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CONCERT

LIFE SDN BHD7: REFUGEES

Oct 24 (Mon) - Oct 29 (Sat) @ 8.30pm, Oct 30 (Sun) @3pm, The Actors Studio @ Lot 10

In every episode of Life Sdn Bhd, actors as well as non-actors share true stories, on stage, on issues that affect us living in Malaysia.

This year, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees asks: "What's it like to be a refugee? To witness your family torn apart by war and conflict? To lose everything you value – family, friends, your home – and be forced to flee in order to save your life? To travel hundreds of miles, on foot through dense jungles and in leaking boats across dangerous seas? This is a journey made by millions of refugees as

they flee war, conflict, human rights abuses and persecution. People often misunderstand who a refugee is, thinking that they are migrants looking for economic opportunities. The truth is refugees have no choice but to run, and are unable to return home safely. By early last year, some 93,000 refugees and asylum-seekers in Malaysia had registered with the UN Refugee Agency. The majority are from Myanmar, but also from Sri Lanka, Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan. Refugees are often unnoticed in Malaysia because there are no refugee camps. Refugees live in cities and small towns in Malaysia, renting low-cost flats or houses, side by side Malaysians. Their lives are often unknown to most Malaysians. The reality is that they do not have access to legal employment, they are unable to access public schools, and while they can access any healthcare facility, this is unaffordable

due to their unpredictable income. Their life journey is one that is hard for us to imagine. What we know is that in the wake of having lost everything, refugees have an incredible courage and perseverance to remain steadfast and positive in their will to survive. But they need our compassion and understanding and a humanitarian space to be able to rebuild their lives in safety and dignity."

The first Life Sdn Bhd instalment was back in 2004, directed by Datuk Faridah Merican. Last year, she tackled the HIV/AIDS epidemic: nine people stepped on stage for the very first time to share their stories on HIV/AIDS. Life Sdn Bhd 7: Refugees will be a thought-provoking and moving instalment. The show will feature songs by local singer-songwriters, which were specially-commissioned for this show. Tickets: Free admission. <http://www.theactorsstudio.com.my>