

Film Picks

John Lui Film Correspondent recommends



DOLEMITE IS MY NAME (R21)

118 minutes/Netflix
★★★★☆

The boom in cheap action flicks in the 1970s fuelled the exploitation cinema trend all over the world. In Australia, for example, Mel Gibson featured in a low-budget piece called Mad Max (1979) and became a sensation. In the United States, a stand-up comic called Rudy Ray Moore (Eddie Murphy, left) decided the time was right to fund and star in the Dolemite series of blaxploitation movies. This biopic captures in all its raunchy, ramshackle glory the rise of an outsider who saw Bruce Lee on screen and wondered: "How hard can it be?" Moore decided to find out and became a star.

PHOTOS: NETFLIX, SHAW ORGANISATION, ENCORE FILMS



AN EASY GIRL (R21)

92 minutes/Now showing
★★★★☆

This work with the deliberately titillating title (Une Fille Facile in French) seeks to provoke thinking about women and sexual freedom. Co-writer and director Rebecca Zlotowski's female buddy comedy pairs two young women – the stay-at-home teen Naima

(Mina Farid, above left) and her free-spirited cousin Sofia (Zahia Dehar, above right). Sofia is instinctively drawn to pleasure and money, an urge that fascinates and repels Naima, who is spending an adventurous summer with her. The film is not quite the erotic journey some might expect: Naima comes away wiser from the experience in surprising ways.



KNIVES OUT (PG13)

130 minutes/Now showing
★★★★☆

Writer-director Rian Johnson has a fondness for Agatha Christie flicks. His murder mystery features a "gentleman sleuth of great renown", Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig, left, deploying an outrageously broad Southern accent), who is invited to sniff out the killer in a group where everyone has a motive. 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 – including Toni Collette, Chris Evans and Jamie Lee Curtis – play the suspects. They never look too smugly in on the joke, each turning in earnest performances.

FILMS

Chanson Douce (The Perfect Nanny) (M18)

When Myriam, a mother of two children, decides – despite her husband's reluctance – to resume working in a law firm, the couple look for a nanny. They engage Louise, who gains the children's affection and gradually occupies a central place in the home. However, the nanny's actions become disturbing. The screening will be followed by a live Skype Q&A with director Lucie Borleteau. In French with English subtitles. **WHERE:** Alliance Francaise de Singapour, 1 Sarkies Road **MRT:** Newton **WHEN:** Jan 21, 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$9 (Alliance Francaise members), \$11 (non-members) **INFO:** alliancefrancaise.org.sg

YMCA Charity Movie Night – Little Women (2019)

All proceeds from this event will go towards reducing the financial burden of low-income families through the YMCA Financial Assistance and Capabilities Scheme, which provides emergency financial aid. Many of these families need financial aid due to reasons such as unemployment, long-term illness, disability or single parenthood. **WHERE:** Shaw Theatres Lido, Levels 5/6 Shaw House, 350 Orchard Road **MRT:** Orchard **WHEN:** Wed, 7.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$50 (Lido 4), \$80 (Lido 5 - VIP Hall) **INFO:** bit.ly/2QEC7He

Distinction (PG)

Ms Tsui, a music teacher at a special-needs school, is unable to switch to a mainstream school due to stereotyping and labelling. Zoey is an underachiever from a Band 1 school who is struggling with the approaching public examination and Ka Ho is a rebellious teenager from a Band 3 school, who idles away his time and does not care about his handicapped little brother. They reluctantly take part in a musical, which turns out to be a journey of self-discovery. Cantonese with English subtitles. **WHERE:** Shaw Theatres Lido, Levels 5/6 Shaw House, 350 Orchard Road **MRT:** Orchard **WHEN:** Jan 16, 7pm **ADMISSION:** \$5 - \$10 **INFO:** shaw.sg

KIDS

Run Riot At Canopy Park

Gather the kids for some fun at Jewel Changi Airport's massive indoor wonderland. Weave through mazes, bounce on nets, slide down an art

sculpture and admire stunning views of the HSBC Rain Vortex and Shiseido Forest Valley from above a glass bridge. **WHERE:** Jewel Changi Airport **MRT:** Changi Airport **WHEN:** 10am - midnight (Sun - Thu), 10 - 1am (Fri, Sat & eve of public holidays) **ADMISSION:** \$4.50 - \$5 **INFO:** bit.ly/2SP9Qro

Nerf Action Xperience

A huge hit with kids – and kids at heart – since the late 1980s, the iconic Nerf brand is known for its foam-based toy guns such as the dart blasters. Amping up the Nerf experience, toy company Hasbro, which owns Nerf, teams up with production group Kingsmen Creatives to design a thrilling play space that encourages active learning and team bonding. **WHERE:** Nerf Action Xperience, 01-208 Marina Square, 6 Raffles Boulevard **MRT:** City Hall **WHEN:** 10am - 10pm (last ticket purchase at 7pm) **ADMISSION:** \$22 - \$329 **INFO:** nerfax.com.sg

Jurong Lake Gardens – Ant Play

Build a fortress, have fun interacting with others while learning how ants build homes, and play with huge blocks. Suitable for children from three to 12 years old. **WHERE:** Forest Ramble - Play Pavilion, Jurong Lake Gardens, Lakeside Garden **MRT:** Lakeside **WHEN:** Jan 25, 9am - noon **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** E-mail juronglakegardens@nparks.gov.sg

NATURE

Supertree Observatory

The new Supertree Observatory, located in the canopy of the tallest Supertree at Gardens by the Bay, is now open. At 50m above ground, its open-air rooftop deck offers a panoramic 360-degree view of Marina Bay, while an observatory space one level below features an indoor area with digital media and a peripheral outdoor walkway. Visitors can download the Supertree Observatory mobile app to enjoy an enhanced experience of the Gardens with augmented reality technology. **WHERE:** Supertree Grove, Gardens by the Bay, 18 Marina Gardens Drive **MRT:** Bayfront **WHEN:** 9am - 9pm **ADMISSION:** \$6 - \$14 **INFO:** bit.ly/2sCcJkQ

The Family That Farms Together Tour

Inspire a love of nature in children and share with them the importance of caring for the environment. Experience being a farmer for a day; smell, taste and touch the edible plants grown; and understand the importance of using sustainable, pesticide-free farming methods. **WHERE:** Edible Garden City, 60 Jalan Penjara **MRT:** Queenstown **WHEN:** Jan 11, 10am - noon **ADMISSION:** \$173 (four-person bundle with at least one child from three - 12 years old), \$47 (ages three & up) **INFO:** bit.ly/2Qf8Hr

Waders Watch

Celebrate the return of the migratory shorebirds. After enduring a long, harsh journey of almost 10,000km over mountains and seas, they have arrived in Singapore from far-flung locations such as the Siberian and Tibetan plateaus. Waders Watch is one of Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve's signature workshops, which teaches visitors how to identify different species. **WHERE:** Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, Wetland Centre (meet at Neo Tiew Entrance) **MRT:** Kranji **WHEN:** Jan 11, 9.30 - 11.30am **ADMISSION:** Free. Registration required **INFO:** E-mail nparks_sbwr@nparks.gov.sg

Dahlia Dreams

Celebrate the New Year with Gardens by the Bay's first floral display of the year, Dahlia Dreams, presented in collaboration with Beijing Florascape and featuring more than 70 dahlia cultivars and other auspicious festive plants in a Chinese garden landscape. **WHERE:** Flower Dome, Gardens by the Bay, 18 Marina Gardens Drive **MRT:** Bayfront **WHEN:** Jan 17 - Feb 23, 9am - 9pm **ADMISSION:** \$12 **INFO:** gardensbythebay.com.sg

Croc Talk: Learn About Estuarine Crocodiles At Main Bridge

Learn about the Estuarine Crocodiles that bask in the reserve. Find out from volunteers fascinating information about the crocodiles such as their characteristics and behaviour, and observe the creatures as they go about their daily business. **WHERE:** Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, Wetland Centre **MRT:** Kranji **WHEN:** Jan 18, 10am - noon **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** E-mail nparks_sbwr@nparks.gov.sg

TOURS

Private Toy Tour & Workshop

Visit a famous toy museum in Singapore. Encounter classic and familiar toys, each with an interesting story waiting to be discovered. There will also be a toy-making and play session. **WHERE:** Meet at City Hall MRT station **MRT:** City Hall **WHEN:** Wed, 3.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$83.11 a person for a group of four **INFO:** bit.ly/2F9GyMf

Pulau Ubin Cooking Trail

Learn about the types of herbs and plants used in Malay cooking and experience what it was like to forage for edible plants back in the day. **WHERE:** Meet at Malay Heritage Centre, 85 Sultan Gate. Transportation to Changi Ferry Terminal & a boat to Pulau Ubin will be provided. Participants who prefer to proceed directly to Changi Ferry Terminal may do so. Details will be provided upon confirmation of registration **MRT:** Bugis **WHEN:** Jan 18, 9am **ADMISSION:** \$50 **INFO:** malayheritagecentre.peatix.com

Istana Open House

Led by volunteer guides, this tour of the Istana building lets participants visit the stately function rooms and admire the stunning architectural details of this national monument, which has welcomed royalty, presidents and other VIPs throughout its history. Participants will also view a special display of gifts presented to Singapore's presidents and prime ministers over the years. **WHERE:** The Istana, 35 Orchard Road **MRT:** Dhoby Ghaut **WHEN:** Jan 26, 9am - 3pm **ADMISSION:** \$2 - \$30 **INFO:** bit.ly/2QCpSST

Little India Walking Tour

See the sights, hear the sounds and smell the fragrances of Little India on this walking tour. **WHERE:** Little India MRT station Exit E **MRT:** Little India **WHEN:** 9.30am - noon (Wed & Sat), 4.30 - 7pm (Thu & Sun) **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** bit.ly/35k8Sq4

LAST CALL

Blood Donation Drive

This event is part of the Singapore Red Cross' efforts to encourage Singaporeans to embrace life-saving

humanitarian values and activities. The Singapore Sindhi Association contributes to this by holding blood donation drives four times a year. **WHERE:** Sindhu House, 795 Mountbatten Road **MRT:** Dakota **WHEN:** Sun, 9.30am - 3.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** singaporeisindhi.com.sg

Jealous (PG13)

Nathalie Pecheux (Karin Viard), a divorcee and loving mother, starts to suffer from envy. Not only is she jealous of her ex-husband, best friend and a new teacher at the preparatory school where she has worked for decades, but she is also resentful of her beautiful 18-year-old daughter, Mathilde (Dara Tombroff), who is vying to become a professional ballerina. In French with English subtitles. **WHERE:** Alliance Francaise de Singapour, 1 Sarkies Road **MRT:** Newton **WHEN:** Tue, 8pm **ADMISSION:** Free (Alliance Francaise members), \$10 (non-members) **INFO:** alliancefrancaise.org.sg

Meet-The-Photographer: John Lander Of World Heritage Japan

John Lander is a freelance photographer based near Kamakura, Japan, with a passion for Japanese gardens, hot springs and colourful festivals. His photos have been published in National Geographic, Lonely Planet, Time Magazine and Forbes. The book chronicles his travels to Japan's Unesco World Heritage sites, from well-known places such as Mount Fuji to hidden temple gardens to hard-to-reach wild islands. **WHERE:** Kinokuniya Singapore Main Store, 04-20 Takashimaya Shopping Centre, Ngee Ann City, 391 Orchard Road **MRT:** Orchard **WHEN:** Jan 11, 2pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** bit.ly/2Qio5IY

• 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.