

Krishen Jit Astro Fund – Press Conference 2016

Good morning everyone and welcome to this event to announce the grantees for the Krishen Jit Astro Fund 2016.

Another year..... another round of awards.

I don't mean this as a statement of boredom; rather it's a statement recognising longevity of experience and wisdom.

The Krishen Jit Astro Fund has indeed been around for a while. We started off in 2006, and our run has taken us through to this 2016 season. Let's take a quick recap of our run to date.

11 years

44 grants

Another 6 this year

Grand Total to date: 50 Grants totalling RM362,000.

A good run by any standards, and one which I think we are going to be doing for a while longer.

There are many people, groups and entities that have made this KJAF the steady but productive creature that it has become.

Firstly, the many people and entities who submit their applications to the KJAF. Not only those that have been awarded grants. But also those who have been applicants who did not get any grants for the year. And those also who have continued to make applications year in and year out. The information that we require, and indeed expect of these submissions is fairly detailed. So it's not just a good artistic notion or concept which will win the day. The applicant must be able to sell his/her idea in order to be entitled to a grant.

This year, we received a very unusual application that requested for only one Ringgit. The project had already secured funding, but here is what the applicant said:

“The project is already fully funded (in principle) and we are applying to the Krishen Jit Astro Fund for a symbolic RM1. If the Krishen Jit Astro Fund successfully supports this project, the reputable approval and prestige lent to our project is support enough.”

The entire application was very well written and the Selection Panel was particularly impressed by the honesty and integrity of the applicant.

The many applicants who have submitted, won or not – you are the reason for the KJAF, and we salute you and request for your continued applications.

To ASTRO – they were a co-initiator in the KJAF. They have had a consistency of purpose. A corporate programme to assist in creating a more innovative and resilient Arts scene in Malaysia. Thank you for your support.

To the Selection Panel – for their input advice and time. They have been a true pillar of the cause and mission and vision which KJ left behind.

And of course Krishen Jit.

The truest measure of a legacy, is the extent to which the thoughts notions and ideas are imbued in a system in which you are no longer a part of. His death was sad, but the legacy he has left behind – particularly in the arts scene, continues to flourish. This KJAF is just a part of the KJ legacy, but is perhaps one of the more visible aspects of his legacy.

We at the KJAF will continue to aspire to be a light of his legacy, and we will continue, alongside the players mentioned above, to make our future runs just as supportive of the arts in Malaysia as we have to date.

Ravi Navaratnam
Member of the Krishen Jit Astro Fund Selection Panel
Member of Five Arts Centre