

**Krishen Jit** (10 July 1939 – 28 April 2005)

- 1939: Born in Kuala Lumpur on 10 July.
- 1946: Attended Batu Road Primary School.
- 1947: Stage debut as 'Rama' in the ***Ramayana*** (Gombak Lane Hindu Temple Annual Drama).
- 1952-58: Attended Victoria Institution.
- 1956: Stage crew for various Malayan Arts Theatre Group productions.
- 1957: Lead role in James Birdie's ***Tobias and the Angel*** (Victoria Institution Drama Society).
- 1958: Acted as the 'Father' in S.I. Hsiung's ***Lady Precious Stream*** (Victoria Institution Drama Society).
- 1959: History Major, University of Malaya.
- 1959: Acted as 'Julius Caesar' in William Shakespeare's ***Julius Caesar*** (Malayan Arts Theatre Group).
- 1960: Co-founder with Tan Jin Chor, University of Malaya Literary & Drama Association (LIDRA).
- 1960: Acted as 'Creon' in Sophocles' ***Antigone*** (LIDRA – University of Malaya).
- 1960: Directorial debut, Frank Sladen-Smith's ***The Waters of Lethe*** (LIDRA – University Malaya).
- 1961: Graduated with a BA in History from University of Malaya.
- 1962: Collectively awarded the Smith-Mundt, Fulbright & Asia Foundations scholarships to pursue an MA in History at University of California, Berkeley, USA.
- 1967: Began academic career at University of Malaya's History Department.
- 1970: Director, EM Forster's ***A Passage to India*** (Malaysian Arts Theatre Group).
- 1971: Co-writer, ***Our Theatre...Where are Your Roots***, with Syed Alwi, Rahim Razali & Usman Awang, presented at the National Cultural Congress.

- 1971: Co-writer with Usman Awang, ***Pagi Merah di Pasir Salak***, directed by Syed Alwi at the National Cultural Congress.
- 1971: Co-organiser, ***Genta Rasa*** (Malaysian Arts Theatre Group) – a three-day festival of music, fashion, theatre, dance & poetry at the Lake Gardens in response to May 1969 riots.
- 1971: Director, **excerpts** of Shahnnon Ahmad's ***Ranjau Sepanjang Jalan***, for the *Genta Rasa* festival (Malaysian Arts Theatre Group).
- 1971: Panel member, Ministry of Culture, Youth & Sports' ***National Drama Competition*** (till 1980).
- 1971: Director, Usman Awang's ***Matinya Seorang Pahlawan***, presented at the *1<sup>st</sup> Third World Theatre Conference & Festival of Performing Arts*, Manila, Philippines.
- 1971: Panel member for the Ministry of Culture, Youth & Sports' Selection Committee for ***Hadiah Sastera*** (Literature Award) (till 1979).
- 1972: Began ***Talking Drama by Utih***, a weekly arts column for the New Sunday Times (till 1994).
- 1972: Producer, Usman Awang's ***Uda dan Dara*** (Gema Seni, Ministry of Culture, Youth & Sports).
- 1973: Heads Dalang Hamzah Awang Mat's Wayang Kulit troupe to the ***2<sup>nd</sup> Third World Theatre Conference & Festival***, Shiraz, Iran.
- 1974: Director, Syed Alwi's ***Alang Rentak Seribu***. Made acting debut in Bahasa Malaysia as 'Guru'.
- 1974: Producer, Syed Alwi & Rahim Razali's ***Kuala Lumpur, Kuala Lumpur!***
- 1974: Began theatre review column in Berita Minggu under the name 'Alang'. (till 1976).
- 1975: Director, Syed Alwi's ***Tok Perak*** (Gema Seni).
- 1975: Participant, ***Mobile Seminar of Southeast Asian Arts and Culture*** to Thailand, Indonesia & Philippines.
- 1977: Director & script-collaborator, ***Inderaputra*** dance drama, presented as part of *9<sup>th</sup> SEA Games Cultural Festival*, Kuala Lumpur.
- 1977: Director, Dinsman's ***Bukan Bunuh Diri***.
- 1977: Acted as 'Father' in Dinsman's ***Ana***.
- 1977: Guest lecturer at Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang.
- 1979: Artistic Director, University of Malaya's ***Theatre Festival Celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Malay Studies Department***.

- 1979: Director, Syed Alwi's ***Tok Perak***, presented as part of University of Malaya's *Theatre Festival Celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Malay Studies Department*.
- 1980: Visiting scholar to New York University, and participant in a nine-month Performance Theory program conducted by Richard Schechner.
- 1980: Acted as 'Parameswara' in Syed Alwi's ***Rakan, Teman, Parabangsawan***.
- 1981: Director, **excerpts of Usman Awang's plays** in conjunction with Usman Awang receiving the *Anugerah Seni* (Arts Award).
- 1982: Producer, ***Marion D'Cruz Solo*** dance concert by Marion D'Cruz & Dancers.
- 1983: Director, Leow Puay Tin's devised play ***Tikam-Tikam: And the Grandmother Said*** (first locally devised play in English).
- 1984: Co-founder, ***Five Arts Centre*** (FAC), with Chin San Sooi, K.S. Maniam, Redza Piyadasa & Marion D'Cruz.
- 1984: Director, K.S. Maniam's ***The Cord***, in Kuala Lumpur and Ipoh (Five Arts Centre).
- 1984: Co-producer with Chin San Sooi, ***Sintesis '84*** by Marion D'Cruz & Dancers (Five Arts Centre).
- 1984: Contributing editor, ***Asian Theatre Journal***, University of Hawaii (till 1990).
- 1985: Artistic Director, ***Asian Children's Theatre Festival*** in conjunction with the *Kuala Lumpur Arts Festival* (Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur & the Ministry of Federal Territory).
- 1985: Director, Kee Thuan Chye's ***1984 - Here and Now*** (Five Arts Centre).
- 1986: Director, K.S. Maniam's ***The Cord***, Kuala Lumpur and tour to Singapore (Five Arts Centre).
- 1986: Director, Kuo Pao Kun's ***The Coffin is Too Big for the Hole*** (Five Arts Centre / Practice Performing Arts School Singapore / MACLALS).
- 1986: Producer, Chin San Sooi's ***Morning In Night*** (Five Arts Centre / Anglo Chinese School Ipoh's Amateur Dramatics Society).
- 1986: ***Membesar Bersama Teater*** published by Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka. (compilation of articles from *Talking Drama by Utih*, translated into Bahasa Malaysia).
- 1987: Spent nine months researching contemporary theatre practice in Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

- 1988: Co-director with Ong Keng Sen, Leow Puay Tin's ***Three Children*** (TheatreWorks Singapore).
- 1988: Director, K.S. Maniam's ***The Sandpit*** workshop performance (Five Arts Centre).
- 1988: Dramaturg, TheatreWorks Singapore (till 1994).
- 1990: Director, K.S. Maniam's ***The Sandpit: Womensis***, presented in KL and Singapore as part of *The Retrospective - A Festival of Singapore Plays 1960-1990* (Five Arts Centre / TheatreWorks Singapore).
- 1990: Director, Lanford Wilson's ***The Madness of Lady Bright*** (The Actors Studio).
- 1990: Director, David Henry Hwang's ***M. Butterfly***, presented at the *Singapore Festival of the Arts* (TheatreWorks Singapore).
- 1990: Member, ***National Art Gallery Board of Trustees*** (till 1994).
- 1990: Producer, ***Mus Dalam Kenangan***, a celebration of dance and drama in memory of the late Mustapha Noor.
- 1991: Co-director with Joe Hasham, Afdlin Shauki's ***Me, The Mortal***, and Johan Othman's ***Stage*** (The Actors Studio).
- 1991: Director, K.S. Maniam's ***The Sandpit*** (Five Arts Centre).
- 1991: Contributed essays on modern theatre in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand & Vietnam to the ***Cambridge Guide to Asian Theatre***.
- 1992: Co-director with Ong Keng Sen, Leow Puay Tin's ***Three Children***, tour to Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and Japan (Five Arts Centre / TheatreWorks Singapore).
- 1992: Director, Dick Lee's ***Nagrland***, tour to Singapore, Japan and Hong Kong.
- 1993: Director, ***US: Actions & Images***, devised performance, Kuala Lumpur and tour to the *Cairo International Experimental Theatre Festival* (Five Arts Centre).
- 1994: Retired from University of Malaya.
- 1994: Director, Leow Puay Tin's ***A Modern Woman Called Ang Tau Mui*** (Five Arts Centre).
- 1994: Co-director with Lok Meng Chue, Lloyd Fernando's ***Scorpion Orchid***, presented at the *Singapore Festival of the Arts* (TheatreWorks Singapore).
- 1994: Consultant, The Substation, Singapore (till 2005).

- 1994: Director, K.S. Maniam's ***The Cord*** (Five Arts Centre).
- 1994: Director, K.S. Maniam's ***The Sandpit*** (Five Arts Centre).
- 1994: Founding Head of Theatre and Member of Curriculum Board, Akademi Seni Kebangsaan (ASK) (till 1999).
- 1995: Co-director with Joe Hasham, Lloyd Fernando's ***Scorpion Orchid*** (The Actors Studio / Five Arts Centre).
- 1995: Director, Mira Mustaffa's ***A Silent Scream***, and Bernice Chauly's ***Interview with a Prostitute***, part of *One by One Series Part I & Part II* (Dramalab).
- 1995: Director, K.S. Maniam's ***Skin Trilogy*** (Five Arts Centre).
- 1995: Director, Leow Puay Tin's ***Ang Tau Mui*** (Five Arts Centre / The Actors Studio).
- 1995: Member, Selection Committee, ***Anugerah Seni*** (Arts Award), Ministry of Culture, Arts & Tourism (until 1999).
- 1996: Co-director with Zahim Albakri, Jit Murad's ***The Storyteller*** (Dramalab).
- 1996: Director, with Leow Puay Tin as writer in attendance, ***Work - The Malaysian Way*** (Five Arts Centre / Akademi Seni Kebangsaan).
- 1996: Co-director with Rosminah Tahir and Wong Hoy Cheong, Leow Puay Tin's ***Ang Tau Mui***, presented at the *Cairo International Experimental Theatre Festival* (Five Arts Centre).
- 1996: Co-conductor with Ong Keng Sen, the ***Flying Circus Project*** Contemporary Theatre Workshop (till 2000) (TheatreWorks Singapore).
- 1996: Co-director with Rahman B, Rahman B's ***Bangsawan Raja Laksama Bentan*** (Akademi Seni Kebangsaan).
- 1997: Co-director with Joe Hasham, Malik Imtiaz Sarwar's ***The Trees***, (The Actors Studio).
- 1998: Director, Bernice Chauly's ***Three Lives***, presented at the *8<sup>th</sup> Asian Monodrama Festival* (The Actors Studio / Five Arts Centre).
- 1998: Co-director with Wong Hoy Cheong, Leow Puay Tin's ***Family — A Visual Performance Event*** (Five Arts Centre).
- 1998: Artistic Director, ***Directors' Workshop Series*** (Five Arts Centre).
- 1998: Member, Selection Committee, ***Asian Fellows Program***, Ford Foundation (till 2005).
- 1998: Member, Peer Panel, ***Arts Network Asia***, Ford Foundation (till 2005).

- 1999: Director, Mahani Gunnell's ***If I Get AIDS Padan Muka***, part of *Talking AIDS* (Dramalab / The Actors Studio).
- 1999: Co-director with Wong Hoy Cheong, Leow Puay Tin's ***Family*** — *A Visual Performance Event*, tour to *Festival der Geister*, Berlin (Five Arts Centre).
- 1999: Director, ***A Chance Encounter*** devised by Krishen Jit, Faridah Merican and Foo May Lyn. (Five Arts Centre / The Actors Studio).
- 1999: Director, Huzir Sulaiman's ***Election Day*** (Straits Theatre Company).
- 1999: Director, Stella Kon's ***Emily of Emerald Hill*** (Dramalab).
- 1999: Selection Committee, ***Asian Public Intellectuals***, Nippon Foundation (till 2005).
- 1999: Guest lecturer, Performance Theory, Fakulti Kebudayaan, University of Malaya.
- 2000: Consultant and External Examiner, Practice Performing Arts School, Singapore (till 2005).
- 2000: Director, Huzir Sulaiman's ***The Smell of Language***, and Tim Toyama's ***Who's Looney Man?***, in ***The Other*** (Five Arts Centre).
- 2000: Director, Kuo Pao Kun's ***The Coffin is Too Big for the Hole*** and ***No Parking On Odd Days***, presented at the Singapore Arts Festival (Wild Rice Singapore).
- 2000: Director, Huzir Sulaiman's ***Those Four Sisters Fernandez*** (Straits Theatre Company).
- 2000: Director, Stella Kon's ***Emily of Emerald Hill*** (Wild Rice Singapore).
- 2001: Director, Huzir Sulaiman's ***The Smell of Language***, ***Atomic Jaya*** and Tim Toyama's ***Who's Looney Man?***, in ***The Other: A Triple-Bill***, presented in Singapore (The Substation Singapore / Five Arts Centre / Straits Theatre Company).
- 2001: Director, Kuo Pao Kun's ***The Coffin is Too Big for the Hole*** and ***No Parking On Odd Days*** (Wild Rice Singapore / Five Arts Centre).
- 2001: Director, Yasmina Reza's ***Art*** (Straits Theatre Company).
- 2001: Director, Stella Kon's ***Emily of Emerald Hill*** (Wild Rice Singapore).
- 2001: Director, Jonathan Lim's ***Emerald Hole***, part of the *42 Waterloo Street Festival* (Action Theatre Singapore).
- 2001: Director, Jean Tay's ***Plunge***, part of the *42 Waterloo Street Festival* (Action Theatre Singapore).

- 2002: Co-director with Joe Hasham, Usman Awang's ***Opera Uda dan Dara*** (The Actors Studio / Five Arts Centre).
- 2002: Director, Rani Moorthy's ***Manchester United and the Malay Warrior***, presented in Kuala Lumpur and ***CULTURESHOCK - the 2002 Commonwealth Games Cultural Festival, Manchester*** (Rasa United Kingdom / Five Arts Centre).
- 2002: Director, Stella Kon's ***Emily of Emerald Hill***, tour to *Melbourne International Arts Festival* (Wild Rice Singapore).
- 2002: Director, ***Squeeze and Squeezability - Six 10-Minute Plays*** (Action Theatre Singapore).
- 2002: Director, David Auburn's ***Proof*** (Action Theatre Singapore).
- 2003: ***Krishen Jit: An Uncommon Position*** (edited by Kathy Rowland) published by the Contemporary Asian Arts Centre, Singapore.
- 2003: Director, Rona Munro's ***Iron*** (Action Theatre Singapore).
- 2003: Director, ***7 TEN - seven 10-minute plays*** (Five Arts Centre).
- 2003: Received the ***Lifetime Achievement Award*** at the inaugural Boh Cameronian Arts Awards.
- 2004: Co-director with Ivan Heng, Friedrich Durrenmatt's ***The Visit of the Tai Tai*** (Wild Rice Singapore).
- 2004: Director, Craig Lucas' ***Prelude to a Kiss*** (Action Theatre Singapore).
- 2004: Director, Huzir Sulaiman's ***Notes on Life & Love & Painting***, and ***The Smell of Language*** (Dramalab).
- 2004: Director, Huzir Sulaiman's ***Election Day*** (Five Arts Centre).
- 2004: Director, ***Riding the NICE Bus***, a selection of texts from Singapore writers curated by Eleanor Wong (Five Arts Centre).
- 2005: Director, Pek Siok Lian's ***Between Chinas***, and Jean Tay's ***Everything But the Brain***, as part of ***Roman Tam & The 3 Bears: A Double-Bill*** (Action Theatre Singapore).
- 2005: Winner, ***Best Director Award*** for *The Smell of Language*, Boh Cameronian Arts Awards.
- 2005: Co-director, with Chee Sek Thim, Lim How Ngean and Zahim Albakri, ***Monkey Business*** (Five Arts Centre / The Actors Studio).

28 April 2005: Passed away in University Hospital.

- 2006: ***Utih...Celebrating Krishen***, a tribute marking the first anniversary of Krishen Jit's passing.
- 2006: Launch of the ***Krishen Jit ASTRO Fund*** (now known as the ***Krishen Jit Fund***) to provide grants to artists for projects.
- 2015: ***Unfinished Business: Conference on Krishen Jit's Performance Practice and Contemporary Malaysian Theatre*** in commemoration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Krishen Jit's passing. (Five Arts Centre / Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre / Kakiseni).
- 2018: ***Excavations, Interrogations, Krishen Jit & Contemporary Malaysian Theatre***. Publication from the *Unfinished Business Conference*. (Five Arts Centre & Epigram Books).