

Arts Picks

Olivia Ho recommends

A \$INGAPORE CAROL

This is the last weekend of Wild Rice's Christmas pantomime, which puts a crazy rich Asian spin on Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol.

Selfish smart-tech multimillionaire S.K. Loo (Sebastian Tan) is confronted by three Christmas ghosts, past, present and yet-to-be – the hantu of a banana tree (Siti Khalijah Zainal); a virtual-reality composite of the model he uses to sell his apps (Audrey Luo); and the bodiless voices of artificial intelligence assistants Alexa, Siri and others yet to come (Candice de Rozario).

Find out whether the true meaning of Christmas can thaw his frozen heart.

WHERE: Victoria Theatre, 9 Empress Place **MRT:** City Hall, Raffles Place

WHEN: Today, 7.30pm; tomorrow, 2.30 and 7.30pm

ADMISSION: \$55 to \$80 from Sistic

(call 6348-5555 or go to www.sistic.com.sg)

INFO: www.wildrice.com.sg



Starring in A \$ingapore Carol are (from right) Candice de Rozario, Audrey Luo, Siti Khalijah Zainal and Sebastian Tan. PHOTO: WILD RICE

GLOBAL MIGRANT FESTIVAL

This new festival aims to draw links between migration, labour and art around the world. It brings together foreign workers who are also writers and artists, as well as experts and migrant rights advocates for readings, panel discussions, film screenings and the annual Migrant Worker Poetry Competition, now in its fifth edition.

WHERE: Various locations, including National Gallery Singapore, 1 St Andrew's Road; The Arts House, 1 Old Parliament Lane; and Singapore Book Council, 03-32, Block E, Goodman Arts Centre, 90 Goodman Road

MRT: City Hall, Raffles Place (National Gallery and Arts House); Mountbatten (Goodman)

WHEN: Tomorrow and Sunday, various timings

ADMISSION: Free

INFO: Go to www.globalmigrantfestival.com

LALLA ESSAYDI: TRUTH AND BEAUTY

Morocco-born artist Lalla Essaydi's exhibition recasts the exoticised Arab women of Orientalist paintings and returns the female subjects their agency.

The 20 or so large-scale images each took up to a year for Essaydi to stage. In them, the women are sometimes clothed in fabrics that allow them to blend into the background (right), or have meaningless text inscribed in henna on their bodies to highlight how women's voices are often overwritten in discourse.

WHERE: Sundaram Tagore Gallery

Singapore, 01-05 5 Lock Road, Gillman Barracks

MRT: Labrador Park

WHEN: Until Jan 12, Tuesdays to Saturdays, 11am to 7pm. Closed from Dec 23 to Jan 2

ADMISSION: Free

INFO: www.sundaramtagore.com or call 6694-3378



PHOTO: LALLA ESSAYDI

TOGETHER

The Singapore National Youth Chinese Orchestra and Hong Kong Youth Chinese Orchestra take the stage together for the first time in this one-night-only concert, in which soloists from each orchestra will perform with the partnering orchestra.

On the programme are pieces such as the Central Philharmonic Orchestra's Heroine Mu Gui Ying; Li Bo Chan's Ode To King Of Western Chu, which is based on the classic Chinese opera Farewell My Concubine; and Cultural Medallion recipient Law Wai Lun's symphonic epic Admiral Of The Seven Seas – The Vow.

WHERE: Singapore Chinese Orchestra Concert Hall, 7 Shenton Way

MRT: Tanjong Pagar

WHEN: Tomorrow, 8pm

ADMISSION: \$15 from Sistic

INFO: www.sco.com.sg

ARTS

CONCERTS

A Night With The Dynamic Duo

Award-winning dynamic duo Kion Chew, 10, and Ryan Phuan, 11, will entertain with Bach's complete 2-part Inventions and Tchaikovsky's complete The Seasons. They will also perform the works of Haydn, Mozart, Kabalevsky and Chopin as well as four-hands piano duet pieces from Mozart's Papageno from The Magic Flute, and Faure's Dolly Suite.

WHERE: Esplanade Recital Studio, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/ City Hall **WHEN:** Dec 23, 7.30pm

ADMISSION: \$20 **TEL:** 6348-5555

INFO: sistic.com.sg



Rhapsodies Of Spring

The Singapore Chinese Orchestra's (SCO) spring festive concert will showcase myriad classic pieces. Renowned vocalist Fang Qiong (above), professor of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, will sing classic Shanghai songs in Symphonic Suite: Song Bird, written and arranged by Law Wai Lun. SCO soloists will perform various classic Chinese music hits with a pop twist, including Flight Of Bossa Nova, Erquan In Swing, Interstellar Ambush and Hard Rock Fight.

WHERE: SCO Concert Hall, Singapore Conference Hall, 7 Shenton Way

MRT: Tanjong Pagar **WHEN:** Jan 18 - 19, 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$48 - \$108; concession \$25 - \$30 **INFO:** sco.com.sg

DANCE

Guo Nian The Nutcracker

The National Ballet of China will be celebrating its 60th anniversary with this production in Singapore featuring its 65 professional ballet performers. Giving the Tchaikovsky classic an Oriental twist, lead character Yuan Yuan travels to magical adventurous lands in her dreams after receiving the nutcracker from a foreign friend during Chinese New Year. The nutcracker then comes alive and the dancers prance through scenes such as the Kingdom of the Crane and Porcelain Kingdom.

WHERE: Esplanade Theatre, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/ City Hall **WHEN:** Jan 18 - 20, 8pm

ADMISSION: \$58 - \$198

TEL: 6348-5555 **INFO:** sistic.com.sg

EXHIBITIONS (MUSEUM)

Beautiful Science And Italy: The Beauty Of Knowledge

Italy: The Beauty Of Knowledge is an exhibition promoted and financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and carried out by the Italian National Research Council with the contribution of the four main Italian science museums. Concurrently, A*Star is presenting its Beautiful Science Exhibition.

WHERE: Exhibition Gallery 1, Basement, National Museum of Singapore, 93 Stamford Road

MRT: Bras Basah/Dhoby Ghaut

WHEN: Till Dec 23, 10am - 7pm daily

ADMISSION: Free

INFO: nationalmuseum.sg

South-east Asia In The World: New Permanent Galleries At Asian Civilisations Museum

The Asian Civilisations Museum World has opened three new permanent galleries – Ancestors & Rituals, Christian Art and Islamic Art – along with new objects in the museum's Trade galleries. The new pieces and collections on display explore artistic exchanges within Asia and with the

rest of the world.

WHERE: 1 Empress Place **MRT:** Raffles Place **WHEN:** 10am - 7pm daily (Fridays till 9pm) **ADMISSION:** Free for Singaporeans, permanent residents

TEL: 6332-7798 **INFO:** acm.org.sg

EXHIBITIONS (GALLERIES)

Iconic Landmarks Of The World

Artcommune's and AC43 gallery's final exhibition of the year features more than 20 landscape paintings by various Singapore artists known for their portrayals of iconic global landmarks. Exhibits include Lim Tze Peng's 1980s-1990s ink paintings of early Singapore and Balinese landscapes; Ong Kim Seng's watercolours of Tibet and Nepal; and Tong Chin Sye's reflections of India's Taj Mahal and Rajasthan temples.

WHERE: Artcommune Gallery, 03-39 Bras Basah Complex, 231 Bain Street

MRT: City Hall **WHEN:** Tomorrow - Dec 31, noon - 7pm **ADMISSION:** Free

TEL: 6336-4240

INFO: artcommune.com.sg

Disparate Bodies: By Asean Artists

Presented by Yavuz Gallery, this group exhibition features internationally acclaimed Asean artists Agus Suwage, Mella Jaarsma, and J. Ariadhitya Pramuhendra from Indonesia; BenCab and Isabel and Alfredo Aquiluzan from the Philippines; and Pinaree Sanpitak from Thailand. The works are in a variety of media and revolve around explorations and conceptions of the body.

WHERE: 02-23 Gillman Barracks, 9 Lock Road **MRT:** Labrador Park

WHEN: Till Jan 6: Tue - Sat (11am - 7pm), Sun (1 - 5pm) **ADMISSION:** Free

INFO: yavuzgallery.com

The Poetic World Of Christian Pendelo

Hosted by Ode to Art, the exhibition features 28 new paintings by French artist Christian Pendelo, known for his whimsical style and for turning his canvases into a magical world of fairy tales. The self-taught artist began his

career in comic strips and watercolours.

WHERE: Level 4 Atrium, Raffles City Shopping Centre, 252 North Bridge Road **MRT:** City Hall **WHEN:** Till Dec 31, 11am - 9pm daily **ADMISSION:** Free

TEL: 6250-1901 **INFO:** E-mail info@odetoart.com or go to odetoart.com

Art In Miniature: Solo Exhibition By Lim Gek Kheng

Singaporean artist Lim Gek Kheng, who lives in Wales, is holding her maiden solo exhibition – 100 miniature paintings are on show. They include her paintings of old and modern Singapore, reproductions of old masters' artworks as well as her own original works of landscapes of the three other places she has lived in – Mongolia, Malaysia and Wales.

WHERE: 01-02 Dhoby Ghaut Green, 10 Penang Road **MRT:** Dhoby Ghaut

WHEN: Dec 14 - 18, 11am - 7pm

ADMISSION: Free **TEL:** 9781-7590

INFO: www.artstou.com

Yanyun Chen's Flower Flights

Yanyun Chen's solo exhibition is a development of the flower series, Chasing Flowers, first exhibited in 2016, and includes 12 new charcoal works. The floral motifs remain, but surfaces and mediums vary.

WHERE: Art Porters Gallery, 64 Spottiswoode Park Road **MRT:** Outram Park

WHEN: Till Jan 4 (Tue - Sun), 10.30am - 7pm **ADMISSION:** Free

TEL: 6909-0468 **INFO:** E-mail happiness@artporters.com

THEATRE

The Elves And The Shoemaker

An old shoemaker works hard to earn a living. He used to be able to cut perfect leather shapes and sew the tiniest stitches. But now his eyes are weak and his hands tremble, and nobody goes to his shop anymore. One night, something magical happens in the old shophouse.

WHERE: Gateway Theatre, 3615 Jalan Bukit Merah **MRT:** Redhill

WHEN: Dec 29, 11am **ADMISSION:** Free

TEL: 9060-6170 **INFO:** E-mail admin@storytellingcentrelimited.com

Jogging: Theatre In Progress

Hanane, a Lebanese actress and citizen in her 50s, exercises daily to avoid osteoporosis, obesity and depression. As she takes walks through both secluded and open spaces in Beirut, she revisits dreams, desires, hopes, disillusionments, characters and roles – most of which reveal themselves to be contemporary Medeas with whom she shares some commonalities.

WHERE: Esplanade Theatre Studio, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/ City Hall **WHEN:** Jan 16 &

17, 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$27, tickets and info at esplanade.com

A Fortunate Man

This is a powerful and poignant interrogation about the passions and pressures of being a doctor in the modern world and what that says about the future health of our society. By New Perspectives theatre company from Britain.

WHERE: Esplanade Theatre Studio, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/ City Hall **WHEN:** Jan 18 & 19, 8pm

ADMISSION: \$27 (\$19 concession for students, NSFs and seniors)

INFO: www.esplanade.com

THE STRAITS TIMES

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