



A Musical Celebration of KL's Beginning

Take your seat and enjoy a thoroughly entertaining musical tribute to the humble beginnings of Malaysia's thriving capital city with *MUD: Our Story of Kuala Lumpur*.



It doesn't take long living in Kuala Lumpur to learn what the city's name means when translated from Malay to English. Whether "muddy confluence" or "muddy estuary," the common theme is definitely mud. So when deciding on the name for the musical production celebrating the city's founding and chronicling some of the struggles the early inhabitants had to overcome, paying homage to the "lumpur" part of Kuala Lumpur seemed to be a logical choice. And so *MUD: Our Story of Kuala Lumpur* was born.

Rising from the confluence of the Klang and Gombak Rivers near where today Masjid Jamek is located, Kuala Lumpur marked its earliest days as a settlement back in 1857 and enjoyed the boom of tin mining and a period of promising growth, only to have those dreams dashed by fire and flood. Most of the musical, which takes place in four acts, covers only the earliest years of KL's existence, roughly 1857 to 1881, and some of the lives of the city's pioneers.

Three main characters – Mamat, Meng, and Muthiah – represent the three major races of Malaysia and find their friendship and camaraderie tested and ultimately strengthened through not only the historical events of KL's early years, but by the personal events which unfold in each man's life, too.

MUD: The Musical is Malaysia's longest-running musical and is staged at KL's historic 110-year-old Panggung Bandaraya (city theatre) near Dataran Merdeka on Jalan Raja. There are two performances every day at 3:00pm and 8:30pm. These

times make the musical an ideal follow-up to a pleasant lunch or dinner, and we found a truly historic and fantastic venue just a short stroll away from the theatre, perhaps the perfect companion for this show, staged in this theatre.

The Coliseum Café and Hotel was opened originally back in 1921, long before the ravages of WWII, and over nine decades later, still continues to operate in the same premises at one of the Kuala Lumpur oldest street, Batu Road, which back then was little more than a path leading to a village where mining activities took place – now known as Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman (named after Malaysia's First King). The restaurant's ambiance is a typical of a colonial grillroom, retaining many of its original wood interior elements and trimmings. Dignitaries, ministries, customers, diners and guests alike, both locals and tourists, have forged a special connection to the place, the people, and its varied menu spread. We found the food to be fresh, delicious, and very reasonably priced. There is a true sense of heritage and authenticity here, and we can scarcely think of a better way to start your "dinner

and a show" experience than a tasty dish served up by the friendly folks at the Coliseum Café.

After your excellent meal, take the short walk to the theatre – being mindful of the time, as latecomers are turned away – and settle in for what is truly a very enjoyable show. If you're expecting second-rate community theatre-style performances, you'll be surprised. This is a very professional production, with plenty of passion and theatrics from the ensemble cast and outstanding production values, too. The musical runs for one hour with no intermission, and there's even a bit of audience interaction. Trust us: If you follow our advice and eat at the Coliseum Café and take in *MUD: The Musical* at the charming Panggung Bandaraya, you'll have a great time. A marvellous and wallet-friendly experience for the whole family, this is really something of a different outing for most expats, and since the show runs twice daily, seven days a week, it's easy to fit into your schedule. Reviews of *MUD* on TripAdvisor are overwhelmingly excellent, calling the musical a "must-watch" production, and after seeing it ourselves, it's easy to understand why.

A lively and spirited musical showcasing the diversity and resilience of the people who built Kuala Lumpur, *MUD: The Musical* is an inspiring and timeless tale of friendship, perseverance, and the joy of overcoming obstacles together... and even the simple pleasure of sharing a hot cup of *teh tarik* with your friends! ■

For more information, please visit www.visitkl.gov.my, www.mudkl.com, and www.coliseum1921.com.

