

FILMS

Cold War (2019, M18)

Set against the backdrop of the Cold War in 1950s Poland, Berlin, Yugoslavia and Paris, this is the tale of a couple separated by politics, character flaws and unfortunate twists of fate – an impossible love story in impossible times. In Polish with English subtitles.

WHERE: The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road
MRT: Nicoll Highway **WHEN:** Sun, 2.40pm **ADMISSION:** \$13.50 (standard), \$11.50 (concession)
INFO: theprojector.sg

The Glory Hoes Present: 9 To 5 (1980, NC16)

A lesbian, an aerobics instructor and a theme-park owner work in an office with a disgusting, misogynist male boss. He ends up a little tied up – for days. Starring Lily Tomlin, Jane Fonda and Dolly Parton.

WHERE: The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road
MRT: Nicoll Highway **WHEN:** April 26, 9.30pm; drinks, nibbles from 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$30 (movie & party)
INFO: theprojector.sg

Stage Russia: The Black Monk (2019, PG)

Philosophy student Andrey Vasilich Kovrin, on the verge of a nervous breakdown, decides to visit childhood friend Tanya Pesotsky at the estate of her father. As he and Tanya develop a relationship and eventually marry, a black monk of legend begins appearing to Kovrin in visions. Though these hallucinations at first imbue the man with joy and energy, they eventually lead to his ruin. In Russian with English subtitles.

WHERE: The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road
MRT: Nicoll Highway **WHEN:** April 27, 7.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$25 (standard), \$23 (concession)
INFO: theprojector.sg

Walk With Me (2017, NC16)

This documentary follows Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh and is a rare insight into life within a monastic community. With unprecedented access to the famous secluded monastery of Plum Village in the south-west of France, the work captures the daily routine and rituals of monks and nuns on a quest to develop a deep sense of presence.

WHERE: The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road
MRT: Nicoll Highway **WHEN:** April 28, 2pm; May 26, 2.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$13.50 (standard), \$11.50 (concession)
INFO: theprojector.sg

A First Farewell (2018, PG)

Deep in north-western China, surrounded by cotton fields and desert, lies the Uighur village that Isa calls home. The outside world starts forcing him to say one goodbye after another. In Uighur and Mandarin with English subtitles.

WHERE: GV Paya Lebar, 03-107 SingPost Centre, 10 Eunos Road 8
MRT: Paya Lebar **WHEN:** May 1, 9pm **ADMISSION:** Singapore Film Society membership, from \$18 a month
TEL: 9017-016 **INFO:** E-mail info@singaporefilmsociety.com

Rona, Azim's Mother (2018, rating to be advised)

Azim, an Afghan refugee, lives in Teheran, Iran with his family. His mother needs a kidney transplant, but the locals cannot donate their organs to foreigners. He has to be the donor and must choose between his own life and his mother's. In Persian with English subtitles.

WHERE: GV Suntec City, 3 Temasek Boulevard **MRT:** Promenade **WHEN:** May 18, 1pm **ADMISSION:** Singapore Film Society membership, from \$18 a month
TEL: 9017-016 **INFO:** E-mail info@singaporefilmsociety.com

Film Picks

John Lui Film Correspondent recommends



HELLBOY (M18, PG13)
120 minutes/★★★★☆

What this reboot lacks in the arthouse finesse of the earlier films, it makes up for in grindhouse excess.

This film will be released uncut with an M18 rating and in a PG13 version suitable for younger viewers.

In this reboot of the comic-book hero seen in *Hellboy* (2004) and *Hellboy II: The Golden Army* (2008), the title character (David Harbour) is asked by his adoptive father Trevor Brattenholm (Ian McShane), head of the Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defense (B.P.R.D.), to go to England.

There, Hellboy has to battle Nimue (Milla Jovovich), an evil sorceress, with the help of Ben Daimio (Daniel Dae Kim), a B.P.R.D. commander, and Alice (Sasha Lane), a friend with psychic abilities.

Hellboy stars (from left) Daniel Dae Kim, David Harbour and Sasha Lane. PHOTOS: ENCORE FILMS, EUROPEAN UNION FILM FESTIVAL, THE PROJECTOR



TEHRAN TABOO (R21)
96 minutes/★★★★☆

Iranian film-makers, more than anyone else, it seems, have mastered the art of whole-of-society stories. This racy, funny and thought-provoking film, made in 2017, is one example. By following the lives of three women seeking control of their sexuality – a prostitute, a bride-to-be and a housewife with a domineering husband – viewers get not just a sense of their lives but are also immersed in their world.

Pari (voiced by Elmira Rafizadeh) is a prostitute who takes along her

young son to her jobs. She seeks a divorce from her imprisoned drug-addict husband, but the religious authorities refuse to grant her one without his consent. Her pregnant neighbour, Sara (Zahra Amir Ebrahimi), struggles with finding a job. Donya (Negar Mona Alizadeh) is a bride-to-be anxious about her sexual history. Their stories intertwine in the last act.

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

EUROPEAN UNION FILM FESTIVAL

The 29th edition of the festival will showcase 27 films from across Europe in most genres. The Romanian drama, *Beside Me*, will open the festival.

Beside Me (above, 2018, 84 minutes, rating to be confirmed) is director Tedy Necula's feature debut and details the connections made between a group of strangers when their subway car breaks down for two hours, locking them inside.

WHERE: National Gallery Singapore, 1 St Andrew's Road
MRT: City Hall **WHEN:** May 10 to 19, various times
ADMISSION: \$12 **INFO:** www.euff.sg

NATURE

Rustic Reflections Tour

This tour starts at Pulau Ubin's Assembly Area before proceeding to the former Bin Kiang School site. Participants will then head to the Sensory Trail pond to learn about the habitat restoration efforts before making stops at the former headman's house and Kampung Melayu. Other sites include a rubber plantation, the Ubin Fruit Orchard and Teck Seng's Place, a restored Chinese kampung house.

WHERE: Pulau Ubin, Assembly Area; meet at the Ubin-HSBC Volunteer Hub / NParks Office
WHEN: April 20, 9.30 - 11.30am
ADMISSION: \$60 for group of up to 15 people **TEL:** 6542-4108
INFO: E-mail leroy_rocky_alphonso@nparks.gov.sg, jacky_soh@nparks.gov.sg, ridhwan_mokri@nparks.gov.sg or tan_tiam_hock@nparks.gov.sg

Istana Nature Guided Walk

This guided walk, which will take place during the Istana Open House on Labour Day, is a collaboration between the President's Office and the National Parks Board, and will showcase the Istana's flora, fauna and biodiversity.

WHERE: Istana, Orchard Road

MRT: Dhoby Ghaut **WHEN:** May 1, 10am - 4pm **ADMISSION:** \$2 (child from age four), \$4 for citizens & permanent residents, \$10 for foreigners (family packages available) **INFO:** E-mail md_shariff_abu_yamin@nparks.gov.sg

TOURS

Ramble Doorway To Nature

This is a one-day trip to Johor's Gunung Lambak, a recreational mountain standing at 510m high and located in the main town of Kluang.

WHERE: Meet Pandian & Sutari at The Rail Mall carpark, 380 Upper Bukit Timah Road **MRT:** Hillview **WHEN:** April 27, 7am - 11.30pm **ADMISSION:** About \$100 a person **INFO:** E-mail Kerry at kerry@nss.org.sg

CONTEST

National Youth Film Awards

The National Youth Film Awards (NYFA) 2019 is back for its fifth edition, this time partnering the Singapore International Film Festival. NYFA aims to provide a platform for young film-makers to showcase their talents and create opportunities for them to hone their skills and network with industry professionals. Categories for entries are Open Youth

and Media Students. Accepted works include documentary, animation and live-action films.
WHEN: Closing date: May 31
TEL: 6521-6536
INFO: E-mail nyfa@scape.sg or go to scape.sg/nyfa

PETS

PetExpo 2019

The sixth edition of the fair will feature accessories and furniture for pets as well as health and wellness products. There will also be educational talks, workshops, an adoption drive by the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore, pet health checks, competitions and Fur4Hope, a charity dog-grooming event where all proceeds will go to participating dog shelters.

WHERE: Hall 7 Singapore Expo, 1 Expo Drive **MRT:** Expo **WHEN:** Till Sun, 11am - 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$5 a day, \$12 for three-day pass; free entry for children below 12, pets welcome
INFO: petexpog.com

KIDS

ArtScience Late: The Latecomers

The Latecomers will be in action as part of this month's ArtScience Late

programme as they entertain audiences with classic improvisation games and silly serenades in response to the upcoming exhibition, *Wonderland*. A regular in the Singapore comedy circuit, The Latecomers create songs, sketches and memorable characters on the spot, based on suggestions from the audience.

WHERE: Expression Gallery, Level 4 ArtScience Museum, Marina Bay Sands, 6 Bayfront Avenue **MRT:** Bayfront **WHEN:** Thu, 8 & 9pm
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: marinabaysands.com/museum

LAST CALL

Dancers @ Work

Dancers @ Work is an informal performing and producing platform for the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts' dance programme to showcase works in progress. It will feature works by Year 3 Dance Creation students as well as pieces by School of the Arts' student guest choreographers.
WHERE: Dance Studio, C6-38 Nafa Campus 3, 151 Bencoolen Street
MRT: Rochor/Bencoolen
WHEN: Today, 6.30pm
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: www.nafa.edu.sg

Nafa Orchestra Concert Series: From The New World

Conducted by Alexey Vasilyev, rector and professor at the Rimsky-Korsakov St Petersburg State Conservatory, the Nafa Orchestra will present Antonin Dvorak's Symphony No. 9 *From The New World*. Dr Nellie Seng, piano faculty member at Nafa's School of Music, is the soloist for Sergei Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 *In D Minor*.
WHERE: Victoria Concert Hall, 9 Empress Place **MRT:** Raffles Place
WHEN: Tomorrow, 7.30 - 9pm
ADMISSION: \$25 (10 - 20 per cent discount for various categories)
TEL: 6348-5555
INFO: Go to www.sistic.com.sg or e-mail music@nafa.edu.sg

• 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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