

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

***For immediate release***

### **THE JOURNEY OF FAITH**

*Trace the footsteps of Hajj pilgrims through Malay Heritage Centre's special exhibition and Malay CultureFest*

**Singapore, 12 October 2018** – Every year, for close to a century – from the late 19th century up to the 1970s – thousands of Muslim pilgrims from across the Malay Archipelago would flock to Singapore's very own Kampong Gelam, throwing the district into a bustling hive of activity. With heavy suitcases filled with pilgrimage goods in tow, they would board steamships granting them passage to the holy city of Mākkah, Saudi Arabia, more than 7,000 km away. There, they would be joined by millions of other Muslims from all over the world to perform the sacred duty of the Hajj.

2 As the pilgrimage hub in the region back then, Kampong Gelam was the centre for Hajj-related services, boasting pilgrim brokers, seasonal boarding houses, and shops selling sundries for the long journey. Today, with the proliferation of air travel, pilgrims no longer go through Kampong Gelam for the Hajj, but traces of this history live on in the precinct. For instance, the first Hajj utility belt, which is a money belt worn under the pilgrim's robes to allow pilgrims to safely store their valuables whilst conducting the Hajj, was believed to have been invented in Kampong Gelam by Haji Yusoff bin Haji Mohammed Noor from *Gedung Kuning*, earning him the moniker "Haji Yusoff Tali Pinggang". Similar belts are still sold and made in Kampong Gelam today, such as by Hajj belt maker V.S.S. Varusai Mohamed & Sons. Another example is Hajjah Maimunah Restaurant – a well-loved culinary destination among Singaporeans for its famed *nasi padang* – which is named after an important businesswoman who was Singapore's first female *sheikh haji* (hajj broker), and also the first to offer catering services for Hajj pilgrims.

3 In recognition of Kampong Gelam as an important port town for pilgrims and their first stop in preparation for the Hajj, the Malay Heritage Centre (MHC) presents a new special exhibition titled ***Undangan ke Baitullah: Pilgrims' Stories from the Malay World to Mākkah*** as well ***Malay CultureFest 2018***, providing a rarely-told Southeast Asian perspective of the Hajj, and allowing visitors to learn more about this millennia-long tradition through personal accounts of pilgrims who have undertaken this spiritual journey.

4 Suhaili Osman, curator of MHC, shares, “Similar to pilgrimages of other religious traditions, the Hajj is an important part of the religious identity of the Malay community in Singapore, and roots us to Muslims around the world. The exhibition and festival provide a platform for us to share this part of the Malay-Muslim culture with people outside the Islamic faith, and allow them to reflect and draw parallels to their own expressions of faith.”

### **Retelling the Hajj Through Community Stories**

5 The Hajj, or the pilgrimage to the *Ka'bah* in Mākkah – Islam’s holiest shrine, said to be erected by Prophet Ibrahim (or Abraham in Christian and Jewish traditions) – forms the fifth and last pillar of the Islamic faith. Practiced since 630 CE, the Hajj is a religious obligation for all Muslims who are physically and financially-able to make the trip. Since the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, in most cases, it is a once-in-a-lifetime journey for various reasons, the first being the limited number of Hajj visas issued annually – only 0.1% of each country’s Muslim population are issued with Hajj visas each year. These visas are issued to allow the government of Saudi Arabia to better manage the flow of pilgrims who come from all over the globe so as to reduce pressure on the infrastructure and services in the holy cities and sites, as well as at the various land and sea entry points into the country. The Hajj journey is also a long and arduous one, and one has to be in good health to embark on this pilgrimage. This was especially so in the past when the main mode of transport was by steamship, and the sea voyage was fraught with risks and dangers.

6 The exhibition, which happens from 13 October 2018 to 23 June 2019, builds on the MHC’s annual theme of *Nilai* (values). It documents the rich heritage of this time-honoured tradition through a collection of more than 160 artefacts, comprising items gathered from museum collections around the world, and personal belongings by families of pilgrims in Singapore who endured the arduous journey to Mākkah.

7 Spread across the two special exhibition galleries as well as the Finale Gallery of MHC, the collection provides a glimpse into the conduct of the *Hajj* from Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia in the past before air travel became prevalent, and its evolution over the years. Highlights of the artefacts on display include a section of the *kiswah* – a richly ornamental textile decorated with Quranic verses that once draped the *Ka'bah*; a 1901 travel document issued by the Ottoman Consulate in Singapore to pilgrims and travellers looking to make the

long journey to Makkah; wooden models of hajjis and hajjahs (the honorific bestowed upon those who have completed the Hajj), which the Dutch colonial administrators used as a way to learn more about their colonial East Indies subjects; and the first iteration of a passport designed by the Dutch colonial government to control the movement of pilgrims to Makkah. Highlights of the exhibition can be found in **Annex A**.

8 Suhaili adds, “With Southeast Asia being home to the world’s largest population of Muslims, the practice of the Hajj has had a definite impact on the development of societies in the region, as pilgrims move between countries and exchange ideas and cultures along the way. By sharing stories of the Hajj, our exhibition hopes to provide visitors with another layer of understanding of Singapore, and our links to neighbours in the region and the rest of the world over the larger course of history.”

9 Apart from historical artefacts, the exhibition also features several contemporary art pieces, a commissioned film produced by local artist Adzlynn Fizrah Wan Faizal, and video interviews of the community which give a deeper understanding of the Hajj from various perspectives. This includes a pilgrim officer who has gone on the Hajj every year since 1985, and a female pilgrim who completed the Hajj when she was just 12 years old.

10 MHC will also be presenting several programmes throughout the period of the exhibition to continue the discussion about the Hajj. This includes a lecture by prominent French academic Chamber-Loir, who will share more about oral histories and shared memories of the Hajj; an academic conference; community sharing sessions; and a Pilgrimage Intercommunity Talk where participants are welcome to talk about their own pilgrimage experiences across various faiths. More details of these programmes will be shared closer to date.

### **Malay CultureFest: An Immersive Showcase of the Expressions of Faith in the Malay World**

11 To complement the exhibition’s focus, MHC is also anchoring the annual *Malay CultureFest 2018* around the Hajj and other expressions of faith and devotion. The cultural celebration, spanning three weekends starting from 12 October, will feature a total of 16 immersive programmes including workshops as well as dance and theatre performances,

providing visitors of all ages with an intimate understanding of the many expressions of faith in the Malay world.

12 MHC's Programme Manager Jamal Mohamad says, "The focus for *Malay CultureFest* this year opens up exciting opportunities for people to learn more about how elements of faith and devotion are manifested in our intangible cultural heritage. Through various art forms such as dance and theatre, we hope that visitors can experience and enjoy the Malay community's cultural heritage across the festival."

13 Highlights of the festival include:

- The festival's opening piece featuring a specially commissioned multi-disciplinary performance comprising dance, music, and theatre, that tells the story of young couple who are embarking on the Hajj. Complemented by archival footage, the performance will follow the couple from their home to the port, and their journey on board the ship to Jeddah. To put together this piece, MHC worked closely with an ensemble group of performers including DIAN Dancers, Artistari Gentari, Projek Ujong Tanjong and Ikhwatul Iman Qasidah, featuring Azman Sharif and Nadiputra.
- *Lintas Nusantara*, an annual collaborative dance festival featuring dancers and musicians from Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia, who will present various dance forms from across the Malay world that are rooted in ritual worship or inspired by acts of devotion.
- *Nan Jombang Dance Company*, a contemporary dance troupe from Padang, Indonesia, will also present a newly commissioned piece entitled *Salam Diantara Sujud* (In Between Invocations (Before I Kiss The Ground)) that explores the various meanings of devotion.

14 Young festival-goers can also join in the fun by taking part in the Heritage Hunt around Kampong Gelam. They can embark on a journey as young Hajj travellers, as they follow the footsteps of the Hajj pilgrims to learn more about the preparations prior to the long sea voyage. They will first start their "journey" with a visit to MHC's special exhibition and permanent galleries to learn more about the Hajj and Kampong Gelam, and later extend their experience



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into the precinct and visit various shops such as Wahab Textiles that still sells Hajj supplies. A full list of the various programmes for *Malay CultureFest 2018* can be found in **Annex B**.

15 For more information about the festival programmes and the exhibition, please visit [www.malayheritage.org.sg](http://www.malayheritage.org.sg)

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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](http://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.



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### **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](http://www.nhb.gov.sg) for more information.

## ANNEX A

### Undangan ke Baitullah: Pilgrims' Stories from the Malay World to Makkah

13 October 2018 - 23 June 2019

Malay Heritage Centre

Free Admission

In conjunction with 2018's theme of Nilai (Values), this exhibition delves into the significance of Kampong Gelam as an important port town where Muslims from all over the Malay Archipelago would congregate to prepare for the onward steamship passage to Makkah in the late 19th century into the early 1970s. Undangan ke Baitullah adds a Southeast Asian perspective to this annual global movement of Muslims, which for many pilgrims, would be a once-in-a-lifetime journey of faith.

#### ARTEFACT HIGHLIGHTS



**Travel document issued by the Ottoman Consulate in Singapore**

**1901 | Singapore | Collection of Malay Heritage Centre, National Heritage Board**

This travel document was issued by the Ottoman Consulate in Singapore to a man named Osman. The document, signed under the authority of Sultan Abdul Hamid II of the Ottoman Empire, requests for the safe passage and protection of Osman to Turkey.

It was issued four months before the start of that year's Hajj season and suggests that its applicant might have intended to perform the Hajj at some point during his travels to Arabia.



**Sya'ir Makkah Madina printed manuscript**

**1885 – 1886 | Singapore | Courtesy Leiden University Library**

Considered by many to be the first Malay-language publication on the Hajj, the *Sya'ir Makkah Madina* is a 19th century poem said to have been composed by Minangkabau writer Syaikh Daud Sunur. The text introduces its readers to the cities of Makkah and Madinah as well as the rites of the Hajj. The poem proved to be so popular that it has been reprinted at least six times in the 19th century. This particular copy was printed by the famous Sirat Press located at 420 North Bridge Road, which was owned by Javanese printing merchant Haji Siraj. It also contains additions by a man named Syaikh Ismail, who lived in Makkah.



**Section of *kiswah* textile**

**Early 20th century | Egypt | Collection of Asian Civilisations Museum, National Heritage Board**

The *kiswah* is a richly ornamented fabric that is draped over the Ka'bah. The practice of draping the *kiswah* dates back to the 7th century, although its design has varied through the years. This particular appliqué contains the *Surah Al-Ikhlās* from the Qur'an, which asserts the absolute divinity of God. A pair of these would have adorned the *kiswah* used to drape over the Ka'bah's doors. The *kiswah* is considered a sacred relic and pilgrims would often reach out to touch, or even attempt to rent a piece of the *kiswah*. After it is replaced, parts of the old *kiswah* are divided into segments and usually gifted to Muslim dignitaries from around the world or sold to raise money for charity.



	<p><b>Wooden figure of a female pilgrim</b></p> <p><b>1914   Java   On loan from Nationaal Museum van Wereldculturen</b></p> <p>It is a common practice amongst the wealthy Dutch in Batavia (present-day Jakarta) to commission wooden figures of the peoples over which they governed. These figures, along with sketches of the various ethnic groups and trades, were some of the ways by which the Dutch colonial administrators created ethnographic surveys and visual records of the territories and the peoples they ruled in the Malay Archipelago. This particular figure of a female Hajj pilgrim was exhibited alongside a male figure and displayed in Amsterdam’s City Museum on occasion of Queen Wilhelmina’s inauguration in 1890.</p> <p><i>*Ethnographic: related to the scientific description of individual cultures.</i></p> <p><i>*Inauguration: the ceremonial induction of a leader into office.</i></p>
	<p><b>‘Perjalanan Haji dan Umrah’ by Amri Yahya</b></p> <p><b>1976 and 1978, Yogyakarta, Indonesia</b>  <b>Canvas, oil paints</b>  <b>On loan from Bayt Al Quran and Museum Istiqlal</b></p> <p>Prof. Dr. (HC) Haji Amri Yahya (1939 - 2004)</p> <p>Amri Yahya was Indonesia’s preeminent contemporary batik artist whose vibrant works were said to be inspired by the myriad colours and delicacy of butterfly wings. In the 1970-90s, Amri along with other notable Indonesian calligraphy artists such as A.D. Pirous and Didin Sirojudin created paintings which dealt with divinity or were inspired by Qur’anic scripture. These works were popular with the Muslim middle class who would display them in their homes – thus arguably re-affirming the ‘Islamisation’ of the Indonesian Muslim middle-class.</p>



**Prayer mat of pandanus leaves with embroidered embellishments**

**Early 20th century | Malay Archipelago | Collection of Malay Heritage Centre, National Heritage Board**

The material and motifs of this prayer mat are unique to the Malay world. It is made from native pandanus leaves rather than wool or velvet, and embellished with floral and vine motifs in gold/yellow thread upon a dyed red muslin cloth. These motifs, which feature abstracted foliage, deviate from the representational tradition of portraying the holy sites of Makkah upon prayer mats, though they still recall the scrolling effect of arabesque decorative design.

*\*Foliage: a term referring to leaves, flowers and plants in general.*

*\*Arabesque: a fanciful combination of foliage, fruits, animals and figures in a decorative design.*

## ANNEX B

### Malay CultureFest 2018

12 – 28 October 2018

Malay Heritage Centre

Free Admission (some programmes are ticketed)

In conjunction with MHC's overarching annual theme of 'nilai' (values) and the special exhibition *Undangan ke Baitullah: Pilgrims' Stories from the Malay World to Makkah*, the 2018 festival will focus on artistic expressions of devotion and faith from the region.

The festival will launch on 12 October and feature newly commissioned performances, film screenings, talks, workshops, trails and site-specific activities.

#### FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

##### Opening performance of Malay CultureFest

The welcome performance will trace the journey of a Hajj pilgrim from home to Mecca during the time of the steam ship. Told in four acts, the performance will give us a peep into how a family prepares to send off one of their own on this amazing journey. The audience will witness the chaotic yet vibrant scene in front of Sultan Mosque as pilgrims and families gather to say their farewell. They also get a glimpse of life on the steam ship and the excitement that greets the pilgrims as they first set foot onto Mecca, where people are gathered with their various languages and cultures.

The performance will be presented by DIAN Dancers, Artistari Gentari, Projek Ujong Tanjong and Ikhwatul Iman Qasidah, featuring Azman Sharif and Nadiputra.



##### IN BETWEEN INVOCATIONS (BEFORE I KISS THE GROUND) *SALAM DIANTARA SUJUD*

Nan Jombang Dance Company (Padang, Indonesia)

Saturday, 13 October

8.00pm - 9.30pm

MHC Auditorium

Ticket: \$20.00

[Bit.ly/SalamDiantaraSujud](http://Bit.ly/SalamDiantaraSujud)

This dance premiere explores the various interpretations of devotion, from those who follow blindly to others who question every aspect of faith so as to better understand the meanings behind their actions.

	<p>Nan Jombang Dance Company is one of Indonesia's leading contemporary dance companies from Padang. Rooted in Minangkabau traditions, this dance will draw inspiration from the teachings of Islam, as well as Minangkabau martial arts, dance and percussion.</p>
	<p><b>THE LAST WOMAN</b> <b>PEREMPUAN TERAKHIR</b> <b>Impessa Dance Company (Padang, Indonesia)</b></p> <p>Sunday, 14 October 8.00pm - 9.30pm MHC Auditorium Ticket: \$20.00</p> <p><a href="https://bit.ly/PerempuanTerakhir">Bit.ly/PerempuanTerakhir</a></p> <p>Impessa Dance Company is an up-and-coming contemporary dance group from Padang. Mentored by highly acclaimed dance choreographer and maestro Ery Mefri, this dance narrates the story of 'the last woman'. Inspired by the concept of a mother's love, the dance portrays the woman as a source of strength that will inevitably bring peace to a troubled world.</p>
	<p><b>LINTAS NUSANTARA:</b> <b>AN ARCHIPELAGO'S PRAYER</b> <b>NUSANTARA BERDOA</b></p> <p>Friday &amp; Saturday, 19 &amp; 20 October 8.30pm - 10.00pm MHC Auditorium Free (Registration on first-come, first-served basis) <a href="https://bit.ly/LintasNusantara2018">Bit.ly/LintasNusantara2018</a></p> <p>This year's Lintas Nusantara will feature dances from Aceh, Java, Kalimantan and Kelantan that are rooted in ritual worship. The 2018 edition will feature highlights such as the mystical and ancient Makyong, and traditional Dayak dance Sakaleki. Audience can expect the night to culminate with an energetic performance of the <i>Rapai Geleng</i> from Aceh, whose dance</p>

	<p>movements are reflective of the strong influence of Sufism in the region.  <a href="http://Bit.ly/LintasNusantara2018">Bit.ly/LintasNusantara2018</a></p>
	<p><b>ALFIAN SAAT'S BULAN MADU: A DOUBLE BILL</b>          Teater Ekamatra</p> <p>Thursday - Sunday, 24 - 28 October          8.00pm - 9.35pm</p> <p>Saturday &amp; Sunday, 27 &amp; 28 October          3.00pm - 4.35pm</p> <p>MHC Auditorium</p> <p>Purchase tickets at: <a href="http://it.ly/bulanmadu2018">it.ly/bulanmadu2018</a></p> <p>For media requests, school bookings and other enquiries please email <a href="mailto:general@ekamatra.org.sg">general@ekamatra.org.sg</a> //</p> <p>Untuk permintaan media, tempahan sekolah dan pertanyaan lain sila emel <a href="mailto:general@ekamatra.org.sg">general@ekamatra.org.sg</a></p> <p><u>Madu Dua</u></p> <p>Two women – one young, the other less so – share a house, a kitchen, a pot, and a husband. They talk, discovering frustrations and claustrophobia in a space each expected to own completely. Madu Dua is a tale of a polygamous marriage which dispenses altogether the male narrative in heady bouts of spite, verve, pain and regret. It explores the discomfited space in the negotiation of religion and the self, and exposes the complexity of the Muslim female psyche.</p> <p><u>Anak Bulan Di Kampung Wa' Hassan</u></p> <p>This monodrama tells the story of Kampung Wa' Hassan, the last Malay <i>kampung</i> (village) to fall victim to Singapore's efforts of modernisation. Far from a nostalgic trip down memory lane to a romanticised Malay <i>kampung</i>, this is a journey of discovery of the true worth of a village, filled with real-life characters in all their rawness, and the true loss in the dispossession of it.</p>

## FESTIVAL PROGRAMMES



### **Lintas Nusantara: The Zip of Game Musthedance**

Friday & Saturday, 19 & 20 October  
 5.00pm – 5.20pm  
 MHC Plaza  
 Free Admission

This dance showcases a Panji tale of Inu Kartapati as we follow his search for Dewi Sekartaji (future wife) across the Nusantara.

### **CRAFT TIME!**

ITE College West

Saturday, 13 October 2018

11.00am – 1.00pm & 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Free drop-in

Calling out to all parents out there! Join us for a whole day of fun craft activities by students from ITE College West! Make your own greeting card for your loved ones or create your own bookmarks inspired from motifs of Nusantara textiles, there's something for you to create with your kids and families.



### **Heritage Hunt: Little Hajj Travellers**

Saturdays, 13 & 20 October

10.00am – 11.00am

Kampong Gelam

Ticket: \$5.00 (Parent-child)

[Bit.ly.com/HajjHeritageHunt](http://Bit.ly.com/HajjHeritageHunt)

Embark on a voyage through the sea as Little Hajj travellers this October. Be prepared to learn more about the Hajj and go through the shopping list to ensure that you have all the supplies you need on board! Little Travellers will get to roam around Kampong Gelam and our special exhibition galleries as they get ready for this journey.

## ALL ABOARD!

PILGRIM PASS FOR MECCA

قاس نأيك حاجي كمكه



### ALL ABOARD! PILGRIM PASS FOR MECCA

Take a trip back in time to the 19th and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and set sail on the *kapal haji* (pilgrim ship)! Relive the personal histories and experiences of pilgrims from the Nusantara, and collect “endorsement” stamps by visiting our special exhibition galleries.

Get a copy of the activity card from our Visitor Services Centre and stand a chance to win a gift during *Malay CultureFest 2018*!



### Public Lecture Series

#### History of the ‘Kongsi Tiga’ & its Impact on the Hajj Routes for Indonesian Pilgrims (*In English*)

Saturday, 13 October

2.00pm - 3.30pm

MHC Auditorium

Free (Registration on first-come, first-served basis)

[Bit.ly/KongsiTigaTalk](https://bit.ly/KongsiTigaTalk)

#### SPEAKER:

KHALID BOUNA

PhD Candidate

School of History, Culture and Communication  
Erasmus University of Rotterdam

Mr Khalid Bouna’s research delves into the history of the three Dutch steamship companies (Rotterdamsche Lloyd, Stoomvaart Maatschappij Nederland and the Stoomvaart Maatschappij Oceann) that were united under the banner of the ‘Kongsi Tiga’ which had a virtual monopoly on transporting Indonesian pilgrims during pre-WWII. For a time, Singapore posed as the only other option to escape these strict conditions. The talk will look into the multiple ways that the ‘Kongsi Tiga’ defended this monopoly and its effects on the pilgrims then.



**Public Lecture Series | *Siri Kuliah Umum:*  
Budaya**

**Dancing the Sacred: Morality and Religion in  
Nusantara Dance Forms (*In English*)**

Saturday, 20 October

10.00am - 11.30am

MHC Auditorium

Free (Registration on first-come, first-served  
basis)

[Bit.ly/DancingTheSacred](https://bit.ly/DancingTheSacred)

**PANEL:**

**ERYMEFRI**

(Founder, Nan Jombang Dance Company,  
Indonesia)

**FAUZIAH HANUM**

(President, Sri Wana, Singapore)

**RINI WIDIASTUTI**

(Founder, Guntur Mataram Dance Company,  
Indonesia)

**FACILITATOR:**

**AMIN FARID**

(Co-Founder, DIAN Dancers, Singapore)

Nusantara dance forms have traditionally been associated with sacred rituals, royal observances and human morality informed by animism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and cultures that the region has come in contact with. Dance in the Nusantara today still carries the symbols and philosophies of these various aspects.

This forum will discuss how the region's rich religious heritage continue to inspire the works of dancers and choreographers, what current trends are being observed, and where they see the future taking the various threads of Nusantara dance forms.





**Public Lecture Series | *Siri Kuliah Umum: Budaya***

**The Next Chapter of Malay Dance in Singapore: Our Treasures, Hopes and Challenges (*In English*)**

Saturday, 20 October

2.00pm - 3.30pm

MHC Auditorium

Free (Registration on first-come-first-served basis)

[Bit.ly/SingaporeMalayDance](https://bit.ly/SingaporeMalayDance)

**PANEL:**

**AMIN FARID**

(Co-Founder, DIAN Dancers, Singapore)

**FAUZIAH HANUM**

(President, Sri Wana, Singapore)

**HASYIMAH HARITH**

(Dancer/Choreographer/ Instructor, Azpirasi Dance Group)

**OSMAN HAMID**

(Founder, Era Dance Theatre, Singapore)

Malay dance in Singapore is seeing the emergence of a new generation of leader that is keen on redefining the boundaries of what Malay dance is and can be. Their efforts have been viewed with both excitement and caution from peers and veterans alike. This forum will bring together leaders representing three generations of Malay dancers as they share their views, approaches and desires for the Malay dance landscape.

**Basics of *Makyong* Dance with Rosnan Rahman**


***Istana Budaya***

Tuesday, 16 October

7.30pm – 9.00pm

MHC Courtyard 2

Free (Pre-Registration required)

	<p><a href="https://bit.ly/MakyongDance">Bit.ly/MakyongDance</a></p> <p>In this workshop with Rosnan Rahman, learn the very basics of the Makyong dance that is enchanting and full of flair. Hailing from the region of Kelantan, Malaysia, this dance is often performed not just for mere entertainment, but still serves its ritualistic purposes within the community that practices it.</p>
	<p><b>Basics of <i>Seudati</i> Dance</b></p> <p>Cit Ka Geunta, Aceh, Indonesia</p> <p>Wednesday, 17 October 7.30pm - 9.00pm MHC Courtyard 2 Free (Pre-Registration required) <a href="https://bit.ly/SeudatiDance">Bit. ly/SeudatiDance</a></p> <p>The <i>seudati</i> dance originated from the province of Aceh, Indonesia. ‘Seudati’ comes from the word ‘shahadat’. This dance is also known as a tribal/war dance. The words (or poetry and lyrics) used in the dance ignites a sense of patriotism and inspires the youths of Aceh to rise up and fight against occupation.</p>
	<p><b><i>Curator's Tour</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Undangan ke Baitullah: Pilgrims' Stories from the Malay World to Makkah</i></b></p> <p>Saturday, 27 October 11.00am – 12.30pm Galleries 1, 2 and Finale Free (Pre-Registration required)</p> <p><a href="https://bit.ly/UKBCuratorsTour">Bit.ly/UKBCuratorsTour</a></p> <p>Learn more about the history of the Hajj in the Malay world in this special tour conducted by the curators of <i>Undangan ke Baitullah</i>. Discover insights about key artefacts that have been drawn from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Netherlands and how the exhibition was put together.</p>