

13 July 2005

WILD RICE presents

SECOND LINK:

The Singapore-Malaysia Text Exchange

For the finale of this year's Singapore Writers Festival (26th August to 4th September), **WILD RICE** is proud to bring "**Riding the Nice Bus**" across the Causeway, to be presented with the newly curated "**Tikam-Tikam: Malaysian Roulette**", in a double-bill called "SECOND LINK: The Singapore-Malaysia Text Exchange".

Conceived as an integrated series of performed literature, "Riding the Nice Bus" featured excerpts from an eclectic body of Singapore literary texts, from prose to drama to poetry. Curated by playwright **Eleanor Wong** and "read" by a cast of Malaysian actors under the direction of the late **Krishen Jit**, "Riding the Nice Bus" was performed to great success in Velvet Underground at Zouk KL, and was the highlight of the 2004 Kuala Lumpur Literary Festival.

"Read" is used loosely here to describe the ways with which all the resources of theatre, with its pyrotechnics and disciplines, come together to wring vivid meanings from the texts, opening new ways of appreciating literature – from a private, one-on-one communion to a joyfully shared, communal experience.

"Tikam-Tikam: Malaysian Roulette", will be directed by **Ivan Heng** and curated by playwright **Leow Puay Tin**, and will feature an equally diverse range of Malaysian literary texts, which will be "read" by well-known Singaporean actors. More intriguingly, it will depart radically from the presentation format of "Riding the Nice Bus", in the hope that it will engage Singaporean audiences in a deeper dialogue with the literary heritage of their nearest neighbour.

Director Ivan Heng said, "It will be the first time such an expansive performance will be created from readings of local literature. It will see the Singaporean interpretation of Malaysia writing and Singaporean literature seen through Malaysian eyes. The young histories of the two nations are richly intertwined, as are the cultural and artistic elements. At the same time, there are distinct characteristics in each country that may cast very interesting light on the works. This project is an expression of cultural diplomacy between the two nations and comes at a time where bilateral links are improving."

Part One: Riding the Nice Bus **Directed by Krishen Jit and Ivan Heng** **Curated by Eleanor Wong**

Ivan Heng will adapt the original direction of the late Krishen Jit to the requirements of the new Drama Centre at National Library. Malaysian cast includes Anne James, Lim How Ngean, Edwin Sumun, Vernon Emuang and Sukania Venugopal. The list of Singapore texts, which will be performed, includes:

| Author | Work |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Edwin Thumboo | Ulysses by Merlion |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Tan Tarn How | Lady of Soul |
| Kuo Pao Kun | Descendants of the Eunuch Admiral |
| Suchen Lim | ChristineFistful of Colours |
| Tan Hwee Hwee | Mammon Inc. |
| Chay Yew | A Language of their Own |
| Alfian Sa'at | 8 Ways to Peel a Banana |
| Koh Beng Liang | Last Three Women: Self Portrait |
| Ovidia Yu | The Woman in A Tree on the Hill |
| Yong Shu Hoong | Issac Revisited: The Sobering Age |
| Felix Cheong | The Nearly Man |
| Eleanor Wong | Jointly and Severably |
| Leong Liew Geok | A Middle-Aged Woman Dissuades a Potential Lover |
| Dave Chua | Gone Case |
| Kirpal Singh | Cleaning Up |
| Madeline Lee | Reading 15A |
| Cyril Wong | Interrogation |
| Chong Tze Chien | PIE |
| Haresh Sharma | This Chord and Others |
| Alvin Elangovan | Talaq |
| Alvin Pang | Walls of Gold |

"Riding the Nice Bus" was originally commissioned by The Literary Company as part of the Kuala Lumpur Literary Festival 2004.

Part Two: Tikam-Tikam: Malaysian Roulette
Directed by Ivan Heng
Curated by Leow Puay Tin

Singapore cast includes Lim Yu-Beng, Karen Tan, Jonathan Lim and Gani Abdul Karim. List of Malaysian texts is still being curated at the time of this writing.

Performance Details

Venue: Drama Centre, National Library
Date & Time: 8.00pm, 2 Sep • 3.00pm & 8.00pm, 3 Sep
Tickets: \$20 (excluding \$2 SISTIC fee)
Duration: 2 hours (not including a 15 minute interval)

Tickets on sale from 15th July at all SISTIC outlets.
Call SISTIC at 6348 5555 or visit www.sistic.com.sg to reserve your seats.

APPENDIX

Publicity copy:

Take an inspired selection of Singapore texts and mix liberally with Malaysian actors. Repeat with equally eclectic Malaysian texts on Singaporean actors. And what you'll have is the scintillating, promiscuous, literary-cum-performative cross-pollination that is SECOND LINK. The written word will leap off the page in an explosive tapestry of sights and sounds, with ensemble performances that will surprise, delight and tickle your senses, opening new ways of experiencing literature from both sides of the Causeway. If you're new to staged interpretations of literary texts, don't miss this mind-blowing treat.