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Soiree of poetry over RTM1

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YOU might have to miss your weekly dose of Hiburan Minggu Ini on TV1 tonight, but in its slot is yet another interesting programme that might tickle your fancy.

In fact, if you're a literary buff, you might be curious enough to not miss the Deklamasi Angkasapuri 2002 held at Auditorium Perdana tonight at 9pm as it offers quite a few sparks and those nice little offerings and special touches.

For instance, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will read his own composition, *Menghadapi Cabaran Menatang Bangsa*, which is the climax of the two-hour show.

The more pop-oriented might want to see how Siti Nurhaliza fares when she sings *Lelaki*, a song specially dedicated to the PM, apart from other interesting presentations.

Deputy Information Minister Datuk Zainuddin Maidin said the event had been specially crafted within the motivational entertainment theme and focussed towards restoration of faith among Malaysians.

"We started the event last year, and I hope it will remain an annual programme in our calendar; it is a good way to induce culture and literature in the people."

Deklamasi Angkasapuri 2002 is divided into four segments. The first covers the love theme, featuring performances by, among others, Zubir Ali who is expected to sing his classic *Penantian* from his former group *Harmonis* 1981 debut album; Syukri Abdullah who is expected to recite Muhammad Hj Salleh's poem *Anum*; as well as students of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak who will stage a tableau based on love poems from classic tales like *Puteri Gunung Ledang*, *Tun Teja*, and *Mahsuri*.

The segment also features young singer Misha who is expected to perform the late Abdul Aziz H.M.'s *Akhir Disember*. Another upcoming literary name, Uthaya Shanker, would be reciting Latiff Mohideen's *Maya*.

Zainuddin said the second segment covered the spiritual and humanity theme, and performers included Zakaria Abdul Manan and Ahmad Ramli.

The third segment, a tribute to National Laureate the late Datuk Usman Awang (better known as *Tongkat Warrant*), will be occupied by his best works, performed by various names including Kelvin Lau, Sabrina Hassan, Ebby Saiful and Shanon Shah.

These performers will either recite Usman's poetry or perform songs and acts from his works including *Gadis Kuburan* and *Kekasih* as well as an excerpt from his famous play, *Uda dan Dara*.

"This is the least we can do for a special person who has contributed much to the development of Malaysian literature. After all, Usman was one of the most influential and respected literary figure in the country," Zainuddin said.

The last segment, that carries the patriotism theme, will see Siti crooning *Lelaki* to Dr Mahathir, while new singer Mohamed Almi Ali (second runner-up of the recent *Bintang RTM* series) singing *Melat Di Tapal Batas*, an Indonesian favourite once recorded by Singaporean singer J. Mizan in the 70s.

The show is also expected to be seamless. Zainuddin said the segment-breakers would not be the ordinary hosting job, but more of a cultural experience including traditional music performances like the *rebab*.

All the performers will be backed by Orkestra RTM, led and conducted by

Jari.

Zainuddin said the event was also expected to be part of RTM's effort to produce more multi-cultural shows which portray a really multi-racial Malaysia. In this case, the list of the performers says it all. "That's our next drive. On that note, you can look forward to more drastic changes in RTM's programme line-up soon," he added.