

MEDIA RELEASE

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BOOKMARKING THE END OF A STORIED CHAPTER WITH THE MALAY HERITAGE CENTRE CLOSINGFEST

Singapore, 28 September 2022 – The Malay Heritage Centre (MHC) will close its doors for redevelopment works on 30 October 2022, more than a decade since its last major revamp in 2011, to refresh the Centre’s facilities, content and offerings. To mark its closing, the Centre invites all to immerse in a final showcase of local Malay culture and heritage in the month of October with **MHC ClosingFest**.

2 Ms Asmah Alias, MHC’s General Manager, said, “Since its re-opening in 2012, MHC has functioned as a cornerstone for the local Malay community. Through our festivals, exhibitions and programmes, we have showcased the Malay community’s rich history, culture and heritage in the fabric of modern Singaporean society as well as in the wider region. For the last time before the temporary closure, *MHC ClosingFest* will present a celebration of Malay traditions and heritage through various on-site performances and activities, and also celebrate MHC’s legacy and milestones over the years.”

A final on-site showcase of Malay culture and heritage at MHC ClosingFest

3 Rounding off its final on-site event with a bang, *MHC ClosingFest* aims to wow visitors with exciting performances from local and international performers, inspired by some of the most memorable performances held at the Centre to date. It will kick off with a gala opening on 14 October, where local artistes – Azrin Abdullah, Alunada and Orkestra Melayu Singapura – will pay tribute to the *joget* genre (traditional dance form known for its lively beats and fast-paced rhythm), and the artistes who made it popular. Other festival highlights include MHC’s annual dance showcase *Lintas Nusantara* and *Konsert SaloMambo*, a tribute to the singer Saloma, one of the most established and respected female stars Singapore has ever produced. NADI Singapura will also take the stage with *Himpunan Serumpun V*, in an exhilarating performance crafted by the former resident arts group specially for the ClosingFest!

4 Spotlighting various regional Malay cultures, MHC will also present *Bazaar Nusantara* to illuminate the different cuisines, cultural practices and performances of the Banjarese, Baweanese, Bugis, Javanese and Minangkabau people through a line-up of interactive experiences. Bazaar-goers can expect to learn more about these cultures through displays of Baweanese *silat* (a form of martial arts), Javanese *kuda kepang* (traditional dance) and a *keris* (dagger) cleansing ritual as well as history-rich objects such as textiles, traditional dress, jewellery, crafts and publications.

5 In addition, there will also be craft activities and workshops aplenty for visitors of all ages to enjoy, where they can create their very own traditional *sireh* (betel leaf) and flower arrangements, *bunga rampai* (potpourri) and *wayang kulit* (shadow puppet theatre) puppets. Visitors can also revel in the joys of traditional Malay music and try their hand at traditional Malay instruments and music genres. Please see **Annex A** for the full list of programmes as part of *MHC ClosingFest*.

6 Besides *MHC ClosingFest*, visitors can also visit the ongoing *Cerita* (stories) exhibition. The exhibition is MHC's final showcase before its redevelopment, and it shines the spotlight on the stories and narratives of life in the *Nusantara* (Malay Archipelago). *Cerita* features over 80 exhibits, including artefacts from the National Collection and loans from international institutions and various community contributors, as well as 10 digital animation videos created in partnership with students and lecturers from the Nanyang Polytechnic School of Design & Media.

A look at the road ahead for the Malay Heritage Centre

7 MHC is situated within the grounds of the majestic Istana Kampong Gelam, a National Monument originally built in the 1840s. The building is a visual embodiment of Singapore's Malay heritage, and restoration works will be conducted during the redevelopment as part of regular efforts to preserve the building. The Centre will also use this time to upgrade and update its permanent galleries to remain relevant and accessible to visitors while holding steadfast in its mission to tell the stories and memories of the Malay community.

8 MHC is expected to reopen in 2025, following the revamp. During the closure, MHC will continue to engage Singaporeans through online programmes and outreach initiatives such as travelling exhibitions, as well as programmes in partnership with stakeholders in the Kampong Gelam precinct, as part of their continued efforts to showcase local Malay heritage and culture to Singaporeans. Members of the public can stay tuned for more updates at www.malayheritage.gov.sg, and MHC's Facebook and Instagram (@malayheritage).

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About the Malay Heritage Centre

The Malay Heritage Centre (MHC) is housed in the former Istana Kampong Gelam, which was gazetted as a National Monument in 2015. The centre showcases the history, culture and contributions of the Malay community within the context of Singapore's history and multi-cultural society. MHC's permanent galleries focus on the history of Kampong Gelam and feature an array of artefacts from the National Collection and the Malay community. Through its exhibitions and programmes, the Centre aspires to be a vibrant destination of historical and cultural significance for both Singaporeans and international visitors. The Malay Heritage Centre is a heritage institution managed by the National Heritage Board. More information on MHC may be found at this website www.malayheritage.org.sg

About the Malay Heritage Foundation

The Malay Heritage Foundation was established on 28 July 1999 to promote the study, research, and the public's understanding and knowledge of the historical and socio-cultural development of the Malay community in Singapore, through the Malay Heritage Centre and other relevant means. Since its inception, it has worked with various segments of the Malay and Singapore community, government agencies, philanthropists and entrepreneurs to further its cause.

About the National Heritage Board



The National Heritage Board (NHB) was formed on 1 August 1993. As the custodian of Singapore's heritage, NHB is responsible for telling the Singapore story, sharing the Singaporean experience, and imparting our Singapore spirit.

NHB's mission is to preserve and celebrate the shared heritage of our diverse communities, for the purpose of education, nation-building and cultural understanding. It manages the national museums and heritage institutions and sets policies relating to heritage sites, monuments and the national collection. Through the national collection, NHB curates heritage programmes and presents exhibitions to connect the past, present and future generations of Singaporeans. NHB is a statutory board under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. Please visit www.nhb.gov.sg for more information.

About the Malay Heritage Centre's MHC ClosingFest

Date: 1 – 30 October 2022

Fee: Both free and ticketed events. Register via: <https://malayheritagecentre.peatix.com/>

The Malay Heritage Centre closes with a bang with the *MHC ClosingFest*, which will feature acts inspired by some of the most memorable performances from past festivals. Be entertained by the likes of Orkes Gypsie Lautan and Jamilah Abu Bakar from Malaysia, Azrin Abdullah, the Bunga Tanjung Project Band and NADI Singapura from Singapore and the final showcase of *Lintas Nusantara*. Besides these enthralling performances, there will also be craft activities and workshops for visitors of all ages to enjoy throughout the month of October.

Programme	Date/Time	Fee	Synopsis
Drop-in Activities	Dates/Times: 1 & 2 October, Saturday & Sunday 12pm – 5pm 8 & 9 October, Saturday & Sunday 12pm – 5pm 29 & 30 October, Saturday & Sunday 12pm – 5pm	Free, donations welcomed	Drop in and try your hand at an exciting array of craft activities to kick off MHC's ClosingFest. Have a ball and get creative with your besties and little ones at MHC this October. Come down and don't miss out on this final opportunity to create lasting memories with us! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 & 2 Oct: Create Your Own <i>Nasi Ambeng</i> Bookmarks and <i>Bunga Rampai</i> (potpourri) Making • 8 & 9 Oct: Fun with <i>Gamelan</i> and Shadow Puppet Making • 29 & 30 Oct: <i>Kebaya</i>-inspired Badge Making From 1 - 30 Oct, drop by our Visitor Services Centre with your little ones to try your hand at various family-friendly craft activities.
Flower & Betel Leaf Arrangement Workshop	Date: 1 October, Saturday	\$10 (standard); \$8 (concession)	Floral & betel leaf arrangements are key elements during Malay ceremonies and gatherings such as weddings. Learn more about the cultural significance and

	<p><u>Times:</u> Session 1: 11am – 12.30pm Session 2: 2pm – 3.30pm</p>		<p>characteristics of various floral arrangements including the <i>sireh dara & sireh junjung, bunga pahar</i> and more. Participants will also get to work together to assemble a <i>pulut pahar</i> floral arrangement during the workshop.</p> <p>Recommended for ages 12 and above. Parental guidance is encouraged for children between the ages of 5 to 11 years old. No admission for children of ages 4 years old and below.</p> <p><u>About the Instructor</u> Mdm Sadeah Jantan (founder of Deah Creationz) developed a passion and interest in handicrafts during the 1980s while helping her relatives prepare for a traditional Malay wedding ceremony. Since then, she picked up & honed her craft-making skills, eventually accepting orders from friends and external customers as a home-based business for over 30 years. Mdm Sadeah is actively involved with community projects and initiatives under the Teck Ghee Constituency, Jamiyah Singapore, Sang Nila Utama Society and is also a befriender volunteer with Changi Women’s Prison. She is also regularly engaged to conduct floral arrangement workshops at various schools and community centres.</p>
<p>Kelantanese Wayang Kulit Making Workshop</p>	<p>Date: 8 & 9 October, Saturday & Sunday Time: 11am – 2pm</p>	<p>\$28 (standard); \$22.40 (concession)</p>	<p>Create your own Kelantanese <i>wayang kulit</i> or shadow puppets, using carving tools and leather sheets handled by the true craftsmen themselves. Learn the techniques from active practitioners from Sri Setia Pulau Singa, the only Singapore-based <i>wayang kulit</i> group that continues to make their own hand-crafted puppets.</p>



			<p>Recommended for ages 12 and above. No admission for children of ages 11 years old and below.</p> <p><u>About the Instructor</u> Mr Faizal (co-founder of Sri Setia Pulau Singa) was first introduced to Kelantanese <i>wayang kulit</i> when he visited Kelantan to repair and buy percussion instruments for <i>dikir barat</i> (a performing art form, traditionally a choral ensemble, practised by the Malay community in Singapore). He got interested and brought a few friends over to Kelantan to learn from the masters there. As a Malay musician, he feels a strong responsibility to keep this practice alive especially since they have inherited the art form from the masters in Kelantan.</p>
<p>MHC ClosingFest Gala Opening</p>	<p>Date: 14 October, Friday Time: 8.30pm – 10pm</p>	<p>Free, donations welcomed</p>	<p>MHC's ClosingFest opens with a bang with performances from local artistes such as Azrin Abdullah, Alunada and Orkestra Melayu Singapura, that pays tribute to the <i>joget</i> genre (traditional dance form known for its lively beats and fast-paced rhythm) and the artistes who made it popular such as Siput Sarawak and Hamzah Dolmat. These performances also hint at the upcoming revamped galleries, which would feature narratives from popular culture and entertainment centres from post-war Singapore.</p> <p>This item is a throwback to the launch of the <i>Malay CultureFest</i> in 2013 which also featured the <i>joget</i> genre, once popular in the entertainment centres, film and radio.</p> <p>Join us for a night of fun and dancing!</p>

Bazaar Nusantara	Date: 15 – 16 October, Saturday & Sunday Time: 4pm – 10pm	Free, donations welcomed	Visit the <i>Bazaar Nusantara</i> all weekend to experience different cultures from all over the <i>Nusantara</i> ! Try out different cuisines, witness cultural practices as well as various performances from the Baweanese, Bugis and Banjarese representatives such as Baweanese <i>silat</i> (a form of martial arts), Javanese <i>kuda kepang</i> (traditional dance) and a <i>keris</i> (dagger) cleansing ritual. You can also learn more about these cultures through a display of objects rich in history such as textiles, traditional dress, jewellery, crafts, publications and many more.
Konsert SaloMambo	Date: 15 October, Saturday Time: 8.30pm – 10pm	Free, donations welcomed	<p><i>Konsert SaloMambo</i> pays tribute to Saloma, one of the most established and respected female stars Singapore has ever produced. This concert, performed by Malaysian artistes Orkes Gypsie Lautan featuring Malaysian singers Jamilah Abu Bakar and Azmy, will focus on Saloma's less traditional contributions to Singapore and Malay music repertoire, zooming in on her more collaborative and innovative efforts with the likes of The Quest.</p> <p>Besides being a singer and actress, Saloma was also a leading fashion icon whose innovative style is still being emulated today. Ballads and <i>asli</i> songs are what she was known for but she also enjoyed singing westernised Malay tunes, mixing <i>inang</i> and mambo, <i>joget</i> and chacha.</p> <p>Sing and dance along to the fusion of genres in this special one-night-only performance.</p>
Himpunan Serumpun V	Date: 21 October, Friday Time: 8.30pm – 10pm	Free, donations welcomed	Party with NADI Singapura in this exhilarating performance newly crafted with former resident arts groups just for MHC's ClosingFest! This performance will feature younger members of NADI Singapura, further highlighting the

			<p>importance of passing down our heritage to ensure the longevity of traditional art forms in contemporary Singapore.</p> <p>NADI Singapura was formed in November 2011 and was one of the first groups to be part of MHC's arts incubation programme. Over the years, the group has grown from strength to strength, having been invited to perform at both local and even overseas festivals. The groups have also performed at many MHC events since concluding their residency.</p>
<p>Lintas Nusantara Showcase</p>	<p>Date: 23 October, Sunday Time: 8.30pm</p>	<p>Free, donations welcomed</p>	<p><i>Lintas Nusantara</i> is back at MHC for the final time before our curtains close. This year's <i>Lintas Nusantara</i> will focus on the dances that exist in Singapore using influences of <i>silat</i> from various regions around the <i>Nusantara</i>.</p> <p><i>Lintas Nusantara</i> is MHC's annual dance festival that showcases dances from all over the <i>Nusantara</i>. It is also an inclusive platform that MHC provides for dancers to gain knowledge and insights about different dances from different regions through various workshops and showcases.</p>
<p>Playnting – Where Playing Meets Painting</p>	<p>Date: 30 October, Sunday</p> <p>Times: Session 1: 11am – 12pm Session 2: 2pm – 3pm Session 3: 4pm – 5pm</p>	<p>\$18 (standard); \$14.40 (concession)</p>	<p>Playing meets painting in this sensory-stimulating workshop, where visual arts, music and drama are combined. Participants will get to 'playnt' with drumsticks onto a canvas or tote bag, to an upbeat music playlist of popular Malay tunes through the years. Grab this opportunity to learn basic traditional rhythms and drum out your own unique 'Playnting' with artist, Khaitama.</p>



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			<p>Session 1: 11am – 12pm (For families with children of ages 5 and above) Session 2: 2pm – 3pm Session 3: 4pm – 5pm</p> <p>No admission for children of ages 4 years old and below.</p> <p><u>About the Instructor</u> Khairul 'Khaitama' Anwar is the founder of Playnting Private Limited and creator of the 'Playnting' technique. The self-taught drummer married his love for music, visual arts and theatre, discovering that he could create stunning and spontaneous visuals by dipping his drumsticks into paint and creating rhythmic patterns across the canvas. In 2016, Khairul was invited to perform for 500 people at the i,Slam Art Awards, held at the Axica Centre in Berlin, Germany. He hopes to launch and spearhead a new art movement of multi-sensory engagement that is very holistic and humane in due time.</p>
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