifting Whispers
ChinaHouse Penang (Art Space 3)
11am - 7pm

Con-Temporary Art
Around George Town | 2pm - 8pm

1 - 30 AUG 2026

Artisan II
O Sculpture Art Space
Friday - Sunday, 10am - 6pm

1 - 31 AUG 2026

Converge
Taman Kejiranan Macallum

1 AUG 2026 - 4 OCT 2026

**The Natural History Museum of
Yeahnahnesia by Yok and Sheryo**
Culprint | 12pm - 7pm
1 - 9 August 2026 (Daily)
14 August - 4 October 2026
(Every Friday to Sunday)

ARTIST SHARING

3 AUG 2026

Artists in Conversation
from Shifting Whispers
The Whiteaways Arcade | 11am

Converge: Work with Nature
The Whiteaways Arcade | 3pm

4 AUG 2026

**Reading Jalan Gurdwara:
Fieldwork Sharing & Conversation**
COEX | 7pm
*Exhibition walkthrough at 6:30pm

5 AUG 2026

**The Moving Gallery:
Here Today, Somewhere Tomorrow**
The Whiteaways Arcade | 3pm





Highlighted Programmes



As the sun begins to set and the city comes alive, “Six to Eleven” transforms the opening weekend of George Town Festival into an evening of music, light, movement, and shared celebration. From 6pm until 11pm, Padang Kota Lama becomes a vibrant playground where local and international artists, communities, and audiences come together in a joyful encounter that blurs the boundaries between performance and everyday life.

Journey through glowing projection-mapped heritage buildings, wander into immersive light installations, discover lively arts markets and participatory workshops, and be captivated by performances that span cultures and traditions—from the haunting sounds of Borneo’s indigenous music and contemporary ethnic fusion to shadow puppetry, interactive street theatre, and spectacular roaming performances. Along the way, spontaneous moments of wonder await around every corner, inviting visitors of all ages to pause, explore, and connect.

More than an opening event, “Six to Eleven” is an invitation to experience George Town after dark through curiosity, creativity, and community. Whether you’re dancing to live music, marvelling at illuminated heritage landmarks, creating alongside artists, or simply soaking in the festive atmosphere, every hour offers a new encounter—turning the city itself into a stage where stories, cultures, and people meet.



TERANG Heritage in Motion

Dates 1 - 9 August 2026
Time 8pm - 11pm
Venue Padang Kota Lama

Pasar (the Malay word for market) is more than a marketplace—it is a space of exchange where cultures, stories, knowledge, and communities converge. Across Malaysia and Southeast Asia, the pasar has long been a place where traditions evolve through everyday interactions, reflecting the region’s rich diversity and vibrancy.

Inspired by this spirit of exchange, “TERANG | Heritage in Motion” invites artists participating in the TERANG Projection Mapping Competition 2026 to reinterpret the pasar through the medium of projection mapping. Heritage architecture becomes a living canvas for storytelling, where light and motion transform familiar façades into immersive, site-responsive narratives. Rather than treating buildings as mere surfaces, artists are encouraged to engage with each structure’s form, history, and character, revealing new perspectives on the places we thought we knew.



DUNDU Sharing the Light

Get ready to enter a luminous world where light, music, and human connection come together in a truly magical encounter. Performed by five artists and accompanied by the enchanting sounds of the kora, the traditional West African harp, this internationally acclaimed interactive light puppet gently weaves its way through the crowd, sharing moments of wonder with audiences of all ages.

Graceful, glowing, and seemingly from another world, the radiant figure pauses to meet each visitor with warmth and kindness, creating intimate exchanges that spark joy, curiosity, and delight. Blending visual spectacle with live music and poetic storytelling, this heart-opening experience transforms public space into a celebration of light, imagination, and shared humanity.



Nalan! by Alena Murang



Award-winning Sarawakian artist Alena Murang brings the rich cultural heritage of Borneo to the stage through a captivating blend of music, storytelling, and tradition. Renowned for her mastery of the sape, evocative vocals in the endangered Kenyah and Kelabit languages, and graceful hornbill dance, Alena reimagines Dayak traditions for contemporary audiences while celebrating their enduring relevance.

A singer-songwriter, educator, and multidisciplinary artist, Alena is dedicated to preserving and sharing the living heritage of Sarawak, inspiring audiences to reconnect with their own cultural roots. In this special performance, she presents music from her latest album, Sky Songs, joined by keyboardist Simmy Lor for an evening that bridges ancestral traditions with modern musical expression.

Suara Rimba dan Arus by At Adau



Hailing from Sarawak on the island of Borneo, At Adau is an independent ethnic fusion band that seamlessly blends indigenous musical traditions with contemporary sounds. Since its formation in 2014, the group has crafted a distinctive musical identity by combining traditional instruments such as the sape, bedok, and kidibad with modern instrumentation, creating a sound that is both rooted in heritage and refreshingly current.

Guided by their motto, "Music That Heals", At Adau celebrates the rich cultural diversity of Borneo while sharing messages of positivity, unity, and connection. Their uplifting performances invite audiences to experience the timeless spirit of Sarawak's indigenous traditions through a vibrant and contemporary musical journey.

Jom Layan Selects: A Showcase of Track Digging & Sonic Diversity

Discover the art of the selector at “Jom Layan Selects”, a curated showcase celebrating the diverse disciplines of DJ culture. Spanning two days, this event brings together four distinct acts that push sonic boundaries across a spectrum of genres. Experience the deep, atmospheric rhythms of liquid drum and bass with EndZeit, the driving, high-energy dancefloor flavours of jersey club, UK garage (UKG), and disco from Synthication, the nostalgic, genre-blurring indie dance grooves of Thee Lone Gunmen, and the dynamic live-electronic hybrid fusion of Lightlow & Jenna on saxophone and violin. From underground club music to live instrumental mashups, “Jom Layan Selects” offers a powerful, multi-sensory journey through modern rhythm and creative expression.

Stories Over(Seas): Cerita Malam A Singapore Night Festival x George Town Festival Collaboration

Stories have long connected people across time and place, carrying memories, values and traditions from one generation to the next. As part of Singapore Night Festival 2026's theme, Myths & Legends, Stories Over(Seas) brings together Singapore Night Festival and George Town Festival in a cross-cultural collaboration that explores how tales, folklore and storytelling continue to shape the cultural imagination of our island communities. This family-friendly storytelling session features acclaimed storyteller Dalifah Shahril, who will bring to life two beloved tales: The Magic Sarong (Sarong Ajaib) and A Kusu Island Tale, the legend of two fishermen whose enduring friendship transcends cultural boundaries. Through imagination and storytelling, audiences will journey into magical worlds while discovering themes of friendship, generosity and cultural connection that resonate across generations.

Thai Masked Dance by Patong Wittaya Foundation School

Experience the splendour of Khon, Thailand's revered classical masked dance drama based on the Ramakien, the Thai national epic adapted from the Ramayana. Presented by Patong Wittaya Foundation School, this captivating performance blends graceful movement, expressive masked characters, elaborate costumes, live Piphat music, and traditional narration in a vibrant celebration of Thai cultural heritage. Featuring three iconic episodes—from “Ram Berk Rong” (Ceremonial Prelude), to “Phra Ram Tam Kwang” (Rama Pursues the Golden Deer), and the climactic “Yok Rob” (The Great Battle)—the performance brings an enduring tale of courage, loyalty, and righteousness to life through the timeless artistry of Thailand's classical theatre.

Paint the Town___!

Bringing together creativity, community, and local makers, “Paint the Town___!” is an arts market by Penang-based event organiser LunaSinar. Founded in 2024 by husband-and-wife duo Hafiz and Wina, LunaSinar creates spaces that celebrate independent artists, creative entrepreneurs, and the vibrant exchange of ideas.

From handmade crafts and artworks to unique creations by local talents, the market invites visitors to discover, connect, and support Penang's growing creative community. Step into a lively gathering where art spills beyond the canvas and creativity takes centre stage.

Animal Parade

Unleash your imagination through movement, creativity, and play at the “Animal Parade” workshop by Funk-You.Art. This immersive experience invites participants to explore instinctive movements—from crawling and rolling to creeping and stretching—before creating their own expressive masks inspired by animals and the imagination. The journey culminates in a vibrant parade, where colourful masks, playful movement, and collective energy transform the festival into a joyful celebration of creativity, connection, and community. Suitable for all ages, this workshop encourages participants to move freely, create boldly, and experience the festival from a fresh perspective.

Hans im Glück

Step into the whimsical world of “Hans in Luck”, a delightful solo shadow puppet performance that brings a beloved German fairy tale to life through enchanting silhouettes, live music, and playful audience participation. As Hans cheerfully trades away every treasure he owns, children will laugh at his unlikely adventures while adults may discover a surprisingly profound story about happiness, contentment, and the true meaning of fortune. Is Hans hopelessly foolish—or wiser than us all? Come and find out.



7 - 9 AUG 2026 | Armenian Park & Armenian Street



Bringing George Town Festival to a vibrant close, “CTRL A+C” (Control Arts and the City) transforms the streets, parks, and public spaces of George Town into stages for unexpected encounters and shared experiences. Taking art beyond conventional venues, this closing weekend programme invites audiences to discover performances that unfold amidst the city’s everyday rhythms, where passers-by become participants and familiar places are reimagined through creativity.

Featuring an exciting line-up of local and international artists, “CTRL A+C” presents site-responsive theatre, movement, street performances, and interdisciplinary works that explore themes of identity, belonging, memory, resilience, and our relationship with one another and the world around us. Blending visual storytelling, music, ritual, and audience participation, each work offers a unique way of experiencing the city through art.

Step outside the theatre and into the city, where every street, square, and open space becomes a stage, and every encounter offers a new perspective on the connections that bind us together.

Steamplant Movement



Journey into a post-apocalyptic steampunk world where six wandering survivors search for a single seed—the fragile promise of renewal in a world scarred by environmental collapse and conflict. “Steamplant Movement” is a visually captivating street theatre performance that transforms public space into a living stage through expressive movement, physical theatre, and playful interaction with audiences.

Performed entirely without spoken dialogue, the work transcends language to tell a universal story of resilience, cooperation, and hope. Blending humour with moments of quiet reflection, it invites audiences of all ages to imagine how humanity might rebuild, reconnect, and flourish in the face of uncertainty.

Presented by Italy’s Shedan Theater, an internationally acclaimed company renowned for creating immersive performances in public spaces, “Steamplant Movement” combines street theatre, contemporary movement, and visual storytelling to create accessible experiences that bring people together. Through its poetic and thought-provoking work, the company transforms streets and squares into places of encounter, imagination, and shared possibility.

Nenda: Fruit in Palm



“Nenda: Fruit in Palm” is a poetic site-responsive performance that invites audiences to slow down, listen, and reconnect with the living landscapes around them. Through ritualising movement, masks, music, and gesture, performers transform the site into a space where land, sea, and sky become active participants in a shared act of remembrance and renewal.

Blurring the boundaries between performance and ceremony, the work explores humanity’s relationship with the more-than-human world, reflecting on the visible and invisible forms of grief that arise when we lose touch with our environment. Accompanied by a semi-improvised live soundscape, the performance unfolds as an immersive journey that encourages audiences to experience their surroundings through the senses rather than words.

Presented by Singapore-based Off Root Theatrics, a transdisciplinary collective known for creating works at the intersection of ritual, performance, and speculative myth-making, “Nenda: Fruit in Palm” is followed by an informal post-performance gathering over tea, inviting audiences to connect, converse and continue the shared experience together.

Click Click



What begins as a simple attempt to take a family photograph soon unfolds into a heartwarming journey filled with laughter, magic, and cherished memories. “Click Click” follows an elderly couple as they navigate the charming mishaps of capturing the perfect picture, revealing a touching story about love, family, and the moments that bind us together.

Presented by South Korea’s Lumos Theatre, the non-verbal performance combines magic, mask theatre, object play, physical comedy, and audience participation to create a joyful theatrical experience that transcends language. Bursting with humour, warmth, and imagination, “Click Click” invites audiences of all ages to celebrate the beauty of connection through the universal language of play.

FENCE



“FENCE” is a poignant physical theatre performance that explores the invisible barriers that can grow between those closest to us. Through the story of a family fractured by addiction, the work reveals how silence, misunderstanding, and emotional distance can slowly erode relationships, while reminding us of the enduring importance of love, empathy, and connection.

Created by South Korea’s Baek.S.Factory, the production combines expressive movement, mime, and object theatre to tell a deeply human story without relying on words. Blending striking visual imagery with emotional storytelling, “FENCE” transcends language to offer a moving reflection on family, healing, and the courage to reconnect.

Beyond Borders



Inspired by real stories of migration, identity, and belonging, “Borders” is a powerful interdisciplinary performance that blurs the lines between theatre, dance, music, and ritual. Created by Italian theatre company Instabili Vaganti, the work unfolds as a poetic journey across visible and invisible borders, exploring the spaces that both divide and connect us.

Created especially for George Town Festival, this unique edition brings together Malaysian and international artists in a vibrant collaboration shaped by the city’s rich multicultural identity. Through multilingual text, evocative movement, and immersive staging, Borders reflects on freedom, memory, and our shared humanity, transforming separation into dialogue and difference into connection.

Inspired by the figure of the Mauerspringer—the “wall jumper” who crossed the Berlin Wall in search of a different future—the performance invites audiences to imagine crossing boundaries not as acts of division, but of hope, transformation, and renewal. The journey culminates in a shared participatory finale, where audiences are invited to join a contemporary ritual celebrating unity through movement.

LOS | Kembali



“Los | Kembali” follows Agil, a young Orang Asli boy whose quiet resilience is tested by bullying, isolation, and the pressure to abandon the traditions that have shaped his identity. As he drifts towards a group of fellow outcasts, Agil finds himself caught between the expectations of the modern world and the ancestral teachings he has always held close.

Rooted in Orang Asli culture and spiritual beliefs, the performance explores themes of identity, belonging, and the enduring wisdom passed down through generations. When ancient taboos are broken, the consequences force Agil to confront what it truly means to lose his way—and what it takes to find his way home.

Presented by Sekolah Main Wayang, an experimental theatre collective dedicated to empowering underserved and at-risk youth through the arts, “Los | Kembali” is the latest production by its acclaimed Wayang TEKtek programme. Created in collaboration with Indigenous Semai youths from Kampung Tumbuh Hangat, Perak, the production combines shadow puppetry, mask performance, movement, and live music to amplify voices often overlooked in contemporary society. Both deeply rooted in tradition and boldly contemporary, “Los | Kembali” is a moving reflection on heritage, resilience, and the enduring power of returning to one’s roots.

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**GEORGETOWN
FESTIVAL**
PENANG • MALAYSIA

Converge

1 - 31 August 2026

Lament of the Wandering Head

7 & 8 August 2026

Islander Surge 3.0

8 August 2026

When Spirits Meet: The Rainbow Bridge and Ocean Chants

8 & 9 August 2026



George Town Festival
Spotlight Taiwan

www.georgetownfestival.com

Isle to Isle 2026

Isle to Isle 2026 brings Penang and Taiwan together through stories, memories, and traditions that connect islands. As a platform for cultural exchange, it celebrates the rich artistic and cultural ties between the two islands, creating opportunities for dialogue, collaboration, and shared experiences across borders.

Featuring four distinctive programmes, this year's edition explores themes of identity, heritage, memory, nature, and belonging through music, visual art, and performance. Together, these artistic encounters offer fresh perspectives on the ways communities connect with one another, their histories, and the landscapes they call home.

From indigenous traditions to contemporary artistic expressions, Isle to Isle 2026 celebrates the enduring connections between islands through creativity, culture, and exchange.

Converge

Refer to page 45 for more information.

Lament of the Wandering Head

Refer to page 26 for more information.

Islander Surge 3.0

Refer to page 29 for more information.

When Spirits Meet: The Rainbow Bridge and Ocean Chants

Refer to page 30 for more information.

A close-up photograph of a puppet show. In the foreground, a large, blue, textured fish puppet is being held by a person's hand. To the right, a small, yellow, wooden puppet with a pink head is being manipulated by another person's hand. The background shows the hands and arms of several people, some wearing blue long-sleeved shirts and brown overalls, working on the puppets. The scene is lit with blue and purple stage lights.

**Ticketed
Shows**

Matahari 太阳



Dates

1 & 2 August 2026

Time

3pm

Venue

Majestic Theatre

Duration

55 minutes without intermission

Ticket Price

RM80 (Normal Ticket)
RM64 (Concession Ticket)
RM256 (Group of Four)

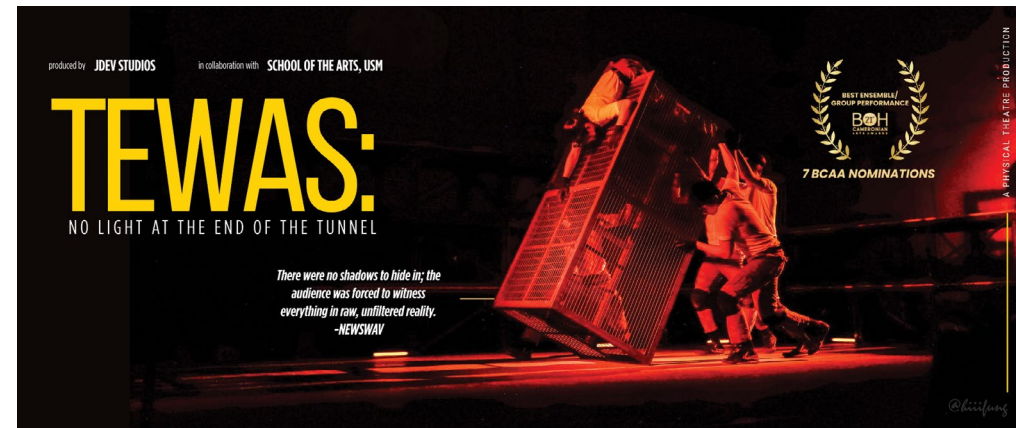
Ticketed

For generations, humanity has lived under the comforting certainty that the sun will always rise. Yet what if that certainty could no longer be taken for granted?

Performed by ZXC Theatre Troupe, “Matahari 太阳” is a visually striking post-apocalyptic fable that explores the fragile relationship between humanity and the natural world. Once revered as the source of life, the sun now stands as a silent witness to centuries of human ambition, exploitation, and neglect. As environmental collapse looms and the fate of the sun itself hangs in the balance, humanity is forced to confront the consequences of its actions.

Blending powerful storytelling with compelling imagery, “Matahari 太阳” invites audiences into a future where darkness threatens to become permanent and the promises between people and planet have long been forgotten. In the face of an uncertain tomorrow, the work poses a haunting question: if the sun were to disappear, what would become of us?

TEWAS: No Light at the End of the Tunnel



Dates

2 - 4 August 2026

Time

8.45pm

Venue

The Courtyard,
Beach Street

Duration

60 minutes without intermission

Ticket Price

RM60 (Normal Ticket)
RM48 (Concession Ticket)
RM192 (Group of Four)

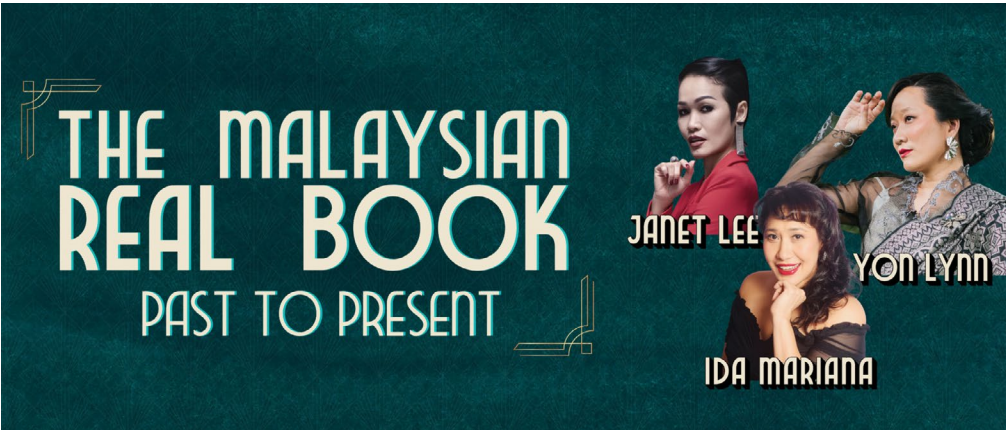
Ticketed

“TEWAS: No Light at the End of the Tunnel” is a visceral theatrical experience that exposes the devastating impact of bullying—from school corridors to workplace hierarchies. Through raw storytelling and explosive physical theatre, the work plunges audiences into a fractured world shaped by violence, silence, complicity, and survival.

After its premiere in Penang and a powerful Kuala Lumpur season, “TEWAS: No Light at the End of the Tunnel” now arrives at the George Town Festival. Its Kuala Lumpur presentation garnered seven nominations at the 2025 BOH Cameronian Arts Awards, culminating in a win for Best Group/Ensemble Performance in the Theatre category.

Unflinching yet deeply human, “TEWAS: No Light at the End of the Tunnel” stands as both a performance and a reckoning, a collective scream from those trapped within systems that fail to protect them.

The Malaysian Real Book II: Past to Present



Dates
4 & 5 August 2026

Time
8pm

Venue
Majestic Theatre

Duration
105 minutes
with intermission
(15 minutes)

Ticket Price
RM100 (Normal Ticket)
RM80 (Concession Ticket)
RM320 (Group of Four)

Ticketed

“The Malaysian Real Book II” brings together three of Malaysia’s finest jazz vocalists—Ida Mariana, Janet Lee, and Yon Lynn—in a vibrant celebration of the Great Malaysian Songbook. Singing traditional standards and contemporary originals from the treasure trove of The Malaysian Real Book – songs in Malay, Chinese and English – their individual and combined styles are innovative and charged by boundless musical joy, all rooted in a distinctly Malaysian jazz sound. Expect soaring vocals and a foot-tapping vibe carried by the rhythms of swing, bebop and soul, and accompanied by the award-winning WVC Jazz Sextet.

Lament of the Wandering Head



Dates and Times
7 August 2026, 8pm
8 August 2026, 3pm

Venue
Bangunan U.A.B

Duration
60 minutes without
intermission

Ticket Price
RM80 (Normal Ticket)
RM64 (Concession Ticket)
RM256 (Group of Four)

Ticketed

“My body is a headless train. My body is a legless boat.”

Premiered in 2025 to critical acclaim, the award-nominated “Lament of the Wandering Head” by Sun Son Theatre is a haunting, female-led performance that blends live music, physical theatre, and storytelling. Inspired by the flying head spirit of Southeast Asian folklore, the work reimagines myth as a powerful reflection on migration, displacement, and the fractured histories of the Chinese diaspora.

Performed in Mandarin and Penang Hokkien, the production creates a rare bilingual soundscape where language, movement, and music intertwine. Combining traditional Taiwanese percussion with Southeast Asian gongs, chanting, and ritual rhythms, “Lament of the Wandering Head” invites audiences into a visceral theatrical journey where the body speaks as powerfully as words.

Movement, Voice, and Play

Date & Time
8 August 2026 | 10am
Bangunan U.A.B

Free Admission

Pre-registration is required.

Dream Space



Dates and Times

8 August 2026
12 pm & 5pm
9 August 2026
5pm & 8pm

Venue

Loft 29

Duration

40 minutes without
intermission

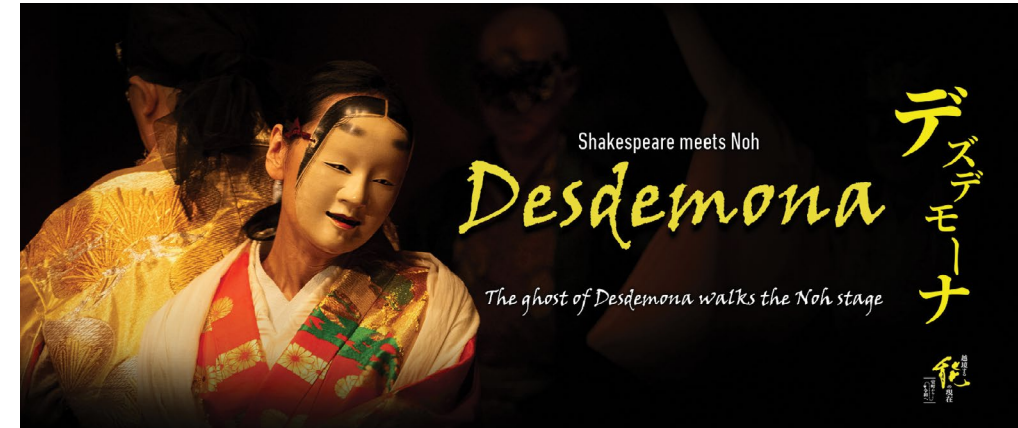
Ticket Price

RM60 (Normal Ticket)
RM48 (Concession Ticket)
RM192 (Group of Four)

Ticketed

Step into a dreamlike world where giant whales glide through the air, forgotten legends come alive, and puppets dance beyond the stage. "Dream Space" by Creative Group SSAK is a mesmerising non-verbal puppet and physical theatre performance that transforms ordinary spaces into poetic landscapes of wonder, healing, and imagination. Combining beautifully crafted puppets, live music, dynamic movement, and stunning visual storytelling, this immersive production invites audiences of all ages on an unforgettable journey through folklore, fantasy, and celebration.

Shakespeare Meets NOH: DESDEMONA



Dates

8 & 9 August 2026

Time

5pm

Venue

Majestic Theatre

Duration

65 minutes without
intermission

Ticket Price

RM80 (Normal Ticket)
RM64 (Concession Ticket)
RM256 (Group of Four)

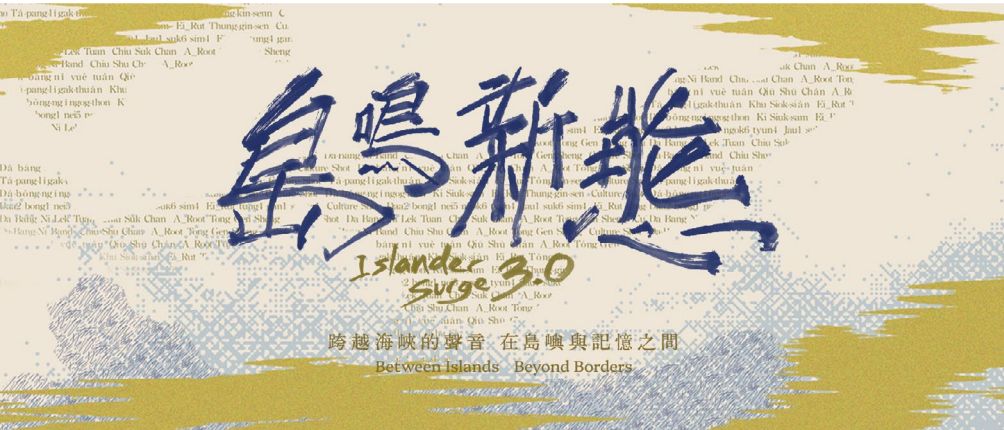
Ticketed

What happens when one of Othello's most tragic heroines enters the dreamlike world of Japanese Noh theatre? "Shakespeare Meets NOH: DESDEMONA" is a haunting intercultural performance that reimagines Desdemona's story through the ritual, music, and movement of 14th-century Noh drama.

Created by KL Shakespeare Players, the work shifts the focus from Othello to Desdemona herself, imagining an afterlife where she is finally given the power to confront her fate and seek reconciliation on her own terms. Blending Shakespearean storytelling with the refined aesthetics of Noh theatre, the production unfolds through poetic movement, ceremonial rhythms, evocative costumes, and a multilingual soundscape of Japanese, English, Malay, and Chinese.

Both intimate and visually striking, "Shakespeare Meets NOH: DESDEMONA" invites audiences into a rare theatrical encounter where classical Japanese performance and Shakespearean tragedy meet in a meditation on memory, grief, forgiveness, and the voices of women long silenced.

Islander Surge 3.0



Date
8 August 2026

Time
6.30pm

Venue
Khoo Kongsi

Duration
4 hours without intermission

Ticket Price
RM40 (Normal Ticket)
RM20 (Concession Ticket)
RM128 (Group of Four)

Ticketed

“Islander Surge 3.0” brings together four acclaimed artists from Penang and Taiwan in a captivating musical journey that explores the invisible “soundlines” connecting islands, cultures, and communities. Blending folk traditions, contemporary influences, and rock-infused world music, the performance celebrates how music transcends geography, language, and borders to create new relationships through sound.

Featuring Penang’s Culture Shot alongside Taiwan’s A_Root 同根生, 打幫你樂團 DaBangNi, and 邱淑蟬 ShuChan Chiu—all recognised with prestigious music awards and international festival appearances—the concert unfolds as a dynamic dialogue between distinct musical voices. At the same time, the artists respond to one another in real time, weaving rhythms, melodies, and languages into an evolving sonic landscape shaped by spontaneity and collaboration.

As individual traditions converge into a shared musical experience, “Islander Surge 3.0” invites audiences to discover how sound can bridge oceans, preserve cultural memory, and reveal the enduring connections that unite island communities beyond physical boundaries.

When Spirits Meet: The Rainbow Bridge and Ocean Chants



Dates and Times
8 August 2026 | 8pm
9 August 2026 | 3pm

Venue
Dewan Sri Pinang

Duration
95 minutes
with intermission

Ticket Price
RM60 & RM80 (Normal Ticket)
RM48 & RM64 (Concession Ticket)
RM192 & RM256 (Group of Four)

Ticketed

Hualien County, Taiwan, possesses a rich and diverse cultural landscape, notably home to the Truku and Amis peoples. Guided by ancestral teachings and looking to the “Hakaw Utux” (Rainbow Bridge) as the soul’s final home, the Truku people maintain a profound spiritual bond with their ancestors within the heart of the mountains. Along the coast, the Makota’ay village of the Amis people is renowned for its traditional “Ilisin” (annual) harvest festival, which takes place each July following the summer harvest. The ritual is an important post-harvest celebration—a sacred occasion to offer gratitude to the spirits and the supreme deity, Malataw, while performing rites of purification.

“When Spirits Meet: The Rainbow Bridge and Ocean Chants” brings together the distinct traditions of these two cultures. From the resonant echoes of the mountain forests to the rhythmic pulses of the Pacific tides, the performance unfolds as a vibrant dialogue between the Truku and the Amis through their songs and dances.

Keep the
pages turning!



The Web of Deceits



Date
1 & 2 August 2026

Time
5pm

Venue
The Whiteaways Arcade

Duration
30 minutes
without intermission

Free Admission
Pre-registration is required.

The Web of Deceit is a lively hand-puppet performance in English, inspired by a classic episode from Journey to the West. The story follows Tang Sanzang and his disciples—Monkey King (Sun Wukong), Piggy (Zhu Bajie), and Sandy (Sha Wujing)—on their adventurous journey. When the clever Spider Demon spins a magical web, Tang Sanzang and Piggy are trapped. Can Monkey King and Sandy devise a clever plan to rescue them? Full of humour, suspense, and playful twists, this performance brings the legendary tale to life through expressive hand puppetry and engaging dialogue.

Flamenco Signature



Date
3 August 2026

Time
8pm

Venue
Loft 29

Duration
30 minutes
without intermission

Free Admission
Pre-registration is required.

Internationally acclaimed flamenco artist and choreographer Anabel Veloso presents “Flamenco Signature”, an intimate and deeply moving celebration of a remarkable artistic journey spanning more than two decades. Bringing together a selection of her most emblematic works, the performance reveals the many facets of flamenco—its intensity, elegance, vulnerability, and enduring spirit.

Joined by an exceptional ensemble featuring guitarist and musical director Gabriel Pérez, vocalist José Luis Jaén, and flautist Tete Leal, Veloso reimagines the traditional language of flamenco through a sophisticated and cinematic musical landscape. Passionate dance, soul-stirring vocals, virtuosic guitar, and expressive melodic textures intertwine to create a rich tapestry of sound and movement.

Balancing reverence for tradition with a contemporary sensibility, “Flamenco Signature” transcends cultural boundaries through the universal language of emotion. More than a dance performance, it is an immersive artistic experience that captures the authenticity, beauty, and transformative power of flamenco.

Flamenco Workshop

Date & Time
2 August 2026 | 8pm
Loft 29

Free Admission
Pre-registration is required.

Wayang Pacak



Date
3 - 9 August 2026

Time
9pm

Venue
Seh Tek Tong Cheah
Kongsi

Free Admission

Wayang Pacak celebrates the power of cinema to inspire, provoke, and connect through a thoughtfully curated programme of independent films, documentaries, animated works, and feature presentations from Malaysia and across Asia. Bringing together emerging voices alongside acclaimed filmmakers, the programme explores themes of family, identity, memory, community, belonging, and social change through stories that are both deeply personal and universally resonant.

From intimate character-driven narratives and award-winning short films to compelling documentaries and animated features, each screening offers audiences a window into diverse cultures, perspectives, and lived experiences. Selected sessions are accompanied by post-screening Q&A discussions with filmmakers and invited guests, offering audiences the opportunity to gain deeper insights into the creative process and the ideas behind the works.

Whether discovering a new filmmaker or revisiting celebrated classics, Wayang Pacak invites audiences to experience cinema as a shared space for reflection, conversation, and connection.



Ayahku, Dr. G
3 AUG 2026



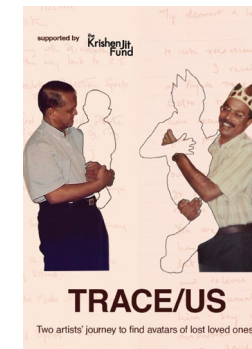
Menunggu Masa
3 AUG 2026



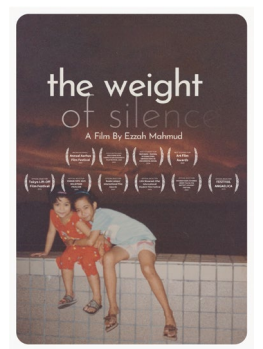
Five Tigers
4 AUG 2026



**The Substation at 35:
Moving Images Retrospective**
5 AUG 2026



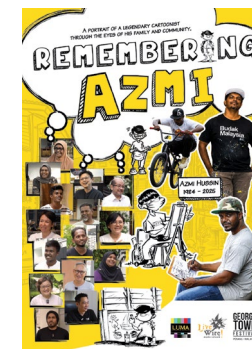
TRACE/US
6 AUG 2026



The Weight of Silence
6 AUG 2026



On Happiness Road
7 AUG 2026



Remembering Azmi
8 AUG 2026



Air Mata di Kuala Lumpur
9 AUG 2026

Asian Board Games Festival (ABGFMY)



Date
7 - 9 August 2026

Time
10am - 7pm

Venue
1st Avenue Mall, Penang

Free Admission

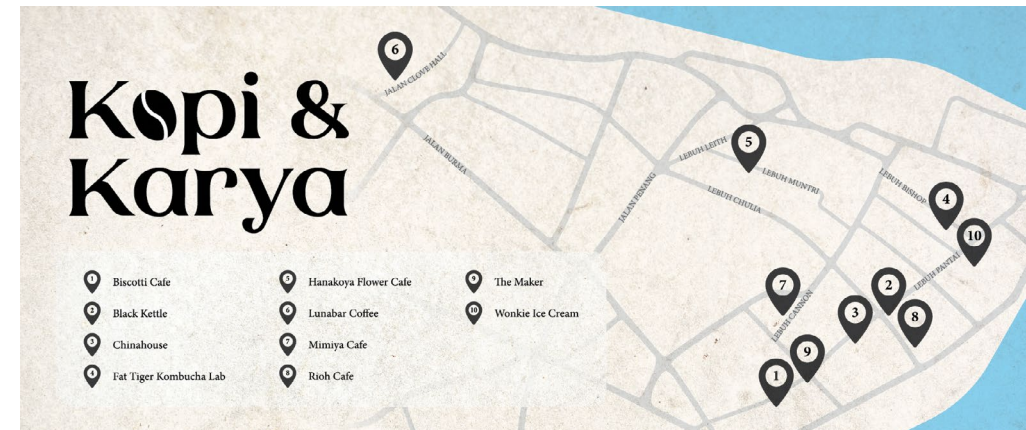
Roll the dice, draw a card, and get immersed in the fabulous world of tabletop gaming at the Asian Board Games Festival Malaysia (ABGFMY) 2026!

Building on the momentum of Origame's annual festival in Singapore, ABGF returns for its third Malaysian edition, bringing together game makers and enthusiasts from across Asia to celebrate creativity, culture, and play. Level up your time at ABGFMY by joining the tournament hosted by Penang's friendly local game store, Kohii! This year, participants will go head-to-head playing three games—Tanglung, Oh! My Orchids, and Hikadyat! Be sure to also try the finalist games of the 2026 ABGF 18-Card Design Contest and stay tuned for the announcement of the three winners.

A signature highlight is the Play Passport, where players journey through Asia by collecting stamps and redeeming exclusive prizes as they experience and discover the latest tabletop games from 40 exhibitors representing 10 countries.

Admission and gameplay at all 40 exhibitor booths are free. Enhance your experience with a RM10 Play Passport to collect stamps and redeem exclusive prizes. Whether you're a seasoned gamer or simply curious to explore something new, the festival offers visitors of all ages the chance to play and purchase the latest board games from across the region.

Kopi & Karya



Dates
1 - 9 August 2026

For More Details



"Kopi & Karya" is an exciting George Town Festival 2026 campaign that invites audiences to discover the vibrant heart of George Town through a delicious and immersive F&B trail.

In collaboration with 10 beloved local cafés, the campaign brings the Festival's theme, "Beyond Boundaries", to life through exclusive festival-inspired menus, signature city-pulse drinks, and artisan bakes created especially for the occasion. As audiences journey between performances, they are encouraged to savour these unique culinary creations that celebrate the city's rich creativity and culture.

More than just a cup of coffee, "kopi" represents the warm, comforting pulse of everyday life. Paired with "karya", the Malay word for "artistry" or "creation", it honours the craft, passion, and imagination behind every offering.

At its heart, "Kopi & Karya" reflects the belief that art should not only be seen, but also tasted. It transforms George Town into a living gallery where flavour meets creativity, inviting festival-goers to experience the city through all their senses.



Visual Arts

Collodion, Silver, Glass: Contemporary Wet Plate Photography



Dates
31 July - 30 August 2026

Time
11am - 6pm

Venue
Hikayat

Free Admission

**The Art of Wet Plate
Collodion Photography
Workshop**

Date & Time
1 & 2 August 2026 | 2pm
Hikayat

Collodion, Silver, Glass: Contemporary Wet Plate Photography is an exhibition presented by Steve Tan 陈兴国, Malaysia's only professional photographer using the wet plate or collodion technique. This is a process on glass that produces images of remarkable clarity and depth, with a distinctive ethereal quality. The artworks in this show explore the classic genre of still life, through a technique that captures dramatic, painterly contrasts and textural details. The attraction of these unique images lies in their ghostly yet detailed aesthetic. Each glass plate image is filled with imperfections. And it is precisely these imperfections – the scratches, hazy patches, blurriness – that offer a sense of magical alchemy. These still lifes capture the sensual beauty of this unique photographic form.

Street Fragments: Jalan Gurdwara



Dates
1 - 9 August 2026

Times & Venues
Hin Bus Depot Gallery
12pm - 7pm (Weekdays)
10am - 7pm (Weekends)
Book Island
11am - 7pm (WED - SUN)

Free Admission

**Reading Jalan Gurdwara:
Fieldwork Sharing &
Conversation**

Date & Time
4 August 2026 | 7pm
COEX
*Exhibition walkthrough at
6:30pm

Slow down and look closer, the streets here hold many untold stories beneath their surface.

"Street Fragments: Jalan Gurdwara" invites audiences to rediscover one of George Town's familiar streets through the traces of its layered past. Once known as Brick Kiln Road—named after brick kilns whose exact locations have long been forgotten—today's Jalan Gurdwara takes its name from the century-old Sikh temple that continues to stand as a landmark of the neighbourhood.

Presented by COEX and Ruang Kongs, the exhibition uncovers the street as more than a route through the city. Through archival materials, everyday objects, photographs, oral histories, and community memories, it reveals Jalan Gurdwara as a living archive shaped by generations of diverse communities and everyday lives. Piecing together these fragments of history, "Street Fragments: Jalan Gurdwara" offers fresh perspectives on place, memory, and belonging, encouraging visitors to look beyond the familiar and discover the remarkable stories woven into the fabric of the street.

Shifting Whispers


Dates

1 - 9 August 2026

Time

11am - 4pm

Venue

ChinaHouse,
George Town
(ART SPACE 3)

Free Admission

**Artist's Sharing
Artists in Conversation
from Shifting Whispers**
Date & Time

3 August 2026 | 11am
The Whiteaways Arcade

"Shifting Whispers" is a multidisciplinary exhibition by the artistic collective Parallax that maps the geographical and narrative layers of our environment. Utilizing a unique "Core and Canopy" layout, the programme features five individual artistic islands (the Cores) that represent different facets of identity and landscape, all unified by a collective canopy that represents the fluid, shifting connections between them.

The exhibition brings together five distinct voices exploring personal interpretations of the unseen: Thanesh Kichi, Rozeree Mohamed, Siti Gunong, Plengpin Khunwang, and Norfatihah Yusof. At the heart of the exhibition is The Nexus, a collaborative centrepiece installation where all five artists' mediums intersect to form a single, breathing entity.

"Shifting Whispers" invites festival-goers to journey into the unknown and navigate a multisensory forest of memories. By moving away from rigid definitions of art, these artists demonstrate that creativity is a state of constant evolution, ultimately blurring the lines between the observer and the living environment.

Con-Temporary Art


Dates

1 - 9 August 2026

Time

2pm - 8pm

Venue

Various Locations

Free Admission

**Artist's Sharing
The Moving Gallery:
Here Today, Somewhere
Tomorrow @ The
Whiteaways Arcade**
Date & Time

5 August 2026 | 3pm
The Whiteaways Arcade

"Con-Temporary Art" (CTA) by Joshua Kon and Arrvinraj is a travelling exhibition space unlike any other—a fully realised contemporary art gallery compressed into a meticulously crafted 1/12-scale diorama. Inspired by the familiar white-cube gallery, this miniature installation reimagines how art can be exhibited, experienced, and shared.

Originally conceived in response to the scarcity of dedicated art spaces, "CTA" has evolved into a creative laboratory where artists can experiment with new ideas, test ambitious concepts, and develop works that may be impractical to realise at full scale. Each miniature exhibition is treated with the same level of care and curatorial attention as a conventional gallery, challenging audiences to reconsider notions of scale, space, and artistic practice.

The project's title plays on the word "Contemporary", inviting multiple interpretations. Through this subtle shift in language, "CTA" opens up new ways of thinking about contemporary art—whether conceptual, experimental, confident, or unexpected. Small in size but expansive in imagination, "CTA" demonstrates that meaningful artistic encounters can emerge from even the most compact of spaces.

Converge



Dates

1 - 31 August 2026

Venue

Taman Kejiranan
Macallum

Free Admission

Artist's Sharing Converge: Work with Nature

Date & Time

3 August 2026 | 3pm
The Whiteaways Arcade

Emerging from the earth like a living organism, "Converge" by Taiwanese artist Kuei-Chih Lee transforms Taman Kejiranan Macallum into a space where nature, people, and the city come together.

Inspired by George Town's history as a port city shaped by migration and cultural exchange, the large-scale installation reflects on coexistence through five sculptural forms that rise organically from the ground. Intertwining like a growing settlement, the structures merge into a single collective form, echoing the many communities, languages, and traditions that have long flourished in Penang.

Crafted from natural materials gathered from the western side of Penang Island and installed within the urban landscape of George Town, "Converge" creates a dialogue between two contrasting landscapes. Skylight-like openings invite light, wind, and the sky into the sculptures, transforming them into porous, breathable spaces where visitors can pause, reflect, and connect with one another.

More than a public artwork, "Converge" invites us to reimagine the city as a living ecosystem—one where culture, community, and nature are not separate, but grow, evolve, and breathe together.

Artisan II



Dates

1 - 30 August 2026
(Every Friday to Sunday)

Time

10am - 6pm

Venue

O Sculpture Art Space

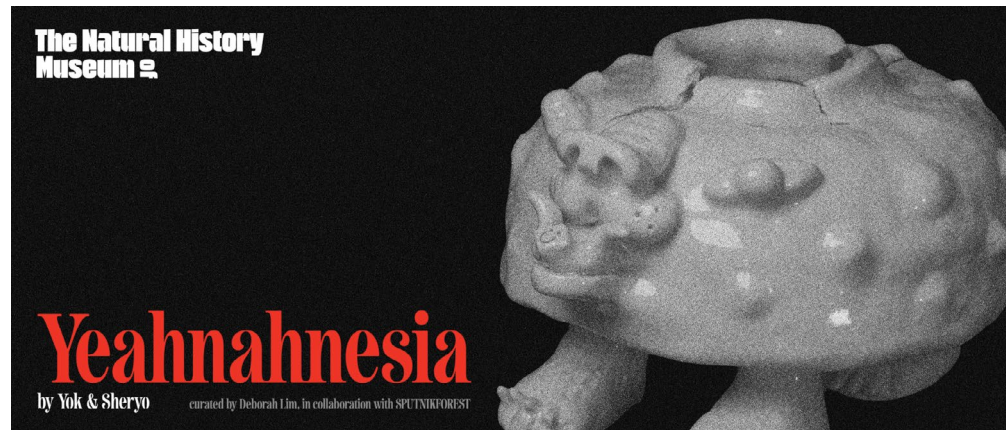
Free Admission

"Artisan II", a solo exhibition by Low Chee Peng, continues the story of George Town's master craftsmen, building on the success of its previous exhibition, which explored the soul of these traditional trades. Historically, George Town's streets were lined with workshops producing intricate handicrafts, forming a vibrant community that thrived on skill, heritage, and creativity. However, soaring rents and economic challenges eventually forced many artisans to relocate, leaving behind empty shells of once-bustling workshops.

By focusing on those who spent decades honing their craft in these old houses, "Artisan II" aims to reignite the spirit that once breathed life into George Town's heritage shophouses. The exhibition's immersive installations capture the intimate bond between artisans and their craft, reflecting the significance of preserving the unique cultural tapestry they represent.

Through sculptural interpretations and interactive displays, visitors are invited to step into the daily rhythms of these dedicated craftsmen and experience the artistry that once made George Town a renowned hub of traditional handicrafts. "Artisan II" ultimately serves as a bridge between past and present, ensuring that these invaluable cultural practices continue to inspire future generations.

The Natural History Museum of Yeahnahnesia by Yok and Sheryo



Dates

1 August 2026
- 4 October 2026

1 – 9 August 2026 (Daily)
14 August – 4 October 2026
(Every Friday to Sunday)

Time

12pm - 7pm

Venue

Cultprint

Free Admission

Cultprint, Penang hosts “The Natural History Museum of Yeahnahnesia”, presented by artist duo Yok & Sheryo, curated by Deborah Lim, and realised in collaboration with SPUTNIKFOREST. The museum brings together a collection of rare artefacts, specimens and cultural objects—many exhibited publicly for the first time—offering an introduction to the island nation of Yeahnahnesia. Entrusted to the artists by the island’s guardians, these objects reveal its natural history, rituals and traditions, offering insight into a civilisation shaped by balance, playfulness and unhurried living.

Visitors are invited to explore the museum’s collections through paintings, sculpture, installation and environmental design, encountering endemic species, ceremonial objects and enduring traditions that reveal the histories, beliefs and material culture of Yeahnahnesia. Through these collections, the museum invites audiences to reflect on the values that have shaped the island for generations—and to imagine what it might mean to embrace the Yeahnahnesian way of life.

Warung TERANG



Dates

3 - 7 August 2026

Time

8pm - 10.30pm

Venue

Armenian Street

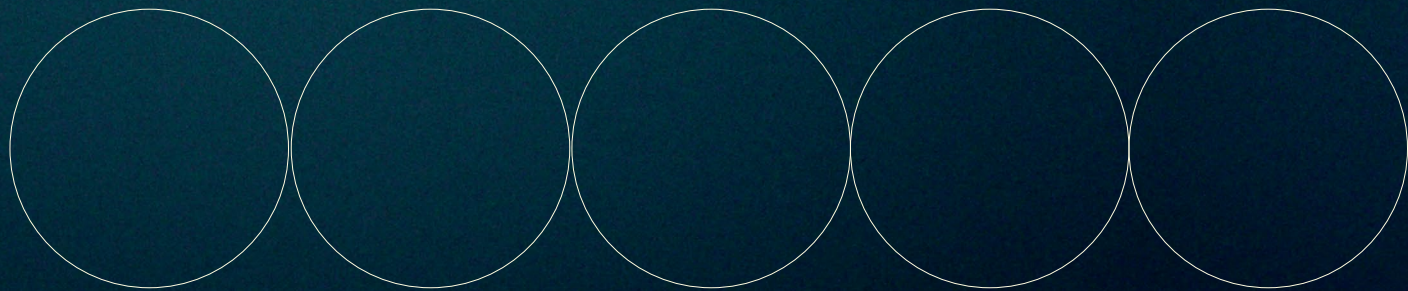
Free Admission

“Warung TERANG” extends the TERANG experience beyond the competition, bringing the magic of projection mapping into the everyday rhythm of the city. Presented in conjunction with George Town Festival, this vibrant complementary street-style projection mapping activation transforms public spaces into unexpected stages where light, art, and heritage come together.

Inspired by the spirit of the warung as an informal gathering place, “Warung TERANG” fosters encounters between artists, communities, and visitors through accessible and immersive projection experiences. Together with the TERANG Projection Mapping Competition, it celebrates Malaysia and Southeast Asia as living marketplaces of ideas, creativity, and cultural exchange.



What if the boundaries
we see are only the ones
we have created?



GTF x ASAF

An Ansan Street Arts Festival x George Town Festival Collaboration



Date
15 & 16 August 2026

Time
4pm - 10pm

Venue
Design Village Outlet Mall

Free Admission

George Town Festival joins hands with Ansan Street Arts Festival (ASAF), one of South Korea's leading outdoor performing arts festivals, for a vibrant cross-cultural exchange that transforms public spaces into stages for imagination, connection, and discovery.

Bringing together a diverse programme of street theatre, site-specific dance, physical theatre, and non-verbal performance, GTF x ASAF celebrates the power of the performing arts to transcend language and cultural boundaries. From poetic reflections on memory and identity to contemporary reinterpretations of folklore, magical family adventures, and playful encounters in unexpected places, each performance invites audiences to experience the city through fresh perspectives.

Presented in public spaces and accessible to audiences of all ages, GTF x ASAF transforms the streets of George Town into a living stage where artists and communities come together, proving that the most memorable performances often happen beyond the walls of a theatre.

Paya Terubong Fringe Festival



Date
5 September 2026

Time
6pm - 11pm

Venue
Padang Pasar Malam,
Medan Angsana,
Bandar Baru Air Itam

Free Admission

Paya Terubong Fringe Festival transforms the neighbourhood into a vibrant open-air stage where the performing arts come alive. Featuring a lively programme of street theatre, busking, music, and outdoor performances, the Festival invites audiences of all ages to gather, explore, and experience the joy of the arts in the heart of the community.

Also in Penang



There is so much to explore and discover about the local arts community in Penang. Be sure to catch these shows and programmes and show your support for our thriving local arts scene!

*All information provided by the artist(s) or organiser(s).



Penang Puppet Festival 2026 檳城偶戲節 2026



Date
12 - 23 August 2026

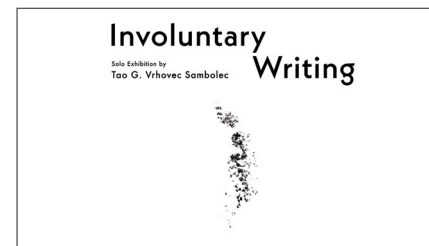
Venue
COEX & Hin Bus Depot

Penang Puppet Festival (PPF) returns from 12–23 August 2026 with its third edition, BERBUNGA (生花), celebrating puppetry as a living tradition that continues to grow, adapt and inspire across generations.

The festival opens with a historic gathering of representatives from five regions where Hokkien glove puppetry (POTEHI) continues to flourish—Penang, Jakarta, Singapore, Taipei and Zhangzhou (Fujian)—marking the first time these living traditions come together in Southeast Asia.

Over 12 days, audiences can experience performances, exhibitions, artist talks, workshops, forums and community programmes featuring diverse forms of puppetry, including POTEHI, Teochew iron-rod puppetry, Wayang Kulit Kelantan, contemporary puppetry and shadow theatre.

More than a celebration of performance, PPF 2026 creates a platform for intercultural dialogue, artistic exchange and heritage transmission, inviting audiences to discover how traditional puppetry continues to bloom in the contemporary world.



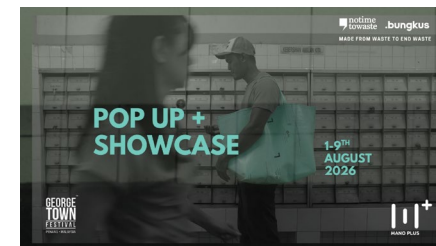
Involuntary Writing
Solo exhibition
by Tao G. Vrhovec Sambolec

6 Jun - 9 Aug 2026

Blank Canvas

Involuntary Writing by Amsterdam-based artist Tao G. Vrhovec Sambolec is presented at Blank Canvas that brings together site-specific murals and a triptych consisting of a digital scan, a black and white photograph, and a rubber stamp imprint.

The project highlights unintentional ink stains that occur while writing by hand. The artist turns attention to these unintended marks, treating them as visual forms in their own right, which are magnified and reworked within the exhibition space. He foregrounds their idiosyncratic, irregular shapes as visual elements that are neither illustrations, symbolic representations, nor abstractions, but incomprehensible forms that, nevertheless, radiate familiarity. Rather than trying to define or interpret them, the project leans into this ambiguity by adopting a non-interpretative gaze - one that is more akin to "listening to shapes", allowing their presence to be felt rather than explained.



**Mano Plus x NoTimeToWaste
Pop Up + Showcase**
1 - 9 Aug 2026

9am - 6pm (Mon - Thurs & Sun)

9am - 9pm (Fri - Sat)

Mano Plus Select Store (37A & B, Lebuhraya Pantai, 10300 George Town, Pulau Pinang)

In conjunction with George Town Festival, Mano Plus Penang presents a thoughtful pop-up display in collaboration with notime towaste and bungkus.

As a curated Select Store, Mano Plus continues to champion local brands, makers, and creative voices that reflect the best of what Malaysia has to offer; selections that are thoughtful, purposeful, and rooted in contemporary culture.

With this pop up, explore how soft plastic and textile waste can be transformed into meaningful think pieces as they take many forms that can inhabit our daily lives. notime towaste is not just a design lab, but a living atelier shaped by consciousness, restraint, and intention; a design philosophy exploring how we might live with greater awareness and less excess. Having launched .bungkus as a creative means to work with a commonly discarded material, plastic bags. View the latest collection of bags, accessories and furniture that hope to become drivers for habitual change.

Concurrently, peer into the lab's exploration of textile wastes; another disregarded waste material that deserves a serious introspection of how we value, produce and ultimately discard.



The Process Room: A Working Jam

7 August 2026 (Fri)

4.30pm - 7.30pm

Lawn, Hin Bus Depot

An open jam for artists, makers, and anyone who enjoys creating together. Bring something to work on, enjoy the music, and make in good company. A crossover with The Makers Market at Hin Bus Depot.

RM10 participation fee required.



TypeChhá @ Jio Ba

8 August 2026 (Sat)

3pm - 5pm

Jio Ba @ Hin Bus Depot (65, Jalan
Gurdwara, 10300, Penang)

A lettering workshop that borrows the idea of chū-chhá (煮炒 / stir-fry): taking everyday local ingredients and dishes, and transforming them into expressive letterforms. Participants will explore lettering by drawing inspiration from local dishes, ingredients, taste, textures, shapes, and colours, firing up their creativity to design letters with a distinct local flavour. A joint collaboration between huruf x 31A Dept. Store.

SUITABLE FOR Beginners and anyone who's interested in typography or lettering design.

Fee: RM68* (inclusive of materials)

Pax: Small group session (limited spots)

* Enjoy a sharing plate of chhá-pūi (fried rice) and a cup of kek hwa as refreshment.



乔游记 George Town Cultural Hunt

22 August 2026 (Sun)

8am

Prangin Mall, Penang

More than just a treasure hunt, George Town Cultural Hunt transforms the city into a real-life adventure game where participants explore, discover, and unlock hidden experiences through their mobile phones. Guided by clues and interactive challenges, teams will navigate through the streets of George Town, uncover secret locations, complete missions, and reveal stories hidden within the city's vibrant culture and heritage. As participants progress through the hunt, they will encounter local businesses, traditional trades, cultural landmarks, and unique community experiences that bring the city to life. Each checkpoint presents a new challenge, requiring teamwork, creativity, observation, and problem-solving to advance to the next stage of the adventure. Blending digital exploration with real-world discovery, the programme turns George Town City into an immersive playground filled with surprises around every corner. Whether you're racing against the clock, solving puzzles, or uncovering hidden gems, every mission unlocks a new part of the journey! Grab your phone, gather your team, and get ready to EXPLORE, SOLVE, and UNLOCK a side of George Town that few ever get to experience!!



Art for Peace

Enjoy 10% OFF on All Ticket Types during GTF2026 (1-9 Aug 2026)
Tue - Thu: 2pm - 5pm
Fri - Sun: 10am - 5pm (Closed on Monday)

Lin Xiang Xiong Art Gallery

Opened in December 2025, the Lin Xiang Xiong Art Gallery is a landmark cultural destination in Penang and the world's first art gallery built over the sea. The Gallery houses more than 400 paintings by Professor Lin Xiang Xiong, spanning over six decades of artistic creation.

The collection reflects the artist's lifelong advocacy of "Art for Peace," featuring works that address themes of anti-war, anti-poverty, and environmental protection. Through compelling visual narratives, the artworks encourage reflection on humanity's shared challenges and inspire a more liveable, sustainable, and harmonious world.

Visitors can also explore paintings in the distinctive Nanyang painting style, capturing the charm of fishing villages, kampong life, and the rich cultural heritage of Southeast Asia.

The Gallery also serves as a platform for cultural exchange through forums, exhibitions, and educational programmes that foster dialogue on art, society, and human values.

Combining a unique waterfront setting with a remarkable collection of artworks, the Gallery offers visitors a meaningful cultural experience in Penang.

Shaping the Festival



Since its inception in 2010, George Town Festival has grown into a remarkable platform where history and contemporary creativity meet, celebrating the living spirit of George Town while welcoming voices and ideas from around the world. This journey has only been possible through the vision, dedication and passion of the Festival's founders, directors, programmers, artists, partners, volunteers and audiences, who continue to shape its legacy year after year.

As we gather for GTF 2026, "Beyond Borders" invites us to move beyond geographical, cultural, artistic and imagined boundaries. Yet, in reaching outward, the Festival remains deeply rooted in its enduring vision and mission: to celebrate George Town's rich cultural identity, champion its local artistic talents, and nurture artistic excellence, dialogue and meaningful exchange with artists from around the world.

We invite you to explore this year's inspiring programme with an open heart and a curious mind. May each performance, exhibition and encounter offer new perspectives, celebrate our shared humanity, and remind us that the arts have the extraordinary power to connect us across every border. Welcome to George Town Festival 2026.

-Aida Redza, Goh Choon Ean, Grace Leong & Tan Sooi Beng
Artistic Advisory Panel



George Town Festival has taken me from saying, "One day, I'll join the Festival," to "Today, I'm part of the team." No matter where I stand, GTF will always hold a special place in my heart. This year, we're inviting everyone to reflect on the idea of boundaries. Do they really exist, or are they meant to be crossed? My answer is simple—join us at the Festival and discover your own. I hope you enjoy the Festival as much as I always have.

-Connie Chan Mern Ye
Festival Manager



I once experienced George Town Festival as an audience member, curious to discover the stories and ideas each edition would bring. Today, I get to help shape the programme behind the scenes. This year's Festival is a collection of stories, ideas and artists that I truly believe deserve to be experienced. I hope you find something that moves you, sparks a new way of seeing the world, or simply stays with you long after the curtain falls. After all, this Festival only comes alive because of you.

-Nisa Amalia Mukhtar
Programme Manager



Message from the Team

Thank You for Being Part of George Town Festival 2026

From all of us at George Town Festival, thank you for being part of this journey and for making this year's Festival a meaningful celebration of the arts.

To all artists and creatives, thank you for sharing your stories, ideas, and imagination with us. Your dedication and passion continue to inspire new conversations, perspectives, and connections through the arts.

To our partners, supporters, crew, volunteers, and everyone who worked behind the scenes, thank you for your trust, commitment, and countless contributions. Your efforts are the foundation that brings the Festival to life.

And to our audiences and community, thank you for joining us with curiosity and an open heart. Every moment you shared with us—whether through a performance, exhibition, workshop, or encounter—helped shape the spirit of George Town Festival.

This Festival is a collective journey built by many hands, and we are grateful to everyone who has been part of it. We hope the connections, experiences, and memories created through the arts will stay with you long after the Festival ends.

With heartfelt thanks,
The GTF Team

Festival Team

Angie Lau
Ch'ng Pei Voon
Connie Chan Mern Ye
CK Ewe
Emilia Ismail
Evon Saw
Fish Lim Yun Xin
Goh Yen Ling
Tan Hock Keng
Jack Wong
Joey Chu
Kent Teh
Lim Chun Shen
Lim Han Yin
Lim Yi Ru
Low Zhi Kai
Mok Syuen
Ng Chek Tun
Nisa Amalia Mukhtar
Nur Amni Hakimah
Nurfarahani Abdullah Abdul Hadi
Ong Le Rou
Sharen Cheok
Sherwynd Kessler
Thum Chia Chieh
Tan Chun Feng (Wind)
Yap Yun Ci

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You made it to the end—now let the experiences begin.

Thank you for discovering what awaits at George Town Festival 2026. We can't wait to welcome you to the Festival!

 georgetownfestival.com

 George Town Festival

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**Programmes are subjected to change without prior notice.