

SEPAKAT #1

PANTANG LARANG

THE UNSPOKEN TABOOS
16 - 17 DEC 2022
VICTORIA THEATRE

Escape into the world of the unseen
with Nadi Singapura; featuring new
music and drumming compositions by the
creatives of Sepakat 1!



Message from Executive Director

May Peace Be Upon You

Firstly, blessings to the Almighty for granting us health and wellness, to make tonight's Sepakat 1: Pantang Larang possible. Our sincerest gratitude to our parents, families, relatives, teachers, friends and the Singapore community that have been supporting our journey and endeavour as a team. To name each and every one, there are too many individuals to be mentioned. Honestly, without all their support who we are right now.



Not forgetting the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, Art House Ltd, Aliwal Arts Centre, Victoria Theatre and many other organisations that have been supporting our efforts and movement these past few years. Our greatest thanks to the National Arts Council for awarding us the Major Grant that has allowed us to preserve and uphold this traditional art of Malay drumming that has a special place in our hearts.

As the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Nadi Singapura Ltd, I am thankful, humbled and honoured to be blessed with brave and courageous individuals in the ensemble. I really treasure each one of them. Each and every member in Nadi Singapura plays an important role in helping us achieve our dreams, mission and vision.

May you enjoy the show, with a peaceful heart and mind, without presumptions.

Mohd Yaziz Mohd Hassan
Co-Founder / Executive Director

Message from Artistic Director

With the graciousness of the Almighty.

November 18 2022 marks 11 years since the initiation of Nadi Singapura; an assembly of young men and women driven to do their part in elevating the presence of Malay music, culture and practices in our city state island.

Through their brand of performance highlighting the various Malay drums and percussion instruments, they continue to strive and share the possibility, potential and strength of culture and identity; building a safe space for an ongoing dialogue, promoting ownership and active creation amongst practitioners, observing the flow, the trajectory and relevance of tradition, folk, ritualistic practices and spiritual connection as it negotiates with modern, contemporary and mainstream artforms, elements, ideas and forms of storytelling.

Examining the development and successes of the cultures of the world that we uncovered from the earliest civilisations, humans have always interacted with nature and their surroundings. Through that, various discoveries, methodologies, and innovations of that time were born. It reveals to us the wisdom of the ancient people (or generations before us), their response on how art, text and music are used to communicate and connect.

We question why such lapses and gaps to promote such growth amongst our people exist in our urban multi-cultural society. The inavailability of an arts institution dedicated in the study of the indigenous music, tradition, culture and practices is partly a result of the decline in interest and developing a bigger pool of players and enthusiasts, thus a weaker, less sustainable ecosystem and the loss of a promising industry.

This spurred a decree to rise and respond. Departing from our 6-year long, internal development program entitled Serentak, we welcome a new season of creative works in a 3-year series called Sepakat (which means in agreement or consensus). The saying, "Sepakat membawa berkat" (a unanimous agreement, will invite blessings) is something we truly believe. The spirit of positivity, a safe place to explore and to create will spur conversations and interest to partake and contribute in our everchanging environment and social climate.

My congratulations and our heartiest gratitude to the creatives of the first edition of Sepakat, with the theme of Pantang Larang. Helmed by Ridwan Ramli, Saidrudry Mohamed Buang, Khairil Shazwan Surani, Jumali Ismail, Nazrul Fathmi Norlie and Muhammad Hamqah Roslan for their dedication alongside their relentless cast and crew for making this a memorable episode in our lives. I believe each moment is special, and it constantly teaches, provides, and guides us on our journey.

Lastly, we appreciate your kind support. Thank you.
May the spirit of Nadi Singapura shine and move you.



Ridwan Zalani
Co-Founder / Artistic Director

Message from Creative Team



Greetings everyone! Thank you for coming to this show. We truly appreciate your presence.

This is the first installment of the Sepakat series and we've chosen to make the show theatrical as the venue is suited for it. We have also chosen the mood to be dark as we have never done it before and the topic of Taboo is seldom talked about these days. Throughout the process, we had constant rehearsals and workshops for ideas that were able to put life in the creation of the works. As this is all original works, it is a show that is unique and one not to be missed.

I would like to say thank you to my brothers in the Creative Team for all their inputs and guidance throughout this process. We made it through together and I hope you guys are proud of the work that we have put in together. I would also like to say thank you to the management for their advice and letting us take up a new role to push our boundaries in a new perspective.

Lastly, we would like to thank our parents, family members, loved ones and friends of our cast for letting them be part of the process and in giving your fullest support. We could not have done this without your blessings.

There are 260,000 hours in an average human lifespan, you chose to spend an hour with us, and we appreciate it so much. Thank you once again.

Muhammad Hamqah Roslan
Creative Team, Sepakat 1

I am truly grateful for the opportunity given to be a part of the Creative Team of Sepakat 1. This is the first production where I was given the responsibility to design, compose a new song entirely and record pre-show videos.

The management team have encouraged us to explore out of our comfort zone and provided full support in elevating our work to the next level. As a performer myself, being able to direct gave me a whole new perspective and experience. I hope that these new compositions will give you a thrill.

I would like to take this opportunity to also thank each and every one of you who has been supporting us from the beginning and not forgetting those who have been of amazing help behind the scenes.

Thank you.

Jumali Ismail
Creative Team, Sepakat 1



Alhamdulillah, a very big thank you to the Management of Nadi Singapura for giving me the honour to be part of the Creative Team for Sepakat 1. Challenges are made to be overcome. The challenges faced in this production were overcome with such finesse working alongside the 5 creatives.

My utmost love and gratitude goes to my wife and family for their undying support for my passion and life as a musician. Thank you to the cast of Sepakat 1 for making the Creative's work come to life.

Saidrudry Mohamed Buang
Creative Team, Sepakat 1



Message from Creative Team



Whatever makes you uncomfortable is your biggest opportunity for growth. The past 6 months have been a rollercoaster ride; stepping back from performing and having to curate a show that will put the audience on the edge of their seats. It was an eye-opening experience. As we always say, there's a first to everything. I am blessed to have been offered this opportunity to come up with my first creative work with these 5 other Creatives alongside me.

My sincerest gratitude goes to the management of Nadi Singapura for shaping me with values and knowledge to become a better performer, better leader and most importantly, a better human. Thank you to these ever so capable bandmates and crews who have agreed to join us in this journey, bringing our vision to life. Lastly, I would like to take the time to thank my lovely Mama & Papa for their endless support and blessings in my passion and time with Nadi Singapura.

Khairil Shazwan Surani
Creative Team, Sepakat 1

I am eternally grateful and humbled by this opportunity for my very first creative work of choreography and music in this year's first debut of Sepakat!

With all-new song compositions, composed by the other 5 Creatives, I hope that all our hard work and ideas of the music performances will leave an impact on you like how we believe it should be.

Special thanks to the management of Nadi Singapura for the support and believing in me to work together alongside my other fellow teammates from Nadi Singapura!

Nazrul Fathmi Norlie
Creative Team, Sepakat 1



A journey that never ends, we started 11 years ago, led by Ridwan Zamani and Yaziz Hassan. We are gathered again with 6 creatives from Nadi Singapura sharing ideas, leading to Sepakat 1.

A journey that will never be forgotten, another stepping-stone. From performers to directors who drive the casts with our directions, ideation, and creation.

Thank you, Nadi Singapura, for the opportunity. We will not be here without the hard work from the casts. We would also like to thank the management team for equipping us with the knowledge and experience to make us understand the process and most importantly, to be a better person, artist, and leader.

Ridwan Ramli
Creative Team, Sepakat 1



PANTANG LARANG

THE UNSPOKEN TABOOS

Pantang Larang, or Taboos, remain to be one of the most talked about subjects in our culture throughout time. How far do you imagine it can go? Will you choose to believe? Or will you choose to turn a blind eye?

In search for answers, to uncover the secrets of the Pantang Larang, three good friends find themselves in an unlikely situation in the heart of the forest. Their long-standing friendship is put to the test when differences in opinions begin to arise. In the spirit realm, phantoms of the forest listen intently to their conversations while reacting to the humans who have entered their home and disturbed their peace.

Sepakat 1 brings you to the mystical and mysterious realm of Pantang Larang, through extensive choreography, while drumming with hauntingly hypnotic chants that will send chills down the spine. From the powerful sounds of the mighty Jidur to the metallic melodies of the Talempong, the performance will showcase a new brand of compositions, as Nadi Singapura thrives in creating a space to inspire new composers in originating new works for the community.

Song Synopsis

Overture: The Summoning

The Sound of Summoning calls upon the phantoms of the spirit realm. They lurk menacingly, as the sound signals the defiance of Man who broke the unspoken rules set in place by cultures and/or religion. The sentence that will fall upon the guilty are judged by the phantoms themselves. Whether the consequences are severe or not, no one knows...

Semangat Tunggal (Solitary Spirit)

Composer: Ridwan Ramli

“Jangan bergendang di dalam rumah, nanti harta dicuri orang”
(Do not drum in the house, or your assets will be stolen.)

The Jidur Maha is a sacred and valuable drum in the home of the phantoms, and only the leader is allowed to play it. Phantoms pay respect to the Jidur Maha every morning as part of their routine. When the sacred drum goes missing in the middle of a drum conversation, chaos ensues in the spirit realm.

Alunan Waktu (Melody of Time)

Composer: Nazrul Fathmi

“Anak dara jangan menyanyi di dapur, nanti kahwin dengan orang tua”
(Maidens should not sing in the kitchen, or you will marry an old man)

The phantoms delve into the minds of young maidens of the past, who are boggled by the Pantang Larang forbidding them to sing in the kitchen. How could a harmless act to entertain themselves from the monotony of household routines, lead to such an undesirable consequence of having an old man as a spouse?

Seruan Senja (Calling of the Dusk)

Composer: Khairil Shazwan

“Elok pulang sebelum Maghrib; jika tidak, akan disembunyikan oleh hantu”
Best to reach home before dusk, or you will be disturbed by spirits)

As we go astray in the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, many of us tend to lose track of time. As darkness fills the sky, we hear the calling from our one true home. Commitments, persuasions, distractions. Will we head back or turn our backs?

Disulam Kelam (Embroidery of Darkness)

Composer: Saidrudy Mohamed Buang

“Jangan menjahit pada waktu senja; nanti mata akan buta”

(Do not sew during sundown, or you will turn blind)

As night falls, the presence of a light source becomes one of the most important things we look for. But what if darkness pursues even if there is light in the dead of night? Will you be able to see in darkness? Or will you prick yourself blind with the needle and thread that you hold?

Penjaga (Guardians)

Composer: Jumali Ismail

“Dilarang kencing atas busut”

(Do not answer nature’s call on mounds/anthills)

When answering nature’s call, one should always be wary and respectful of the surroundings as these could be homes to phantoms in the other realm.

Whisik Hauntu/Bisikan Hantu (Whispers of the Haunted)

Composer: Muhammad Hamqah

“Jika masuk dalam hutan, jangan menghina tempat itu”

(Be respectful when you are in the forest)

Every home has a guardian, and the forest is a home to many spirits and phantoms. There is a certain degree of manners and respect to uphold, and it should not be taken lightly. What happens when Man decides to do otherwise?

Epilogue: The Aftermath

As the phantoms executed their verdict upon Man, they returned to their realm, with no remorse to the chaos that they inflicted. They reiterate the different taboos that were defied to serve as a reminder to the world, and as a form of warning before the Sound of Dispersion tolled.

Show Director

Muhammad Hamqah Roslan

Creative Team & Co-Directors

Saidrudy Mohamed Buang

Ridwan Ramli

Jumali Ismail

Khairil Shazwan Surani

Nazrul Fathmi Norlie

Cast

Danial Zulqarnain Putra Hashim

Amiirul Fatris Abdol Ghafar

Nasrulhaq Kamsani

Nur Azreen Sopri

Nur Khoiryyatun Sabila Hassan

Juwaidi Junaidi

Syafiq Saivi

Firdaus Ramdan

Syafiq Remlee

Nur Hafizah Zainuddin

Nurliyana Hazman

Nurul Farisha Maslan

Atiqah Mohd Nooh

Syarfa Shahiran

Siti Suhaila Rhyme

Nizarfauzi Norlie

Production Team

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| Show Director | Muhammad Hamqah Roslan |
| Production Manager/Lighting Designer | Mohamed Yaziz Mohamed Hassan |
| Stage Manager | Riduan Zalani |
| Choreographers | Nazrul Fathmi Norlie Nizarfauzi Norlie |
| Soundscape Designer | Ridwan Ramli |
| Scriptwriter | Hamizah Abdul Hamid |
| Animators | Muhammad Nurfadhli Syah Zulkinia |
| Sound Engineer | Eddie Amin Audio Resource |
| Makeup | Hambali The Wedding Regalia |
| Wardrobe | Saidrudy Mohamed Buang |
| Design | Jumali Ismail Hamizah Abdul Hamid |
| Media & Communications | Hamizah Abdul Hamid Nur Khoiriyyatun Sabila Hassan Jumali Ismail |
| FOH Manager | Sarina Sahari |
| FOH Crew | Ahmad Rabbani Zainol Abidin Rudi Salim |
| Backstage Crew | Khatima Rosli Siti Safwanah Ismail |
| Logistics & Welfare Manager | Ridzman Salleh |
| Logistics & Welfare Crew | Ali Hanafiah Azam |
| Photographers | Hafiz Othman Abdul Syafiq Rahman |
| Videographers | Ummi Kalthsum Kamsani Khairy Kamal Affendey |



Drop us your feedback!



We appreciate your support!



Nadi Singapore Ltd is a recipient of National Arts Council's Major Grant for the period of 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2025 and is also registered as a charity organisation under the Charities Act

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