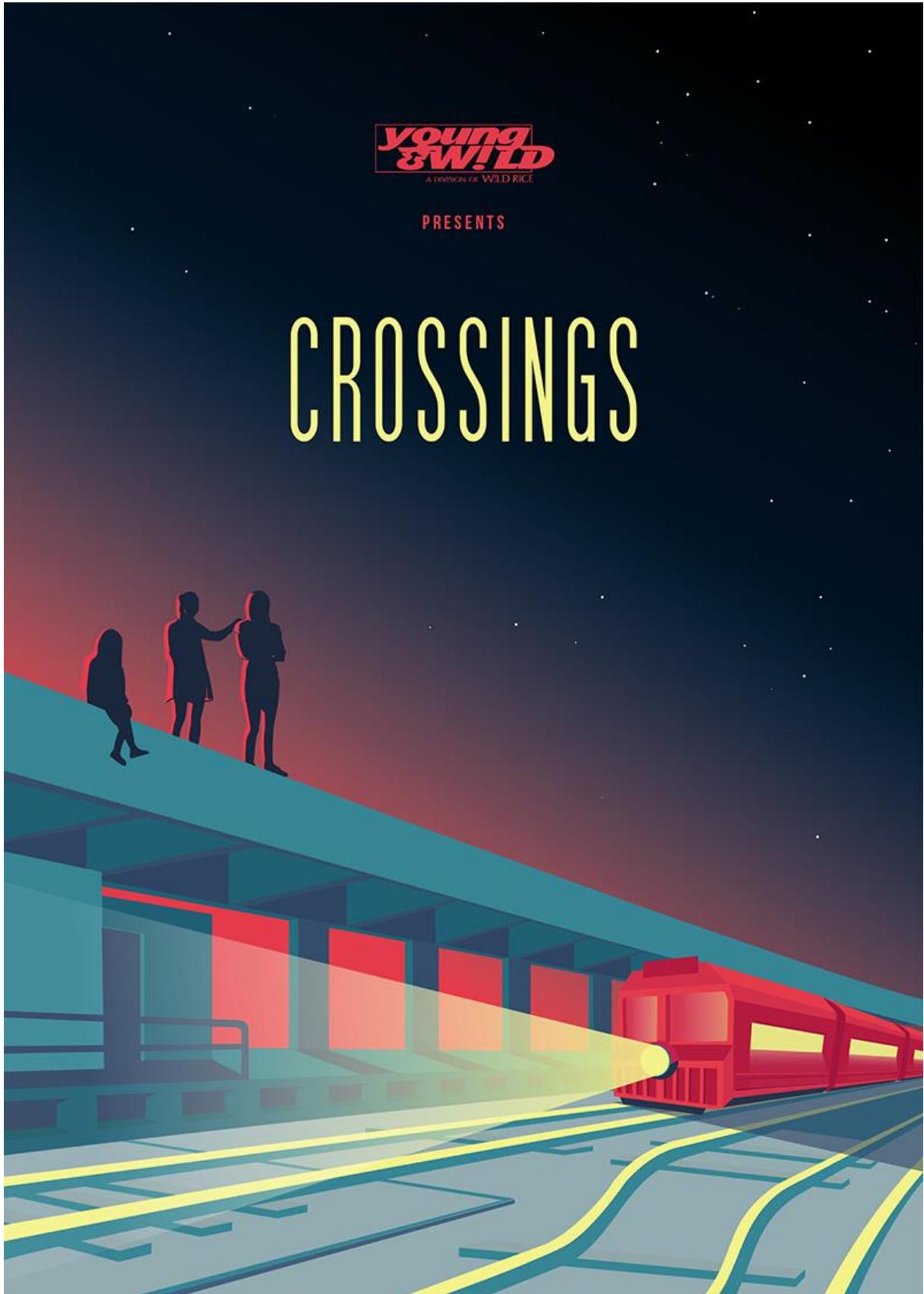


*young
& WILD*
A DIVISION OF WILD RICE

PRESENTS

CROSSINGS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

young & WILD presents *CROSSINGS* – A New Play

6 January 2017 – The new young & WILD cohort will be staging its first public performance in February this year. The world premiere of *Crossings*, a brand-new double-bill of original plays about the choices that make or break our lives, will be staged for seven performances only at Centre 42's Black Box from 15 to 19 February 2017.

Bold, dark and funny, the two plays in *Crossings* follow characters who have arrived at a critical crossroads in their lives. The choices they make will change their journeys forever: setting them on the road to self-discovery – or self-destruction.

The eight members of young & WILD, from the ages of 19 to 24, came up with the stories, characters and themes that will feature in *Crossings* via improvisations and devising workshops. With their help, Rodney Oliveiro, their programme co-director, put together the final scripts of both plays.

“Just like these troubled characters, we all have to live with the decisions we make and their consequences,” explains Oliveiro. “I chose the main title of *Crossings* because it speaks to me of human wills and desires and ambitions – how we always bravely chug along, how we're always busy with a new endeavour, even as we occasionally miss the subtle signs pointing towards our doom.”

The current cohort of young & WILD embarked on their 18-month training programme in February last year. Since then, they have gained valuable experience in devising and performing their own original work. Following months of intensive workshops, they presented *When S#!T Hits The Fam*, an experimental piece that explored the trials and tribulations of family life, in May 2016.

“Over the past year, I've been most impressed by their openness, their willingness to try new things and their support for one another,” says Serena Ho, co-director of young & WILD and *Crossings*. “I hope they will trust their voices and never stop surprising themselves.”

“It's wonderful to be a part of young & WILD,” adds Jasmine Blundell, 24. “There's never a dull day because everyone brings their own brand of energy and ideas, and the perspectives are always so varied.”

The young & WILD programme reflects WILD RICE's commitment to developing and nurturing the next generation of Singapore's theatre-makers.

It's been so rewarding to watch these young theatre-makers grow in confidence and ambition over the past few months,” says Ivan Heng, Artistic Director of WILD RICE. “To see them challenging themselves and tackling difficult questions with *Crossings* reminds us of the power of theatre to educate, engage and empower our youth.”

Crossings runs from 15 to 19 February 2017 at Centre 42's Black Box (42 Waterloo Street, S187951).

Tickets go on sale from 9 January 2017 on Peatix.

CROSSINGS

Every single day, we make choices – from the clothes we wear, to the food we eat. But, once in a while, we make the kind of big decisions that change everything. Step into the world of **Crossings** and get to know characters who have arrived at that critical crossroads in their lives. The choices they will make in this bold double-bill of original plays will change their journeys forever: setting them on the road to self-discovery... or self-destruction.

Vix, a social media darling, and a prickly, forgetful mother are thrown together in the aftermath of a tragic train accident. Vix resolves to help her elderly companion in the best way she knows how – through selfie sticks and videos. But how do you rescue someone who cannot even remember her own loved ones? And what happens when difficult truths come tumbling out? A strange tale of memories and lives shrouded in darkness, **The Mother, The Son and the Holy Ghost** explores what it takes to walk through the tunnel and into the light.

Happy and in love, Danielle and Chris are just about to tie the knot. But not everything is as it seems. Within their picture-perfect relationship lies a train-wreck of betrayal and abuse: from an unlikely affair to the sudden appearance of a former lover. As the champagne gets warm and the cake waits to be cut in **Arbitrio**, Danielle and Chris have to deal with the choices they made in the past, the emotional entanglements of the present and the uncertainty of the future.

Bold, inventive and thought-provoking, young & WILD's **Crossings** is a celebration of new Singapore voices and talent, brought to you by WILD RICE and directors Rodney Oliveira and Serena Ho.

FAST FACTS

Title:	CROSSINGS
Text:	Devised by the young & WILD Company and written by Rodney Oliveiro
Directors:	Serena Ho and Rodney Oliveiro
The Company:	Alison Bickham Mel Bickham Jasmine Blundell Aeron Ee Sharmaine Goh Natalie Koh Krish Natarajan Nisa Syarafana
Venue:	Centre 42, Black Box 42 Waterloo Street Singapore 187951
Show Dates:	15 – 19 February 2017 8pm on all days 3pm on Saturday & Sunday
Ticketing Agent:	Peatix http://peatix.com
Ticket Prices:	\$35
Discounts:	\$25 tickets available for Students, NSFs and Senior Citizens
Corporate & Group Deals:	For bookings of 20 or more tickets, please contact Ross Toh at 6292-2685 or sales@wildrice.com.sg .
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ABOUT young & W!LD

young & W!LD is a division of W!LD RICE dedicated to training and nurturing Singapore's most promising young talents. Under the stewardship of programme directors Serena Ho and Rodney Oliveiro, this innovative training programme aims to prepare the next generation of theatre practitioners for careers in our professional theatre industry.

In addition to practical training that emphasises versatility, dedication, discipline and a deeper understanding of all aspects of theatre-making, the young & W!LD philosophy also stresses the role that theatre and its practitioners play in shaping our society.

The young & W!LD team learn that, as artists, they have a responsibility to the audience and the wider public – to illuminate, to educate, to communicate; and to always share in the common experience of theatre.

W!LD RICE is proud to invest in the future of Singapore theatre by playing its part in developing our next generation of multi-skilled, socially aware and creatively versatile theatre practitioners.



APPENDIX II young & WILD BIOGRAPHIES

ALISON BICKHAM

After spending 15 years in Hong Kong, where she studied Drama for her GCSEs, Alison returned to Singapore. As a member of Victoria Junior College's Drama Club, she performed in a production of Kuo Pao Kun's *Mama Looking For Her Cat* and student-led play *Sketch Night Live*. Willing to take risks, Alison is always open to new opportunities to develop her potential as an actor. She is currently studying Business and Management under the aegis of the University of London's International Programme.

MEL BICKHAM

Mel's journey on the road of theatre began in Hong Kong, where she studied Drama and Literature for her GCSEs. After returning to Singapore in 2012, she continued to fuel her passion for theatre by studying Literature in both St Theresa's Convent and Catholic Junior College. She prefers acting in self-penned pieces, including her personal highlight: a new work blending *The Scarlet Letter* and *Othello*. More recently, she worked as a member of Resorts World Sentosa Theatre's stage crew and is happy to now be a part of young & WILD.

JASMINE BLUNDELL

Jasmine is a graduate of East 15 Acting School, where she trained in World Performance. During her time at East 15, she studied different types of global theatre, and acted in several Brechtian plays, namely *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* and *The Exception and the Rule*. Now based in Singapore, Jasmine has performed in new local shows, such as *EMILY the Musical* (MTL), *Balek Kampung* (Twenty-Something Theatre Festival) and *Every Singaporean Daughter* (UNSAID). As an educator, she teaches drama to students of all shapes and sizes, and is passionate about passing her love and knowledge of theatre onto the next generation.

AERON EE

Aeron is a Malaysian scholar pursuing a degree in Systems Engineering at the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD). He began his theatre journey in Singapore as a member of the Raffles Players during his junior college years. While he feels most comfortable on stage, he has also dabbled in directing and writing. Since graduating from JC, Aeron has directed an alumni production for his secondary school and interned with Malaysian company theatrethreesixty. He is currently involved in establishing SUTD's Drama Club, which proudly presented its first-ever production in October 2016.

SHARMAINE GOH

Sharmaine is currently specialising in Management as she studies for her Diploma in Arts and Theatre Management at Republic Polytechnic. She also underwent theatre training at Singapore's School of the Arts (SOTA) from 2009 to 2013. She has performed in countless school productions, and is looking forward to working in Singapore's theatre industry. By exploring and presenting truths on the theatre stage, Sharmaine hopes to inspire and move audiences. She also loves food and cat videos.

NATALIE KOH

Natalie began her theatre journey as an avid performer in several primary and secondary school productions. After graduating from LASALLE College of the Arts, where she specialised in production work, she has been a part of stage management and production design teams for various shows, events and festivals. Apart from theatre, Natalie also has an interest in acting on camera and has acted in several film projects. She aims to be a versatile performer both on stage and in film. Natalie also has a growing interest in music and is excited to work towards gaining more experience and skills in that field.

KRISH NATARAJAN

Krish is currently taking a gap year before pursuing theatre in university. During this time, he hopes to expand his theatrical portfolio as well as travel to as many places as he can without going broke. In 2013, he graduated from SOTA, where he had the privilege of learning many theatre forms and techniques – from Noh to Shakespeare and beyond. His personal highlights include conducting theatre workshops for children and mothers in Cebu and his final-year SOTA solo piece. He hopes to create work in the future that inspires and provokes and is excited about what lies ahead.

NISA SYARAFANA

Nisa's passion for the arts began at the age of seven, when she started learning traditional Malay dance. She soon discovered an interest in theatre and has since been involved in various productions, including *Singathology* (Singapore Writers Festival 2015), *Pull Up* (One Man Riot) and *Mencari Purnama* (NPMCC). In February 2016, she created and directed a devised piece titled *Letters to My Beloved Land* as part of her final school assessment. Together with young & WILD, Nisa aspires to grow as an artist who is able to touch the hearts of people while encouraging thought and action.

APPENDIX IV CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

SERENA HO – Director

Serena graduated from LASALLE College of the Arts, where she received the 1999 Outstanding Student Award for Drama. Over the years, she has worked professionally as a director, educator and actress with several theatre companies and institutions. Serena believes that one of the best kinds of theatre comes from the creativity and energy of young people. She constantly seeks new ways of empowering youths through meaningful facilitation and interaction in the classroom or rehearsal space.

RODNEY OLIVEIRO – Director & Playwright

Rodney has been working as an actor, director and drama educator since graduating from NUS' Theatre Studies Department in 2000. A versatile performer, he has performed in more than 50 productions and was a series regular for three years on Mediacorp Channel 5's *Spin*. As a drama educator, he has seen many of his secondary and tertiary students venture into a career in the arts. With Serena Ho, he has been the programme co-ordinator for young & W!LD since 2014, and has also written and directed two of its showcases – *Little Riots and Other Stories* and *Geylang*. He staged a revised version of *Geylang* as part of the 2016 Singapore Theatre Festival.

APPENDIX V ABOUT WILD RICE

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.

Its 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's 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; and
- 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 that nurtures young talents from the ages of 5 to 12; and
- 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, an event dedicated to celebrating contemporary Singaporean theatre through the development and presentation of new and original local writing. Over 10 years and five editions, the Festival has collaborated with local theatre companies and artists to present 32 productions, including 19 world premieres, of new local writing. In 2013, the Festival launched 'In The Spotlight' to present a season dedicated to the works of a single local playwright. The Festival 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).