

# **HARMONY IN PROGRESS:**

**INTEGRATING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,  
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SOCIAL INNOVATION  
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



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## **PSS008 - DARI PENTAS KE PODCAST: THEATRE THAT ECHOES**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This project is an innovation by Kelab ABSTRAK, a theatre, dance, and music club in UiTM Kuala Pilah and its podcast initiative titled *Dari Pentas ke Podcast*, which transforms its stage productions into audio dramas. Theatre has long depended on the physical presence of both performers and audience, relying heavily on visual storytelling like sets, costumes and lighting. However, with the rise of digital platforms and changing audience behaviours, new formats are emerging to complement or even replace traditional performances. Audio drama, once associated with early radio, is now experiencing a resurgence through podcasts. This extended abstract introduces *Dari Pentas ke Podcast*, a student-driven innovation that reinterprets staged plays as audio productions to make theatre more accessible, sustainable, and creatively fluid.

**Keywords – ABSTRAK, audio drama, podcast, Spotify, commercialisation**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The theatre wing of Kelab ABSTRAK has been actively staging plays since 2018. During the Covid-19 pandemic, when the dance and music performances had to stop due to physical and geographical distance, members of the theatre unit soldiered on performing online using the Zoom platform, never stopping at the various constraints that social distancing have imposed on the field of performance arts. When physical performances were once again allowed, the theatre unit continued to grow from strength to strength, staging works from notable local playwrights like Khairunazwan Rodzy, Yusof Bakar, Hatta Azad Khan and Wiramanja just to name a few, in UiTM Kuala Pilah.

The process of staging a performance is an invaluable experience where members of the production learn skills of sorts relating to the stage and develop the soft skills which enriches human interaction. Documenting the process of staging a play is very important to archive and preserve Kelab ABSTRAK's staged performances for various reference purposes. Video recordings and photographs were taken to be uploaded on youtube and social media from the start of the process until the days of performance.

The idea of uploading the audio version of the previously staged plays on a podcast titled *Dari Pentas ke Podcast* is the latest theatre unit initiative to document work done by its talented and hardworking members. Listening to plays is definitely a different experience

and will put the different senses to work in order for enjoyment and appreciation to happen. There are people who are more auditory than others and with the surge of interest in podcasting as an avenue of audio discussion and storytelling, we believe that the decision to preserve the staged plays in audio form is practical and beneficial.

The demand for skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) continues to grow with the integration of arts into education today. The arts represent disciplines such as visual arts, music, theatre, and design that allow the students to participate in audio-based activities for literary appreciation (Abidin et al., 2024). The advent of technology has marked a pivotal shift from traditional print formats to digital platforms. This transition has reshaped how readers interact with texts and printed materials, paving new ways of accessing and consuming any written content (Palanisamy & Rajasekaran, 2025). This has not only changed how individuals read but also how they engage with texts. The emergence of e-books in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century marked a change that allows users to access printed materials with ease due to their portability and quick-access nature.

Drawing upon this digital revolution, the 21st-century era has witnessed the rise of audio-based literary formats. Podcasting is an audio-based approach that can promote narrative learning and provide better engagement with the audio. Podcasts are digital audio files that are readily available to be downloaded or streamed from the Internet (Ying et al., 2024). The use of podcasts in teaching and learning has been rapidly increasing, but not many studies have been done to incorporate the use of podcasts for stage performance in audio format. The digital era has opened up the opportunity for listeners to access music anywhere and anytime through streaming services such as Spotify, YouTube or Apple Music. Spotify offers instant access to more than 70 million tracks that represent massive data sources for listeners (Terroso-Saenz et al., 2023). There is a need for an audio platform that can be effortlessly consumed while multitasking, where the listeners can listen to the audio while doing other activities (Palanisamy & Rajasekaran, 2025). Ying et al. (2025) stated that podcasting not only promotes memorable learning but also allows the listeners to translate their listening experience into actual practice.

## OBJECTIVE

The main objectives of *Dari Pentas ke Podcast* are:

- i. To archive and preserve Kelab ABSTRAK's staged performances in audio form.
- ii. To expand access to Kelab ABSTRAK's creative output beyond the stage at UiTM Kuala Pilah community.
- iii. To encourage appreciation of theatre scripts as literary texts among UiTM Kuala Pilah student community and the general public as a whole

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

*Dari Pentas ke Podcast* transforms previously staged plays into audio dramas. The project involves recording audio versions of the plays that have been staged and adapting them into podcast episodes. Each production is adapted for sound, involving script adjustments, voice re-recordings, and the addition of ambient soundscapes and music. These are edited and published on podcast platforms accessible to the public. The process includes selecting a staged production from ABSTRAK's archive, rehearsing and

re-recording the play with a focus on vocal performance, adding sound effects and transitions to enhance immersion and finally publishing and promoting the episodes on digital platforms. The project is a further collaboration between performers, directors, and audio editors within the club after the stage play has ended.

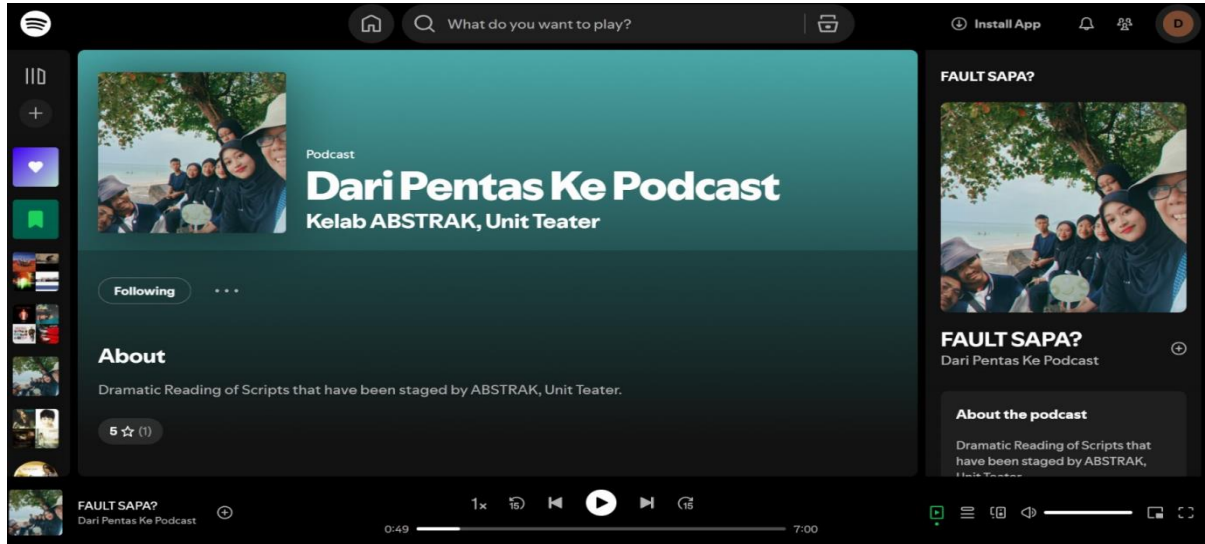


Figure 1: *Dari Pentas Ke Podcast*, a podcast created via Spotify

## NOVELTY

While radio dramas have existed for decades, this project differentiates itself by these three novelties. Firstly, unlike livestreamed theatre or recorded stage videos, *Dari Pentas ke Podcast* reinvents theatre as a sound-first experience. Its novelty lies in taking traditionally visual content and converting it to a purely auditory form removing barriers for the visually impaired or geographically distant. Also, those who may have missed the real-time stage performance can access the audio tracks later.

The second novelty is that audio plays are lightweight and portable. Only minimal resources are needed, making it cost-effective for student theatre groups like Kelab ABSTRAK. The selected music streaming service, Spotify, allows users to get instant access to an unprecedented amount of audio of any type. The podcasts are distributed on popular streaming platforms, enabling easy access for listeners which brings us to the final novelty of the product which is the commercial potential.

There is definitely a commercial potential for Kelab ABSTRAK's podcast *Dari Kertas Ke Pentas* once it becomes well known to the global literary community. This can be done through advertising, sponsorships and paid subscriptions. Also those who care for the arts may want to donate money to the club to see it flourish in the long run by becoming patrons of the club.

## CONCLUSION

Kelab ABSTRAK's *Dari Pentas ke Podcast* highlights how audio drama can serve as an effective, accessible, and a valuable form of theatre. *Dari Pentas ke Podcast* is not just a preservation project for Kelab ABSTRAK but also an expansion of what theatre can be more. By embracing podcasting as a medium, Kelab ABSTRAK has created a bridge between stage performance and digital storytelling. This innovation not only sustains

Kelab ABSTRAK's artistic legacy but also provides a meaningful training ground for students while reaching audiences far beyond the theatre walls of UiTM Kuala Pilah.

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