



Takeaways

A newsletter by RICE



Nothing beats 'Home'

In many ways, our present has been uniquely preoccupied by the past.

Go to a party and you'll find ravers dressed in Y2K clothing that would make the founder of 77th Street blush. Hit up Spotify and you'll find plenty of singer-songwriters exhibiting the grungy sounds of the '90s. And the less we say about our perennial obsession with the '80s, the better.

It wouldn't be a stretch to say that our current tech, more than any other point in time, allows anyone to tap into the wellspring of a remembered past. With that, there's also nostalgia, and how intoxicating it can be. You don't need to be of a certain age to be infected by it: you just need to be reminded that a certain era was *awesome*, either by your parents or an algorithm.

That leads us to this year's National Day Parade, where they notably brought back Kit Chan to perform her 1998 NDP song 'Home'. It's a song that's certainly stuck in our consciousness. But for it to be brought back 25 years later, anniversary aside, certainly enshrines the song as a moment of the past that we, a nostalgia-friendly crowd, are eager to celebrate in 2023.

Nostalgia can be especially effective during a time when the present possesses a lot of problems. After months of political strife and economic instability, has it been *too* convenient for us to look back so we can look away?

*P.S. We've also learnt some of you found your way here through your friends. If you haven't already, **subscribe** to our weekly newsletter today!*

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"She just stood there and sang"



We're not here to make the case that there's ever been a National Day song that's a "banger". What we can tell you is that there's a lot of work that goes into making them every year.

The sad truth is that not all of them can be as instantly memorable as 'Home', but it takes a right amount of creativity and instinct to make sure it stands tall next to it.

Don Richmond, who wrote this year's 'Shine Your Light', tells us more, along with singer-songwriter Linying.

**It's Not 'Home':
What Makes a National Day Parade
Theme Song Iconic?**

Curious George



Out of all the presidential candidates announced so far—yes, including Tan Kin Lian, as revealed today—George Goh is by far the most interesting.

Does that make him the most pertinent choice for the job? Not really. But there's more to uncover beyond the opera singer and populist speaker.

**George Goh Sings
A Different Tune for the
Presidential Song and Dance**

Clocking In Progress



It's the law that couldn't have come any sooner.

The new Workplace Fairness Discrimination framework, set to be in effect a year from now, aims to place greater protection on segments of the workforce that have been repeatedly discriminated against.

After guidelines on fair employment practices were established back in 2021, will this framework truly be the answer many have been looking for?

**Singapore's Workplace
Discrimination Dilemma:
In Time or Fashionably Late?**

Firsthand Info on Secondhand Gems



If you've spent enough time on TikTok, you'll realise one good thing that Gen Zs enjoy: the lack of shame that comes with dressing up. That's because, in an age of fast fashion, it's never been easier to put together an outfit that's neither garish nor sloppy—at least, to modern tastes.

Part of what has made fashion accessible to young adults are thrift stores. In the past, they provided stopgap solutions for a limited budget. Today, they're a repository of collectable vintage wear that many would queue hours for.

**Secondhand or Second-Rate?
The Real Price of
Vintage Clothes in Singapore**

The Case of the Missing McGriddles



For our way of working (really late, and *sometimes*, really early), McDonald's food can be our best friend.

Our writer especially remembers how the inclusion of the McGriddles—a breakfast sandwich that balanced maple sweetness with eggy fluffiness—made his morning every time. And then it disappeared.

**McGriddles or Death: The
Permanent Breakfast Bliss
that Singapore Deserves**

What's Cooking?

In this new section, we track all the big moves happening in our little city.

mm2 Asia and *SCAPE to forge a new creative hub for youths

Local entertainment powerhouse, mm2 Asia, has joined forces with *SCAPE to birth the mm2 Integrated Media Hub @ *SCAPE.

Set in the heart of Somerset Belt, the space is set to be a nexus of creativity, featuring live performance arenas for emerging talents and versatile cinema halls for local content showcases, industry dialogues, and enriching workshops.

The Hub aims to be a nurturing haven for young filmmakers, musicians, and creative minds to craft captivating content for regional audiences through mm2's extensive network in Asia.

The grand reveal of the mm2 Integrated Media Hub @ *SCAPE will coincide with the 2024 unveiling of the new *SCAPE.

Short Grains, or *piping-hot topics by the spoonful.*

- We began our National Day on a slightly more solemn note.
 - Also, Malaysia crossed the border to celebrate the holiday with us. (*via UKK BSI Facebook*)
 - Indie rock band The 1975 have now been handed a whopping S\$3.6m bill after their frontman's recent controversial stunt in Malaysia at Good Vibes Festival (more context here). If they refuse, they'll face a legal suit in the UK. (*via malaymail*)
 - In a WFH environment, WeWork might just collapse for good. (*via The Telegraph*)
 - Despite recent efforts to reconsider its practice, some lorry drivers maintain that their vehicles are safe to transport migrant workers. (*via The Straits Times*)
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Forget CMIO—a couple of years ago, our RICE team sat down with Singaporeans, many of whom have had their fair share of "Where are you from sia?" at them, to talk about what makes them Singaporean, even if they don't *look* like the archetypal Singaporean.

What Makes Us Singaporean?

We like to go out! We also hate our weather.

But as much as our team is full of contradictions, we simply can't go by our weekend without checking out some things. If you're still deciding on where to go, let us highlight some unmissable events for you:

1. Say what you will about events in Singapore, but we never lack art markets. This weekend, head down to Joo Chiat for [Artsy Weekend](#).
2. Australian indie rock band Vacations, who have been raking up streams on the most chill Spotify playlist you can find, are [performing in Singapore this Saturday](#).
3. Singapore Pro Wrestling's latest event, [SPW Valour](#), is set to feature their roster of exciting Asian talent, along with the exciting inclusion of former WWE star Yoshi Tatsu.
4. Say hi to Bukit Timah Saddle Club's motley crew of horses and ponies this weekend at their [BTSC Barn Experience](#) event.

5. *Millennium Mambo*, the iconic drama starring Shu Qi, will have its recent 4K restoration screened at [Oldham Theatre](#).

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