

Arts Picks

Olivia Ho Arts Correspondent recommends

EVERY BODY PLAYS A PART

In one of the earliest accounts of social distancing in Singapore, a 1901 newspaper report describes how a house was cleaned and isolated after one of its residents, a 10-year-old boy, succumbed to the plague. The remaining occupants were sent to a quarantine station on St John's Island.

A 1908 postcard of immigrants arriving on St John's (right) is among 39 artefacts assembled by the National Museum of Singapore, in a digital showcase that chronicles Singapore's past experiences with infectious diseases.

Museum director Chung May Khuen says the showcase was put together in response to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. "We hope that Singaporeans will take heart that what is now considered the new normal has been experienced in some form in the past, and we will get through this crisis, just as we have before."

Artefacts on show include a vaccination certificate issued during the Japanese Occupation, a set of

acupuncture needles used in a traditional Chinese medical hall and a 1940 Hacks cough drops container.

The brand, produced by a British company, made headlines in 1962 when the Singapore High Court granted an injunction restraining a Singapore company, Asian Organisation Limited, from passing off its Pecto cough sweets as Hacks, a case which went up to the Privy Council in London.

The showcase includes a newly commissioned photo by Brian Teo of a masked family at East Coast Park in July this year, as part of the museum's project to document the experience of Covid-19 in Singapore.

The museum invites the public to keep contributing objects and accompanying stories and photos to this initiative, Collecting Contemporary Singapore: Documenting Covid-19 In Singapore at go.gov.sg/nms-ccs-covid19.

WHERE: go.gov.sg/everbodyplaysapart
WHEN: From today **ADMISSION:** Free



THISCONNECT: THREADING WORLDS

During Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, arts enclave Deck is exhibiting two bodies of works by Quinn Lum and Hun Ming Kwang, who make up art duo Hunny and Lummy, about connection.

In video installation Tipping Point (above), a man blows up balloons to bursting point in public. This footage is interspersed with shots of everyday scenes, like commuters on the MRT train.

In I Feel You, visitors can listen in as pairs of strangers hold hands and share some of their darkest stories.

WHERE: Deck, 120A Prinsep Street
MRT: Rochor

WHEN: Till Sept 27, noon to 9pm on Tuesdays to Sundays, closed on Mondays and public holidays

ADMISSION: Free
INFO: www.thisconnect.today



HERE COMES THE BRIDE

If there was ever a year to avoid getting married in, it would be 2020. Still, you can fall back on HuM Theatre's nuptial comedy Here Comes The Bride, in which a well-planned Indian wedding teeters on the verge of disaster when the groom gets cold feet, driving his desperate parents mad.

It is the fourth and last in a series of HuM's recent plays to be screened by India-based broadcaster Zee TV International in 17 countries.

WHERE: Zee TV, StarHub Channel 125 and Singtel Channel 646

WHEN: Sunday, 3pm **ADMISSION:** Free

(Left) Subin Subaiah and Daisy Irani Subaiah in Here Comes The Bride.



PHOTOS: HUM THEATRE, HUNNY AND LUMMY, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE, SUFFIAN HAKIM

THE SERIAL SHORT STORY PROJECT

Ever wanted to play a part in the evolution of a serial short story? Now is your chance.

Comic author Suffian Hakim (above) has been writing a four-part horror story based on Ask Me Anything (AMA) prompts on Reddit.

Readers weighed in on whether they would rather read about the author being possessed by a hantu (ghost) or an Yishun family dealing with strange noises and inhuman voices in the flat next door. (They chose the latter.)

In subsequent chapters, they have been able to vote on minor plot developments – should the narrator's nightmare involve his family members being attacked or eaten by otherworldly beings or being offered a Faustian bargain by the ghosts of his neighbours?

The project, which is presented by The Arts House with digital publisher Tusitala Books, will be taken up next month by Hedwig Anuar Children's Book Award winner Xie Shi Min.

WHERE: bit.ly/3hoWPxr
WHEN: Till Oct 30. New chapters are published on Fridays at 5pm and live AMA Facebook sessions are held on Sundays at 8pm **ADMISSION:** Free

ARTS

CONCERTS

Russian Traditions: Sasha Farseev And Sasha Souptel

Employing the accordion and violin, Sasha Farseev and Sasha Souptel team up to showcase Russian traditional and modern music. From the jaunty Naughty Tunes to contemporary numbers such as Suites by Soviet composer V. Zolotaryov, each piece of music is accompanied by a story that not only explains its artistic origins, but also defines its spirit. Souptel performed as a soloist with various renowned orchestras and led the Moscow Symphony Orchestra before serving as a concertmaster of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra from 1993 to 2013. Farseev, an award-winning accordionist, has performed in hundreds of concerts in Russia, Europe and Singapore.

WHERE: View it online at Esplanade Offstage **WHEN:** Available till Oct 7, noon **ADMISSION:** Free
INFO: esplanade.com

Traditionally Speaking – Scottish Traditional Music

Traditionally Speaking is an all-Singaporean trio consisting of Law Chi-Yan (Scottish smallpipes, whistles), Pamela Ng (bodhran, flute) and Bryan Leong (guitar, keys). Join them for an evening of traditional music from Scotland's west coast in a performance that features tunes from Gaelic waltzes to graceful strathspeys composed for Scottish step dancing.

WHERE: View it online at Esplanade Offstage **WHEN:** Available till Oct 7, noon **ADMISSION:** Free
INFO: esplanade.com

Concordia Quartet – Back On Stage

Concordia Quartet continue their celebration of the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth with his String Quartet No. 4. Also on the programme are the Divertimento In F Major by Mozart and the much-loved third movement from Borodin's String Quartet No. 2. The evening of quartet music will be live-streamed from the Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre @ Wild Rice.

WHERE: View the live stream on YouTube **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 8pm
INFO: bit.ly/3iGj170

EXHIBITIONS (GALLERIES)

The Dream Of Ayutthaya

Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (Nafa) presents The Dream Of Ayutthaya, a capsule exhibition about how Ayutthaya and its legacy offers a crucible for research and a source of inspiration for art making. The exhibition displays more than 20 objects, resource materials and archival documents.

WHERE: Lim Hak Tai Gallery, Nafa Campus 1, 80 Bencoolen Street
MRT: City Hall/Bugis
WHEN: Till Oct 18, 11am - 7pm (closed on Mondays) **ADMISSION:** Free
INFO: artsrepublic.sg

DANCE

Spanish Flamenco

Experience the art of flamenco in this performance by Singapore dance company Flamenco Sin Fronteras. Join the dancers in an encounter of music and song that marries melodic guitars, the rhythmic pulse of the cajon drum and dance moves that reveal the heart and soul of this art form.

WHERE: View it online at Esplanade Offstage **WHEN:** Available till Oct 7, noon **ADMISSION:** Free
INFO: esplanade.com

Dance India Showcase 2020: Natya Lahari

Natya Lahari showcases selected choreographed works featured in masterclasses held as part of the Dance India Asia Pacific (DIAP) programme, in collaboration with Apsaras Arts. Performed by Singapore dancers, it includes classical genres such as bharatanatyam, kathak and odissi. For the ninth edition of DIAP, the online showcase will commence with an interpretation of Ganesh Vandana, followed by the kathak dance Sargam and Thevara Thirattu in bharatanatyam.

WHERE: View it online at Esplanade Offstage **WHEN:** Available till Oct 11, 7pm **ADMISSION:** Free
INFO: esplanade.com

Singapore Ballroom Dance Festival: Online Edition

This online dance showcase, organised by NAL Dance and supported by the National Arts Council, consists of performances by members of the local ballroom dance community.

WHERE: View it on Facebook Live
WHEN: Sept 26, 7.30pm
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: artsrepublic.sg

THEATRE

Self-Imagination: Sofia Nin x Ismahairie Putra

Held in conjunction with Bulan Bahasa (Malay Language Month), the Cipta Cita (loosely translated as "inspiring creativity") series puts the spotlight on modern Malay

music-making artists from the region. Radin Sofia Azrindawani, better known as Sofia Nin, launched her first collection of poems Puisi Berantakan at the Asean Literary Festival in 2014. Ismahairie Putra is a musician who has performed with the Singapore Malay Orchestra since 1995.

WHERE: View the live stream from Esplanade **WHEN:** Sun, 8pm (available online till Sept 30) **ADMISSION:** Free
INFO: esplanade.com

Rindu Jadi Lagu (A Song Of Longing) – Main Tulis Group

This show, also part of the Cipta Cinta series, is about three friends who reunite as phase two of the reopening begins. One wants to serenade her boyfriend. Another wants to start a podcast. The third just wants everyone to stop worrying about her. Rindu Jadi Lagu is writer Sab's attempt at capturing the ups and downs of these uncertain times and how they affect the working class. A founding member of the Main Tulis Group, Singapore's first Malay playwright collective, Sab is always looking for opportunities to explore the intersections of race, religion, class, gender and sexuality. This show is performed in Malay and contains strong language. Viewer discretion is advised.

WHERE: View the live stream from Esplanade **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 8pm (available online till Sept 30) **ADMISSION:** Free
INFO: esplanade.com

Storytelling Performance: Stories Of Courage (For 16 years and above)

Listen to an eclectic mix of stories – from folktales to personal encounters – in this event by StoryLab, which was formed in 2009 by a group of

storytellers as a platform for its members to hone their art in performance storytelling. For the first time, StoryLab will hold a free performance on Zoom for adult audiences.

WHERE: View it online via Zoom
WHEN: Tomorrow, 7.30pm
ADMISSION: Free; registration is required **INFO:** artsrepublic.sg

OPEN CALL

ViaRT Award: Children Recycled Art Competition And Sustainability Movement

Create aesthetically pleasing, innovative and meaningful artworks using recycled materials. Founded and organised by Viant Commodities and Y Art Project, the first edition of ViaRT Award will be held next month. The competition is open to all primary and secondary school students.

WHEN: Submission deadline is Oct 18
ADMISSION: Free with registration
INFO: artsrepublic.sg

OTHER ARTS EVENTS

Romantics Anonymous (Suitable for eight years and above)

Angelique is a chocolate maker crippled by social anxiety and Jean-Rene is the boss of a failing chocolate factory. When Angelique takes a job in Jean-Rene's struggling factory, a fragile love affair unfolds. Directed by Emma Rice, this musical will be streamed direct from Bristol Old Vic to audiences in Singapore, in an arrangement with the Singapore Repertory Theatre (SRT). By buying a ticket to watch the live stream of Romantics Anonymous, viewers are helping SRT cope with losses caused

by the pandemic.

WHERE: Watch the live stream **WHEN:** Sept 25, 7.30pm
ADMISSION: Advance ticket (£16 or \$28); advance ticket for multiple viewers (£31) **INFO:** srt.com.sg

Escayo x Toh: Live Painting And Music Improvisation Concert

Madrid-based artist Alba Escayo and Singapore-based composer-pianist Tze Toh present a live painting and improvised music concert experience. This performance is a celebration of the duo's unique collective language created across the worlds of music and visual art. This is a one-hour live painting and improvised music concert, with a post-show artists' talk.

WHERE: Zoom concert (link will be e-mailed one day before the event)
WHEN: Mon, 1 - 2.30am
ADMISSION: \$29 (standard), \$42 (special) **INFO:** bit.ly/2E6rkuH

Life In A Cloud

Curated by playwright Natalie Henneidge, Life In A Cloud is a digital playbook of creations from seven artists. They are Santha Bhaskar (dance), Randy Chan (architecture), Iskandar Jalil (visual arts), Nada (music), Kirsten Tan (film), Kaylene Tan and Paul Rae (performing arts) and Sharlene Teo (literary arts). These artists have created short video chapters offering viewers insight into their artistic geneses and creations that are born out of this time of pandemic. Life In A Cloud is commissioned by the National Arts Council with the support of Arts House Limited and is part of the #SGCultureAnywhere campaign.

WHERE: View it on lifeinacloud.co
WHEN: From Sun
INFO: a-list.sg/life-in-a-cloud-by-natalie-henneidge/