

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Best of Taiwanese Arts Coming to George Town Festival 2019

*Exchanging cultures and communicating through the arts – a connection between islands*

**George Town, Penang, Malaysia, 28 June 2019:** *Isle to Isle* – a four-day series of programmes – will connect Penang and Taiwan together and bring forward dynamic, creative content and profoundly intriguing cultural performances to George Town Festival 2019 (GTF 2019). Members of the public will be guided by industry experts from Taiwan over a series of curated programmes anchored in everyday life to easily access the arts through familiar subject matter, leading them to a complete immersion of the arts.

*Isle to Isle*, a series of programmes that is part of GTF 2019, will return with more engaging programmes from 18 to 21 July 2019. A collaboration between George Town Festival, Taipei's Department of Cultural Affairs and Penang City Eye, this edition of *Isle to Isle* will include the screening of *Father*, a documentary detailing the life of master puppeteer Chen Hsi-huang, a traditional puppet show infused with modern elements presented by Taipei Puppet Theater, a creative market hosting 14 indigenous labels from Taiwan, as well as a design forum gathering six of Taiwan's top designers and curators.

Details of *Isle to Isle* are as follows:

### 1.0 Design Forum

Six top-notch designers and curators, all the way from Taiwan, will gather and take centre stage in Penang at George Town Festival. These big names in the industry are the ones who designed and curated iconic events as well as award ceremonies in Taiwan. These artists' and curators' works comprehensively showcased design aesthetics at the Creative Expo Taiwan, World Design Capital, Golden Horse Awards, Golden Melody Awards, and Wordwave Festival, to name a few. We cordially invite you to join us for a fruitful period of eight hours, as these influential elites share some insightful experiences and thoughts with you.

Date : 19 July 2019

Time : 9am - 5pm

Venue : The Royale Ballroom, Royale Chulan Penang

## **2.0 Creative Market**

With the theme 'Crafts: Nature as Inspiration', this creative market is curated to reconnect us to nature, focusing on the simplicity of daily living, as well as contributing back to Mother Earth. Brought to you by TAIPEI Corners and Good Home Taiwan, *Creative Market* is the city's gathering point for arts and crafts lovers and a platform that showcases appreciation on Taiwanese creations. *Creative Market* will be introducing 14 indigenous craft labels from Taiwan, namely, Chih-Yi, a brand known for its floral arrangements made using Taiwan's seasonal plants, JIMMY WOOD STUDIO, whose founder is insistent on using labour-intensive processes to carve and manufacture woodworks and Keya Jam, a label dedicated to using fruits produced by local small-scale farms to make jams.

Date : 20 & 21 July 2019

Time : 11am - 9pm

Venue : Hall 1, Jetty 35

## **3.0 Creative Branding Sharing**

Curated by Evan Lin, *Creative Branding Sharing* features two Taiwanese brand founders introducing the core ideologies of their brands, as well as sharing the promising opportunities and the stories behind their brands. This sharing session invites participants to explore brand identities and values, as well as creative reinvention from the perspectives of these talented brand founders. Join us to exchange ideas and experiences with the experts and discover more possibilities in between.

Date : 20 & 21 July 2019

Time : 4pm - 5pm

Venue : Hall 2, Jetty 35

#### **4.0 <Father> Documentary Film Screening**

An avid fan of puppetry, director Yang Li-chou spent ten years with Taiwanese master puppeteer Chen Hsi-huang to unravel Chen's conflicting relationship with his father Lee Tian-lu, a legendary glove puppeteer himself. A candid documentary focuses on the challenges faced by the traditional artform, this documentary presents the poignant sense of helplessness of the puppeteer that comes with the declining trend of puppet theatre.

Date : 20 & 21 July 2019

Time : 11am - 1.30pm

Venue : GSC Gurney Plaza

#### **5.0 Director Talk**

Through his documentary *Father*, Director Yang Li-chou encourages members of the public to be more aware of current social affairs. And through his documentary of daily lives, he takes viewers to see the world through the eyes of a videographer to capture the reality of a subject or to deliver a bigger picture of the future. Join us in this insightful session as director Yang shares his perspectives and observations on Taiwanese documentary films over the years.

Title : The Development and Prospect of Taiwanese Documentary Films in 20 Years

Date : 18 July 2019

Time : 8pm - 10pm

Venue : Lecture Theatre 2, Wawasan Open University

#### **6.0 Glove Puppet Show**

Taipei Puppet Theater brings you two family-friendly glove puppet shows, 'Mayhem in the Crystal Palace' and 'The Rescue of Chen Xiang's Mother', which is a segment in the traditional Chinese folklore 'Lotus Lantern'. In 'Mayhem in the Crystal Palace', special props were designed by the Taipei Puppet Theater to exhibit the captivating world under the sea as well as the adorable marine animals. In addition to the magnificent martial arts of Sun Wu-kong and jumping puppets manipulated by the skilful puppeteers, 'Mayhem in the Crystal Palace' guarantees members of the audience an entirely new enchanting visual experience.

'The Rescue of Chen Xiang's Mother' depicts the story of how Chen Xiang, equipped with a magical axe, defeated his uncle Er-lang Shen to successfully rescue his mother by cleaving Mount Hua. In the show, puppeteers showcase their remarkable hand agility, bringing this classical drama to life.

Date : 20 July 2019 (Mayhem in the Crystal Palace), 21 July 2019 (Lotus Lantern)

Time : 3pm - 4.30pm

Venue : Auditorium A, KOMTAR

### **7.0 Puppetry Workshop**

Look forward to reconnecting with your roots and past memories in this puppetry workshop! In this professional workshop conducted by Taipei Puppet Theater, there will be a live demonstration of the basic skills required to operate the puppets and sharing of interesting facts about puppetry that many might not know. Participants also have the opportunity to be puppeteers, where they can experience the intriguing delight of being in a puppet show.

Date : 20 & 21 July 2019

Time : 5pm - 6pm

Venue : Auditorium A, KOMTAR

For more information, please visit [georgetownfestival.com](http://georgetownfestival.com) and follow us on Facebook at George Town Festival and Penang City Eye.

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## **About George Town Festival**

The George Town Festival (GTF) is an annual festival held in Penang's capital, George Town, in honour of the city's designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Festival also aims to promote arts, culture and heritage in Penang. The annual GTF is endorsed by the Penang State Government with the full support by the City Council of Penang Island, George Town World Heritage Incorporated and Penang Global Tourism in celebration of local and international works of art.

GTF also serves as a leading art platform in the region for local and international artists to connect, granting them the opportunity to collaborate and to bolster the local and international art communities. The Festival is committed to promoting the beauty of arts, culture and heritage to all as a not-to-be-missed major arts event.

Returning for its tenth edition, TLM Event is set to deliver a whole new way of experiencing arts. This year, GTF embodies the idea of making arts accessible to all, regardless of age or background. A vast amount of visual art, theatre, music, dance, film, photography and more will be packed into 16 days for all to feast their senses. From traditional auditoriums to halls, shophouse walls and historic buildings, the Festival will see world-class performances, installations and collaborations such as thought-provoking artistic activities, intimate talks, interactive sharing sessions and more to make sure that there is something for everyone.