

Film Picks

Yip Wai Yee Entertainment Correspondent and John Lui Film Correspondent recommend

**ROMA (PG13)**135 minutes/Netflix
★★★★★

In this semi-autobiographical film (right), taking place over 1970 and 1971, writer-director Alfonso Cuarón portrays the ups and downs of a middle-class family in the Colonia Roma neighbourhood in Mexico City, which gives the film its name.

Small in scale, but enormous in its emotional impact, this drama is a masterclass in how everyday events, shot in a natural, unforced way, can make for gripping cinema.

In his last feature, Cuarón handled the planet-sized science-fiction hit Gravity (2014), but here he shrinks the aperture to cover one nondescript city home, the place he knew as a boy.

Funny, tender and heartbreaking, Cuarón's portrait of his childhood is a powerfully affecting memoir of a childhood idyll just before it shatters.

John Lui

**SHOPLIFTERS (M18)**

If you missed Hirokazu Kore-eda's critically acclaimed drama Shoplifters (left) in cinemas earlier this year, you can catch it at The Projector tomorrow.

The film, which has made the Oscars' shortlist for Best Foreign Language Film, is about an impoverished family who shoplift, run petty scams and cheat bureaucrats to get by. Their lives are changed when they take in an abused child.

The film won the Palme d'Or at Cannes Film Festival.

It is also one of the last films to feature veteran Japanese actress Kirin Kiki before she died of cancer in September.

WHERE: The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road **MRT:** Nicoll Highway **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 2.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$13.50 from theprojector.sg

Yip Wai Yee

**CAROL (R21)**

Here is a less obvious holiday movie option to catch on Christmas Day – Carol (2015), starring Cate Blanchett (above right) and Rooney Mara (left). It is the love story between a younger salesgirl and an older and richer housewife in 1950s New York.

The film, which was aggregator Rotten Tomatoes' best-reviewed romance film of 2015, was nominated for six Oscars, including for Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress for the two leads.

WHERE: The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road

MRT: Nicoll Highway

WHEN: Tuesday, 4.50pm

ADMISSION: \$13.50 from theprojector.sg

Yip Wai Yee

PHOTOS: GOLDEN VILLAGE, NETFLIX, SHAW ORGANISATION

FILMS

Some Like It Veiled (NC16)

In this funny, politically incorrect anarcho-comedy, Armand and Leila are lovers who plan to go to New York together to intern at the United Nations. The plan is put on hold when her brother Mahmoud comes back from Yemen, condemns her Western lifestyle and forbids her to have contact with her boyfriend. Armand gets hold of a niqab and pretends to be Leila's female Islam tutor. The trick works, but then Mahmoud falls for the "Muslim tutor". In French with English subtitles.

WHERE: The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road **MRT:** Nicoll Highway **WHEN:** Today, 9pm; Tue, 7.50pm **ADMISSION:** \$13.50 (standard), \$11.50 (concession) **INFO:** theprojector.sg

The Favourite (2016, R21)

In early 18th-century Europe, England is at war with the French.

Nevertheless, duck racing and pineapple eating are trending. A frail Queen Anne (Olivia Colman) occupies the throne and her close friend Lady Sarah (Rachel Weisz) governs the country in her stead while tending to Anne's ill health and mercurial temper. Sarah's impoverished cousin Abigail (Emma Stone) arrives at the court as a servant. The charming but ambitious woman sees an opportunity for her to return to her aristocratic roots. The unsuspecting Sarah is taken in and takes Abigail under her wing.

WHERE: The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road **MRT:** Nicoll Highway **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 8pm (Green Room) **ADMISSION:** \$13.50 (standard), \$11.50 (concession) **INFO:** theprojector.sg

Frozen (2013, G): Free Outdoor Screening At Downtown East

Downtown East's next outdoor movie screening, held every last Saturday of the month, will feature the wildly popular Disney animated film Frozen. The newly crowned Queen Elsa accidentally uses her power to turn things into ice to curse her home in infinite winter. Her sister Anna teams up with a mountain man, his playful reindeer and a snowman to change the weather.

WHERE: Open Plaza 2 (outside D'Marquee), Downtown East, 1 Pasir

Ris Close **MRT:** Pasir Ris **TEL:** 6741-2036 **INFO:** E-mail hscrr.nss@gmail.com

Suspiria Double Bill (1977, M18; 2018, TBA)

Organised by the Singapore Film Society, the double bill features the 1977 cult classic (in Italian with English subtitles) and the 2018 Luca Guadagnino remake (in English and German). The story revolves around a young American dancer who goes to Germany to join a prestigious dance company and uncovers its terrifying secret history.

WHERE: GV Paya Lebar, 03-107 SingPost Centre, 10 Eunos Road 8 **MRT:** Paya Lebar **WHEN:** Jan 2, 7 & 8.50pm **ADMISSION:** Singapore Film Society membership from \$18 a month **TEL:** 9017-0160 **INFO:** E-mail info@singaporefilmsociety.com

NATURE

Nature Appreciation Walk At Windsor Nature Park

Ideally situated at the perimeter of the Central Catchment Nature Reserve, the 75ha Windsor Nature Park is the gateway to the rich biodiversity of the largest nature reserve in Singapore. It was developed as a green buffer to help reduce visitorship pressures and man-made disturbances experienced by the nature reserve.

WHERE: Windsor Nature Park, 30 Venus Road (meet at Windsor Nature Park Pavilion) **MRT:** Marymount **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 9.30 - 11am **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** E-mail lim_siew_hong@nparks.gov.sg

Horseshoe Crab Rescue & Research Programme

Horseshoe crabs are in decline globally because of habitat loss, poaching and overfishing. Nature Society (Singapore) aims to continually monitor their local population to ensure that they are around for generations to come. Join this mission to rescue and study the horseshoe crabs at Mandai Mudflats. **WHERE:** Kranji Mudflats (meeting details will be sent to registered participants) **MRT:** Kranji **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 3.30 - 6.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free, with registration at

tinyurl.com/nsshorseshoecrab **TEL:** 6741-2036 **INFO:** E-mail hscrr.nss@gmail.com

Croc Talk: Estuarine Crocodiles

Learn from National Parks Board volunteer Bernard about the estuarine crocodiles that bask in the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve. Participants will discover facts about the reptiles, such as their characteristics and behaviour, and get to observe them.

WHERE: Main Bridge at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, Wetland Centre (Neo Tiew Entrance) **MRT:** Kranji **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 4 - 6pm **ADMISSION:** Free, no registration required **TEL:** 6794-1401 **INFO:** E-mail nparks_sbwr@nparks.gov.sg

TOURS

Healing Garden Tour

Launched in October 2011, the 2.5ha Healing Garden showcases more than 400 varieties of plants that are used for medicinal purposes. It is laid out thematically according to the parts of the body, such as the head, respiratory and reproductive systems.

WHERE: Visitor Services Desk at Nassim Gate, Singapore Botanic Gardens, 1 Cluny Road **MRT:** Botanic Gardens **WHEN:** Jan 5, 9 - 10am **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** E-mail nparks_sbg_visitor_services@nparks.gov.sg

CONTEST

NTU Singapore Global Digital Art Prize

Entries are open for the inaugural NTU Singapore Global Digital Art Prize. This biennial international competition is designed to recognise outstanding creativity in art, design and cultural heritage that makes significant use of digital tools in its creation. Top winners will receive cash prizes of up to \$25,000 and the opportunity to premiere their works at a major symposium on the Fourth Industrial Revolution by the NTU Institute of Science and Technology for Humanity in October next year.

WHEN: Closing date: Feb 15 **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** NTUdigitalartprize.ntu.edu.sg

National Poetry Competition

Singaporeans and permanent residents can submit unpublished poems on the theme of metamorphosis, which is about the power of poetry to transform the everyday, the forgotten, the forsaken, the little, the common into something beautiful. Individual winners can get 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 as well as books and other prizes in kind.

WHERE: To submit entries, go to bit.ly/poetry2019submit

WHEN: Closing date: Feb 28

INFO: poetryfestival.sg/national-poetry-competition

Mickey's Super Celebration: Disney On Ice At United Square

Mickey Mouse is celebrating his 90th birthday at United Square. Engage in fun-filled activities with Mickey and Friends, as well as characters from Finding Dory, Moana, Frozen 2, Toy Story, Inside Out and Fantasia. You can also get up close and personal with Mickey at the meet-and-greet sessions.

WHERE: Atrium, B1 United Square Shopping Mall, 101 Thomson Road **MRT:** Novena **WHEN:** Mon - Dec 30, 11am - 9pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** unitedsquare.com.sg

Terrific Tales: Christmas Stories

Find out how Rudolph 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 so 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, 2.30pm; Dec 30, 11.30am **ADMISSION:** \$10 for parent-child pair **INFO:** storytellingcentrelimited.com

LAST CALL

Light Of Christmas - Christmas Market

The Christmas market, a collaboration between Toa Payoh Methodist

Church and Toa Payoh Central CC, will feature performances, artificial snow, visual art installations, food, games, rides, crafts and retail booths by social enterprises. Bishan-Toa Payoh GRC MP Saktiandi Supaat is guest of honour and cast members of Ah Boys To Men will also be present.

WHERE: Toa Payoh Central Amphitheatre, 181A Lorong 4 Toa Payoh **MRT:** Toa Payoh **WHEN:** Tomorrow & Sun, 5 - 9.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** tpmc.org.sg/loc2018

Pasir Ris Park Mangrove Clean-Up

During high tide, man-made waste such as plastics and foam pieces get stuck in Singapore's mangrove forests. You can help to clean up the mangrove bed and prevent such inedible materials from being ingested by mangrove animals.

WHERE: Pasir Ris Park, Mangrove Swamp (outreach venue) **MRT:** Pasir Ris **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 9 - 11am **ADMISSION:** Free, register at nparks.gov.sg **INFO:** E-mail jeanice_aw@nparks.gov.sg

Mitra 2K 18 - A Tri-Nation Music Festival

The inaugural edition of this festival features musicians from Singapore, Malaysia and India. The line-up includes Benny Dayal and the Funktuation band. The Hornflakes from India will showcase their signature groove-heavy tunes, warped effects, funkadelic guitar licks, raw vocals and clever lyricism.

WHERE: Zepp@BigBox Singapore, 1 Venture Avenue **MRT:** Jurong East **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 5 - 10pm **ADMISSION:** \$50 - \$150 **INFO:** Go to apactix.com for tickets

• 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.