

PAC Choice 2020



128 Circle, Ch 5, Drama



Forensik, Suria, Drama



*Uncle Goose Waits for a Phone Call, CreativesAtWork
Drama*



En Vaazhvil Oru Naal, Vasantham, Info-Ed

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 Info-communication Media Development Authority (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 2019 and March 2020.

Beyond riding on digitalisation to deliver new formats for fresh PSB content, the PACs commended efforts by producers to uncover new artistes to maintain a strong pipeline of local talents. They were also pleased to see content reflective of Singapore's multi-racial and multicultural society. Specifically, the PACs recognised the following positive developments, reflected through programmes in the PAC Choice:

1

Incubating new talents for the local media scene

Star Search 2019 <才华横溢出新秀 2019> (Channel 8, Variety) and **SG Mania Season 3** (Suria, Variety) were established platforms for the discovery and grooming of new artistes. The committee members hoped that such competitions would continue to pave the way for inspiring, promoting and recognising new acting, hosting and singing talents for the local media scene.

Final Exam, Vidsee, Drama

2

Embracing diversity through multi-lingual content

Multi-lingual content, such as **128 Circle** (Channel 5, Drama), **Under the Five Trees** (Vidsee, Drama), **Raksasa** (Suria, Drama) and **Voices: Letters to God** (Vidsee, Info-ed), resonated with viewers as they were realistic portrayals of Singapore's multi-racial and multicultural society. **Forensik** (Suria/Ch 5, Drama), a spin-off from Code of Law that was produced in the Malay language and dubbed in English, leveraged the popularity of the successful crime drama to reach new audiences.

Raksasa, meWATCH, Drama

3

Experimenting with new formats and storytelling methods

The PACs agreed that regional collaborations, such as the Singapore-Taiwan co-production **All Is Well <你那边怎样? 我这边OK>** (Channel 8/U/meWatch, Drama) by Mediacorp, not only facilitated skills-exchange opportunities for the crew and cast, but also experimentation with innovative formats, such as two parallel dramas with interlinked plots. Likewise, **Arivaan** (Vasantham, Drama) which engaged audiences with its non-sequential story format, benefitted from the broadcaster's ongoing efforts to explore new storytelling strategies.

All Is Well, Ch 8/Ch U, Drama

PAC CHOICE LIST

Programmes in the PAC Choice List are chosen based on criteria including creativity and freshness of ideas, presentation format, significance of subject matter, overall engagement and information value. The titles are listed in no particular order of merit.

ENGLISH

Last Madame, meWATCH, Drama



128 Circle
Ch 5 | Drama | Weiyu Films

Set in a hawker centre, the drama series featured characters naturally switching between English and their mother tongue languages for an authentic reflection of life in Singapore.



Abraureka Season 2
okto | Children | Ananya Pictures

The programme was commended by members for its high production quality. Notably, it was able to simplify complex scientific concepts and convey them to children in an interesting and engaging way, such as through well-employed graphics.



Borderlands
CNA | Info-Ed | Birdmandog

The series offered rich information and insights into border communities around the region. Driven purely by the voices of the communities, members felt that the first party accounts did well to make audiences reflect and appreciate what we have.



Scene City: Final Exam
Vidsee | Drama | Chang Kai Xiang

This heart-warming story captured the realities of the Singapore school system as well as positive messages of kindness and compassion among classmates. Members praised the performance of the young cast who were credited for making the storyline and dialogue feel authentic.



Hawkers In Our Centre
CNA | Info-Ed | Mediacorp

Featuring hawker stalls and hawkers beloved by the Singapore public, this insightful documentary captured how the hawker trade started in Singapore and discussed the future of hawker centres.



Kin
Ch 5 | Drama | Mediacorp

The longform series touched on topical issues such as adults with dementia, doxing and potential pitfalls of social media. The addition of a special needs actor and exploration of Down's Syndrome within the storyline was also a step towards more social inclusiveness.

PAC CHOICE LIST

ENGLISH

Our Tiny Superheroes, CNA, Documentary



Last Madame
meWATCH | Drama | Ochre Pictures

A story about the last female brothel owner in Singapore, the drama was praised for its originality and high engagement value. The seamless transition between past and present-day story arcs, the attention to detail in dialogue with smattering of dialect, intricacy of costumes and sets all contributed to the drama's realism.



Love Shop
Viddsee | Drama | Melvin Chan and Mervyn Yap

The light-hearted online series was simple and relatable with a touch of nostalgia. It showed the bridging of inter-generational gaps such as how youths could learn to appreciate their parents' trade.



Make It Count Season 2
okto | Children | Kaleidoscope Art

The children's programme unveiled the wonders of math and applied it to everyday life. Members commended the programme for the good use of graphics, history and maths fundamentals to engage children.



On The Red Dot: My Parent, My Classmate
Ch 5 | Current Affairs | Mediacorp

The series saw four parents developing a better appreciation for what their children go through in primary school. Members found it entertaining, engaging, and praised the curation and execution of the themes explored.



Our Tiny Superheroes
CNA | Documentary | Beach House Pictures

The documentary was recognised for its intriguing look into the ground-breaking research by Singapore's science community to harness the "powers" of tiny creatures around us to solve bio-medical challenges. The programme had high production values, including the effective visual techniques used to capture the world's tiniest critters.



Regardless Of Generation
CNA | Documentary | Mediacorp

In this 3rd instalment hosted by Janil Puthuchery, members appreciated the bold investigation into Singapore's inter-generational divide and how the findings were presented through effective use of graphics and statistics.

PAC CHOICE LIST



ENGLISH

128 Circle, Ch 5, Drama



Ships That Shaped Us
CNA | Documentary |
Peddling Pictures

Members commended this series for spotlighting local artists and for the unique way of exploring Singapore's history through an artistic journey.



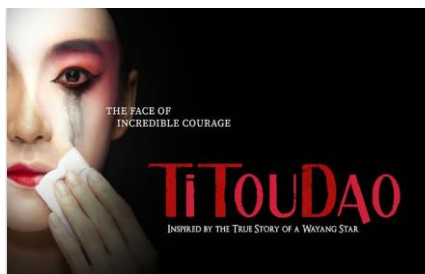
Sugee Cake
CreativesAtWork | Drama |
Anshul Tiwari

A family recipe for sugee cake becomes the glue that bonds a Eurasian family, struggling to come to terms with their loss. Committee praised this short film for its strong cast and script, with the importance of family values coming across clearly.



Talking Point
Ch 5 | Current Affairs |
Mediacorp

The long running series continues to be well-produced and offered audience with different perspectives on topical issues. Members felt that this season's topics, such as education reforms and the environmental impact of the consumption of bottled water, offered thought-provoking insights.



Titoudao: Inspired by the True Story of a Wayang Star
Ch 5 | Drama | Oak3 Films

Based on the real life story of wayang star, Madam Oon Ah Chiam, the drama series showcased the traditional art of wayang and allowed both a sense of nostalgia as well as a renewed appreciation of Singapore's history and culture.



Whoopie's World Season 3
okto | Children | Verite Productions

A series based on author Adeline Foo's "Whoopie Lee" series, the themes of school-life and growing pains were relevant and relatable to young viewers.



Why It Matters Season 3
CNA | Current Affairs |
Mediacorp

Relevant issues such as cyber wellness and the awareness of climate change were well-researched. Each comprehensive episode included actionable take-aways for viewers such as protecting oneself from cybersecurity threats.

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CHINESE

Under The Five Trees, Vidsee, Drama



All Is Well <你那边怎样 我这边OK>
Ch 8, U, meWatch | Drama | Mediacorp

Inspired by a real-life heist, the thriller comprising the Singapore and Taiwan versions of this co-production between both countries was commended for its experimentation with an innovative storytelling format, high production quality and strong casting.



Fresh Takes!: Pei Pei <Fresh!新登场: 佩佩>
Ch U | Drama | August Pictures

Anchored on issues relating to the negative effects of social media, the drama highlighted the social issues revolving around social media and was well executed through good storytelling, pacing and acting by veterans and newcomers alike.



Fun With Singnese 2 <新语研究所2>
Ch 8 | Info-Ed | Wawa Pictures

The returning series about the origins of local Chinese/Dialect words was well researched and praised by members for exploring the subject matter in an engaging and entertaining manner, setting a highly commendable standard as PSB content.



Missing <人间蒸发>
Ch U | Info-Ed | Threesixzero Productions

The series about missing people worldwide and how their families had to deal and overcome the pain of losing a loved one was well researched, thought provoking and imparted the important values of family bonding and community support.



Scene City: Home is Where The Heart Is <心之所在>
Vidsee | Drama | Chang Kai Xiang

The short film about an elderly mother who resorted to committing petty crimes to relief herself from being a burden to her son was well-directed and performed. Though simple, the storyline was thought-provoking and engaging.



Star Search 2019 <才华横溢出新秀2019>
Ch 8 | Variety | Mediacorp

Despite a long hiatus, the refreshed format of the talent search competition was well-executed, establishing itself as an important platform and a positive step towards discovering and grooming new talents for the local TV scene.

PAC CHOICE LIST



CHINESE

The Guardians, Ch U, Info-Ed



The Driver <伺机>
meWatch | Drama | August Pictures

Telling the story of a former Japanese yakuza gang member who turned into a modern, urban vigilante in Singapore, the drama was commended for its high production quality, engaging storyline and refreshing plot.



The Guardians <守护者>
Ch U | Info-Ed | The Moving Visuals Co.

Featuring inspirational and heart-warming stories of caregivers and volunteers in different countries, the show exhibited strong production values in terms of research and hosting. The stories were inspiring and prompted viewers to contribute back to the society in their own ways.



Tuesday Report: A Hill and A River <星期二特写: 一座山一条河>
Ch 8 | Current Affairs | Mediacorp

Set against the backdrop of the Fort Canning Hill and Singapore River, the series was well produced and rich in information, telling the stories of the generation who witnessed the transformation over the last several decades.



Uncle Goose Waits for a Phone Call <断舍离>
CreativesAtWork | Drama | Kew Lin

The short film scripted primarily in Teochew reflected the realities of how some elderly in Singapore get disconnected from the rest of society. It was praised for good casting, production quality and a poignant, impactful storyline.



Scene City: Under The Five Trees
(Mandarin and English)
Viddsee | Drama | Joel Lee

The short-film's premise of a father struggling to keep up with technology changes was heartwarming and relatable in the face of Singapore's increasingly digital society, where seniors face the same struggles to adapt.



Voices: Letters To God
(Mandarin with mixed languages)
Viddsee | Info-Ed (Shorts) | Eileen Chong

Presented in various languages, the short-form series about five individuals and their unique spiritual journey was well-researched and engaging, while exploring the subject matter in a sensitive and respectful manner.

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MALAY

Raksasa, meWATCH, Drama



Forensik (Forensic)
(Dubbed in English for telecast on Ch 5)
Suria | Drama | Weiyu Films

Members welcomed this spin-off from the highly acclaimed and popular English drama, Code of Law. The series' production values, premise, storyline and the main cast's natural performance was commendable.



Jejak Kita (Our Footprint)
Suria | Info-Ed | Oak3 Films

Through creative re-enactments of historical Singapore, the series packaged information in an engaging manner and featured an insightful exploration of other communities.



Kelab Prefect (The Prefect's Club)
Suria | Children | Poetry In Motion

The school-based series was well-scripted, relatable and supported by the realistic portrayals by the cast. The PSB values on cause and effect of the students' actions were subtly yet effectively woven into the plot.



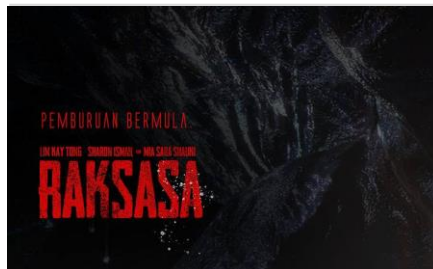
Swap Kerja (Job Swap) Season 3
Suria | Info-Ed | Xtreme Media

Members appreciated the well-researched exploration of unique vocations in exotic locations, the varied 'job swap' challenges featured and the energetic hosts who were able to build rapport with the guests effortlessly.



Poskad Dari Alhambra (Postcard from Alhambra)
Suria | Drama | Monstrou Studio

Set against the backdrop of Spain, members commended the drama for being well-shot, having a unique storyline based on an adventure leading to the uncovering of a painful personal truth, and for the cast's performance.



Raksasa (The Monster)
(Malay with mixed languages)
Suria | Drama | Papahan Films

Produced in Malay as well as English, the sci-fi thriller set in Singapore was applauded for its compelling local storyline and high production values, including the quality and execution of special effects used. The cross-ethnic weave of characters and dialogue reflected the multi-racial realities in Singapore, and the inter-generational dynamics were well-portrayed.

PAC CHOICE LIST

MALAY

Misi Gaia, Suria, Info-Ed



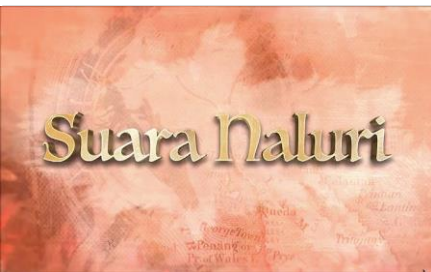
Saga Season 2
Suria | Drama | Mediacorp

Featuring a refreshing sports-based concept, the drama was well-produced with realistic fight scenes and had a meaningful storyline about the relationship between a father and a son.



SG Mania Season 3
Suria | Variety | Mediacorp

This returning talent competition was commended for both recognising and promoting talents in the local Malay music industry and celebrating local Malay music heritage.



Suara Naluri (*The Voice of Instinct*)
Suria | Current Affairs | Mediacorp

The meaningful series employed an investigative journalistic approach to highlighting individuals as well as non-profit organisations who have tried to uplift their community in innovative ways. Members saw the series as a step in the right direction towards having more current affairs content with an investigative journalism approach.



Misi Gaia (*Mission: Gaia*)
Suria | Info-Ed | The Moving Visuals Co.

Recognised as an important programme for the community, the series delved into lesser-discussed issues of climate change and sustainability in a clear and concise manner. New host Amyrah Mustafa was passionate about the issues discussed and anchored the series adeptly.

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TAMIL

Arivaan, Vasantham, Drama



Alaigal Oivathillai
(Never-ending Waves)
Vasantham | Info-Ed |
Gravitas Media

Showcasing the vast cultural and religious diversity within the Indian community in Singapore, the series was commended for being well-researched and informative.



Arivaan (Revelation)
Vasantham | Drama |
Mediacorp

Members lauded the thriller for its gripping and non-linear narrative of storytelling, filled with ample hooks and unexpected twists. The strong and convincing performance by the cast, particularly Jabu Deen Faruk and Udaya Soundari, contributed to the appeal of the series.



Avathaaram
(The Face-Off)
Vasantham | Drama | 360
Entertainment Productions

Winner of Vasantham's "Muthal Paarvai 2019" pilot-testing initiative, the whodunnit mystery was commended for its high production quality, engaging storyline and good acting.



En Vaazhvil Oru Naal (A Day In My Life)
Vasantham | Info-Ed |
Triangle Tales

Providing a rare behind-the-scenes look into the lives of individuals with varied professions such as an elephant keeper and orthopaedic surgeon, the series was eye-opening, educational and well-presented by host Arvind Naidu.



Ethiroli (Echo)
Vasantham | Current Affairs
| Mediacorp

The long-running series effectively utilised panel discussions to address local issues of interest such as managing co-curricular activities in school and initiatives/schemes available for those in need. Infographics continued to aid in the communication of data presented.



Ithu Enna Paatu Season 5
(Guess the Song Season 5)
Vasantham | Variety |
Mediacorp

Members welcomed the return of the series and commended the high-energy music trivia gameshow for being fun and entertaining.

PAC CHOICE LIST



TAMIL

Tekka, Vasantham, Info-Ed



Oru Manithanin Kathai
(The Story of a Man)
Vasantham | Info-Ed |
Nuffield Media

Members praised the series for meaningfully capturing how ex-offenders reintegrated into the community and worked towards a better future for themselves and their loved ones.



Penngal (Daughters of Singapore)
Vasantham | Info-Ed |
Orange Socks

The inspiring series celebrated trailblazing Singaporean Indian women, from diverse fields, backgrounds and age groups.



Suvadugal (The Path of Legends)
Vasantham | Info-Ed | Visual
Beatz

The series featured inspiring personal stories, contributions and achievements of legends and pioneers from the Indian community in Singapore. A diverse range of fields and profiles such as social entrepreneur/businessman Narayana Pillai and dancer Madhavi Krishnan were featured.



Tekka (Singapore Indian's Enclave)
Vasantham | Info-Ed |
TheMedia

Delving into the history and lesser-known nuggets of information on the various facets of Tekka, the series was well-produced and rich in information. Host Karthikeyan Somasundaram ably helmed the series and added to the engagement value of the series.

About the Programme Advisory Committees

The Programme Advisory Committees (PACs) provide the IMDA with feedback from a community perspective on content standards matters and the quality of Public Service Broadcast (PSB) content. Their views are guided by prevailing broadcast programme codes and quality indicators for PSB content, in terms of production standards and overall information and public interest value.

The PACs are made up of four language-specific groups:

- Programme Advisory Committee for English Programmes (PACE);
- Advisory Committee for Chinese Programmes (ACCESS);
- Malay Programmes Advisory Committee (MPAC); and
- Indian Programmes Advisory Committee (IPAC)

Each committee comprises members from different walks of life, varied fields of interest and expertise, including academia, media and the public and private sectors.

More information on the PACs' terms of reference and membership can be found [here](#).

