

FILMS

Becassine! (Rating to be confirmed)

Born to a poor family in Brittany, France, Becassine, a naive and clumsy farm girl, is hired as a nanny by the Marquise de Grand-Air, who recently adopted a baby named Loulotte. A strong bond develops between Loulotte and her nanny and life is sweet, until the bourgeois family is threatened with financial ruin. In French with English subtitles. **WHERE:** Alliance Francaise de Singapour, 1 Sarkies Road **MRT:** Newton **WHEN:** Jan 28, 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$8 (Alliance Francaise members), \$10 (non-members) **INFO:** alliancefrancaise.org.sg

The Call Of The Wild (PG13)

Adapted from the 1903 literary classic of the same name by Jack London, the film tells the story of a big-hearted dog, Buck. His blissful domestic life is turned upside-down when he is suddenly uprooted from his California home to the wild Alaskan Yukon during the 1890s Gold Rush and becomes the newest rookie on a mail delivery dog sled team. **WHERE:** Salt Media @ Capital Tower, Level 9 Capital Tower, 168 Robinson Road **MRT:** Tanjong Pagar **WHEN:** Wed, 7pm **ADMISSION:** \$13.50 **INFO:** salttheatres.com

Walk With Me (NC16)

Walk With Me takes audiences deep inside the world-famous monastery of Zen Buddhist master Thich Nhat Hanh. It captures the life of a monastic community which has given up all its possessions for one common purpose – to practise the art of mindfulness. The documentary was filmed over three years. **WHERE:** Redrum, The Projector, 05-00 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road **MRT:** Nicoll Highway **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 4.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$13.50, concessions available **INFO:** theprojector.sg

The Room (2003, M18)

Johnny is a successful banker who lives happily in a San Francisco townhouse with his fiancée Lisa. One day, inexplicably, she gets bored of him and decides to seduce his best friend Mark. From there, nothing will be the same again. **WHERE:** Blue Room, The Projector, 05-00 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road **MRT:** Nicoll Highway **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 9pm **ADMISSION:** \$13.50, concessions available **INFO:** theprojector.sg

PETS

The Fortune Of Pets

This event features an adoption drive, exhibition and two pet contests. Visitors can also receive goodie bags. **WHERE:** Ficus Green, Bishan - Ang Mo Kio Park, Ang Mo Kio Avenue 1 **MRT:** Ang Mo Kio/Bishan **WHEN:** Sun, 11am - 6pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** www.facebook.com

Dog Sound Bath By Movement & Sports Medicine Centre

Experience a sound bath, which uses majestic gong sounds for healing, with your dog. Pay an extra \$20 for an additional dog or owner. **WHERE:** Movement & Sports Medicine Centre, 151a Kitchener Road **MRT:** Farrer Park **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 6 - 7.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$65 (one dog & one owner) **INFO:** www.eventbrite.sg

KIDS

Zentangle 101 For Kids Aged 7 And Above

In this 1½-hour class, a child will learn the eight steps of the Zentangle method and get to take home a unique piece of art. The Zentangle method helps improve hand-eye coordination, teaches relaxation, improves handwriting and promotes creativity. No art background needed. **WHERE:** studio 7F5R, 33A Hong Kong Street **MRT:** Clarke Quay **WHEN:** Feb 16, 2 - 3.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$37 - \$55 (including materials) **INFO:** www.eventbrite.sg

Get-Kids-Afloat Programme

This four-day introductory sailing course is organised by the SAF Yacht Club and conducted during the school holidays. Participants have to be aged seven to 15 and able to swim at least 50m with the aid of a life vest. **WHERE:** SAF Yacht Club, 43 Admiralty Road West **MRT:** Sembawang **WHEN:** March 17 - 20, 9.30am - 5.30pm **ADMISSION:** SAF Yacht Club members: \$100.05, non-members: \$299.07, foreigners: \$321 (including sailing equipment such as craft & life jacket, certificate of participation, souvenir T-shirt & one-year training access pass to SAF Yacht Club) **INFO:** www.safyc.org.sg/get-kids-afloat/

Film Picks

John Lui Film Correspondent recommends



(From left) Florence Pugh, Saoirse Ronan and Emma Watson star in Little Women. PHOTO: SONY PICTURES

LITTLE WOMEN (PG)
135 minutes/★★★★☆

There have been several movie adaptations of the classic Louisa May Alcott novel. The latest brings a jolt of energy to a story set in 19th-century Massachusetts, making it spring to life in a way that sets the standard for period drama. The story opens with the March sisters and their mother "Marmee" (Laura Dern) already living, as the phrase goes, in genteel poverty – the women are not exactly starving nor are they ready to give up their housekeeper. Yet they cannot afford to pass up

any chance of improving their lot, whether it be by cosyng up to wealthier relatives or by marriage. Much credit for this work's vibrancy goes to director and screenwriter Greta Gerwig. She makes every line and scene count. Saoirse Ronan's Best Actress Oscar nomination is richly deserved, as is this film's entry into the Best Picture list, but where is Gerwig's Best Director nomination? Her work here is superior to that of, say, Todd Phillips (Joker) or Quentin Tarantino (Once Upon A Time... In Hollywood), both of whom are nominated directors, so her snubbing once again proves that Hollywood is a clique.



PHOTO: THE PROJECTOR

WAVES (M18)
135 minutes

This drama about an African-American family coping with the pressure to achieve has won awards from the Hollywood Critics Association and National Board Of Review, among others, winning praise for its acting, sound, editing and the direction by Trey Edward Shults.

Sterling K. Brown (above) is a father who has set lofty goals for his children, unaware that the pressure he exerts on them will bring about tragic consequences. **WHERE:** The Projector, 05-00 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road **MRT:** Nicoll Highway **WHEN:** From Thursday, various times **ADMISSION:** \$13.50 **INFO:** theprojector.sg



(From far left) Zack Gottsagen, Dakota Johnson and Shia LaBeouf star in The Peanut Butter Falcon. PHOTO: SHAW

MINDS FILM FESTIVAL 2020

Opening film The Peanut Butter Falcon (PG13, 97 minutes, ★★★★★) is a rambling, ramshackle comedy-drama that, like the makeshift boat at the centre of the film, should not float but does so anyway. The story turns its minuses into pluses because it never gives in to irony. Every moment feels authentic, even if some of them rely on broad Southern stereotypes. Zack Gottsagen, an actor with Down Syndrome, is Zak, a young man obsessed with escaping the retirement home in which he has been housed so that he can train at the Florida wrestling school of his idol. Slipping through the gates, he meets Tyler, a fisherman with a troubled past, played by Shia LaBeouf. Hot on their trail is Eleanor (Dakota Johnson), Zak's guardian. The pair run, swim, paddle and sail

their way through the swampy heat of the American South, having adventures which change the course of all their lives. This is a work that comes with the usual lesson about what the handicapped can teach the able-bodied about following one's dreams, but film-makers Tyler Nilson and Michael Schwartz breathe new life into that old theme by never buffing away the improvised rawness. Its odd beats and eccentric set-ups play out in full. Not all of it works, but the production makes a convincing and entertaining argument for including actors with intellectual disabilities. **WHERE:** Shaw Theatres Lido, 5th/6th floor Shaw House, 350 Orchard Road **MRT:** Orchard **WHEN:** Till Sunday, various times **ADMISSION:** \$10 from the Shaw Theatres box office or go to www.shaw.sg **INFO:** mindsfilmfest.com

Jiggle, Read & Rhyme

This interactive parent-child programme to support a child's early development comprises a 30-minute session with songs, rhymes and stories. For toddlers aged one to three. **WHERE:** Activity Room, Geylang East Public Library, 50 Geylang East Avenue 1 **MRT:** Aljunied **WHEN:** Jan 28, 7.30 - 8pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** www.nlb.gov.sg

NATURE

Mindfulness Walk In Botanic Gardens

Participants will be led on a 20-minute silent walk around the gardens before sitting down for a 30-minute discussion about mindfulness in daily life. The discussion, based on cutting-edge research in positive psychology and mindfulness, is led by a certified facilitator from leadership institute Search Inside Yourself and a mindfulness teacher. **WHERE:** Meet at Botanic Gardens Gleneagles entrance by the main gate **MRT:** Botanic Gardens **WHEN:** Feb 8, 8.30 - 9.30am **ADMISSION:** Free (registration required) **INFO:** www.eventbrite.sg

Nature And Forest Bathing Wellness @ Singapore Botanic Gardens

Forest bathing, or shinrin-yoku, involves soaking in the atmosphere in the forest. A certified nature and forest therapy guide will lead and facilitate. **WHERE:** Singapore Botanic Gardens, 1 Cluny Road **MRT:** Botanic Gardens **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 8.45 - 11.30am **ADMISSION:** \$65 **INFO:** www.facebook.com

Kokedama Plant Workshop

Kokedama is a unique gardening concept from Japan where the plant is grown in a ball of soil covered in moss. In Japanese, koke means moss and dama refers to ball. **WHERE:** Walking On Sunshine, 03-07 Orchard Central, 181 Orchard Road **MRT:** Somerset **WHEN:** Tomorrow & Sun, 3 - 5pm **ADMISSION:** \$38 (materials included) **INFO:** www.facebook.com

TOURS

Pulau Ubin Chinese New Year Community Charity Walk

Join the Amazing Trekkers Club for a 12km hike on Pulau Ubin. Starting from the west, participants will reach

Puaka Hill, the highest point on the island. At 74m high, they will have a breathtaking view of Ubin Quarry. They will then walk east to Chek Jawa Wetlands before heading back to the jetty. Packed lunch and boat transfer are provided. **WHERE:** Meet at Changi Point Ferry Terminal, 51 Lorong Bekukong **MRT:** Tanah Merah **WHEN:** Jan 26, 7.45am - 2.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$15 (adult), \$10 (child & student) **INFO:** www.latest.facebook.com

Chinatown Walking Tours - Telok Ayer Heritage Trail

Experience the oldest part of Chinatown, which is traditionally associated with the Hokkien and South Indian Muslim communities which settled along the original waterfront that ran along today's Telok Ayer Street. **WHERE:** The URA Centre atrium, 45 Maxwell Road **MRT:** Tanjong Pagar **WHEN:** Jan 24, 10am - noon **ADMISSION:** Free (registration required) **INFO:** www.eventbrite.sg

My Holland Village Heritage Tour

The tour traces the evolution of Singapore's first satellite town from a

rubber plantation in the 1870s to a bustling military village in the 1930s and an expatriate centre and tourist attraction in the 2000s. Participants will get a first-hand account of this transformation from colourful figures in the Holland Village and Commonwealth areas. They will also get up close with stallholders in the Commonwealth and Tanglin Halt markets and hawkers centres. **WHERE:** Meet at Holland Village MRT station Exit A (ticket concourse level) **MRT:** Holland Village **WHEN:** Sun, 8.30am - 12.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free (registration required) **INFO:** www.eventbrite.sg

OTHERS

Haw Par Villa Re-mix

Built in 1937, Haw Par Villa is a treasure trove of Asian culture, history, philosophy and religion. This quirky exhibition uses technology to reinterpret Chinese culture. **WHERE:** Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre Creative Box, Level 6, Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre, 1 Straits Boulevard **MRT:** Tanjong Pagar **WHEN:** Till Jan 31, 10.30am - 7.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** www.singaporeprecc.org.sg

LAST CALL

Croc Talk: Learn About Estuarine Crocodiles At Main Bridge

Check out with volunteers the estuarine crocodiles that bask in the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve. Pick up information such as the creatures' characteristics and behaviour and observe them as they go about their daily business. **WHERE:** Wetland Centre, Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, 301 Neo Tiew Crescent **MRT:** Kranji **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 10am - noon **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** E-mail nparks_sbwr@nparks.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.