

Arts Picks

Melissa Sim Deputy Life Editor recommends



PHOTOS: SINGAPORE REPERTORY THEATRE, NG WU GANG, ANDSOFORTH

SWEENEY TODD

The set-up for Sweeney Todd is straightforward. The demon barber of Fleet Street, who returns to London to seek vengeance, establishes a barber shop above a pie shop as part of his ruse. He kills his clients selectively and the bodies are callously dumped into the shop below, run by his partner in crime Mrs Lovett, who minces the victims for her meat pies.

But the set design in this production is unwieldy and distracting. The barber shop is perched on the back of a vehicle, which means "dead bodies" slide off the barber's chair and then off the vehicle before they walk into Mrs Lovett's oven.

That said, nearly all is forgiven when the actors start singing. Award-winning actress Lea Salonga's voice is sublime, delivering Stephen Sondheim's music and lyrics with clarity and aplomb. Her Mrs Lovett is a lovable psychopath with impeccable comic timing, exemplified by songs such as A Little Priest and By The Sea.

She is backed by an extremely talented cast whose voices fill the Sands Theatre like no other ensemble I have seen on this stage.

WHERE: Sands Theatre at Marina Bay Sands, 10 Bayfront Avenue
MRT: Bayfront **WHEN:** Till Sunday; 8pm (today); 3 and 8pm (tomorrow); 1 and 6pm (Sunday)
ADMISSION: From \$55 (call 6348-5555 or go to sistic.com.sg)
INFO: srt.com.sg



DISCRETE ENCODING

The pieces in this exhibition attempt to capture visual impressions that are fleeting and subjective, and translate them into symbols, codes and illustrations which form the works of art. Featured artists include Singaporean Donna Ong, Grace Tan from Malaysia, Savanhdy Vongpoothorn from Laos and Bea Camacho from the Philippines.

WHERE: Fost Gallery, 01-02, Gillman Barracks, 1 Lock Road
MRT: Labrador Park **WHEN:** Till Dec 29; 11am to 7pm (Tuesdays to Saturdays); 11am to 6pm (Sundays) or by appointment (Mondays and public holidays)
ADMISSION: Free **INFO:** Call 6694-3080 or e-mail info@fostgallery.com



VALHALLA AND THE CHAMBERS OF ASGARD

Immersive dinner theatre makes a great night out for groups of friends looking for something more than just a meal together.

Theatre company Andsoforth's latest offering, Valhalla And The Chambers Of Asgard, takes the audience through multiple rooms to uncover the mysteries surrounding the Norse gods.

The script gets a bit repetitive, as audiences are told numerous times throughout the evening they have a choice to make by the end of

the show: to follow one of two gods.

But one can tune out and concentrate on the detailed decor and surprisingly well-cooked meal, which includes lamb stew and blackened salmon.

Go with friends and dress to theme – pelts and Viking helmets are encouraged.

WHERE: Location is disclosed after tickets are purchased
WHEN: Till Feb 1, Thursdays to Saturdays; shows start every half hour from 7 to 9pm
ADMISSION: \$108 to \$128
INFO: andsforth.com.sg

ARTS

BOOKS

The Next Chapter Book Club

A discussion of books with themes of particular interest to seniors, including relationships, retirement, financial issues, health and exercise, hobbies, recreation and travel.

WHERE: Yishun Public Library, Programme Zone, 930 Yishun Avenue 2
MRT: Yishun
WHEN: Dec 14, 11.30am - 1pm
ADMISSION: Free. Registration required **INFO:** bit.ly/2Lm720a

LifeHacks 2020 Book Launch

Experts from various industries will share their experience in health, wealth and relationships. The book aims to enable readers to seek essential skills to acquire for the coming year.

WHERE: 20-08, International Plaza, 10 Anson Road **MRT:** Tanjong Pagar
WHEN: Dec 23, 7 - 10pm
ADMISSION: US\$36.40 (\$\$49.60)
INFO: bit.ly/2P96GJy

CONCERTS

The Wind In The Willows – Wayfarers All

Join the Vocal Associates, Ratty, Mole, Mr Badger and the impulsive Mr Toad for a magical journey down the riverbank in John Rutter's delightful interpretation of Kenneth Grahame's classic children's book, The Wind In The Willows.

WHERE: Esplanade Concert Hall, 1 Esplanade Drive
MRT: City Hall/Esplanade
WHEN: Tonight, 7.30pm
ADMISSION: \$40 - \$98
INFO: sistic.com.sg/events/wind1219

In Dulci Jubilo: A German Baroque Christmas, C. 1620 By Cappella Martialis

The December project focuses on the works of the early German Baroque composer Hieronymus Praetorius, who was responsible for most of the "standard" harmonisation of Luther's hymns, which are now found in the hymnals of most English and German churches. The singers will be accompanied by an array of instruments.

WHERE: Queenstown Lutheran Church, 709 Commonwealth Drive
MRT: Commonwealth
WHEN: Tomorrow, 8 - 9.30pm
ADMISSION: Free. Registration required **INFO:** bit.ly/2DLAmcM

Harmonies Through Time

After a well-received piano recital at the Esplanade last year, Wendelin Kwek is back with a concert featuring Edward Auer – her former professor from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music – as a guest artist, with works by Beethoven, Chopin and Debussy.

WHERE: Esplanade Recital Studio, 1 Esplanade Drive
MRT: City Hall/Esplanade
WHEN: Dec 18, 7.30pm
ADMISSION: \$50 (free seating)
INFO: sistic.com.sg/events/charmonies1219

DANCE

Swan Lake Presented By Singapore Dance Theatre

The timeless classic Swan Lake is a bewitching story of undying love, a cruel twist of fate and the promise of devotion.

WHERE: Esplanade Theatre, 1 Esplanade Drive
MRT: City Hall/Esplanade
WHEN: Till Sun; 8pm (today), 1 & 8pm (tomorrow), 1 & 7pm (Sun)
ADMISSION: \$40 - \$80
INFO: sistic.com.sg/events/cswan1219

Indian Dance, Remix It Up!

Indian fusion dance choreographer and performer Iswarya Jayakumar melds contemporary and classical Indian styles in a performance inspired by the changing times and her roots in classical Indian dance.

WHERE: Esplanade Waterfront Canopy, 1 Esplanade Drive
MRT: City Hall/Esplanade
WHEN: Dec 14 & 15; 5.45, 7 & 8.15pm (Sat), 4.45, 6.15 & 7.30pm (Sun)
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: bit.ly/2Ycyu4

EXHIBITIONS (MUSEUMS)

Modern Colony

Set in a 1920s black-and-white bungalow, this gallery showcases the cosmopolitan nature of Singapore as a British crown colony in the 1920s and 1930s. With more educational opportunities for girls and the arrival of female immigrants from China in the 1920s, women began to occupy more visible public roles in a once patriarchal society. Some of them made important contributions to causes such as education and charity, which helped to improve women's welfare at the time.

WHERE: Modern Colony Gallery, Level 2, National Museum, 93 Stamford Road **MRT:** Dhoby Ghaut
WHEN: 10am - 7pm (daily)
ADMISSION: Free for Singaporeans, permanent residents & visitors aged six years & below **INFO:** bit.ly/34NPORT

EXHIBITIONS (GALLERIES)

Once There By Alex Seton By Sullivan + Strumpf

Sullivan+Strumpf presents a new solo exhibition by Australian multi-disciplinary artist Alex Seton, his second solo show here. Part of an ongoing series, it sees the continuation of Seton's study of marble carvings.

WHERE: Sullivan + Strumpf, 01-06, 5 Lock Road **MRT:** Labrador Park
WHEN: Till Dec 22, 11am - 7pm (Tue - Sat), 11am - 6pm (Sun)
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: bit.ly/2reSKYF

The Land Of The Heavenly Sky – A Solo Exhibition By Ahmad Abu Bakar

Ahmad Abu Bakar was born in 1963 in Melaka, Malaysia, and has lived and worked in Singapore for most of his life. In this exhibition, he invites viewers to encounter his objects in contemplative dialogue by activating the intrinsic and mnemonic vocabulary of symbols. It is presented in three groups: bright green (land), white (sky) and bright orange (earth).

WHERE: Chan + Hori Contemporary, 02-09, Block 6, Gillman Barracks, 6 Lock Road **MRT:** Labrador Park
WHEN: Till Dec 22; 11am - 7pm (weekdays), 12 - 6pm (weekends). Closed on Mon & public holidays
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: bit.ly/2DHtdZ

EXHIBITIONS (OTHERS)

Extra-Ordinary Creations: Living Cities

Extra-Ordinary People, United Overseas Bank and UOB Art Academy present an art exhibition that celebrates inclusivity and cohesiveness within the community. It features the winning works of the UOB Art in Ink Awards from Hong Kong; together with works by artists from Adam Arts Creation – the social enterprise of Arts with the Disabled Association Hong Kong – as well as ArtSE Singapore and APSN Chaoyang School. Works by emerging and established artists will also be featured.

WHERE: Lobby, Parkroyal on Beach Road, 7500 Beach Road **MRT:** Bugis/Nicoll Highway

WHEN: Till Sun **ADMISSION:** Free
INFO: extraordinarypeople.sg/extraordinary-creations

THEATRE

Haha Teahouse

Sip tea and munch on snacks while catching a hilarious performance by young crosstalk performers such as theatre practitioners Audrey Luo, Sugie Phua and Rennard Ho, as well as members of the National University of Singapore Chinese Society Crosstalk Club. In Mandarin.

WHERE: Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre Creative Box, Level 6, 1 Straits Boulevard
MRT: Tanjong Pagar
WHEN: Tomorrow and Sun; 2 - 3.30pm, 5 - 6.30pm
ADMISSION: \$25
INFO: sistic.com.sg/events/haha1219

Crazy Christmas – Crazy gRInCH Asians

Meet the true green Singaporean, the local gRInCH born in the world's most expensive city, which celebrates Christmas with lots of trimmings, trappings and feasting.

WHERE: Capitol Theatre, 17 Stamford Road **MRT:** City Hall
WHEN: Wed - Dec 21, 8pm (Tue - Sun), 3pm (Sat & Sun) (No shows on Dec 13 & 16)
ADMISSION: From \$48
INFO: sg.bookmyshow.com/singapore

A Christmas Carol

British Theatre Playhouse and The British Club are bringing from London the stage, television and film actor Clive Francis, who will put on a one-man presentation of A Christmas Carol. The classic festive tale by Charles Dickens features the miserly, misanthropic Ebenezer Scrooge.

WHERE: The Elizabeth Suite, The British Club, 73 Bukit Tinggi Road
MRT: Sixth Avenue
WHEN: Dec 13 & 14, 8pm; Dec 15, 5pm

ADMISSION: From \$42 for members & \$61 for non-members
INFO: bit.ly/2Dlp9CP

COMEDY

Andrew Packer

A Vancouver-based comedian and the founder of Jokes N Tokes Comedy, Andrew Packer has worked alongside the likes of Pablo Francisco, Brendan Schaub and Sam Tripoli. His podcast, The Joker Broker Podcast, sees him team up with friend and insurance broker Sam Jazayeri to debunk theories about stand-up comedy and insurance.

WHERE: The Merry Lion, Level 3, 8B Circular Road
MRT: Clarke Quay **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 10.30pm
ADMISSION: \$10
INFO: sistic.com.sg/events/Andrew1219

OTHER ARTS EVENTS

Artist Talk By Koh Hong Teng – From Social Realism To Speculative Fiction And Silkpunk

The artist will touch on the various genre of titles published between 2009 and this year, and how he collaborated with various writers. The stories include Gone Case, Ten Sticks And One Rice and Manja, which explore social issues in Singapore. In Building Memories and Last Train From Tanjong Pagar, Koh uses drawings and text as a record of history. In Coalition Of The Savoury Spare Parts and The Prodigy, he draws inspiration from the sword-fighting and fantasy comics of his youth.

WHERE: Mulan Gallery, 01-07, 36 Armenian Street (off Loke Yew Street) **MRT:** City Hall
WHEN: Dec 14, 3 - 4pm
ADMISSION: Free (limited to 25 seats) **INFO:** E-mail enquiry@mulan-gallery.com