



The **Epitome** */I'pitəmi/*

Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Cawangan Kedah

*We are back!
Welcoming the epitome of artistic ideas &
astonishing writers!*

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SYNOPSIS

The Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Cawangan Kedah is thrilled to announce the release of the second edition of its e-magazine, The Epitome. This publication exemplifies our steady dedication to fostering creativity in language and literature.

The primary objective of THE EPITOME is to offer a platform where writers, educators, scholars, poets, and researchers can come together to exchange their ideas, discoveries, expertise, and narratives. Our special focus revolves around an array of creative writing genres, encompassing Playwriting, Short stories, Songs, Speeches, Memoirs, Literary Journalism, Humour writing, Lyric essays, Innovative essays, and Personal essays, with a goal to embrace diverse linguistic expressions, with content available in four languages: English, Bahasa Melayu, Mandarin, and Arabic.

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Every day is learning curves...

Dear Readers,

We are back! We are thrilled to present a collection of articles that we believe capture the essence of the writers. Our team has worked diligently to curate content that we hope will both engage and resonate with you.

In these pages, you will find a diverse range of perspectives on life, from joy to sorrow. We hope these pieces inspire reflection and spark meaningful conversations.

We want to express our deepest gratitude to our talented contributors for their time and expertise. Their dedication is what makes the second issue of Epitome possible.

As always, we value your feedback. Please do not hesitate to reach out with your thoughts and suggestions.

Thank you for being a part of our Epitome community.

Warm regards,

Razanawati Nordin
Editor-in-Chief,
The Epitome

EDITOR'S NOTE

Capturing the Soul of Bandung: A Tapestry of Culture and Adventure Through My Lens

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Long, swaying shadows were formed by the setting sun as it dipped low in the Bandung sky. It was a typical afternoon in Bandung, Indonesia, full of people, activity, and tales ready to be told. I set out to capture the streets of this exciting metropolis with my camera. An insatiable curiosity and the experience altered my perspective about the place forever.

Bandung, also known as the "Paris of Java," is a city rich in visual poetry. The city's streets are like a blank canvas upon which a thousand stories have been painted, just waiting to be photographed. I felt like a hunter making my way through the busy streets, hungrily feasting on the happenings around me.

My adventure started on the famous Braga Street in the middle of the city. This old street was like a miniature version of the whole culturally diverse city of Bandung. Colonial-era structures co-exist alongside newer shops and eateries, a sign of the city's successful attempt to reconcile its past and present. As the cityscape changed in the background, I smelled the freshly made Javanese coffee and watched interestingly at the vendor deftly pouring a fresh cup for me. Throughout my photographic journey, I was interested in documenting the interactions between the old and the new. I continued my exploration of Bandung's maze-like streets and lanes throughout the day. Away from the tourist traps, these are where the city's real lives happen.



The people went about their regular lives, the scars of their pasts still visible on their features. My inspiration came from the street vendors and their brightly colored carts and enticing items. I saw a fruit vendor carefully setting out her wares, the papayas and pineapples providing a live pallet of vibrant colors. I snapped a picture at that very second, preserving that moment forever as a visual testament to hard work and accomplishment.

The inhabitants of Bandung are one of the city's greatest charms. People there were quite friendly and made me feel at home with their smiles and nods of recognition. In a dingy alley, I came across a bunch of kids playing a classic Indonesian pastime. Their joyous spirit and infectious laughter were a tribute to the purity of childhood. I connected with these young people, who exemplified the spirit of Bandung, when I snapped a candid photo of them.



Bandung's vibrant tradition of street cuisine made for stunning photographic subjects. Street merchants packed the streets, their wares a visual feast of sights, smells, and textures. I went over to a seller peddling bakso, a hearty meatball soup. As the vendor poured hot soup over a mountain of meatballs, the bowl filled with steam. The scene was a visual onslaught, so I composed the shot to emphasize the play of light and steam, resulting in a salute to the street food artists of Bandung.

Moments that arise out of nowhere are some of the most interesting subjects for street photographers to capture. It was like that when I happened upon a little square hosting a performance of traditional Javanese dance. The dancers, dressed in elaborate costumes, performed their routines with poise and perfection. Their expressions painted a vivid picture of how they were feeling. A timeless bit of Indonesian culture was recorded in that instant, as the dancers whirled and the music filled the air.

I arrived at a Bandung night market just as the sun was setting, bathing the city in a beautiful golden light. Seeing the streets changed from daylight to darkness was a surreal experience. The neon signs brightened the night, and the smells of the street vendors' food grew more tantalizing.

I came across a street performer who was playing the gamelan, a traditional instrument from Indonesia. The music was mesmerizing, and the musician's wrinkled fingers played with the dexterity that came from years of experience. Every time I pressed the shutter, I felt like I was capturing a piece of Bandung's spirit forever.

In the still of the night, I analyzed the photos I'd taken throughout the day. Bandung surprised me in ways I couldn't have predicted. The streets of the city, full of history and interesting people, had become my inspiration. Every picture I shot of Bandung captured a moment in its enduring and vibrant history.

I knew as I retreated to my lodgings with my camera gear that Bandung would forever be etched in my memory. It was more than a metropolis; it was a visual symphony, a dynamic canvas that welcomed my participation in its story. Over the following days, when I looked back over my photos, I realized that I had not only caught the essence of Bandung, but also forged a newfound affinity for visual storytelling. What I took away from my time in Bandung was the realization that often the most compelling narratives were those that took place in the streets, in the unscripted moments of life, and in the shared humanity of complete strangers.





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