

ARTS

BOOKS

Spotlight On Comic Artist Koh Hong Teng

The works of Koh Hong Teng, one of Singapore's foremost comic artists, are often an ode to places of heritage in Singapore, with storylines weaving together the past and present. In this panel moderated by comic historian Lim Cheng Tju, Koh will be joined by his collaborators, architectural historian Lai Chee Kien and playwright Marc Goldberg, as they discuss the creative process behind his various works.

WHERE: Visitors Briefing Room, Level 1 National Library Building, 100 Victoria Street **MRT:** City Hall/Bugis **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 4 - 6.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free, register at www.nlb.gov.sg/golibrary **INFO:** E-mail enquiry@nlb.gov.sg

Does Singapore Literature Have A Place In The World?

In his keynote lecture titled *Confluences: Connecting Singapore And The World*, poet and editor Alvin Pang reflects on two decades of work in trying to connect the Singaporean with the international. He will share the startling resonances he finds in the writing itself as well as in common values and challenges across literary communities everywhere.

WHERE: The Pod, Level 16 National Library Building, 100 Victoria Street **MRT:** City Hall/Bugis **WHEN:** July 12, 2 - 3.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free, register at www.nlb.gov.sg/golibrary **INFO:** E-mail enquiry@nlb.gov.sg

CONCERTS

SPH Gift Of Music: Orchestra Of The Music Makers @ Paragon

In a rare performance by a classical orchestra this large in a mall, the Orchestra of the Music Makers, featuring 90 musicians led by conductor Seow Yibin, will perform at Paragon mall. The programme includes Wagner's *Prelude to Act 3 of Lohengrin*, Walton's *Crown Imperial* and John Williams' *Raiders March* (from *Indiana Jones*). The event is part of the SPH Gift of Music series.

WHERE: Main Atrium, Paragon, 290 Orchard Road **MRT:** Orchard **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 3pm **ADMISSION:** Free **TEL:** 6738-5535 **INFO:** paragon.com.sg

SMU Symphonia – Photosymphony

SMU Symphonia will present familiar songs ranging from childhood favourites such as *Beauty And The Beast* to modern tunes of the 2016 animated movie *Your Name*.

WHERE: Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage, Singapore Botanic Gardens, 1 Cluny Road **MRT:** Botanic Gardens **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 5.30 - 6.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** E-mail nparks_sbg_visitor_services@nparks.gov.sg

DRUMatic Fusion

The concert showcases internationally renowned musicians in collaboration with the Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO), conducted by music director Yeh Tsung. Percussionist Evelyn Glennie – who has a hearing disability – will perform with Chinese percussion twin brothers Gao Chao and Gao Yue.

WHERE: SCO Concert Hall, Singapore Conference Hall, 7 Shenton Way **MRT:** Tanjong Pagar **WHEN:** July 12 & 13, 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$20 - \$88 **TEL:** 6348-5555 **INFO:** sco.com.sg & sistic.com.sg

Lunchtime Concert At VCH

In celebration of the fifth anniversary of Victoria Concert Hall's reopening, this concert will feature *The Barber Of Seville Overture*, ballet treats from Russian master Shostakovich and four lively pieces of candied musical pop, including Leroy Andersen's bustling *Bugler's Holiday* and the train-simulating *Copenhagen Steam Railway Galop*.

WHERE: Victoria Concert Hall, 11 Empress Place **MRT:** Raffles Place **WHEN:** July 17, 12.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free, tickets required from sso.org.sg, free-concerts/lunchtime-concert

Steven Osborne Plays Mozart

Award-winning pianist Steven Osborne, regarded as one of Britain's most treasured musicians, plays Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 12 In A Major* with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Carlos Kalmar. The programme includes Rossini's *Overture To The Silken Ladder*, Kernis' *Musica Celestis* and Haydn's *Symphony No. 98 In B Flat Major*.

WHERE: Victoria Concert Hall, 11 Empress Place **MRT:** Raffles Place **WHEN:** July 25 & 26, 7.30pm; pre-concert talk: 6.30pm at VCH Music Studio **ADMISSION:** \$15 - \$88, tickets from ticketing.sso.org.sg **INFO:** sso.org.sg

ArtsPicks

Ong Sor Fern Senior Culture Correspondent recommends



L'INVITATION AU VOYAGE: A RECITAL BY BARITONE ZHOU ZHENGZHONG

Opera fans should mark the date. Baritone Zhou Zhengzhong (above), who sang the role of Marcello in the Singapore Symphony Orchestra's staging of *La Boheme* last year, returns for a solo recital on Thursday.

The rising opera star, praised by conductor Antonio Pappano for his exquisite tonality and perfect cantabile, will present a programme ranging from operatic arias to art songs to folk tunes.

WHERE: Victoria Concert Hall, 11 Empress Place **WHEN:** Thursday, 7.30pm **MRT:** Raffles Place **ADMISSION:** \$28, \$48, \$68 and \$78 **INFO:** www.altenburg-arts.com



PACKAGING MATTERS

It is easy to overlook this small but thoughtfully curated show at the National Museum. Tucked into a gallery on the ground floor, it is an eye-opening look at the history of food production in Singapore.

There are artefacts that will give visitors from a certain demographic flashbacks to their childhood: an F&N tin tray graced by the alluring face of actress Maria Menado (left), star of 1950s and 1960s Malay movies; retro posters and calendars touting Ayam brand sardines and Magnolia drinks; a collectible kamcheng (Peranakan pot) from Amoy Canning.

Schedule time to watch the astonishing black-and-white silent film clip which captured the process of producing canned sliced pineapples in Singapore. It starts

with labourers harvesting the fruit, moves to Chinese workers (their hairstyle in the classic queue fashion of the early 20th century) cutting and packing tins, and ends with a European woman daintily unpacking slices onto a china plate for consumption.

Kids will love the interactive element in the family corner, where they can spin blocks to match food items with their commonly used packaging then and now. There is even a sustainability lesson worked into the show.

WHERE: National Museum of Singapore, 93 Stamford Road **WHEN:** Till Sept 15, 10am to 7pm daily **MRT:** Dhoby Ghaut/Bras Basah **ADMISSION:** Free for Singapore citizens and permanent residents, \$15 for foreigners **INFO:** www.nationalmuseum.sg

PHOTOS: ALTENBURG ARTS, ONG SOR FERN



200: A NATURAL HISTORY

Most museums in Singapore are downright cavalier with their captions. But this show at the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum offers an embarrassment of riches. In fact, I dare say, the avalanche of text could do with a bit of trimming.

This show, which presents 200 moments in Singapore's natural history, includes rich pickings for both natural history buffs and trivia junkies. Learn, for instance, that first British resident William Farquhar's dog got eaten by a crocodile and that in retaliation, he ordered the crocodile speared and strung up, presumably as a warning to other crocodiles to not eat any more pets. While Singapore is not usually

known for its wildlife, it has played host to some interesting creatures as well as famous naturalists such as Alfred Russel Wallace, who came up with the theory of evolution independent of Charles Darwin.

That there are enough moments to fill 200 captions to overflowing is a real education to this city slicker. Just make sure you allot enough time to do a lot of reading. **WHERE:** Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, National University of Singapore, 2 Conservatory Drive **WHEN:** Till June next year **MRT:** Kent Ridge **ADMISSION:** \$16 for Singapore citizens and permanent residents, \$21 for foreigners **INFO:** lknhm.nus.edu.sg

DANCE

RedDot Bhangra Competition

Six bhangra teams from Singapore, Hong Kong, India and the United States will battle it out. Judges from Australia, Britain and the US will pick the top three winners. The audience gets to vote for the People's Choice award.

WHERE: Gateway Theatre, 3615 Jalan Bukit Merah **MRT:** Redhill **WHEN:** July 20, 2 - 5pm **ADMISSION:** \$23, tickets from bescene.sg/event/RDBC19 **TEL:** 9029-4913 **INFO:** E-mail red.dot.bhangra@gmail.com or go to bit.ly/RDBC19event

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

WHERE: NUS Baba House, 157 Neil Road **MRT:** Outram Park **WHEN:** Tours: Tue - Fri, 10am; self-guided visits: Sat, 1.30, 2.15, 3.15 &

4pm **ADMISSION:** Free for Singapore citizens & permanent residents, \$10 for foreigners **TEL:** 6227-5731 **INFO:** babahouse.nus.edu.sg

EXHIBITIONS (GALLERIES)

Both Sides, Now Finale: Public Arts Installation

Both Sides, Now, a community engagement project by local arts groups ArtsWok Collaborative and Drama Box, concludes its latest series this weekend with a public arts installation featuring creations by some residents of Block 7 Telok Blangah Crescent along with artists Alecia Neo, Jasmine Ng, Angie Seah and Shirley Soh.

WHERE: Void Deck at Block 7 Telok Blangah Crescent **MRT:** Telok Blangah/HarbourFront **WHEN:** Till Sun, noon - 9pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** dramabox.org

Wong Keen – Theatre Of Enigmas

Wong Keen's new solo exhibition, *Theatre Of Enigmas*, is held in conjunction with the launch of artcommune gallery's new space at Carlton Hotel Singapore. The exhibition features 15 works by the New York-trained artist from 2015 to this year which cover his wide-ranging themes and techniques across canvas, paper and mixed-media works.

WHERE: Level 1 (Victoria Street side), Carlton Hotel Singapore, 76 Bras Basah Road **MRT:** City Hall **WHEN:** Till July 14, noon - 7pm **ADMISSION:** Free **TEL:** 6336-4240 **INFO:** artcommune.com.sg

Svay Sareth: The Breath Of Change

Svay Sareth's first solo exhibition in Singapore features a single-channel video work and an installation comprising about 180 soft-sculpture water lilies. He enfolded and interweaves memories and personal history with encounters of present-day Cambodia and its entanglement with foreign interest.

WHERE: Richard Koh Fine Art (Singapore), 01-26 Gillman Barracks, Block 47 Malan Road **MRT:** Labrador Park **WHEN:** Till July 20; Tue - Sat, 11am - 7pm **ADMISSION:** Free **TEL:** 9788-4291 **INFO:** E-mail christiaan@rkfineart.com

F Klub – Group Exhibition

The F Klub, formed in 2007 in Kuala Lumpur, is a group of Malaysian visual artists linked by a common interest of doing figurative arts or using the figure as a main subject in their visual arts practice.

WHERE: Chan + Hori Contemporary, 02-09 Gillman Barracks, 6 Lock Road **MRT:** Labrador Park **WHEN:** Till July 21; Tue - Fri, 11am - 7pm; weekends, noon - 6pm **ADMISSION:** Free **TEL:** 6338-1962 **INFO:** www.chanhori.com

THEATRE

Happy Waiting

This absurdist play is inspired by Samuel Beckett's *Happy Days* and *Waiting For Godot*. Vicky is trapped in a mound, with only her limbs and head seen, but she is cheerful. She enters a series of memories, imaginations and recollections of stories told by her folks when she was young. She speaks often to her husband Victor, but is not acknowledged with any response. She is constantly "visited" by Bobo, who dances past her frequently, but does not seem to respond to her.

WHERE: Stamford Arts Centre Black Box Theatre, 155 Waterloo Street **MRT:** Bras Basah/Rochor **WHEN:** July 12, 8pm; July 13, 3pm **ADMISSION:** \$16 - \$20, tickets from happywaiting.peatix.com

Dwarf – Alexander Zemlinsky's Der Zwerg

Following the success of last year's *Love And Duty*, The Opera People presents *Dwarf – Alexander Zemlinsky's Der Zwerg* in its South-east Asian premiere. Based on a short story by Oscar Wilde, Zemlinsky's searing exploration of self-loathing and unrequited love is transformed to shed light on the effects of social inequality in contemporary society. Performed in German with English surtitles.

WHERE: Esplanade Annexe Studio, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/

City Hall **WHEN:** July 12, 7.30pm; July 14, 5pm **ADMISSION:** \$15 - \$45, tickets from thedwarf.peatix.com

SmartyPants And The Swordfish

Written by Jean Tay, the play revolves around Nadim, a young kampung boy who unexpectedly saves the kingdom from a violent swordfish attack. As a group of students explore the circumstances leading to the boy's death at the hands of the jealous King Raja, they discover there are many ways one can dissect and reimagine a story.

WHERE: Gateway Theatre Black Box, 3615 Jalan Bukit Merah **MRT:** Redhill **WHEN:** July 13, 14 & 20, 3pm **ADMISSION:** \$32, tickets from smartypants.peatix.com **INFO:** artsfest.gateway.sg

HeartStrings

Presented by Five Stones Theatre, *HeartStrings* is a quirky dance-theatre production about play and the importance of friendship. Combining music, physical theatre and lots of string, it revolves around three fun-loving characters who grapple with the ups and downs of being friends.

WHERE: Gateway Theatre Sky Garden, 3615 Jalan Bukit Merah **MRT:** Redhill **WHEN:** July 14, 20 & 21, 11am **ADMISSION:** \$20, tickets at heartstrings.peatix.com **INFO:** artsfest.gateway.sg