



young & W!LD, a division of W!LD RICE
presents

MAD FOREST

by Caryl Churchill

OPENS 12 DECEMBER 2007 | REPUBLIC CULTURAL CENTRE, LAB

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Singapore, 5 October 2007 - **young & W!LD**, a division of **W!LD RICE**, announces the thrilling second production of their 2007 training season - Caryl Churchill's **MAD FOREST**.

Following a successful production of Tony Perez's powerful play about ten couples with their marriages on the rocks, *On North Diversion Road*, **young & W!LD** continues to expand its theatrical horizons while bringing landmark works of world theatre to the local scene with this provocative play about betrayal, belief and broken eggs.

About MAD FOREST

It is December 1989. An oppressed people shake of decades of muted fear to rise up against a harsh regime and an iron-fisted dictator. Blood is spilt. The dictator is overthrown, tried and executed. But does victory really beget freedom?

Written by acclaimed British playwright Caryl Churchill, **MAD FOREST** is set against a backdrop of revolution, blood, tears and daily tests of the human spirit. Based on the real-life events of the 1989 Romanian revolution that toppled the repressive regime of hated dictator Nicolae Ceaucescu and led to his brutal execution, the play traces a people's tumultuous journey from repression to liberation. **MAD FOREST** delves deep into the lives of two families – the wealthy Antonescus and the working class Vladus – and explores how they struggle to preserve love, family and human dignity while caught in the whirlwind of change. Gritty, unrelenting and surprisingly comic, the play exposes



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intensely private tribulations against a backdrop of conspiracy theories, a culture of quiet desperation, and the fear of the shadowy agents of the state. Stylistically daring, the play dances between scenes of stark social realism and scenes of shocking symbolism – mixing the ordinary Romanian folk with vampires, ghosts, talking dogs and angels.

The questions that MAD FOREST raises are relevant to any society at any time: how do you know if your country is truly free? When did you last question the status quo? How much would you give to fight for freedom? Recent events in Asia make these questions all the more urgent right now. How much will you take before you take action?

Young & WILD in revolution

Watch our 13 versatile **young & WILD** actors navigate over 40 characters as they bring to life this play of fascinating complexity, endless surprises and unforgettable images.

MAD FOREST was first staged in Singapore by Theatreworks in 1990, shortly after the actual events occurred in Romania. Seventeen years later, when liberty and freedom are two ideologies too easily taken for granted, this new interpretation of MAD FOREST by **young & WILD** is all the more relevant.

A special production blog has also been set up at madforest2007.blogspot.com to document the actors' creative process of building a theatre performance. Audience members are invited to delve deep into the rehearsal room and join the actors as they dig deeper into the heart of the play.

Join us on an unforgettable journey through the MAD FOREST, in search of the meaning of freedom – theirs and yours.

MAD FOREST by young & WILD is a part of Reflections 2007, Republic Polytechnic's community arts festival.

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MAD FOREST FAST FACTS

Written By	Caryl Churchill
Directed By	Jonathan Lim
Cast	
Isabella Chiam	<i>The Swimming Instructor, Jack & The Bean-Sprout!</i>
Candice de Rozario	<i>Forbidden City, Furthest North, Deepest South</i>
Hang Qian Chou	<i>Cloud Nine, If There're Seasons</i>
Jasmine Koh	<i>Lao Jiu: The Musical, Sampek Engtay</i>
Jonathan Lum	<i>Forbidden City, Man of Letters</i>
Audrey Luo	<i>If There're Seasons, Vagina Monologues</i>
Mohd Ghazali Muzakir	<i>Mama Looking for Her Cat, Play Play</i>
Judy Ngo	<i>Pulau, Forbidden Chestnuts: Portrait of a Brokeback Geisha</i>
Daphne Ong	<i>A Chorus of Disapproval, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i>
Eleanor Tan	<i>Homesick, Twist of Fate</i>
Tan Shou Chen	<i>Landmarks: Asian Boys Vol 2, Off Centre</i>
Terence Tan Si Peng	<i>Poetic License, Red Man Green Man</i>
Vanessa Wong	<i>Being & Becoming, Fireswithinfires</i>
Show dates	12 – 16 December 2007
Venue	The Republic Cultural Centre, Lab Republic Polytechnic
Time	8pm (Wednesday to Friday) 2.30pm & 8pm (Saturday & Sunday)
Ticket Prices	\$16 (adults) \$12 (students, NSFs, senior citizens, members of ASA & SDEA) A discount of 10% is available to those a booking at least 10 tickets
Public Sale	Starting 5 October 2007
Public Sale tickets are available through	Gatecrash www.gatecrash.com.sg
Production Blog	madforest2007.blogspot.com
young & WILD Website	www.wildrice.com.sg/young_about.html





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ABOUT young & W!LD

young & W!LD is a division of W!LD RICE committed to training and nurturing Singapore's most promising young talents. Its innovative actor-training programme is geared towards preparing Singapore's next generation of actors and theatre practitioners.

Assembled in 2006, young & W!LD's 14 young actors were selected based on their talent, versatility and dedication to the actor's craft. As an ensemble, they underwent months of intensive workshops led by prominent theatre practitioners, exploring the many facets of theatre practice and honing their craft through a combination of theoretical exploration, critical discussion and practical project work.

9 months later, in June 2007, the first full-length young & W!LD production was staged - Tony Perez's prize-winning drama *On North Diversion Road* at The Arts House. Audiences were enthralled and young & W!LD was received with much enthusiasm.

While continuing to sharpen their skills, young & W!LD also aims to offer the Singapore audience a provocative selection of rarely-seen shows of high quality! Look out for an exciting range of theatre productions to come, stretching from musical revues to Shakespeare, from international classics to local gems.

young & W!LD is led by W!LD RICE's Associate Artistic Director Jonathan Lim. Past guest trainers include practitioners like Kuo Jinghong, Bang Wenfu and Sim Pern Yiau. The young & W!LD curriculum encompasses a wide range of theatrical forms -from Greek theatre to physical theatre, naturalism to musical theatre – and seeks to develop versatile theatre practitioners ready to take the Singapore stage by storm.





ABOUT W!LD RICE

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

The company takes its inspiration from the multicultural societies that make up Singapore and modern Asia, celebrating their diverse cultures and performance styles and bringing them together in creative collaborations that inspire, challenge and entertain.

A commitment to the highest standards informs every aspect of W!LD RICE's creative work which is first and foremost a celebration of Singapore talent. By producing and touring quality "glocal" productions that are distinctively local in flavour and yet universal in vision and concerns, the company creates shared experiences for audiences in Singapore and around the World.

W!LD RICE'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 also makes a significant contribution to the wider community through its following divisions:

- CHILL! PADI, the Youth & Education division, which reaches out to school audiences
- First Stage, which nurtures young talents from the ages of 5 to 16
- young & W!LD, which identifies and develops aspiring theatre professionals

W!LD 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, New Zealand, Canada, Hong Kong and Malaysia.

In August 2006, W!LD RICE presented the inaugural Singapore Theatre Festival. Hailed as *"the main event in the world of the arts"* by SPH The Straits Times, this biennial festival is committed to nurturing, producing and promoting the very best of Singapore theatre.

W!LD RICE is a Singapore Registered Charity (no. 01579)

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