



# PAC CHOICE 2019



## Background

The PAC Choice celebrates quality local Public Service Broadcast (PSB) programmes produced and shown on local TV and online media.

Drawn up annually by the Programme Advisory Committees (PACs), community panels that advise IMDA on programme standards and PSB quality, the selected titles are spotlighted for their well-told stories, production values and/or creative concepts. This year's list covers programmes released between April 2018 and March 2019.

## Highlights

2018 was a year of **creative disruption** and **collaboration** for local content.

The PACs observed the birth of a new local viewing experience, powered by the fusion of technology with creativity and passion. Specifically, the PACs recognised the following positive developments, reflected through programmes in the PAC Choice:



**New Technologies x Local Programmes –  
An alternative viewing experience featuring  
Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality and gaming apps.**

**GHOSTS AR** (Toggle), a drama supplemented with a game app and children's gameshow **THE BACKWARDS RACE** (okto), which featured 360 Virtual Reality and QR-linked second-screen experiences were found to be innovative and immersive.

Members hope to see these pilots of the Content Development Fund expand to full-fledged series in the future and pave the way for Malay and Tamil programmes.



**Greater choices on digital platforms.**

The year saw a surge of digital content on multiple platforms, including Toggle, SPH, Viddsee and Clicknetwork. With a good mix of dramas, telemovies, info-ed and scripted reality programmes, PACs agreed that the diversity of the 2018 PSB content slate catered to the viewership needs of a wider demography.

Notable titles commended for their respectable quality, include **DIVIDED 分裂** (Toggle, Drama), Season 2 of **HEROES AMONG US** (SPH, Drama), **VOICES: MEMORIES ON A PLATE** (Viddsee, Info-Ed) and **DADDY DIARIES** (Clicknetwork, Info-Ed).

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English Language

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## A Day In The Kitchen

**StraitsTimes.com | Info-Ed | SPH**

Providing a rare, behind-the-scenes look at restaurant operations and insight into the lives of hawkers, the bite-sized series was a feast for the senses.



## Don't Make Us Invisible

**CNA | Info-Ed | Mediacorp**

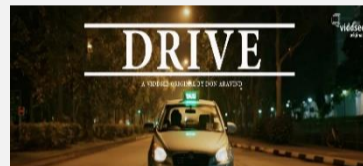
Harsh realities faced by the likes of cleaners and petrol attendants in their daily routines were sensitively surfaced in this empathy-evoking series about social invisibility.



## Basic Mini-tary Training

**Okto | Children | Mediacorp**

A family boot-camp challenge modelled after the National Service experience, the series imparted positive messages about discipline to children.



## Drive

**Viddsee | Drama | Don Aravind**

Quintessentially Singaporean, the multilingual mini-series, which depicted a cab-driver's last evening shift was beautifully shot.



## Becoming Human

**CNA | Documentary | Mediacorp**

The ethical, practical and philosophical issues surrounding Artificial Intelligence and its impact on humanity were rigorously explored in this thought-provoking documentary.



## Fam!

**Ch5 | Drama/Comedy | Oak3 Films**

The comical life of an influencer family was well presented through its strong cast, funny scenarios and well-timed punchlines.



## #DontForgetMe

**CNA | Current Affairs | Mediacorp**

Featuring endearing seniors learning the ropes of video production to raise funds for their new nursing home, the reality series was both empowering and heart-warming.



## Ghosts AR

**Toggle | Drama | Infinite Frameworks /D.Ink**

Punctuated by realistic graphics and jump scares, the Augmented Reality drama about a soul-stealing phone app – also made available to viewers – was an exhilarating viewing experience.



## Daddy Diaries

**Clicknetwork | Info-Ed | Munkysuperstar**

DJ Shan Wee's vlog about life as a dad, featuring fun social experiments and the antics of his toddlers, provided interesting nuggets about parenting.



## Heroes Among Us (Season 2)

**StraitsTimes.com | Info-Ed | SPH**

The returning series about selfless Singaporeans who go all out to help local and regional communities continued to be motivating and meaningful.

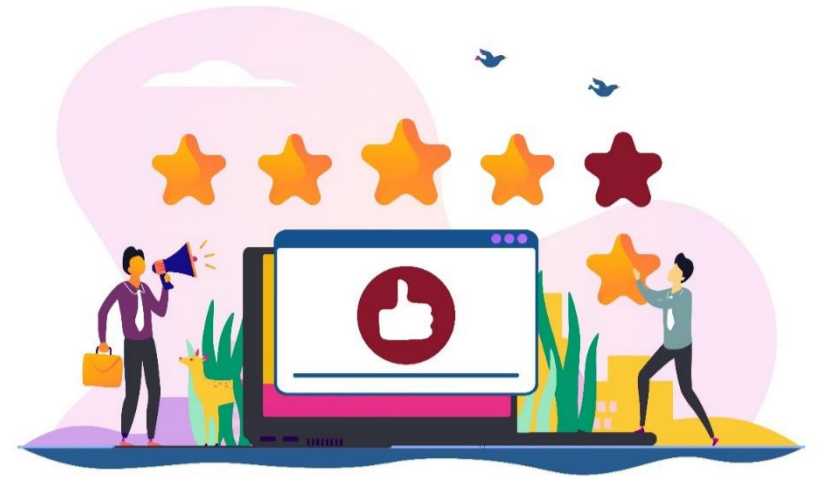
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**Kin**

**Ch5 | Drama | Mediacorp**

Set against a backdrop of a baby swop and tangled family ties, the daily drama series featured ample story hooks, well-scripted dialogue and good coverage of contemporary issues.



**Regardless of Class**

**CNA | Current Affairs | Mediacorp**

The investigative feature, which boldly probed the realities of social class and stratification in Singapore was well moderated.



**Lion Mums (Season 3)**

**Ch5 | Drama | Ochre Pictures**

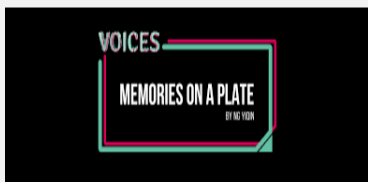
Anchored on issues faced by mothers juggling the demands of their school-going children, the drama's third season continued to appeal with its realistic storyline.



**Singapore Works**

**StraitsTimes.com | Info-Ed | SPH**

Produced to accompany news articles about the more technical facets of Singapore, the bite-sized pieces were steeped in information.



**Memories on a Plate**

**Viddsee | Info-Ed | Ng Yiqin**

Presented in various languages, the short-form series featuring Singaporean's communal ties with food was appetite-whetting, educational and easy to digest.



**Sleeping Beauty and The Man in The Red Suit**

**Viddsee | Drama | Jacky Lee**

Following a clique's attempt to snag invites to an elusive school party, the quirky drama series was fresh and engaging.



**On The Red Dot: Old Enough**

**Ch5 | Current Affairs | Mediacorp**

The social experiment mini-series, which followed young children as they independently performed errands outside their homes, was found to be inspirational.



**The Backward Race**

**Okto | Children | Sitting in Pictures /Swagsoft**

The Virtual Reality treasure hunt was commended for its high information value and well-implemented technologies. Members saw potential in the pilot's expansion into a full series.



**Queen of Hearts**

**Viddsee | Drama | JD Chua**

Cautionary messages about cyberbullying were subtly, yet effectively conveyed in this web-series about the disappearance of a social media influencer.



**The Past Beneath Us**

**CNA | Documentary | InFocus Asia**

The bicentennial documentary special featured an eye-opening exploration of Singapore's archaeological history.

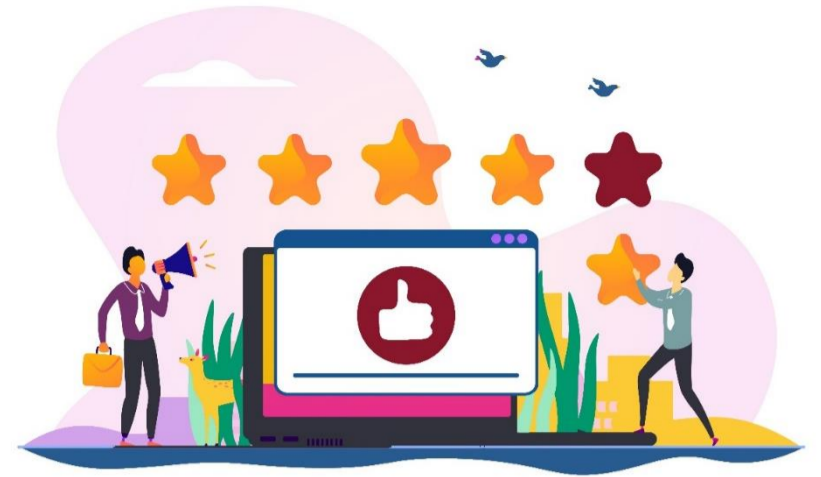
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## A Conversation with Minister

<空中访民情>

Ch8 | Current Affairs | Mediacorp

Members commended the effort to create discussion platforms for issues of interest between Ministers and Singaporeans of various backgrounds.



## Greener Pastures <离家。出走>

ChU | Info-Ed | The Moving Visuals Co.

Exploring the reasons behind migration for better opportunities, the series raised awareness about social issues in emotionally evocative ways.



## Ah Boy and Friends

<Ah Boy与小伙伴们>

Zaobao.sg | Children | SPH

Members found the production quality to be good, with in-depth research to share insights that might be new, even to adults.



## Hello From The Other Side <阴错阳差>

Ch8 | Drama | Mediacorp

Reimagining the underworld as a modern city, the drama provided a refreshing take on the afterlife across multiple platforms, including a Toggle spin-off and a VR extension.



## Cash Only <现金>

Viddsee | Drama | Michael Tay

The short film accurately portrayed Singapore's diversity and shed light on common misconceptions in our multi-racial and multi-lingual society.



## I Eat Therefore I Am <我食。故我在>

Ch8 | Info-Ed | The Moving Visuals Co.

Featuring the culinary cultures of people who have led long and healthy lives, the travelogue advocated healthy eating in an informative manner.



## Divided <分裂>

Toggle | Drama | Weiyu Films

Told through the perspectives of different characters, the whodunit mystery was innovative and well-told.



## Light by the Bedside <小夜灯>

Viddsee | Drama | JD Chua

Inspired by true events, the short film was heart-warming and honoured the love and sacrifices of a single mum.



## Fixer 2 <线人 2>

ChU | Info-Ed | Wawa Pictures

The series continued to generate awareness about global social injustices through the exploration of lesser-known issues faced by the displaced.



## Mission: SG <大使“新”任务>

Zaobao.sg | Info-Ed | SPH

The short-form video series shed light into the little-known work of foreign ambassadors in Singapore.

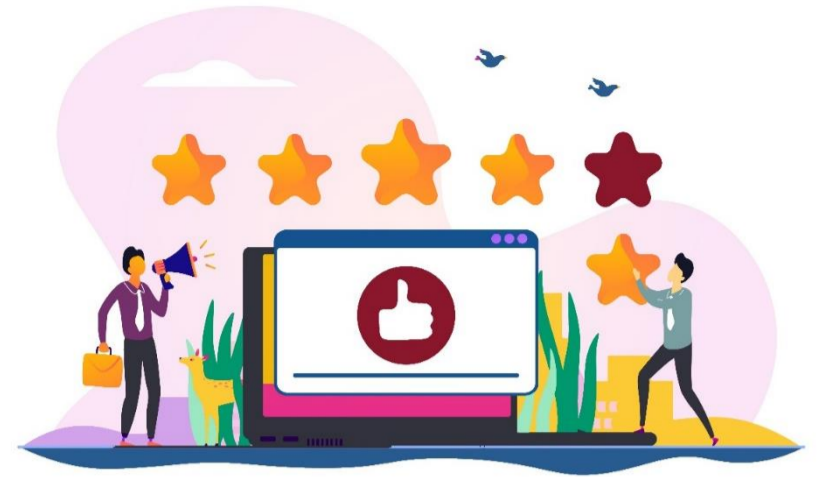
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**Pa <爸>**

**Viddsee | Drama | Sabrina Poon**

Members lauded the natural acting of the cast, as well as the subtle delivery of family values through the touching story.



**Tuesday Report – #myconnections2**

**<星期二特写：情牵新马2>**

**Ch8 | Info-Ed | Mediacorp**

The series reflected the shared history and culture between Singaporeans and Malaysians via profiles who cross the border to live and work.



**Sing Our Song <创新声>**

**Zaobao.sg | Info-Ed | SPH**

The series championed Singapore's music scene and local talents, pairing up aspiring musicians to be mentored by successful veterans.



**Tuesday Report – When The Bell Rings 2**

**<星期二特写：钟声响起时2>**

**Ch8 | Info-Ed | Mediacorp**

The series told the history and transformation of five local schools, through the nostalgic experiences of their staff and alumni.



**SPOP Sing! <听我唱>**

**Toggle/Ch8 | Variety | Mediacorp**

SPOP was lauded for successfully reaching out to younger audiences, while delivering strong cultural values and appreciation for music produced or performed by local musicians/artistes.

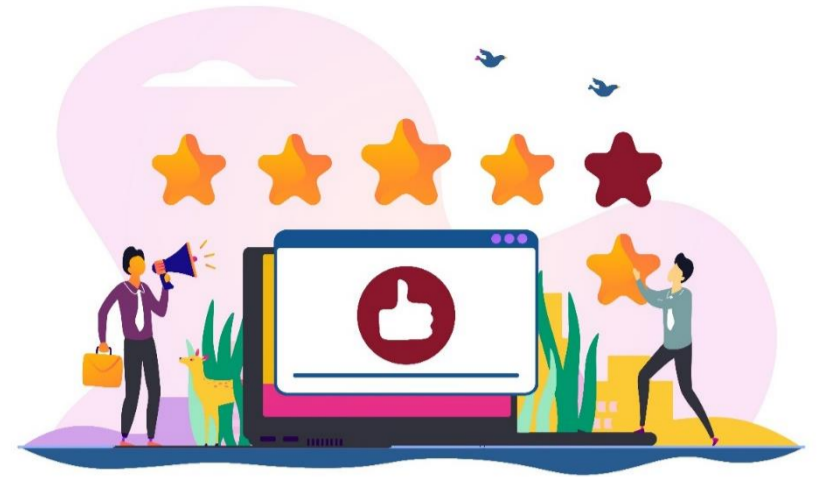
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## **Bantal Buruk Saloma (*Saloma's Raya Cookies*)**

**Suria | Drama | Shortman Films**

Featuring a plot centred around the joys and struggles of foster parenting, the drama was commended for pushing conceptual boundaries.



## **Nadi Serantau (*Pulse of The Region*)**

**Suria | Current Affairs | Mediacorp News**

Produced to commemorate the ASEAN Summit in Singapore, the series featured intellectual, resource-worthy analyses of regional affairs and the issues that lie ahead.



## **Gotong Royong (*Come Together*)**

**Suria | Info-Ed | The Moving Visuals Co.**

Highlighting community efforts to reach out to the disadvantaged in Singapore, the meaningful info-ed series was well put together.



## **Sentuhan Harapan (*Touch of Hope*)**

**Suria | Info-Ed | Xtreme Media**

Members applauded host Fiza O for her empathy and bravery in journeying into remote places and interviewing the displaced or communities that were under attack.



## **Jalan (*Heritage Trail*) Season 7**

**Suria | Arts & Heritage | Oak3 Films**

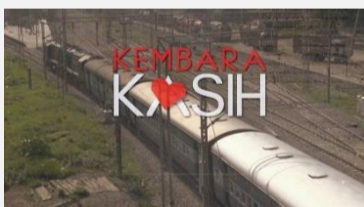
In its 7th season, the arts and heritage series continues to deliver well-researched insights into local culture.



## **Tangan-Tangan Kecil (*Little Hands*)**

**Suria | Documentary | Verite Productions**

The investigative look into the lives of child labourers across Asia was eye-opening and heart-wrenching, and a first of its kind for Suria.



## **Kembara Kasih (*Journey of Love*) Season 3**

**Suria | Documentary | Filmat 360**

In its third run, this series about Singaporeans contributing to the world through mobile hospitals in the spirit of "volunteer-tourism" continued to be aspirational.



## **Wira Kita (*Our Heroes*)**

**Suria | Info-Ed | Mediacorp Eaglevision**

The committee appreciated the spotlight given to everyday heroes who strive to make a difference to the community.



## **Mak Aku Kata (*My Mom Said*)**

**Season 2**

**Suria | Children | Mediacorp Eaglevision**

The drama series, which dispelled superstitions and taboos, was refreshing and steeped in educational values.

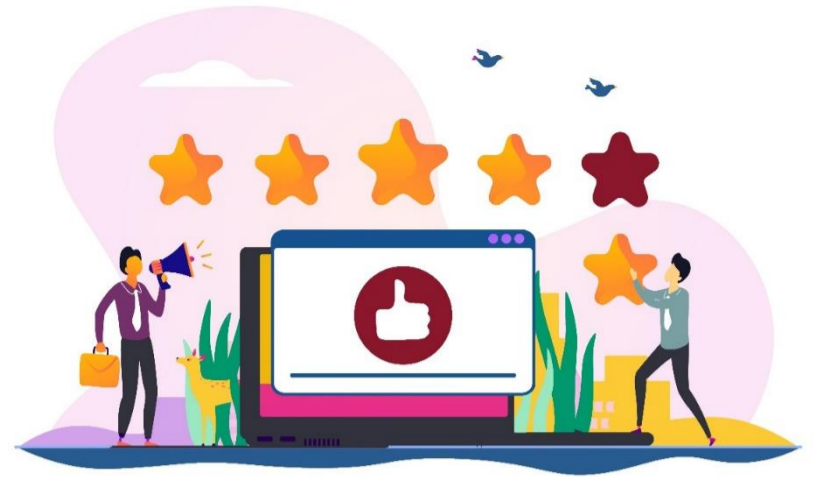
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## Achamillai Achamillai (*No Fear*) Season 3

Vasantham | Info-Ed | Rambutan Media

The compelling success stories of women from various sectors in the local Indian community continued to be inspiring.



## My Dear Kudumbam Returns (*My Dear Family Returns*)

Vasantham | Children | Why Not Us

Centered on a family adjusting to life with a working mother, the entertaining series returned with messages on the importance of family values and togetherness.



## Adukku Veetu Annasamy (*There Goes The Neighbourhood*)

Vasantham | Drama | Cosmic Ultra

The adaptation of a popular 1970s radio play was commended for its refreshing storyline and nostalgic feel. The use of humorous puns added to the overall appeal of the series.



## Nerukku Naer (*In Conversation*) Season 2

Vasantham | Info-Ed | TheMedia

Members continued to applaud host, Mohamed Ali for effectively helming the inspirational talk-show with global Indian trailblazers via thought-provoking interviews.



## Ethiroli (*Echo*) Season 15

Vasantham | Current Affairs | Mediacorp

The long-running series was headed in the right direction by incorporating investigative angles and substantiated by subject matter experts.



## Rayil Sneham (*Train Journey*) Season 4

Vasantham | Info-Ed | Silver Screen

Members felt that the history and culture of places along the Russian railroad was well-presented by the engaging new host, Malene.



## Guru Paarvai (*A Teacher's Perspective*) Season 4

Vasantham | Drama | Blue River Pictures

Featuring strong performance from the cast, the well-produced school-based drama was steeped in realism through its coverage of relatable issues.



## Theerpugal (*The Verdict*) Season 4

Vasantham | Info-Ed | TheMedia

Examining the verdict given to local crime cases, the fourth installment of this info-ed continued to be well researched and informative.



## Maethaavi 2018 (*Genius 2018*)

Vasantham | Info-Ed | Violet Tales

Testing secondary school students on their language, general knowledge and math skills, the quiz competition was effective in conveying information in an engaging and lively manner.



## Uyire (*Ties That Bind*)

Vasantham | Drama | Mediacorp

Gripping, relatable, well-produced family drama that was supported by the consistently strong performance from the cast.