

FilmPicks

John Lui Film Correspondent recommends

SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME (PG)
130 minutes/Now showing/★★★★☆

Some months after the events of Avengers: Endgame (2019), Peter Parker (Tom Holland) is coping with returning after the event now called the "blip", the disappearance of half of all creatures.

He is preparing to go on a tour of Europe with his high-school class, where he hopes to reveal his feelings for classmate MJ (Zendaya, right with Holland).

In this second movie featuring Holland's Spider-Man as the lead character (after Spider-Man: Homecoming, 2017), returning director Jon Watts helms the closest thing to a dialogue-driven teen ensemble comedy in recent years.

It does not break new ground – the funny Jacob Batalon as Parker's best friend Ned, for example, is the archetypal "ethnic" comic sidekick – but Holland is perfectly cast as a teen who could plausibly still be nifty and tongue-tied despite being capable of god-like feats.

Zendaya is a talent to watch – her MJ (Mary Jane) has an energy that lifts each scene she is in.

PHOTOS: N.O.W. 2019, SONY, THE PROJECTOR



N.O.W. 2019

The N.O.W. project has a mission, according to its statement, to "make visible the multi-faceted and capable women, their voices and their not ordinary work".

The film portion of the event, which also covers music, visual arts, workshops and talks, will feature four works by women.

Among them is journalist and director Benedette Argentieri, whose documentary, I Am The Revolution (2018, 74 minutes, rating to be confirmed), follows three women living in Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq and their fight for gender equality. Rojda Felat (above), for example, is a commander in the Syrian Democratic Army, in charge of 60,000 soldiers fighting Islamic State insurgents.

WHERE: 72-13, Home of TheatreWorks, 72-13 Mohamed Sultan Road **MRT:** Fort Canning **WHEN:** July 19 and 20, various times **ADMISSION:** \$12 **INFO:** notordinarywork.com



TALES FROM THE MAINLAND

This celebration of independent cinema from China features the drama Girls Always Happy (NC16, 117 minutes, 2018).

Film-maker Yang Ming Ming (far left, with Nai An) wrote the screenplay as well as directs and stars in this portrait of two women, a mother and daughter, living together in one of Beijing's historic and picturesque hutongs.

The complex modernity of their interaction – repulsion, love, understanding and misunderstanding – stands in contrast to the traditional surroundings.

The film won Best Director for Yang at the International Women's Film Festival in Seoul, as well as scored nominations at the Berlin and Edinburgh film festivals.

WHERE: The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road **MRT:** Nicoll Highway **WHEN:** Tomorrow and July 14, various times **ADMISSION:** \$13.50 **INFO:** theprojector.sg

FILMS

Parasite (2019, M18)

Ki-taek's family members, who are all unemployed, take a peculiar interest in the wealthy and glamorous Park family for their livelihood – until they get entangled in an unexpected incident. In Korean with English subtitles.

WHERE: The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road **MRT:** Nicoll Highway **WHEN:** Today, 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$13.50 (standard), \$11.50 (concession) **INFO:** theprojector.sg

Hooligan Sparrow (2016, M18)

Young film-maker Nanfu Wang follows maverick activist Ye Haiyan (aka Hooligan Sparrow) and her band of colleagues to southern China to seek justice in the case of six elementary school girls who were allegedly sexually abused by their principal. In Mandarin with English subtitles.

WHERE: The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road **MRT:** Nicoll Highway **WHEN:** July 13 & 21, 5.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$13.50 (standard), \$11.50 (concession) **INFO:** theprojector.sg

The Cure Anniversary 1978-2018, Live In Hyde Park (2018, PG13)

In this recorded screening, The Cure, acknowledged as one of the world's greatest live bands, take the stage on a perfect July evening in London's Hyde Park last year to celebrate four decades of music-making.

WHERE: The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road **MRT:** Nicoll Highway **WHEN:** Thu, 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$13.50 (standard), \$11.50 (concession) **INFO:** theprojector.sg

Ramen Teh (2018, PG)

The Singapore Film Commission will screen Eric Khoo's Ramen Teh, a film that marries two worlds. In the heartfelt tale, Masato, a half-Singaporean ramen chef from Japan, finds a suitcase full of tidbits of his late Singaporean mother's life. He then travels from Japan to

Singapore, where he meets the family he never knew he needed: his uncle, bak kut teh seller Ah Wee, and his grandmother, who holds the key to his past.

WHERE: Eco Garden, Eco-Lake Lawn, Singapore Botanic Gardens, 1 Cluny Road **MRT:** Botanic Gardens **WHEN:** July 13, 7.30 - 9pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** E-mail nparks_sbg_visitor_services@nparks.gov.sg

Resonating Structures

Six short films made by Siah Armajani, as well as several films by other film-makers and artists, will be shown on a continuous loop during opening hours.

WHERE: NTU Centre for Contemporary Art, Gillman Barracks, Block 43 Malan Road **MRT:** Labrador Park **WHEN:** July 18 - Nov 17, noon - 7pm (Tue - Sun) **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** bit.ly/2J8ay4u

If Beale Street Could Talk (2018, rating to be announced)

A young woman embraces her pregnancy, while she and her family set out to prove her childhood friend and lover innocent of a crime he is accused of.

WHERE: GV Suntec City, 3 Temasek Boulevard **MRT:** Promenade/Esplanade **WHEN:** July 20, 1pm **ADMISSION:** Singapore Film Society membership, from \$18 a month **TEL:** 9017-0160 **INFO:** E-mail info@singaporefilmsociety.com

Guang (2018, PG13)

The autistic Wen Guang (Kyo Chen) is sent out to look for work by his brother (Ernest Chong), but the attempts fail. Guang is compulsively drawn to objects that produce musical notes or behaves in a way that causes potential employers to reject him. His brother, who has raised him since the death of their mother, resents postponing his ambitions to look after his child-like sibling.

WHERE: Outside D'Marquee, Downtown East, 1 Pasir Ris Close **MRT:** Pasir Ris **WHEN:** July 27, 7.30 - 10pm **ADMISSION:** Free **TEL:** 6589-1688 **INFO:** downtowneast.com.sg

Once Upon A Time In Hollywood (2019, rating to be announced)

Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt and Margot Robbie, a faded television actor and his stunt double strive to achieve fame and success in the film industry during the final years of Hollywood's Golden Age in 1969 Los Angeles.

WHERE: GV Paya Lebar, 03-107 SingPost Centre, 10 Eunos Road 8 **MRT:** Paya Lebar **WHEN:** Aug 7, 8.30pm **ADMISSION:** Singapore Film Society membership, from \$18 a month **TEL:** 9017-0160 **INFO:** E-mail info@singaporefilmsociety.com

NATURE

What's In My Water

Is that a fish, a worm, an insect or a crocodile swimming in the water? This morning walk helps visitors get to know the creatures and plants which live in and around the water edges of Sungei Buloh.

WHERE: Visitor Centre, Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, 60 Kranji Way **MRT:** Kranji **WHEN:** July 13, 9.30 - 11am **ADMISSION:** Free **TEL:** 6794-1401 **INFO:** E-mail nparks_sbw@nparks.gov.sg

Dragonfly Walk At Toa Payoh Town Park

In this event organised by Nature Society (Singapore), join guide Lena Chow in discovering the beautiful dragonflies of Toa Payoh Town Park. Some of the many species found there include Trumpet Tails, Scarlet Adjutants, Common Amberwings, Blue Dashers, Common Scarlets, Scarlet Baskers, Common Parasols and Common Bluetails.

WHERE: Meet at 10am at the side of the park next to Toa Payoh Swimming Complex **MRT:** Toa Payoh **WHEN:** July 20, 10 - 11.30am **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** www.nss.org.sg

PETS

Pets & Plants Art Workshop

Conducted by Carlyn Law of Eat To Draw at Pets Actually, this two-hour illustration workshop will give tips on

sketching, how to illustrate pets with ink pens and paint plants in gouache. Pets are welcome to attend and participants get a \$10 voucher to spend at the store.

WHERE: Pets Actually, 26 Chia Ping Road **MRT:** Lake Side/Boon Lay **WHEN:** July 20, 2 - 4pm **ADMISSION:** \$100, e-mail eattodraw@gmail.com to sign up **TEL:** 9362-3626 **INFO:** eattodraw.com

TOURS

Culture City, Culture Scape, Public Art Trail

This tour aims to help participants get inspired and unwind in the lush compounds of Mapletree Business City.

WHERE: NTU Centre for Contemporary Art, Gillman Barracks, Block 43 Malan Road; meet at taxi stand of Alexandra Retail Centre, 460 Alexandra Road **MRT:** Labrador Park **WHEN:** July 31, Aug 14 & 28, Sept 11 & 25, Oct 9 & 23, 12.30 - 1pm **ADMISSION:** Free, sign up at bit.ly/31lpwil **INFO:** bit.ly/2XgZwqN

CONTESTS

UOB Painting Of The Year Competition

United Overseas Bank is inviting Singapore citizens and permanent residents to enter the 38th UOB Painting of the Year Competition. Country winners in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand will be considered for a month-long residency programme at the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum in Japan.

WHERE: ArtSpace@HeluTrans, 02-04 Tanjong Pagar Distripark, 39 Keppel Road **MRT:** Tanjong Pagar/Outram Park **WHEN:** Submissions: Aug 16 - 18; awards ceremony in November **ADMISSION:** Free **TEL:** 6539-1177 **INFO:** E-mail paintingoftheyear@uobgroup.com or go to www.uobpoy.com

KIDS

Teach Your Child To Read: Parent-child Workshop

The pre-workshop briefing includes a language-reading screening for the child. The workshops, which will run over four sessions, use a home-reading programme. Aimed at getting the child to sit and read for leisure, they teach parent and child to say letter sounds correctly and blend letter sounds to read words.

WHERE: 04-01/02 Okio Building, 262 Balestier Road **MRT:** Novena **WHEN:** Pre-workshop briefing: tomorrow, 11am - 12.15pm; workshops: July 20, Aug 3, 17 & 31, 11am - 12.15pm **ADMISSION:** Briefing: \$20 (waived for those enrolling); workshops: \$240 (four sessions), excludes \$60 book **TEL:** 6250-9550 **INFO:** healththerapyservices.sg

OTHERS

Road Sense Carnival

Organised by the Traffic Police and Singapore Road Safety Council, this one-day carnival kicks off Singapore Road Safety Month and will include fun and educational activities as well as entertaining stage performances and free popcorn and candy floss. Local music and TV artists will be appearing. Also, take selfies with Mr Zebra and challenge your friends in a remote-control car race.

WHERE: Ngee Ann City Civic Plaza, 391 Orchard Road **MRT:** Orchard **WHEN:** Tomorrow, noon - 9pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** bit.ly/324SsBc

LAST CALL

Sci-fi In Singapore: Multilingual Perspectives

Science fiction is a hugely popular genre around the world and in Singapore. Get a unique cross-cultural perspective of the Singapore sci-fi scene from authors Farihan Bahron, Shelly Bryant, Sithuraj Ponraj and Teo Kok Keong in this panel discussion moderated by William Phua.

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

Singapore Youth Festival Concert

The concert presents a unique theatrical experience through the visual narrative of shadow puppetry. This year's concert features performers from 14 schools, presenting a spectrum of traditional and modern art forms. Guest of honour is Second Minister for Finance and Education Indraneel Rajah.

WHERE: Esplanade Theatre, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/City Hall **WHEN:** Today, 8pm **ADMISSION:** Free, e-mail moe_syf_secy@moe.gov.sg for tickets **INFO:** esplanade.com

Pre-school Roadshow By Busy Bees Asia

Brands from the Busy Bees Group, which include Learning Vision, Bright Path, Odyssey The Global Preschool, Brighton Montessori, Pat's Schoolhouse and Asian International College, will be represented at this roadshow for children aged two months to six years, families and pre-school educators.

WHERE: West Atrium, Suntec City, 3 Temasek Boulevard **MRT:** Promenade/Esplanade **WHEN:** Tomorrow & Sun, 10am - 8pm **ADMISSION:** Free, register at bba.sg/BestStartInLife

• 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 stliffe@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