

Arts Picks

Olivia Ho Arts Correspondent recommends



MOONGAZERS

The ArtScience Museum marks the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11's 1969 moon landing with a series of programmes that orbit humankind's fascination with the moon. These include In Love With The Moon, in which storyteller Kamini Ramachandran will share her favourite moon myths, and Beyond The Silver Glow, a sonic and movement-based performance by artists nada and Kiat + Deborah Emmanuel. Moongazers is held in conjunction with the Floating Utopias exhibition, which includes British artist Luke

Jerram's sculpture Museum Of The Moon (above). The exhibition will have free late-night entry today and tomorrow from 7 to 10pm, with last entry at 9pm. **WHERE:** ArtScience Museum, Marina Bay Sands, 10 Bayfront Avenue **MRT:** Bayfront **WHEN:** Today and tomorrow, various timings. In Love With The Moon is today and tomorrow at 7.30pm; Beyond The Silver Glow is today at 8.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free for all Moongazer programmes **INFO:** www.marinabaysands.com/museum/events/moongazers.html

PHOTOS: ARTSCIENCE MUSEUM, ARTSWOK COLLABORATIVE, CRISPIAN CHAN



M1 OPEN STAGE

The M1 Contact Contemporary Dance Festival closes with this showcase of 12 works by artists from Singapore and abroad, chosen from close to 200 entries. Works to watch out for include Ignoramus (above) by Singapore-based Malaysian Hwa Wei-An, which was inspired by Yuval Noah Harari's best-selling non-fiction book Sapiens (2014) and involves a microwave and homemade electrodes, and Ghosting: Indelible In The Hippocampus by Singaporean Bernice Lee, which draws on the testimony of psychologist Christine Blasey Ford, who last year accused United States Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual assault. **WHERE:** Esplanade Annexe Studio, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/ City Hall **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 3pm (Programme B) and 8pm (Programme C) **ADMISSION:** \$25, concessions \$18, standing mezzanine \$10 from Sistic (call 6348-5555 or go to www.sistic.com.sg) **INFO:** the-contact.org

PALINDROMES

Filipino-American Giovanni Ortega and Singaporean Zora Imani Smith star in this poetic play, conceived by both for Poetry Festival Singapore. In it, a Filipino-American from New York travels to Singapore while a Singaporean Malay travels to New York, their journeys mirroring each other. The play includes songs, from originals by Ortega and composer Jose Promis to classics by the likes of iconic Singaporean-Malaysian singer Saloma. **WHERE:** The Arts House Play Den, 1 Old Parliament Lane **MRT:** City Hall/ Raffles Place **WHEN:** Today, 8.30pm; tomorrow, 3.30 and 5.30pm; Sunday, 4.30 and 6.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$20, \$15 concessions from palindromes.peatix.com **INFO:** www.poetryfestival.sg



M1 PEER PLEASURE YOUTH THEATRE FESTIVAL

This youth festival by ArtsWok Collaborative takes on the issue of poverty in Singapore with three plays. In The Ground by Anglo-Chinese School (Barker Road), a single father meets a boy about to take his Primary School Leaving Examination; in Wonderland by Anderson Secondary School, two classmates from different social strata go down a "rabbit hole" into the inner workings of systemic inequality. The third play is The Block Party (left), a docu-performance by The Community Theatre, a youth development programme by charity Beyond Social Services. Its director Rizman Putra, 41, says: "Audiences... will get to witness genuine, lived encounters (of children) growing up in a rental flat estate and empathise with the way they fight to live their

lives, often hidden away from the middle-class narrative." The plays were devised over 1 1/2 years, with a research process that involved interviewing individuals living in poverty and walks in low-income neighbourhoods. Presented alongside these three plays is a participatory theatre piece, The Class Room, by theatre veterans Li Xie, Kok Heng Leun and Jean Ng, meant to get audiences to question and debate their assumptions about poverty. **WHERE:** Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/ City Hall **WHEN:** Wednesday till Aug 4, various timings **ADMISSION:** Various prices from Sistic **INFO:** Advisory (some mature content). For more information, go to www.peerpleasure.org

ARTS

BOOKS

Meet-The-Authors: K. Kesavapany And Anitha Devi Pillai: From Estate To Embassy: Memories Of An Ambassador

The book documents K. Kesavapany's journey from the Malayan estates to Singapore; his entry into the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and his subsequent sojourns abroad to Australia, Turkey, Switzerland, Jordan, Indonesia, Russia, Britain and Malaysia. The biography also elaborates on the next phase of his journey where he holds several prominent portfolios in Singapore's social and academic scene, such as the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and Singapore International Foundation. **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

ST Book Club: Think Wits Win

Tan Ooi Boon, ST Press general manager, and Soo Kok Leng discuss the latter's book, Think Wits Win, followed by a Q&A session and book-signing. The Straits Times Book Club seeks to create a platform for book lovers to meet the authors of important and best-selling titles, as well as build a community around the written word. **WHERE:** Programme Zone, Central Public Library, National Library, 100 Victoria Street **MRT:** City Hall/ Bugis **WHEN:** July 31, 7 - 8.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free, register at nlb.gov.sg/golibrary2/e/JulySTBC

CONCERTS

Singapore National Youth Orchestra Chamber Concert

Immerse in the magical world of Harry Potter and other classical music favourites performed by the Singapore National Youth Orchestra, with other works such as Dvorak's "American" Quartet and Schubert's

"Trout" Quintet. Also on the programme are works for brass choir, woodwind trio, cello sextet and percussion ensemble. **WHERE:** Victoria Concert Hall, 9 Empress Place **MRT:** Raffles Place **WHEN:** July 28, 3pm **ADMISSION:** \$8, tickets at ticketing.sso.org.sg **INFO:** sso.org.sg

SSO Subscription Concert: Kerson Leong Plays Schumann

Just 22, Canadian violinist Kerson Leong has played in leading venues, from Carnegie to Wigmore. He makes his Singapore debut with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, led by conductor Hanu Lintu, performing one of Schumann's final compositions, his Violin Concerto, which was lost to the music world for more than 80 years. **WHERE:** Victoria Concert Hall, 9 Empress Place **MRT:** Raffles Place **WHEN:** Aug 1 & 2, 7.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$15 - \$88, tickets at ticketing.sso.org.sg

Encounter Beethoven: A Mid-Summer Chamber Concert

Nine musicians will perform Beethoven, Adolphe Blanc and Glinka chamber music. Joakim Roberghsagen (violin) from Norway and Jo Anne Sukumaran (bassoon) from Singapore will perform with re.Sound and other musicians. **WHERE:** Victoria Concert Hall, 9 Empress Place **MRT:** Raffles Place **WHEN:** Aug 4, 3pm **ADMISSION:** \$48 - \$68 **TEL:** 6348-5555 **INFO:** sistic.com.sg

Musical Frontiers By Ding Yi

This cross-cultural music showcase features Ding Yi musicians collaborating with Vietnamese bamboo ensemble Suc Song Moi (The New Vitality), led by conductor Dong Quang Vinh. This is also the bamboo ensemble's premiere performance in Singapore. The performance features inter-cultural folk pieces played on bamboo handmade instruments. **WHERE:** Esplanade Recital Studio, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/ City Hall **WHEN:** Aug 11, 7.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$28 (\$20 for students,

full-time national servicemen and seniors) **TEL:** 6348-5555 **INFO:** sistic.com.sg

DANCE

RedDot Bhangra Competition

Six bhangra teams from Singapore, Hong Kong, India and the United States will battle it out and judges from Australia, Britain and the US will pick the top three winners. There will be guest performances by modern Indian dance troupe NUS Naach and the Singapore Dhol Squad. The audience gets to vote for the People's Choice award. **WHERE:** Gateway Theatre, 3615 Jalan Bukit Merah **MRT:** Redhill **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 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

Singapore Dance Theatre: Celebration In Dance

A collaboration between the Singapore Dance Theatre and Royal Academy of Dance (RAD), this production presents an opportunity for RAD students in Singapore to perform at the Esplanade Theatre. **WHERE:** Esplanade Theatre, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/ City Hall **WHEN:** Aug 18, 7pm **ADMISSION:** \$45 **INFO:** esplanade.com

EXHIBITIONS (MUSEUM)

GosTan Back: A Time-travelling Adventure On Wheels

Experience Singapore's history and artefacts in National Museum's Singapore History Gallery with Xiao Ming, a young boy who gets the chance to save the future by going back in time. How will he fix his broken time machine? Young audiences can look forward to storytelling and hands-on fun. **WHERE:** The Platform, Level 2 National Museum of Singapore, 93 Stamford Road **MRT:** Dhoby Ghaut/ Bras Basah **WHEN:** Tomorrow & Thu, 10.30am **ADMISSION:** \$10

(parent-child pair), tickets at peatix.com/event/731763/view **INFO:** nationalmuseum.sg

EXHIBITIONS (GALLERIES)

Ceramics And Pottery In The Lion City Over 700 Years

The historic links of the Lion City to pottery and ceramics go back beyond 700 years. During the Age of Sail, they were carried on ships sailing the maritime trade routes through nearby waters and some of the items were traded on this island. This exhibition weaves the stories behind these humble wares to give a glimpse of how they made an impact on daily life in Singapore in the past and how they continue to be relevant today. **WHERE:** Promenade, Level 8 National Library, 100 Victoria Street **MRT:** City Hall/ Bugis **WHEN:** Till July 29, 10am - 9pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** tinyurl.com/pottery700yrs

Istana Art Event - All Roads Lead To Singapore

This year's Istana Art Event celebrates the Singapore Bicentennial by laying out key Singapore stories on the front lawn of the President's residence. Activities include hands-on relief printing presented by the National Gallery Singapore, putting together a giant jigsaw puzzle adapted from an artwork taken from the Singapore Art Museum's Touch Collection, and storytelling sessions by primary school pupils from Ai Tong School. **WHERE:** The Istana, Orchard Road **MRT:** Dhoby Ghaut **WHEN:** July 28, 9am - 6pm **ADMISSION:** \$2 a person (free for Singaporeans and permanent residents) **INFO:** nhb.gov.sg

THEATRE

The Cripple Of Inishmaan

On the least populated of the Aran Islands, Ireland, the inhabitants revel in gossip to pass the time. A Hollywood film crew's arrival in neighbouring Inishmore sends them into a frenzy. Billy, the titular crippled character, auditions for a part and to

everyone's surprise, he gets his chance. A comic journey of self-discovery ensues. **WHERE:** Alliance Francaise de Singapour, 1 Sarkies Road **MRT:** Newton **WHEN:** Today, 8pm; tomorrow, 2 & 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$37 - \$42, concession \$20, tickets at thecrippleofinishmaan-play.peatix.com **INFO:** stageclub.com

My Friend, A Japanese Soldier

Featuring elements of puppetry, the performance is based on true stories collected from the National Archives of Singapore and a powerful drama about survival and courage in times of war. The story is set in Singapore during World War II and revolves around an unlikely friendship between a Japanese soldier and a local boy, which raises suspicions among the locals. **WHERE:** Esplanade Theatre Studio, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/ City Hall **WHEN:** Tue - July 26, 10am & 2.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$23 **INFO:** esplanade.com

The Class Room

This participatory theatre piece seeks to explore the conditions, challenges and support required by those living in poverty. Participants are invited to question one another's beliefs and assumptions. Through this process, people have to make difficult and life-changing decisions as a community. **WHERE:** Esplanade Annexe Studio, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/ City Hall **WHEN:** Aug 1 - 3, 2.30pm & 7.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$23 **INFO:** esplanade.com

Fat Kids Are Harder To Kidnap® X

This theatre production by local theatre group How Drama, is largely inspired by current affairs and trending topics. This re-staging of the group's 10th anniversary show will take on topics such as the Oxley Road dispute, HDB rulings and crispy rendang. The cast will attempt to perform 31 plays in an hour. **WHERE:** Esplanade Annexe Studio, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/ City Hall **WHEN:** Aug 16 (2 & 8pm), Aug 17 (2 & 7pm), Aug 18 (2pm) **ADMISSION:** \$35 **INFO:** facebook.com/fatkidsare