

Significant Events

AUGUST 30 TO SEPTEMBER 4, 2001 > A

SPH sponsored the **Singapore Writers' Festival 2001**, organised by the National Arts Council. New elements like cyber-writing contest and spooky museum tour were introduced at the biennial festival, which culminated in the Golden Point Award presentation, acknowledging the best short-story writers and poets.

SEPTEMBER 23, 2001

Her World Brides, Citta Bella, Sentosa Development Corporation and the Social Development Services jointly organised **Weddings 2001**, the grandest mass wedding in Singapore.

OCTOBER 5, 2001

SPH-sponsored **Theatre Life! A History of English-Language Theatre in Singapore Through The Straits Times (1958-2000)**, was launched. The 176-page volume was written by The Straits Times journalist Clarissa Oon.

OCTOBER 12, 2001

For the ninth consecutive year, SPH was named **Distinguished Patron of the Arts**, a premier award presented by the National Arts Council to corporations for contributions to the Arts.

OCTOBER 16, 2001

SPH sponsored a fund-raising concert by the world-famous **Orchestre des Champs Elysees** and **La Chapelle Royale Choir** from France at the University Cultural Centre. The event, co-organised by the Embassy of France and the National University of Singapore, raised about S\$200,000 for the NUS Life Sciences Professorship.

NOVEMBER 3, 2001

Lianhe Zaobao, Lianhe Wanbao and Shin Min Daily News, together with the People's Association Youth Movement, organised the **Make A Wish Upon A Star – Star Blaze** charity concert at

the Ngee Ann City Civic Plaza. The beneficiaries were the Handicaps Welfare Association, Singapore Leprosy Relief Association and Club Rainbow (Singapore).

DECEMBER 2, 2001 > B

The Straits Times Million Dollar Duck Race 2001 saw 100,000 rubber ducks racing along the Singapore River for the second time since 2000. The race raised S\$1 million for The Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund, Spastic Children's Association of Singapore and the Children at Risk Empowerment Association.

DECEMBER 8, 2001

The Business Times and the Singapore Dance Theatre co-organised **The Ballet Ball 2001**, which raised more than S\$300,000 for the SDT-BT Arts Fund in support of overseas performances by SDT.

FEBRUARY 8 TO 17, 2002 > C

SPH Chinese Newspapers Division co-organised the **Singapore River Hong Bao 2002** at the Marina Promenade to herald in the Year of the Horse. SPH MediaWorks lent support to the event with performances by its artistes and a 'live' telecast of the countdown show over Channel U.

FEBRUARY 16, 2002 > D

SPH MediaWorks was the official TV and Internet broadcaster for **Chingay 2002**, Singapore's biggest street parade. The two radio stations under UnionWorks, WKRZ91.3FM and UFM1003, were the official radio broadcaster. UnionWorks is a joint venture between SPH MediaWorks and NTUC. The official newspapers for the event were Lianhe Zaobao and Streets. SPH Group's participation at Chingay 2002 was a demonstration of the synergy between its print, TV, radio and Internet platforms.



A > The Write Stuff. SPH MediaWorks artiste Adrian Pang at a Singapore Writers' Festival reading session. B > Rubber duckies making waves for a good cause at The Straits Times Million Dollar Duck Race which raised S\$1 million despite the bad economic times. C > Whoops of delight from this thrilling performance by an acrobat from Hebei, China, at the Singapore River Hong Bao 2002. D > A rousing Chingay 2002 street parade to welcome in the Year of the Horse.

FEBRUARY 16, 2002

Tamil Murasu organised the **Indian Family of the Year** award. Into its second year, the event drew more than 300 nominations.

FEBRUARY 18, 2002

Streets, the popular morning free sheet, was revamped to take on a new look with refreshing content to attract the busy executives. The revamped newspaper features a new masthead, stronger business coverage and a stylish layout.

FEBRUARY 26, 2002 > E

The Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund raised more than S\$2.5 million to help 6,000 children from low-income families. This compared with S\$1.3 million raised the year before. The money helps to pay for the children's daily school expenses and is administered by the National Council of Social Services.

MARCH 1 TO 31, 2002 > F

SPH Chinese Newspapers Division co-organised the biennial **Chinese Cultural Festival** with grassroot organisations and various arts groups. The festival was opened by Lim Swee Say, Minister for the Environment. This month-long event offered 188 different programmes and activities from Chinese opera, dance to Chinese popular music performed at community clubs and selected concert venues.

MARCH 3, 2002

SPH MediaWorks' English TV channel was re-branded as **Channel i**, leveraging on the success of sister Channel U, to provide viewers with more choices for movies, sports, music and other entertainment programmes.

MARCH 7, 2002 > G

Singapore's leading artist, Chng Seok Tin, was named **Woman of the Year 2001** by Her World

magazine. Undaunted by her loss of sight after a fall, she remained active in the art scene. She received her award from Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, Mayor of the South West Community Development Council District. The **Young Woman Achiever 2001** award went to popular local singer, Stefanie Sun.

MARCH 8, 2002 > H

The **SPH headquarters** in Toa Payoh was officially opened by David Lim, Acting Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts. At the ceremony, SPH Executive Chairman, Lim Kim San, sealed a time capsule containing significant artefacts which reflect the present character and substance of SPH. The time capsule will be opened 10 years from the official opening.

MARCH 28, 2002 > I

SPH Director, Wee Cho Yaw, who is the Chairman of United Overseas Bank Group, was presented the **Businessman of the Year 2002** award. This is the second time Mr Wee was given the award. He received the first award in 1989. Choo Chiau Beng, Chairman of Keppel Offshore and Marine, was named the **Outstanding Chief Executive of the Year**. Dr Wong Tai, Chief Executive Officer of Informatics Holdings, a specialist in infotech education, received the **Enterprise Award** on behalf of Informatics. The three **Singapore Business Awards** were presented by Wong Kan Seng, Minister for Home Affairs. This event is jointly organised by The Business Times and DHL Worldwide Express.

MAY 10 AND 11, 2002 > J

SPH MediaWorks celebrated the first anniversary of Channel U and Channel i with two mega concerts at Ngee Ann City Civic Plaza. All the station's artistes, together with other local artistes and popular names from Hong Kong and Taiwan, turned up to entertain some 10,000 spectators each night.



E > SPH Executive Chairman, Lim Kim San (left), presenting The Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund cheque to Abdullah Tarmugi, then Minister for Community Development and Sports. F > Environment Minister, Lim Swee Say, launching the Chinese Cultural Festival 2002. Looking on are Chew Keng Juea, Senior Executive Vice President, Chinese Newspapers and Newspaper Services of SPH (centre) and Seow Choke Meng, Executive Vice President, Editorial Services, Chinese Newspapers & Circulation, Newspaper Services, SPH (right). G > Chng Seok Tin, Woman of the Year 2001, with some of her treasured works. H > SPH Executive Chairman, Lim Kim San (left), placing the last item into the time capsule. With him is David Lim, Acting Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts. I > Left to right: Dr Wong Tai, receiving the Enterprise Award, Wee Cho Yaw, Businessman of the Year 2002, Home Affairs Minister, Wong Kan Seng, and Choo Chiau Beng, Outstanding Chief Executive of the Year 2002. J > Full support at SPH MediaWorks' first anniversary mega concert.

MAY 19, 2002 > K

The **New Paper Big Walk** was flagged off by Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Acting Minister for Community Development and Sports. Some 69,000 participants took part in this mass fitness event. Started in 1991, The New Paper Big Walk holds the Guinness Book of World Records in 2000 as the biggest walking event in the world.

MAY 31 TO JUNE 9, 2002 > L

SPH Chinese Newspapers Division organised **World Book Fair**, the biggest book fair in Singapore, which was launched jointly with the Speak Mandarin Campaign for the first time. This year's fair showcased products from 200 exhibitors around the world and recorded some 510,000 visitors.

MAY 31 TO JUNE 2, 2002

Young Parents organised the annual **Young Parents Fiesta!**. One of the programme highlights was the Family Chess Challenge. The event was sponsored by the Ministry of Community Development and Sports, and co-organised by the Singapore Chess Federation.

JUNE 14 TO 16, 2002 > M

The **Singapore Dragon Boat Festival 2002** was held at the Marina Promenade. This event was supported by SPH MediaWorks and SPH Chinese Newspapers Division.

JUNE 29, 2002

SPH MediaWorks received a record of four Gold, six Silver and a Bronze award at the International PROMAX&BDA event held in Los Angeles, a first for Singapore. The station had to compete with top names like Warner Brothers, FOX and NBC.

JULY 31, 2002 > N

Singapore's master potter, Iskandar Jalil, received the **Achiever of the Year Award 2002**,

jointly presented by Berita Harian and McDonald's. Trade and Industry Minister George Yeo was the guest of honour at the award presentation ceremony. The annual award was started in 1999 to honour outstanding individuals who have made significant and valuable contributions to the Malay/Muslim community.

AUGUST 14, 2002

The Straits Times bagged the coveted **Newspaper of the Year** award from the Pacific Area Newspaper Publishers' Association (PANPA) for its ability to connect with its local community through its Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund and its extensive foreign news coverage and analysis. It beat leading Australian and New Zealand newspapers to clinch the top award. The Sydney-based PANPA groups more than 300 newspaper publishing and suppliers from 14 countries in the Pacific Rim.

AUGUST 19, 2002

Tamil Murasu launched its daily community and Indian news segment in its bilingual Tamil/English page to attract readers who are not fluent in the Tamil language. It also gives readers news about the Indian community and from the sub-continent.

AUGUST 25, 2002 > O

Lianhe Zaobao co-organised the **Singapore Promising Brand Award** with the Association of Small and Medium Enterprises to recognise excellence in branding strategy, planning and execution among homegrown small and medium enterprises.

AUGUST 30, 2002

The New Paper organised the **Be Yourself Day** where students attended school in attire of their choice to express creativity and raise funds for charity. A total of S\$144,450 was raised for the President's Challenge 2002 by The New Paper.



K > The lucky winner at The New Paper Big Walk 2002 who 'walked' away with the grand prize of a luxury saloon car. L > Visitors were spoiled for choice at the wide range of books on sale at the World Book Fair 2002. M > Test of endurance and teamwork for these rowers at the Singapore Dragon Boat Festival 2002. N > Iskandar Jalil (left), Achiever of the Year 2002, with Berita Harian Editor, Guntor Sadali (centre) and Trade and Industry Minister, George Yeo (right). O > Benedict Soh (left), Group Managing Director of Kingsmen, Jocelyn Chng (centre), Managing Director of Chng Kee's, whose companies bagged the awards for Most Distinctive Brand in the services and product categories, respectively; and George Quek (right), Managing Director of BreadTalk, which was voted the Most Popular Brand.