



SINGULAR SCREENS

Various Countries

7 – 31 May 2020, Various Timings

Screening Room, Festival House & Oldham Theatre, National Archives of Singapore

Rating: Ratings for all films to be advised.

Synopsis

Curated by the Asian Film Archive (AFA) for the Singapore International Festival of Arts 2020 (SIFA), *Singular Screens* celebrates diverse, independent and singular visions from Singapore and around the world. Discover a bold palette of cinematic adventures, featuring the ingenious and risk-taking in film. Screenings will be held at the Screening room at SIFA's Festival House and Oldham Theatre.

A Love Unknown

A woman in New York and her abandoned daughter in Singapore, both grappling with thoughts of suicide, pursue a change in their lives. Over four days, their lives unravel, revealing an inter-connectedness between mother and child.

About Endlessness

Simultaneously an ode and a lament, *About Endlessness* presents a kaleidoscope of all that is eternally human, an infinite story of the vulnerability of existence in its beauty and cruelty, its splendour and banality.

Cemetery

After a devastating earthquake, Nga, an old

elephant and Sanra, his mahout, set out to find the mythical elephant's graveyard. Poachers follow them deep into the jungle, only to mysteriously die one after another, until the spectator becomes the only protagonist.

Ema

After a shocking incident upends her family life and marriage to a tempestuous choreographer, Ema, a reggaeton dancer, sets out on an odyssey of personal liberation, in this incendiary drama about art, desire, and the modern family from director Pablo Larraín.

I was at home, but

Phillip, a thirteen-year-old school boy, disappears without a trace for a week. When he reappears, his mother is confronted with questions that lead to a changed view of her life and family.

Isadora's Children

Following the death of her two children in April 1913, the legendary dancer, Isadora Duncan, created a farewell solo entitled *Mother* in which a mother cradles her child for the last time before letting him go. A century later, four women encounter the heartrending dance.

No Data Plan + Distancing

Come discover two films about migration and statelessness: *Distancing* documents the Miko Revereza's decision to leave the United States and return to the Philippines, while *No Data Plan* captures the boredom, precarity and fantasies of an undocumented immigrant crossing America by train.

Sátántangó

On the heels of a financial windfall, members of a small agricultural collective set out to leave their village after the fall of Communism. A mysterious character, long thought dead, returns and alters the course of everyone's lives forever.

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So Pretty

Four young queers in New York City struggle to maintain their proto-utopian community against the outside world, as their lives curiously merge with the 1980's German novel *So Schön* by Ronald M. Schemnikau.

Tamarin Hill

On her mother's grave, Hinako sees a flower of cosmos. Her father calls to say he can't come home and repeats "Tamarin" in frustration. On her way home, Hinako buys a book, *Tamarin Hill*, only to find that same flower offered by her late mother's sister the next morning.

Journey with SIFA and beyond

Partnering with SIFA for a third year, AFA has been committed to curating films that represent bold and singular visions for audiences at the festival. These works have been chosen for pushing the boundaries of filmmaking through aesthetic and narrative experimentation while showcasing the idiosyncratic cinematic styles of each artist.

Illustrating the range and diversity of the film selection for this year, we begin in Japan with the film *Tamarin Hill*, a gentle treatise on the idea of literary adaptation and cinema. From France and Chile respectively, *Isadora's Children* and *Em* are both inspired by dance and movement as they explore and challenge notions of womanhood. In addition, Swedish master Roy Andersson's *About Endlessness* and German auteur Angela Schanelec's *I Was at Home, But* both hearken to the compositional aesthetics of painting and Brechtian theatre style of acting.

AFA hopes that the interplay between such varied expressions and approaches in this selection of films complements the larger SIFA 2020 programme, creating a more dynamic experience for audiences.

Festival Director Gaurav Kripalani shares: "Film is a very important component of the SIFA programme because it is curated to complement the performances. This is the third year of a fruitful collaboration with Asian Film Archive to present the *Singular Screens* series which will feature the Singapore premieres of several important films. I encourage everyone to watch as many of these as you can".

About Asian Film Archive

The Asian Film Archive was founded in January 2005 as a non-profit organisation to preserve the rich film heritage of Singapore and Asian Cinema, to encourage scholarly research on film, and to promote a wider critical appreciation of this art form.

The Asian Film Archive (AFA) aspires to be a hub for the Asian film community, contributing to culture, scholarship and industry through organised screenings, educational and cultural programmes that open and enrich new intellectual, educational and creative spaces, to promote a wider critical appreciation of this art form.

The AFA holds Singapore's first collection of films (AFA Cathay-Keris Malay Classics) inscribed into the UNESCO Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Register, a listing of significant documentary heritage that are a legacy for the world's community. It has a collection available for public reference at the library@esplanade.

AFA is an affiliate of the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAP), an institutional member of the Southeast Asia-Pacific Audiovisual Archive Association (SEAPAVAA) and the Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA).

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