

FILMS

Magic In The Moonlight (2014, PG)

In the 1920s, magician Stanley Crawford (Colin Firth) enjoys widespread acclaim as Chinese conjurer Wei Ling Soo, his stage persona. As arrogant as he is talented, he despises claims by phony spiritualists that they can perform real magic. At the behest of his friend, he travels to the Cote d'Azur mansion of the Catledge family to expose a young medium, Sophie (Emma Stone), but is left surprised and shaken by evidence that her gifts may be real. **WHERE:** The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road **MRT:** Nicoll Highway **WHEN:** Sun, 7.30pm (Blue Room) **ADMISSION:** \$13.50 (standard), \$11.50 (concession) **INFO:** theprojector.sg

Yosotto: Man And A Baby (2017, PG13)

A single dad tries all ways and means to keep himself and his baby alive after the mother decides that motherhood is not her thing. This award-winning comedy is both heart-warming and unrelentingly funny. **WHERE:** The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road **MRT:** Nicoll Highway **WHEN:** Oct 13, 8pm (Green Room) **ADMISSION:** \$13.50 (standard), \$11.50 (concession) **INFO:** theprojector.sg

Calamari Union (1985, PG13)

Finnish film-maker Aki Kaurismaki's first film is an absurdist, surrealist tragi-comedy involving 17 men, all named Frank and in search of an exodus. They brave a wild and merciless city full of angry old women with their spoons, hammers, typewriters and dogs the size of cows to reach their intended paradise, but all is not as it seems. **WHERE:** The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road **MRT:** Nicoll Highway **WHEN:** Oct 14, 5pm (Green Room) **ADMISSION:** \$13.50 (standard), \$11.50 (concession) **INFO:** theprojector.sg

NATURE

Kayaking The Punggol-Ubin Trail

Organised by Nature Society (Singapore) (NSS), the trail links Punggol, Pulau Serangoon (Coney Island) and Pulau Ubin. Participants will attempt to locate a crumbling villa, the German Girl Shrine and one of the best lookout points on Pulau Ubin over a quarry lake. The 10km route will also take them through the mangroves of lesser-known Sungai Teris. **WHERE:** Meet at Punggol Jetty (end of Punggol Road) **MRT:** Punggol (Punggol Point LRT) **WHEN:** Oct 27, 7.30am - 12.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$120 a person (\$95 for NSS member), child (eight - 12 years old), \$60, register at tinyurl.com/kayakput by Oct 12 **INFO:** E-mail Say Chong at nsskayaking@gmail.com

PETS

Quayside Pup Club

Artisan pet supplier Talya's Sorvete will have a booth selling "pupsicles" - dog-friendly ice cream with no preservatives, sugar or dairy products - every second Sunday of the month. Flavours include mixes of blueberry, honey mango and strawberry with optional peanut butter and strawberry toppings. **WHERE:** The Quayside, 60 Robertson Quay **MRT:** Fort Canning **WHEN:** Oct 14 & every second Sunday of the month, 11am - 4pm **ADMISSION:** Free; pupsicles \$5 each (\$15.60 a box), toppings 70 cents **INFO:** talyasorvete.com

TOURS

Orchard Tour Series: Where Do Our Fruits Come From?

The new extension of the Jacob Ballas Children's Garden houses an orchard zone with a collection of fruit trees. The tour will cover tropical fruits commonly seen in supermarkets as well as other edible fruits that are grown and consumed in the region. Participants will also discover interesting pollinators that make fruit production possible. **WHERE:** Visitor Services Desk at Jacob Ballas Children's Garden, Singapore Botanic Gardens, 1 Cluny Road **MRT:** Botanic Gardens **WHEN:** Oct 27, 10 - 11am **ADMISSION:** \$6 a child, \$6 for accompanying adult; register at goo.gl/mKvGW4 **TEL:** 6471-9961 **INFO:** E-mail: nparks_sbg_edu@nparks.gov.sg

Istana Nature Guided Walk: Deepavali Open House

This hourly guided walk, a collaboration between the President's Office and National Parks Board (NParks), will showcase the Istana's flora, fauna and biodiversity. **WHERE:** Istana Domain, Orchard Road **MRT:** Dhoby Chaut **WHEN:** Nov 6, 10am - 4pm **ADMISSION:** Children (four - 12 years old), \$2; Singaporeans/ permanent residents, \$4; foreigners,

\$10; family packages, \$12 - \$30 **INFO:** E-mail eileen_chay@nparks.gov.sg

KIDS

The Great Moscow Circus

The circus returns to Singapore for the first time in more than 10 years. It boasts the world's most dangerous and death-defying acts, including the Wheel of Death and the Motorbike Sphere of Fear. **WHERE:** Under the Mighty Big Top, Marina Bay Sands, 10 Bayfront Avenue **MRT:** Bayfront **WHEN:** Oct 25 - Nov 18: Tue - Fri, 7.30pm; Sat, noon, 4 & 7.30pm; Sun, 11am & 3pm; Nov 6 (Deepavali): noon & 4pm **ADMISSION:** \$65 - \$155; children (three - 12 years old) & seniors, \$55 - \$135 **TEL:** 6348-5555 **INFO:** sistic.com.sg

OTHERS

Mindfulness @ Singapore Botanic Gardens

Body-scan mindfulness is a practice that helps reduce stress in the body and mind, and also helps with the management of pain and hypertension. Bring your own yoga mat. First 200 registered attendees get a choice of free picnic mats, caps or carry bags. **WHERE:** Eco-Lake Lawn, Singapore Botanic Gardens, 1 Cluny Road **MRT:** Botanic Gardens **WHEN:** Sun, 8 - 10am **ADMISSION:** Free; register at brahmcentre.com **INFO:** E-mail nparks_sbg_visitor_services@nparks.gov.sg

Orbis Singapore Mass Blindfold Luncheon

Organised by Orbis Singapore, an international non-profit organisation that treats and prevents avoidable blindness, the event aims to raise awareness of the challenges faced by the visually impaired. It hopes to gather some 200 participants to experience dining without their sight, while being guided by visually

impaired facilitators from social enterprise Dialogue in the Dark Singapore. **WHERE:** Ngee Ann Polytechnic Convention Centre, 535 Clementi Road **MRT:** Beauty World/King Albert Park **WHEN:** Oct 13, noon - 3pm **ADMISSION/INFO:** Free; to register, go to sgp.orbis.org/en

LAST CALL

Pop Beats: The Lost Box

The Lost Box, comprising founding members Dale, Darren and Jed, will play covers of current pop tunes, 1990s hits, classic rock and hits from well-loved artists. The trio play their own original music, but also do covers from acts such as Maroon 5, Bruno Mars, Eagles and The Beatles. **WHERE:** Esplanade Concourse, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/ City Hall **WHEN:** Today, 7.15pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** www.esplanade.com

The Old Fogies

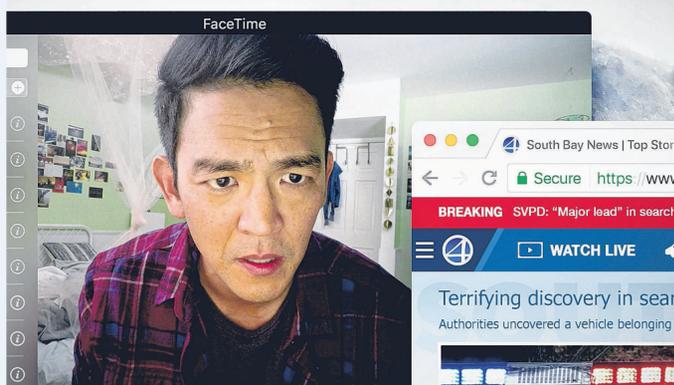
The production looks at the lives of some old faces we might have come across in our neighbourhoods, who may be slow, lonely, grumpy or forgetful, but can also be active, adorable, funny, helpful and knowledgeable. This non-verbal, trance mask performance is by Desmond Soh, Grace Kalaiselvi and Suhaili Safari. **WHERE:** Esplanade Concourse, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/ City Hall **WHEN:** Today - Sun, 4.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** www.esplanade.com

• 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 stlife@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

FilmPicks

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SEARCHING (PG13)

103 minutes/★★★★☆
On paper, Searching, about a father's (John Cho, left) search for his missing teenage daughter (Michelle La), does not sound like a very promising proposition. How exciting can it be to watch an entire movie unfold on the screens of computers and mobile devices? Is the movie gimmicky? Yes. But does it work? Absolutely. In the first place, director and co-writer Aneesh Chaganty's story is solid, with twists and turns nicely paced out to keep one hooked. He then elevates it with an audacious story-telling style, one that makes perfect sense for the plot.

Boon Chan

THE NEGOTIATION (PG13)

114 minutes/★★★★☆
When a South Korean journalist is captured and held hostage in Bangkok, Seoul police negotiator Han Chae-yoon (Son Ye-jin, right) is called in to talk to kidnapper Min Tae-gu (Hyun Bin) to find out what he wants. Given that much of the action happens within two small rooms, separated only by a video call, the amount of tension built is impressive. Right up until the end of the movie, it is difficult to tell which side will be the first to give in. Secret Garden (2010 to 2011) heart-throb Hyun is also excellent in his first villain role.



Yip Wai Yee



A STAR IS BORN (M18)

136 minutes/★★★★★
In this third remake of the 1937 film, Jackson Maine (Bradley Cooper, also director of the movie) is a country-rock hero. One night, after giving a concert, he drops into a bar for another night of hard drinking. Ally (Lady Gaga, both right), a waitress, sings on stage, captivating Jackson. They meet later and find a mutual attraction. As the director, Cooper cannily sees that without the right Ally, there is no movie. In Lady Gaga, he found a powerful blend of acting talent and vocal prowess. She is a rock star and like Barbra Streisand in the 1976 version, one with the heart of a Broadway belter. There is an electrical jolt that strikes every time she hits the power notes, a feat that could only be possible if the real deal was behind the microphone. All singing in this movie was done live, to the camera.



The result is a richly layered, laugh-and-cry love story that understands that the audience must love the characters before they buy their love affair.

John Lui

PHOTOS: GOLDEN VILLAGE PICTURES, SIGFF, SONY PICTURES, WARNER BROS

Exclusively for subscribers of The Straits Times

WIN A Margaret River Gourmet Escape

Enjoy an incredible four-day foodie experience for two worth \$10,000 at the Margaret River Gourmet Escape in Perth. Tuck into a gourmet beach BBQ dinner with Rick and Jack Stein, feast in the forest with Jeremy Chan of London's Ikoyi and indulge in the world of culinary excitement at the Gourmet Village at Leeuwin Winery Estate.

The package for two will include:

- Return economy flights from Singapore to Perth on Singapore Airlines
- Three nights' accommodation
- Selected event tickets and exclusive experiences

Date: Nov 16 to 19, 2018
Venue: Margaret River, Western Australia

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

1. Download the SPH Rewards app
2. Look for the giveaway in the Rewards section
3. Save the deal to your e-wallet
4. Press the "Go to website" button on the "Details" page and answer this question: **Why I want to go for the Margaret River Gourmet Escape**

- Contest ends on Oct 12.
- The winner must be able to travel from Nov 16 (Friday) to Nov 19 (Monday).
- Terms and conditions apply.

For more details, go to www.gourmetescape.com.au

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