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George Town Festival Dials Up the Fun at Berapit

The Festival is also inviting festival goers to experience the sights and sounds of a local neighbourhood

George Town, Penang, Malaysia, 17 June 2019: Rhythmic drums, spellbinding dance performances and risky street circus are set to draw big crowds to yet another community engagement programme by the George Town Festival – *Macam Macam Berapit*. The community engagement programme is in collaboration with Berapit assemblywoman YB Heng Lee Lee's service centre.

Macam Macam Berapit, happening on 7 July from 5pm to 11pm at Berapit Public Market, sees the Festival bringing arts out from traditional venues in the island and into a community space in the mainland, combatting perceptions that arts is exclusive and elitist as well as offering residents and visitors a unique experience to be enjoyed. Held at the neighbourhood market of Berapit, the live music and entertainment will create comfortable ways for neighbours to get to know each other, adding to the rich fabric of neighbourhood life while allowing visitors a glimpse into the everyday lives of the local community.

Residents and festival-goers will have a rare opportunity to marvel at mesmerising programmes covering street performances, music, theatre and plenty more. Alongside a host of homegrown talents such as The Penang Dhol Blasters, Opera Yong Choon Pan and local band Culture Shot, the Festival will feature performers from other parts of the world, such as Su e Giù Circus from Italy and Spain, Lee SeokWon from Korea and The Twins Trip from Argentina.

Details of *Macam Macam Berapit* are as follows:

1.0 Macam Macam Berapit

George Town Festival is dialing up the fun by turning Berapit into a one-day arts and culture spectacle in *Macam Macam Berapit*! Be entertained by the rhythm and dance of local and international performers and explore the sights and sounds of Berapit. Admission is free for the whole day.

Date : 7 July 2019 (Sunday)

Time : 5pm - 11pm

Venue : Berapit Public Market

2.0 Macam Macam Berapit Programme Line-up

The one-day community engagement programme brings mesmerising programmes covering street performances, music, theatre and plenty more. Details of the programme line-up are as follows:

Mesama by Su e Giù Circus: Brought to you by Su e Giù Circus, Mesama is a production which explores the strange relationship between two persons with a rather peculiar tale between them. Performers Aitor Esteban Lorenzo and Victoire D'antino will wow the audiences from all ages with a combination of jaw-dropping theatrical and acrobatic stunts filled with circus fun!

231show - Happy Moments by Lee SeokWon: Korean-born Lee SeokWon, popularly known as Performer 231, is a magician and a circus artist. He puts magic, pantomime and juggling together with his original ideas. The winner of Busan International Theatre Festival (Dynamic Street category) is set to keep audiences entertained with awesome magic tricks and mind-boggling juggling stunts that will leave audiences speechless!

Celebrating the World by The Twins Trip: The Twins Trip is a fun and dynamic visual animated show which allows audiences to experience the special connection between twin brothers, Emilio and Leandro Ponce. With a spellbinding combination of circus disciplines, dance moves and live music, audiences will find themselves on the edge of their seats, gasping, singing, clapping and even dancing along, making each moment a memorable one.

Live drum beats, After the Rain and Kaun Nachdi by The Penang Dhol Blasters: The Penang Dhol Blasters promises a highly-charged traditional and modern Bhangra music for the crowd! Audiences can look forward to live drum beats as well as Dhol beat on a fusion Irish instrumental music in *After the Rain* and Dhol beat on an upbeat 'Bhangra' song in *Kaun Nachdi*.

Culture Shot: Imagine the melancholic sounds of Er-hu, the strumming of Lang Tin Tang, the melodic rhythm of a Rebana coupled with gongs, and the interlocking beats of Gendang with a splash of Chinese cymbals, that's the trademark performance by Culture Shot, also known as LA LA LI LA TAM

PONG. There's no better time to enjoy an evening of old Hokkien songs and other traditional tunes, served with a taste of Penang!

Three Scholars in a Family by Opera Yong Choon Pan: Berapit's very own Teochew opera troupe is set to present *Three Scholars in a Family*, a classic tale detailing a woman's hardship to be reunited with her husband and two sons in Beijing. Once a widely staged performance, especially during the Hungry Ghost Festival, the Teochew opera is a slowly disappearing artform that needs to be treasured. Catch this unique Teochew opera performance only at *Macam Macam Berapit!*

For more information, please visit georgetownfestival.com and follow us on Facebook at George Town Festival.

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About George Town Festival

In an effort to commemorate the inscription of George Town as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a fine idea to organise George Town Festival came across. Being inaugurated in 2010, this Festival aims to promote arts, culture and heritage in Penang. The annual George Town Festival 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.

George Town Festival as well serves as a leading art platform in the region for both local and international artists to connect which could grant them an opportunity for further collaboration to bolster the arts communities from local and international alike. The Festival is committed to promoting the beauty of arts, cultures and heritage to all as a not-to-be-missed major arts event.

Returning for its tenth edition in 2019, a whole new way of experiencing arts would be brought forward with the management and curation by TLM Event. This year, George Town Festival 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 stuffed into 16 days for all to feast their senses. From traditional auditoriums to halls, shophouse walls, historic buildings, cafes and *kopitiams* (traditional coffee shops), 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.