

FILMS

Ah Boys To Men 4 (2017, PG13)
The Rail Mall's inaugural event – Movie Under The Stars – will feature the Jack Neo movie, Ah Boys To Men 4. Activities start at 5pm with Tikam Tikam, followed by a live band performance (6.30pm) and the outdoor movie screening.
WHERE: Beside The Rail Mall (near Fu Yong Interim Park), 380 Upper Bukit Timah Road **MRT:** Hillview **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 5pm (movie starts at 7.30pm) **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** railmall.com.sg

Shut Up And Play The Piano (2018, NC16)
Chilly Gonzales is a Grammy Award-winning composer, virtuoso pianist and entertainer. This cinematic documentary follows him from his native Canada to late-1990s underground Berlin, and via Paris to the world's great philharmonic halls.
WHERE: GV Paya Lebar, 03-107 SingPost Centre, 10 Eunos Road 8 **MRT:** Paya Lebar **WHEN:** Tue, 9pm **ADMISSION:** Singapore Film Society membership from \$18 a month **TEL:** 9017-0160 **INFO:** E-mail info@singaporefilmsociety.com

Sorry To Bother You (2018, R21)
Black telemarketer Cassius Green (Lakeith Stanfield) discovers a magical key to professional success, which propels him into a macabre universe of "powercalling" that leads to material glory. But the upswing in his career raises serious red flags with his girlfriend Detroit (Tessa Thompson), a performance artist and minimum-wage striver who is secretly part of a Banksy-style activist collective.
WHERE: The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road **MRT:** Nicoll Highway **WHEN:** Dec 14 (8.30pm), Dec 15 (5.30pm), Dec 16 (7.50pm) (Green Room) **ADMISSION:** \$13.50 (standard), \$11.50 (concession) **INFO:** theprojector.sg

Buena Vista Social Club (1999, PG)
Director Wim Wenders' seminal documentary introduces Cuba's Buena Vista Social Club musicians to a wider audience, thanks to guitarist Ry Cooder. The legendary ageing singers and musicians are brought together for a series of recording sessions while reminiscing in decaying Havana bars.
WHERE: The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road **MRT:** Nicoll Highway **WHEN:** Dec 15 (8.30pm), Dec 29 (5pm) (Green Room) **ADMISSION:** \$13.50 (standard), \$11.50 (concession) **INFO:** theprojector.sg

Fanny And Alexander (1982, M18)
The lives of two young children, Fanny and Alexander (Pernilla Allwin and Bertil Guve), are upheaved when their father dies. The sensual opulence of their childhood soon turns into religious austerity when their trusting mother remarries a strict clergyman. In Swedish with English subtitles.
WHERE: The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road **MRT:** Nicoll Highway **WHEN:** Dec 16, 1.30pm (Redrum) **ADMISSION:** \$13.50 (standard), \$11.50 (concession) **INFO:** theprojector.sg

NATURE

Birdwatching 101
Every year, thousands of birds escape the cold north to spend the winter months in the warmer southern parts of the earth. Singapore, especially Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, is a favourite stopover for these birds. Participants will learn how to identify birds and use a pair of binoculars and

a spotting scope to see the details of birds.
WHERE: Wetland Centre, Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, 301 Neo Tiew Crescent **MRT:** Kranji **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 9.30 - 11am **ADMISSION:** Free, register at www.nparks.gov.sg **TEL:** 6794-1401 **INFO:** E-mail nparks_sbwr@nparks.gov.sg

Bukit Timah Nature Reserve Nature Appreciation Walk
By virtue of Singapore's location on the equatorial belt, the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve has one of the richest and most diverse ecological systems.
WHERE: Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, Hindhede Drive (meet at Visitor Centre's Front Courtyard, in front of mapboard) **MRT:** Beauty World **WHEN:** Dec 15, 9.30am **ADMISSION:** Free, register at nparks.gov.sg **INFO:** E-mail lim_siew_hong@nparks.gov.sg

PETS

Happy Pet Christmas Party 2018
Happy Pet is hosting its first Christmas party at Sentosa Cove, where humans and pets can enjoy an afternoon of eating, drinking and merrymaking together. There will be roving carollers, a Christmas gift market, food and drink stalls, games stalls, a dog agility demonstration by Smartdoggy Academy, a Christmas Fashion Show Contest and lots of prizes up for grabs.
WHERE: Sentosa Cove (Green Field) **MRT:** HarbourFront **WHEN:** Tomorrow, noon - 6pm **ADMISSION:** \$3 for people, \$2 for pets **INFO:** petsmagazine.com.sg/xmasparty2018

CONTEST

Gift A Golden Christmas With The Golden Duck
Take part in snack company The Golden Duck's annual contest by writing a heartfelt message to a loved one living overseas at its website. The company will pick the best messages and send up to 100 packages of its signature flavours, Nanyang Chicken's sauces and other local goodies to the overseas addresses of the winners' loved ones.
WHERE: Go to thegoldenduck.typeform.com/to/Calvh **WHEN:** Entries close on Dec 14, 11.59pm (delivery by Dec 31) **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** facebook.com/TGDSG

National Poetry Competition
Singaporeans and PRs can submit unpublished poems based on the theme of Metamorphosis, which is about the power of poetry to transform the everyday, the forgotten, the forsaken, the little and the common into something beautiful. Individual winners can receive up to \$500 cash. The two main categories are Juniors (under 18 years old) and Seniors (18 years old and above). Under a new Super Junior category (10 to 14 years old), winners will receive up to \$200 plus books and other prizes in kind.
WHERE: Submit entries via bit.ly/poetry2019submit **WHEN:** Closing date: Feb 28 **INFO:** poetryfestival.sg/national-poetry-competition

KIDS

Meet The 'Real' Santa Claus
Finnair has flown Father Christmas to Singapore. His tour ends this weekend at the inaugural Nordic-Asia Christmas Festival at Millenia Walk.
WHERE: Millenia Walk, 9 Raffles Boulevard **MRT:** Promenade **WHEN:** Today, 1 - 9pm; tomorrow, 3 - 7pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** E-mail finnair@mangopr.com

FilmPicks

John Lui Film Correspondent recommends

BEAUTIFUL BOY (M18)
120 minutes/★★★★☆

In this adaptation of two memoirs, one by writer David Sheff and the other by his son Nic, Steve Carell plays David, a middle-class man whose son (Timothée Chalamet, both right) is a methamphetamine addict. In a flashback, Nic is shown as a boy who is sensitive, popular and loved by his family. He becomes a teenager who seeks to get high all the time. David's life is marked by a series of emergencies which find Nic either in a hospital or in police custody. In this gorgeously shot, quietly arresting portrait of a relationship that tests the limits of unconditional love – how much should a parent take before he cuts ties and walks away – everything rests on buying the idea that David loves his son and Nic is worthy of that love.
WHERE: The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, Beach Road **ADMISSION:** \$13.50 **INFO:** Tickets and schedules at theprojector.sg



SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

British film-maker Peter Strickland has emerged as a master of stylised horror. For *In Fabric* (R21, starring Marianne Jean-Baptiste, left), he mixes the comic with the macabre and critics have called attention to his ability to maintain control of material that might otherwise have become too cartoon-like. A cursed dress brings misfortune to whoever wears it and, in a series of incidents, its various owners come to grief. Variety magazine calls it "a bespoke homage to ultra-stylised Italian thrillers, with a wickedly arch sense of humour all its own".
WHERE: Filmgarde Bugis+, Level 5 Bugis+, 201 Victoria Street **MRT:** Bugis **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 11.55pm **ADMISSION:** \$12 from Sistic (call 6348-5555 or go to www.sistic.com.sg)

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF AMAZON STUDIOS, SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

WIDOWS (M18)
131 minutes/★★★★☆

The thrilling, emotional *Widows* is so satisfying because it not only does not skimp on the stuff that makes heist movies tick, but it also ups the ante. The crooks are women underdogs for whom the score is not so much about the money as it is an act of self-affirmation. And the film shows all that without overtly making it an ode to "sisters doing it for themselves".

In this crime thriller helmed by arthouse favourite Steve McQueen (*12 Years A Slave*, 2013), a criminal gang is wiped out during a botched robbery, leaving their female partners to pick up the pieces. Despite how *Veronica* (Viola Davis), Linda (Michelle Rodriguez, right) and Alice (Elizabeth Debicki) are strangers, they are bonded by financial debt and grief. There is a way to fix their money problems, but they will have to crack a safe to get it.



Terrific Tales: Christmas Stories

Find out how Rudolph the reindeer became the leader of Santa's sleigh, listen to *The Night Before Christmas* and sing along with Frosty the Snowman. There will also be a simple craft activity where participants can take home their own Christmas Stories memento. Suitable for kids aged three to seven.
WHERE: The Artground at Goodman Arts Centre, 90 Goodman Road **MRT:** Mountbatten **WHEN:** Sun, 11.30am; Dec 16, 2.30pm; Dec 23, 2.30pm; Dec 30, 11.30am **ADMISSION:** \$10 for a parent-child pair **INFO:** storytellingcentre.limited.com

The Secret World Of Pollinators

During this tour, discover how plants develop from flower to fruit and learn more about the role that pollinators – bees, birds and butterflies – play in

this process. Spot nectar-producing plants and find out why pollinators are attracted to them.
WHERE: Jacob Ballas Children's Garden, Singapore Botanic Gardens (meet at Visitor Services Desk), 1 Cluny Road **MRT:** Botanic Gardens **WHEN:** Dec 20, 10 - 11am **ADMISSION:** \$6 child (\$6 for accompanying adult) **INFO:** E-mail nparks_sbg_edu@nparks.gov.sg

OTHERS

Lifelong Learning Skills Bazaar
Buy gifts from independent creative retailers and enjoy a festive spread of food. Sign up for workshops – Glitter Slime Making (2 - 2.30pm, \$16), Colourful Christmas Ornaments (3 - 4pm, \$21) or Christmas Bauble (3 - 4pm, \$30) – to pick up new skills and make personalised gifts that

you can give to your loved ones or donate to the institute's adopted charities AWWA and Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore.
WHERE: 11 Eunos Road 8 **MRT:** Paya Lebar **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 1 - 7pm **ADMISSION:** Free (bazaar); workshops \$16 - \$30 a person **INFO:** goo.gl/36zSG3

LAST CALL

Silkscreen Christmas Gift Making Party
Edible Garden City and With Autumn are conducting a silkscreen-printing session, where you will learn the basic techniques, including how to mix colours and properly transfer ink to canvas. You will get to print a large canvas tote bag, a cotton zipper purse and Christmas cards. You

can also buy more blank materials on-site.
WHERE: Citizen Farm, 60 Jalan Penjara **MRT:** Queenstown **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 11am - 1pm **ADMISSION:** \$74.90 a person (includes all materials, light bites and farm-brewed tea) **INFO:** E-mail events@ediblegardencity.com or go to citizenfarm.com.sg/shop

• The listings on these Happenings pages are free. Write to Life Happenings, Life, The Straits Times, 1000 Toa Payoh North, Singapore 318994 or e-mail stlife@sph.com.sg at least two weeks ahead. Include the name of the event, organiser, venue, date and time, ticket prices and nearest MRT station, as well as your name, address and contact number. We reserve the right to edit or reject items. Go to www.straitstimes.com (click on Lifestyle) for more listings.



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Birthday Set Menu

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- Barbequed Whole Suckling Pig
- Braised Baby Abalone with Seasonal Green
- Longevity Noodles
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