



## *La Cage aux Folles*

20 July – 4 August 2012  
Esplanade Theatre

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**Press Release**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> April 2012**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **ESPLANADE SET TO SPARKLE WITH WILD RICE'S *LA CAGE AUX FOLLES***

*LA CAGE AUX FOLLES*, Broadway's most fabulous musical comedy, arrives on our shores this July in a divine new production by Singapore's sexiest theatre company, WILD RICE. Boasting an international cast, spectacular sets, lavish costumes, snazzy dance routines and truly heart-warming songs, this boisterous and uplifting musical is a grand celebration of family and love.

With director Glen Goei at the helm, this 11 time Tony award winner will be given a total makeover in the inimitable WILD RICE style. By his side and leading a powerhouse cast of 22 performers, Ivan Heng plays Albin, an aging cabaret star plagued by mid-life insecurity. Following the success of *Emily of Emerald Hill*, this new collaboration between the two theatre doyens promises to raise the bar yet again.

WILD RICE is proud to present two of Malaysia's finest musical theatre talents, Tony Eusoff and Aaron Khaled. Making their Singapore debuts with *LA CAGE*, the pair will play the lead roles of George (Albin's partner) and John (George's son). Supporting them and providing much of the musical's comic relief is a lineup of Singapore's best: Hossan Leong, Karen Tan, Darius Tan, Tan Kheng Hua, Brendon Fernandez and Judee Tan.

No musical is complete without a singing and tap dancing chorus line. 13 tall, beautiful, feisty and rather dangerous showgirls known as Les Cagelles have been cast from Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Hong Kong, Australia, U.S.A and the United Kingdom. Audiences are in for a treat with this dynamite bunch as they set the stage alight with their pizzazz.

*LA CAGE AUX FOLLES* guarantees to be nothing short of high-camp fabulousness as Goei has assembled a creative team of individuals who are at the top of their fields. With musical direction by Elaine Chan, choreography by Lisa Keegan, sets by CK Chia, lighting by Mac Chan, costumes by Frederick Lee, hair by Ashley Lim and makeup by Beno Lim, *LA CAGE* is set to be the most dazzling and highly anticipated theatrical event of 2012!

Almost 30 years since it first premiered on Broadway, *LA CAGE AUX FOLLES* remains as relevant today as it ever was with its themes of family, love, acceptance and being true to one's self. Featuring a glorious score of memorable songs (including *I Am What I Am* and *The Best of Times*), *LA CAGE* is undoubtedly a musical comedy classic and WILD RICE's extraordinary new version will show you why!



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### **PRESENTING SPONSOR – MAN INVESTMENTS**

WILD RICE is proud to welcome Man Investments, a world-leading alternative investment management business, back on board as its Patron Sponsor for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running and as Presenting Sponsor for *LA CAGE AUX FOLLES*. This follows a partnership last season that saw the successful staging of the Man Singapore Theatre Festival. The event that spanned 3 weeks drew an audience of 11300 and saw the staging of 3 world premieres. *Cooling-Off Day*, the runaway hit of the festival, played to sell-out audiences and made it to every critic's list of top plays in 2011.

Man's sponsorship continues its tradition of supporting many awards, charities and initiatives around the world, including sponsorship of the Man Booker Prizes and the Man Asian Literary Prize.

### **About *La Cage aux Folles***

*La Cage aux Folles* is an American musical with music and lyrics by Jerry Herman and a book by Harvey Fierstein. It is based on a 1973 play by Jean Poiret, which also inspired a 1978 French film of the same name. In 1996, Mike Nichols made an American version of the film starring Robin Williams and Nathan Lane. It was titled *The Birdcage* – a direct translation of *La Cage aux Folles*.

The original Broadway production opened in 1983 and won 6 Tony awards including Best Musical. Since then, it has been revived on Broadway twice – in 2004 and 2010. Both revivals won the Tony for Best Musical Revival.

*I Am What I Am*, arguably the musical's most popular song, has been recorded and made famous by singers such as Gloria Gaynor and Dame Shirley Bassey.

### **SYNOPSIS**

Ladies and Gentlemen, OPEN YOUR EYES!

You have arrived at *LA CAGE AUX FOLLES*, the fabulous nightclub in Tanjong Pagar, where George plays host and Albin, his longtime partner, headlines its world-famous cabaret as the glamorous diva, Zaza.

Everything is beautiful, until George's son, John announces that he is getting married to the daughter of Mr. D.D. Tan, a right-wing politician who wants to close down the local colourful nightlife.

When John brings his fiancée's conservative family to "meet-the-parents", the bonds of family are put to the test and the feather boas fly!



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Winner of 11 Tony Awards and one of Broadway's biggest hits, *LA CAGE AUX FOLLES* is a musical comedy classic. It is based on the French play by Jean Poiret, that also inspired *The Birdcage*, a hilarious Hollywood movie starring Robin Williams and Nathan Lane. This July, *LA CAGE* will be gloriously revived by WILD RICE, the company that brought you such hits as *Boeing Boeing*, *Beauty World* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

With a star-studded cast, a chorus line of “notorious and dangerous” Cagelles, as well as a magnificent score of memorable heart-warming songs including *I Am What I Am* and *The Best of Times*, *LA CAGE* is a touching tale of one family's struggle to stay together... stay fabulous, and above all else, stay true to themselves!

### **SYNOPSIS (SHORT)**

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You have arrived at *LA CAGE AUX FOLLES*, the fabulous nightclub in Tanjong Pagar, where George plays host and Albin, his longtime partner, headlines its world-famous cabaret as the glamorous diva, Zaza.

Winner of 11 Tony Awards and one of Broadway's biggest hits, *LA CAGE AUX FOLLES* is a musical comedy classic. With a star-studded cast, a chorus line of “notorious and dangerous” Cagelles, as well as a magnificent score of memorable heart-warming songs including *I Am What I Am* and *The Best of Times*, *LA CAGE* is a touching tale of one family's struggle to stay together... stay fabulous, and above all else, stay true to themselves!

### **Praise for *La Cage aux Folles***

*“It's just fabulous, darling”* – The Observer

*“Big Fun and an Absolute Thrill!”* – New York Post

*“La Cage is MOVING, JOYFUL & CONTINUALLY DELIGHTFUL!”*  
– New York Observer

*“A SENSATION! TUNEFUL, TOUCHING & BEDAZZLING!*  
*La Cage blows the roof off the theatre!”*  
– TimeOut New York

*“INSPIRED, ELECTRIC AND A TRIUMPH. La Cage registers*  
*MORE THAN EVER as FEEL-GOOD FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT!”*  
– The New York Times

*“La Cage is RIOTOUSLY FUNNY, EMOTIONALLY AFFECTING & MORE TIMELY THAN EVER!*  
*The songs ooze charm, romance and MELODIES THAT*  
*ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO GET OUT OF YOUR HEAD. ”*  
– The Associated Press



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## PRODUCTION CREDITS

<b>Title</b>	:	La Cage aux Folles
<b>Music &amp; Lyrics</b>	:	Jerry Herman
<b>Book</b>	:	Harvey Fierstein
<b>Directed by</b>	:	Glen Goei
<b>Music Director</b>	:	Elaine Chan
<b>Choreographer</b>	:	Lisa Keegan
<b>Set Design</b>	:	CK Chia
<b>Lighting Design</b>	:	Mac Chan
<b>Sound Design</b>	:	Shah Tahir
<b>Costume Design</b>	:	Frederick Lee
<b>Hair Design</b>	:	Ashley Lim
<b>Make-up Design</b>	:	Beno Lim (M.A.C.)
<b>Producer</b>	:	Tony Trickett
<b>Cast</b>	:	Ivan Heng as Albin Tony Eusoff as George Hossan Leong as Jacob Tan Kheng Hua as Jacqueline Darius Tan as Mr D.D. Tan Karen Tan as Mrs D.D. Tan Judee Tan as the Kopitiam Aunty Andrew Lua as the Kopitiam Uncle Brendon Fernandez as Francis Aaron Khaled as John Seong Hui Xuan as Anne



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**Les Cagelles** : Gani Abdul Karim, Johnny Amar, Jimmy Wong,  
Jake Connel, Jonathan Johnson, Linden Furnell,  
Andy Cai, Lee B, Marcus Foo, Halimah Kyrgios,  
Kari Cuffe, Zoe-Leone Gappy and Taryn Erickson

### **FAST FACTS**

**Venue** : Esplanade Theatre

**Date** : 20 July – 4 August 2012

**Gala/Press Night** : 21<sup>st</sup> July 2012

**Ticketing Agent** : 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** : \$35 to \$125 (excluding SISTIC charge)

**Priority Booking** : 07 – 20 May 2012  
20% Discount for OCBC Cards

**Early Bird** : 21 May – 13 Jun 2012  
20% Discount for OCBC Credit & Debit Cards  
20% Discount for PAssion and SAFRA Cards  
15% Discount for General Public

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### **SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS**

<b>Patron/Presenting Sponsor</b>	:	Man Investments
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<b>Official Online Media</b>	:	Trevvy
<b>Official Caterer</b>	:	Lavish Dine
<b>Official Printer</b>	:	Allegro Print
<b>Official Privilege Card</b>	:	PAssion Card
<b>With Support from</b>	:	TimeOut, Jitterbugs Swingapore, SAFRA, a.r.t.s Fund

### **APPENDICES**

- I. BIOGRAPHIES (CAST)
- II. BIOGRAPHIES (CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM)
- III. ABOUT WILD RICE
- IV. ABOUT WILD RICE'S PATRON SPONSOR

**APPENDIX I****BIOGRAPHIES (CAST)****Ivan Heng as Albin**

Ivan Heng is one of Singapore's most prominent, dynamic and respected creative leaders, and the founder and artistic director of WILD RICE, Singapore's leading professional theatre company.

In a pioneering career spanning more than two decades, Ivan 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 1990, Ivan was the first recipient of the prestigious BAT Arts Scholarship to train the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (Glasgow). He graduated as top student, winning the *Royal Lyceum Theatre Award* for his portrayal of Shakespeare's *Richard III*. Thereafter, he moved to London where he worked in film, television and radio, and founded the Tripitaka Theatre Company. The company's intercultural works prompted TIME OUT London to proclaim, "Ivan Heng is part of the future of theatre". In 1998, after touring extensively throughout Europe, Ivan returned to Singapore to contribute to Singapore's nascent arts scene.

Ivan founded WILD RICE in 2000. Under his leadership, the company is today at the vanguard of creating contemporary theatre with a distinctive Singaporean voice reaching out to an audience of 100 000 annually. Ivan created the OCBC Singapore Theatre Festival, which was appraised as "the main event in the world of the arts" (SPH The Straits Times 2006), and the "Blockbuster Event of the Year" (Today, 2008). This new writing festival was renamed the Man Singapore Theatre Festival in 2011, and has to date presented 22 world premieres.

As Creative Director of Singapore's *National Day Parade 2009*, Ivan's theatrical vision radically reimagined and updated the event, creating a seamless experience inspired by the Singapore Pledge, and it reached out to a record-breaking live-television audience.

More recently, Ivan helmed the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the inaugural *Youth Olympic Games Singapore 2010* as Creative Director. For its imagination, emotion and technical delivery, President of the International Olympic Committee Jacques Rogge ranked it among the top three opening ceremonies of the twenty two he had witnessed.

Ivan's awards for excellence in theatre include the *Edinburgh Fringe First*, *Scottish Daily Express New Names of '93 Award*, *Edinburgh Spirit of the Fringe 1995*, *Singapore Young Artist Award 1996*, the *Singapore Youth Award 1998*, the *Straits Times Life! Theatre Award for Best Director 2002*, and the inaugural *Singapore Tatler Leadership Award for Culture 2006*.

**Tony Eusoff as George**

Born and bred in Kuching, Sarawak, this Bidayuh graduated with a degree in Architecture from University Malaya in 2001. As a television and film actor, his talent extends beyond acting to television hosting as well as emceeing. In 2008, he was nominated for the Best Supporting Actor at the Festival Filem Malaysia for his performance in the feature film SEPI. At the Boh Cameronian Arts Awards 2006, he was nominated for the Best Solo Performance (Voice) for his vocal chops in Five Arts Centre's musical production, *Encore*. Tony is also regarded as Malaysia's 10 Most Stylist Men by GLAM LELAKI magazine (2008), a nominee in the Top 5 Hot Guy award at the 8TV SHOUT Awards (2009) and voted as among the Top 50 Favourite Celebrities in OK magazine (2007).

### **Hossan Leong as Jacob**

Hossan Leong, Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres is one of Singapore's most loved and recognised actors. Affectionately known as 'Singapore Boy' Hossan continues to delight audiences - whether starring in his yearly stage production *The Hossan Leong Show* or in more dramatic roles on Mediacorp's Channel 8. In the Life Theatre Awards Hossan received Best Ensemble in 2000 and 2008, as well as nominations for Best Actor in 2005 and Best Supporting Actor in 2006 & 2003.

Theatre credits include *Off Centre, The Full Monty, The Importance of Being Ernest, Asian Boys Vol.1, Mardi Gras, The Magic Fundoshi, Army Daze, Prelude to A Kiss, Little Shop Of Horrors, Honk!, The Forbidden City, Chang and Eng, Fiddler On The Roof, Twist Of Fate, Beauty World and Sing To The Dawn.*

### **Tan Kheng Hua as Jacqueline**

Kheng Hua is a well-known award-winning theatre/television actress/producer in Singapore. She has appeared in more than 50 local theatre productions, including leads in landmark plays such as *Beauty World, Lao Jiu, Descendants of the Admiral Eunuch* and *Animal Farm*. She produced the critically-acclaimed *Dim Sum Dollies®* shows (2004/5/6).

On Channel 5, she is a household name as Margaret in the longest running and most successful local sitcom *PCK Pte Ltd* and created *Table for 3* and *Heartland Getaways*. She also fronted high profile TV dramas such as *War Diary, The Singapore Short Story Project, Sayang Sayang* and *Beautiful Connection*, all of which earned her acting award nominations. On Arts Central, she created and produced the dramas *9 Lives* and *Do Not Disturb*, the latter being the first local TV series to receive the maximum 5-star rating from Straits Times Life! In 2009, she created, produced and acted in her first Mandarin serial, *Mr & Mrs Kok*, with Mark Lee. She starred in Glen Goei's new movie, *The Blue Mansion* and produced her first original stage musical *It's My Life!* by Spare Room, a company she owns.

In December 2008, she made her directorial debut with *Do Not Disturb – Late Checkout, Please* and followed that up the year after producing, co-directing and acting in *The Composer*. These productions were held in collaboration with Esplanade-Theatres on the Bay and based on her original premises. Both productions sold out. Her latest projects include producing *Utter*, a series of dramatized reads for The Singapore Writer's Festival 2011, as well as co-creator, producer and performer for *No.7*, an original theatre piece commissioned by the Georgetown Festival 2011 in Penang. *No.7* was sold out with a waiting list. She was part of WILD RICE's critical and box office hit, the political play *Cooling Off Day* written by Alfian Sa'at, and was also seen in TheatreWorks' highly acclaimed *Fear Of Writing* by Tan Tarn How. Both performances were nominated in Life! Theatre Awards 2012. On television, she joined the regular cast of Mediacorp 5's winning legal series, *The Pupil*, in its second season.

### **Darius Tan as Mr. D.D Tan**

La Cage Aux Folles marks Darius' 6<sup>th</sup> collaboration with WILD RICE and his second with director Glen Goei!

A seasoned and bilingual performer for the past 15 years, Darius has done more than 50 productions on stage & screen. Thrice nominated Life! Theatre Awards' Best Supporting Actor (*The Soldier & His Virtuous Wife* [2009], *Big Fool Lee* [2008] & *Beautiful Thing* [2004]), his multi-faceted versatility as an actor/singer is evident in the varied roles he has taken.

Recent stage credits include *Trainstopping: A Musical Revue in 2011* (Sightlines Productions), *Aladdin 2011, Cinderel-Lah!, Beauty & The Beast, Beauty World, The Swordfish, then The*





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*Concubine* (W!LD RICE), *Fried Rice Paradise*, *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*, *The Odd Couple*, *Forbidden City* (SRT), *Maha Moggallana*, *The Peranakan Ball*, *Shanghai Blues*, *Army Daze*, *East Side Story* (Toy Factory), *The Full Monty* (Pangdemonium), *Sampek Engtay* (Theatre Practice), *Chang & Eng, Viva! Viagra!* (Action Theatre), *The Prisoner of Mumbai Mansion* (HuM Theatre), *Power of Notions/Notions of Power* (Checkpoint Theatre) amongst many others.

An accomplished singer/actor, Darius made his cabaret debut in *Let Me Entertain You!* in 2006, at The Arts House, Old Parliament House. He also created 3 successful *FLIPSIDE! Concerts* at the Esplanade. Darius was also part of W!LD RICE's *MAN Singapore Theatre Festival 2011* late night performance, *Talk Cock Sing Song*- a cabaret revue created by Mr Julian Wong (Darius' long time musical collaborator).

Darius is also a voiceover artist, host/emcee, director and an occasional costume designer.

### **Karen Tan as Mrs. D.D Tan**

Karen is privileged to have worked with TheatreWorks, The Necessary Stage, Action Theatre, luna-id, Escape Theatre, SRT's The Little Company, The Finger Players, Teater Ekamatra, director Zizi Azah, ABVTri, Fantastic Productions, Toy Factory Theatre Ensemble, and Cake Theatricals, in a career that's obviously gone on too long.

*La Cage aux Folles* is Karen's umpteen production with W!LD RICE, after *Invitation to Treat*, *Animal Farm*, *Cinderel-lah*, *Aladdin*, *2<sup>nd</sup> Link*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Jack and the Beansprout*, *Happy Endings: Asian Boys Vol 3*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Family Outing*.

Karen now knows that Delifrance isn't really French...

### **Judee Tan as the Kopitiam Aunty**

Judee Tan has performed professionally in theatre and TV since 2006, after a 3-year stint with the SAF Music and Drama Company. Since then, she has appeared in major theatre productions including *December Rains* (Toy Factory) alongside Kit Chan, *Beauty World* (W!LD RICE) and *Shanghai Blues* (Toy Factory). She is known for her breakout comedy roles in *Broadway Beng* (Dream Academy) as one of the Chiobus, *The Hossan Leong Show* (Dream Academy) as Teochew Moi and in the *Chestnuts* series (STAGES) as Ris Low and the fictitious Ivory Low Ai Kew. She scored her first lead in Toy Factory's 2011 production of *881 The Musical*, a theatrical adaptation of Royston Tan's movie *881*. Judee played the role of Big Papaya, one half of the Getai Papaya Sisters.

The all-rounded entertainer represented Singapore in 6 categories at WCOPA (World Championship of Performing Arts) in 2008, and was awarded 4 Gold medals, 2 Silver medals, an Industry Award and a talent-based scholarship to New York Conservatory worth US\$10,000.

You might have seen her earlier this year in *Chestnuts i15* (Jubilee Hall, STAGES), and *Happy Ever Laughter* (2012, Dream Academy).

On TV, Judee is best known as Kim Bong Cha in *The Noose*.

Judee Tan is represented by FLY Entertainment.

### **Andrew Lua as the Kopitiam Uncle**

Fresh off his 1st solo performance *Saying Grace* by TheatreWorks and Boon in Jean Tay's *Boom*, Andrew has always been known to have taken the road less traveled. He took the leap of faith upon graduation to be an Actor/Director and is enjoying the road less traveled. This journey has brought him to some of the most beautiful places on earth but somehow always finds his way

home to share his love for the Arts on and off both stage and screen.

Andrew's distinctively Chinese yet pseudo Korean/Japanese features with his versatility as an actor and Voiceover artiste has seen him cast in vastly different roles in Local and International TV commercials and Films. Filming an Indie German film in the Himalayas, Hosting a travelogue in Hokkaido and Taiwan are some of his personal highlights. Some local commercials include 'Starhub Hubstation 3-in-1', 'ESPN F1' & 'Mac-delivery', lead roles in Tele-movies such as *Stay*, *666* and regional horror feature film *Haunted Changi*. Andrew can also be seen hosting the online food series *Calamity Chef*, various OKTO programs such as *History Hunters*, events like 'Night Lights 2011', 'Arts @ the mall' and various corporate functions.

First love however brings him on stage with credits *Snow Queen*, *Man of Letters*, *Forbidden City*, *I Think I Can & Fried Rice Paradise* (SRT), *Off Centre & Talent time* (TNS), 老九, 神童, 天冷就回来, 聊齋Rocks (TTP), *You are Special & Sing To The Dawn* (ITheatre), *Lord of the flies* *DasExperiment* by (Samantha-Scott-Blackhall), *Sleepless Town* (Toy Factory), *The Full Monty* (Pangdemonium), *Aladdin* (Wild Rice), *Saying Grace* (TheatreWorks), 掌中 – Best Production of the year 2012 Life Theatre Awards (The Fingerplayers)

Andrew is excited to be working with Glen & WILD RICE once again to bring something special to the stage. Thanks be to God, his Family, FLY Entertainment & friends for sustaining him on this awesome journey. Last but not least, all of you for supporting Local Arts!

#### **Brendon Fernandez as Francis**

Brendon is delighted to be working with WILD RICE again! He played Tybalt in their production of *Romeo & Juliet* earlier this year, and he's also been in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (2009; Life! Theatre Awards Play of the Year), *Boeing Boeing* (2005) and *Landmarks: Asian Boys Vol. 2* (2004).

His other stage credits include *Equus* (2011), *To Kill a Mockingbird* (2010), *The King Lear Project: A Trilogy* (2008), *Everything But the Brain* (2005), *Bent* (2003; Life! Theatre Awards Play of the Year), *Rent* (2001) and *The Theory of Everything* (2000).

On television, Brendon was last seen as the moderator for the series *Bridging Asia: The Singapore Debates* (2012), and as the host of the documentary series *The Next Asian Miracle* (2012), both on Channel News Asia.

Brendon is represented by Fly Entertainment.

#### **Aaron Khaled as John**

Aaron Khaled is a cultured pianist and violinist, a versatile singer and a multitalented actor and dancer. He began his training at the age of 6 and later furthered his musical education in the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School in Melbourne followed by the prestigious Moscow Conservatory of Music 'Tchaikovsky' in Russia. Aaron went on to graduate with a BA in Music (Performance) majoring in Voice at the Australian International Conservatorium of Music in Sydney.

Since his return to Malaysia in 2010, Aaron has been teaching violin, piano and voice to children and adults, alike. When he is not teaching, he performs in various venues in the Klang Valley such as No Black Tie, Annexe Gallery and Celebrities Club, just to name a few.

Growing up, Aaron always had a passion for musical theatre. He made his musical theatre debut in 2005, performing in Cempaka's production of *Simba King of the Jungle* as, of course, Simba. In

2010, Aaron landed the lead role as Joseph in Nick Choo's *Follow the Light* followed by *LAT Kampung Boy The Musical*. He went on to play the role of 'Ernst Ludwig' in 'Cabaret' before understudying the role of C.C.White in Broadway Academy's *Dreamgirls*. Just recently, Aaron wowed audiences as 'Sharif in Enfiniti's *The Secret Life of Nora*.

### **Seong Hui Xuan as Anne**

Hui Xuan graduated with first-class honours from the BA(Hons.) Musical Theatre programme at LASALLE College of the Arts (Singapore) and is a freelance actress-singer-dancer. She began her performance experience dancing onstage, having been trained extensively in Ballet, Jazz and Modern from an early age, and later Tap. As a singer, she has performed in musicals as well as in various publicity events, functions, celebrations and promotional gigs. *La Cage* marks Hui Xuan's second exciting production with WILD RICE.

Selected credits - LASALLE: *Sweet Charity* ('Helene'), *Siren* ('Pirate Jenny'), *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* ('Linus'), *Nine* ('Stephanie Necrophorus'), *Nonsense* ('Sister Leo'). Professional theatre: 'Olivia' in *Twelfth Night* (SRT, 2012) 'Antoinette' in *Sonnets for an Old Century* (Skinned Knee / Quinta Productions, 2012), 'Thea' in *Spring Awakening* (Pangdemonium, 2012), 'Lucinda' in *Into The Woods* (Dream Academy, 2011), *XiGua* (Players Theatre, 2010/2011), *The Full Monty* (Pangdemonium, 2010), *Top Girls* (Wessex Theatre, 2009), *Forbidden City* (SRT, 2006). TV: *Club Magic* Seasons 1-3 (Ark Pictures, 2010/2011).

Hui Xuan also has a passion for and experience in dance choreography, having taught and choreographed for many years. She also teaches piano and drama and loves devised work and writing.

### **Gani Abdul Karim**

Gani is a multi-faceted, multi-disciplined triple threat performer who is also a sort after choreographer and arts educator. He has a long string of experience both locally and abroad spanning over 2 decades delving in practically every performance and theatre genre such as operas, musical theatre, Shakespeare, multi-cultural, post-modern, dance theatre and physical theatre just to name a few.

As an arts educator, he developed the dance/movement syllabus for Ang Moh Kio Secondary School between 2005-2008 as part of their integrated arts programme which culminated in 2 arts festival for the school during that period; director/choreographer/co-writer for SMU's *Gaya* 2012. WILD RICE productions he's appeared in include *Romeo and Juliet*, *Animal Farm* (10th anniversary season; Hk Arts Fest; Tasmania Arts Fest), *Second Link* and *Oi! Sleeping Beauty*. Last year he was Othello in Teater Masakini/Odin theatre's production of the same name in KL.

### **Lee B**

Born in England, Lee Trained at the Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts (London).

Lee was a finalist on the UK's *So You Think You Can Dance* BBC 1, 2011. Where He reached the Top 3 Boys; & became famously known for his leggings & eyeliner.

Television includes: *Models Misfits & Mayhem* (ITV 2 UK) – Choreographer & Model Coach. *Genie in the House* – Nickelodeon, UK.

Theatrical Credits: *Wicked* the Musical – Ensemble, in London's West End. *Arthur part 1 & 2* – Young Maudred – Birmingham Royal Ballet.



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Commercial Credits: dancer for Rihanna, MTV EMA's, Jessie J, Justin Bieber, the X-Factor (UK). Pop Promos include; Pixie Lott, Nero, Goldfrapp, Mystery Jets, Various adverts & was Assistant Choreographer on Pixie Lott's latest Video.

Fashion Credits: Elizabeth Arden, Plac Jeans, Blow PR. Editorial includes: British Vogue, Dazed & Confused (UK/Korea), Flux Magazine & Super Super. He has walked in LFW for several seasons, & appeared in numerous fashion films, shot by the likes of Nick Knight. Most recently Lee appeared as a Dancer/Model in Stella McCartney's 2012 A/W Presentation.

For further information please visit [www.leebridgman.com](http://www.leebridgman.com)

Lee is Thrilled to be a part of La Cage, and to be visiting Singapore!

### **Andy Cai**

Andy Cai started his professional dancing career graduating with a Diploma in Dance from LASALLE-SIA in 2005. He was a finalist with the group Soul Fusion in the local TV dance competition, *The Dance Floor*, receiving the Best Dancer Award. Andy has regularly appeared in shows and events including the National Day Parade, Chingay and Night Festival and also the musicals *The Magic Box*, *Victor Victoria*, *Fried Rice Paradise*, *Love in Stores* and the magical spectacle *Vision*. In 2009 Andy performed in *Variance* with guest choreographer Zhang Xiao Xiong (Taiwan), directed by Swee Boon (T.H.E). Andy joined Victoria Junior College in 2008 as resident dance instructor, winning Gold Award for choreography (2009) and two awards for Singapore (Champions in the Contemporary Senior Dance Group category and Overall Champion Performance) in Italy 2010. Andy was also Assistant Choreographer to Jeffrey Tan, with Resorts Worlds Production of "Voyage De La Vie", and also flew to Beijing in Nov 2010 to appear for the annual Mont Blanc show. Andy continues to teach students at VJC and also at ACS Independent Schools and is also a company member of "re:dance theatre" with Albert Tiong.

### **Johnny Amar**

Johnny Alvarez Amar has been a company member and faculty of Airdance Philippines since 2006, where he trains, performs, and choreographs. He joined the productions of Tanghalang Pilipino (*A Walk Back in Time* (2006), *Mulan*(2007), *Si Lapu-lapu at si Rosas Pandan* (2008). *PAQUITA* a full-length Ballet by Radiac School of Classical Ballet (2011) all held at Cultural Center Of The Philippines. He also appeared in film *Concerto* directed by Paul Morales. In 2009, Johnny was casted in *Victor, Victoria*, a Broadway musical, by the Zebra Crossing Production Singapore held at Esplanade Theatre in Singapore. He also appeared in the *New Paper New Face* production by Daniel Boey. Johnny performed at the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai, China. His choreography *Stop, Dance* placed third in the 2009 Wi-Fi Body New Choreographers Competition. A versatile dancer, Johnny was a 2nd runner-up of *U Can Dance Ver.2* (2007) of ABS-CBN and was among the top finalist of *Shall We Dance Celebrity* (2008) of TV5.

### **Jimmy Wong**

Jimmy is a professional dancer from Hong Kong who is trained in Jazz, Hip Hop, and Contemporary Dance. He has worked with Hong Kong and international pop stars and has performed in many major corporate and theatrical productions in Asia.

### **Jonathan Johnson**

Jonathan is a native of Nashville, TN, and is making his Singapore debut in WILD RICE's *La Cage Aux Folles*.



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Broadway: *Tarzan*, *Wicked*. Tours: *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*. Overseas: Hong Kong Disneyland's *Festival of the Lion King (Simba)*, Tokyo Disney Sea's *Big Band Beat*. Mr. Johnson studied at Fisk University and is a former Fisk Jubilee singer.

### **Linden Furnell**

From Sydney, Australia, 23 year old Linden Furnell is completing his final year of the BA (Hons) Music Theatre course at Lasalle College of the Arts, and has established himself as an accomplished singer, actor and dancer, as well as a guitar-wielding songwriter. Outside of Lasalle, Linden has residencies performing in bars, teaches singing, guitar and drums and hosts for events.

Linden's passion for performing sprung from his involvement (upon his mum's insistence) with the Blue Mountains musical society. From the age of 14, Linden cut his stage teeth in community theatre and also rocked a multitude of NSW venues (Including the Sydney Opera House) with his indie trio, Olivine.

After graduation, Linden will be joining WILD RICE for their production of *La Cage Aux Follies* in July at the Esplanade Theatre. Later plans are to move to London to try his luck on the West End.

### **Halimah Kyrgios**

Halimah began her interest in the performing arts after performing in her first musical *Carousel*. To complete her senior schooling she received a scholarship to attend the McDonald Performing Arts College in Sydney.

Furthering her dance skills she trained at ED5 International in Sydney under William A Forsythe and. Halimah recently graduated from Lasalle College of the Arts Singapore, completing a BA Honors Degree in Musical Theatre.

Career highlights include *Tapworks* choreographed by Chris Horsey and original Tap Dog Nathan Sheens, the 2006 Australian Dance Awards in the company Beats Per Minute, Universal Studios Singapore worldwide TV launch, backing vocalist for *Voyage De La Vie Sentosa* Singapore, *Kismet the Musical* produced by The Production Company in Melbourne and landing her first principal role in WILD RICE's production of *Aladdin*.

### **Taryn Erickson**

Taryn Erickson has always had a passion for theatre. Taryn has trained at The Australian Institute of Music and LASALLE College of the Arts Singapore, Graduating with a BMus (performance: Musical Theatre) and a BArts (Hons). Whilst attending the colleges she has performed roles and selections from *Boys From Syracuse* (Dromio of Ephesus), *WORKING* (Babe Secoli & Roberta Victor), *Promises, Promises* (Ms. Polansky), *Tommy* The Who musical (Mrs. Walker), *Picnic* by William Ing (Irma Kronkite) and *The Wild Party*.

During this time Taryn has also performed and choreographed numerous live shows throughout South East Asia. She has recorded a variety of voice-overs for shows: including character voices, harmony vocals and commercials.

WILD RICE's *La Cage Aux Follies* will be Taryn's professional debut and she is very excited to be part of the production.

Taryn hopes to someday have an international career in Theatre, touring the world sharing stories.

**Marcus Foo**

Born and trained in Singapore, Marcus started his formal dance training at LASALLE College of the Arts under the tutelage of Dr Caren Carino (Ririe Woodbury Dance Company), Ravenna Tucker (The Royal Ballet, The Birmingham Royal Ballet) and Jaime Redfern (The Australian Ballet).

Upon graduating from LASALLE College, Marcus became founding member of the *L.A. Dance Connection* Performance Company directed by Lionel Araya (original member – Groovaloops, LA).

In 2006 he started performing with *Moving Image Arts Company* (MIA) in their productions *Moment* (2006), *Icons* (2008) and *Secret Journey* (2009) choreographed by John Mead (Artistic Director, MI Arts).

In 2010 he started performing with *The Human Expression (T.H.E) Second Company* directed by Kuik Swee Boon. (Compañía Nacional de Danza, Spain) His performances with *T.H.E* includes *Emerging Choreographers 2*, *Momento* and *Double Bill* the latter two being a part of *Contact 2010 & 2011* presented by *T.H.E Dance Company*.

2011 saw him guest danced at the *BIENNALE des DANSES des SEYCHELLES* for the work of Ruth Louise (Western Academy of Performing Arts, Australia) as well as collaborate with guest choreographer, Jimmy Vairon (*Academie Internationale De La Dance* and Center of the Choreographic Arts, Paris) on a piece entitled *BOXED* that was featured at the festival.

Most recently he's invited to perform with MAD Dance Company in New York for their Spring and Fall season performances 2012. Other upcoming projects include *La Cage Aux Folles* the musical at the Esplanade Theater in Singapore this summer.

**Kari Cuffe**

Kari is an Australian with 7 years professional performance experience. Straight out of high school her initiation into showbiz was in Japan where Tokyo Disney Land and Disney Sea snapped her up to perform as Cinderella and Ariel, the Little Mermaid. Then she moved to Paris, France to work at the world famous cabaret, Moulin Rouge.

After which she continued her travels, working on cruise ships, covering the U.S.A., Canada, South America, the Mediterranean and Caribbean Islands. She has also performed as part of the Moscow Circus in their Australian national tour and in Europe's largest Palazzo in Mannheim, Germany. Arriving for the first time in Singapore last year. She was thrilled to discover the lively entertainment prospects it has to offer and is very excited to be performing in WILD RICE's production of *La Cage aux Folles*.



**APPENDIX II**

**BIOGRAPHIES (CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM)**

**Glen Goei - Director**

Glen's body of work embraces a wide range of the performing arts ranging from film, theatre, musicals, parades, large scale shows and World Expos over a twenty two year period. This started with his Olivier Award-nominated performance in the title role of *M. Butterfly* opposite Anthony Hopkins in London's West End. It grew through his multi-award winning tenure as Artistic Director of Mu-Lan Arts with productions like *Porcelain* (Best Play and Best Production 1993) and *The Magic Fundoshi* (Best Comedy 1993) which garnered acclaim in London, Singapore and worldwide. It reached another level with the development of his film career with his self-written, directed and produced picture *Forever Fever* (aka *That's The Way I Like It*) – the first Singapore film to have achieved a worldwide commercial film release. His second feature, *The Blue Mansion*, has just completed a worldwide tour of film festivals, including Pusan, Tokyo, Hawaii and Berlin (Asian Hot Shots Opening Film).

Underpinning this has been his constant and substantial contribution to the theatre, principally as Associate Creative Director of WILD RICE. Here his productions have included hits such as *Aladdin*, *Boeing Boeing*, *The Magic Fundoshi*, *Blithe Spirit* and his internationally lauded 2009 interpretation of *The Importance Of Being Earnest* and for Dream Academy, *The Revenge Of The Dim Sum Dollies*®, *The History Of Singapore*, *The Little Shop Of Horrors* and *Into The Woods*.

**Elaine Chan - Music Director**

This popular theatre composer-arranger-director has garnered songwriting awards in her teens, wrote and directed her 1st musical score at 18, toured south of New Zealand with it, received the Wong Yee Hua Memorial Award for music excellence AND is the 1<sup>st</sup> Singaporean female composer to music direct the National Day Parade@Padang 2005 and composed the 2005 NDP theme song "Reach Out for the Skies."

Her prolific portfolio encompass stage musical, CD direction & original writing for Dream Academy Productions' 5 Dim Sum Dollies' sellout shows, 3 *Broadway Beng* installments, 1<sup>st</sup> *Crazy Christmas*, *The Hossan Leong Show & Sing Dollar*; Wild Rice's annual Fund Raising Balls & pantomimes: *Cinderel-LAH!*, *Aladdin*, *Jack & the Bean-sprout!*, *Snow White*, *Beauty & The Beast*. She has also orchestrated for original musicals & the Mt Faber's Jewel Box opening, has worked with theatre veterans as Ivan Heng, Glen Goei, Selena Tan, Sebastian Tan & Hossan Leong.

**Lisa Keegan - Choreographer**

Lisa Keegan has over 25 years of experience as a performer and choreographer. She studied in various renowned institutions around the world and achieved teaching Diplomas in many genres.

Lisa has won numerous competitions including National and European Championships in Modern Jazz, Tap and Flamenco.

After her full time dance education Lisa decided to concentrate on musical theatre, which with her strong background she excelled. She worked in London for two years after which she decided to move on and landed in Hong Kong.

Over the last fifteen years she has concentrated on shows in their entirety, she has choreographed more shows than she can count and has been responsible for some of Asia's

largest and most prestigious events, creating the costumes, music and overall art direction. Lisa has worked alongside many famous artists.

She credits her style of work to her diverse and international training in different dance forms and learning from different cities, London, New York, Hong Kong and Singapore to name a few. And to the incredibly talented people she works with, whom she acknowledges have helped her create her vision.

### **CK Chia - Set Designer**

CK is a graphic designer by day, and by night, an odd-job labourer. He designed for *Aladdin* (2011), *Romeo and Juliet* (2012), both by WILD RICE.

*La Cage aux Folles* is his second production with director Glen Goei, to whom he is grateful for the doors of opportunities open unto him.

### **Mac Chan - Lighting Designer**

Mac has worked as a Lighting Designer for Malaysian and international theatre since 1993. Over the years, he had travelled with his lighting design work staged in Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan and South Africa. A three-time winner of Best Lighting Design at the BOH Cameronian Arts Awards of 2002, 2003 and 2004, he received an honorary mention at the 2002 Singapore Life! Theatre Awards for his lighting design works in Singapore. He also received the Malaysian National Arts Awards for Best Lighting Designer in 2006.

His lighting designs for WILD RICE include *Emily of Emerald Hill*, *The Woman in a Tree on the Hill*, *The Coffin is Too Big for the Hole* and *No Parking on Odd Days*, *Oi! Sleeping!!*, *Jack & The Bean-Sprout!*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Happy Endings: Asian Boys Vol. 3* and has worked on a successful 2nd run of the smash hit *The Campaign to Confer the Public Service Star on JBJ* in September 2007, *The Importance of Being Earnest* and NDP '09.

### **Shah Tahir - Sound Design**

Shah Tahir has been in the Audio and Music industry for more than 20 years and has been involved in various aspects of it.

As a musician, he has played the guitar on numerous albums for local and regional artist such as Dick Lee, Kit Chan, Jeremy Monteiro, Zainal Abidin, Sheila Majid, JJ, Chris Ho, Sandy Lam and many others.

As a music producer, Shah has been involved with many local talents like Humpback Oak, Oddfellows, Heritage, Trob, Sweet Charity, Michaela Therese, Prema Lucas, Jachinta. and others. He has also arranged and composed for multiple MediaCorp Channel 8 television programmes such as 2002 Best Drama serial Nominee *Beautiful Connection*.

Currently Shah Tahir is very much involved with "Live" performances and has been the Audio Consultant/Sound Designer for Nation Day Parade 2009-2012, Corporate Events and "Live" TV broadcast mixing with MediaCorp's events.

Also, another passionate area of work for him is in Theatre and Musicals, which he has been designing and mixing audio for many major productions here such as, *881 The Musical*, *Into the Woods*, *Kumar The Queen*, *Hossan Leong Show*, *December Rain*, *Full Monty*, *Dim Sum Dollies*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* and many more.



**Frederick Lee - Costume Design**

Frederick Lee's couture fashion-as-performance-art theatricality have made him one of Singapore's most sought-after designers. His designs often act as windows into the future, not only because of his innovative use of non-traditional materials, but also because his extraordinary and often challenging ideals push the envelope on fashion design as we know it today. Named 'Designer of the Year' at the Singapore Fashion Awards 2004; Best Costumes Design' at the 4th and 10th Straits Times Life! theatre awards; Cleo Fashion Awards Designer of the Year 2006 and his successful couture boutique - Frederick Bridal was named "The Best of Singapore' 3 years consecutively since 2006 by Tatler Singapore. He was also the director of costumes for NDP 2008, 2009, 2011, and the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the inaugural Youth Olympic Games Singapore 2010. Frederick often shares his precious time supporting friends in the theatre with his creative designs which have appeared in numerous concerts, musicals and both television and theatre productions such as *Bent*; *Cabaret*; *Revenge of the Dim Sum Dollies*; *Dim Sum Dollies Singapore's Most Wanted*; *Little shop of horrors*, *Dim Sum Dollies in The History Of Singapore*; *If There's Seasons* ; *Kumar the Queen*; *Sleepless Town*; *Broadway Beng*; *The Importance of Being Earnest*; *Boeing Boeing*; *Emily*; *Into The Woods*.

**Ashley Lim - Hair Design**

Ashley started his hairstyling career in 1986 and set up Ashley Salon in 1999, in order to further pursue his dedication towards the art of hairdressing, especially with theatrical work. Ashley became involved with theatrical work in 1987 and has since, worked with almost 150 productions of local and international standards. Many of these productions were participants of festivals, some of which became nominees and/or winners of art awards.

Ashley has gained a wide range and depth of experience working with all the leading professional theatrical companies of Singapore. He had the opportunities to create hair designs from a diversity of different cultures and periodic eras. His skill is extensive, culminating from more than 2 decades of hairdressing experience. He is privileged to have been 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 work to TV shows and advertorial works for leading local fashion magazines providing contemporary hair designs for bridal and fashion projects.

**Beno Lim (M.A.C.) - Make-up Design**

MAC Senior Artist Beno has been doing make up for 20 years. His experience has included the Spring-Summer International Fashion Weeks in both Paris and Milan in 2011. Among the fashion shows he did were Blumarine, Just Cavalli and C'N'C Costume National. He also keyed last year's Malaysian Fashion Week in Kuala Lumpur.

This year, Beno keyed both the Singapore Men's Fashion Week and the Audi Fashion Festival.

He has also done make up for celebrities like Lady Gaga, and Fergie of the Black Eye Peas and local artistes like Ivan Heng, Anita Kapoor and Michelle Chong. His magazine shoots include Vogue China, Her World, Female, Style, Elle, Shape etc. He has also worked with local designers like Ashley Isham, Reckless Ericka and Max Tan.

Beno has long been involved in the local theatre scene and this year, he is excited to have created the looks for the cast of WILD RICE's *La Cage Aux Folles*.



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### **Tony Trickett - Producer**

Born in Liverpool, Tony 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*, *Cinderella-LAH!* and *Emily of Emerald Hill*, and also the recent 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 III

## 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.

It's mission is to provide an open forum for the shared experience of theatre; celebrating 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 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 the World's 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 5 – 16.
- 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 at major international arts festivals in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand and Russia.

In August 2006, WILD RICE presented the inaugural SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL, a biennial new writing festival committed to develop, present and promote 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, 2006), and the "Blockbuster Event of the Year" (TODAY, 2008).



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### **APPENDIX IV**

#### **ABOUT MAN INVESTMENTS - WILD RICE'S PATRON SPONSOR**

Man is a world-leading alternative investment management business. It has expertise in a wide range of liquid investment styles including managed futures, equity, credit and convertibles, emerging markets, global macro and multi-manager, combined with powerful product structuring, distribution and client service capabilities. As at 31 December 2011, Man managed \$58.4 billion.

The original business was founded in 1783. Today, Man is listed on the London Stock Exchange and is a member of the FTSE 100 Index with a market capitalisation of more than £2 billion.

Man is a signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) and a member of the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index and the FTSE4Good Index. Man also supports many awards, charities and initiatives around the world, including sponsoring the Man Booker literary prizes and the Man Asian Literary Prize.