

Esplanade Presents

PESTA RAYA ONLINE

19 – 28 Jun 2020

www.esplanade.com/pestaraya



Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay’s yearly festival in celebration of the *nusantara* and Hari Raya Aidilfitri—*Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts*—goes online with *Pesta Raya Online*. Even though we cannot gather physically to celebrate with our extended family and friends, or celebrate with live performances at Esplanade under Phase 1 of Safe Re-opening for COVID-19, we continue to stay connected during this season through the arts, heritage and culture of the Malay Archipelago that is also a part of Singapore’s culture. We are excited to announce that from 19 – 28 Jun 2020, audiences can enjoy nine productions made up of three new works and six archival recordings from previous *Pesta Raya* editions, from the comforts of home at www.esplanade.com/pestaraya.

Theatre-lovers can look forward to the screening of the boisterous Esplanade Commission of *Alkesah* written by Zulfadli Rashid and directed by Aidli Mosbit, which won Best Ensemble at The Straits Times’ Life Theatre Awards 2018. Those inclined to indie music should not miss *Hikayat Gundik Berirama* again, which first premiered at *Pesta Raya* in 2017 and featured the extraordinary multi-instrumental ensemble from Malaysia, The Venopian Solitude, who performed alongside Singapore electronic duo .gif. *Pesta Raya Online* also shines the spotlight on traditional Malay music with the production of *GhaMuhyi: Crossing the Boundaries of Ghazal* where Malaysian music ensemble Ghamuhyi performs *ghazal* classics like *Malam Merindu* and originals such as *Gemersik Ombak* and *Arabian Affair* together with Singapore’s Sri Mahligai and Orkestra Sri Temasek.

Keep a look out for three new works including a talk show hosted by Hafidz Rahman and Zuhairi Idris from Lepak One Korner, a traditional and contemporary Malay dance workshop and performance by Artistari Gentari and an interactive programme involving storytelling, craft and music just for kids. These new works have been created and recorded from the homes of the artists as they continue to push their creative boundaries and find new ways to present their artforms.

Recording and post-production editing for the new works and editing of archival works for *Pesta Raya Online* is supported by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth's [Arts and Culture Resilience Package](#).

Through *Pesta Raya Online*, we hope to uplift spirits and encourage positivity during the festive season with a diverse range of programmes featuring some of the very best of the Malay arts, both traditional and contemporary, and across the different genres. This would have been the 19th edition of the festival and is also the first time that we cannot physically be with our audiences and artists. Nevertheless, we carry on by moving the festival online, where families can still gather to enjoy the arts together, and even those not based in Singapore can join us for the rich offerings we have in store at *Pesta Raya Online*.

Please continue to stay safe and we look forward to connecting with all of you through the arts online.

Hanie Nadia Hamzah
Programmer, The Esplanade Co Ltd

Last updated: 11 Jun 2020

About Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts

Celebrate the icons and treasures of the Malay community in its diversity and richness through the best in theatre, dance, and music from the Nusantara (Malay Archipelago).

PROGRAMMES

[Theatre]

An Esplanade Commission

Screening: *Alkesah (Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts 2018)*

Written by Zulfadli Rashid

Directed by Aidli Mosbit

Streaming from 19 Jun 2020, Fri, 8pm – 28 Jun 2020, Sun, 11.59pm

www.esplanade.com/pestaraya



©Jack Yam

Find out what happens when colourful characters from Malay folklore stay in the same kampung! Whether you're reliving its hilarity or watching *Alkesah* for the first time, you don't want to miss this boisterous theatre work that saw a sold-out run at *Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts 2018*.

Mat Jenin is a hopeless dreamer who is the new village head of Kampung Alkesah, a position he reluctantly inherited from his late father, along with the mounting misfortunes that have been distressing his beloved village. At the advice of Pak Belalang, the village astrologer, Mat Jenin must embark on a quest to brave through Hutan Bahana to the summit of Gunung Saman and seek out the evil witch Nenek Kebayan. Only by doing the witch's bidding will the curse that she has put on the village be lifted, thus ensuring survival and happiness for his merry bunch of villagers. Mat Jenin soon discovers that this daring mission might be more than his great imagination could ever have conjured.

Written by Zulfadli Rashid and helmed by director Aidli Mosbit, *Alkesah* (translated to "as the story goes") is a reimagined whimsical world of Malay folklore. Played by the likes of Siti

Khalijah Zainal, Jeff Catz, Siti Hajar Gani, Hatta Said, Siti Maznah, Norisham Osman, Shafiqhah Efandi and Muhd HAikal Mohd Jani, meet familiar characters such as Sang Kancil, Mak Andir, Pak Pandir, Pak Belalang, Pak Kaduk and more, as they find their place in this side-splitting tale of secret loves and cunning schemes. The stellar cast won Best Ensemble at The Straits Times' Life Theatre Awards 2018 for their performance.

(2hrs. Performed in Malay with English subtitles.)

Production Credits

Playwright: Zulfadli Rashid

Director: Aidli Mosbit

Composer, Arranger and Music Director: Elaine Chan

Vocal Coach: Babes Conde

Choreographer: Norhaizad Adam

Lighting Designer: James Tan

Set Designer: Wong Chee Wai

Sound Designer: Joel Fernandez

Costume Designer: Moe Kasim, Moepnosis

Concepts Puppet Designer: Frankie Malachi, Mascots and Puppets

Translator: Farhanah Diyanah (FD)

Hair & Make-up: Haslina Ismail & Jane Shah

[Music]

Screening: *Hikayat Gundik Berirama – The Venopian Solitude (Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts 2017)*

by The Venopian Solitude (Malaysia) featuring .gif (Singapore)

Streaming from 19 Jun 2020, Fri, 8pm – 28 Jun 2020, Sun, 11.59pm

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© Jack Yam, Lee Chang Loon

Hikayat Gundik Berirama is a showcase by multi-instrumental extraordinaire The Venopian Solitude, which features Singapore electronic duo .gif and first premiered at *Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts* in 2017.

What do a tissue box, a ukulele, a toilet roll and a children's xylophone have in common? Suiko Takahara (not her real name, by the way). The Selangor-born singer-songwriter fashions quirky sounds and rhythms out of anything she can get her hands on, and it doesn't stop there.

Created more than a decade ago in a dusty room of an undisclosed college dormitory, The Venopian Solitude is Takahara's labour of love and music project through which she gets to put on her experimental cap. The trilingual artist writes in Malay, English and Japanese, and released her debut eight-track album, *Hikayat Perawan Majnun (Tales of a Lunatic Damsel)*, in 2014. She was nominated for Best Music Arrangement, Best Music Video and Best Album Recording at Malaysia's music industry awards, Anugerah Industri Muzik 2014.

(1hr 15min. Performed in Malay.)

[Music]

Screening: GhaMuhyi: Crossing the Boundaries of Ghazal (*Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts 2018*)

by GhaMuhyi (Malaysia), Orkestra Sri Temasek and Sri Mahligai (Singapore)

Streaming from 19 Jun 2020, Fri, 8pm – 28 Jun 2020, Sun, 11.59pm

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© Danial Halim

Contemporary *ghazal* meets Malay orchestral music meets traditional Malay music in this special collaboration that opened *Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts* in 2018.

Boundaries were pushed and new musical expressions explored as Malaysian music ensemble GhaMuhyi took the lead in this riveting showcase. Together with Singaporean collaborators Orkestra Sri Temasek and Sri Mahligai, locally composed originals such as *Gemersik Ombak* and *Arabian Affair*, as well as *ghazal* classics like *Malam Merindu* were refreshed in this musical journey across the Causeway.

(45mins. Performed in Malay.)

[Music]

Screening: *Senandung Puspa Pertiwi (Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts 2017)*
by Sruti Respati & Friends (Indonesia)

Streaming from 19 Jun 2020, Fri, 8pm – 28 Jun 2020, Sun, 11.59pm

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© Danial Halim

Take a break from your lo-fi playlists and relax to the soothing sounds of *keroncong*. First performed at *Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts* in 2017, Sruti Respati's melodious voice, backed by a seven-piece ensemble, will take you on an aural trip to Solo.

Keroncong music today is widely considered to be an Indonesian music genre. Believed to have been brought to Indonesia by the Portuguese, the form combines Javanese and Western music traditions. The music itself went through a slow evolution of performance styles and configurations, before becoming the ukulele, guitar, violin, flute, cello and bass ensembles that we see today. In this performance, bask in the beautifully slow and stately tunes of *keroncong* gems from Solo, Indonesia.

In 2018, Sruti Respati released an album, *Puspa Ayodya – A Tribute to Ki Nartosabdo*. It included Ki Nartosabdo's songs with the current arrangement, revealing stories of love, happiness, sadness and longing.

(30mins. Performed in Bahasa Indonesia.)

[Music]

Screening: Dikir-pella (*Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts 2018*)

by JUARA (Singapore)

Streaming from 19 Jun 2020, Fri, 8pm – 28 Jun 2020, Sun, 11.59pm

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© Danial Halim

Seven vocalists with seven distinct voices presented the sounds of *dikir barat a la a cappella* at *Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts 2018*. The group, made up of the finest singers in the scene performed classics such as *Bakti Ibu* and *Cenderawasih*.

About JUARA

JUARA comprises the best vocalists in the Singapore *dikir barat* scene. Aqmal N, Elfee Ismail, Hakim Rohimin, Raja Razie, Rajis Sharif, Rifaah and Rico Setiabudi revitalise classic *dikir barat* songs with their fresh takes.

(30mins. Performed in Malay.)

[Music]

Screening: *Raya Block Party (Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts 2016)*
by Fariq, Karmal, WanD, Hunny Madu, Kayda, Akeem Jahat & Radio3000

Streaming from 19 Jun 2020, Fri, 8pm – 28 Jun 2020, Sun, 11.59pm

www.esplanade.com/pestaraya



© Alvin Ho

Curated by ALYPH, a prominent hip hop artist from Singapore, *Raya Block Party* puts the spotlight on the Malay hip hop and R&B scene in Singapore and Malaysia, featuring Fariq, Karmal, WanD, HunnyMadu, Kayda, Akeem Jahat & Radio3000. This was presented as part of *Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts* in 2016.

(45mins. Performed in Malay.)

[Dance]

***NEW* Artistari Gentari**

Streaming from 19 Jun 2020, Fri, 8pm – 28 Jun 2020, Sun, 11.59pm

www.esplanade.com/pestaraya



© Airisu.co

As we are able to spend more time at home, we may find ourselves reflecting and reminiscing about the many key happenings in our lives. With this in mind, Artistari Gentari wishes to share with you two of their favourite dances with a twist!

Mari Menari! (Let's Dance!) Joget Hitam Manis ft. Pucuk Pisang (12mins)

First performed at *Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts* in 2016 as part of *Gemilang Suara Kita*, *Joget Hitam Manis ft. Pucuk Pisang* is a merry medley of two classic joget songs. Come learn the steps to the chorus of *Joget Pucuk Pisang* with Ainin Sofiya as she breaks down its graceful movements. After that, *joget-along* with the dancers from Artistari Gentari as Suryana Nordin serenades you with her melodic vocals.

#stateofemergency (7mins)

Often, in times of uncertainty, we find hope. Witness this poignant collaboration featuring choreography by Badarudin Hassan, film direction by SortCo, original music by Aidil Akmal and dynamic movements by dancers from Artistari Gentari. Having first premiered at ITE Dance Emblazon 2017, this contemporary Malay dance work has since been adapted to reflect the current issues we are facing in 2020.

About Artistari Gentari

Artistari Gentari (ATG), fuelled by highly committed youths, creates Malay dance works that combine traditional techniques and aesthetics with contemporary impulses.

Led by Artistic Director and Choreographer Badarudin Hassan, the group has performed on stage for Mediacorp Suria's Sinar Lebaran (2018 – 2020), Sinaran Hati (2018 – 2019), Rapsodi 2018, Projek Kasih 2019, Rayakustika 2019, National Day Parade 2019 as well as overseas for the China International Youth Arts Festival (2018). ATG were also the youngest team to helm the Artistic Direction for the Chingay Parade Malay Contingent in 2020, leading a 150-participant contingent.

ATG has previously been presented by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay for *Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts* (2015 – 2017) and *A Date with Friends* (2016 – 2019).

[Talkshow / Music]

***NEW* Pentas Pesta (The Pesta Stage)**

Hosted by Hafidz Rahman and Zuhairi Idris

Streaming from 19 Jun 2020, Fri, 8pm – 28 Jun 2020, Sun, 11.59pm

www.esplanade.com/pestaraya

Episode 1

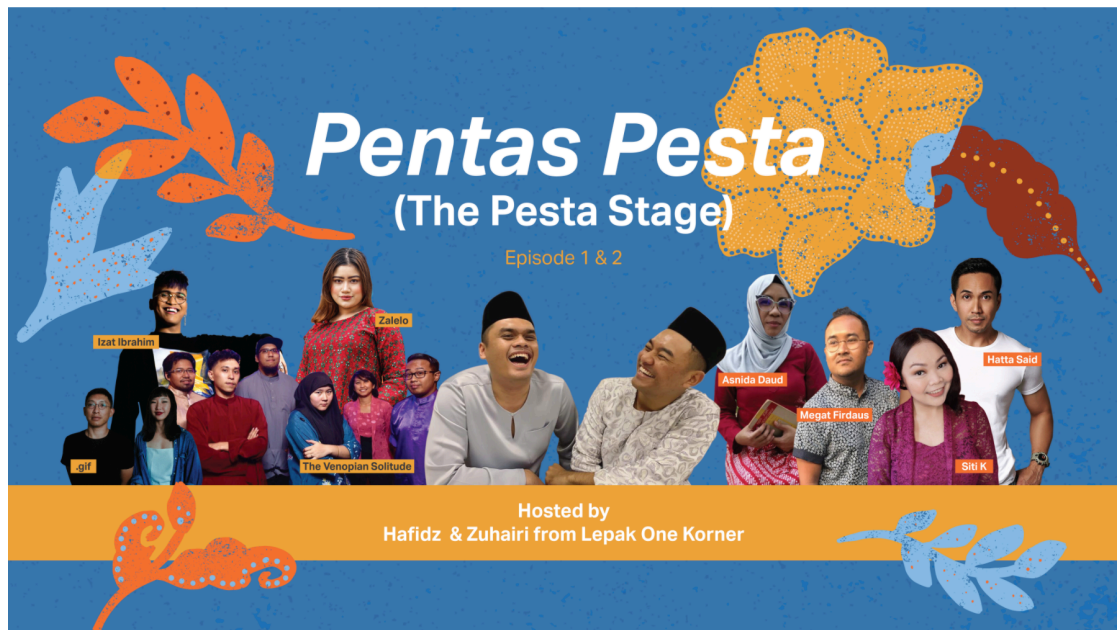
1) Zalelo, Izat Ibrahim (*Berteman di Hari Raya*)

2) The Venopian Solitude and .gif (artists from *Hikayat Gundik Berirama*)

Episode 2

1) Asnida Daud, Megat Firdaus (*Rumba Raya*)

2) Siti Khalijah Zainal & Hatta Said (artists from *Alkesah*)



A staple of *Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts* is *Pentas Pesta*. This year, we're bringing it straight to your screens. Join hosts Hafidz and Zuhairi from Lepak One Korner, as they chat with artists who have kept their art and celebratory spirit alive by creating new Hari Raya songs during the Circuit Breaker, along with artists from past *Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts* performances streaming at *Pesta Raya Online*.

Episode 1 (20min)

Zalelo and Izat Ibrahim talk to us about their experiences creating *Berteman di Hari Raya*, followed by the first performance of the song on air. Then, join the hosts as they speak to Malaysian experimental band The Venopian Solitude and Singapore's very own .gif as they take us through their special collaboration in *Hikayat Gundik Berirama* as part of *Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts* in 2017.

Episode 2 (20min)

Asnida Daud and Megat Firdaus speak to us about their collaboration to create *Rumba Raya* followed by a performance of the song. Then join the hosts as they speak with Siti Khalijah Zainal and Hatta Said from the hilariously engaging *Alkesah* that was part of *Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts* in 2018.

[Family / Children]

NEW It's still Hari Raya!

by Tysha Khan

Streaming from 19 Jun 2020, Fri, 8pm – 28 Jun 2020, Sun, 11.59pm

www.esplanade.com/pestaraya



© Tysha Khan

Kiki knows this Hari Raya is super, ultra, extra special, and she's going to find her own way to celebrate! Celebrate with Kiki by watching her storytelling session with her Ibu (mother). You can join her by making your own sock puppet, as well as learning to sing her happy songs in the sing-along videos. We hope these videos bring you joy in these times.

About Tysha Khan

Tysha Khan is a Singapore-based actor and writer. The first Malay-Muslim woman to graduate from Intercultural Theatre Institute, she hopes to create theatre that effectively captures the culture of her community. Tysha also aims to keep making and performing work that explores the different facets of identity, while delving into societal issues.

About Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay

Esplanade is Singapore's national performing arts centre. It has a year-round line-up of about 3,500 performances presented by Esplanade, its partners and hirers. As an arts centre for everyone, Esplanade also creates opportunities for seniors, youth, children and underserved communities to experience the arts. More than 70% of the shows that take place each year at the centre are non-ticketed. The centre works in close partnership with local, regional and international artists to develop artistic capabilities and content, push artistic boundaries and engage audiences. Esplanade supports the creation of artistic content by commissioning and producing new Singapore and Asian work for the international stage. It also develops technical capabilities for the industry nationally.

To bring even more of the arts to a wider audience and provide more platforms to support Singapore's next generation of artists, Esplanade is building a new theatre along its busy waterfront. Named Singtel Waterfront Theatre, the 550-seat venue will open in 2021.

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay is operated by The Esplanade Co Ltd (TECL), which is a not-for-profit organisation, a registered Charity and an Institution of a Public Character. The Charity Council awarded TECL the Charity Governance Award – Special Commendation for Clarity of Strategy in 2016, and the Charity Transparency Award for three consecutive years since 2016.

TECL is funded by Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and its Community Programmes are supported by Tote Board Family, comprising Tote Board, Singapore Pools and Singapore Turf Club.

Visit Esplanade.com for more information and Esplanade.com/Offstage for an all-access backstage pass and insider's guide to Singapore and Asian arts and culture.

~ End ~

Issued by *The Esplanade Co Ltd*.

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