

Press Release
25 Jan 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IVAN HENG SET TO DIRECT WILD RICE'S FIRST SHAKESPEARE PRODUCTION

Romeo and Juliet, the world's greatest love story, gets refreshed this April by Singapore's leading theatre company, WILD RICE. Fall in love again with Shakespeare's enduring story of young passions and feuding families as the classic love story is brought to life in an exuberant, sensual and innovative production directed by Ivan Heng, WILD RICE's Artistic Director.

The staging of *Romeo and Juliet* signals WILD RICE's commitment to re-envisioning the world's favourite theatre classics for audiences of the here and now. *Romeo and Juliet* also marks Ivan Heng's first Shakespeare production. Renowned for his intelligent and inventive interpretations of the classics, this new WILD RICE production promises to inspire a new generation of theatre audiences with its passion and power.

On his programming and approach to the play, Heng said, "I was moved by *Romeo and Juliet*'s universal and timeless appeal. Anyone who has felt as a teenager that the world was conspiring to limit their choices will be able to identify with *Romeo and Juliet*. In an affluent rigid society ensnared in a cycle of patriarchal pride, hatred and face-saving, the defiance of the young lovers move us with their passion, their courage and hope. In "holding up the mirror to nature", we are exploring ways to update and contemporise this play that was written some four hundred years ago. But the real challenge for the company will be to make this play resonate with audiences – to stimulate, entertain and make vivid the distinct value of the live theatrical encounter."

WILD RICE is proud to present Hansel Tan (Romeo) and Julie Wee (Juliet) as the two young leads. Hansel Tan, who was seen in WILD RICE's *Homesick*, *Happy Endings: Asian Boys Vol. 3* and *Own Time, Own Target* makes his homecoming debut from New York City where he trained and is currently based. Julie Wee, a graduate from the Victorian College of the Arts and who was in SRT's *Much Ado About Nothing* and Toy Factory's *To Kill A Mockingbird*, takes on her first leading role with WILD RICE. The powerhouse cast also stars the who's who of Singapore theatre including: Lim Kay Siu, Neo Swee Lin, Wendy Kweh, Lim Yu-Beng, Nora Samosir and Brendon Fernandez.

WILD RICE's past productions of the classics have proven to be hugely successful. Stagings of George Orwell's *Animal Farm* and Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* garnered multiple awards and international critical acclaim. Camoletti's *Boeing Boeing* has played three extended seasons to a record breaking number of audiences.

Romeo and Juliet promises nothing short of this as Heng has assembled a creative team comprising some of the most exciting theatre artists in Singapore today. With sets by CK Chia, lighting by Lim Woan Wen, costumes by Lai Chan, multimedia projections by Koo Chia Meng and live and original music from award-winning audio production house, The Gunnery, *Romeo and Juliet* will be a not-to-be-missed theatrical event.

SYNOPSIS

“It is too rash, too unadvised, too sudden - too like the lightning...” Juliet Act II Sc2

In a city ripped apart by the hatred between their feuding families, two young people fall in love. Defying their parents’ wishes and throwing all caution to the wind, they marry in secret, risking everything to be together.

WILD RICE proudly presents a new production of ***Romeo and Juliet***, Shakespeare's enduring romantic tragedy - capturing the exhilaration, intimacy and fragility of young love in a hostile world.

Ivan Heng, renowned for his innovative, intelligent and vividly resonant interpretations of the classics, directs a powerhouse cast starring the who’s who of Singapore theatre. ***Romeo and Juliet*** promises to inspire a new generation of theatre audiences with its passion and power.

“Here’s much to do with hate, but more with love.” Romeo Act I Sc 1

FAST FACTS

Title	:	Romeo & Juliet
Written by	:	William Shakespeare
Directed by	:	Ivan Heng
Set Design	:	CK Chia
Lighting Design	:	Lim Woan Wen
Multimedia Design	:	Koo Chia Meng Lin Weidong
Music Arranged by	:	Ben Rosen/Azmi Jaffar/Paul Searles (The Gunnery)
Fight/Movement Director	:	Lim Yu-Beng
Costume Design	:	Lai Chan
Hair Design	:	Ashley Lim
Make-up Design	:	Beno Lim (M.A.C.)
Producer	:	Tony Trickett



ROMEO & JULIET
12 Apr – 28 Apr 2012
The Drama Centre Theatre

Cast	:	Hansel Tan as Romeo Julie Wee as Juliet Lim Kay Siu as Lord Capulet Wendy Kweh as Lady Capulet Neo Swee Lin as Nurse Lim Yu-Beng as Friar Lawrence Brendon Fernandez as Tybalt / Apothecary Erwin Shah Ismail as Mercutio Rishi Budhrani as Benvolio / Friar John Dwayne Tan as Paris / Samson Gani Abdul Karim as Prince Escalus Nora Samosir as Lady Montague Gerald Chew as Lord Montague John Cheah as Balthasar/Peter
Venue	:	Drama Centre Theatre
Date	:	12 Apr – 28 Apr 2012
Press Night	:	14 th April 2012
Ticketing Agent	:	SISTIC.com Pte Ltd SISTIC Hotline (65) 6348 5555 SISTIC Website www.sistic.com.sg SISTIC Authorised Agents
Ticket Prices	:	Previews @ 8.00pm on 12, 13 Apr & 3.00pm on 14 Apr Cat 1: \$59 Cat 2: \$49 Cat 3: \$39 Cat 4 (restricted view): \$44

Tues, Wed, Thurs @ 8.00pm
& Sat, Sun @ 3.00pm
Cat 1: \$64
Cat 2: \$54
Cat 3: \$44
Cat 4 (restricted view): \$49

Fri & Sat @ 8.00pm
Cat 1: \$69
Cat 2: \$59
Cat 3: \$49
Cat 4 (restricted view): \$54

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APPENDIX 1

BIOGRAPHIES – CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM

IVAN HENG – Director

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*.

CK CHIA - Set Designer

CK disembarked from the naval warship in 2004, and went adrift into the creative business.

He has since conceptualised and designed for show publicity campaigns, notably for Dream Academy, the rerun of *Dim Sum Dollies®: The History of Singapore* (2008), *Sing Dollar!*, The Hossan Leong Shows (2010 & 2011), *Crazy Christmas 2010*, and *Into The Woods*; for WILD RICE, OCBC Singapore Theatre Festival 2008, *Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Own Time Own Target* (2009), *Animal Farm* and *Boeing Boeing* (2010), *Emily of Emerald Hill* (2011), and Man Singapore Theatre Festival 2011; for young & WILD, *Family*, and *Swordfish+Concubine: The Fall of Singapura*; for Singapore Lyric Opera, *La Traviata*, *Turandot*, *Les Contes D'Hoffmann*, *La Bohème*, *Die Zaubeflöte*, *Carmen*, and *Salome*; for Singapore Repertory Theatre, *Fried Rice Paradise*, and *Black Bird*.

In 2011 he made his first foray into set design with WILD RICE's year-end pantomime, *Aladdin*. *Romeo & Juliet* marks his second leap of faith into the black hole of theatrical wonderment.

LIM WOAN WEN – Lighting Designer

A nocturnal being with an acute interest in light and darkness, Woan Wen is a recipient of the inaugural National Arts Council Arts Professional Scholarship 2001 and was trained at The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in Stage Lighting Design. Also a Theatre Studies graduate from the National University of Singapore, she has lit over 100 theatre, dance and cross-disciplinary projects and has received 4 Best Lighting Design awards at the Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards. She has been an Associate Lighting Designer with local theatre company The Finger Players since 2004. Most recently, she was conferred the Young Artist Award in 2011.

KOO CHIA MENG – Multi-media Designer

Chia Meng received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Digital Filmmaking at Nanyang Technological University Singapore. His short film *Man in a Snow Globe* premiered at the Vancouver Singapore Film Festival 2009 while *HOT!*, his graduating thesis film, premiered at the 6th Singapore Short Film Festival 2010. His travelogue, *Too Far North*, was nominated for Best Documentary at the Singapore Short Film Awards 2011 and went on to screen at the Southeast Asian short film programme during the 2011 AAS-ICAS Joint Conference in Hawaii.

He also works as Multimedia Designer in Singapore theatre, past involvements include AGOP's *LIV* (2009) as part of the Singapore Arts Festival, *Bondage* (2009) by Drama Box, *The Lower Depths* (2010) and *What The Dog Knows* (2011) by Theatrestrays and *White Soliloquy* (2010) by Toy Factory. Chia Meng was also part of National Day Parade 2010, producing the video segment 'Stand Up For Singapore'. During the same period, he completed a music video as part of Noise Singapore 2010, promoting local arts and music during the Youth Olympics. Chia Meng also recently completed work on *Tapestry* (2011), a narrative short film commissioned by People's Association Singapore where he

worked as Director of Photography. His latest multimedia project, *SITA*, was presented in Mexico City in July 2011.

LIN WEIDONG – Multi-media Designer

Currently a radio DJ with SPH UnionWorks Radio 1003, Lin Weidong first picked up a camera 8 years ago and it has now become his truest form of expression. He has since taken stills for Singaporean films by Boo Junfeng, Anthony Chen, various short films and theatrical productions. His first thematic photographic series *Quilt* was exhibited in Casual Poet, Singapore in 2008. He was also the cinematographer for *Man in a Snow Globe* a short film by Koo Chia Meng. His photographs have also been published in magazines and books.

He also worked on *Next Generations* (Huayi Chinese Festival of the Arts 2010, New Vision Festival Hong Kong 2010) with Hong Kong director Tang Shu-Wing as a video artist, and was part of TheatreStray's *What The Dog Knows* (The Substation 2011), and *Paperboat* (Esplanade, The Studios 2011) as a multimedia conspirator.

BEN ROSEN / AZMI JAFFAR / PAUL SEARLES (THE GUNNERY) – Music Designers

The Gunnery is a result driven, highly creative audio company focused on finding a fresh approach to execute sound. They create custom software to innovate and break the boundaries that exist using normal audio solutions.

Their custom tools and their way of working help free us from many limits that normally exist in a digital environment. When they create music it helps in producing the ultimate expression of emotion.

For commercial clients this translates into inspiring results that go beyond what is expected.

With clients ranging from theatre to advertising and film The Gunnery has produced sound and music for Hollywood trailers such as *The Last Airbender* and Tom Cruise's *Knight and Day* also producing remixes for Marilyn Manson, Muse and Cafe Del Mar among others.

In 2010 The Gunnery produced the music and sound for the Singapore Pavilion at World Expo in Shanghai.

2011 was a great year with the team winning Gold and Silver Lions at Cannes, The Grand Prix at Spikes Asia and a bronze in the London International Advertising Awards.

LIM YU-BENG – Fight / Movement Director / Cast (Friar Lawrence)

Yu-Beng won Best Actor in 2005, Best Supporting Actor in 2004, and was part of the Best Acting Ensemble in 2002, all for the Life! Theatre Awards, where he is frequently on the nominee list. In 2005 he was also nominated for Best Actor in the Asian Television Awards.

He has played leads in the acclaimed local films *Singapore Dreaming*, and *Solos*, and internationally in *Kung Fu Killers*, and *The Great Wall*, and supporting roles in numerous the international features. For Singapore television he has played leads in *Do Not Disturb*, *9 Lives*, *The Second Singapore Short Story Project*, and the telemovie *The New Home*; and is still remembered by many from the series *Triple Nine*, which ran five years.

Theatregoers know him better from shows like *Members Only*, *Doubt*, *The Lover* and *The Dumb Waiter*, *Bent*, *Lear*, *The First Emperor's Last Days*, *The Blue Room*, *Destinies of Flowers in the Mirror*, *Six of the Best*, *The Yang Family* and *As If He Hears*. More recent outings include *Animal Farm* and *The Full Monty*.

Trouble is, Yu-Beng loves to fight.

The son of a lawyer and a choreographer, he grew up arguing and counting to eight instead of ten. Years of dance and physical theatre exposed him to a variety of movement styles, including jazz, contemporary, Tai Chi, Chinese Opera, Wushu, Silat, Noh and Butoh. His involvement in television and film stunts finally gave him a chance to use his years of horsing around as a child tumbling, fighting, swinging from unfortunate house curtains and generally breaking everything in sight, including his head. Twice. He choreographed the violence in *Bent*, *East Side Story*, *Dangerous Liasons*, *Mee Pok Man*, *Comic Potential*, and last year's *Carmen*. He also directed some of the action in *Triple Nine*, and the feature film *Cages*.

In recent years he wrote and directed *It's My Life*, an original musical, and created music for *Do Not Disturb...Late Checkout Please*. He continues to explore new ground, and works extensively as an actor, director, acting coach, lighting designer, fight choreographer and whatever it takes to get the show up.

ASHLEY LIM - Hair Designer

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 Designer

With two decades as a makeup artist under his belt, Beno has grown from that little boy watching his mother glamourize into one of Asia's most in-demand maquilleurs, working his magic on the runways, for Cirque du Soleil, in the pages of publications like Vogue China and on celebrities from Debbie Gibson to Fei Xiang to M•A•C's very own VIVA GLAMorous Lady Gaga.

After serving in the Singapore Army, Beno got a role in the Chinese musical I Have A Date With Spring. During the show's two-week run, Beno volunteered to do the makeup. Determined to become a makeup artist, Beno went on to shatter the proverbial glass ceiling, becoming the first man in Singapore to work behind a makeup counter.

Nearly a decade after becoming a member of the M•A•C family, Beno is firmly established as a star in his own right, bouncing between fashion shows, plays, TV studios and visiting the M•A•C store, all while dispensing some of his own invaluable philosophy to colleagues, friends and clients along the way.

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*, *Cinderel-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 2

BIOGRAPHIES – CAST

HANSEL TAN as Romeo

Hansel Tan could not be more elated to celebrate his homecoming with the fabulous WILDRICE folks! Previous WR productions include *Homesick*, *Happy Endings: Asian Boys Vol. 3* and the original cast of *Own Time, Own Target* (ST Life! Theatre Award Nominee, Best Ensemble). Other local: *H is for Hantu* (STAGES), *Man of Letters* (SRT), *Never The Sinner* (The Stage Club), *The Real Inspector Hound* (BUDS Theatre). Selected US & UK: *The Ohmies* (Ohmland Holdings), *Will Sing* (Ma-Yi Theater), *Rites of Passage* (Prospect Theater), *Bronze Mirror* (Mungioli Theatricals), *Future Anxiety* (The Flea Theater), *We In Silence Hear a Whisper* (Red Fern Theatre Co.), *Paper Angels* (Direct Arts), *We Can't Reach You*, *Hartford* (The Assembly), *The Lost Light* (SharkMother Arts Collective), *Bat Boy* (Wesleyan 2nd Stage), *Big Love* (Wesleyan Theater), *tick... tick... BOOM!* (Maple Giant Theatre), *The Tempest* (Oneohone Theatre), *The Academy* (Parabox Prod.). When not work-cationing in Singapore, Hansel lives his dream as a professional actor in New York City, where he returns this fall to commence rehearsals for the First National Tour of *The Ohmies*. He is a proud graduate of Wesleyan and Oxford University, and the recipient of the NAC Overseas Bursary and the Wesleyan Lipsky Choral Prize.

JULIE WEE as Juliet

Julie began acting on TV at the age of fourteen in the *Adventure Club*, moving on to main cast roles in *@ Moulmein High* and *Light Years*. She took a year off after Junior College to work in theatre to ensure that this was definitely the career path she wanted to take. She performed in several plays that year from mime and puppetry to musicals, including Wild Rice's *Cinderel-lah!*

Julie then went to drama school at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) in Melbourne. She stayed in Australia for a short while after graduating, appearing in an episode of the long running Australian soap, *Neighbours*. But Julie couldn't stay away from Singapore for long, she returned home to continue working in theatre, television and voiceovers.

On television, Julie was part of the main cast for Southern Star Production's *A Gurl's World*, which aired internationally. Julie also hosted shows like *Emerging Sports* and was a live reporter for the 2011 Standard Chartered Marathon Singapore.

On stage, Julie has performed in SRT's *Much Ado About Nothing* (Hero), Toy Factory's *To Kill A Mockingbird* (Scout), iTheatre's *The Elves and The Shoemaker*, Ensemble Theatre's *Two and Answers from the Centre of the Universe About Things Unknown*, Bud's Theatre's *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Gwendolyn), and SRT Little Company's *The Tooth Fairy* and *The Write Stuff*.

Julie's acting credits at the VCA include Celia from Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, Irina in Chekov's *Three Sisters*, Lily in a weird and wonderful production of Caryl Churchill's *The*

Skriker, Natasha from Gorky's *The Lower Depths* and 'The Professor' (a rough and tumble gangster) in the Brecht and Weil musical *Happy End*.

Aside from acting, Julie works as a professional voiceover artist. Companies that use her voice include Canon, Marina Bay Sands, Nokia and The Hour Glass. Julie also has her own home studio setup.

Julie really enjoys Shakespeare's language, and is very pleased to be working with WildRice again.

LIM KAY SIU as Lord Capulet

Kay Siu has been acting professionally since 1985, in Singapore, America, London and Germany. Stage credits include *Drift* with Drama Box, *Enchanted Tales* with Finger Players, *Memory: Human Remains & Virus* with Collective Mayhem, *Cheek* with CAKE Theatre; *Lao Jiu* the Musical (in Mandarin) with Practice; *Blithe Spirit*, *Animal Farm* and *Visit of the Tai-Tai* with Wild Rice; *3 Japanese Women* for Mu-Lan in London; *The Letter* for the Lyric Hammersmith, London; *7th Drawer*, *Morning People* and *Army Daze* for Toy Factory; *Death of a Salesman* and *Oleana* for SRT. Musicals include *Beauty World*, *Fried Rice Paradise* (TheatreWorks), and *Nagraland* (Lead role and Assistant-Director), all by Dick Lee; and *Piaf* for TheatreWorks.

Kay Siu also went to directing School in London, at the Central School of Speech and Drama in 1994, and has directed *Half Lives* by Chay Yew for TheatreWorks, which was selected as Play of the Year by Straits Times in 1997, *Balls!* By Ming Wong for SRT, and *Club Tempest* for 3.14.

TV credits include *Tenko Reunion* for BBC, *Holoponono* for RTL, *Happy Belly*, *PCK* and *Drive* in Singapore, and *Monkey King* for Hallmark.

Movie credits include *Nightwatch* for Lion Films; *Anna and the King* for Fox; *Avatar* (Independent).

WENDY KWEH as Lady Capulet

Wendy Kweh trained at The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London and was one of the first graduates of the LaSalle-SIA School of Drama.

In 16 years of professional work in Singapore and the UK Wendy Kweh has worked at the Royal National Theatre, Manchester Royal Exchange and Mu-Lan Theatre in the UK and collaborated with The Singapore Repertory Theatre, Theatreworks, Dramaplus, TCS and Action Theatre in Singapore. She won the Straits Times Life Best Actress award twice for her roles as Helena and Beatrice in *A Midsummer Summer Nights Dream* and *Much Ado about Nothing* respectively. She was also in Wild Rices' most recent production of *Boeing Boeing*. She was a regular on the long running police drama series *The Bill* as Detective Suzie Sim and created the role of the blind physiotherapist Zoe in the BBC World Service drama *Westway*. Her recent work includes the independent feature *HOT HOT HOT* and is currently developing a new play in London in autumn 2012.

NEO SWEE LIN as Nurse

Made her stage debut at the age of 5, playing an angel in her kindergarten Christmas pageant. All she remembers is she had wings and had to pose very still. Her love for performing continued to be nurtured by Sister Josephine, who taught her to sing and dance, Sister Dolores, who taught her speech & drama in her primary school years, and Mrs Marie Bong who groomed her as an actor, in Katong Convent. The first time she performed in public was at the Victoria Theatre in Secondary 2, aged 14, as Phoebe in *As You Like It*, then as Nerissa in *The Merchant of Venice* the year after. In her final year of secondary school, she spent a lot of her time, in Mrs Bong's office, learning the speeches of Mark Anthony in *Julius Caesar* even though the production never happened because the Victoria Theatre was being renovated in 1979.

After graduating from the National University of Singapore with a LL.B (Hons) in 1986, she “took a year out to try a bit of acting” She worked in advertising & events, as a co-ordinator and radio producer. 5 years later she won a scholarship to study acting at the Royal Scottish Academy of Drama, and since then she has been a full-time actor appearing in over 50 plays, TV shows & movies, in Singapore, Malaysia, India, the UK and Moscow. She won the first Asian Television award for best comedy actress in 1999 for Ahma in *PCK*, and finally won her first Life! Theatre Award for best supporting actress in Alfian Sa’at’s *Nadirah* her Malay theatre debut in 2010. Despite her love for Shakespeare, she has only had a few opportunities to perform the work of the bard. She played Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing* in her final year production at drama school, and Gertrude in *Hamlet* for SRT in 1997. She is grateful and excited to be a part of Ivan's first Shakespeare production.

RISHI BUDHRANI as Benvolio / Friar John

Rishi is an actor, comedian and laughter-based motivational speaker.

In 2010, Rishi played Teddy Slaughter in *The Full Monty* (Pangdemonium Productions) and played the role of Jivaj Bhatt in Ayub Khan Din’s *Rafta Rafta*, also known as *All in Good Time* (HuM Theatre).

In 2011, he was actor-producer of his home production *Rub My Antenna*- a series of comedic sketches by David Ives and Christopher Durang (Complete Communicators).

Rishi is also an up-and-coming stand-up comic and has shared the stage with some of the best comics in the region in shows like Laugh Off Asia and Karma Komediens. He also performed at the Wild Rice Man Singapore Theatre Festival in 2011.

He has undergone Shakespeare workshops with the likes of Kevin Spacey and Dakin Matthews and was an Exxon Mobil Scholar with the Singapore Repertory Theatre’s Young Company, where he played the role of Berowne in *Love’s Labour’s Lost* and John Proctor in *The Crucible*.

He is a Certified Laughter Yoga Instructor and conducts Laughter and Humor-Based Motivational Talks under his company, Complete Communicators. He is also a sought after events host.

BRENDON FERNANDEZ as Tybalt / Apothecary

Brendon is delighted to be working with Wild Rice again! Other shows he's done with them include *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* (Toy Factory, 2011), *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Toy Factory, 2010), *The King Lear Project: A Trilogy* (Akanga Film Asia, 2008), *Everything But the Brain* (Action Theatre, 2005), *Bent* (Toy Factory, 2003; Life! Theatre Awards Play of the Year), *Rent* (SRT, 2001) and *The Theory of Everything* (SRT, 2000).

On television, Brendon was last seen hosting the documentary series *The Next Asian Miracle* (Vertigo Pictures, 2012) on Channel News Asia.

Brendon is represented by Fly Entertainment.

ERWIN SHAH ISMAIL as Mercutio

After a month-long run of the musical *Spring Awakening* as the impish yet soulful Georg in February 2012 with Pangdemonium!, Erwin is thrilled to be working with Ivan Heng in Wild Rice's upcoming production of *Romeo and Juliet*.

In 2008, this computer network-engineering graduate stumbled upon the late realization that a deskbound work-life was just not for him. Erwin made the switch and is proud to be the first male Singaporean to graduate from LASALLE College of the Arts' BA(Hons) Acting programme.

His notable accolades at LASALLE include *Twelfth Night* as Feste directed by Aubrey Mellor OAM; Charles Mee's *Big Love* as Nikos and William Inge's *Picnic* as Howard, both directed by Adam Marple. In 2010, Erwin represented both LASALLE and Singapore at the UNESCO World Festival of Theatre Schools in Peru, performing an abridged version of Federico Lorca's *Blood Wedding*. Erwin's repertoire also includes children's theatre in performances with ACT3 Theatrics, iTheatre and Imaginarts.

His television credits include the General in *100 Wishes Series 2* on OKTO and more recently, Rico, in the new genre-busting TV series, *The Kitchen Musical*, airing in 19 countries. Erwin would like to thank his awesome parents for their constant support, love and care.

DWAYNE TAN as Paris / Samson

Dwayne graduated from the American Musical & Dramatic Academy in New York. Fresh off his run of *Spring Awakening* with Pangdemonium, he is thrilled to be working with Wild Rice again. His Wild Rice credits include his portrayal as 'Frankie' in *Beauty World*

and 'The Prince' in *Snow White*. With the Singapore Repertory Theatre, Dwayne has been in *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Pinocchio*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Forbidden City*.

In the US, Dwayne was on the *Junie B. Jones* national tour and played 'Ching Ho' in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Merry-Go-Round Playhouse). In 2010, he staged, wrote and produced *Fairy Tales - The Full Picture* as part of Esplanade's Flipside Festival 2010.

Being a finalist on Singapore Idol led to his self-produced EP, Moments Alone. His work extends to voiceovers including anchoring for the regional lifestyle channel, *Life Inspired* (Singtel MIO TV) and many cartoon series characters like 'Joey' in *Yu-Gi-Oh!* He was also recently seen as the co-host of *Sunshine Station* on Okto. He maintains his own website at dwaynetan.bravehost.com

GANI ABDUL KARIM as Prince Escalus

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 Sec Sch 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*. Wildrice productions he's appear in include *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.

NORA SAMOSIR as Lady Montague

Nora Samosir has been a professional theatre practitioner since 1984. Her many stage performances include *The Art of Living in the in-Between*, 2010, *Destinies of Flowers in the Mirror*, 2009, *Temple*, 2008, *Nothing*, 2007, and *Queen Ping*, 2006 – all Cake Theatricals; *Diaspora*, 2009, *Lao Jiu*, 1997, and *Be My Sushi Tonight*, 1985 - all TheatreWorks; ___ *Can Change*, 2010, *BOTE*, 2002, and *Asian Boys Vol.1*, 2000, all The Necessary Stage; *Selamat Malam Ibu*, 2003 - Teater Ekamatra; *Doubt*, 2006 and *Proof*, 2002 - both Action Theatre; and *Ah Kong's Birthday Party*, 1998 - Singapore Repertory Theatre. Trained in Voice Studies at the Central School of Speech and Drama, London, she has also appeared on television- *Guru Paarvai*, *Masters of the Sea*, *Ah Girl*, etc. Nora was in the Wild Rice production of *Asian Boys Vol. 2: Landmarks*, 2004.

APPENDIX 3

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:

- CHILL! PADI, its Education and Outreach division for schools and community audiences.
- 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).

APPENDIX 4

WILD RICE CLASSICS SERIES

- 1) Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit* directed by Glen Goei (2001, 2007)
- 2) George Orwell's *Animal Farm* directed by Ivan Heng (2002, 2003, 2010) Life! Theatre Award Winner for Best Direction and Best Acting Ensemble. Toured internationally to rave reviews and standing ovations in New Zealand (2004), Hong Kong (2010) and Australia (2011).
- 3) Marc Camoletti's *Boeing Boeing* directed by Glen Goei (2002, 2005, 2010). WILD RICE's record breaking hit that has played to thousands.
- 4) *The Visit of the Tai Tai* directed by Ivan Heng and Krishen Jit (2004). Based on Friedrich Durrematt's *The Visit of the Old Lady*. Commissioned by the Embassy of Switzerland as part of FESTIVAL FRIEDRICH DÜRRENMATT.
- 5) Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* directed by Glen Goei (2009). ST Life! Theatre Award for Best Production of the Year.
- 6) William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* directed by Ivan Heng (2012)

APPENDIX 5

ABOUT WILD RICE'S Patron Sponsor – Man

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. Man manages US\$69.1 billion (as of 31 March 2011).

The original business was founded in 1783. Today, Man Group plc is listed on the London Stock Exchange and is a member of the FTSE 100 Index with a market capitalisation of over £4.5 billion.

Man Group is 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 sponsorship of the Man Booker literary prizes.