

## Film Picks

## John Lui Film Correspondent recommends



PHOTOS: ANTICIPATE PICTURES, MIDDLE EAST FILM FESTIVAL, WARNER BROS

## MIDDLE EAST FILM FESTIVAL

Presented by the Middle East Institute at the National University of Singapore and supported by the Singapore Film Society (SFS), the festival features seven films from the region.

Highlights include the drama *The Insult* (2017, PG13), Lebanon's nominee for Best Foreign Language Film at the Oscars. In the heat of the moment, harsh words are exchanged between a Lebanese Christian and a Palestinian workman, which sets into motion a series of events that forces

everyone to examine the divisions tearing society apart.

Other films include Turkey's *The Wild Pear Tree* (2018, PG13, above) and Palestine's *Wajib* (2017, NC16).

**WHERE:** GV VivoCity, 02-30 VivoCity, 1 Harbourfront Walk  
**MRT:** HarbourFront **WHEN:** Jan 10 to 16 **ADMISSION:** \$13 (standard), \$10 (concession for students, national servicemen, seniors aged 55 and above and SFS Film Addicts at the box office) **INFO:** Tickets are available at any GV box office or online at [www.gv.com.sg](http://www.gv.com.sg)



## THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD (PG13)

99 minutes

Last year marked the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. Director Peter Jackson and his team took frontline footage of the period and processed it, adding colour and sound and filling in details the film technology of the time could not capture.

The result, given a voiceover by witnesses to the carnage, is the most striking reminder to date of the scale of the conflict, and the lives lost to it.

**WHERE:** The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road **MRT:** Nicoll Highway **WHEN:** Now showing, various times **ADMISSION:** \$13.50 **INFO:** [theprojector.sg](http://theprojector.sg)



## GIRL (R21)

106 minutes/★★★★☆

There has been opposition to this film from the trans community, who say it is a piece of voyeurism that cheapens their experience. That might well be the case, but there is much here that also deepens the understanding of the effort it takes to cross gender boundaries.

Lara (Victor Polster, left) is a 15-year-old Belgian who was born male, but is in the process of transitioning to female. She has begun living as a female in the months before the start of hormone treatments and sex-reassignment surgery. Her family and friends support her choices, but after she transfers to an elite ballet academy, the school's physical and psychological demands begin to take a toll. The film is based on a true story.

**WHERE:** The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road  
**MRT:** Nicoll Highway  
**WHEN:** Now showing, various times  
**ADMISSION:** \$13.50  
**INFO:** [theprojector.sg](http://theprojector.sg)



## SUSPIRIA (R21)

152 minutes/Now showing at GV Paya Lebar/★★★★☆

Director Luca Guadagnino uses every trick known to modern film prosthetics to create a work that offers more than atmospheric chills. Bodies are punished in a manner rarely seen outside of the torture porn genre. Under its arthouse skin, this film has a heart of pure grindhouse.

Susie (Dakota Johnson), a naive American from a religious family, has

come to West Berlin in 1977 to train at an elite modern dance academy and becomes a star pupil under the tutelage of Madame Blanc (Tilda Swinton, above). She is a witness to a few strange events, such as the disappearance of another student, Patricia (Chloe Grace Moretz), but her time is spent making new friends, such as with classmate Sara (Mia Goth).

Loosely based on the classic supernatural horror movie of the same name, directed by Dario Argento and released in 1977.

## FILMS

## Shoplifters (2018, M18)

After one of their shoplifting sessions, Osamu and his son come across a little girl in the freezing cold. At first reluctant to shelter the girl, Osamu's wife agrees to take care of her after learning of her hardships. Although the family is poor, barely making enough money to survive through petty crime, the members seem to live happily together until an unforeseen incident reveals hidden secrets, testing the bonds that unite them.

**WHERE:** The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road  
**MRT:** Nicoll Highway  
**WHEN:** Tomorrow, 5.30pm  
**ADMISSION:** \$13.50 (standard), \$11.50 (concession) **INFO:** [theprojector.sg](http://theprojector.sg)

## Walk With Me (2017, NC16)

This contemplative journey follows in the steps of Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh and is a rare insight into life within a monastic community. The documentary is narrated by British actor Benedict Cumberbatch.

**WHERE:** The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road  
**MRT:** Nicoll Highway  
**WHEN:** Tomorrow & Feb 3, 2.30pm  
**ADMISSION:** \$13.50 (standard), \$11.50 (concession) **INFO:** [theprojector.sg](http://theprojector.sg)

## A Most Violent Year (2014, NC16)

Set during the winter of 1981 – statistically one of the most crime-ridden times in New York City's history – the drama follows the lives of an immigrant and his family as they attempt to capitalise on the American Dream, while the rampant violence,

decay and corruption threaten to destroy all they have built.

**WHERE:** The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road  
**MRT:** Nicoll Highway  
**WHEN:** Tomorrow, 7.40pm  
**ADMISSION:** \$13.50 (standard), \$11.50 (concession) **INFO:** [theprojector.sg](http://theprojector.sg)

## Mirai (2018, PG)

From acclaimed director Mamoru Hosoda (*Summer Wars*, 2009; *Wolf Children*, 2012) and Japan's Studio Chizu comes *Mirai*, a daringly original story of love passed down through generations. When four-year-old Kun meets his new baby sister, his world is turned upside-down. Named *Mirai* (meaning future), the baby quickly wins the hearts of the entire family. As his mother returns to work and his father struggles to run the household, Kun becomes increasingly jealous of baby *Mirai* – until one day he storms off into the garden, where he encounters strange guests from the past and future – including a teenage *Mirai*. Together, Kun and teenage *Mirai* go on a journey through time and space, uncovering their family's incredible story.

**WHERE:** The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road  
**MRT:** Nicoll Highway **WHEN:** Sun, 5.40pm **ADMISSION:** \$13.50 (standard), \$11.50 (concession) **INFO:** [theprojector.sg](http://theprojector.sg)

## Capernaum (2018, R)

After fleeing his negligent and abusive parents, a hardened, streetwise 12-year-old boy sues them to protest about the life they have given him. Directed by Nadine Labaki, the film is in Arabic with English subtitles.

**WHERE:** GV Suntec City, 03-373 Suntec City Mall, 3 Temasek Boulevard **MRT:** Promenade/ Esplanade **WHEN:** Jan 19, 1pm **ADMISSION:** Singapore Film Society membership, from \$18 a month **TEL:** 9017-0160 **INFO:** E-mail [info@singaporefilmsociety.com](mailto:info@singaporefilmsociety.com)

## Yakiniku Dragon (2018, PG)

Yong-Gil Ryukichi runs *Yakiniku Dragon*, a neighbourhood restaurant in the outskirts of Osaka, with his wife Yong-Sun and his three daughters – Shizuka, Rika, Mika and youngest son Tokio. Follow the story of his family as the girls fall in and out of love, argue, drink, sing and bond with the small Korean community in 1970s Japan. Based on director Wishing Chong's successful theatre production, the film (in Japanese with English subtitles) explores the challenges of being *zainichis* – Koreans trying to integrate into Japanese society.

**WHERE:** Shaw Theatres Lido, Level 5/6 Shaw House, 350 Orchard Road  
**MRT:** Orchard **WHEN:** Jan 19, 6.10pm  
**ADMISSION:** Singapore Film Society membership, from \$18 a month **TEL:** 9017-0160 **INFO:** E-mail [info@singaporefilmsociety.com](mailto:info@singaporefilmsociety.com)

## CONTEST

## #OurHawkerCulture Photography Contest

Send in your photographs that represent what makes you proud of Singapore's hawker culture, accompanied by a caption of at least 140 characters via Instagram with the hashtags, #WhatMakesSG and #OurHawkerCulture. Tag and follow @natgeosia and @gov.sg, and make your account public. Prizes

include a trip for two to National Geographic Odyssey in New York City, a DSLR camera worth \$1,500, a Samsung S9+ 128 GB smartphone worth \$1,398 and Food Panda Vouchers between \$300 and \$1,000.

**WHERE:** Online **WHEN:** Entries close on Jan 12, 11.59pm  
**INFO:** [whatmakes.sg/contest](http://whatmakes.sg/contest)

## NTU Singapore Global Digital Art Prize

Entries are open for the inaugural edition of this biennial international competition, which recognises 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.

**WHERE:** Closing date: Feb 15  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**INFO:** [NTUdigitalartprize.ntu.edu.sg](http://NTUdigitalartprize.ntu.edu.sg)

## National Poetry Competition

Singaporeans and permanent residents can submit unpublished poems based on the theme of metamorphosis, which is about the power of poetry to transform the every day, the forgotten, the forsaken, the little and the common into something beautiful. Individual winners can get up to \$500 cash. The two main categories are Juniors (under age 18) and Seniors (age 18 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](http://bit.ly/poetry2019submit)

**WHEN:** Closing date: Feb 28  
**INFO:** [poetryfestival.sg/national-poetry-competition](http://poetryfestival.sg/national-poetry-competition)

## KIDS

## An Afternoon With The Great Singapore Poo Sale

Find out about the new children's book, *The Great Singapore Poo Sale And Other Beasty Business*, with an exciting line-up of activities, including storytelling by author Maureen Yeo, a drawing session, a talk on Singapore's wildlife, an animal-themed sing-along and a quiz with prizes to be won.

**WHERE:** Cannonball Room, Supertree Grove, Gardens by the Bay, 18 Marina Gardens Drive **MRT:** Bayfront  
**WHEN:** Tomorrow, 4 - 5pm  
**ADMISSION:** Free, registration on first-come, first-served basis  
**INFO:** [gardensbythebay.com.sg](http://gardensbythebay.com.sg)

## OTHERS

## Dahlia Dreams At Gardens By The Bay

The popular Dahlia Dreams floral display at Gardens by the Bay is returning. Amid a scenic landscape dotted with elegant pavilions, rotating water wheels, and a majestic 40m-long archway of red lanterns, there will be spectacular dahlias – some with blooms as large as one's face – along with other festive and auspicious plants like narcissus, cymbidium and chrysanthemum. Keep your eyes peeled for the exquisite *Senrinzaki* or Thousand Blooms chrysanthemum arrangements, which have been painstakingly cultivated over at least

one year to result in the magnificent display of 500 to 1,500 flowers blooming from a single plant.

**WHERE:** Flower Dome, Gardens by the Bay, 18 Marina Gardens Drive  
**MRT:** Bayfront **WHEN:** Jan 18 - Feb 24, 9am - 9pm **ADMISSION:** Charges to the conservatories apply  
**INFO:** [gardensbythebay.com.sg](http://gardensbythebay.com.sg)

## LAST CALL

## Tine Thing Helseth – Arutiunian Trumpet Concerto

Acclaimed Norwegian trumpeter Tine Thing Helseth makes her Singapore debut with one of the best-loved 20th-century trumpet showpieces, Arutiunian's Trumpet Concerto. Performing with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, the concert, conducted by Jun Markl, will also feature Saint-Saens' impressions of Algeria, De Falla's Three-Cornered of Algeria, Ravel's *Alborada and Bolero*. **WHERE:** Esplanade Concert Hall, 1 Esplanade Drive  
**MRT:** Esplanade/City Hall  
**WHEN:** Tomorrow, 7.30pm  
**ADMISSION:** \$15 - \$88, tickets at [sistic.com.sg](http://sistic.com.sg) **TEL:** 6348-5555  
**INFO:** [sso.org.sg/whats-on](http://sso.org.sg/whats-on)

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