

ARTS

BOOKS

Book Launch – Tan Kim Seng: A Biography By Vivienne Tan

The book sheds light on the life and legacy of the philanthropist, who has made many contributions to Singapore. First-time author Vivienne Tan is married to Professor Walter Tan, the great-great-great-grandson of Tan Kim Seng.

WHERE: Kinokuniya Singapore Main Store, 04-20 Ngee Ann City, 391 Orchard Road **MRT:** Orchard **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 3.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free **TEL:** 6737-5021 **INFO:** www.kinokuniya.com.sg

Singapore Literature Book Club: The Magic Circle By Charmaine Chan

Author Charmaine Chan will talk about her book, *The Magic Circle*, which tells what happens when her sister Elaine is diagnosed with a rare and aggressive cancer. A contemplation on grief, loss, nostalgia and yearning, this book is for anyone who has been torn apart and put back together by the inexplicable power of memory.

WHERE: Multi-Purpose Room, Central Public Library, Basement 1 National Library Building, 100 Victoria Street **MRT:** City Hall/Bugis **WHEN:** May 16, 7-8.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free, register at nlb.gov.sg/golibrary **INFO:** E-mail enquiry@nlb.gov.sg

CONCERTS

Enchanting Evening – With Piano And Violin

Enchanting Evening returns with its sixth concert. Highlights include Grieg's Piano Concerto In A Minor (two pianos), Symphonie Espagnole by Lalo (violin and piano) and the D Minor Violin And Piano Sonata by Brahms. The piano ensemble will also showcase pieces by musicians including Yiruma and Nathan Schumann.

WHERE: Esplanade Recital Studio, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/City Hall **WHEN:** May 12, 7.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$25 **TEL/** **INFO:** Call 9632-1441 (Meng Wan) or e-mail dolcewongcy@gmail.com for tickets

Raffles Singers Presents: Ayibobo!

The Raffles Singers will be representing Singapore in a competition in Europe in June. This concert will feature the group's repertoire of compositions by conductor Toh Ban Sheng, telling tales of a rainy day in Southern China, lovers on a mountain top and the heartwarming story of a painter who battles cerebral palsy with unwavering faith.

WHERE: Sota Concert Hall, 1 Zubir Said Drive **MRT:** Bencoolen/Dhoby Ghaut **WHEN:** May 26, 7.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$25 - \$100, tickets via bit.ly/2Dpj1Xm **INFO:** E-mail rafflessingers@gmail.com

DANCE

da:ns Focus – William Forsythe And Lin Hwai-min

The da:ns series shines the spotlight on two titans of dance. William Forsythe has been hailed as ballet's premier deconstructionist and post-modernist, while Lin Hwai-min pioneered a signature movement philosophy and established Taiwan's Cloud Gate Dance Theatre as one of the world's strongest dance companies.

WHERE: Esplanade Theatre, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/City Hall **WHEN:** May 3 & 4, 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$30 - \$120 **TEL:** 6348-5555 **INFO:** www.sistic.com.sg

Sides

This double-bill features work by choreographers Shahar Binyamini (Israel) and Edouard Hue (France), developed for and performed by Frontier Danceland company artists.



ArtsPicks

Melissa Sim Assistant Life Editor recommends



PHOTOS: NATIONAL PARKS BOARD, SINGAPORE CHINESE ORCHESTRA, LIMELIGHT ARTS

HOMECOMING III

Singaporean violinist Siow Lee Chin (below) will perform with the Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO) in this one-night-only concert.

She will play two violin classics – Henryk Wieniawski's Polonaise Brillante No. 1, Op. 4 and Manuel Ponce's Estrellita, rearranged by Singaporean composer Phang Kok Jun.

This is part of the SCO's Homecoming series of concerts, which recognises and features Singaporean musicians.

Siow, who is based in the United States, says: "I am deeply honoured to

be part of this Homecoming series of the SCO. It is so meaningful to come home and share my creative performances with local audiences."

The performance also features cellist Qin Li-wei, along with three SCO percussionists – Xu Fan, Tan Loke Chuah and Benjamin Boo.

WHERE: SCO Concert Hall, 7 Shenton Way **MRT:** Tanjong Pagar **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$128, \$98, \$68, \$48 and concession tickets at \$30 from Sistic (call 6348-5555 or go to www.sistic.com.sg) **INFO:** www.sco.com.sg/en



WHERE: Sota Studio Theatre, 1 Zubir Said Drive **MRT:** Dhoby Ghaut/Bencoolen **WHEN:** May 10, 8pm; May 11, 3 & 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$25 - \$30 **TEL:** 6348-5555 **INFO:** www.sistic.com.sg

261 Waterloo Street **MRT:** Bras Basah/Bencoolen **WHEN:** Till Sun, noon - 7pm **ADMISSION:** Free **TEL:** 6837-2008 **INFO:** www.merlingallery.com.sg

A Special Display By Ben Loong

Held in conjunction with Homecoming: Chen Wen Hsi Exhibition @ Kingsmead, this exhibition, represented by AC43 Gallery, showcases five conceptual pieces, crafted in response to the architecture and history of 5 Kingsmead Road, the late artist's former home.

WHERE: 5 Kingsmead Road **MRT:** Farrer Road **WHEN:** Till May 3, noon - 7.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free **TEL:** 6336-4240 **INFO:** www.artcommune.com.sg

Deja Vu – Exhibition By Tao Xian

The exhibition unveils a series of paintings created by Tao Xian since 2017, marrying painting, photography and print-making. She uses digital techniques on photographs and transfers to cotton or linen with oil, in an attempt to explore how technology influences the artist's directions.

WHERE: 02-00 Asian Art Platform, 292 River Valley Road **MRT:** Fort Canning **WHEN:** Till May 25; Tue - Sat, 11am - 6pm **ADMISSION:** Free **TEL:** 8333-0262 **INFO:** E-mail

info@asianartplatform.com

THEATRE

Never Rarely, Sometimes Often

This performance of playback theatre features a community gathering in which someone shares a story and performers play this back, with movement, words, music and cloth. The story then triggers another.

WHERE: Toa Payoh Central Community Club Theatre, 93 Toa Payoh Central **MRT:** Toa Payoh **WHEN:** May 4, 7.30pm; May 5, 3pm **ADMISSION:** \$20, tickets via peatix.com **TEL:** 9380-3041 **INFO:** E-mail tapestry.ticketing@gmail.com

This Is What Happens To Pretty Girls

There are the many voices that are never heard, stories never told, secrets never shared, truths never revealed. Pandemonium's *This Is What Happens To Pretty Girls* is one such story, with many sides, many secrets and many truths, each demanding to be told.

WHERE: Drama Centre Theatre, Level 3 National Library Building, 100 Victoria Street **MRT:** City Hall/Bugis **WHEN:** May 10 - 26; 8pm (Tue - Fri), 3 & 8pm (Sat & Sun) **ADMISSION:** \$25 - \$75

CELEBRATING UNESCO INTERNATIONAL JAZZ DAY

Head with your family to the Singapore Botanic Gardens for this concert by The Jazz Association Singapore Youth Orchestra, which is conducted by associate music director Tan Weixiang.

The concert will feature Singapore's "King of Swing" Jeremy Monteiro (left), as well as vocalists Rudy Djoe and Lily Hargrove, who will perform timeless jazz standards.

Those who cannot make it tomorrow can try to catch the Thomson Jazz Club at the same location the next day for its annual Big Band Bash.

UNESCO INTERNATIONAL JAZZ DAY

WHERE: Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage, Singapore Botanic Gardens, 1 Cluny Road **MRT:** Botanic Gardens **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 6.30 to 7.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** E-mail nparks_sbg_visitor_services@nparks.gov.sg

BIG BAND BASH

WHERE: Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage, Singapore Botanic Gardens, 1 Cluny Road **MRT:** Botanic Gardens **WHEN:** Sunday, 5.30 to 7pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** E-mail nparks_sbg_visitor_services@nparks.gov.sg



Meet author Chetan Bhagat (above), dancer Mallika Sarabhai (left) and writer Aatish Taseer (below).

FESTIVAL OF INDIAN ARTS AND IDEAS (FIAI)

This inaugural two-day festival will feature speakers such as best-selling author Chetan Bhagat, India's foremost dancer Mallika Sarabhai and writer Aatish Taseer. The theme of the event is Looking Back, Looking Forward: Old Stories, New Narratives.

Author Bhagat says: "I am excited to be a part of FIAI because it gives me a chance to connect with the Indian diaspora in Singapore. I tell contemporary Indian stories and I think the festival is a platform for me to take India to the world, in this case, Singapore."

WHERE: Victoria Theatre, 9 Empress Place, tomorrow; The Arts House, 1 Old Parliament Lane, Sunday **MRT:** Raffles Place/City Hall **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 7 to 9.30pm; Sunday, 11am to 5.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$80, tomorrow; \$100 on Sunday and \$110 for a Sunday VIP ticket from www.apectix.com/events/detail/festival-of-indian-arts-ideas **INFO:** www.theartshouse.sg/fiai

TEL: 6348-5555 **INFO:** www.sistic.com.sg

Civilised

Written by Haresh Sharma and directed by Alvin Tan, this production by The Necessary Stage is a ground-breaking new work that takes the audience on a wild ride through the complications and violence of colonisation in the past, present and future.

WHERE: The Necessary Stage Black Box Theatre, B1-02 Marine Parade Community Building, 278 Marine Parade Road **MRT:** Eunos **WHEN:** 8pm (May 15 - 17 & May 22 - 24), 3 & 8pm (May 18 & 25), 3pm (May 19 & 26) **ADMISSION:** \$36 (\$28 for students, senior citizens & full-time national servicemen) **TEL:** 6348-5555 **INFO:** www.sistic.com.sg

The Mysterious Lai Teck

Acclaimed Singaporean artist Ho Tzu Nyen leads the audience into the labyrinthine underworld of spies in this portrait of one of South-east Asia's most shadowy historical figures.

WHERE: Sota Drama Theatre, 1 Zubir Said Drive **MRT:** Bencoolen/Dhoby Ghaut **WHEN:** 8pm (May 17 & 18), 5 & 8pm (May 19) **ADMISSION:** \$40 **TEL:** 6348-5555 **INFO:** www.sistic.com.sg