Singapore—Asia’s premier melting pot

The manuscripts of the “Sejarah Melayu” or “Malay Annals” speak of a flourishing, cosmopolitan island in the 14th century, about the same time as the renaissance in Europe. It was a bustling trading place for many nationalities that included Arabs, Chinese, Europeans, Indians and Malays. Of all the historical accounts, the Malay Annals paint the most captivating picture of how Singapore came to have its present name. Legend has it that Sang Nila Utama, the then ruler of Palembang (the capital city of the ancient Kingdom of Srivijaya) made an unexpected landing on the island. While seeking shelter from the storm, he sighted an animal on the island that appeared to be a lion. He declared the island’s name to be “Singapura”, the Malay name for the island by the sea. It replaced Temasek as the common name for the island by the late 14th century.

Centuries later, another important arrival took place on the island. Having read the Annals and with the intention, in his own words, to “return the ancient glory”, Sir Stamford Raffles of the British East India Company landed by the Singapore River and set out to establish a trading post. That year was 1819, and thus began the story, “the rise of history.”

In just 150 years, Singapore has grown into a thriving centre of commerce and industry. Its former role as an entrepot, however, has diminished, as the nation has increased its manufacturing base. Today, Singapore has one of the busiest ports in the world with more than 600 ships kipping (slinged) super tankers, container ships and passenger liners to share the landscape of one of the world’s major oil refining and distribution centres. The city is a major supplier of electronic components and a leader in shipbuilding and repairing. It has also become one of the most important financial centres of Asia, with more than 130 banks doing business around the world from within the 640 sqkm small island.

One of the world’s most famous national museums is the National Museum of Singapore. The museum is comparable with most national museums around the world in terms of its size and collection. Glass doors and steel railings separate the visitor from the museum’s collection of historical and cultural artefacts. The museum is located in a former penal colony, which was converted into a museum. The museum houses a collection of paintings, sculptures, and historical artefacts that reflect the history of Singapore.

Singapore is not just one island, but a main island with more than 50 surrounding mostly inhabited islets. Some of the smaller islands offer a quiet respite from the big city with their laid-back ambience, idyllic beaches and inviting waters.

Sentosa, Singapore’s resort island getaway is a must-see for all visitors. Just minutes away from the bustling of the city, this island of tranquillity welcomes all visitors from around the world. The resort is matched by the Singapore National Museum of Science and Technology, which is an ideal location to refresh after a time of seaside activities. The price of food here is comparable with most food centres around town, starting from 3 SGD. Popular dishes include Malaya satay (barbequed meat), stew with their laid-back ambience, idyllic beaches and inviting waters.

For those looking for a quick respite from the hum of the city, the island of Sentosa is an ideal location to relax and refresh. The island is comparable with most national museums around the world in terms of its size and collection. Glass doors and steel railings separate the visitor from the museum’s collection of historical and cultural artefacts. The museum is located in a former penal colony, which was converted into a museum. The museum houses a collection of paintings, sculptures, and historical artefacts that reflect the history of Singapore.

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FREE REGISTRATION*

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What’s on Friday, 16 April

The Singapore International Film Festival has become significant in the Singapore arts landscape because of its dynamic film programming and commitment to the development of film culture and local cinema. The Festival screens over 200 films annually of all genres, with a focus on groundbreaking Asian cinema. Under the umbrella of the Silver Screen Awards, SIFF recognises excellence in Asian cinema with its three awards categories—Asian Film Competition, Singapore Short Film Competition and the Singapore Film Awards introduced in 2009.

Today’s screenings:
- Ruma Maida/Maida’s House (19:00, LIDO 1, 350 Orchard Road)
- Män som hatar kvinnor/The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (21:15, LIDO 3, 350 Orchard Road)

CHICAGO will return to Singapore from 16 April to 9 May 2010, for a strictly limited season at the Esplanade Theatre with an all-star cast including the award-winning Sharon Millerchip as Roxie Hart and Craig McLachlan as Billy Flynn.

CHICAGO tells the tale of Roxie Hart—a nightclub dancer who dreams of heading in Vaudeville—who kills her lover and then convinces her husband to come up with the $5,000 to hire Chicago’s shrewdest, smooth-talking lawyer, Billy Flynn.

A Singaporean in Paris (Musical)
Venues: DBS Arts Centre, 20:00
www.singtheatre.com

A Singaporean in Paris is a “juke box musical” that pays tribute to Singapore artists and French musical culture. This one-of-a-kind revue features top Singapore artists singing songs from some of the greatest French songwriters and performers—Michel Legrand, Serge Gainsbourg, and Gilbert Becaud. Their songs have been sung by equally beloved international legends such as Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, Barbra Streisand, Liza Minnelli, Sting, and Elton John. Their songs have been sung by equally beloved international legends such as Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, Barbra Streisand, Liza Minnelli, Sting, and Elton John.

In Russell Young’s newest body of work, Dirty Pretty Things, history’s most influential celebrities and luminaries serve as intriguing subjects. Large-scale, diamond dust encrusted portraits of Marilyn Monroe, Elizabeth Taylor, Marlon Brando, Jackie Kennedy, Coco Chanel and Kurt Cobain are undeniably powerful and alluring. Young’s use of diamond dust in the painting of these portraits lends a magical glittering effect that imbues the images with an ethereal quality. These images of enthralling characters become the voices of mythological figures from history and pop culture.

In Russell Young’s Dirty Pretty Things exhibition, the作业 was photographing George Michael for the sleeve of an album called Faith. That job launched a career and soon Russell was shooting musicians like Morrissey, Spaghetty, Dylan and many other celebrities. The next natural step was directing music videos; Russell directed a hundred music videos during the heyday of MTV.

In 2003, Young published his first series of paintings called PIG PORTRAITS. Following this first sold-out show, Young has risen to become an internationally acclaimed pop artist, creating larger-than-life silkscreen paintings of images from history and pop culture.

It was 20 years ago that British photographer Russell Young first lent his eye to celebrity culture. The assignment was photographing George Michael for the sleeve of an album called Faith. That job launched a career and soon Russell was shooting musicians like Morrissey, Spaghetty, Dylan and many other celebrities. The next natural step was directing music videos; Russell directed a hundred music videos during the heyday of MTV.

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