

Film Picks

John Lui Film Correspondent recommends

**GIRLHOOD (NC16)**
113 minutes/The Projector

French writer-director Celine Sciamma is today celebrated for the Golden Globe-nominated period drama *Portrait Of A Lady On Fire* (2019), but *Girlhood* (2014, above) is arguably more ambitious. It is a portrait of an African-French girl on the cusp of womanhood, living on the margins of Parisian society and dealing with violence and crime.

Sciamma's third feature and the last of a trilogy of coming-of-age movies bears the film-maker's trademark theme of women finding their path in a culture that has pigeonholed them from an early age.

WHERE: The Projector, Level 5 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road
WHEN: Sunday, 5.30pm
ADMISSION: \$10
INFO: theprojector.sg

PHOTOS:
THE PROJECTOR,
NETFLIX, SHAW
ORGANISATION

**HUMBA DREAMS (NC16)**
75 minutes/Netflix/★★★★☆

Part road-trip, part coming-of-age story, this drama follows Martin (J.S. Khairen, above), a film student in Jakarta who returns home to the island of Sumba in eastern Indonesia, to settle affairs after his father's death.

It is a journey to a quiet, parched landscape different from that of packed, tropical Java. Martin's people speak their own language and practise a mix of Christianity and animism. Spirits speak to the living through shamans and in dreams, reminding them of debts unpaid.

The student's quest takes him around the island's towns and villages, where he meets a range of locals, including those whose daughters and husbands joined the tide of Sumbanese seeking jobs in Malaysia, only to disappear.

Writer-director Riri Riza's back-to-hometown setup lets audiences see an older world through the eyes of someone who has a foot both in the modern and the ancient.

It is not the freshest idea, but in this heartfelt story about a young man coming to terms with his father's legacy, it works.

**VIVARIUM (M18)**
98 minutes/Now showing/★★★★☆

The science-fiction horror work stars Jesse Eisenberg and Imogen Poots (both above) as Tom and Gemma, an average couple looking for a starter home, when they chance upon Yonder, a development the agent promises will be their "forever home".

In this surreal satire of the property ladder, Yonder does become their forever home – just not in the way they expect. This mostly Irish production, selected for last year's Cannes Film Festival, borrows ideas from animal biology to depict the burdens of home ownership.

The South Korean drama *Parasite* (2019), winner of the Best Picture Oscar, makes a point about one social class feeding on another in a mansion on a hill. In this bleak, unsettling story, parasitism is simply Mother Nature taking its course.

Vivarium also raises some dark questions about parenthood. If you thought *We Need To Talk About Kevin* (2011) – a psychological thriller about a mother coming to terms with having a monstrous child – painted a discomfiting picture of parenthood, then this story might put you off having children altogether.

FILMS

National Youth Film Awards (2020) Award Ceremony

From among the pool of 53 nominees, *Scape will announce the winners of the 24 awards – including Best Director, Best Live Action and Best Cinematography – over Facebook Live. The awards aim to fuel a greater appreciation of film and passion for film-making and generate development opportunities for young film-makers.

WHEN: Tomorrow, 2pm
INFO: www.facebook.com/NationalYouthFilmAwards

Family Romance, LLC (2020, PG13)

In Japan, an agency called Family Romance provides people for rental, to fill in as husbands, friends and other social roles. The film follows the owner, Yuichi, as he pretends to be the father of 12-year-old Mahiro, whose real father is missing.

WHERE: Blue Room, The Projector, 05-00 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road
MRT: Nicoll Highway
WHEN: Today, 4.30pm & tomorrow, 7.40pm
ADMISSION: \$13.50, concessions available
INFO: str.sg/Jeeo

On A Magical Night (2019, R21)

In this French comedy, after fighting with her husband, Maria checks into the hotel across the street from the apartment they have shared for two decades. With a bird's-eye view of their home, she starts scrutinising their marriage, the past and her future. Chiara Mastroianni won the Best Actress award at last year's Cannes Film Festival.

WHERE: Redrum, The Projector, 05-00 Golden Mile Tower, 6001 Beach Road
MRT: Nicoll Highway
WHEN: Wed, 8.40pm
ADMISSION: \$10, concessions available
INFO: str.sg/JeeJ

PETS

Military Working Dog Unit Adoption Drive

In an effort to give them a life outside of the military, retired military working dogs are put up for adoption. Under Project Adore, retired sniffer dogs such as labrador retrievers and english springer spaniels can be adopted by Singapore residents living in HDB flats. But certain dogs, such as german shepherds and belgian malinois, can be adopted only by those living in non-HDB properties.

Interested adopters can fill up an application form and eligible applicants will be given an appointment slot to visit the dogs. The adoption team will then arrange for a visit to the applicant's home.

WHEN: Till Aug 14
INFO: str.sg/Jee3

e-Pets' Day Out

Returning for its second instalment, the event will host an adoption drive from three animal welfare groups – Cat Welfare Society, Hamster Society Singapore and Noah's Ark Cares – as well as live chat sessions with vets and an animal behaviourist, who will give basic dog-training tips. There will also be activities on the AnimalBuzzSG Facebook page and fun packs containing limited-edition merchandise up for grabs.

WHEN: Tomorrow, 3 - 4.30pm
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: www.nparks.gov.sg/pdo

KIDS

StoryFest Online

Presented by The Storytelling Centre Ltd Singapore and The Arts House at The Old Parliament,

StoryFest goes online this year with the theme, The Heart of Story. Home-grown storytelling talent retell traditional tales, with Asian folk tales reimagined for adults and children. The Storytelling Centre Limited is a non-profit organisation that aims to foster and advance the art of storytelling through performances, collaborations, artistic exchanges, mentorships, training and community outreach.

WHEN: Till Mon
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: str.sg/JeeU

OTHERS

JustCo PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds Mobile Championships

Singapore-based flexible workspace provider JustCo is organising a two-day mobile tournament for online game *PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds* across Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea and Taiwan. The top three teams will walk away with prizes worth up to \$18,000, including Amazon gift cards, rewards from gaming manufacturer Razer and Alibaba Cloud credits.

WHEN: Aug 8, 11am - 7pm & Aug 9, 2 - 5pm
ADMISSION: \$38 (early bird), \$50 (standard ticket/a team of five)
INFO: str.sg/Jee5

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.