

John Lui Film Correspondent and Alison de Souza recommend



THE LAST ARTISAN (PG, 2018)
80 minutes/Streaming on Vimeo

The Haw Par Villa theme park is a rite of passage for Singaporeans who were taken there as children and possibly left warped for life by its dioramas depicting tortures awaiting sinners in hell.

This documentary by Singapore-based American film-maker and lecturer Craig McTurk chronicles the work of Mr Teo Veoh Seng (left), who is responsible for keeping exhibits fresh and under pressure to pass his skills on to two trainees from China before he retires.

The film premiered at the Singapore International Film Festival in 2018 and is available online through indie cinema The Projector.

WHEN: Till middle of next month

ADMISSION: US\$9.99 (S\$14) for a 24-hour rental period

INFO: str.sg/JdPW

John Lui



THE PLATFORM WATCH PARTY

The Platform (above, R21, 2019, 94 minutes, Netflix; stars Alexandra Masangkay) is set in a future in which the metaphorical tiers of society become literal: Inside a colossal structure, the rich dine first, with the leftovers sent down a shaft to the unfortunates living below.

The Spanish thriller raises questions about social justice, an issue which will also be explored in a post-viewing chat with film writers Joellene of @thebacklight

and Jian Wei of Film Journals.

WHEN: Today, 8pm, followed by a post-movie Zoom discussion

ADMISSION: Free, but the viewing requires a Netflix subscription.

The watch party requires the installation of the netflixparty.com browser plug-in **INFO:** Links to the watch party and Zoom discussion will be shown on the Telegram group t.me/singaporefilmsociety and facebook.com/singaporefilmsociety

John Lui



PHOTOS:
CRAIG MCTURK, SGIFF,
NETFLIX, AMAZON
PRIME VIDEO

UPLOAD

Amazon Prime Video/★★★★☆

The bingeable new Amazon science-fiction comedy series Upload has plenty within its premise: a future where people can have their minds uploaded to a virtual afterlife when they die.

But the retirement home one ends up in depends on what one can afford, as a penniless app developer named Nathan (Robbie Amell from The Flash, above, left) learns when he gets in a car accident.

Andy Allo (right) plays Nora, his customer-service "angel", a living person interacting with him using virtual-reality goggles.

The show invites comparisons to The Good Place (2016 to 2020), another comedy set in the afterlife, albeit a metaphysical and not a digital one.

The let-downs are the leads.

You never buy Amell as a nice-guy-slash-narcissist, while Allo toggles among such a limited range of expressions, you wonder if the actress might be an avatar herself.

Yet, the 10 punchy episodes make for perfect popcorn television.

And there is something to be said for a show that does not take up too much of your bandwidth.

Alison de Souza

Got a question about your pet? Ask the vet



PHOTOS:
ANDRE GN,
REUTERS

Why is my dog grumpier than usual? Why is my cat not eating as much?

Have a query about your pet? Get your questions answered by vets from the National Parks Board in a new fortnightly column on Saturdays in the Life section of The Straits Times.

E-mail your question with clear, high-resolution pictures of at least 1MB, if any, and your full name to stlife@sph.com.sg, with Ask The Vet in the subject line.



FILMS

Cold War (2018, M18)

In 1950s post-war Poland, a love story unfolds between a mismatched couple separated by politics, character flaws and unfortunate twists of fate. Winner of the Best Director award at Cannes Film Festival 2018.

WHERE: str.sg/Jdds

PRICE: US\$6.99 (S\$9.90) for rental (48-hour streaming window); US\$13.99 for purchase

Suspiria (2018, R21)

Darkness swirls at the centre of a world-renowned dance company, one that will engulf the artistic director, an ambitious young dancer (Dakota Johnson) and a grieving psychotherapist. Some will succumb to the nightmare, while others will eventually wake up. Also starring Tilda Swinton and Chloe Grace Moretz. Winner of the La Pellicola d'Oro Award for Best Special Effects; Best Original Song at Venice Film Festival 2018.

WHERE: str.sg/Jddh

PRICE: US\$6.99 (S\$9.90) for rental (48-hour streaming window); US\$13.99 for purchase

Madeline's Madeline (2018, M18)

When Madeline joins a prestigious physical theatre troupe, the ambitious director urges her to draw from her troubled history with her mother for the sake of her art. This causes the lines between performance and reality to blur. The resulting battle between imagination and appropriation rips out of the rehearsal space and through the three women's lives. Winner of the Special Jury Prize, Narrative Feature Competition, Dallas International Film Festival 2018.

WHERE: str.sg/Jdd8

PRICE: US\$4.99 (S\$7) for rental

(48-hour streaming window); US\$9.99 for purchase

Singapore Mental Health Film Festival Short Film Youth Competition

The premiere for the top 10 short film finalists will be streamed live on Facebook, followed by the awards ceremony to announce the runner-up and winner. Launched last year, the competition encourages youth to challenge the stigma of mental illness and dementia in Singapore by producing a short film.

WHEN: Tomorrow, 1.30 - 3.45pm

ADMISSION: Free **INFO:** str.sg/JddB

KIDS

Sounds Like Poetry

This online poetry workshop organised by GlowWormSG is targeted at children aged eight to 11. It aims to help them understand and appreciate different poetic forms and also experiment with writing their own poems. GlowWormSG is a children's enrichment company focused on conducting workshops that build 21st-century essential skills – creativity, communication and collaboration.

WHEN: June 8, 11, 15 & 18

ADMISSION: \$130

INFO: str.sg/Jdd6

The Fisherman And His Wife

Gateway Theatre's Gateway Kids Club Storytelling features the tale of a poor fisherman who catches a talking fish. In return for its freedom, the fish grants the fisherman a wish. The video will be available on the GatewayEntSG YouTube channel. Gateway Theatre is a creative arts space that provides platforms for supporting made-in-Singapore works, promoting positive messages and social values that engage children, youth and families.

WHERE: str.sg/JddL
WHEN: Tomorrow, 11am
ADMISSION: Free

Three Bears

This interactive storytelling session features the tale of Goldilocks, a little girl who stumbles on a little cottage in the woods that belongs to a family of bears. The video will be streamed live on the Facebook page of Act3 International, which promotes the arts to children.

WHERE: str.sg/JddE

WHEN: Tomorrow, 10.30am

ADMISSION: Free

HOW TO GET YOUR EVENT LISTED

The listings on these Happenings pages are free.

Go to str.sg/happen at least two weeks ahead. Required information includes 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.