

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Get Ready for Another Artsy Weekend at George Town Festival 2019!**

*The heritage city's clan houses, shophouses, back alleys, and five-foot ways will be buzzing with a multitude of artistic activities across multiple locations, all at the same time!*

**George Town, Penang, Malaysia, 16 July 2019:** THE George Town Festival 2019 continues its 16-day artistic adventure with *Art in the City* on 20 and 21 July, where festival-goers will see the heritage city's clan houses, shophouses, back alleys, and five-foot ways abuzz with a multitude of artistic activities covering music to child-friendly entertainment, and from dance to theatre across intriguing venues!

Based on the concept of art-is-everywhere-and-anywhere-in-the-city, the two-day event will take place within the George Town World Heritage Site where the programmes are slated to run simultaneously in separate locations yet within a reasonable distance, allowing visitors to enjoy most, if not all, of the programmes.

Among some of the not-to-be-missed programmes are *Malaysia Inside Out* where festival-goers will get to experience a mini cultural celebration soundtracked by traditional Chinese, Malay and Indian cultural performances as well as *Garden Gig* where festival-goers can look forward to an evening of light and relaxing tunes of jazz standards and pop music amidst lush greenery. Little GTF-ers and their families will also get to experience child-friendly performances and workshops in *Tiny Touts*. Those looking to reacquaint with traditional and modern artform of puppetry can do so over at *Puppet Stage*, where Teochew iron-rod puppetry, traditional and modern *wayang kulit* and Indonesian puppetry awaits! Meanwhile, an old Chinese shophouse at Sia Boey will be brought to life through a modern dance performance in the *Dance @ 74* programme. Documentary lovers can rejoice in the *Rojak Penang 3* programme, a compilation of video documentation, capturing the diversity and cross-cultural exchanges that take place every day in Penang in the most unexpected ways. *Antithesis*, a collective performance, invites interested festival-goers to investigate the invisible laws of unwanted publicity through an interactive, semi-improvised movements.

The two-day highlighted programme will be made merrier with various ticketed shows and activities. Comedy lovers can look forward to laugh out loud with comedian Kavin Jay and friends as they bring down the house with laughter in a ticketed event entitled *Funny Business with Kavin Jay & Friends*. Shoppers and foodies will find *Party Lorong* a great place to be – there'll be no shortage of live music,

cakes, cookies, exquisite jewellery, exclusive apparels, paintings, books, cards, gifts and more, from local and international art enthusiasts, for all to enjoy.

Details of *Art in the City* are as follows:

### **1.0 ART IN THE CITY**

If the concept of art-is-everywhere-and-anywhere-in-the-city sounds like your kinda jam, then turn up at *Art in the City*, where George Town's historic clan houses, shophouses, back alleys, and five-foot ways will be buzzing with a multitude of artistic activities covering music to child-friendly entertainment, and from dance to theatre across intriguing venues, happening all at once in the city.

Set within the George Town World Heritage Site, the programmes are slated to run simultaneously in separate locations yet within a reasonable distance, allowing visitors to enjoy most, if not all, of the programmes. Among some of the exciting programmes are *Garden Gig*, *Tiny Touts*, *Puppet Stage*, *Malaysia Inside Out*, *Dance @ 74* and many more.

### **Malaysia Inside Out**

Nothing says 'Malaysia' like *Malaysia Inside Out* does. Soundtracked by a medley of traditional Chinese, Malay and Indian cultural performances, *Malaysia Inside Out* showcases the fascinating beauty of Malaysia's multiculturalism like none other. Join us in this celebration of cultures and traditions at George Town Festival this year.

The following table lists the programme line-up at *Malaysia Inside Out*:

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Details</b>
Traditional Malay dance performances by BaiZam Generation (Malaysia)	BaiZam Generation is a family of five from Kelantan, with each have at least three abilities in the talent category of singing, dancing, acting or playing musical instruments. The stars of the group are three children aged four, six and nine years old. BaiZam Generation will be performing a <i>mak yong</i> dance performance, a comprehensive theatrical performance combining dance, opera, drama and comedy as well as other timeless artistic Malay art forms

	such as <i>wayang kulit</i> (traditional Malay shadow puppetry), <i>muzik paluan</i> and <i>tarian tari inai</i> .
<i>Kisah Pulau Pinang II - The Japanese Occupation and Merdeka</i> by Ombak Potehi (Malaysia)	When a group of multi-ethnic young people work together to revitalize the endangered <i>Potehi</i> glove puppet theatre in Penang, the product is a puppetry show titled <i>Kisah Pulau Pinang II - The Japanese Occupation and Merdeka</i> . It is presented by Ombak Potehi, a group who performs not only conventional stories, but also new stories based on oral histories collected from the people of Penang.
<i>Spices of India</i> by BhaavaNarthana Naatyalaya (Malaysia)	Interwoven into <i>Malaysia Inside Out</i> includes <i>Spices of India</i> by BhaavaNarthana Naatyalaya, a classical Indian dance academy. The founder Mrs Pavaani Thannimalai, together with her students, will be performing a series of classical Indian dances ranging from pure classical to Kavadi, stick dance and Bhangra.
<i>5 Rivers</i> by Dhol Alliance (Malaysia)	Fierce. Loud. Proud. With over a decade of experience in Dhol entertainment, Dhol Alliance, an elite Dhol collective based in Kuala Lumpur, will get you grooving to the beats of <i>5 Rivers</i> , an electrifying and exhilarating showpiece combining the thunderous sounds of the Dhol drums on thumping Bhangra beats.
Traditional Malay dance performances by Wak Long Music Group & Art Centre (Malaysia)	For more than two decades, Wak Long Music Group & Art Centre has been preserving the musical culture and heritage of the Malay ethnic group by being the only traditional Malay performing group in Penang. With over 20 professionally-trained musicians and dancers, Wak Long Music Group & Art Centre will be keeping festival-goers entertained with centuries-old traditional dance performances of <i>zapin</i> , <i>inang</i> , and <i>joget!</i>
Chinese music by Chong Yee Chinese Music Academy	Chong Yee Chinese Music Academy was established to enhance the appreciation of classical Chinese music as well as bringing

(Malaysia)	enthusiasts with a common interest together. Led by Lai Ah Lai who is a distinguished conductor in Malaysia, the orchestra, made up of professional orchestral musicians and enthusiastic amateurs, is set to bring you an extensive repertoire that includes not only traditional Chinese music but also contemporary works.
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### Garden Gig

It's said that listening to jazz can relieve stress, stimulate the mind, and boost creativity – three more reasons to get yourself down to the *Garden Gig*! Experience an unforgettable evening at the Garden Gig where Penang Jazz Society, UiTM Chamber Choir, 92PLAY5 and Sada Borneo are set to serenade you with light and relaxing music, ranging from jazz, a cappella to pop-soul, amidst a serene ambience of a lush, green park.

The following table lists the programme line-up at *Garden Gig*:

Programme	Details
Penang Jazz Society (Malaysia)	Penang Jazz Society will bring you an evening of light and relaxing tunes featuring a selection of jazz standards and pop music. The group is Penang's very own jazz society dedicated to promoting jazz through performances, education and community engagement.
UiTM Chamber Choir (Malaysia)	Formed in 2015 by Dr Masashi Kishimoto from Japan, the multi-award-winning Universiti Teknologi MARA's Chamber Choir had appeared in various prestigious events in several countries, namely Indonesia, Japan, Czech Republic, Austria, Greece and Italy. With diverse musical styles, ranging from pop to classical as well as Malaysian traditional songs or folklore, UiTM Chamber Choir will be performing a cappella songs for an evening of mellifluous sounds amidst lush greenery.
92PLAY5 (朝九玩五925)	A charismatic trio consisting of Fish, Bowie and Haul, 92PLAY5 (朝九

(Malaysia)	玩五925) is set to blow your mind with their easy listening, acoustic vibey pops with a touch of groove here and there.
<i>Song of Borneo</i> by Sada Borneo (Malaysia)	Sada Borneo, which means 'the sound of Borneo', banded together to create a new sound in the local music industry to unveil the beauty of Malaysia. The group gained popularity after becoming the only Malaysian group to have made it to the semi-final in AXN's Asia's Got Talent show in 2015, which was aired in 20 countries across Asia. Sada Borneo will be presenting <i>Song of Borneo</i> , where the group will be adapting the sounds of nature into their music with a medley of instruments consisting of <i>sape</i> , <i>bungkau</i> , <i>kompang</i> , <i>kulintangan</i> , keyboard and more.

### Tiny Touts

Here's something for the little GTF-ers and their families! A contemporary clown, Mr John, will be making a special appearance at *Tiny Touts*, performing an interactive comedy show. Meanwhile, children can learn about love and family in *Colour Your Soul*, an enlightening theatre suitable for the family. Also, *Music around the Toys* brought by Ting A Tong from Thailand will feature three musicians using toys to tell a story through sound, music and movement for the kids. A must-see for the little ones.

The following table lists the programme line-up at *Tiny Touts*:

Programme	Details
<i>Light</i> by Mr John (Malaysia)	<i>Light</i> is an interactive comedy show specially curated for children aged five years old and above by Mr John, a contemporary clown whose dream is to share the light in him to everyone that he meets. The show is best enjoyed as a family!
<i>Music around the Toys</i> by Ting A	By gathering toys, choosing the roles and playing the

Tong (Thailand)	characters and musical instruments, <i>Music around the Toys</i> , brought to you by Ting A Tong from Thailand, features three musicians who recreate a joyful song and story for the children through sound, music and movement.
<i>Colour Your Soul</i> by Colour Me Art Atelier and Pexstret Dance Theatre (Malaysia)	Be entertained by <i>Colour Your Soul</i> dance performance brought to you by Colour Me Art Atelier and Pexstret Dance Theatre (P.D.T). P.D.T organises innovative fun-filled outdoor programmes which involve children’s musical theatre and drawing. This enlightening kid’s theatre emphasises the importance of family love in nurturing a child. At the end of the performance, parents and their children will draw together at a colouring party!
Magical Fairy Garden Workshop (Malaysia)	Split Splat will host a magical fairy garden workshop to promote the significance of reusing and conserving the Earth’s resources to the children as well as exposing them to a variety of materials which can be used for arts-related handwork to encourage their creativity.
Batik Painting Workshop (Malaysia)	It’s never too late to pick up a new skill! Join us in this <i>batik</i> painting workshop to learn the timeless art of the Malay community in Penang. Participants will be given a hand-drawn <i>batik</i> where the design is already drawn on the fabric with liquid wax. Participants will then be instructed to colour the fabric and bring home their personalised <i>batik</i> . The workshop is free, so do come early to avoid disappointment.

### **Puppet Stage**

Puppets from Penang, Kuala Lumpur and Indonesia are taking over the stage! Teochew Puppet and Opera House will bring iron-rod puppetry shows which revolve around two traditional Chinese stories. Fusion Wayang Kulit from Kuala Lumpur is set to present a traditional Malay shadow play in a science-

fiction fusion and modern-day multimedia components. Last but not least, Flying Balloons Puppet from Yogyakarta, Indonesia, will be presenting a collection of scenes about orangutans who lost their homes.

The following table lists the programme line-up at *Puppet Stage*:

Programme	Details
<p><i>The Love of the Celestial Fox</i> and <i>Journey to the West: Peril in Gossamer Cave</i> by Teochew Puppet and Opera House (Malaysia)</p>	<p>Teochew Puppet and Opera House returns to George Town Festival! The Penang-based Teochew iron-rod puppetry troupe will be presenting <i>The Love of the Celestial Fox</i> and <i>Journey to the West: Peril in Gossamer Cave</i>. <i>The Love of the Celestial Fox</i>, which originated from a seventeenth-century compilation of short stories entitled <i>Strange Tales from Liaozhai</i>, tells the tale of a love triangle between a thousand-year-old celestial fox named Lotus, the scholar Sangsheng and the spirit of Sangsheng's deceased fiancé, Li Wan, who returns to him inhabiting an embroidered slippers. Meanwhile, <i>Peril in Gossamer Cave</i> is an episode from the epic classic <i>Journey to the West</i>, where the disciples of Buddhist monk Tripitaka strive to prevent their master from falling into the clutches of the evil spider queen, who intends to feast on the virtuous monk's flesh to obtain immortality.</p>
<p><i>The Visit of Wak Long &amp; Pak Dogol to an Arts Festival</i> by Fusion Wayang Kulit (Malaysia)</p>	<p>Fusion Wayang Kulit has been injecting new life into the traditional art of wayang kulit by merging the craft's classic motifs with modern elements since 2012. The award-winning wayang kulit revivalist team from Kuala Lumpur will be presenting <i>The Visit of Wak Long &amp; Pak Dogol to an Arts Festival</i>, a story about the comical duo who plans to apply for leave from King Seri Rama upon learning about an exciting arts festival happening in a faraway city.</p>

<p><i>Ksatria Kelawar</i> by Fusion Wayang Kulit (Malaysia)</p>	<p>Fusion Wayang Kulit will also be presenting <i>Ksatria Kelawar</i>, a Dark Knight-inspired wayang kulit performance. The story begins with the Clown Prince of Crime deciding to create chaos by stealing something very important from the museum. However, Dark Knight arrives just in time and the battle begins.</p>
<p><i>Pongo Abellii</i> by Flying Balloons Puppet (Indonesia)</p>	<p>Following its world premiere in April in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, Flying Balloons Puppet will be presenting <i>Pongo Abellii</i> for the first time in Penang! <i>Pongo Abellii</i> is a collection of scenes about orangutans which have lost their homes, presented using strobe light effects. Flying Balloons Puppet is a puppet theatre company based in Bantul, Yogyakarta, Indonesia which has produced over ten original and collaborative productions. Not to be missed and best of all, it is free to attend.</p>

### **Dance @ 74 (Malaysia)**

House 72/74 is an old Chinese shophouse at Sia Boey which is left abandoned with its memories, forgotten. In *Meet Us in the Middle*, performing groups from Penang and Kuala Lumpur are set to revive the spirit of the house, freeing the memories from a state of limbo struggling between life and death. The performing artists from Kuala Lumpur will present *If There's a Template for Death* while the performing artists from Penang will present *The Living Chronicles*. On the second day, the two groups will meet up to explore the state of limbo by giving it a new and creative breath of existence.

### **Rojak Penang 3 (Malaysia)**

Following two successful series – *Rojak Penang 1* in 2012 and *Rojak Penang 2* in 2013 – *Rojak Penang 3* is a compilation of video documentation, capturing the diversity and cross-cultural exchanges that take place every day in Penang in the most unexpected ways.

The *Rojak Penang* series is directed by Tan Yeow Wooi, a Penang-based photographer, visual artist and architect specialising in heritage conservation. Trained at National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan, Tan is the director of Tan Yeow Wooi Culture & Heritage Research Studio and the author of *Leong San*

*Tong Khoo Kongsi: The History and Architecture, Kapitan Chung Keng Kwee's Shen Zhi Jia Shu and Hai Ji Zhan and Penang Shophouses: A Handbook of Features and Materials.*

### **Antithesis (Malaysia)**

*Antithesis* is a collective performance investigating the invisible laws of unwanted publicity – taking photos without someone's permission. The dance performance explores the theme of 'working class society', which makes up half of the world's population. A team of photographers are instructed to document the audiences who are taking photos of the artists, which aims to disrupt the photos taken by them without the permission of the artists. The deflection of the act of trying to take photos of the performance becomes a game between the artists and the audiences. The contradiction here lies in the intention of the artists to both attract and deflect the attention of the viewers.

### **2.0 Funny Business with Kavin Jay & Friends (Malaysia)**

Join one of Southeast Asia's most sought-after comedians, Kavin Jay on a thrilling roller coaster of emotions as he brings down the house with laughter. Voted as Malaysia's grumpiest comedian, he rants about everything so that you do not have to! He may be grouchy but does it with a panache that you cannot help but laugh out loud. Angry, hilarious, fantastic, Kavin Jay's intense sense of humour has tickled ribs and charmed audiences of all shapes and backgrounds. The politically incorrect and easily irritated joke telling machine has performed in numerous countries such as Singapore, India, Hong Kong, Australia, and the United Kingdom. Joined by fellow comedians Brian Tan, Mike Saddi, Nuha and Jhonney Athie, *Funny Business with Kavin Jay & Friends* will surely bring down the house with laughter.

### **3.0 Party Lorong**

We've said it before, and we'll say it again: Penang is a food and arts haven, and *Party Lorong* is great for both. A curated marketplace for sustainable products with all the usual quirks and charm, there'll be no shortage of live music, cakes, cookies, exquisite jewellery, exclusive apparels, paintings, books, cards, gifts and more, from local and international art enthusiasts, for all to enjoy. *Party Lorong* is an ethical way to shop – avoid the high street, come and relax with all the art lovers and share a few smiles and hugs.

#### **4.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Festival-goers are advised to carpool or use public transportation (CAT bus) and e-hailing services when heading to the Festival to ease traffic congestion.

#### **Road Closure for Malaysia Inside Out and Party Lorong**

Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling will be closed from 6pm on 18 July to 6am on 22nd July to facilitate the *Malaysia Inside Out* event. For *Party Lorong*, Gat Lebu China will be closed from 6am on 20 July to 6am on 22 July.

#### **Grab Promotion**

Visitors can enjoy RM5 off each ride for four (4) Grab rides per user when travelling to and from the Festival's highlighted programmes such as *When Night Falls* (13 & 14 July), *Art in the City* (20 & 21 July) and *The Extravaganza* (28 July) using the Grab promo code GRAB2GTF19. The promotion is valid for Grabpay payment method only.

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

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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.