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Lewat Djam Malam (Usmar Ismail, 1954)

Image courtesy of the National Museum of Singapore

Film Restoration School Asia

*National Museum of Singapore to host the inaugural Asian edition of the highly acclaimed
Film Restoration Summer School from 18 – 23 November 2013*

Singapore, 8 November 2013 – For the first time in Asia, the National Museum of Singapore – in collaboration with the Cineteca di Bologna, L'Immagine Ritrovata and Martin Scorsese's World Cinema Foundation – will host a six-day **Film Restoration School Asia** to provide film preservation and restoration training to safeguard our shared cinematic heritage and address the growing need for specialised knowledge and skills in this area within Asia.

Director of the National Museum of Singapore, Angelita Teo, says, "Films are an integral part of our cultural legacy. The growing interest in film restoration around the world – and now in Asia – is significant in ensuring that our cultural assets are expertly preserved for future

generations to come. Earlier this year, the National Museum of Singapore Cinémathèque's acceptance as a member of *La Fédération Internationale des Archives du Film* (International Federation of Film Archives) has allowed us to strengthen our role as a key node for Asia's film community."

Film Restoration School Asia is the first Asian edition of the biennial and world-renowned Film Restoration Summer School in Bologna, Italy, which started in 2007. The six-day programme in Singapore provides film preservation and restoration training through screenings, lectures, and practical hands-on lessons, conducted by experts from around the world and staff of L'Immagine Ritrovata – a highly specialised film restoration laboratory.

Director of L'Immagine Ritrovata, Davide Pozzi, says, "Film Restoration School Asia does more than just provide participants with technical training. The true goal of the school is to address the current issues surrounding film preservation and promote shared knowledge in this field. The National Museum of Singapore was the natural venue for this truly international project not only because of the strong synergy between our institution and the museum, but because both are young and passionate teams with the shared interest in protecting our film heritage. The first big restoration projects of Southeast Asian films have begun to take place, and there is no better time than now for a programme such as this."

The National Museum of Singapore Cinémathèque received applications from 15 countries including the Philippines, Myanmar, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Taiwan, attesting to the emerging interest and increased importance of film restoration and preservation in Asia. A final intake of 40 applicants, which includes current practitioners from various film archives and cinémathèques, have been selected to attend the school in Singapore.

Students of Film Restoration School Asia will undergo theory and practical classes that will give them further insight into the four key stages of film restoration: preparation, scanning, restoration and mastering. These will be complemented with panel discussions and screenings of restored films to function as case studies.

Selected lectures, talks and screenings of restored films are also open to members of the public as part of the Cinémathèque's efforts to generate greater awareness about film restoration and preservation. Some renowned titles that will be screened include *Taxi Driver* (1976) by Martin Scorsese, chairman of the World Cinema Foundation and the experimental debut feature, *Mysterious Object at Noon* (2000), by award-winning Thai film director Apichatpong Weerasethakul.

Additional information on the public lectures, film screenings and school modules can be found in the Editor's Notes and Fact Sheet.

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About the National Museum of Singapore

With a history dating back to its inception in 1887, the National Museum of Singapore is the nation's oldest museum with a progressive mind. It is custodian of the 10 National Treasures, and its Singapore History and Living Galleries adopt cutting-edge and multi-perspective ways of presenting history and culture to redefine conventional museum experience.

A cultural and architectural landmark in Singapore, the Museum hosts innovative festivals and events all year round – the dynamic Night Festival, visually arresting art installations, as well as amazing performances and film screenings – in addition to presenting thought-provoking exhibitions involving critically important collections of artefacts. The programming is supported by a wide range of facilities and services including F&B, retail and a Resource Centre. The National Museum of Singapore re-opened in December 2006 after a three-year redevelopment, and celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2012.

For more details, please visit www.nationalmuseum.sg.

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