



LANGUAGE AMBASSADORS 2016



SITI KHALIJAH ZAINAL

Siti Khalijah Zainal is an actress with more than ten years of experience in theatre. She made her debut as a full-time theatre actress after she attended the year-long Theatre for Youth Ensemble programme in 2003, organised by The Necessary Stage (TNS).

Since then, she has acted in a wide range of productions by local theatre companies such as Wild Rice, Cake Theatrical Productions, *Teater Ekamatra*, Dream Academy and The Presenting Company.

Some of her acting credits include *Nadirah*, *Gemuk Girls*, *Dan Tiga Dara Terbang Ke Bulan*, *Model Citizens*, *Hansel & Gretel* and *Happy Ever Laughter*.

She has also toured with theatre productions to Scotland, Australia and Russia. Her one-woman production, *Best Of*, at the George Town Festival 2013 in Penang, Malaysia was well received and the upcoming (and sold out) play *Rosnah* presented by TNS at Pesta Raya, will also see her in the titular role.

Siti won Best Actress for her role in *Model Citizens* at the LIFE! Theatre Awards 2011 and was awarded the Young Artist Award by the National Arts Council in 2014.

Siti is passionate about promoting the Malay language to youths. As *Duta Bahasa*, she hopes to heighten their language appreciation as she presents the beauty and vibrancy of the language in her Malay productions.



MEGAT MUHAMMAD FIRDAUS MOHAMAD

Megat Muhammad Firdaus Mohamad is founder and conductor of *Orkestra Sri Temasek*. A versatile instrumentalist who plays the accordion, flute and violin, he is also arranger and composer, as he writes music regularly for *Orkestra Sri Temasek*.

He has performed with various traditional Malay music ensembles which include the Singapore Malay Orchestra, Singapore Wind Symphony (Youth) and the NIE Symphonic Band.

Megat strongly believes that understanding the history and stories behind the Malay Orchestra and its instruments will enhance appreciation of both traditional Malay music and the Malay language. As such, he makes it a point to share with his audience, his intimate knowledge on Malay Orchestra during each performance in Malay, English and even Mandarin, as he is conversant in the language.

His passion for Malay orchestra motivates him to reach out to youths, as he conducts free Malay Orchestra courses for the community, hoping to ignite appreciation for beautiful traditional music in the younger generations. At the end of each course, participants are given the chance to be a part of *Orkestra Sri Temasek* and perform together with the ensemble.

As a *Duta Bahasa*, Megat believes in the power of Malay Orchestra to bring people together, so everyone can better appreciate the Malay language through poetic lyrics and songs.



USTAZAH NURUL 'IZZAH KHAMSANI

Ustazah Nurul 'Izzah Khamsani graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Islamic Theology (Akidah & Falsafah) from Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt.

She currently serves as an Executive Officer at the Jamiyah Ar-Rabitah Mosque in Education and *Dakwah*. She is also an associate member of the *Fatwa* Committee.

From a young age, Ustazah Nurul 'Izzah's father encouraged her to participate in *ceramah* (talks) which sparked her interest in the Malay language. With her family's support, she began to participate in oratorical competitions such as 4PM debates and *pantun* contests.

She keeps her interest in *ceramah* and the Malay language alive as she actively delivers talks and organises Islamic learning and social development programmes for the Malay community.

As a *Duta Bahasa*, she is keen to share her *ceramah* skills with other lecturers and teachers as she continues to encourage members of the community to perfect presentation skills by strengthening their command of the Malay language.