

# HAPPY ENDINGS

ASIAN BOYS VOL. 3

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

W!LD RICE Presents

## Happy Endings: Asian Boys Vol 3

Opens 11 July 2007 | Drama Centre Theatre @ National Library

**Singapore, 23 May 2007** – Seven years after its first introduction to the Singapore stage, W!LD RICE is pleased to announce the final instalment of the Asian Boys Trilogy – ***Happy Endings, Asian Boys Vol 3***.

Adapted for the stage by multiple award-winning author, poet and playwright, Alfian Sa'at, ***Happy Endings*** attempts to address social attitudes towards some of the most pressing issues of the day.

Based on Johann S. Lee's *Peculiar Chris*, Singapore's first gay novel, ***Happy Endings***' arrival to the theatre scene comes in the midst of a public debate concerning the decriminalisation of homosexuality; raising issues regarding the place of morality and equal rights in a developing society. The staging of *Happy Endings* comes at an apt time, providing a timely occasion for reflection, provocation and debate.

Directed by W!LD RICE's founding artistic director, Ivan Heng, ***Happy Endings*** presents a remarkable cast comprising of Singapore Theatre's emerging young talents alongside long time collaborators Karen Tan, Lim Kay Siu, and Robin Goh. Introducing Ben Xiao as Chris, Timothy Nga as Kenneth and Koey Foo as Nicholas, ***Happy Endings*** promises to be an unforgettable journey that will set your mind ablaze.

### ***THE STORY OF HAPPY ENDINGS***

1992. In their final year at Junior College, Christopher Han and his best friends – Sylvia, Kenneth and Nicholas, discover the ecstasy and pain of falling in love. Later, while serving his National Service, Chris has a relationship with his army officer, Samuel, before leaving for London for further studies.

2007. After 15 years abroad, Chris returns to a Singapore that he barely recognises. The city has become a veritable gay wonderland, while repressive attitudes remain as entrenched as ever. Sylvia has become part of the leading vanguard for change. Kenneth has renounced his past, refashioning himself as a voice for conservatism. And Nicholas is partying like there's no tomorrow...

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Haunted by the ghosts of the past, and yet enchanted by the spectres of the present, Chris is torn between nostalgia for a more innocent decade, and hope for a wiser future. Timely, urgent, joyful and moving, **Happy Endings** asks what it means for a society to come of age.

## **THE ART & LIFE SESSIONS**

*“I believe that in a great city, or even in a small city or a village, a great theatre is the outward and visible sign of an inward and probable culture.” ~ Sir Laurence Olivier.*

WILD RICE invites the public to engage with the most interesting, forward-thinking minds of our “concerned citizenry” regarding the issues that are raised, questioned and challenged by **Happy Endings**.

To be held at **Function Room 3** of Drama Centre @ National Library, Level 3, these sessions will see experts from the spheres of law to art participating in topics that concern a developing society.

All forums are FREE admission, on a first-come-first-seated basis.

### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July 5.30pm**

#### **PECULIAR LEGISLATION: 377(A) - Symbol or Statute?**

When the penal code revisions were first planned in late 2006, it was suggested that ‘unnatural sex’ would be decriminalised for heterosexuals, but that homosexuals acts would remain a crime under Section 377A. The ensuing months saw furious debate in the press about morality and the law, equal rights and the public good.

We assemble various expert commentators – from lawyers, civil society activists, and pro-family organisations – for a lively, spirited discussion on the various issues that surround 377A.

### **Sunday 22nd July 5.30pm**

#### **PECULIAR ADAPTATIONS: Crossing Mediums – Fresh Afterlife or The Living Dead?**

From page to stage, and print to screen; from the film-musical to the novelized blockbuster. Art forms have continually influenced one another, and at times have lent themselves to incarnations in other forms. How do we engage with questions of creative bankruptcy and validate the new work as an original in itself? Is the source material enriched or diminished in such a process?

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We question a panel of artists – including novelists, playwrights and film directors – on the process of translating a work from its native medium to uncharted territory.

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July 5.30pm**

**PECULIAR INSPIRATIONS: The Muse - Of Sirens And Tyrants**

Many of our artists have been greatly influenced by other Singaporean artists. From actual mentors to literary forebears, the creative process often involves a dialogue with the past. But how do we engage with traditions without inheriting its baggage? Do we climb on the shoulders of giants, or find our dwarfed selves obscured by their long shadows?

We round up a group of artists – including poets, playwrights and filmmakers – to discuss the book, the play, or the film, that first made them want to embark on their artistic careers.

## **FEEDBACK FRIDAYS**

In addition to this, WILD RICE will also be organizing **Feedback Fridays** – a post-show discussion following each Friday evening performance – which allows the public to meet the artists and discuss the play for a more enriching theatre going experience.

## **REVIEWS FOR ASIAN BOYS VOL. 1 AND VOL. 2**

*"Alfian Sa'at's is the voice that will not let you forget. A skilful marriage of political and personal concerns, Landmarks hits perfect pitch." ~ Clarissa Oon, SPH The Straits Times Life!*

*"Scintillatingly funny and thought provoking." ~ Cheah Ui Hoon, SPH The Business Times*

*"Go. Not because it's gay theatre, it's great theatre." ~ Pang Khee Teik, Kakiseni.com*

*"ASIAN BOYS VOL. 1 marks an important step and direction for gay theatre in Singapore, at the very opportune moment where a more visible and burgeoning gay existence in Singapore is trying to find its precarious position in society."*

*~ James Koh, The Flying Inkpot, 2001*

*"LANDMARKS: ASIAN BOYS VOL. 2 is important: it is the first local play I can remember that attempts to address the whole experience of being gay rather than just some subsection or other of homosexuality...it does not sell out to meaningless camp as do many...to give way to the inevitable, a landmark production."*

*~ Matthew Lyon, The Flying Inkpot, 2004*

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## **HAPPY ENDINGS FAST FACTS**

<b>Written By</b>	:	Alfian Sa'at
<b>Directed By</b>	:	Ivan Heng
<b>Cast</b>	:	Karen Tan as Sylvia Genevieve Lim as Young Sylvia Robin Goh as Jo / Muse Ben Xiao as Young Jo / Chris Timothy Nga as Kenneth Pierre Goh as Young Kenneth Koey Foo as Nicholas Galvin Yeo as Young Nicholas Hansel Tan Kuang Ming Lim Kay Siu as the Old Man
<b>Set Design</b>	:	Ivan Heng
<b>Lighting Design</b>	:	Mac Chan
<b>Costumes</b>	:	Moe Kasim
<b>Hair &amp; Wigs</b>	:	Ashley Lim
<b>Show Dates</b>	:	from 13 July 2007 (Preview Shows on 11 and 12 July)
<b>Venue</b>	:	Drama Centre Theatre @ National Library, Victoria Street
<b>Time</b>	:	8pm (Tuesday to Friday) 3pm & 8pm (Saturdays and Sundays) No shows on Mondays
<b>Ticket Prices</b>	:	from \$33.00
<b>Public Sale</b>	:	from 21 May 2007

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<b>Discounts</b>	:	<b>EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT</b> SAVE 15% when you purchase tickets before 13 June. Discount available for all ticket categories.
<b>Group/Corporate/ School Bookings</b>	:	<b>AVAILABLE FOR BOOKING NOW!</b> For bookings, please contact Debbie Ng at <a href="mailto:debbieng@wildrice.com.sg">debbieng@wildrice.com.sg</a> or <b>6292 2695</b> , for group / corporate bookings of 20 or more tickets.
<b>Ticketing Agent</b>	:	SISTIC.com Pte Ltd
<b>Public Sale Tickets are available through</b>	:	SISTIC Website <a href="http://www.sistic.com.sg">www.sistic.com.sg</a> SISTIC Hotline (65) 6348 5555 SISTIC Authorised Agents Islandwide
<b>Press Contact</b>	:	Mercury Marketing & Communications Charmaine Ho <a href="mailto:charmaine@mercurymc.com">charmaine@mercurymc.com</a> T: 6332 9168 Tjin Lee <a href="mailto:tjin@mercurymc.com">tjin@mercurymc.com</a> T: 6332 9166

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11 – 29 July 2007  
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## APPENDIX A – Sponsors & Partners

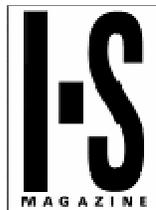
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