

ARTS

BOOKS

Singapore Literature Book Club: 1819 By Isa Kamari

Join Isa Kamari, writer and Cultural Medallion recipient, for a discussion of his novel 1819 – the year in which both Stamford Raffles and Muslim saint Habib Noh arrived in Singapore. This story looks at the tense and colourful relationship between the two historical figures.

WHERE: Multi-Purpose Room, Central Public Library, Basement 1 National Library Building, 100 Victoria Street **MRT:** City Hall/Bugis **WHEN:** Feb 21, 7 - 8.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** E-mail enquiry@nlb.gov.sg

The Garden Party By Katherine Mansfield

Katherine Mansfield's *The Garden Party* is an intriguing story that first appeared in 1922. Young Laura Sheridan enjoys her wealthy family's garden party before she visits her working-class neighbours and learns about death. Dr Gwee Li Sui's lecture will discuss many of these themes in relation to Mansfield's distinct style of storytelling. The lecture is part of the *How To Fall In Love With Classics* series.

WHERE: Programme Zone, Central Public Library, Basement 1 National Library Building, 100 Victoria Street **MRT:** City Hall/Bugis **WHEN:** Feb 28, 7 - 8.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** E-mail enquiry@nlb.gov.sg

CONCERTS

Painted Skin – An Opera In Concert

An exciting fusion of Western operatic style and Peking opera elements, *Painted Skin – An Opera In Concert* is an ambitious adaptation of the classic Chinese short story from *Strange Tales From A Chinese Studio* by Pu Songling. Presented as an opera in concert, a dramatic narrative unfolds, revealing an inner world of greed, lust and hypocrisy concealed under the glamorous veneers humans wear.

WHERE: Esplanade Concert Hall, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/City Hall **WHEN:** Feb 23, 7.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$20 - \$38 **INFO:** www.esplanade.com

NUS Guitar Ensemble's Kaleidoscope

Kaleidoscope is a celebration of the vibrancy of NUS Guitar Ensemble's musical culture and the colourful repertoire it has performed since its inception. This year's line-up draws from Japanese, Spanish and Western classical music genres and will introduce the audience to the roots of the ensemble's musical identity.

WHERE: NUS University Cultural Centre **MRT:** Kent Ridge **WHEN:** March 2, 7.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$25 (\$15 for students), tickets from apactix.com

Being: Glad That I Live

Presented by Singapore Chinese Girls' School, *Being: Glad That I Live* is the opening concert of the school's 120th anniversary held in conjunction with the Singapore Bicentennial. It explores what the world would look like if it was governed by a universal operating system that controlled everything people did.

WHERE: MES Theatre, 1 Stars Avenue **MRT:** one-north **WHEN:** Feb 23, 2.30 & 7.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$45 - \$100 (2.30pm show: \$30 - \$60) **INFO:** www.esplanade.com

DANCE

Don Quixote By Singapore Dance Theatre

This dazzling, humorous and virtuosic work sets out on a series of chivalrous acts, whimsical twists and comically feigned suicide.

WHERE: Esplanade Theatre, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/City Hall **WHEN:** March 7 & 8, 8pm; March 9, 1 & 8pm; March 10, 1 & 7pm **ADMISSION:** \$40 - \$80 **TEL:** 6348-5555 **INFO:** www.sistic.com.sg

EXHIBITIONS (GALLERIES)

Of Dreams And Contemplation: From Richard Koh's Collection

Gallerist Richard Koh's personal collection will be shown for the first time. Presented by The Private Museum in conjunction with Singapore Art Week, *Of Dreams And Contemplation* is the inaugural showcase of Koh's collection spanning more than two decades and reflects his ruminations, personalities and interests through the works of 30 artists.

WHERE: The Private Museum, 02-06, 51 Waterloo Street **MRT:** Bras Basah **WHEN:** Till March 3: 10am - 7pm (Mon - Fri), 11am - 5pm (Sat & Sun) **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** E-mail clara@thepriatemuseum.org

Journeys & Discoveries: Ho Sou Ping's Solo Exhibition

This fourth solo exhibition of Artcommune Gallery's founder,

ArtsPicks

Akshita Nanda Arts Correspondent recommends

HUAYI – CHINESE FESTIVAL OF ARTS



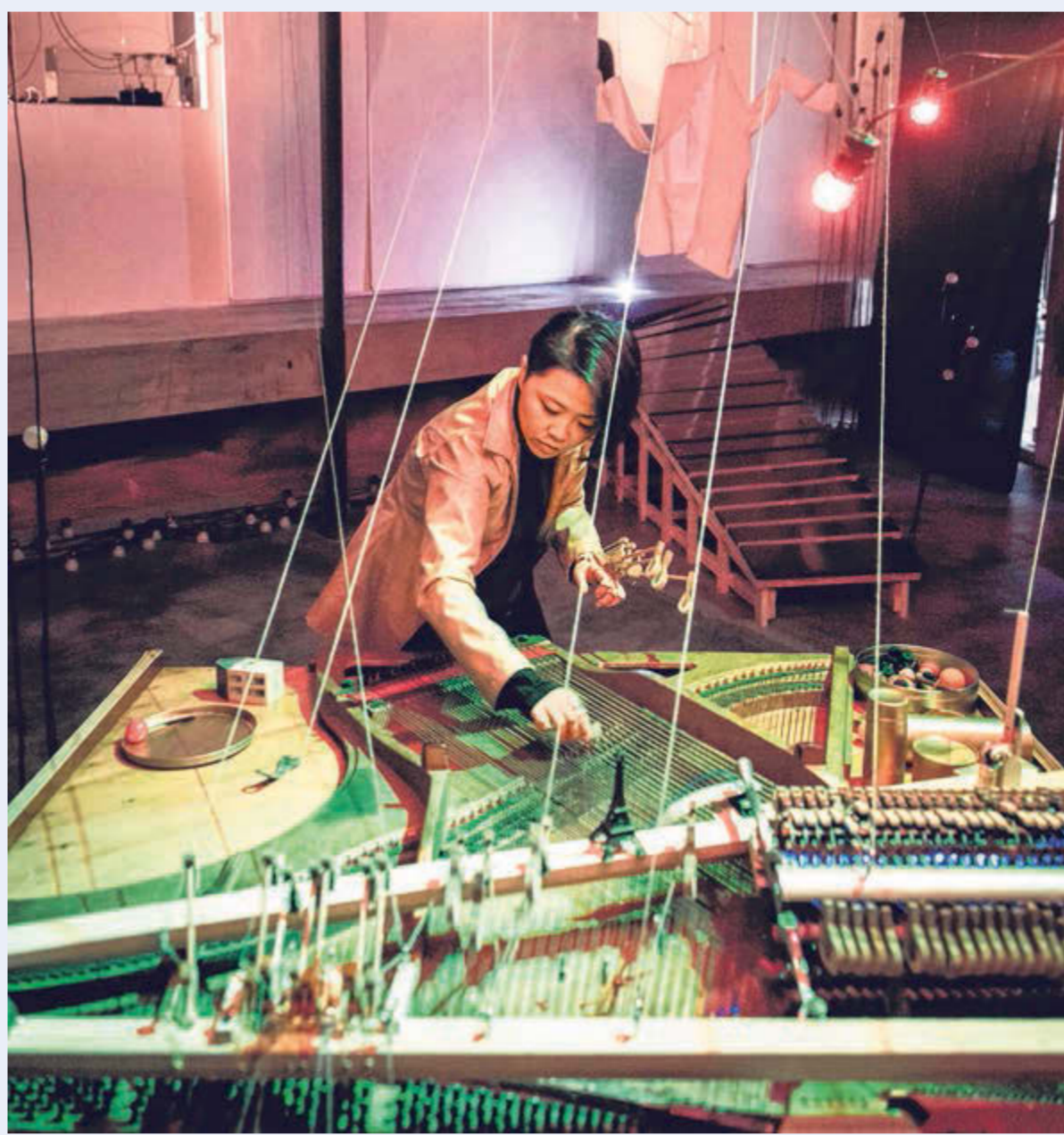
THE TRAGEDY OF HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK

The annual Huayì – Chinese Festival of Arts presented by the Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay opens this weekend.

A top draw is *The Tragedy Of Hamlet, Prince Of Denmark*, co-commissioned by the Esplanade and Hong Kong Arts Festival. Directed by acclaimed Beijing theatre director Li Liuyi, the play is based on a new Chinese translation from the Shakespeare Folio Translation Project.

It stars Chinese film star Hu Jun (above left) as Hamlet, with stage veterans Pu Cunxin and Lu Fang (above right) playing double roles. Pu is Hamlet's father and uncle; and Lu, Hamlet's mother and lover Ophelia.

WHERE: Esplanade Theatre, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** City Hall/Esplanade **WHEN:** Today and tomorrow, 8pm; Sunday, 2.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$38 to \$128 from www.esplanade.com or from Sistic (call 6348-5555 or go to www.sistic.com.sg) **INFO:** www.esplanade.com



DEAR JOHN

In this intriguing experimental production (above) by Taiwanese group M.O.V.E. Theatre, a dancer is connected to the inner workings of the piano, creating sounds as she moves.

Dance, music and kinetic art installation are used to

investigate the process of making sound, in a work that pays homage to the artistic process of the late American composer John Cage.

WHERE: Esplanade Theatre Studio, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** City Hall/ Esplanade **WHEN:** Today, 8pm; and tomorrow, 3 and 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$38 from Sistic



ONCE UPON A TIME 2019

The Teng Ensemble (above) performs popular and festive melodies for Chinese New Year at this concert presented by Mapletree Investments. The ensemble is rooted both in Chinese instrumental tradition and contemporary music. This performance also features young musicians from the Guzheng

Association (Singapore) and singer-songwriter Ling Kai. **WHERE:** Level 3 SkyPark Amphitheatre, VivoCity, 1 Harbourfront Walk **MRT:** HarbourFront **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 7.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$4; \$3 for children below age 14, from mapletree16feb.peatix.com

SCO COMMUNITY CONCERT: SPRING ABUNDANCE AT FAR EAST PLAZA

Led by resident conductor Quek Ling Kiong (right), the Singapore Chinese Orchestra will perform a festive repertoire including resident music arranger Sim Boon Yew's Spring Festival Medley and Beijing-born composer Kwan Nai-Chung's New Year's Eve, based on his childhood memories of celebrating the arrival of spring.

Also, keep an ear out for a medley of theme songs from popular anime feature films produced by Studio Ghibli.

WHERE: Driveway of Far East Plaza, 14 Scotts Road **MRT:** Orchard **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 6pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** www.sco.com.sg



PHOTOS: EJUN LOW, ESPLANADE – THEATRES ON THE BAY, ETANG CHEN, SINGAPORE CHINESE ORCHESTRA

Ho Sou Ping, features about 20 oil, watercolour and ink works created from 2012 to last year. **WHERE:** Merlin Gallery, 01-11 Waterloo Centre, 261 Waterloo Street **MRT:** Bencoolen **WHEN:** Feb 22 - March 10, noon - 7pm (till 5pm on Sun) **ADMISSION:** Free **TEL:** 9747-9046 **INFO:** E-mail hosouping@gmail.com

Back To The Future: Exhibition By Wunna Aung & Thu Myat

Wunna Aung is passionate about the historical past of his country. Thu Myat is a science-fiction enthusiast. *Back To The Future* operates like a time-travel machine, inviting viewers to discover the last dynasty of Burma in brilliant colours as well as modern interpretations of traditional guardians. **WHERE:** Lobby, Royal Plaza on Scotts, 25 Scotts Road **MRT:** Orchard **WHEN:** Till March 17 **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** intersections.com.sg

Planes & Envelopes: An Exhibition By Hazel Lim & Ginette Chittick

Pared-down materials such as kapok yarn and semi-transparent paper are fashioned through intricate patterning to create large-scale objects that celebrate the versatility of the materials and highlight their intrinsic forms, colours and materiality.

WHERE: UltraSuperNew Gallery, 107 Rowell Road **MRT:** Jalan Besar

WHEN: March 20, 7 - 11pm; March 21 - April 14, 11am - 7pm (Tue - Sat), 11am - 3pm (Sun) **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** tinyurl.com/limchittick

THEATRE

Four Four Eight

Inspired by British playwright Sarah Kane's last work, *4.48 Psychosis*, Young Artist Award recipient Liu Xiaoyi presents a new work that leads audiences into a social construct where every member becomes a participant in a space of gathering and camaraderie and also urban loneliness – the bar.

WHERE: The ExciseMan Whisky Bar, 02-27 Esplanade Mall **MRT:** Esplanade/City Hall **WHEN:** Tue - Feb 23, 6 - 11.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$58 **INFO:** www.esplanade.com

Cash On Delivery

The Stage Club kicks off its 2019 season with a production of Michael Cooney's comedy *Cash On Delivery*. Directed by Nick Perry, the story revolves around a young married man who cheats the welfare system by claiming every kind of benefit for numerous people he pretends are staying at his address, and the ensuing farce when he is forced to prove that his 'lodgers' are real people.

WHERE: KC Arts Centre – Home of SRT,

20 Merbau Road, Robertson Quay **MRT:** Clarke Quay/Fort Canning **WHEN:** Wed - Feb 23, 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$37 - \$42 (concession: \$22, group discounts available) **TEL:** 6348-5555 **INFO:** www.sistic.com.sg

RS – A Play On Relationship

There are many ways in which people are connected; whether it is through family, faith, love or even hatred. *RS* presents how these connections can bring different sets of emotions and consequences through five acts.

WHERE: Studio One, The Playtent, 180 Joo Chiat Road **MRT:** Eunos **WHEN:** Feb 28 - March 1, 8pm; March 2 & 3, 3 & 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$15 a ticket (\$13 for groups of five or more) **TEL:** 8126-5631 **INFO:** rstheatreproduction.wordpress.com

The Severing Sword

Nam Hwa Opera presents the world premiere of *The Severing Sword*, a brand-new Teochew opera adapted from a beloved wuxia novel by Liang Yusheng.

WHERE: Victoria Theatre, 9 Empress Place **MRT:** Raffles Place **WHEN:** March 15 - 17, 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$20 - \$50 **TEL:** 6348-5555 **INFO:** www.sistic.com.sg

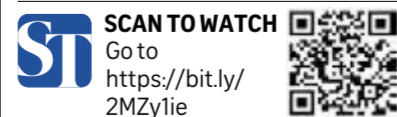
Bookmark This! Dreams and a drowning Bangkok

Join Life reporters Olivia Ho (right) and Toh Wen Li (far right) in this new monthly podcast by The Straits Times in which they talk about books in the headlines and recommend new reads.

In this episode, they dip into dreams and a drowning city in Singaporean poet Cyril Wong's phantasmagoric collection *Oneiros*, recently reprinted by Math Paper Press, and Thai author Pitchaya Sudbanthad's debut novel *Bangkok Wakes To Rain*, out later this month, which jumps through time from the 19th century to a post-diluvian future.



ST PHOTO: RICHARD NEWLOVE



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