

FILMS

Ten Years Thailand (M18)
The anthology comprises four dystopian short films set in Thailand's not-so-distant future: *Sunset* by Aditya Assarat, *Catopia* by Wisit Sasanatieng, *Planetarium* by Chulayarnnon Siriphol and *Song Of The City* by Apichatpong Weerasethaku. In Thai with English subtitles.
WHERE: Redrum, The Projector, 05-00 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road **MRT:** Nicoll Highway
WHEN: Tomorrow, 8pm
ADMISSION: \$9.50 - \$13.50 (concessions available)
INFO: theprojector.sg

Gorillaz: Reject False Icons (Rating to be advised)
In his debut feature, director Denholm Hewlett followed the band's every move for three years, covering the making of two critically acclaimed albums, *Humanz* (2017) and *The Now Now* (2018), as well as the band's most ambitious world tour to date, bookended by their own Demon Dayz Festivals in the United Kingdom and United States. The result is the first all-access immersive journey into the world of Gorillaz and their extended family – featuring never-before-seen footage, where the virtual meets the real – to capture the wondrous chaos of life under the watchful eye of Murdoc Niccals (bass), Noodle (guitar), Russel Hobbs (drums) and 2D (vocals).
WHERE: Green Room, The Projector, 05-00 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road **MRT:** Nicoll Highway **WHEN:** Tue, 8.30pm
ADMISSION: \$18
INFO: theprojector.sg

A Christmas Special – Family Mini-carnival Experience At Capitol Singapore
Play games and munch on free-flow popcorn and candy floss at BYKidO's Christmas carnival. Each ticket also comes with a nine-piece nugget serving from Burger King and there will be a free movie screening under the stars.
WHERE: Outdoor Plaza, Capitol Singapore, 13 Stamford Road **MRT:** City Hall **WHEN:** Dec 27 & 28, 5–9pm **ADMISSION:** \$15 a parent/a child
INFO: bit.ly/2YBD7H4

Movies By The Beach – The Grinch (2018)
This is part of a free outdoor movie series by the beach which takes place on selected Saturdays. Gather your friends and head to Sentosa for an engaging theatrical line-up of popular favourites, classics and Hollywood blockbusters.
WHERE: Palawan Green, Sentosa **MRT:** HarbourFront
WHEN: Dec 28, 7.30pm
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: www.sentosa.com.sg

PETS

SOSD Shelter Tour
What are dog fostering and adoption processes like? Where do all the dogs come from? Find out more about Save Our Street Dogs (SOSD) and the activities at its shelter on this education and outreach tour hosted by its volunteers.
WHERE: The Animal Lodge, Level 2 Main Building, 59 Sungei Tengah Road **MRT:** Choa Chu Kang
WHEN: Dec 29, noon - 1.30pm
ADMISSION: \$3 **INFO:** sosd.org.sg

KIDS

Playdates Holiday Camp: Hunter Series
The Hunter Series is a four-session camp themed on biodiversity and animals, designed to foster friendships between children with and without special needs. It brings together art, nature and animal conservation through a creative process that culminates in an excursion to wildlife conservation group Acres.
WHERE: The Invincible Room by Superhero Me, Multimedia Lab 2, Playground Block, Enabling Village, 20 Lengkok Bahru **MRT:** Redhill
WHEN: Wed & Dec 20, 10am - noon
ADMISSION: \$55 **INFO:** shmhunterplaydates.peatix.com/

Fun-tastic Fridays
The Asian Civilisations Museum has kid-friendly lunchtime concerts, drama performances and craft activities for an immersive afternoon. For adventure seekers, there are special interactive kids' tours around the museum and they can embark on a quest to free Mr Dragon.
WHERE: Asian Civilisations Museum, 1 Empress Place **MRT:** Raffles Place
WHEN: Dec 20, noon - 5pm
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: www.acm.org.sg

Storytelling Sessions: Orang Laut Tales By MoonShadow Stories
Climb on board a magnificent ship deck and discover An Old New World through the eyes of some of Singapore's earliest inhabitants, the Orang Laut. Be enthralled by the seafaring life of these skilled sailors and navigators who guided trading ships through the Straits waterways

FilmPicks

John Lui Film Correspondent recommends



Marriage Story stars Scarlett Johansson, Azhy Robertson and Adam Driver. PHOTOS: ENCORE FILMS, GOLDEN VILLAGE, NETFLIX

MARRIAGE STORY (M18)
136 minutes/Netflix/★★★★☆
Writer-director Noah Baumbach (*The Squid And The Whale*, 2005; *Frances Ha*, 2012) has a screenplay here that is tipped as the one to beat at coming awards and it is a thing of beauty.
The story moves from comedy to drama and back again without effort, as does the size of the story's focus.
In a flash, it transforms from intimate character study to a satire of how the adversarial nature of the law in California and New York turns the most amicable of uncouplings into knock-down, drawn-out, tooth-and-nail fights.

Off-Broadway playwright Charlie, played by Adam Driver, and his wife and muse, the actress Nicole, played by Scarlett Johansson, are a couple at a crossroads: One of them wants change and the other does not.
Baumbach, at his best, creates indispensable characters, especially in the supporting roles. Viewers will remember Nicole's sister Cassie (Merritt Weaver) as much as they will remember the couple's lawyers, played by Laura Dern, Alan Alda and Ray Liotta. All are wonderful as the three people you meet in divorce hell.
In this painfully funny and tragically sad story, Driver and Johansson deliver outstanding performances as the couple who find that love is only the start; the rest takes practice and luck.

WET SEASON (M18)
103 minutes/★★★★☆
Film-maker Anthony Chen's follow-up to *Ilo Ilo* (2013) finds him less interested in how doing the right thing can drive people into the wrong places, a theme he explored in the earlier film.
Instead, he is out to shove anyone who thinks they have him pegged far, far out of their comfort zones.
This is a character study of a woman stoically struggling with questions about her place in the world. These questions include who she is as a sexual person.
Yeo Yann Yann's Ling is a Chinese-language teacher in a system that treats her subject as a nuisance, an inconvenient roadblock on the path to academic success. She struggles to conceive with husband Andrew (Christopher Lee).
Impregnation has become a job and a source of stress, as is taking care of her paralysed father-in-law, played with deep, wordless pathos by Chinese-language theatre



Wet Season stars Yeo Yann Yann, Yang Shi Bin and Koh Jia Ler.

veteran Yang Shi Bin.
While remaining ever the steadfast teacher and dutiful wife on the outside, inside she teeters on the edge of a breakdown, but Chen is too good a storyteller to make it a straightforward story of therapeutic emancipation after she forms a friendship with student Wei Lun (Koh Jia Ler).
Chen lulls the viewer by creating a sense of the familiar – the routines of school, chores of the family home, the downpours that soak the streets – but he then makes the camera linger, without judgment, on scenes of intimacy that are joltingly painful to watch.



KNIVES OUT (PG13)
130 minutes/★★★★☆
The comedy-tinged murder mystery is a star-studded affair that could have been that most awful of creation: 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 Johnson's fondness for the Agatha Christie flick, featuring a "gentleman sleuth of great renown", Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig, above, deploying an outrageously broad Southern accent), 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 too 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 earnest performances.

and try your hand at making a paper boat. Presented in conjunction with An Old New World: From The East Indies To The Founding Of Singapore, 1600s–1819.
WHERE: Entrance of the Exhibition Galleries, Basement Level, National Museum of Singapore, 93 Stamford Road **MRT:** Dhoby Ghaut
WHEN: Dec 21, 2 & 3.30pm (30 minutes a session)
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: nationalmuseum.sg

Sci-sational Christmas: The Elves' HQ
Celebrate Christmas with science demonstrations and activities as quirky elves take visitors on a tour to the headquarters of their Christmas Village.
WHERE: Annexe Hall 1, Science Centre Singapore, 15 Science Centre Road **MRT:** Jurong East **WHEN:** Till Dec 25; 11am, noon, 1.30, 2.2.30, 3, 3.30, 4 & 4.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$15
INFO: www.science.edu.sg

NATURE

Plant Guided Walk At Jurong Lake Gardens
Join a walk to appreciate the plants and trees in Jurong Lake Gardens. The walk will be hosted by APSN (Association for Persons with Special Needs) Delta Senior School students.
WHERE: Jurong Lake Gardens, Leaf Shelter (South Carpark & The Oval), 104 Yuan Ching Road **MRT:** Lakeside
WHEN: Mon, 9.30 - 10.30am
ADMISSION: Free; registration required **INFO:** E-mail ruth_tan@nparks.gov.sg

What's In My Mangrove?
Join a guided walk of the mangrove wetlands located at the border of

freshwater (river) and salt water (sea). Singapore used to have large areas of mangroves, but lost most of them to coastal development. Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve is one of the few mangrove areas left.
WHERE: Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, Visitor Centre, 301 Neo Tiew Crescent **MRT:** Kranji **WHEN:** Dec 21, 9.30 - 11am **ADMISSION:** Free; registration required **INFO:** E-mail nparks_sbwr@nparks.gov.sg

Gardeners' Day Out At HortPark
Gardeners' Day Out offers an entire day of gardening and lifestyle activities for everyone, including a marketplace, free talks and demonstrations, free garden tours of HortPark and kids' activities like storytelling and handicrafts.
WHERE: HortPark, Visitor Services Centre, 33 Hyderabad Road **MRT:** Labrador Park **WHEN:** Dec 21, 9am - 3pm **ADMISSION:** Free
INFO: E-mail nparks_hortpark@nparks.gov.sg

A Mammoth Adventure Back In Time
Travel back in time this school holidays at the Singapore Zoo with more than 15 life-like prehistoric giants such as the woolly mammoth and saber-toothed tiger and an array of fun-filled activities.
WHERE: Singapore Zoo, 80 Mandai Lake Road **MRT:** Ang Mo Kio **WHEN:** Till Dec 29 (weekends & public holidays only), 10am - 4pm
ADMISSION: \$18 - \$35.10
INFO: www.wrs.com.sg

TOURS

Fun Walk Along The Southern Ridges
Take a leisure stroll through the

Southern Ridges, a sanctuary of greenery that is steeped in history. Highlights of the tour include the Henderson Waves, Sembcorp Forest of the Giants, Forest Walk and Singing Forest.
WHERE: Entrance of Henderson Waves (Mount Faber Park side) **MRT:** HarbourFront
WHEN: Tomorrow, 9 - 11am
ADMISSION: Free; registration required
INFO: E-mail Titia_leong@nparks.gov.sg or Anne_ng@nparks.gov.sg

National Museum Building Tour For Families
Join a learning journey and discover interesting gems about the 132-year-old building.
WHERE: Rotunda, Level 1 National Museum of Singapore, 93 Stamford Road **MRT:** Dhoby Ghaut
WHEN: Dec 21, 10.30am
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: sagg.info/event/national-museum-building-tour-for-families/

Back-of-house Tour – Former Supreme Court: Unseen, Unheard
This tour offers a glimpse into restricted areas of the former Supreme Court, usually out of bounds to the public. Go behind the scenes and find out more about courtroom proceedings and the experience of people on trial.
WHERE: Level 11 Tours Desk, Padang Atrium, National Gallery Singapore, 1 St Andrew's Road **MRT:** City Hall
WHEN: Every Fri, 5.30 - 6.45pm
ADMISSION: \$15 (general admission ticket required)
INFO: www.nationalgallery.sg

OTHERS

Christmas Wonderland At Gardens By The Bay
Revel in the festivities at Singapore's year-end event Christmas Wonderland at Gardens by the Bay, where one can meet Santa, experience snow in the tropics, enjoy carnival games and rides, sing along to Christmas carols and shop at the Festive Market.
WHERE: Gardens by the Bay, 18 Marina Gardens Drive **MRT:** Bayfront
WHEN: Till Dec 26, 7pm - midnight (daily) **ADMISSION:** From \$6
INFO: www.christmaswonderland.sg

LAST CALL

PheNoumenon By T.H.E Dance Company
The latest creation by founding artistic director of T.H.E Dance Company Kuik Swee Boon examines the relationship between man and his natural surroundings and what people can learn from the political, technological and climate chaos enveloping the world.
WHERE: Esplanade Theatre Studio, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/City Hall
WHEN: Today, 8pm; tomorrow, 3 & 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$38
INFO: www.sistic.com.sg

Artist Talk By Koh Hong Teng – From Social Realism To Speculative Fiction And Silkpunk
The artist will be touching on various titles published between 2009 and this year and how he collaborated with different writers. These include *Gone Case*, *Ten Sticks And One Rice* and *Manja*, stories that explore social issues in contemporary Singapore

society; *Building Memories* and *Last Train From Tanjong Pagar*, where Koh uses his drawings and text as a form of record of Singaporeans' shared history; and *Coalition Of The Savoury Spare Parts* and *The Prodigy*, which draw 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:** Tomorrow, 3 - 4pm **ADMISSION:** Free (limited to 25 seats) **INFO:** E-mail enquiry@mulangallery.com

S50 Pops: The Music Of Star Wars
The programme, helmed by Australian conductor Christopher Dragon, includes some of the *Star Wars* movies' most popular scores such as *The Imperial March*, *Princess Leia's Theme* and *Across The Stars*. The performances will also include themes from recent films in the series such as *The Force Awakens* (2015) and *The Last Jedi* (2017).
WHERE: Esplanade Concert Hall, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** City Hall/Esplanade
WHEN: Thu & Dec 20, 7.30pm
ADMISSION: \$25 - \$98
INFO: ticketing.sso.org.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.