

Welcome Aboard!

The SMA News Editorial Board recently welcomed one new member, Dr Singalot, who is a keen observer of the music and arts culture in Singapore. He secretly believes that with more singing and dancing, patients and doctors alike would all be happier and healthier individuals. He hopes to develop this publication's artistic side, and shares some thoughts on his passion for the arts.



Dr Singalot says...

People often bemoan that Singapore lacks a vibrant arts culture, that Singaporeans are unable to appreciate the finer things in life. "There's no future in the arts or music!" they say. "One is better off with a professional degree in Law, Medicine or Engineering." Some members of our profession may even hold a few of these degrees.

For my introductory piece, I would like to propose an opposing viewpoint: Singapore does indeed have a burgeoning arts scene; we are just not paying enough attention.

As we progress in our respective careers, what used to be a gruelling co-curricular activity in art, music or dance evolved into tiny footnote in our lives (at least in mine). A beautiful memory from a bygone era, to reminisce with friends. And for many who have become parents, these memories are once again revived – in their children. Violin, ballet, singing, art classes, and the list goes on...

Among the youth who display genuine talents, there will certainly be an outstanding few who elect to pursue the arts as their career (not the failed ones, like yours truly). Just as medical students and junior officers sharpen their surgical skills and hone their clinical acumen in wards crammed to the rafters, budding artists need their audiences. They desire their hard work to be heard and seen, to be driven by audiences to perfect their art.

Even the finest music requires a listener; otherwise it is nothing but noise.

Hence I would like to play a small role for *SMA News* – to review and introduce some of the most exciting art events or movies in town, for all ages, intentions and purposes. Hopefully, some of you will stumble upon my careful suggestions and find time with your families, friends and loved ones to attend. Call roster monsters, do your part for the arts!

As our hands heal patients, may the arts be a gentle balm for our weary souls. **SMA**