

ARTS

BOOKS

Singapore In The 60s

Mr Kiasu co-creator James Suresh brings back 1960s Singapore through anecdotes and drawings in his newest book – Singapore In The 60s. The artwork is done by Syed Ismail, who also worked on Suresh's On A Street In Singapore and When I Was In Uniform.

WHERE: Kinokuniya Singapore Main Store, 04-20 Ngee Ann City, 391 Orchard Road **MRT:** Orchard **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 2pm **ADMISSION:** Free **TEL:** 6737-5021 **INFO:** kinokuniya.com.sg

A Manga Lover's Tokyo Travel Guide: My Favourite Things To See And Do In Japan

Singapore-born comic-book author and artist Evangeline Neo travels to the Japanese capital with her mascots – Kopi the dog and Matcha the cat. Besides taking readers to the city's otaku sights, Neo also shows the must-see sites.

WHERE: Kinokuniya Singapore Main Store, 04-20 Ngee Ann City, 391 Orchard Road **MRT:** Orchard **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 4pm **ADMISSION:** Free **TEL:** 6737-5021 **INFO:** kinokuniya.com.sg

CONCERTS

Songs At Twilight

The programme is an exchange between New Opera Singapore and Daegu Opera House. Daegu is a Unesco City of Music in South Korea. Singers from both companies will present familiar opera favourites by Mozart, Strauss and Verdi, backed by a live orchestra.

WHERE: Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage, Singapore Botanic Gardens, 1 Cluny Road **MRT:** Botanic Gardens **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 6 - 7pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** E-mail nparks_sbg_visitor_services@nparks.gov.sg

MusicFest@SGH

More than 300 performers, including comedian Kumar and entertainer Irene Ang, will bring bicentennial celebrations to Singapore General Hospital (SGH) patients through music, performing songs that have defined Singapore's journey.

WHERE: SGH Campus, Outram Road **MRT:** Outram Park (shuttle bus service available) **WHEN:** May 10, 10.30am - 8pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** sgh.com.sg

International Festival Chorus Singapore

Now Is The Month Of Maying is presented by The International Festival Chorus (Singapore) and conducted by Chong Wai Lun. The choral programme celebrates spring and love, and encompasses a wide range of musical genres, from English madrigals and European Renaissance works to mid-20th-century jazz and Asian folk songs.

WHERE: Sota Concert Hall, 1 Zubir Said Drive **MRT:** Dhoby Ghaut **WHEN:** May 11, 7pm **ADMISSION:** \$20 - \$30, tickets at the door or at ifcsingapore.org **INFO:** E-mail ifcsingapore1@gmail.com

SSO Mother's Day Concert

The Singapore Symphony Orchestra (SSO) presents a one-hour musical that celebrates motherhood. The all-Singaporean cast features young violin star Chloe Chua and rising singers Jonathan Charles Tay and Martin Ng.

WHERE: Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage, Singapore Botanic Gardens, 1 Cluny Road **MRT:** Botanic Gardens **WHEN:** May 12, 5.30 - 7pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** E-mail nparks_sbg_visitor_services@nparks.gov.sg

Enchanting Evening – With Piano And Violin

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

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

DANCE

ST/LL

Japanese artist Shiro Takatani's meditation on silence unfolds in a multimedia staging, with music by Ryuichi Sakamoto. The scenes include an endless veil of water overwhelming the stage; cutlery, books and glasses suspended in the air, free falling in slow motion; and voluminous swathes of black being cast against luminous human figures awaiting dinner.

WHERE: Esplanade Theatre, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/ City Hall **WHEN:** May 24 & 25, 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$40 - \$80 (students \$10) **INFO:** E-mail sifa@artshouse.sg

ArtsPicks

Olivia Ho recommends



LIN HWAI-MIN: A RETROSPECTIVE

Premier Taiwanese dance company Cloud Gate Dance Theatre looks back across the career of its founding artistic director Lin Hwai-min, who will be stepping down at the end of this year.

The retrospective for the company's 45th-anniversary gala will pick out excerpts from nine of his classic works. These include Portrait Of The Families, said to be the first major theatrical work to tackle Taiwan's 1947 massacre after an anti-government uprising; Moon Water (above), which fuses the movements of taiji tao yin with Bach's

Suite For Solo Cello; and Rice, an epic homage to the staple grain.

Lin will also give a free talk in Mandarin tomorrow about his practice.

WHERE: Esplanade Theatre, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** City Hall/Esplanade **WHEN:** Today and tomorrow, 8pm. Lin's talk will be held tomorrow at 1.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$30 (restricted view) to \$120 from Sistic (call 6348-5555 or go to www.sistic.com.sg). Lin's talk is free with registration at bit.ly/2UqkZwT

'TIL THE END OF THE WORLD, WE'LL MEET IN NO MAN'S LAND

Singaporean singer-songwriter Inch Chua (right) makes her first foray into playwriting with this script, based on her recent expedition to Antarctica, in a show that is part one-woman musical, part ASMR (autonomous sensory meridian response) experience.

The performance, directed by Okorn-Kuo Jing Hong, features original compositions and binaural sound technology, which makes use of headphones to create a more immersive, three-dimensional sound experience.

Members of the audience perch on white tiered seats, as if they are penguins on ice floes. The sound of snow and wind is created by the popping of bubble wrap or stamping.

WHERE: 72-13, Home of TheatreWorks, 72-13 Mohamed Sultan Road **MRT:** Clarke Quay **WHEN:** Today, 8pm; tomorrow, 3 and 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$48, \$28 (concessions) from Sistic **INFO:** theatreworks.org.sg or www.thisisinch.com

PHOTOS: AKBAR SYADIQ, CRISPI PHOTOGRAPHY, LIU CHEN-HSIANG, TAN NGIAP HENG



Paris Opera Ballet

The Paris Opera Ballet was the birthplace of classical dance, with its origins going back over 300 years. It has established itself as a repertory company, remaining faithful to its dual vocation of ensuring the continuity of the repertoire and offering an open door towards creation.

WHERE: Esplanade Theatre, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/ City Hall **WHEN:** June 21 & 22, 8pm; June 22 & 23, 3pm **ADMISSION:** \$60 - \$180 **INFO:** esplanade.com

EXHIBITIONS (MUSEUMS)

Glossaries Of The Straits Chinese Homemaking

This exhibition complements the interpretative displays on the first and second floors of the NUS Baba House. Included are artist projects

from earlier exhibitions such as Objects & Desire (2007), A Psychotaxonomy Of Home: Michael Lee Hong Hwee (2008) and Of Fingerbowl & Hankies: Chris Yap Voyeurs Through The Baba House (2009).

WHERE: NUS Baba House, 157 Neil Road **MRT:** Outram Park **WHEN:** Tue - Fri tours: 10am; Sat self-guided visits: 1.30, 2.15, 3.15 & 4pm **ADMISSION:** Free **TEL:** 6227-5731 **INFO:** babahouse.nus.edu.sg

EXHIBITIONS (GALLERIES)

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 document the changes in the Chinatown landscape as well as the past generation's way of

living. Photography book Chinatown will also be launched at the exhibition.

WHERE: Chapel Gallery, Objectifs Centre for Photography and Film, 155 Middle Road **MRT:** Bencoolen **WHEN:** Today, tomorrow, May 7 - 11: noon - 7pm; Sun & May 12: noon - 4pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** bit.ly/2VKunMy

Doujin Market Art Festival

The annual two-day art festival features more than 350 artists and creators, as well as seminars, contests and activities for families. New this year is RPG Day Singapore, a table-top gaming event for all ages.

WHERE: Halls 401/402 Suntec Convention & Exhibition Centre, 1 Raffles Boulevard **MRT:** Esplanade/ City Hall **WHEN:** Tomorrow & Sun, 11am - 8pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** doujimasg.com or facebook.com/doujima.sg

Allure Of Chinese Ink Painting

Presented by Very Special Arts Singapore and Pan Pacific Singapore, this group exhibition by Tay Bee Lian, Teresa Tan, Toh Ah Wat and Wesley Seah is the grand finale of the three exhibitions that celebrate the empowerment of people with special needs through the arts.

WHERE: Public Art Space, Level 2 Pan Pacific Singapore, 7 Raffles Boulevard **MRT:** Promenade **WHEN:** Thu - July 29, 11am - 8pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** E-mail general@vsa.org.sg to buy the artworks

THEATRE

Beware Of Pity

Told by British director Simon McBurney, with actors from Schaubuhne Berlin, Beware Of Pity is an emotionally gripping play about the treacherous nature of pity. How



KUTRALA KURAVANJI

Classic Tamil poetry comes to life in this dance production by performing arts group Bhaskar's Arts Academy.

The group first staged this production in 1958 and hopes this restaging will get younger audiences in Singapore to appreciate the beauty of the Tamil language.

It is based on a poem circa 1718, in which a Kurathi (gypsy) reads the palm of the lady Vasanthavalli and foresees a grand wedding between her and the one who has stolen her heart.

The group's artistic director Santha Bhaskar played Kurathi in the 1958 premiere; the role will be played this time by Priyadarshini Nagarajah (above).

Says the group's resident choreographer Ambujah Thiru, who was Bhaskar's student: "Educating the dancers about the language, in addition to choreographing, was a crucial part of the process to ensure the delivery was not compromised."

"And for the audience, with the English surtitles provided, they will be able to easily understand the story."

WHERE: Gateway Theatre, 3615 Jalan Bukit Merah **MRT:** Redhill **WHEN:** May 11, 7.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$30 from www.bhaskarsartsacademy.com/buy-ticket or 04-01 Bras Basah Complex; \$20 for students, who must show ID at point of purchase **INFO:** Call 6336-6537 or e-mail enquiries@bhaskarsarts.com



CHONTENG: THE CULT OF CREATURES

Chonteng – which translates into English as "doodle" – is a drawing installation by Singaporean artist Rizman Putra that explores the idea of making marks and lines based loosely on the method of automatic drawing.

The concept was first explored in previous exhibitions Labyrinth Of Things I and II, which were presented at Coda Culture and Cake Theatrical Productions' Running With Strippers respectively.

In this third and final presentation as part of Teater Ekamatra's Artist Residency Programme, which has been extended until Sunday by popular demand, studio space Greymatter is transformed into a drawing installation that audience encounters as if it is a cave with the drawings of a Neanderthal.

WHERE: Greymatter, 02-10, 28 Alilaw Street **MRT:** Nicoll Highway/Bugis **WHEN:** Till Sunday, 10am to 10pm **ADMISSION:** Entry by donation, pay as you like; register at chonteng.peatix.com

do we confront another person's suffering? Is one's desire to save another person an act of true empathy or merely a balm for one's guilt?

WHERE: Esplanade Theatre, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/ City Hall **WHEN:** May 16 & 17, 7.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$40 - \$80 **INFO:** esplanade.com

Displaced Persons' Welcome Dinner

This Checkpoint Theatre production is about humanitarian workers caught in the crosshairs of a crisis, which tests the resolve of the international staff of a refugee camp. Can they stay sane, alive and strong when their minds, bodies and spirits are called upon to do the impossible? **WHERE:** Victoria Theatre, 9 Empress Place **MRT:** Raffles Place **WHEN:** May 24 & 25, 8pm; May 26, 3pm **ADMISSION:** \$40 - \$60 **INFO:** E-mail sifa@artshouse.sg