

Preview

Singapore River Festival

19-28 September

Whether it's in honour of the F1 night race or the fact that the Singapore River is no longer a glorified sewer, Singapore will hold its first-ever River Festival this month. There will be DJs and sets by local bands, plus magic acts and dance performances – all an entertaining sideshow to the main event. Here are four highlights:

CQ River Party

In the week before the race, the floating Riverstage will host live bands and DJs – such as Quasimode (Japan) and Wicked Aura Batucada (Singapore) – bobbing to their own beats. During F1 race weekend there are even more DJ sets and live performances, plus televised broadcasts of the track action will occupy the Atrium. *Various times/dates, go to www.clarkequay.com.sg for more details. MRT: Clarke Quay.*

The Impossible Journey

Singaporean illusionists JC Sum and 'Magic Babe' Ning will transport, *Star Trek*-style, three Central shoppers plucked from the mall across the river. The trip is expected to take just three seconds. Sure beats walking. *24 Sep; 7pm. River promenade in front of Central at Clarke Quay (6532 9922, www.thecentral.com.sg). MRT: Clarke Quay.*



Party on the river All cleaned up, the Singapore River takes centre stage

Legenda Singapura

Boat Quay may now be a jungle of touts, but at one time it was Singapore's wilds, where Sri Tri Buana first planted the seeds of modern-day Singapore. 'Legenda Singapura', put on by Singapore River Cruises, will re-enact our early history through a dance drama at Boat Quay. Afterwards, the performance – with music, dance and puppetry – will continue down-river aboard a royal regatta, entertaining diners as it makes its way to Clarke Quay. *19-21, 26-28*

Sep; dance drama starts at 8pm. UOB Promenade at Boat Quay. MRT: Raffles Place.

Timbre MusicFest

Artists Jive Talking, Jack and Rai of EIC, Reverie, and The Goodfellas will perform on a stage built along the river's edge. Tony Goh of the Tony, Terry & Spencer Trio goes old-school with a retrospective of Singapore music from the '60s to the '80s. *19-28 Sep; 7.30pm. See Music, Live previews. Michael Franco*

Singapore Motorshow



Making a splash Drool over the Bond-like underwater convertible, sQuba, which is powered by three electric engines and can reach a depth of 10 metres

27 September-5 October

If your need for speed is more like an addiction, then even the F1 roaring into town later this month won't be enough to soothe your revving heart. Fortunately, the Singapore Motorshow has been fast-tracked and moved up by two months, giving car lovers the green light to indulge their passions for rubber and steel. In addition to showcasing the coolest new concept cars – like the underwater car inspired by the James Bond movie *The Spy Who*

Loved Me – and the latest motorcycles, here's what you can expect from this biennial event:

A quick in-and-out

Stunt driver Russ Swift (yes, that's really his name) is world-renowned for being able to parallel-park by whipping the car into a space just 33cm bigger than the car itself. He'll be joined by his son this year as they execute a series of slides, spins and drifts with a precision that would bring tears to your old driving instructor's eyes.

The art of driving

Some artists prefer working on canvas, others prefer paper – Darren Argæt likes steel. The award-winning automotive airbrush artist's work – featuring everything from Spider-Man to scantily clad women – is truly traffic-stopping. He'll be on hand to show off his best car bonnets and give live demonstrations.

Nifty gear

The Bukit Batok Driving Centre will bring a number of cool toys for the public to try out. The Airbag Seatbelt Simulator will make you want to *always* use protection, the Driving Aptitude Assessment System will analyse your ability behind the wheel, and the Cycling Simulator will let you take two wheels for a spin over various virtual terrains. Put on the Drunkard Simulating Goggles and jump on the Monpal – a four-wheeled electric scooter – and you'll never think of 'taking the car out for a spin' in the same way again. *MF*
The Singapore Motorshow will be parked at the Suntec City Convention Centre from 27 Sep-5 Oct. Opening hours vary, so check www.motorshow.com.sg for details. Tickets sold onsite \$10 adult, \$4 children. MRT: City Hall. See Listings for more.