

FilmPicks

John Lui Film Correspondent recommends



PHOTOS: ENCORE FILMS, GOLDEN VILLAGE, SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

**SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

This is a rare opportunity to watch on the big screen a lush period piece released in 1998. *Flowers Of Shanghai* (PG13, 113 minutes, screening tomorrow, 4.15pm, Filmgarde Bugis+) is adapted from the classic novel of the same name.

Directed by Taiwanese master Hou Hsiao-hsien, it stars Tony Leung (above, centre), Carina Lau and Michiko Hada in a story woven around the men who patronise a famed brothel in 19th-century Shanghai and the women who work there.

**WHERE:** Various locations, including Capitol Theatre, Filmgarde Bugis+, Golden Village Grand, Oldham Theatre, National Gallery Singapore, National Museum of Singapore, The Projector **MRT:** Various **WHEN:** Till Sunday **ADMISSION:** \$13 (except for opening film and special presentations). Discounts available for bulk purchases **INFO:** sgiff.com



**A LAND IMAGINED AND WET SEASON**

Missed the mystery-drama *A Land Imagined* (NC16, 95 minutes, ★★★★★) during its run in cinemas this year? To mark its win of two prizes at the Golden Horse Awards (for Best Original Screenplay and Best Original Score), Cathay is bringing this story of a local cop (Peter Yu, right) and his search for a missing migrant worker from China back for a short engagement. Go to [cathaycinplexes.com.sg](http://cathaycinplexes.com.sg) for the latest schedules. Also, look out for its release on DVD at the end of the year.

Meanwhile, Anthony Chen's follow-up to *Ilo Ilo* (2013), *Wet Season*



(M18, 103 minutes, ★★★★★), which opens this week, also picked up a Best Actress Golden Horse Award for Yeo Yann Yann (top). She plays a teacher whose loneliness is eased when she crosses lines, both personal and professional.



**KNIVES OUT (PG13)**

130 minutes/★★★★☆

The comedy-tinged murder mystery is a star-studded affair that could have been that most awful of creations: A party in which everyone, except the viewer, is having a good time.

But writer-director Rian Johnson loves cinema too much to let that happen.

This new work expresses his fondness for the Agatha Christie flick. A "gentleman sleuth of great renown", Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig, above, deploying an outrageously broad Southern accent), is called in to investigate a murder in a mansion that is "practically a Clue board", according to one guest-suspect.

This is a film-maker having fun and who is too smart and empathetic to let things become overly clever or nerdy. An array of A-listers, from Toni Collette to Chris Evans to Jamie Lee Curtis, play the suspects. They never look too smugly in on the joke, each turning in an earnest performance.

**FILMS**

**Unteachable (PG)**

Unteachable follows teacher Meixi as she tries out Tutorial Relationships, a novel teaching method from Mexico, in Normal-Technical Stream classes in Singapore where students become the teachers. After several months, Meixi's attempt at helping her students find meaning in their learning is met with resistance and she struggles to find her place in the local system.

**WHERE:** Redrum, The Projector, 05-00 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road **MRT:** Nicoll Highway **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 4.40pm **ADMISSION:** \$13.50, concessions available **INFO:** theprojector.sg

**Coco (PG)**

Inspired by the Mexican Day of the Dead holiday, this 3D computer-animated fantasy film tells the story of 12-year-old Miquel (Anthony Gonzalez), who dreams of becoming a singer despite his family's ban on music. He stumbles into the land of the dead where he learns about his great-great-grandfather, who was a legendary singer.

**WHERE:** Open Plaza 2 (outside D'Marquee), Downtown East, 1 Pasir Ris Close **MRT:** Pasir Ris **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 7.30 - 10pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** [www.downtowneast.com.sg](http://www.downtowneast.com.sg)

**KIDS**

**Doraemon Merry Christmas**

Shoppers can expect surprises as Doraemon and Friends drum up the Yuletide celebrations with dance shows and meet-and-greet sessions as well as thematic art workshops. Shoppers can also take photos with the 4m-tall Doraemon inflatable and collect limited-edition Doraemon merchandise.

**WHERE:** AMK Hub, 53 Ang Mo Kio Avenue 3 **MRT:** Ang Mo Kio

**WHERE:** Jurong Point, 1 Jurong West Central 2 **MRT:** Boon Lay **WHEN:** Till Dec 26 **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** [www.mercatus.com.sg](http://www.mercatus.com.sg)

**KidZania Day Out**

KidZania Singapore creates more in-depth learning opportunities as part of this year's year-end holiday programmes. Step out of the kid-sized city and learn about the manufacturing process at the Yakult Factory and take on archery combat at the Camp Challenge site in Sembawang. Suitable for kids aged three and older.

**WHERE:** KidZania Singapore, 01-01/02, 31 Beach View **MRT:** HarbourFront **WHEN:** Dec 6, 5pm **ADMISSION:** \$78 **INFO:** [kidzania.com.sg](http://kidzania.com.sg)

**PETS**

**A Furry White Christmas**  
Pets Magazine and Alkaff Mansion are organising an exclusive White Christmas-themed event.

**WHERE:** The Alkaff Mansion, 10 Telok Blangah Green **MRT:** Telok Blangah **WHEN:** Dec 14, 4 - 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$17 a person, \$7 a pet **INFO:** [www.petsmagazine.com.sg](http://www.petsmagazine.com.sg)

**Aniversity 2019**

Aniversity is a university on SPCA premises, where children will learn about caring for animals, animal behaviour through an educational talk as well as interacting with animals. Children will also get to express their love of animals through the Painting with Pooches activity.

**WHERE:** SPCA, 50 Sungei Tengah Road **MRT:** Choa Chu Kang **WHEN:** Thu, 11am - 2pm **ADMISSION:** \$35 a child **INFO:** [www.sPCA.org.sg](http://www.sPCA.org.sg)

**TOURS**

**Art Goes From Streets To Galleries In Little India**

Join Artwalk Singapore in this tour by Singapore Tourism Board to find out more about the breathtaking murals in Little India.

**WHERE:** Clive Street Poli site, at the intersection between Clive Street & Dickson Road **MRT:** Little India **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 4 - 6pm, & Sun, 10am - noon **ADMISSION:** \$18 **INFO:** [www.murallingo.com](http://www.murallingo.com)

**Tuesday Walk: Tanjong Pagar**

Tanjong Pagar means "cape of stakes", a name that reflects its origins as a fishing village. But there is a more picturesque account of the naming inspired by a local legend. On this new tour, discover who the early inhabitants of the area were and how, in the second half of the 19th century, the area transformed from a busy harbour into a maze of skyscrapers.

**WHERE:** Seng Wong Beo Temple, 113 Peck Seah Street **MRT:** Tanjong Pagar **WHEN:** Tue, 9am - 12.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$75 **INFO:** [janestours.sg](http://janestours.sg)

**Sketch And The City Tour (Singapore Biennale 2019 Special)**

Singapore has many unique neighbourhoods, each full of character and life. This tour will start off with a drink and snack in a cafe, where participants will learn the foundations of how to travel sketch and interesting stories and trivia about a part of Chinatown that is located away from the touristy areas.

**WHERE:** Hotel Solohua, 12 Teck Lim Road **MRT:** Outram Park **WHEN:** Till Dec 27, every Fri, 10am - noon **ADMISSION:** \$90 **INFO:** [www.everydaytour.company.com](http://www.everydaytour.company.com)

**Nostalgic Ubin Island Art Excursion**

Explore the beauty of Singapore's last remaining fishing village with a local renowned artist. Check out locations like the old village, jetty, seashore, mangrove swamp and the Malay kampung.

**WHERE:** Basement lobby, Changi Point Ferry Terminal, 51 Lorong Bekukong **MRT:** Tampines East **WHEN:** Till Jan 17 next year, every Fri, 10am - 6.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$148 **INFO:** [myartspace.com.sg](http://myartspace.com.sg)

**NATURE**

**Christmas Wonderland**

Revel in the festivities at Singapore's most popular year-end event, Christmas Wonderland at Gardens by the Bay. Magical luminary lights transform the fairground into a stunning wonderland complete with Yuletide favourites and festive fun for everyone. Meet Santa, experience "snow" in the tropics, enjoy carnival games and rides and shop at the Christmas Village.

**WHERE:** Supertree Grove and The Meadow, Gardens by the Bay, 18 Marina Gardens Drive **MRT:** Bayfront **WHEN:** Today - Dec 26, 5 - 11pm **ADMISSION:** \$10, concessions available **INFO:** [christmaswonderland.sg](http://christmaswonderland.sg)

**OTHERS**

**PVP Esports @ Singapore Comic Con (SGCC)**

As the official e-sports presenter, PVP Esports @ SGCC will feature the exciting grand finals of Singtel's regional PVP Corporate League and PVP Campus League, global celebrity appearances, panel discussions, partner showcases and exclusive giveaways by Chinese tech company

Huawei, gaming chair manufacturer Secret Lab, gaming product company Razer and more. All Singapore Comic Con ticket holders will have access to the PVP Esports zone.

**WHERE:** G10, Hall C, Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre, 10 Bayfront Avenue **MRT:** Bayfront **WHEN:** Dec 7 & 8, 10am - 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$25 for entry into Singapore Comic Con **INFO:** [www.pvpesports.gg](http://www.pvpesports.gg)

**So Cantai Market**

At this little art market in a park in the middle of Little India, you can support passionate local artists, try out the informal workshops with activities related to Indian culture and enjoy lively bhanga dance performances.

**WHERE:** Junction of Clive Street & Dickson Road **MRT:** Little India **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 4 - 10pm, & Sun, 11am - 4pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** [www.theadmin.sg](http://www.theadmin.sg)

**Christmas Market At Raffles City**

Check out festive goodies from household retail brands such as Robinsons and The Cocoa Trees.

**WHERE:** Level 3 Atrium, Raffles City Singapore, 252 North Bridge Road **MRT:** City Hall **WHEN:** Dec 5 - 26, 10.30am - 9.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** [rafflescity.com.sg](http://rafflescity.com.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](mailto: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](http://www.straitstimes.com) (click on Lifestyle) for more listings.