



WILD RICE @ FUNAN – PRESS STATEMENT

A NEW HOME FOR WILD RICE, AND A THEATRE FOR SINGAPORE

WILD RICE, Singapore's leading professional theatre company, will collaborate with CapitaLand Limited to build an intimate 380-seat theatre with an innovative thrust stage design within the new Funan mall. Occupying 18,000 square feet, this will be Singapore's first theatre to be designed, managed and programmed by a theatre company.

By any measure, WILD RICE is the most prolific and popular theatre company in Singapore. Our pioneering work has attracted over one million people to the spaces that we have rented over the last 16 years.

However, WILD RICE has never had a theatre to call our own. We believe that has kept us from living up to our true potential and realising a more ambitious future for Singapore theatre.

We have embarked on a comprehensive examination of where we are as a company, our role in our community as a leading arts institution, where we want to be and what we need to do to make our dreams a reality.

It became apparent that we have reached a pivotal moment in our evolution as a theatre company. In order to continue to grow and take risks artistically, we needed to have our own theatre, a safe "home" that would allow us to better meet the needs of our artists and patrons.

"This theatre represents a new milestone for WILD RICE and the Singapore theatre industry," says Mr. Ivan Heng, Founding Artistic Director of WILD RICE. "We are thrilled to have found a partner in Funan, which is reinventing itself as a hub for local creative talents.

This will be an iconic destination theatre, prominently situated in the heart of Singapore's civic and cultural district. Sitting at the intersection of commerce, art, government and history, the new theatre will be an independent, state-of-the-art facility and aims to be the most inclusive and accessible theatre in Singapore. It will provide an exciting platform for artists to develop and present the best of Singapore theatre, and create a legacy for future generations of theatre-makers and audiences.

Making the decision to run our own theatre in Singapore is a huge leap of faith, and comes with its own risks and rewards. We are in this for the long haul, and we look forward to the generous support of the government, corporations and theatre-goers to make this special gift to our local theatre scene possible."

WILD RICE has begun preparations for the design and development of the theatre, including starting a fundraising campaign to raise \$15 million to build and sustain the new theatre space.

More details on the theatre, its design and WILD RICE's artistic programming will be shared at a future date.