

Film Picks

John Lui Film Correspondent recommends



SO LONG, MY SON (PG)
185 minutes/opens tomorrow
★★★★☆

Over its luxurious three-hour run-time, this story packs in threads about forced abortions, labour-camp stints for listening to decadent Western pop, attempted suicide and extramarital liaisons.

If it all sounds like prime-time soap opera material, that is because it is. But celebrated Chinese film-maker Wang Xiaoshuai, master of social realist dramas like the prize-winning *Beijing Bicycle* (2001), *Shanghai Dreams* (2005) and *11 Flowers* (2011) never lapses into mawkishness.

The son of Yaojun (Wang Jingchun) and Liyun (Yong Mei) is killed in an accident. The pain is felt all the more keenly because he is their only child, the result of China's population control policy. Over the next three decades, the after-effects of that death linger on in the lives of the couple and their friends and relatives.

Wang and Yong won the Silver Bear for Best Actor and Best Actress at the 2019 Berlin International Film Festival.

WHERE: Oldham Theatre, 1 Canning Rise
MRT: Dhoby Ghaut / Fort Canning
WHEN: Tomorrow to Oct 28, various times
ADMISSION: \$10 from solongmyson.peatix.com
INFO: www.asianfilmarchive.org



FACES OF KOREAN WOMEN

This programme of 24 films is curated by the Asian Film Archive to mark a century of Korean cinema. The focus is on women in film, with the slate going back to the 1930s to showcase works with strong female characters.

One critic called action flick *The Villainess* (M18, 129 minutes, screens tomorrow at 8pm) "a hyperkinetic mix of *Kill Bill*, *La Femme Nikita* and *John Wick*".

This violent tale of revenge features Kim Ok-bin (above) as Sook-hee, a woman raised by gangsters to be the perfect killer, who then becomes an agent for the government until her past catches up with her.

WHERE: Oldham Theatre, 1 Canning Rise
MRT: Dhoby Ghaut / Fort Canning
WHEN: Till Nov 17
ADMISSION: \$10 a ticket, \$20 for three tickets and \$30 for five tickets
INFO: asianfilmarchive.org

PHOTOS: CLOVER FILMS, ANTICIPATE PICTURES, IRISH FILM FESTIVAL



IRISH FILM FESTIVAL

Six films from Ireland will be showcased at this inaugural event, ranging from the less well-known to the famous, such as romantic musical *Once* (2007), winner of an Academy Award for Best Original Song.

The opening film is *Float Like A Butterfly* (PG13, 101 minutes, screens on Oct 20 at 1.30pm). Set mostly in the 1970s, the story is seen through the eyes of Frances (Hazel Doupe, left), a boxing enthusiast who idolises heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali. Having grown up in a rural, nomadic community and with a father who seems to have given up on life, she faces tremendous odds finding happiness.

Film-maker Carmel Winters and production designer Toma McCullum will speak at the screening.

WHERE: Filmgarde Bugis +, Level 5, 201 Victoria Street
MRT: Bugis
WHEN: Wednesday to Oct 31
ADMISSION: \$15
INFO: www.irishfilmfestival.sg

FILMS

Remedy For Rage (NC 16)

Six Singaporean artists are featured in the short film installation: Mysara Aljaru, Yanyun Chen & Sara Chong, Kris Ong, Tania De Rozario, and Chantal Tan. Films will be played on loop. Part of *Women in Film & Photography 2019*, which seeks to explore how rage against discrimination, repression and injustice can be channelled into a force for awareness, action and change through art.

WHERE: Lower Gallery, Objectifs Centre for Photography & Film, 155 Middle Road
MRT: Bras Basah
WHEN: Today - Nov 17, Tue - Sat: 12-7pm, Sun: 12 - 4pm
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: www.objectifs.com.sg

Deriver/Arrivee | A Century Of Travel In French Cinema: Visages Villages

This film series reflects on a past century of journeys as presented within the French consciousness, where identity and itinerancy are twin notions that lay the tracks for such sojourns across fictional lands and foreign spaces. Part of *Voilà! France Singapore Festival*.

WHERE: Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium, Level 2 Education Resource Centre, University Town, 8 College Avenue West
MRT: Dover
WHEN: Thu, 7pm
ADMISSION: Free, register at bit.ly/DeriverArrivee
INFO: bit.ly/DeriverArrivee

McQueen (M18)

The documentary tells the fearless, rebellious and extraordinary life of the enfant terrible architect of the fashion craft - Alexander McQueen. Part of *Archifest 2019*.

WHERE: Green Room, The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road
MRT: Nicoll Highway
WHEN: Today, 8.30pm
ADMISSION: \$13.50 (standard); concessions available
INFO: theprojector.sg

Martha & Niki (TBA)

A gripping, coming-of-age documentary about Swedish hip-hop dance superstars Martha Nabwire and Niki Tsappos. Follow their journey and dance battles to becoming the

first female champions of one of the greatest dance competitions in the world, the *Juste Debout*, to an untimely falling out. Part of *Cinedans 2019*.

WHERE: Redrum, The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road
MRT: Nicoll Highway
WHEN: Tomorrow, 5.30pm
ADMISSION: \$13.50 (standard); concessions available
INFO: theprojector.sg

Port Authority (R21)

On the steps outside New York City's dizzying central bus station, Port Authority, a girl named Wye vogues with her siblings. Paul, a young drifter, watches her, transfixed by her beauty. After he seeks her out, an intense love soon blossoms. Wye introduces him to the ballroom community, an underground LGBTQ subculture, and to her house, a self-selected chosen family. But when Paul realises Wye is trans, he is forced to confront his feelings for her and the social forces that seek to rupture their bond. Part of the 11th *Love & Pride Film Festival - Sparking Change*.

WHERE: GV Grand, Golden Village, Great World City, 1 Kim Seng Promenade
MRT: Somerset
WHEN: Today, 7.15pm
ADMISSION: \$15.00 (standard)
INFO: www.gv.com.sg

Giant Little Ones (R21)

Franky Winter (Josh Wiggins) and Ballas Kohl (Darren Mann) have been best friends since childhood. They are high school royalty: handsome, stars of the swim team and popular with girls. They live a perfect teenage life until the night of Franky's epic 17th birthday party, when Franky and Ballas are involved in an unexpected incident that changes their lives forever.

WHERE: GV Grand, Golden Village, Great World City, 1 Kim Seng Promenade
MRT: Somerset
WHEN: Tomorrow, 2pm
ADMISSION: \$15 (standard)
INFO: www.gv.com.sg

PETS

Save Our Singapore Dogs (SoSD) Adoption Drive

Adopting a dog is a big responsibility

and you have to carefully consider whether you have the energy, space, time and dedication it takes to provide a safe and happy home environment for the pet.

WHERE: JCube, 2 Jurong East Central 1
MRT: Jurong East
WHEN: Sun, 1 - 5pm
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: sosd.org.sg

KIDS

Children's Space

Explore the new Children's Space at the Malay Heritage Centre, specially designed for children aged three to six. Located within the Permanent Gallery, the space is a collaboration between the centre and The Artground - A Curious Place To Be.

WHERE: Finale of Permanent Gallery, Malay Heritage Centre, 85 Sultan Gate
MRT: Bugis
WHEN: From tomorrow
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: www.malayheritage.org.sg/en

Ce La Vi Sky High Circus

Sky High Circus is the perfect way to spend a Sunday afternoon with loved ones as families can enjoy themed performances and games, and soak in breathtaking views of the Singapore Strait and Bay over cuisine and drinks. Children will be taken on an exciting superhero-themed journey led by a group from creative arts centre Evolve Arts.

WHERE: Ce La Vi, Level 57 Marina Bay Sands Skypark, Hotel Tower 3, 1 Bayfront Avenue
MRT: Bayfront
WHEN: Sun 12 - 3pm
ADMISSION: \$98++ for adults, \$30++ for children
INFO: www.celavi.com/

NATURE

Of Seeds And Senses

In this one-hour guided walking tour, discover fascinating plants around the outdoor gardens. You will learn how our human senses work and how plants have similar senses, and why those senses are vital for both plants and people.

WHERE: The Canopy, Gardens by the Bay, 18 Marina Gardens Drive
MRT: Bayfront
WHEN: Tomorrow, 10am
ADMISSION: \$10
INFO: www.gardensbythetbay.com.sg

Scentsational Orchids

Orchids belong to one of the most diverse families in the plant kingdom. While they are known and appreciated for their variety of flowers, some have also developed an assortment of smells and strategies to attract pollinators. Learn about the different smells that orchids produce and take in the scents at the Fragrance Box in Gardens by the Bay's latest orchid display in Cloud Forest.

WHERE: Cloud Forest, Gardens by the Bay, 18 Marina Gardens Drive
MRT: Bayfront
WHEN: Sun, 9am - 9pm
ADMISSION: \$12 for entry into Cloud Forest
INFO: www.gardensbythetbay.com.sg

YMCA Outdoor And Adventure Monthly Saturday Walk

This 12km walk starts from MacRitchie, cuts across Rifle Range to the summit of Bukit Timah Hill before heading back to the visitor centre.

WHERE: Mushroom Cafe, MacRitchie Reservoir Nature Park, Lornie Road
MRT: Caldecott
WHEN: Tomorrow, 7am
ADMISSION: Free, register at www.ymca.org.sg
INFO: www.ymca.org.sg

OTHERS

Kursed

This hybrid adventure combines the race-against-time thrill of an escape room with the twisted thematic scares of a haunted house tour. Players are plunged into a dark mission and have to perform spine-chilling tasks and confront fearsome spirits to make it out.

WHERE: Location will be revealed to participants at a later date.
MRT: Harbourfront
WHEN: Every half hour starting from 8pm, Wed to Nov 10
ADMISSION: Wed & Thu: \$52, Fri - Sun: \$58
INFO: sg.megaadventure.com

Haw Par Thrilla 2

This event is a special collaboration with Shi Fu Miz, one of Hong Kong's leading independent dance music festivals. It will serve as both a third-anniversary celebration for home-grown party collective Ice Cream Sundays and a pre-party for the upcoming Shi Fu Miz festival. Highlights include DJ sets from the Ice Cream Sundays resident DJs and

Shi Fu Miz's international roster of selectors, multimedia art and design installations, and food and beverage offerings.

WHERE: Haw Par Villa, 262 Pasir Panjang Road
MRT: Haw Par Villa
WHEN: Tomorrow, 3 - 10.30pm
ADMISSION: \$25
INFO: www.facebook.com/icecreamsundayssg

LAST CALL

GameStart 2019

The event is centred on the theme of Asian mythology. Visitors can expect showcases of the latest blockbuster games, e-sports tournaments, indie games, tabletop gaming, cosplay and more.

WHERE: Halls 401 - 403, Suntec Singapore Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Raffles Boulevard
MRT: Promenade
WHEN: Tomorrow & Sun, 11am - 9pm
ADMISSION: \$12 for one-day standard, \$70 for VIP
INFO: www.gamestart.asia

Evening Chorus At Kranji Marshes

The two-hour walk, which covers around 3km, will introduce participants to this unique nature area and the species living in its marsh, woodland and grass habitats. They will be guided through the ecologically sensitive core conservation area, which is not usually opened to the public. This walk is not recommended for young kids without supervision.

WHERE: Meeting point is at Kranji Gate, 11 Neo Tiew Lane 2
MRT: Yew Tee
WHEN: Tomorrow, 4.30 - 6.30pm
ADMISSION: Free
TEL: 6794-1401
INFO: narks_sbwr@narks.gov.sg

• 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 sthappen@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.