

ARTS

BOOKS

Doing The Write Thing

Jolene Tan, author of the novel *A Certain Exposure*, has penned a children's picture book, Saturday's Surprisingly Super-Duper Lesson. Watch a video of her talking about the inspiration behind the book and how our and children's lives can be made richer by harnessing their ideas and creativity.

WHERE: View it at bit.ly/3g9LSQH
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: www.facebook.com/epigrambooks

CONCERTS

Watch SCO's #DabaoSCO Series Dream Beyond Concert

This concert by the Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO) took place at the SCO Concert Hall last year. It features five students from the Rainbow Centre School who performed onstage after learning music for two years under the tutelage of SCO's percussion musician Ngoh Kheng Seng and guzheng associate principal Xu Hui, as well as performers from Hsing Legend Youth Theatre.

WHERE: View it at bit.ly/2DiXKKY
ADMISSION: Free

Debussy & Dvorak: Serenade And Dance

The three works that will be presented in this concert are Debussy's String Quartet, arranged by chief conductor Hans Graf for string ensemble; Debussy's *Dances Sacree Et Profane* for harp and string orchestra, performed by harpist Gulnara Mashurova; and Dvorak's *Serenade In D Minor*, written for wind instruments, cello and double bass.

WHERE: Watch it on Sistic Live
WHEN: Tomorrow to Aug 15, 8pm
ADMISSION: Pay as you wish: \$10, \$20, \$30 or \$50
INFO: www.sistic.com.sg/events/206302SSO

The Teng Ensemble: Where The River Always Flows V

Presented by The Fullerton Heritage, The Teng Ensemble's first digital concert is free, though viewers can make a donation to the Teng Goes Digital fund-raising campaign (bit.ly/tenggoesdigital). This performance is the fifth edition of the *Where The River Always Flows* series and will cover modern hits from the likes of Billie Eilish and Bruno Mars to heritage pieces from The Forefathers Project. Viewers who RSVP stand a chance to win prizes.

WHEN: Aug 8, 8pm **ADMISSION:** Free
INFO: bit.ly/2ExQT0p

EXHIBITIONS (MUSEUMS)

National Museum of Singapore's Permanent Galleries

With a history dating back to 1887, Singapore's oldest museum refreshed and reopened its permanent galleries in September 2015 for the Golden Jubilee. With updated stories and content, the Singapore History Gallery, Life In Singapore: The Past 100 Years galleries, Goh Seng Choo Gallery and the Glass Rotunda capture the nation's defining moments, challenges and achievements from its earliest beginnings 700 years ago to the independent, modern city state it is today.

WHERE: National Museum of Singapore, 93 Stamford Road
MRT: Bras Basah, Dhoby Ghaut
WHEN: Mon - Sun, 10am - 7pm
ADMISSION: Free for Singapore citizens & permanent residents, \$14 for foreigners
INFO: www.sistic.com.sg/events/cshg2016a

Zoom Into History

Zoom Into History is the National Museum's new way of letting art lovers engage with its permanent collection in the digital space. A number of museum objects will be voiced by local actors and comedians, who will host live conversations and take audiences on a journey back in time. For instance, Janice Koh will be the voice of a National brand rice cooker, and Tan Kheng Hua the golden mace which was presented to Singapore by late Chinese philanthropist Loke Wan Tho.

WHEN: Tomorrow & Sun, Aug 8 & 9, 3pm **ADMISSION:** Free, limited spaces. Registration required, on a first come, first served basis
INFO: bit.ly/30baGU

THEATRE

M1 Peer Pleasure Youth Theatre Festival: What If

Festival commission What If is created and presented entirely online, and features a diverse team of creators and performers. The production is made up of four shows, held together by the common theme of what it means to be human, especially in these unprecedented times. The shows, which welcome audience participation, feature a mix of pre-recorded and live content,

ArtsPicks

Ong Sor Fern Senior Culture Correspondent recommends

KING (R18)

Actress Jo Tan (right) delivers a tour de force in this live-streamed performance, which is available on YouTube for a limited period of time. Not only does she play multiple characters, but she also wrote the script for this one-woman show.

Mousy Geok Yen is a public relations executive, engaged to a nice insurance agent Matthew. Her safe, stable life gets turned upside down when on an impulse, she attends an office party in the guise of a man, Stirling da Silva. She discovers the drag scene courtesy of her expatriate boss and drag queen Ethan, and finds a new lease of life in inhabiting the straight-talking male persona of Stirling.

Tan's script, developed under the dramaturgy of Checkpoint Theatre and staged under the auspices of T->Works' N.O.W. festival, is a multi-layered marvel.

Through the girl-next-door lens of Geok Yen, Tan excavates the many layers of social expectations encoded in gender roles. From the dorky cismale assumptions of Matthew to the traumatised angst of Ethan to the awakening cisgender feminism of Geok Yen, the script deftly addresses discrimination, sexism and chauvinism with nuance, sensitivity and a large dose of humour that is very often laugh-out-loud funny.

Most impressively, Tan switches characters at the drop of a pair of sunglasses, the toss of a feather boa and the change of an accent. The minimal props, combined with precision-timed cuts to different camera angles, help cue the audience to follow the lightning-fast dialogue



exchanges. Film-maker Jasmine Ng proves a dab hand at helping to bridge the gap between theatre and video in her theatre debut as director.

This thought-provoking watch about what it means to be female is a right royal treat, perfect for the long weekend.

WHERE: YouTube (str.sg/JnZ8)
WHEN: Till Sun, 11.59pm
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: str.sg/JsE7



TASTES OF OUR TIME: COOK WITH CHRISTOPHER

Food scholar and cookbook author Christopher Tan (left) has a nice mini-series of three videos created to highlight the National Museum of Singapore's three history galleries. Each episode is dedicated to a particular time period, and Tan demonstrates a recipe inspired by the times.

Episode One (str.sg/JeCV) features nankhatai, an Indian shortbread biscuit. Episode Two (str.sg/JeCr) offers citrus barley water, while Episode Three (str.sg/JeCK) dishes up satay ayam goreng (above right). The first two recipes are simple ones that novice cooks can try their hand at, while the satay ayam goreng is a bit fiddlier.

The recipes are nice hooks to hang little snippets of history on. For example, in Episode One, Tan talks



about the cosmopolitan influences of the 1920s, which have lingered on in today's local cuisines, in the form of confections like nankhatai, rock buns and chicken pies. And Episode Three features classic kitchen utensils such as a mortar and pestle and an iron wok and spatula, which are in the museum's collection.

WHERE: National Museum of Singapore's YouTube channel (str.sg/JeCj) **ADMISSION:** Free

CANTAPP: THE GENERAL PROLOGUE - AN EDITION IN AN APP

Actor-director Terry Jones was best known as one of the members of the legendary Monty Python comedy team. But he was also a mediaeval scholar who published two books about Chaucer and his works. This app, which reads Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* in Middle English, was the last big academic project Jones worked on before his death in January at age 77.

It is a rather disconcerting experience to first hear Middle English, as the pronunciation is at once familiar and foreign. The desktop version (right) of the app is the best, as the text in both the original Middle English and modern translation pops up in karaoke fashion so you can read as you listen.

But if you are an adventurous soul, you could just wing it on the mobile app, available on both Apple and Android platforms.



This is part of an international project spearheaded by University of Saskatchewan English professor Peter Robinson, and apparently the team has enough material for two more apps. So Chaucer fans and

tortured students can look forward to The Miller's Tale next.

WHERE: Website (str.sg/JeyZ), App Store (str.sg/Jeyo), Google Play (str.sg/JeyJ)
ADMISSION: Free

PHOTOS: CANTAPP, DANIEL CHOONG, PIXEL ARTIST, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE

accompanied by short animations.

WHERE: Watch it on Zoom
WHEN: Tue - Aug 15 **ADMISSION:** \$5 a show **INFO:** www.sistic.com.sg/events/zlm1pp2020

OPEN CALL

Project 2020: Singapore Art Museum

Participants are invited to document their idea of Home In Singapore 2020 through a three-minute short film produced in 48 hours on their personal devices. Twenty films will be selected for an online showcase and each will be awarded \$1,000. The films will be selected by a panel comprising home-grown film-maker Royston Tan and the Singapore Art Museum's curators and head of education and programmes. It is open to citizens, permanent residents and those residing in Singapore who are over nine years old.

WHERE: Register at

samproject2020.peatix.com
WHEN: Aug 8, 8pm - Aug 10, 8pm
ADMISSION: Free with registration
INFO: www.singaporeartmuseum.sg/art-events/events/project-2020

This Little Red Dot Can Be...

Show off your creativity in this art activity with drawings inspired by your hopes and dreams for Singapore. Five participants will each receive \$55 worth of FairPrice vouchers.

WHERE: Submit at the Singapore Art Museum's Facebook & Instagram pages **WHEN:** Aug 9, 9am - Aug 16, 11.59pm **ADMISSION:** Free
INFO: www.singaporeartmuseum.sg/art-events/events/this-little-red-dot-can-be

Malay Heritage Centre

The Malay Heritage Centre is looking for stories and objects about the places where Banjar families in Singapore used to live and work to be featured at an exhibition later this

year. You are encouraged to contribute if you have information to share about Kampong Banjar, Kampong Intan and other Banjar settlements here like Kampong Somapah or the various kampongs in Changi.

WHERE: To contribute, go to bit.ly/3f8YBle **INFO:** bit.ly/2P5ROOF

COMEDY

Punchliners Comedy Show Ft Parvinder Singh Live In Singapore

Parvinder Singh, a stand-up comedian, actor and writer from Amritsar, India, was first seen on television hosting NDTV's *The Rising Stars Of Comedy* in 2016. He is now touring his stand-up comedy special *Maine Karna Hai Yeh In India and Overseas*.

WHERE: Watch it on Zoom. The meeting link will be provided after the ticket purchase **WHEN:** Sun, 9pm **ADMISSION:** \$10 **INFO:** bit.ly/2X6zXvu

Coming Out Loud

Asia's first independently produced comedy special, written and performed by Sam See, recounts the trials and tribulations of an openly gay stand-up comedian living in Singapore. See has appeared on MTV, Comedy Central Asia and Comedy Central USA, and worked with legendary comedians Dara O'Briain (Ireland), Bert Kreischer (United States) and Jim Jefferies (Australia).

WHERE: Watch it on Zoom
WHEN: Aug 7, 9pm **ADMISSION:** \$7, includes a live post-show Q&A session
INFO: www.mrsamsee.com/comingoutloud

OTHER ARTS EVENTS

Art Market 101 - School For New Collectors

This online event is for those who are interested in buying and collecting contemporary art, but do not know

where to start. Mr Johann Koenig, a leading art dealer with galleries in Berlin, London and Tokyo, will share his insights on art collecting and investing.

WHEN: Aug 14, 2.30pm
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: bit.ly/3g8qEm8

Sound Stories

This is an experiment in telling stories using largely sound effects, leaving the rest to the listener's imagination. This anthology of three is inspired by artworks by female artists who have been overlooked or forgotten in history. Each track is titled according to the original artwork. Part of the Festival Of Women: N.O.W. 2020.

WHERE: Catch the live stream at www.facebook.com/TWorkssg/live
WHEN: Today, 7pm (accessible till Sun on SoundCloud)
INFO: www.facebook.com/events/714608432631601