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The Istana Budaya or The Palace of Culture (1999) is Malaysia's **main venue for all types of theatre including musical theatre, operetta, classical concert and opera** from local and international performances.

Istana Budaya is aimed **to raise the standard of the performing arts**, to develop artistic excellence in theatre, to popularise high quality theatre productions, and to develop a higher sense of artistic appreciation. This prominent landmark is on the top ten list of most sophisticated theatres in the world, as it is built with state-of-the-art stage equipment and a theatre's floor area of 21,000 m<sup>2</sup> as part of the 54,400 m<sup>2</sup> cultural complex. The building represents the country and its culture in many ways. The traditional Malay house is reflected in the overall design of the building, whose roof resembles a traditional floral and leaf arrangement. Istana Budaya is also the **residence of the National Theatre Company** and the **National Symphony Orchestra**.

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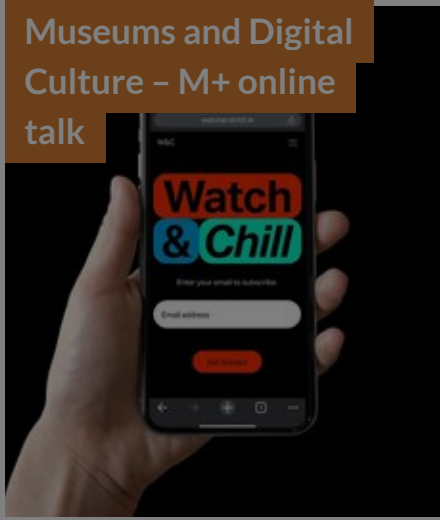
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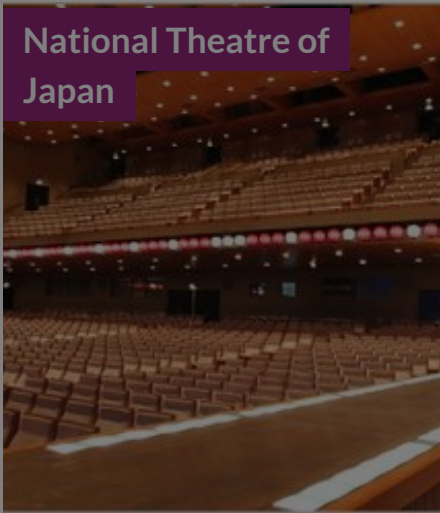
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