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GTF 2019 Lights Up the Esplanade in When Night Falls

The Festival's opening weekend will also include water-based productions and fire performers – a real feast for the senses

George Town, Penang, Malaysia, 10 July 2019: THE George Town Festival is kicking off its 16-day artistic adventure with *When Night Falls* on 13 and 14 July at the Esplanade (Padang Kota Lama). For two nights only, the surrounding areas around the Esplanade, a waterfront location in the heart of George Town, will be basking in lights, rays and projection mapping from across the globe.

The opening weekend will also see the opening ceremony of the Festival, to be officiated by Penang Chief Minister YAB Chow Kon Yeow and Penang State Exco For Tourism Development, Arts, Culture and Heritage (PETACH) YB Yeoh Soon Hin at 8.30pm on 13 July.

Among some of the must-see performances are *FierS à Cheval* where festival-goers will get to witness a 'ringmaster' put to motion a herd of luminous horses as well as *The Lighted Drummers* where festival-goers will be entertained by a group of drummers delivering high-energy choreography and magical display of lights designed to the thunderous rhythms of the drums. Festival-goers will also get to mingle with performers and ballerinas on stilts in *Le Ballerine & Night Colors*. Our homegrown projection mapping community group, FILAMEN, is set to reimagine the facade of the historic Town Hall through the creative use of video mapping to create three-dimensional art installations.

Apart from these must-see performances and installations, thrillseekers will be treated to a diverse range of blazing performances by international fire artists as they manipulate fire through staff twirling, poi spinning, and spellbinding pyrotechnic effects in a segment entitled *Flame in the Dark*. Those looking for splashing good time can do so over at the *Aquatic Dream*, where the iconic Esplanade's field will be turned into a water-based stage which gleams in the dark. The Festival's opening night is about to get 'livelier' in a segment entitled *The Living Screen*, where local and international performing groups will be presenting interactive shadow acts for all to enjoy. The opening ceremony will be made merrier with fireworks display and live performances, making the opening weekend of the George Town Festival 2019 an Instagrammable event for everyone.

Details of *When Night Falls* are as follows:

1.0 When Night Falls

See the transformation of the areas around the Esplanade, a waterfront location in the heart of George Town, into a glowing playground of lights, rays and projection mapping in *When Night Falls* – a two-day event which brings together an eclectic array of illuminated artworks from across the globe like never before.

Compagnie des Quidams from France is set to trot into the streets with a captivating visual odyssey in *FierS à Cheval*, where visitors will get to witness a ringmaster put to motion a herd of luminous horses. Joining in the celebration, Moz Drums from France is set to deliver high-energy choreography and magical display of lights designed to the thunderous rhythms of the drums in *The Lighted Drummers*. Don't forget to mingle with the performers and ballerinas on stilts in *Le Ballerine & Night Colors*, brought to you by Teatro Pavana from the Netherlands. Joining forces with these international artists is our very own FILAMEN, a projection mapping community group, set to reimagine the facade of Town Hall of Penang through the creative use of video mapping to create three-dimensional art.

2.0 PROJECTION MAPPING: WORLD OF FANTASY

In collaboration with FILAMEN and powered by EPSON Malaysia, George Town Festival 2019 brings audiences into a world of fantasy amidst the cultural and historical landmark of Penang. The facade of the 140-year-old building of Town Hall will be reimaged with the creative use of video mapping to create three-dimensional art installations, befitting the theme 'World of Fantasy' to excite audiences. How would it be when history is unravelled in a world of fantasy?

3.0 PROJECTION MAPPING: WHEN NIGHT FALLS

The opening night of George Town Festival 2019 is made even merrier with a showcase of ten, 30-second videos by local and international finalists who took part in the open call for projection mapping on Penang's City Hall, embracing the theme 'When Night Falls'. There will also be a special highlight by a team from Colombia, promising a head-turning art installation that will not disappoint!

4.0 MAIN STAGE

It's easy to think that you've stepped into a whimsical Instagram rabbit hole thanks to the riveting ballet performances at the Festival's Main Stage. There are ballerinas on stilts from the Netherlands in vibrant coloured tutus as well as ballet dancers from MyDance Station Ballet School, offering you a spellbinding odyssey of lights and movements!

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

Programme	Details
<i>Le Ballerine</i> (the Netherlands)	Walking on stilts is a tall order to some, but it's a walk in the park to the performers from Teatro Pavana. Dressed in vibrant coloured tutus, the ballerinas on stilts will get you wondering 'from what wondrous ballet did these dancers have walked away?'. When the ballerinas on stilts turn their pirouettes, their vibrant coloured tutus move like clouds of tulle, waving and swirling to the sound of music. It's a dazzling show you would not want to miss.
<i>The Nocturne</i> (Malaysia)	Those searching to watch a dazzling showcase of contemporary music and ballet dance would do well here. Catch a group of beautiful ballerinas dancing on stage and watch their tutus turn into sparkling, magical dresses in <i>The Nocturne</i> , brought to you by MyDance Station Ballet School, a prestigious performing arts school in Penang. Established in 1996, MyDance Station Ballet School specialises in teaching and training ballet and character dance to children and teenagers, based on the syllabus from the globally-recognised UK-based Royal Academy of Dance (R.A.D). The award-winning ballet school has participated in numerous ballet competitions and national dance competitions.

5.0 THE GRANDEUR

Step into a night of vivid-coloured dreams when the sun goes down at *The Grandeur*, where interactive dazzling light shows and vigorous beating of drums awaits. The dream-like atmosphere is made merrier with a roving act from France, as well as a group of performers on stilts wearing glow-in-the-

dark white and silver costumes from the Netherlands. It's a one-of-a-kind experience that truly lives up to all the hype.

The following table lists the programme line-up for *The Grandeur*:

Programme	Details
<i>The Lighted Drummers</i> (France)	Here's something you don't get to see every day: watching a bunch of cheeky, glowing drummers parading the street. The strange musicians from Moz Drums, with their glittering costumes, upbeat demeanour, lively drum beats, and dazzling display of LED technology, is set to dial up the fun with a stunning spectacle of light and movement suitable for audiences of all ages! These drummers aren't the least bit shy, so be prepared to be approached by them! The interactive video screen on their bodies gives an additional technological impact, too. Moving their bodies to every beat and cutting through the crowd in a cloud of smoke, Moz Drums brings out all the drama of a dynamic light show with a real-time dynamic and lively exchange!
<i>FierS à Cheval</i> (France)	First things first: charge your smartphone and camera so that you can capture this visual odyssey. Compagnie des Quidams' <i>FierS à Cheval</i> is set to trot into the streets, where a 'ringmaster' leads a herd of luminous 'horses' to charm audiences with a visually stunning circus! Founded by artistic director Jean-Baptiste Duperray, the Compagnie des Quidams has performed over a dozen shows in more than forty countries, from Europe to Australia, Asia and South America. The company brings together artists and technicians from various backgrounds ranging from theatre to dance, music and circus to keep audiences enthralled with their fantasy-filled performances.
<i>Night Colors</i> (the Netherlands)	Enjoy a night of enchanting act on stilts where the performers' white or silver coloured costumes are beautifully illuminated with light wire while the mask is individually lit, giving the show a magnetic

	<p>combination of technology, dance and music — a complete audio-visual overdose. Watching these captivating stilt-walkers walking right by you is indeed something special.</p> <p>Venice-based Teatro Pavana is a professional street theatre company founded in 1993. Teatro Pavana started small, but the company had developed into a large and much sought-after troupe throughout the years. By engaging experienced artists from different nationalities and backgrounds, the ensemble is evolving continuously to present new acts regularly.</p>
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6.0 FLAME IN THE DARK

It's time to turn the heat up when the night falls! Get ready for a diverse range of blazing performances by international fire artists as they manipulate fire through staff twirling, poi spinning, and spellbinding pyrotechnic effects. With a fiery combination of thrilling martial arts, astounding dance and acrobatic movements, *Flame in the Dark* is a flaming treat for thrillseekers – young and old.

7.0 AQUATIC DREAM

The lawn at the Esplanade unfolds itself in a surprising way – this time it's brimming with water! And here's where you can watch people dancing on water, literally. Watch the graceful dancers performing on a wet surface which gleams in the dark! This visceral performance, choreographed by Pexstret Liu, showcases artistic excellence in dynamic yet graceful contemporary dance movements, giving a whole new meaning to 'fluid movement'.

The following table lists the programme line-up for *Aquatic Dream*:

Programme	Details
<i>On and Off</i> (Malaysia)	Modernisation and globalisation have had us trapped in a rat race. But do we live for ourselves amid laborious work and the hectic pace of city life? Or we are, in fact, living for others? Expressed predominantly through contemporary dance movements which evolved from Malaysian traditional dance forms, this ruminative site-specific dance performance by Pexstret Liu makes use of the elegance and infinite form of water to lead us to ponder if we are breathing for others.
<i>The Return of Tapestry</i> (Malaysia)	Think you've seen it all? Think again. Prepare to be transported to a luminescent space where a cross-cultural installation performance is presented on water which glows in the dark with LED lights. With a modern and straightforward backdrop and vibrant contemporary costumes that seem to be inspired by traditional Malaysian costumes, you won't regret adding <i>The Return of Tapestry</i> to your itinerary.

8.0 THE LIVING SCREEN

The Festival's opening night is about to get 'livelier' if you catch our drift. Experience living screens that tell thought-provoking stories for a complete immersion in the transformational nature of the arts. Get ready to be impressed and inspired by the artistic creations of Visual Art Laboratory from South Korea and Kongs Petak from Kuala Lumpur which will fill you with awe and wonder.

The following table lists the programme line-up for *The Living Screen*:

Programme	Details
<i>Umbrella of Conscience</i> (South Korea)	At <i>Umbrella of Conscience</i> , the critical environmental concerns that our world is facing today are expressed through sand art. Audiences move along with the steampunk bike which releases steam while

	<p>taking part in the process of finding the right direction to resolve the current environmental issues when the sand artist stops at particular spots to draw a provocative sand art. Do you want to listen to the message that the Earth is communicating? Then, follow the <i>Umbrella of Conscience</i>.</p>
<p><i>Body Riddle</i> (Malaysia)</p>	<p>Bringing together Luna Macula, a projection painting artist duo, dancer/choreographer Steve Goh and sound artist/percussionist Jimmy Chong, four contemplative dance pieces with the theme 'Body Riddle' ensued, where each media – sound, visual and the human body – takes turn to throw questions, to which others will respond with their own expressions. This question-and-answer process repeats itself and accumulates into an even bigger expression as a whole. The performance is created by Seni Tiga, a multidisciplinary collaborative performance series initiated by Kongs Petak.</p>

9.0 NIGHT LIGHT

Whatever you're doing, make sure you're in town to experience these glowing programmes! In collaboration with FILAMEN, *Light Warp* by Farhan Fathee will show you how light travels across spaces to create a sense of motion in the crowd. By manipulating light, *Light Rain* vibrantly captures the beauty of raindrop, giving you a sense of what it is like to be washed over with neon! Get your poses ready at these Instagrammable light installations!

10.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Festival is expecting some 100,000 visitors during the opening weekend, so 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

Jalan Padang Kota Lama and Lebu Duke will be closed to facilitate the Festival. Cars, however, will be able to access these roads from 7am to 6pm on 12 July, and from 7am to 5pm on 13 July.

The following table lists the road closure schedule:

Road	Closing Time
Jalan Padang Kota Lama	11 July (Thurs), 6pm – 12 July (Fri), 7am 12 July (Fri), 6pm – 13 July (Sat), 7am 13 July (Sat), 5pm – 15 July (Mon), 6am Access Time: 12 July (Fri), 7am-6pm 13 July (Sat), 7am-5pm
Lebuh Duke	13 July (Sat), 5pm – 15 July (Mon), 6am Access Time: 12 July (Fri) , 7am-6pm 13 July (Sat), 7am-5pm

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 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.