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.

In 2021, recognizing the plight of artists during the Covid-19 Pandemic, Creador Foundation increased its support tremendously. This allowed us to give out 11 grants this year. This has been a fantastic boon to artists and the arts community in Malaysia.

Selection Panel for 2021 was:

- **YBhg Tan Sri Datuk Norliza Rofli** – Former Director General, National Department for Culture and Arts, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Malaysia.
- **Marina Abu Bakar** – Director, Arts and Culture Enhancement Division, National Department for Culture and Arts, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Malaysia.
- **Jolyn Gasper** – Snr. AVP Corporate Responsibility, Communications, ASTRO.
- **Shobana Sivanendran** – Senior Programme Manager, Creador Foundation.
- **Leow Puay Tin** – School of Arts, Sunway University.
- **Ravi Navaratnam** – 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 2020, the Krishen Jit Fund has given out a total of 68 grants amounting to RM489,000.
KRISHEN JIT FUND 2021 RECIPIENTS

In 2021, we received 77 applications. The 11 recipients are:

ANTHONY ALEXANDER CHONG VEE YEE

The Grant: RM10,000

The Project: **Malaysian Sign Language (BIM) literature workshop** is a project for deaf participants in Malaysia to develop BIM literature in many forms, such as A-Z storytelling, poetry, translated poem, visual vernacular, drama, or folktale, which will shape a new culture for the community, as well as to contribute to building a body of BIM literature. The final work will be recorded for an online performance.

**Dr Anthony Chong** is co-founder and secretary of Malaysian Sign Language and Deaf Studies Association. He graduated with a PhD degree in Sociology and two Masters degrees in Linguistics and Deaf studies respectively. He is a Deaf activist for more than 20 years with multiple roles: advocate, educator, facilitator, speaker and researcher. He also has wide experience in organising various programmes, such as international camps and training courses with local associations. He has been proactive in the Deaf community since he graduated from his secondary school. His deafness since birth does not stop him from doing what he wishes, which is to see better development in the community.

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JEFFREY LIM JEW CHIN

The Grant:   RM10,000

The Project:  *Khemah Kamera* is a project to build a mobile canopy tent instant camera, and to explore live projection of any objects from within the tent. With the ability to be mobile, the photographer intends to engage and document communities providing services during the pandemic. It is also a test platform to explore live projections, a method of projecting any object from within the tent. The project is an artistic exploration on transmitted forms of narratives, based on previous research with indigenous perspectives on oral narratives and collective memories.

*Jeffrey Lim* is a photography artist, and has coordinated cultural and participatory projects, exhibited and created installations in Malaysia, Taiwan and Japan. From his last project, *Kanta Portraits*, he engaged and researched oral narratives and collective memory with the indigenous of Malaysia and Taiwan, focused on understanding their concepts of identity. With his new initiative, *Khemah Kamera*, he hopes to explore cross-genre art, using imagery, projection, and other photographic processes, to pair with performative elements. To explore ideas inspired from the research and reflection of the indigenous perspectives, as new ways for mediating narratives.

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FLUX28 COLLECTIVE

The Grant:  RM10,000

The Project:  *Night Shift* is an interactive website that engages the audience in a narrative through the character of a fish, with themes of captivity, struggle, and control. This interactive website tells a story with a sequence of actions, as the user navigates with cursor arrow keys and action buttons. *Night Shift* is an out-of-body experience of a fish witnessing captivity, struggle and imposed control. *Night Shift* aims to stir sentiments and reflection upon humanity in the future, the past, and the now.

**FLUX28© STUDIO** is a multidisciplinary creative studio founded by Tsa Meera and Talha K.K. With over 5 years of combined experience in the industry, FLUX28© Studio thrives on honouring creative pursuits. Their recent achievement is a hybrid multimedia exhibition called **STORIES FROM THE METROPOLIS**; housing installation art, visual art, movement and workshops. Their pandemic short film *You're Not You're Hands* received recognition in over 10 film festivals all around the world.

**Talha K.K.** comes from a filmmaking background, and is now developing unique ideas and ways to deliver entertaining, meaningful artworks, as a creative director and digital artist.

**Tsa Meera** is a multifaceted creative hailing from art, design and multimedia. She stands in between freedom of self-expression in art, and serves creative solutions in design through advertising.

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IZAT ARIF

The Grant: RM9,000

The Project: This project is a hybrid exhibition featuring an immersive installation that explores the potential of reflective materials, spatial parameters, and audience participation. It is an attempt at stimulating a sense of collective isolation and grief, that has occupied a substantial amount of what would have been the promised dream of Wawasan 2020. The installation will feature a series of rooms with reflective surfaces with a sonic atmosphere to dramatize the experience. Members of the audience will follow guidelines to interact with the installation, to mimic the current norms which have been forced upon us. By creating an immersive installation, the attempt is to create a space where the audience and the participating artists can contemplate on the current situation, and reconnect through genuine human interaction.

Izat Arif (b. 1986), is a visual artist based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He completed his BA in Drawing at Camberwell College of Art in 2012. His works include drawings, objects, videos and installations that centre around highlighting the contradictions and inconsistencies in contemporary socio-political contexts, through role-play and popular culture.

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REZZA COEBAR

The Grant: RM9,000

The Project: *Earthshine* is a multidisciplinary showcase with a focus on technicalities. It aims to bring forward aspects of a typical dance or theatre production from the background, such as set, lights, projection, and sound. *Earthshine* is defined as the glow caused by sunlight reflected by the earth on the darker portion of a crescent moon, which aptly represents the drive of this show.

A few years into making his rounds within the local music scene, Coobar Abel first performed in theatre as an extra for Omar Ali's *Dato' Seri* (2016). From then onwards, he has done live music, sound design, projection work, and acting for a variety of productions such as Joe Hasham's *Betrayal* (2017) and Rashomon (2020), Omar Ali's *Kandang* (2017, 2019), Tung Jit Yang's *Riwayat* (2017) and *Losertown* (2017), Ho Lee Ching's *OCD* (2018) and *IN/OUT* (2019), and Kelvin Wong's *indicinelive!* (2018, 2019). During his time with post-rock quartet, GLASS, they released their debut album in 2018, and toured Malaysia/Singapore in 2019. He has produced small serial shows such as Intim Sessions, Malam Sayu Berpuisi, and Pecah Kaca Pecah Gelas. At the moment, he is committed to producing more intimate shows, making music with Francoe, and completing multimedia works as The Actors Studio's designated "Creative Guy".

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FRAULINA TAJUDDIN

The Grant: RM8,000

The Project: This project is a web series of short informative sections on how to do animation at home, with minimal equipment, and easy to source supplies. This series hopes to empower young people, curious teens, brave hobbyists, and those wanting to have fun. The host of the show will be Ms. Minah, a gregarious and inquisitive puppet.

Open-minded and outspoken, at times rebellious and sarcastic, Ina Tajuddin brings a fresh approach towards communicating and teaching. Trained in Japan for creative media while working and bringing up a young child, she is the epitome of the resilient working mom, resourceful and creative in finding ways of getting things done, with challenges at every corner. With her life experience of living abroad, and now settling down in her hometown, Ipoh, she brings a well-rounded perspective of the arts, with the gentle sentimentality of Asian aesthetics, and the unapologetic sharp wit of Western humour.

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GOGULARAAJAN RAJENDRAN

The Grant:  RM8,000

The Project:  *Plantation Life: As it was*, is a documentary film and research project for the development of a feature film, *Kaali* (to be shot in 2023). The study aims to investigate the joys and struggles of Indian Malaysians who lived in plantations in the 1960s, with a focus on their origin, culture, politics, and lifestyle, as well as their intimate, complex relationship with nature and mysticism.

Gogularaajan Rajendran, an architecture graduate from Kuala Lumpur, is now working as a director, editor, artist, and occasionally, an actor. Gogu's ways of creating arts revolve around feelings and senses as self-expression. Through his works, Gogu wants to show that even in this bleak world, through the power of innocence, magic does exist. Gogu is known for his works in films such as, *Metro Maalai* (2019), *Virus Mairus* (2020), *Makkale Chumma Okaarunge* (2020), *Bird on the 27th Floor* (2021) and *Ceroboh* (2021). Gogu is now developing his first feature film, *Kaali*.

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The Grant: RM8,000

The Project: In times of uncertainty brought on by the pandemic, abandoned spaces continue to be left at the edges of society, indicating a growing isolation between these spaces and the people who used to occupy them. Dari Pinggiran, is a response to this ongoing abandonment. It is an hour-long devised live streaming performance, that would feature artistic responses from invited artists who will be paired, to respond to spaces in their neighbourhood that were abandoned due to the pandemic. An experimentation, the performance seeks to further explore the creative and technical possibilities of online performances.

Syamsul Azhar has worked across the fields of theatre, film and contemporary art as a multimedia and lighting designer, often employing technology as a performative element in his works. Over the years he has designed across many places and spaces, and has collaborated on numerous performances with Five Arts Centre, particularly in the works of performance maker Mark Teh. In 2017, Syamsul directed **2080 – a performance consisting of projection, sound, lighting and set, with no human performers – in collaboration with a team of designers and theatre practitioners. He is part of a ‘sans’, a loose interdisciplinary collective of artists creating works for performance and exhibition.

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ARIEF HAMIZAN

The Grant: RM5,000

The Project: *Panas Panas Play Reads* is a project aiming to conduct 60 online readings of local and international plays over 12 months. Since 2020, Panas Theatre has run two online play reading programmes, ‘Main Baca’ and ‘Women’s Play Marathon’, both entirely free to join. The reads have taken place almost every week for the past year, followed by a discussion with participants, and the playwrights themselves when possible. ‘Main Baca’ focuses on Malaysian plays, and works beyond the Anglo-American cannon. ‘Women’s Play Marathon’ is entirely dedicated to plays by women, both local and international.

Arief Hamizan is a theatre director, actor, and researcher who has performed and presented work across Malaysia and Singapore. In his creative practice, Arief is Artistic Director of Panas Panas Theatre and Associate Artist with Nusantara Theatrical Combat. He is also an Executive Committee member of ReformARTsi, an independent arts coalition which advocates for policy reform in the performing arts. Legally trained, Arief is also a legal researcher for The Center to Combat Corruption and Cronyism (C4 Center), where he advocates for reform of government institutions, enforcement agencies, and anti-corruption legislation.

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SUSAN PHILIP

The Grant:   RM5,000

The Project:  *The Satira Archives* is a limited run ‘soundscape’/podcast series, looking at a range of works from innovative Malaysian artists and writers, who identify as women, examining in particular their engagement with humour and satire. The series of 6 episodes will cover literature, visual arts, comedy, theatre, music and dance. Each episode will engage creatively with an artist and their work, using music/sound effects as well as debate and dialectic, offering up engaging intersectional explorations into their ideas.

Susan Philip is an Associate Professor in the English Department, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya. She has several publications on theatre, in journals such as the Asian Theatre Journal, Australasian Drama Studies and Journal of Commonwealth Literature. She has published on digital media in Asiatic, on webcomics in Journal of Postcolonial Writing, on community theatre in Kajian Malaysia, and on crime fiction in SARE and International Journal of Indonesian Studies. She also has a chapter in the recent book Making Heritage in Malaysia, as well as several chapters on theatre in numerous other books.

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KOMEIL ZARIN

The Grant:  RM4,000

The Project:  In 30 Portraits in Exile, 30 refugees sit for the artist (a refugee) to paint 30 portraits, culminating in an exhibition of the paintings, an art book and video documentation of this project. The aim is to depict refugees beyond the single dimension that most popular media focus on – their state of statelessness. A portrait allows the model to be seen in a fresh way, through a quiet connection between the artist and the sitter, within a length of time not afforded by other mediums such as photography, film, or text. Through this process of connecting and constructing, the artist wishes to open a window to each individual character and their subjective state of being.

Komeil Zarin, an Iranian born artist, began his artistic journey as a young child painting alongside his father, a painter, Persian calligrapher and musician. Since then he has continually explored words, music, mediums and styles, in his search for deeper connections – with himself as well as with others. As one who is exiled yet forever connected to his homeland; waiting here yet always looking beyond, Komeil’s work questions our perceived notions of identity, belonging, boundaries and realities. Komeil arrived in Malaysia in 2011, and he now divides his time between painting, illustrating and teaching art.

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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 over three 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 14 individuals from diverse generations and disciplines. They are Anne James, Chee Sek Thim, Chew Kin Wah, Fahmi Fadzil, Ivy N. Josiah, Janet Pillai, June Tan, Kubhaer T. Jethwani, Lee Ren Xin, Mac Chan, Marion F. D’Cruz, Mark Teh, Ravi Navaratnam, and Suhaila Merican.

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ABOUT ASTRO MALAYSIA HOLDINGS BERHAD

Astro Malaysia Holdings Berhad (Astro) is Malaysia’s leading content and entertainment company, serving 5.7 million homes or 75% of Malaysian TV households, 6,700 enterprises, 16.8 million weekly radio listeners (FM and digital), 14.3 million digital monthly unique visitors and 3.0 million shoppers across its TV, radio, digital and commerce platforms. At Astro, we are committed to entertaining, informing and engaging with our customers through the best of local, regional and international content. As the largest content creator in the country, we produce and commission over 9,000 hours of local and vernacular content yearly, creating countless memorable moments for millions of Malaysians.

We are aggregating global streaming services to broaden our reach to digital natives, expanding content choice and making Astro the one-stop destination for the biggest entertainment in Malaysia. More streaming services will be joining our family, currently consisting of Astro GO, HBO GO, iQIYI, Disney+ Hotstar and TVBAnywhere+. Our own streaming service sooka offers the world’s best live sports, winning local entertainment and exclusive sooka originals at affordable price points uniquely catered to millennials.

Our Ultra Box with 4K UHD and Ulti Box with HD, Cloud Recording, Play from Start and Pause features, as well as the new Ultra Plug & Play Box, alongside our content-broadband bundles, bring an elevated viewing experience to our customers’ homes, enabling them to enjoy the best of what Astro has to offer. With Astro GO, our companion streaming app, customers can stream up to 65,000 On Demand titles anytime, anywhere. Our Astro & Broadband packages further unlocks Ultra and Ulti Boxes functionality and a premium experience for consumers.

NJOI, our freemium service, offers free TV channels with prepaid options for additional content. The NJOI HD pack and My NJOI app upgrade customers’ experience when purchasing and watching their favourite content in HD.

Astro BUSINESS provides customisable package subscriptions for our enterprise customers in commercial premises - F&B outlets, hotels, offices, retail outlets and healthcare centres, extending our reach beyond residential homes.

Astro Radio, home to the country’s highest-rated radio brands across all key languages, and our digital brands including Gempak, Xuan, Ulagam and AWANI connect Malaysians to content and stories that matter most to them every day. Go Shop, our home shopping and commerce business, offers a fun and entertaining home and online shopping experience that suits the Malaysian lifestyle.

As the nation’s trusted brand, we are dedicated to long-term impactful ESG endeavours focused on lifelong learning, community development, sports and environment through our Group and foundation, Yayasan Astro Kasih. Over the past 10 years, Astro has invested RM120 million in championing education for Malaysians, offering learning content like Tutor TV and TVIQ that reaches 5 million students nationwide annually. It is our privilege to be voted as the Platinum winner in the Media Networks category for the 11th year running at the Putra Brand Awards 2020.
ABOUT CREADOR FOUNDATION

Creador Foundation believes in empowering local communities through education, arts and culture and healthcare. As a starting point, the foundation embarked on developing Multiply; a financial literacy platform meant to empower Malaysians to make better financial decisions. Currently the Foundation is in the process of developing a one-stop education platform that will guide upper and post-secondary students with information on self-exploration, career guidance, education pathways, funding and scholarships. In the Arts and Culture scene, the foundation supports KLPAC’s ‘Theatre for Young People’ programme, the Krishen Jit Fund and the upcoming KL-WKND event with a view of creating and supporting new creative talent in Malaysia. In healthcare, the foundation contributed to the purchase of medical equipment for hospitals and providing food aid in Malaysia, India and Indonesia throughout 2020 and 2021.