

Arts Picks

Akshita Nanda Arts Correspondent recommends



OPEN HOUSE: CHONG FAHCHEONG
Cultural Medallion recipient Chong Fah Cheong (left) is opening his studio for the long weekend. He is the sculptor of iconic bronzes such as First Generation, depicting boys jumping into the Singapore River near the Fullerton Hotel.
View what the 73-year-old artist calls "a menagerie of work in varying stages", from finished wood and bronze sculptures to jade works-in-progress, and chat with him about his artistic process and experiences.
WHERE: Emily Hill, 11 Upper Wilkie Road **MRT:** Rochor
WHEN: Today to Sunday, 10am to 5pm **ADMISSION:** Free
INFO: Call 9037-8351

THE STUDIOS 2019: MY GRANDFATHER'S ROAD (RHDS)

For a taste of what life was like in Singapore past, catch this production, which is part of the annual The Studios season presented by the Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay.
Theatre-maker Neo Kim Seng presents the latest in a series based on his family history and memories of growing up around Neo Pee Teck Lane. The road is named after his late grandfather, a businessman.
Performers Karen Tan and Loong Seng Onn are in the English version on Sunday, while Gary Tang and Tan Cher Kian perform in Cantonese today and tomorrow.
WHERE: Esplanade Theatre Studio, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, 1 Esplanade Drive
MRT: Esplanade/City Hall
WHEN: Today, 8pm & tomorrow, 3pm (in Cantonese with English surtitles); Sunday, 3pm (in English)
ADMISSION: \$35 from Sistic (call 6348-5555 or go to www.sistic.com.sg) or esplanade.com
INFO: mygrandfathersroad.wordpress.com
There will be a post-show talk after every performance



My Grandfather's Road features (from left) performer Karen Tan, playwright-performer Tan Cher Kian and playwright-director Neo Kim Seng.



WHISPERS FROM THE DRAGON'S TEETH GATE

This multicultural dance-drama with uniquely Singaporean styles of performance is inspired by the country's history.
Dancers recreate the 700-year-old voyage of Prince Sang Nila Utama to Temasek and the island's succeeding transformations until it became the metropolis of today.
Commissioned by the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre, Whispers From The Dragon's Teeth Gate is

presented by Dance Ensemble Singapore (DES Arts) in collaboration with Sri Warisan Som Said Performing Arts. DES Arts is known for championing a Nanyang style of Chinese dance while Sri Warisan has been influential in developing the Singapore Malay dance scene here.
WHERE: Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre Auditorium, 1 Straits Boulevard **MRT:** Tanjong Pagar
WHEN: Tomorrow, 3 and 8pm
ADMISSION: \$30, \$40 from Sistic

PHOTOS: CHONG FAHCHEONG, DING YI MUSIC COMPANY, EDMOND WONG, ST FILE



MASTERPIECES BY PENG XIUWEN

The late Chinese conductor and composer Peng Xiuwen (left) is credited with laying the foundations of Chinese orchestral music and his work is celebrated in this concert by Ding Yi Music Company.
Peng's original compositions such as Terra-cotta Warriors and Harvest Drums feature in the programme, as do his arrangements of classic tunes.
Other highlights include a drum solo by percussionist and Ding Yi conductor Quek Ling Kiong (above).
WHERE: SCO Concert Hall, Singapore Conference Hall, 7 Shenton Way **MRT:** Tanjong Pagar
WHEN: Sunday, 7.30pm
ADMISSION: \$28 from Sistic

ARTS

BOOKS

Classics: Catherine Lim's Or Else, The Lightning God

Catherine Lim published Or Else, The Lightning God in 1980. In the story, protagonist Margaret is engaged in a dangerous and eventually debilitating psychological battle with her mother-in-law. Their personality differences frustrate the exercise of filial piety, creating a power struggle that destroys all. Dr Gwee Li Sui discusses the history and concerns of this story and its relevance today.
WHERE: Programme Zone, Central Public Library, B1 National Library Building, 100 Victoria Street **MRT:** City Hall/Bugis **WHEN:** Thu, 7 - 8.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free, register at nlb.gov.sg/golibrary **INFO:** E-mail enquiry@nlb.gov.sg

Book Launch: Simply Invest – Naked Truths From A Financial Adviser By Goh Yang Chye

Goh Yang Chye, chief executive and founder of GYC Financial Advisory, is a pioneer in financial planning. In his book, he debunks several misconceptions, showing how so-called experts are no better than the average seven-year-old at picking stocks. Other topics covered include understanding market cycles and knowing exactly what to ask your financial adviser.
WHERE: Kinokuniya Singapore Main Store, 04-20 Ngee Ann City, 391 Orchard Road **MRT:** Orchard **WHEN:** April 27, 2pm **ADMISSION:** Free

TEL: 6737-5021
INFO: kinokuniya.com.sg

CONCERTS

Celebrate Jazz @ The Red Dot

This concert features bands from the growing jazz community, including The Jazz Djogets, a Singapore-based sextet that play a mix of Malay, Indonesian, English, Brazilian and Japanese music. The acts will perform hits from the 1950s to 1970s, inspired by jazz, funk, soul, Malay pop yeh yeh, Japanese city pop and dangdut.
WHERE: Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage, Singapore Botanic Gardens, 1 Cluny Road **MRT:** Botanic Gardens
WHEN: Sun, 4.30 - 7.30pm
ADMISSION: Free **INFO:** E-mail nparks_sbg_visitor_services@nparks.gov.sg

Introduction To Jewish Music

Through demonstrations and explanations, the Yamma ensemble will walk the audience through the characteristics of the ancient music system of Israel.
WHERE: library@esplanade, 03-01 Esplanade Mall, 8 Raffles Avenue **MRT:** City Hall/Esplanade
WHEN: Sun, 1.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free
INFO: esplanade.com

NParks Concert Series In The Park: Rockestra

Sing along to your favourite English, Cantopop and Mandopop hits performed by Enigma, NationOne, SuperSonic, The JumpStart and The Switch Gang. Also featured are The Peppertree Band, winner of

NParks Live Out Loud: Battle Of The Bands 2018 and 10-year-old Jordan Tan.

WHERE: Lakeside Field, Jurong Lake Gardens **MRT:** Lake Side
WHEN: April 27, 6.30 - 10.30pm
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: E-mail nparks_programmes_events@nparks.gov.sg

Unesco International Jazz Day

In celebration of Unesco International Jazz Day, this concert by the Jazz Association Singapore Youth Orchestra, conducted by associate music director Tan Weixiang, will feature vocalists Rudy Djoe and Lily Hargrove, as well as Singapore's king of swing Jeremy Monteiro.
WHERE: Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage, Singapore Botanic Gardens, 1 Cluny Road **MRT:** Botanic Gardens
WHEN: April 27, 6 - 7.30pm
ADMISSION: Free **INFO:** E-mail nparks_sbg_visitor_services@nparks.gov.sg

Familiar Favourites: Mendelssohn Violin Concerto

The Hebrides, the Violin Concerto and the Scottish Symphony are three of Mendelssohn's finest classics. Each embodies his Romantic spirit, inventiveness and vibrant capacity for melody. Spanish-Catalan conductor Josep Pons directs the Singapore Symphony Orchestra with a guest soloist – the young American violinist Stefan Jackiw.
WHERE: Esplanade Concert Hall, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/City Hall **WHEN:** April 27, 7.30pm (pre-concert talk at 6.30pm at library@esplanade) **ADMISSION:** \$15 - \$88, buy tickets from bit.ly/2G9Klck **INFO:** esplanade.com

SCO Concert: Homecoming III

Singapore Chinese Orchestra's (SCO's) third concert of the Homecoming Concert Series, conducted by music director Tsung Yeh, will feature Siow Lee Chin (violin), Qin Li -Wei (cello), Xu Fan (percussion), Tan Loke Chuah (percussion) and Benjamin Boo (percussion).
WHERE: SCO Concert Hall, Singapore Conference Hall, 7 Shenton Way **MRT:** Tanjong Pagar
WHEN: April 27, 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$25 - \$128 **TEL:** 6557-4034
INFO: E-mail sco@sco.com.sg

Big Band Bash

Thomson Jazz Club presents the annual Big Band Bash. The club is home to two of Singapore's best-known bands – Thomson Swing Band and Thomson Big Band.
WHERE: Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage, Singapore Botanic Gardens **MRT:** Botanic Gardens
WHEN: April 28, 5.30 - 7pm
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: E-mail nparks_sbg_visitor_services@nparks.gov.sg

DANCE

Easter Interactive Dance Performance: Broken

Broken – a dance of hope that tells of what was once broken and now mended – marries digital and performance arts, with dancers interacting with the LED backdrop and stage lights.
WHERE: Trinity Christian Centre, 247 Paya Lebar Road **MRT:** Tai Seng/MacPherson **WHEN:** Today (10am, 2 & 5pm) & tomorrow (4pm)

ADMISSION: Free **TEL:** 6468-4444
INFO: E-mail connect@trinity.sg

EXHIBITIONS (MUSEUM)

Moving Memories

This exhibition presents seven of Yip Yew Chong's life-size murals, which seek to express the romance of "places and moments... that blend sights, sounds, smell and tastes". The murals include Barber (September 2015), Coffee Story (December 2016), Pasar (April 2016), Provision Shop (December 2015) and Kampung (November 2015).
WHERE: LED Wall, opposite The Salon, National Museum of Singapore, 93 Stamford Road **MRT:** Bras Basah/Dhoby Ghaut **WHEN:** 10am - 7pm
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: nationalmuseum.sg

EXHIBITIONS (GALLERIES)

Homecoming: Chen Wen Hsi Exhibition

Artcommune gallery is staging a showcase of artworks at the original residence of Chen Wen Hsi, courtesy of the property's current owner, artist Tay Joo Mee. The exhibition will include more than 20 of Chen's paintings over different periods; artefacts such as publishing printing plates used for his catalogues in the 1960s; a 3D model of the Old House, fabricated and contributed by DP Architects; and artist Ben Loong's site-specific works created in response to Chen's murals and paintings.
WHERE: 5 Kingsmead Road

MRT: Farrer Road **WHEN:** Till May 3, noon - 7.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free
TEL: 6336-4240
INFO: artcommune.com.sg

Chinatown – Solo Photography Exhibition By Sha Ying

This exhibition features 30 black-and-white works of Chinatown taken by photographer Sha Ying from 1995 to 2002. The photos have documented the changes of the Chinatown landscape, as well as the past generation's way of living. A new photography book titled Chinatown will also be launched during the exhibition.
WHERE: Chapel Gallery, Objectifs Centre for Photography and Film, 155 Middle Road **MRT:** Bencoolen
WHEN: Thu - April 28 & 30, May 2-5 & 7 -12; noon - 7pm (Tue - Sat), noon - 4pm (Sun) **ADMISSION:** Free
INFO: bit.ly/2VKunMy

THEATRE

Iwami Kagura: Heroes And Demons

Shimane is the birthplace of Iwami Kagura, one of the most dynamic and vibrant forms of Japanese ritual theatre. Masked dancers in colourful costumes take on the role of Shinto gods, battling eight-headed demon snakes and other monsters in Japanese mythology, accompanied by drum beats, clanging cymbals and soaring bamboo flutes.
WHERE: Esplanade Outdoor Theatre, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** City Hall/Esplanade **WHEN:** Today, 9.30pm; tomorrow, 6.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free
INFO: esplanade.com