

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Macallum Takes Center Stage at George Town Festival 2019

The Festival's community engagement programme is filled with culturally aware and relatable line-up

George Town, Penang, Malaysia, 10 June 2019: FROM experiencing the bittersweet moments in homemakers' daily routines to discovering the classic tune of Nanyang music (Nanyang refers to the Southeast Asian region, where many Chinese immigrants settled down since the mid-1600s), these are some of the key highlights of the George Town Festival's community engagement programme – *Macam Macam Macallum (Macam Macam 五条路)*. The community engagement programme is in collaboration with Pengkalan Kota assemblyman YB Daniel Gooi's service centre.

Macam Macam Macallum, happening on 24 and 25 July, will deliver a diverse range of performances covering music, theatre, *potehi* (traditional glove puppetry) and dance by local and international artists to the doorsteps of the residents of Macallum area, with the hope of exposing new arts and cultural experiences to a community who might otherwise not engage with the Festival.

Macam Macam Macallum will kick off with a pre-event workshop for the local Macallum community, focusing on a key, yet often neglected demographic – the women and homemakers. The three-day free-to-participate workshop will be conducted by Sun Son Theatre 身声剧场 from Taiwan, where participants will be taught a series of choreographed, physical movements, which will be presented as one of the programme highlights on 25 July 2019.

The community programme will also uncover Penang's little known classic art forms of Nanyang music and *potehi* in one of its programme highlights and special features. *Cham Cham Fun 杂杂歌*, happening on 24 July, is one of the event's programme highlights featuring legendary Nanyang songbird Yudi Yap 南国之莺友弟 who will be accompanied by famed jazz ensemble WVC the Jazz Ensemble for an unforgettable night of classic Chinese oldies with a touch of jazz. Those looking to experience the disappearing art of *potehi* can do so in one of the event's special features titled *Flag of Pearls 珍珠旗* and *A House Filled with Wealth and Prosperity 金玉满堂* by Beng Geok Hong Puppet Theatre Troupe 鸣玉凤掌中班.

Adding colours to the community programme are special features by Euphoria Penang Modern Dance Ensemble 檳城现代舞团 (优悦舞集) and local band Culture Shot, which are slated to keep the crowd entertained with mind-blowing performances during the two-day event.

Details of *Macam Macam Macallum* and *Off the Chores Go on Stage Workshop* are as follows:

1.0 Macam Macam Macallum and Off the Chores Go on Stage Workshop

Macam Macam Macallum

Date : 24 & 25 July 2019 (Wednesday & Thursday)

Time : 7pm - 10pm

Venue : Taman Kejiranan Macallum

Off the Chores Go on Stage Workshop 《群婆乱舞》婆婆妈妈工作坊 (Taiwan)

The call to participate in the workshop is now open and the workshop is looking for members of the public who can fully participate in the three-day workshop and are passionate in performing arts. No performance experience is required. Those who are interested to participate can register online at tiny.cc/t7lv7y, or walk in to Pengkalan Kota assemblyman YB Daniel Gooi's service centre at 11-1-1, Pangsapuri Pelangi Lintang Macallum or call +604 250 1522.

Date : 22 - 24 July 2019 (Monday - Wednesday)

Time : 8pm - 10pm

Venue : Dewan Komuniti Sri Saujana (Dewan Komuniti Macallum)

2.0 Macam Macam Macallum Programme Highlights

The two-day community engagement programme brings you two programme highlights, namely, *Cham Cham Fun* and *Off the Chores*. Details of the programme highlights are as follows:

Cham Cham Fun 杂杂歌: Nanyang songbird Yudi Yap 南国之莺友弟 and WVC the Jazz Ensemble are set to keep the crowd entertained with a unique performance of Nanyang classic with a touch of contemporary jazz. Yudi Yap is a Malaysian singer-songwriter and performer specialised in classic oldies while WVC the Jazz Ensemble is one of the most established Jazz ensembles in Malaysia.

Date : 24 July 2019

Off the Chores 群婆乱舞: Combining percussion, physical movements and comedic elements, Off the Chores seeks to present the bittersweet moments in the housewives' daily routines and to challenge audiences to rethink the gender roles within a family. Hoping to empower local homemakers and women, Sun Son Theatre 身声剧场 from Taiwan will be conducting a 6-hour workshop spreading across three days. The workshop will culminate in a short, 10-minute performance on 25 July 2019, where participants get to showcase the fruits of their labour.

Date : 25 July 2019

3.0 Macam Macam Macallum Special Features

The two-day community engagement programme brings you three special features by Euphoria Penang Modern Dance Ensemble, Beng Geok Hong Puppet Theatre Troupe and local band Culture Shot, which are slated to keep the crowd entertained with mind-blowing performances during the two-day event. Details of the programme highlights are as follows:

Flag of Pearls 珍珠旗 and A House Filled with Wealth and Prosperity 金玉满堂 by Beng Geok Hong Puppet Theatre Troupe 鸣玉凤掌中班 (Malaysia): This performance features Madam Ooi See Han 黄细汉, the lead puppeteer of the Beng Geok Hong Puppet Theatre Troupe, one of the few surviving traditional *potehi* troupes in Penang. Living in Macallum, Madam Ooi's occupation remains unknown to many of her neighbours who have not seen her performances. Thus, through this performance, we hope to introduce Madam Ooi's *potehi* craft in a place where she is familiar with.

Culture Shot (Malaysia)

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!

Euphoria Penang Modern Dance Ensemble 槟城现代舞团 (优悦舞集) (Malaysia)

Audiences will be treated to a visual feast as Euphoria expresses the essence of Penang's heritage and traditions with a modern twist, through energetic, creative dances. Established in 2015, Euphoria Penang Modern Dance Ensemble is currently led by Aida Redza, a well-known performer, director and

choreographer. Formed with the intent to creatively reinvent Malaysia's cultural dances by infusing them with more local contemporary elements, the group constantly collaborates with notable local choreographers. Euphoria is also Penang's first modern cultural dance ensemble.

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.