

IPOH

Festival aims to cement city of art credentials

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Kreative Ipoh director Mohd Jayzuan Zainal Puait wants to uplift art in his hometown and provide a platform for local youths to express themselves. – The Malaysian Insider pic by Wong Tuck Keong, January 28, 2016.

Ipoh Kreative, a seven-day art festival, is on track to becoming an annual event that could define Ipoh as a “city of art”.

Festival director Mohd Jayzuan Zainal Puait, 34, said the event’s second outing this year received better response than last year, with full-house audiences turning up on a daily basis to most of its shows.

“When we first started last year, we were surprised to get such strong, positive feedback.

“It spurred us to continue this year and we welcomed the support of Perak Tourism, which approached us to collaborate.

“Ipoh is bound to be crawling with art lovers, independent artists and tourists,” said the founder of creative agency Projek Rabak.

Ipoh born and bred Jayzuan said apart from having a soft-spot for his hometown, he recognised that the city had immense potential to to become an art destination.

“In the 90s, Ipoh was home to a thriving local scene of rock musicians. I want to revive this kind of creative scene and uplift it to even greater heights,” he said, adding that positive indicators

were already there, such as collaborating with Goethe-Institut Malaysia to bring award winning productions from the Berlin International Film Festival to be screened for the first time in Ipoh.

“One of the events includes screening short films from Berlinale 2015, which feature filmmakers from Denmark, Korea, France and Spain.

“This kind of screenings may be common in the capital. Hopefully, it will no longer be a novelty in Ipoh either.”

The string of events under Ipoh Kreatif encompasses avant garde music, gigs in cafes, spoken word poetry recitation and art exhibitions from local independent acts, as well as performers from Germany, Russia, and America.

“We were the first to introduce the idea of organising a festival, with multiple events held in several locations.

“This way, we can showcase the art as well as give a boost to local businesses and promote tourism,” Jayzuan said.

He added that his own passion and love for artistic endeavours also spurred him to provide a platform for similar expressions among local youths today.

“As a teenager, I used to hang around with the creative crowd in Bodysurf Music, an alternative music label within the city’s gritty low-cost Wallercourt flats.

“I was influenced and inspired by the acts around me, who found a way to express themselves against the odds. When I was 25, I published my first book with a pioneer in independent publishing called Sang Freud Press. It is these kind of experiences that inspire me to charter a course, where there were none before.”

He said upcoming artists interested in sharing their work were welcome to approach him at Galeri Projek Rabak in Wisma Sentral, Kuala Lumpur, and Khizanat in Ipoh.

Ipoh Kreative started on January 24 and will continue until January 30.

In the final two days of the festival, there will be a 3D printing workshop, visual arts forum and screening at Khizanat of the Berlinale Shorts Go Abroad, featuring “Hossana”, a Korean production awarded the Golden Bear 2015 for best film.

On Saturday, the highlighted event is a presentation by German DJ and producer, Cee on Sound Lab 2016, an electronic music project with 10 musicians from Southeast Asia, New Zealand and Australia. – January 28, 2016.



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