

THE KRISHEN JIT FUND

Supported by ASTRO and Creador Foundation

The **Krishen Jit ASTRO Fund** was introduced by ASTRO, together with Five Arts Centre, in 2006, in commemoration of the late Dato' Krishen Jit, and is aimed to provide deserving arts practitioners with monetary aid to pursue projects in the Arts.

In 2019, we gained a new supporter for the Fund, SK Chambers. The Fund changed its name to the **Krishen Jit Fund, supported by ASTRO and SK Chambers**. In 2020, Creador Foundation replaced SK Chambers as a supporter. The Fund is now the **Krishen Jit Fund supported by ASTRO and Creador Foundation**.

One of the main objectives of Krishen's pioneering work was celebrating original Malaysian creativity in as varied and alternative ways as possible, in all the areas of the arts.

His ground-breaking theatre practice straddled and brought together a wide range of contrasting spheres, producing projects that were inter-disciplinary, multi-cultural, multi-lingual, and experimental. Negotiating between academia and practice, tradition and contemporary pop culture, Hollywood and Bollywood, the mainstream and the marginalized, Krishen's work articulated a Malaysian identity that was ever evolving, and encouraged practitioners and audiences to reflect on their lives and societies.

This is the spirit of the **Krishen Jit Fund**. The **Krishen Jit Fund** works as an extension of this spirit, to encourage and support creative work in Malaysia.

The announcement of the Fund took place on 28 April 2006, at *Utih...Celebrating Krishen*. This was a commemorative event on the first anniversary of his death. The Fund was launched by Astro at this event.

Selection Panel for 2023 was:

- **Suhaimi bin Abdul Rahim** – Director, Arts and Culture Enhancement Division, National Department for Culture and Arts, Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture, Malaysia.
- **Jolyn Gasper** – Senior AVP, Sustainability, Astro.
- **Maha Subramaniam** – Vice President, Creador Foundation.
- **Leow Puay Tin** – Associate Professor, School of Arts, Sunway University.
- **Ravi Navaratnam** – Member, Five Arts Centre.

The Fund is administrated and managed by Five Arts Centre. Grants are given for training, workshops, attachments or residencies, experimental productions, writing, or creating new work in music, dance, theatre, film, visual or performance art.

From 2006 to 2022, the Krishen Jit Fund has given out a total of **84 grants** amounting to **RM626,000**.

KRISHEN JIT FUND 2023 RECIPIENTS

In 2023, we received 60 applications.

The 5 recipients are:

ANDREW IGAI JAMU



The Grant: RM15,000

The Project: *Ibanscapes: Transcending Ajat* is a production by the newly formed Ruai Collective, presenting new choreographies that are derived from, and inspired by, the Ajat of Iban people. In addition, these works are created by choreographers of indigenous Iban descent, or non-Iban people who have worked closely with the cultural movement form. The choreographers are tasked to explore the question of “what is the Ajat of tomorrow?”. The 90-minute production will feature the works of 8 choreographers — most of whom are Sarawak-born choreographers and dance graduates/students of West Malaysian universities.

Andrew Igai Jamu is a choreographer and researcher. Currently, he is pursuing his PhD at the Faculty of Creative Arts, Universiti Malaya. His current research focuses on indigenous dance and tourism in Sarawak. He has published and presented his research on the intersections of dance and politics, in Dayak-Iban dance practice. As a choreographer, Andrew is known for utilizing Sarawak traditions and cultural materials in his choreographic works. His works have premiered locally and abroad, such as in Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, and Thailand.

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GOH HOOI LING



The Grant: RM11,000

The Project: The philosophy and wisdom of the craftsmanship in traditional iron rod puppet making is highly appreciated and passed down from generation to another generation. In this project, we would like to explore the stories and history of three primary traditional craftsmanship within Teochew Iron Rod Puppetry: clay sculpture, wood carving, and Teochew embroidery. We hope to share the aesthetic, philosophy, and essence of these three major craftsmanship in traditional iron rod puppetry making, through a staged performance.

Goh Hooi Ling (born 1981), is the founder and director of Teochew Puppet and Opera House. Her mother, Toh Ai Hwa, established Kim Giak Low Choon Puppet Troupe in 1989, and in 2008 was recognized as a Living Heritage Treasure by the Penang Heritage Trust. Descended from an unbroken line of opera performers stretching back into the 19th century, Ling had been exposed to an environment steeped in rich operatic tradition. Under the tutelage of experts, she has mastered the intricacies of iron-rod puppet manipulation as well as the nuances of each prominent archetype in Teochew opera. She is also adept in opera singing and is proficient in various opera instruments, such as drums and the dulcimer. She established a Teochew opera troupe in 2009, also named Kim Giak Low Choon, drawing together over thirty local, Thai and mainland Chinese performers and musicians. After four years, the troupe disbanded in mid-2013 due to financial considerations. In 2014, a space named Mor Hun Club was introduced to Ling, for the foundation of Teochew Puppet and Opera House, a museum and performance space dedicated to the preservation and propagation of Teochew operatic arts, particularly Teochew puppet opera.

www.Facebook.com/irongangpuppettheatre

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LAU BEH CHIN



The Grant: RM10,000

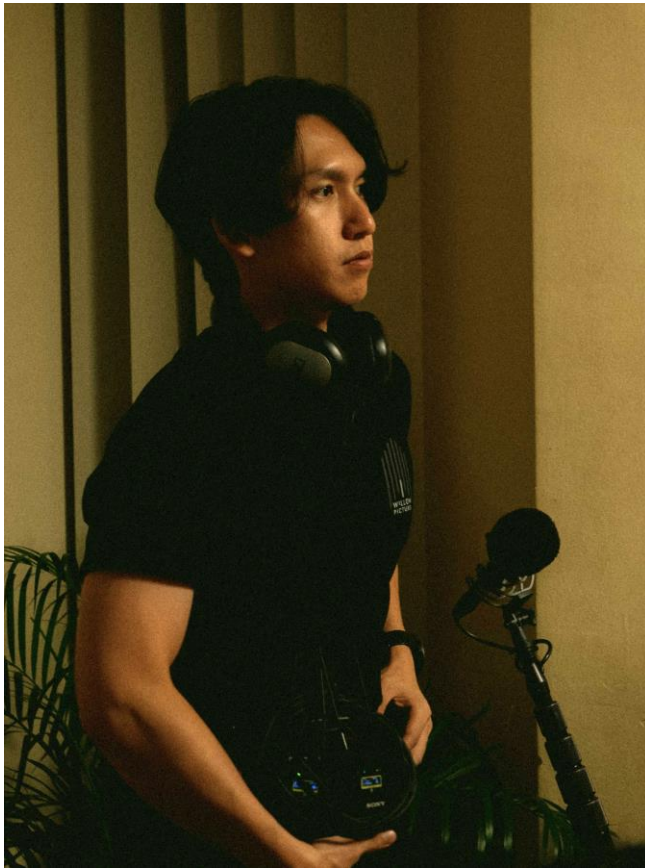
The Project: *Beyond Moving with Artisans (BMoA)* is an interdisciplinary project that combines traditional Malaysian crafts with dance, to preserve the endangered artisanal skills and oral history of Butterworth City. This project focuses on the captivating pairing of Rattan Weaver and Contemporary Dance. Utilizing technology, the performance connects past and present artisans, bridging generational gaps and celebrating cultural heritage. The Rattan weavers will be front and centre alongside the artists, showcasing their artistry and contributing to an engaging celebration of heritage and craftsmanship. *BMoA* offers a unique experience that pays homage to traditional jobs and their cultural significance.

Lau Beh Chin (Jinn), based in Penang, holds a Chemical Engineering Degree (University Putra Malaysia) and a Master's in Contemporary Dance from the University of Limerick, Ireland. Her movement research integrates yin-yang, five elements, and Body-Mind Centering within Macrobio-somatic practice. Advocating for social change through the arts, she seeks interdisciplinary collaborations to dismantle biases and limitations. Her goal is to foster dialogue uniting diverse communities, nurturing cultural identity with empathy and compassion. Jinn's passion lies in using art to address societal issues, breaking barriers, and fostering connections that transcend boundaries.

https://www.instagram.com/jinnd_productions

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DUNCAN SOO



The Grant: RM5,000

The Project: This is a library of Malaysian-centric recordings. Malaysia is internationally known for its untouched tropical rain forests, and therefore there are a number of audio libraries that serve the film world. However, we are also known for our hotpot of cultures, and that contributes significantly to our local sonic world. From our paper lama truck to Thaipusam festivities, to the kapcais that bleed into our traffic scene. The project will be in the form of an audiovisual exhibition with listening booths available, to showcase the sounds of Malaysia.

Duncan Soo is a sound designer and sound recordist for films and games. He is currently working on a third-person narrative adventure game, *Third Eye Open* by Cellar Vault Games. For film, he provides location sound and audio post-production for films. Notable works can be heard in Kuman Picture's Netflix release of *Ceroboh* (2019), *Port Pink* (2022) by Flux28, and *Ninaivu* (2023) by Kavivarmen which has been nominated Best Sound Design in BMW Shorties. In between, he has also stage-managed theatre shows, recently with Theatresauce's *They All Die at the End*, and teaches sound design in UOW Malaysia.

www.duncansoo.com

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NAOMI KAKUVI MUSAU



The Grant: RM5,000

The Project: "Thanimai" is a student short film project and deeply personal story, that delves into the life of an elderly Indian widower, facing the profound challenge of preparing a feast for her late husband's death anniversary. Tackling this emotional task, she embarks on a shopping journey to gather all the necessary groceries. Along the way, she encounters an impatient and uptight young grab driver, leading to an unexpected friendship. The film captures the essence of human connection, showcasing how two vastly different individuals can find solace and comfort in one another.

Naomi Kakuvi Musau, a student at Multimedia University Cyberjaya, is from Kenya. She has been fortunate to explore her love for the arts, especially film making, these past 4 years and has developed a special relationship with it. She aspires to be a film producer. She has also done production design and may be equally drawn to the role. Film, as a creative outlet for her, has helped with healing and healthy expression. She believes that the arts are an important part of life and can inspire people to dream and stay hopeful. It is her hope as an artist to ensure to take this responsibility seriously.

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ABOUT FIVE ARTS CENTRE

Five Arts Centre is a dynamic collective of Malaysian artists and producers, dedicated to generating alternative art forms and images in the contemporary arts landscape. It is well known for cutting edge performances in theatre, dance, music, young people's theatre, multidisciplinary performance, and incorporates aspects of the visual and digital arts as well. The collective has performed and presented its work in Southeast Asia, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, India, Egypt, Australia, Canada, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Portugal, Switzerland, Finland, UAE, and the United Kingdom.

Since it was formed in 1984, by theatre directors Chin San Sooi and Krishen Jit, and dancer-choreographer Marion D'Cruz, Five Arts Centre has been committed to articulating the complexity of Malaysian culture and identity through explorations and fusions of local vocabularies, forms, and traditions, in relation to the global, modern, and cross-cultural. As such, it has been instrumental in the growth of a Malaysian identity in the arts, that draws from multiple influences and hybrid histories.

For almost four decades, Five Arts Centre has been at the forefront of creating experimental, interdisciplinary, and intercultural work, providing platforms for the next generation of arts practitioners. Contemporary social, political, and cultural issues impinging on Malaysian life are precipitated by way of performances, exhibitions, creative seminars, and research workshops.

From 2004 to 2006, Five Arts Centre was the manager of Arts Network Asia, a regional organisation supporting arts work in Asia. In 2006, ASTRO and Five Arts Centre launched the Krishen Jit ASTRO Fund to support artistic work by Malaysians and others committed to the development of the arts in Malaysia. In 2019, this fund became the Krishen Jit Fund, supported by ASTRO and SK Chambers. In 2020, the fund became the Krishen Jit Fund, supported by ASTRO and Creador Foundation. At the 12th BOH Cameronian Arts Awards in 2015, Five Arts Centre was awarded the inaugural "Most Inspiring Award". In 2016, Five Arts Centre was awarded the Praemium Imperiale Grant for Young Artists, awarded by the Japan Art Association.

Today, the collective consists of 13 individuals from diverse generations and disciplines. They are Anne James, Fiaqsyazwan Kuhiri, Ivy N. Josiah, Janet Pillai, June Tan, Kubhaer T. Jethwani, Lee Ren Xin, Mac Chan, Marion F. D'Cruz, Mark Teh, Ravi Navaratnam, Suhaila Merican and Syamsul Azhar.

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ABOUT ASTRO MALAYSIA HOLDINGS BHD

Astro Malaysia Holdings Berhad (Astro) is Malaysia's leading content and entertainment company, serving 5.5 million homes or 69% of Malaysian TV households, 8,600 enterprises, 18 million weekly listeners across FM radio and online, 7.8 million digital monthly unique visitors across its TV, radio, and digital platforms.

Astro and its foundation Yayasan Astro Kasih continue to positively impact local communities by designing and implementing long-term sustainable social programmes based on Astro's ESG Pillars namely Responsible Business, Caring for our Environment, Voice for Good, Education for All and Community Development.

ABOUT CREADOR FOUNDATION

Creador Foundation drives equal opportunities for all in Malaysia and India. It is a registered foundation based in Kuala Lumpur and is funded by Creador, a leading regional private equity firm. Creador Foundation creates and co-creates solutions at the heart of three systemic problem areas: inclusive education, arts and culture, and healthcare for all. These solutions take different forms, ranging from highly scalable digital products to funding new infrastructure that can be leveraged to drive impact.

Education: As a starting point, the foundation embarked on developing Multiply, a free financial education platform meant to empower Malaysians to make better financial decisions (Multiply Website). The foundation is presently developing Schola, a free platform empowering students in transitioning from secondary school to careers, aiming to raise awareness of diverse career paths and provide essential resources to help students achieve their goals.

Arts & Culture: Creador Foundation believes that art is an integral aspect of creating well-rounded individuals in society. The foundation supports initiatives that develop the Malaysian art community and promote Malaysia's rich cultural heritage. As such, the foundation is a proud supporter of the Krishen Jit Fund and the Five Arts Centre.

Healthcare & Aid: The Foundation is responsive to humanitarian needs, such as driving food aid and flood relief efforts in 2020 and 2021. It collaborates with its business networks, key government agencies, and non-governmental stakeholders to ensure swift aid is provided when natural and other disasters occur. The foundation has also invested in enhancing infrastructure and facilities within hospitals (e.g., UTAR Hospital, Tung Shin Hospital) to improve the overall quality of healthcare services.