

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LET YOUR imagiNATION RUN W!LD IN *ANOTHER COUNTRY*



1 April 2015 – This June, WILD RICE explores the history and heritage of Singapore and Malaysia in *Another Country*, a funny, poignant and insightful look at life on both sides of the Causeway.

The production is part of WILD RICE's year-long imagiNATION season, which marks the company's 15th anniversary and coincides with Singapore's own jubilee celebrations.

Each imagiNATION production takes inspiration from the five stars of the Singapore flag. *Another Country* examines the 'Peace' – or lack thereof – shared by two countries that were torn asunder in 1965.

“The 50th year of Singapore's independence also marks the separation of Singapore from our nearest and dearest neighbour,” says Ivan Heng, Artistic Director of WILD RICE. “Sometimes, that separation feels illusive, even fictional, especially when we travel to each other's countries, and realise how much culture, history and food we still share. In a year all about embracing our nationhood and sovereignty, we thought it was also important to celebrate what we have in common with Malaysia.”

A truly collaborative, cross-cultural project, *Another Country* challenges Heng and his Singaporean cast to understand, embrace and perform texts by some of Malaysia's finest writers. At the same time, Malaysian director Jo Kukathas and her cast will dig into an eclectic array of Singapore literature, unearthing what remains beneath the politics and posturing that have often complicated relations between the two nations.



“Often, we think of a country or a nation as a political entity, made not by people but by politics and policies. To look at a country through literature, not politics – to see a nation through poets, not politicians – is to open up new landscapes,” Kukathas explains.

The texts from both countries have been curated by Alfian Sa'at, WILD RICE's Resident Playwright; and renowned Malaysian playwright Leow Puay Tin, who also selected the Malaysian texts used in *Second Link*, an earlier incarnation of this bilateral project. *Second Link*, an explosive showcase of more than 50 celebrated and banned texts, was a hit with audiences and critics in Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong and Singapore, and was the rousing finale of the Singapore Theatre Festival in 2006.

“I am so pleased to be taking part in another 'text exchange' between Singapore and Malaysia,” enthuses Leow. “It gives me the chance to review the ostensibly 'Malaysian' texts, which reminds me again of just how much these words and ideas are related to 'Singapore'. This can't be helped, given our shared histories and the cultural kinships that have continued to thrive to this day.”

The goal of *Another Country* is to really look beyond the media and the politicians to find the common ground that exists between the people of both countries.

“Once you look at the literature, a more nuanced portrait emerges,” notes Alfian. “The relationship between the two countries can no longer be described by the rather technical term 'bilateral'; it is also mutual, reciprocal, co-dependent, love-hate, can't-live-with/can't-live-without. I think more than ever we need to tell these stories, which speak of ties that are not just historical but also very much of the present: personal, cultural, visceral, umbilical.

“I think of *Another Country* as a project in which audiences will see themselves reflected not only in the texts of their 'homegrown' writers, but also in those of 'the other country'.”

*Another Country's* multi-racial, multi-talented cast will feature ten of the finest acting talents on both sides of the Causeway, including Singapore's Lim Yu-Beng and Siti Khalijah Zainal and Malaysia's Ghafir Akbar and Sharifah Amani. The production will run from 4 to 14 June 2015 at the Damansara Performing Arts Centre in KL, before crossing the Causeway to play at Singapore's Drama Centre Theatre from 25 June to 11 July 2015.



## **ABOUT ANOTHER COUNTRY**

50 years ago, Singapore and Malaysia divorced after a brief marriage of two years. But, doomed lovers that we are, we just can't stay away from each other, no matter how often we squabble over water, airspace, and food. We toil in each other's cities, relax on each other's islands, and get fined on each other's roads. We laugh at each other's laws but envy each other's liberties; separated by history, we are united by our dreams for a better home.

Directed by Singapore's Ivan Heng and Malaysia's Jo Kukathas, *Another Country* takes us on a trip through our shared memories and divergent dreams with the most provocative, humorous and unlikely texts, curated by Singaporean playwright Alfian Sa'at and Malaysian playwright Leow Puay Tin.

From Singapore, we have texts taken from a Catherine Lim short story, a Michael Chiang play, the Singapore Ministry of Culture's anthem to our glorious but short-lived union in 1963 and more, all to be delivered by a cast of Malaysia's most acclaimed actors.

Meanwhile, five of Singapore's finest actors boldly tackle the Malaysian texts, which include excerpts from a Jit Murad play, Mark Teh's salutation and Tunku Abdul Rahman's recounting of his dream before the race riots of 13 May 1969.

Will we find more similarities, or more things to squabble over? Will we recognise our homes in each other's stories? To whom do these stories belong? And, most important of all... to whom does Hainanese chicken rice *really* belong?

### **Praise for *Second Link***

"The most satisfying two hours I have spent in the theatre... an embarrassment of riches on all fronts. Encore, please." – Ong Sor Fern, SPH Straits Times Life!

"Daring... It skilfully brought to life the way local writers are testing the boundaries." – International Herald Tribune

"A surprising effect of the whole thing was how moving this accumulation of texts was. The text exchange leaves a joyous afterglow, and a more intimate level of understanding." – SPH The Straits Times LIFE!

"I congratulate WILD RICE and Five Arts Centre for delivering an impressive recital of texts, ultimately quite unlike any other I've witnessed before in Singapore." – The Flying Inkpot

"An exhilarating eye-opener." – SPH The Straits Times LIFE!

## FAST FACTS

- Title : ***ANOTHER COUNTRY***
- Directors : Ivan Heng & Jo Kukathas
- Curators : Alfian Sa'at & Leow Puay Tin
- Lighting Design : Adrian Tan
- Costume Design : Ix Wong
- Hair Design : Ashley Lim
- Make-Up Design : Beno Lim (M.A.C.)
- Producers : Tony Trickett & June Tan
- Cast : ***From Singapore:***  
 Sharda Harrison  
 Gani Karim  
 Lim Yu-Beng  
 Lydia Look  
 Siti Khalijah Zainal  
***From Malaysia:***  
 Ghafir Akbar  
 Sharifah Amani  
 Anne James  
 Alfred Loh  
 Iedil Putra
- Press Contact : Lew Yook Kim  
 Manager  
 Sirius Art PR Pte Ltd  
 DID: +65 6435-0627  
 yookkim@siriusart.com.sg
- Venue/Dates : DPAC, Kuala Lumpur / 4 June – 14 June 2015 (Malaysia)  
 Drama Centre Theatre / 25 June – 11 July 2015 (Singapore)
- Ticketing Agent (Malaysia): Damansara Performing Arts Centre  
 Tel: (+6)03-4065 0001, 4065 0002  
 www.dpac.org.my
- Ticketing Agent (Singapore): SISTIC.com Pte Ltd



SISTIC Hotline (65) 6348 5555  
SISTIC Website [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg)  
SISTIC Authorised Agents

- Ticket Prices : Previews 25 & 26 June 8pm \$40 - \$65  
(Singapore) : Tue, Wed, Thu 8pm and Sat & Sun 3pm \$45 - \$70  
Fri & Sat 8pm \$50 - \$75  
*Prices exclude \$4 SISTIC handling fee*
- Priority Sales : 20 June – 3 May 2015  
(Singapore) : **20% Discount** for OCBC Cardmembers
- Early Bird : 4 May – 27 May 2015  
(Singapore) : **20% Discount** for OCBC Cardmembers, SAFRA and PAssion Card Members  
**15% Discount** for General Public
- From 28 May onwards: : Discounts available for Students, Senior Citizens,  
(Singapore) Full-time NSFs, OCBC Cardmembers, SAFRA and PAssion Card Members
- Corporate & Group: : For bookings of 20 or more tickets, please contact Ross Toh at  
(Singapore) 6292 2695 or [sales@wildrice.com.sg](mailto:sales@wildrice.com.sg)



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### imagination: WILD RICE'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

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# CELEBRATING 15 W!LD YEARS WITH imagination **WR 15** NATION

In conjunction with its 15th Anniversary in 2015, WILD RICE will present 'imagination', a season of five exciting new productions inspired by the stars of the Singapore flag.

Illuminating and reflecting on the ideas of democracy, peace, progress, equality and justice, the productions include:

- ◆ **Public Enemy**, an adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's powerful and timely classic, directed by Glen Goei and starring Ivan Heng and Lim Kay Siu, which will challenge the easy assumptions associated with **DEMOCRACY**;
- ◆ **Another Country**, a Singapore-Malaysia co-production that brings together the finest writers and performers from both sides of the Causeway to reflect on the history, culture and **PEACE** shared by two countries that were separated at birth;
- ◆ **Hotel**, a stirring epic that observes Singapore's **PROGRESS** through the prism of one hotel room and its inhabitants over the past ten decades. A Singapore International Festival of Arts commission, this production is written by Alfian Sa'at and Marcia Vanderstraaten and directed by Ivan Heng and Glen Goei;
- ◆ **The Emperor's New Clothes**, a brand-new pantomime directed by Pam Oei and scripted by Joel Tan, that adds a cheeky local twist to Hans Christian Andersen's classic fairy tale about **EQUALITY**; and
- ◆ A new production – presently a work in progress – examining the concept of **JUSTICE**.

## APPENDIX II

### SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

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ARCHANGEL



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OFFICIAL PRINTER



OFFICIAL PRIVILEGE CARD



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WITH SUPPORT FROM



## APPENDIX III

### CAST BIOGRAPHIES

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#### **SHARDA HARRISON** (Singapore)

Sharda Harrison is an actor currently residing in Singapore. She graduated from LASALLE College of the Arts with a BA (Hons) degree in Acting in 2009.

In 2013, Sharda set up her own theatre and education company, Pink Gajah Theatre.

Her most recent works include *Gitanjali (I Feel the Earth Move)* and *Untitled Women* by The Necessary Stage, *Decimal Points 5.1* by Cake Theatre, *The House of Bernarda Alba* by WILD RICE, *Naga Mandala* by HuM Theatre and her own work, *Why Do We Do What We Do?* by Pink Gajah Theatre. She has been nominated twice as Best Supporting Actress for the annual Life! Theatre Awards for her roles in The Necessary Stage's *Crossings* and Toy Factory's *The Crucible*.

#### **GANI KARIM** (Singapore)

A Singaporean performer, Gani Karim is a multi-disciplinary, multi-faceted international theatre practitioner equally adept at singing, dancing and acting. He is also a sought-after choreographer, director, arts educator, composer and playwright. Trained in ballet, jazz, tap and musical theatre, Gani has also delved into myriad traditional Asian art forms such as those from Indonesia (Gamelan and Javanese Court Singing; Silat Minang; Topeng Pajaengan), Japan (Noh Theatre; Butoh Dance), Myanmar (Gar Byar Lot; Marionette Dance), India (*Kutiyattum*; *Kathakali*) and Thailand (Royal Court Dance; Khorn Dance). A seasoned performer both locally and abroad, he has delved into a spectrum of theatre and performance genres, including operas, musical theatre, physical theatre and dance theatre, as well as multi-cultural, multi-media, post-modern, experimental and even avante-garde works. Often, these collaborative works would see Gani multi-tasking as performer as well as co-creator.

Over the last 25 years, he has appeared in over a hundred performances on various international stages and festivals, each no less important than another, and has constantly added honed his craft as a theatre practitioner.

#### **LIM YU-BENG** (Singapore)

Lim Yu-Beng is an established stage, film and television actor, with a professional career spanning more than 25 years and a few Life! Theatre Awards. He has a deep interest in the Singapore-Malaysia connection, and recently staged his original play, *2 Houses*, to critical acclaim in last year's Georgetown Festival.

For WILD RICE, he has played in *Second Link*, *Animal Farm*, *The Swordfish*, then the *Concubine*, *Boeing-Boeing*, and *Romeo and Juliet*, for which he also choreographed the violence.

He continues to explore new ground as an actor, director, acting coach, lighting designer, fight choreographer and writer, and will do whatever it takes to get the show up.



### **LYDIA LOOK** (Singapore)

Lydia Look is a Singaporean actress and writer based in Los Angeles.

She is known for her work on *Rush Hour* (1998), *Tremors 4: The Legend Begins* (2004) and *Fast & Furious 6* (2013). More on her at <http://www.imdb.me/lydialook>

### **SITI KHALIJAH ZAINAL** (Singapore)

Siti Khalijah Zainal made her debut as a full-time theatre actress after she attended the year-long Theatre for Youth Ensemble programme in 2003 held by The Necessary Stage.

Since then, she has been working with a wide range of theatre companies, both locally and internationally, and she considers herself very lucky.

She won Best Actress for her role in *Model Citizens* at the 2011 Life! Theatre Awards, and was awarded The Young Artist Award by the National Arts Council in 2014.

### **GHAFIR AKBAR** (Malaysia)

Ghafir Akbar is a Malaysian actor whose work includes *Raj and the End of Tragedy*, *White Rabbit Red Rabbit*, *The Baltimore Waltz*, *Gross Indecency* (Instant Café Theatre); *Nama Kamu Atas Perahu* (Manifesto Poetico); *Durian Beckett* (Pentas Project); *7-10* (Five Arts Centre); and *Hamlet* (Actors Studio).

New York and American credits: *All The Way From China* (Gene Frankel Theatre); *Short Hairs* (Theatre for the New City); *Life of Galileo*, *The Perfume Shop*, *Romeo & Juliet* (Asolo Rep); and *Slaughterhouse Five* (York Arena Theatre). Ghafir co-founded Mad Dog Theatre Company in New York and served as Artistic Associate for Ruckus Theatre in Chicago.

MFA Acting (FSU-Asolo Conservatory), BA Theatre Performance (Western Michigan University).

### **SHARIFAH AMANI** (Malaysia)

Sharifah Amani somehow knew she would be an actor. At the age of three, she was already playing the lead in her own plays, the cast of which included all her imaginary friends whom she insisted were very present. Fascinated by all the bedtime stories she grew up listening to, she was fortunate enough to meet and work with a master storyteller, the late Yasmin Ahmad. Sharifah is also happy that, apart from helping to weave other people's tales, she gets to tell hers through the three short films she has directed: *Sangkar*, *Kampung Bangsar* and *Hawa*. She is grateful to Him for the gifts of *Sepet*, *Gubra*, *Mukhsin*, *Muallaf*, *Talentine* (3rd Assistant Director), *Cinta*, *Jalan Pintas*, *Psiko Pencuri Hati*, *Kolumpo*, *Terbaik Dari Langit* and many others. Sharifah's love for film also fuels her love for theatre and, last year, she performed in three stage shows: *White Rabbit Red Rabbit* (March 2014), *Teater Kompilasi Namron* (October 2013, KL and December 2014, Esplanade Theatre, Singapore) and *Teater Asrama-RA* (October 2014). She will always be a humble storyteller with her own unique personality shining through her work.



### **ANNE JAMES** (Malaysia)

Anne James was co-choreographer with Malaysian choreographer Marion D'Cruz, working with four Singapore directors, for the very successful *Dream Country, a lost monologue*, a commissioned work for the Singapore Arts Festival in 2012.

Anne has acted in plays directed by Kee Thuan Chye, Richard Schechner, Ong Keng Sen, Krishen Jit, Jo Hasham, William Gluth, Ivan Heng, Zahim Albakri, Edwin Sumum, Jo Kukathas and Natalie Hennedige.

In dance, she has consistently worked with D'Cruz. She was recently in the Malay movie *Terbaik Dari Langit*.

In 2013, she was nominated for Best Supporting Actress (Kuala Lumpur Film Critics) for her role in the Malay film *Kil*.

### **ALFRED LOH** (Malaysia)

Alfred Loh began acting in 2008 as part of KLPAC's inaugural T4YP ensemble (2008). Notable stage appearances include The Oral Stage's *Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Momma's Hung You in the Closet and I'm Feeling So Sad* (2009), Shakespeare's *Othello* by Masakini Theatre (2011), *Dancing at Lughnasa* for The Actors Studio, Kuala Lumpur (2011), *A Language of Our Own* for Little Red Shop (2013) and, most recently, *2 Houses* for the Georgetown Festival (2014).

Alfred's musical appearances include *The Producers* (2013) and *The Wizard of Oz* (2012) with Pan Productions, and *Sinbad* (2014) with KLPAC.

### **IEDIL PUTRA** (Malaysia)

Iedil Putra began his performing arts career in 1994 as a pioneer member of Tunas Budaya. His most prominent stage work was *PARAH*, a play staged in Malaysia, Singapore and Australia. Iedil is a member of the award-winning comedy sketch group, Projek Disko Baldi, and holds a degree in Medical Sciences (BSc). Iedil was last seen on screen in *Terbaik Dari Langit*.

Other stage credits include: *P Ramlee the Musical*, *2 Houses*, *Projek Disko Baldi*, *White Rabbit Red Rabbit*, *Romantic Fools*, *The Secret Life of Nora*, *Terima Kasih Cinta*, *Cock*, *Scandalicious Issue*, *Wacky Bar*, *Jalan Mati (No Exit)*, *Ten*, *Love & Beauty* and *Race*. He made his directorial debut during the 2010 Short & Sweet Festival with a play entitled *Single-Worded Title*, for which he won the Best Director Award.

Film credits include: *Lalu*, *Pekak*, *Showdown*, *Cuak*, *Balada Pencinta*, *KL Zombi*, *Pasport Ekspres*, *Sanzaru*, *FIQ*, *Ngorat*, *Raya Tak Jadi*, *4 Madu* and *2 Hati 1 Jiwa*.

TV credits include: *Migrasi*, *Ryujin Juwara*, *Autumn Di Hatiku 2*, *Jetlag*, *The Disko Baldi Show* and *Projek Pop*.

## APPENDIX IV CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

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### **IVAN HENG – Director** (Singapore)

Ivan Heng is one of Singapore's most prominent and dynamic creative personalities, and the Founder and Artistic Director of WILD RICE, Singapore's leading professional theatre company. A law graduate from the National University of Singapore, he trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

In a pioneering career spanning almost 3 decades, Ivan has directed and acted in many landmark Singapore theatre productions which have been performed in more than 20 cities throughout Europe, Asia, America, Australia, New Zealand and Russia.

In 2000, with his portrayal of the titular character in *Emily of Emerald Hill*, Ivan founded WILD RICE. Under his leadership, the company is today at the vanguard of creating theatre with a distinctive Singaporean voice. In 2006, he founded the Singapore Theatre Festival, which has been acclaimed as "the main event in the world of the arts" (SPH The Straits Times), and the "Blockbuster Event of the Year" (TODAY).

Ivan was the Creative Director of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the inaugural Youth Olympic Games (Singapore, 2010), as well as the 2009 National Day Parade. In 2013, Ivan was conferred the Cultural Medallion, Singapore's highest cultural award.

### **JO KUKATHAS – Director** (Malaysia)

Jo Kukathas is an actor, writer and director of The Instant Café Theatre Company, KL. This is her fourth time directing a play by Alfian Sa'at and her second time co-directing with Ivan Heng. Directing credits include *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Merchant of Venice* and *Twelfth Night* (Shakespeare); *M! The Opera* (Saidah Rastam); *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* (adapted, Fo); *Flies and Foreigners* (Ridzwan Othman); *Air Con* (Shanon Shah); *Hero* (Arun Subramaniam); and *Nadirah, Parah and Cooling Off Day* (Alfian Sa'at). Inter-cultural collaborations include *The Island In Between* (Tokyo, KL); *Hotel Grand Asia* (Tokyo); *Break-ing/Silence, Please* (KL, Tokyo, Singapore) and many Instant Café comedy revues.

### **ALFIAN SA'AT – Curator** (Singapore)

Alfian Sa'at is the Resident Playwright of WILD RICE. He has been nominated in the Life! Theatre Awards for Best Original Script eight times, and has received the award thrice. He was the winner of the Golden Point Award for Poetry and the National Arts Council Young Artist Award for Literature in 2001. His other publications include *Collected Plays One and Two*, poetry collections *One Fierce Hour* and *A History of Amnesia*, and short story collections *Corridor* and *Malay Sketches*.

### **LEOW PUAY TIN – Curator** (Malaysia)

Leow Puay Tin creates text for performance using her own writing as well as found texts from diverse sources, such as transcripts, articles, short stories, memoirs, songs, scripts and improvised oral texts. Her performance texts and projects delve into the human psyche while experimenting with form and content, including modular writing, usual choice of subjects,



non-linearity and chance. She now heads the Department of Performance & Media at Sunway University in Malaysia.

### **ADRIAN TAN – Lighting Designer (Singapore)**

Adrian Tan's works are spread across all genres of the performing arts. He has designed for operas, musical theatre, contemporary dance, ballets and outdoor installations.

Adrian has designed for most of the major theatre and dance companies in Singapore. His recent designs include: *Company The Musical* (Nominee, Production of The Year, Life! Theatre Awards 2013), *Broadway Beng, Kumar, Crazy Christmas, Happy Ever Laughter* (2012 & 2014) and *The Hossan Leong Show* for Dream Academy; *Monkey Goes West* (Nominee, Production of The Year, Life! Theatre Awards 2015), *Cooling Off Day* (Nominee, Production of The Year, Life! Theatre Awards 2012) and *Cook A Pot Of Curry* for WILD RICE; *Così Fan Tutte* and *The Merry Widow* for the Singapore Lyric Opera; and *Gitanjali (I Feel the Earth Move)* and *Untitled Women* for The Necessary Stage.

More notably, Adrian designed for *A Cage Goes In Search of A Bird* (A Group Of People), which was nominated for Best Lighting Design at the 2011 Life! Theatre Awards and was also awarded the Production of The Year.

His versatility has been displayed in numerous dance shows, including classical ballets such as *Don Quixote, The Nutcracker* and *Romeo & Juliet*, the 2012 to 2014 editions of *Masterpiece In Motion* and *Ballet Under The Stars* for Singapore Dance Theatre. A regular collaborator with T.H.E Dance Company and Re: Dance Theatre, Adrian has lit most of their shows over the last three years, including *Solo/Duets, LiTHE, The Contact Dance Festival, New Vision* and *As It Fades* (T.H.E Dance Company); and *Colab* (2013 & 2014), *Revisit The Sunflower, Lost Days, Sleep and Traces*, presented as part of the NUS Arts Festival 2014, all for Re: Dance Theatre.

### **IX WONG – Costume Designer (Malaysia)**

Ix Wong, an accomplished choreographer/dancer and a self-taught tailor/designer, has been creating costumes for his own dance company, Ah Hock and Peng Yu, since 2002. Ix designs and sews for many corporate events, such as the International Chinese Chambers of Commerce opening performance with the TENG Ensemble in 2012; *Red Dust . White Paper*, a commissioned work by KakiSeni Arts Festival Kuala Lumpur; as well as costumes for the 60 performers from MINDS for UBS Diversity in Abilities 2012-2014. His latest creations were for RE: Dance Theatre's *About Time* in 2014. He is gradually building up his private clientele, for whom he has designed *cheongsam, changpao* (Chinese robes for men), tailored shirts and more. *Another Country* marks Ix's first collaboration as a costume designer with WILD RICE, and he is excited to work and create with the entire team!

### **ASHLEY LIM – Hair Designer (Singapore)**

Ashley Lim started his hairstyling career in 1986 and set up Ashley Salon in 1999 to further pursue his dedication towards the art of hairdressing, especially for the theatre. Ashley became involved with theatrical work in 1987 and has since worked on almost 300



productions of local and international standards. Many of these productions were participants of festivals, some of which were nominees and/or winners of various art awards.

Ashley has gained a wide range and depth of experience in working with all the leading professional theatre companies of Singapore. He has had the opportunity to create hair designs from diverse cultures and periods. His skill is extensive, the result of more than two decades of hairdressing experience. He is privileged to be widely recognised by the local theatre community as a veteran in his artistry. Ashley is particularly thrilled to have participated in *Broadway Beng! Jiak Liu Lian* (Dream Academy), *Beauty & the Beast* (WILD RICE), *Victor/Victoria* (Zebra Crossing) and *The Monster Show* (Universal Studios Singapore), just to name a few. Apart from theatre, Ashley also extends his skills to TV shows and advertorial projects.

### **BENO LIM (M.A.C) – Make-Up Designer (Singapore)**

M.A.C Pro Team Senior Artist Beno Lim has 24 years of make-up experience. Movies, plays, music, art and travelling inspire and energise Beno.

To Beno, make-up tells a story, which is why he has enjoyed designing make-up for theatre – particularly when it comes to creating looks for characters that help propel stories forward. Some of his more recent work includes WILD RICE's *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Hansel & Gretel*, *Jack & the Bean-Sprout!*, *The House of Bernarda Alba* and the 2014 WILD RICE Ball – *Night Safari*.

Besides doing make-up for International Fashion Week, Beno also keyed FIDE Fashion Week 2014, New Paper New Face 2014, Manhunt Singapore 2014 and the F1 Amber Lounge Fashion Show.

Apart from magazine shoots, Beno has also appeared on Channel U's *Style: Check IN* and *Asia's Next Top Model*.

Beno also loves to support local designers. He has worked with Reckless Ericka, STILL, AMOS ANANDA, JASON and Deboneire.

### **JUNE TAN – Producer (Malaysia)**

June Tan is a biologist from Imperial College, London who worked in finance, software product management, toxic waste management and renewable energy (biogas) from 1997 to 2009. She is currently a member of the performing arts collective, Five Arts Centre. Since 1998, she has stage-managed and produced theatre, dance, talks and site-specific projects, and tour-managed performances to Berlin and Singapore. June's creative producing interest lies in creating spaces for experiences and critical discourse. She is one of the founding members of ProPAU, an informal collective of Malaysian producers for the performing arts.

### **TONY TRICKETT – Producer (Singapore)**

Born in Liverpool, Tony Trickett moved to Singapore from the UK in 1997. Prior to joining WILD RICE, he worked as a management consultant, specialising in leadership coaching and team development for multinational companies in London and subsequently in South-East Asia.



Tony acted as consultant in the establishment of WILD RICE and became a Director of the company in 2001. In August 2002, he was appointed as Executive Director, responsible for the overall management of the company. His portfolio encompasses finance, administration, marketing, fund-raising and sponsorship.

Tony is the Producer for all WILD RICE shows, both in Singapore and internationally. These include the 10th Anniversary productions of *Animal Farm*, *Boeing-Boeing*, *Cinderel-LAH!*, *Emily of Emerald Hill* and *La Cage Aux Folles*, as well as the tour of *Animal Farm* to Tasmania, where it headlined the prestigious 10 Days on the Island Festival. Tony produced the acclaimed 2006, 2008 and 2011 Singapore Theatre Festivals, which he conceived together with Artistic Director Ivan Heng.



## APPENDIX V

### ABOUT WILD RICE

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WILD RICE was founded in 2000 by Ivan Heng, an internationally-acclaimed and award-winning theatre practitioner, and is recognised today as one of Singapore's leading professional theatre companies.

Our mission is to provide an open forum for the shared experience of theatre: celebrating our diversity, reflecting on the problems and possibilities of our times, and presenting productions that inspire, challenge and entertain.

A commitment to the highest standards informs every aspect of WILD RICE's creative work, which is first and foremost a celebration of Singapore theatrical talent. By producing and touring productions that are distinctively local in flavour and yet universal in vision and concerns, the company creates memorable experiences for audiences in Singapore and across the world.

The company's exciting and varied programming for the main stage includes:

- New and original works.
- New productions of the Singapore repertoire.
- New interpretations of world classics.

The company's mission to build a theatre culture also extends to the wider community through the following divisions:

- FIRST STAGE!, a project which nurtures young talents from the ages of 5 to 12.
- young & WILD, which identifies and develops Singapore's young theatre professionals.

WILD RICE is committed to touring its shows internationally to raise the profile of Singapore theatre, to create an international awareness of its unique productions, and to engage its artists and collaborators in creative dialogues with the international arts community. Its distinctively Singaporean productions have won great acclaim in major international arts festivals in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Macau, Malaysia, New Zealand and Russia.

In August 2006, WILD RICE presented the inaugural SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL, a biennial new writing festival committed to developing, presenting and promoting Singapore theatre. Renamed the OCBC SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL in 2008 and MAN SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL in 2011, this festival has to date produced 22 World Premieres of new Singapore writing, and has been hailed as "the main event in the world of the arts" (SPH The Straits Times), and the "Blockbuster Event of the Year" (TODAY, 2008).

In July 2013, WILD RICE launched IN THE SPOTLIGHT, a festival commissioning and presenting a representative survey of a local playwright's body of work. The inaugural festival shone a spotlight on our resident playwright, Alfian Sa'at.