

Arts Picks

Ong Sor Fern Senior Culture Correspondent recommends



WONDERLAND: AN INTERACTIVE EXHIBITION

Unlike the White Rabbit, you are not too late to catch this engaging interactive exhibition inspired by Lewis Carroll's children's classic *Alice In Wonderland*. A rather sedate drawing room offers two doorways into the show: a regular human-sized door and a kid-sized one. Both lead to a hallway filled with doors that open into tiny rooms full of exhibits. It is a lovely introduction to, and perfect embodiment of, the topsy-turvy world of Carroll's beloved classic. What will appeal to the hardcore fans are Sir John Tenniel's original illustrations: Alice wrestling with a flamingo or confronting the Cheshire Cat. Since this exhibition was put together by the Australian Centre for the Moving Image, most of it is dedicated to the various film adaptations of the story. It is fascinating to watch excerpts of the 1903 British silent-film version, complete with in-camera special effects. And there are also clips from the much darker Jan Svankmajer version (1988) as well as props and posters from other film adaptations. Most will remember the Disney cartoon and there are beautiful animation drawings here too. A Mad Tea Party (left) is a short, Instagrammy multimedia installation that will appeal to the young. But for me, it is the old-school artefacts – from the movie clips to the props to the drawings – which are the true delight. Foodies also have a chance to win Alice-themed bobblehead dolls if they head to Black Tap to try its Wonderland CrazyShake or Renku Bar & Lounge for its Wonderland-themed high tea. Both are at Marina Bay Sands. **WHERE:** ArtScience Museum, 6 Bayfront Ave **MRT:** Bayfront **WHEN:** Till Sept 22, 10 am to 7 pm (last admission at 5.30pm) **ADMISSION:** \$16 for an adult Singaporean or permanent resident **INFO:** www.marinabaysands.com/museum/wonderland.html

STEVEN OSBORNE PLAYS MOZART

The Singapore Symphony Orchestra (SSO) opens its new season with award-winning pianist Steven Osborne playing Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 12. Fans may want to get an autograph from Osborne at intermission. There is also a pre-concert talk at the Victoria Concert Hall Music Studio at 6.30pm. The programme, conducted by maestro Carlos Kalmar, also includes Aaron Jay Kernis' *Musica Celestis* and Haydn's *Symphony No. 98 In B Flat Major*. Watch out, too, for a pair of sculptures, which Brother Joseph McNally made from the old organ pipes. Taken down during the renovation of Victoria Concert Hall, they have been restored and reinstalled. Charities can also write in to the SSO at sharing_music@sso.org.sg for free tickets to its concerts. **WHERE:** Victoria Concert Hall, 9 Empress Place **MRT:** City Hall/Raffles Place **WHEN:** Today, 7.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$15 to \$88 from Sistic (go to www.sistic.com.sg or call 6348-5555) **INFO:** www.sso.org.sg/orchestra-season/steven-osborne-plays-mozart

PHOTOS: MARINA BAY SANDS, UNPACKT



Musicians (from left) Matt Penman, Aaron Goldberg and Leon Parker.

JAZZ @ THE RED DOT 2019

American jazz pianist Aaron Goldberg and his band will be conducting workshops and masterclasses at this year's Jazz @ The Red Dot. The musician, along with bassist Matt Penman, drummer Leon Parker and saxophonist John Ellis, will teach at the four-day workshop. Singaporean singer Alemay Fernandez and guitarist Andrew Lim will assist during the classes. Besides holding workshops, the musicians will perform at the Esplanade Recital Studio on Aug 10. Goldberg's last album with Parker and Penman, *At The Edge Of The World* (2018) showcased some quirky and masterful music-making and it would be a treat to hear them live. Registration for the workshop closes on Aug 2. **WHERE/MRT:** Jazz @ The Red Dot: Goodman Arts Centre (Mountbatten); Aaron Goldberg Trio With Special Guest John Ellis: Esplanade Recital Studio (City Hall/Esplanade) **WHEN:** Jazz @ The Red Dot: Aug 9 to 12; Aaron Goldberg Trio: Aug 10, 8.30pm **ADMISSION:** Early-bird registration for workshop: \$450, standard registration: \$550; performance: \$50 **INFO:** www.jazz-asia.com

ARTS

BOOKS

Think Lit: The Importance Of Literature In Singapore

Think Lit is a new signature literary arts series that addresses contemporary topics in reading and literature for adults. In the inaugural session, Dr Suzanne Choo, an assistant professor in the English Language and Literature Academic Group at the National Institute of Education, will discuss how the teaching of literature in Singapore schools has changed since the post-independence period, as well as findings from a project she led involving a survey of the beliefs and practices of about 230 literature teachers here. **WHERE:** Multi-purpose Room, Basement 1 National Library Building, 100 Victoria Street **MRT:** City Hall/Bugis **WHEN:** Thu, 7 - 8pm **ADMISSION:** Free, register at nle.gov.sg/golibrary **INFO:** E-mail enquiry@nle.gov.sg

Meet Author Jim Rogers Of Warning To Japan

Legendary investor Jim Rogers discusses his newest book, *Warning To Japan*, a compilation of interviews conducted by Hakuei Kosato who, like Rogers, is an Oxford University graduate based in Singapore. **WHERE:** Kinokuniya Singapore Main Store, 04-20 Ngee Ann City, 391 Orchard Road **MRT:** Orchard **WHEN:** Aug 3, 2pm **ADMISSION:** Free **TEL:** 6737-5021 **INFO:** kinokuniya.com.sg

CONCERTS

Concha Bernal: Music From The Caribbean

Presented by the Embassy of Colombia, this concert features Colombian singer Concha Bernal, composer of Caribbean fusion folklore, and tropical rhythms fused with modern instruments. **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

The Feng Ya Song Symphony

Celebrated composer Zhao Jiping and his vocalist wife, Zhang Ningjia – together with innovative music director Yeh Tsung and the Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO) – will showcase his latest masterwork, *The Feng Ya Song Symphony*. Internationally renowned sheng master Wu Wei will perform the sheng concerto composed for him, *Earth And Fire*. **WHERE:** SCO Concert Hall, Level 1 Singapore Conference Hall, 7 Shenton Way **MRT:** Tanjong Pagar **WHEN:** Aug 3, 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$20 - \$78 **TEL:** 6348-5555 **INFO:** sistic.com.sg

Kam Ning With SCO: Butterfly Lovers – Europe Pre-Tour

The Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO) will embark on a Europe concert tour. Famed Singaporean violinist Kam Ning will play the popular *Butterfly Lovers* violin concerto while SCO pipa principal, Yu Jia, will play the *Arise, You Lion Of Glory* pipa concerto, which won the 2015 Singapore International Competition for Chinese Orchestral Composition (SICCOC) organised by the SCO. Other works include Tan Dun's *Yellow Earth* and Wong Kah Chun's *Krakatoa*, which won him the Singaporean Composer Award in the 2015 SICCOC. **WHERE:** SCO Concert Hall, Level 1 Singapore Conference Hall, 7 Shenton Way **MRT:** Tanjong Pagar **WHEN:** Aug 24, 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$20 - \$78 **TEL:** 6348-5555 **INFO:** sistic.com.sg

DANCE

Kamakshi – A Dancer's Journey Within

In this performance, the dancer aims to redefine her relationship with Bharatanatyam. Upon reflecting, she embraces a significant relationship in her life that moulds her passion – her grandmother, dancer, teacher and choreographer. In Tamil and English. **WHERE:** Drama Centre Black Box, 03-01 National Library Building, 100 Victoria Street **MRT:** City Hall/Bugis **WHEN:** Aug 10, 6 & 8.30pm **ADMISSION:** By invitation with donations of at least \$15 at tinyurl.com/y25wo5ky **TEL:** 9386-0442 **INFO:** E-mail kamakshi.ms2019@gmail.com

EXHIBITIONS (MUSEUMS)

Guo Pei: Chinese Art And Couture

The exhibition presents a dialogue between historical and contemporary Chinese design, juxtaposing 29 embroidered masterworks by China's foremost couturier with 20 Chinese art masterpieces in the Asian Civilisations Museum's collection. Guo's dramatic, sculptural gowns reflect influences from growing up in Beijing surrounded by Chinese imperial art and mythology. Her creations also express her personal take on contemporary fashion and aesthetics. **WHERE:** Asian Civilisations Museum, 1 Empress Place **MRT:** Raffles Place **WHEN:** Till Sept 15, 10am - 7pm (Fri till 9pm) **ADMISSION:** Singaporeans & permanent residents: free; others: \$20 a person, \$15 for students & seniors, \$60 for family of five **INFO:** acm.org.sg

Hooray For Heritage

Celebrate all things quintessentially Singaporean at the Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall's Hooray For Heritage event during the National Day weekend. Highlights include the venue's first cultural bazaar and thematic workshops such as making ang ku kueh and kueh lapis, and vinyl toy painting by home-grown design studio and label wheniwasfour. **WHERE:** Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall, 12 Tai Gin Road **MRT:** Toa Payoh **WHEN:** Aug 9 & 10, 10am - 5pm **ADMISSION:** Free **TEL:** 6256-7377 **INFO:** E-mail NHB_WQY@nhb.gov.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 Mon, 10am - 9pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** tinyurl.com/pottery700yrs

Island Story: Solo Exhibition By Khairulddin Abdul Wahab

In *Island Story*, UOB Painting of the Year winner Khairulddin Abdul Wahab commemorates Singapore's Bicentennial by referencing local folklore to depict Singapore's early history. Featured are 14 of his layered-painting technique artworks, including paintings charting the journey of Toah, a 14th-century sea nomad who was a guide for the famous Chinese explorer Zheng He. **WHERE:** UOB Art Gallery, UOB Plaza 1, 80 Raffles Place **MRT:** Raffles Place **WHEN:** Till Sept 5, 9am - 6.30pm daily **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** uobpoy.com/artgallery

Currents: Than Sok Solo Exhibition

Cambodian artist Than Sok's first solo exhibition in Singapore will feature a set of six watercolour works, six canvas paintings from his *Kbach Teuk* (water forms) series and 20 watercolour works from the *Objects Of Belief* series that were exhibited in the seminal 2017 group exhibition, *Sunshower*, at the Mori Art Museum in Japan. **WHERE:** Richard Koh Fine Art (Singapore), 01-26 Gillman Barracks, 47 Malan Road **MRT:** Labrador Park **WHEN:** Aug 2 - 17 (Tue - Sat), 11am - 7pm **ADMISSION:** Free **TEL:** 6513-2640 **INFO:** www.rkfineart.com

THEATRE

Double Bill: Wonderland & The Ground

Wonderland, put on by Anderson Secondary School, is about Nadine, an outcast in school who cannot pay for things. Her classmate Charmaine's world is totally different. Both go down the rabbit hole and discover the secret machinery keeping generations of Nadine's family financially strapped. In *The Ground*, performed by ACS Barker Road, a single father is stuck in a strange place and a boy is about to take his Primary School Leaving Examination. They meet at an intersection,

a utopia where time and space suspend... or is this an amusement park with a hidden penalty?

WHERE: Esplanade Recital Studio, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/City Hall **WHEN:** Today, 2.30 & 7.30pm; tomorrow, 7.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$20 **INFO:** esplanade.com

Wilderness

Youth theatre organisation The Runaway Company's second production, *Wilderness* – by Seth Bockley and Anne Hamburger – is a music theatre play set at a wilderness therapy camp for troubled teenagers. The play follows six main characters who have been sent to the unknown outdoors by their parents in a bid to heal them of their trauma and mental-health issues. **WHERE:** Stamford Arts Centre Black Box, 155 Waterloo Street **MRT:** Bugis **WHEN:** Aug 9 & 10, 7.30pm; Aug 10 & 11, 2.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$20 **TEL:** 6348-5555 **INFO:** sistic.com.sg

A Midsummer Night's Dream

In three acts, Benjamin Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* opera is based on Shakespeare's popular comedy of the same title, which follows the consequences of a spat between the fairy king Oberon and his queen, Tytania. No fewer than 19 different enchanted characters get tangled in relationship quadrangles, mistaken identities and transformations. **WHERE:** Victoria Theatre, 9 Empress Place **MRT:** Raffles Place **WHEN:** Aug 16 & 17, 7.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$18 - \$80 **INFO:** E-mail info@newopera.sg

COMEDY

Maz Jobrani – Peaceful Warrior

LA Comedy Live brings in Iranian-American comedian and actor Maz Jobrani for his new stand-up show and maiden gig here, *Peaceful Warrior*. He starred as the title character in the award-winning indie comedy, *Jimmy Vestwood: Amerikan Hero* (2016), which he co-wrote and produced. **WHERE:** Shine Auditorium, 03-01 Shaw Towers, 100 Beach Road **MRT:** Esplanade/Bugis **WHEN:** Tue, 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$98 - \$138 **TEL:** 6348-5555 **INFO:** sistic.com.sg