

VOICES FROM THE PAST - MESSAGE FOR THE FUTURE

Singapore Pioneers Offer Priceless Learning Experience For Students

20 May 2003 Singapore. While it may not be as streamlined as the souped-up DeLorean that sent Michael J Fox speeding back to the 1950s in the hit movie Back to the Future, the W!LD on Wheels! bus achieves much the same purpose.

Project Chilli Padi - the youth-education wing of W!LD RICE (responsible for last year's ground-breaking Wild@Heart void-deck arts event) - has cooked up an even more adventurous and ambulatory interactive arts experience.

W!LD on Wheels! is a three-hour drama and heritage based bus safari for children aged 9 to 12 years. It was written by Project Chilli Padi Artistic Director, Selena Tan. This fun, highly interactive exploration of Singapore's past is designed to challenge the children's creativity, initiative and communication skills as they discover new insights into life in the Lion City.

Pioneers like the Shaw Brothers and war hero Lim Bo Seng are "brought to life" in a fun, interactive and educational manner. Complementary to the primary school system's Social Studies and National Education curricula, W!LD on Wheels! goes beyond book learning and offers a holistic, participatory experience that will increase students' understanding of these topics. The project is designed to make students more aware of Singapore's unique history and what it took to get us to where we are today. It also gets them thinking about where we are headed and what roles they might play in building our future.

How it works

Armed with specially crafted Discovery Kits and a series of clues, children are regaled with stories vividly re-enacted by costumed characters from Singapore's past and present, while they are taken on an island-wide treasure hunt to find answers to intriguing questions. As the children team up to uncover real-life Singapore stories, they learn about their heritage and also about their own abilities to innovate, improvise and imagine.

The action takes place on and off a bus, as actor-facilitators provide links between the different excursion stops and lead activities and question-and-answer sessions. The drama medium not only engages students, but also encourages interaction with the actor-facilitators and between students.

W!LD on Wheels! is made possible thanks to the generous sponsorship of home-grown corporation, F&N Coca-Cola (Singapore) Pte Ltd. There will be excursions daily, from 28 May to 13 June.

BACKGROUNDER

PROJECT CHILLI PADI is W!LD RICE's new Education and Outreach division, catering to school-going children and young adults. With programmes that fuse various art forms with topical issues, Project Chilli Padi offers new, creative ways to explore and practice the Arts, and to understand the important role the Arts plays in building character and developing minds.

Project Chilli Padi's fresh approach to arts education also cultivates self-awareness, confidence, compassion and critical thinking skills - all of which are necessary attributes for today's global citizen.