

- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

OWN TIME OWN TARGET

25 Feb 2009 – It's time to “fall in” for a full-blown staging of Singapore's newest hit comedy ***OWN TIME OWN TARGET*** by WILD RICE. Back by popular demand after a 100% sell-out run at last year's OCBC Singapore Theatre Festival, audiences can look forward to reliving their National Service, in all its familiarity and strangeness, at the Drama Centre Theatre from 8 - 25 July 2009.

Two decades since Michael Chiang's *Army Daze*, ***OWN TIME OWN TARGET*** updates the National Service genre by presenting a wickedly funny double-bill, featuring Laremy Lee's comedy *FULL TANK* and Julian Wong's musical *BOTAK BOYS*. These two talented young playwrights went through NS and survived to tell their tales, offering their affectionate but cheekily satirical observations - reminding us all why we love it, hate it, fear it and ultimately, can't live without it!

In keeping with the OCBC Singapore Theatre Festival's vision of nurturing new works, these irresistible comedies have undergone a process of play development, helmed by director Jonathan Lim and WILD RICE's resident playwright Alfian Sa'at. They are now better than ever – featuring new songs, new jokes, new cast members and a new set design!

Reporting for duty is a versatile all-male cast featuring both ‘old birds’ like Nelson Chia (*A-Go-Go Princess*), Rodney Oliveira (*The Campaign to Confer the Public Service Star on JBJ*), Brendon Fernandez (*The Importance of Being Earnest*) and Koey Foo (*Happy Endings: Asian Boys Volume 3*) as well as ‘new birds’ Ghazali Muzakir, Dwayne Lau, Hang Qian Chou and Terence Tay (*Living With Lydia*).

SYNOPSIS

FULL TANK by Laremy Lee

In the midst of an island-wide terrorist manhunt that's whipped both ministries and the media into a frenzy, jaded Sergeant Leroy and his motley crew hijack a tank from an Armour exercise and go AWOL, embarking on a joyride through Singapore's streets! Are they criminals or heroes? Or just plain crazy? Join them on a hilariously bizarre and uniquely Singaporean road-trip, where they encounter madcap ministers, truth-seeking journalists, China hostesses, hot mamasans and gila gurkhas !

BOTAK BOYS by Julian Wong

BMT is every Singaporean male's nightmare. Or is it? Experience the heartache and hilarity, the bravery and the rude shocks as Justin and his blur bunkmates sing and dance their way through Pulau Tekong! Will Justin ever make friends? Will they all survive the tekan? And will Justin's little secret be exposed? Relive the sweat, tears and laughter of your BMT days with this heart-warming musical comedy about becoming a man, SAF-style!!

ABOUT OWN TIME OWN TARGET 2008

The sell-out hit of the OCBC Singapore Theatre Festival 2008 was a triple-bill featuring two exciting new playwrights, Julian Wong and Laremy Lee, working in close association with dramaturg Alfian Sa-at and director Jonathan Lim to write the next chapter of Singapore's army story. It featured the premières of the short plays *Radio Silence* and *Full Tank* by Laremy Lee and the musical *Botak Boys* by Julian Wong.

PRESS QUOTES

“...Full Tank was worth the price of admission all on its own.”

The Flying Inkpot

“...hot favourite from the OCBC Singapore Theatre Festival offerings, with its cast performing to a full house for all of its run.”

Youth.sg

“Much credit goes to the cast for their confident, energetic and over-the-top performances”

Youth.sg

ABOUT NATIONAL SERVICE

National Service is the compulsory conscription of all male Singapore citizens and permanent residents who have reached the age of 18 years old. Upon enlistment, these young men spend three months at Basic Military Training (BMT) on Pulau Tekong, then proceed to serve the country at various army units for up to two years as Full Time National Servicemen. Subsequently, they return to civilian life but continue to be liable to serve up to 40 days a year as National Servicemen, or 'reservists'. They continue to be eligible for call-up till they reach the age of 50, and are required to complete at least 13 years of training.

FAST FACTS

Title	:	Own Time Own Target (Full Tank & Botak Boys)
Playwrights	:	Laremy Lee (Full Tank) Julian Wong (Botak Boys)
Directed by	:	Jonathan Lim
Set Design	:	TBC
Lighting Design	:	Kala Raman
Costume Design	:	TBC
Hair Design	:	TBC
Sound Design	:	TBC
Cast	:	Brendon Fernandez Rodney Oliveiro Nelson Chia Koey Foo Ghazali Muzakir Dwayne Lau Hang Qian Chou Terence Tay
Venue	:	Drama Centre Theatre @ National Library Building
Dates	:	Wednesday 8 July – Saturday 25 July 2009
Tickets	:	Available through SISTIC from Monday 13 April 2009: SISTIC Hotline 6348 5555 www.sistic.com.sg SISTIC Authorised Agents
Prices	:	\$29, \$39, \$44, \$49 (8.00pm Previews 8 & 9 July) \$34, \$44, \$49, \$54 (8.00pm Tue, Wed, Thur & Sun) \$39, \$49, \$54, \$59 (8.00pm Fri & Sat and 3.00pm Sat & Sun) Prices exclude \$3 SISTIC handling fee.

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- Early Bird** : **13 April – 6 May 2009**
20% Discount for OCBC Credit/Debit Cardmembers
15% Discount for General Public
- MDA Advisory** : TBA
(2008 Advisory: Strong Language (16 years & above))
- Press Contact** : Sirius Art
Mary Bernadette Lee, Assoc PR Manager
T: 6324 8720
mary@siriusart.com.sg
Aryanti Kamar, PR Manager
T: 6324 8721
aryanti@siriusart.com.sg

BIOGRAPHIES

PLAYWRIGHT – LAREMY LEE (FULL TANK)

Laremy only started writing actively in 2006, but a mixture of dogged determination and sheer luck has helped him along the way.

He experienced his first taste of professional theatre with the staging of *Full Tank* and *Radio Silence* at the OCBC Singapore Theatre Festival 2008.

Other writing credits include *The Duty*, a ten-minute monologue on soldiering in Singapore, which was placed second for the night at the Short + Sweet Singapore 2007 Wildcards (Day Two).

Laremy graduated from the National University of Singapore with an Honours degree in English Literature, and is an alumnus of the University Scholars Programme. He currently teaches English Literature and English Language at his alma mater, Saint Gabriel's Secondary School.

PLAYWRIGHT – JULIAN WONG (BOTAK BOYS)

Julian has worked on *Beauty World*; *Shanghai Blues*; *The Soldier and His Virtuous Wife*; *The Hypochondriac*; *Singin' A Different Tune* with Darius Tan; *Just Judee*; *Dreaming, Wide Awake: Songs of Jason Robert Brown*; *Moonbird*; NDP 2008; *The Wizard of Oz* and *It's My Life*, amongst many others. Some of his upcoming projects include Aesop's Fabulous Fables; *If There're Seasons* and *Duck & Dive*.

Besides writing *Botak Boys*, Julian composed and arranged the score and was music director for its première at the OCBC Singapore Theatre Festival 08.

An accompanist and violinist, Julian plays regularly for weddings, corporate events and concerts. He was awarded the Outstanding Musician of the Year at the South Shropshire & Church Stretton Arts Festival 2003.

DIRECTOR – JONATHAN LIM

This actor, director and playwright graduated from NUS Theatre Studies and Sydney's National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA).

Directing credits include the Sydney premiere of Ovidia Yu's *Woman In A Tree On A Hill*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, the charity extravaganza *A Nation In Concert*, the mandarin play *A Right Ritual*, *Two Modern Kyogen* (Sydney), *MURDER D.i.Y*, *Pontianak – A Love Story*, *Quiet The Gorilla* and *Pan Island Expressway* for Theatreworks, *Dick & Ja: The Early Years* and the Singapore Day 2007 concert in New York City's Central Park. He is also Artistic Director of STAGES and creator of the long-running parody show *Chestnuts*, which is in its 11th year.

For WILD RICE, he has written *Oi! Sleeping Beauty!!* and directed *Homesick, Jack & The Bean-sprout!, On North Diversion Road* and *Mad Forest* (Best Ensemble, 2008 Life! Theatre Awards).

Acting credits include *Into the Woods, Kampong Amber, Bent, Aladdin, The Fantasticks, Romeo and Juliet, The Magic Fundoshi, Lao Jiu: The Musical, Tempest* and *Second Link* (Best Ensemble, 2007 Boh Cameronian Awards). He was nominated for Best Actor (2002 Life! Theatre Awards) for his one-man show *Emerald Hole* (directed by the late Krishen Jit). Film credits include *Chicken Rice War* (Hugo A-Go-Goh), *881, Invisible Children* and Royston Tan's *CUT*.

Other writing credits include the musical *Women on Canvas, Flight Fever* (the 2004 SIA musical), *People Say Got Ghost* and *Emerald Hole*. His poetry and prose also appear in *CAPSULE* and *The Best Of Singapore Erotica*. His first book *Between Gods and Ghosts* is in bookstores now.

CAST – BRENON FERNANDEZ

Brendon is delighted to be in another WILD RICE production!

His other productions with the company include *The Importance of Being Earnest* (2009) *Apocalypse: Live!* (part of the OCBC Singapore Theatre Festival' 08), *Boeing Boeing* (2005) and *Landmarks: Asian Boys Vol. 2* (2004).

Brendon has also performed in such plays as *The King Lear Project: A Trilogy* (part of both the Kunsten Festival des Arts in Brussels and the Singapore Arts Festival, 2008), *Everything But the Brain* (2005), *Bent* (2003), *Shakespeare's R&J* (2001) and *Rent* (2001).

He was also the male lead for the short film *Not Here*, which premiered at the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival in March this year, the largest showcase for Asian cinema in the U.S.

When he's not acting, Brendon is an Academic Associate at Republic Polytechnic's Centre for Culture and Communications.

CAST – RODNEY OLIVEIRO

Rodney became a full-time actor during his university days. 6 years hence, he still feels extremely lucky to have worked with an eclectic mix of directors and actors. Some of his most memorable roles were in productions like *Geylang People in the Net* (Theatre Practice), *Bud and Spring Awakening* (spell#7), *BOTE* (TNS), *The Morning People* (Toy Factory), *Prelude to a Kiss* (Action Theatre) and *The Campaign to Confer the Public Service Star On JBJ* (WILD RICE) and is a part of the Chestnuts comic trio. He last appeared in *Dark Knuts: Welcome to Avenue Quantum*. On TV, he was in the main cast of the popular teen-drama, *Spin* and the ground breaking 'Singapore Short Story Project' anthologies.

CAST – NELSON CHIA

An actor and director, Nelson has performed in over 50 stage and screen productions and directed, adapted and written over 15 stage productions for the past 16 years. He has a BA (Hons) in Theatre Studies from NUS and MA in directing from Goldsmiths College, London.

Nelson was formerly Resident Artist with The Theatre Practice and lecturer and Head of Theatre Department at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. He is currently a lecturer at NUS Theatre Studies Programme, an Associate Artistic Director of Toy Factory Productions Ltd., an Associate Artist with The Substation and core member of ensemble company *A Group Of People*.

CAST – KOEY FOO

Koey graduated among the top of his class from San Francisco State University with a degree in Theatre Arts. Since then, he has actively pursued a career in theatre both onstage and offstage. Koey was last seen on stage as *Number 11* in Blank Space Productions' *Das Experiment* at the Far East Pavillion. Memorable past performances include "David" in Kelvin Tong's *Do Not Disturb* on ArtsCentral, "Older Nick" in WILD RICE's *Happy Endings: Asian Boys Vol. 3*, and "Oscar" in Checkpoint Theatre's *A Language of Their Own* for which he was nominated for Life! Theatre Awards' Best Actor in 2007.

CAST – GHAZALI MUZAKIR

Ghazali is currently a film major student at NTU's School of Art, Design and Media. He also works part-time at Sentosa. Juggling between classes and work, he still manages to squeeze in time to be part of theatrical productions.

Highlights of his theatrical experience include performing in China in a tour production of *Play.Play* (The Theatre Practice) and winning Best Ensemble at the 8th Life! Theatre Awards for *Madfores*" (Young & WILD, a division of WILD RICE).

Apart from acting, he has dabbled in stage managing, visual designing, marketing and playwriting. Nowadays, he finds himself busy making short films.

CAST – DWAYNE LAU

Dwayne was part of the original cast of *Own Time Own Target* 2008 and is immensely excited for the opportunity to reprise his role once again in the upcoming re-run. His recent acting credits include *Scarecrow in The wizard of Oz*; *Aesop's Fabulous Fables* and *Fairytale Heart* (I Theatre) that will be running in April this year. Apart from performing, Dwayne heads the Creative Ministry Team at his Church, Calvary Assembly of God and is the resident drama coach of St Anthony's Canossian Secondary School. He also coaches at Meridian Junior College where He helped the school clinched a coveted Gold Medal during the SYF Drama Competitions last year. OTOT is Dwayne's 2nd collaboration with WILD RICE and he is definitely looking forwards to weeks of Military Madness!

CAST – HANG QIAN CHOU

Qian Chou returns in the rerun of this madcap comedy, after originating the roles of Benjamin and other wacky characters in its hugely successful premiere run in 2008.

He graduated from the NUS Theatre Studies Programme and is a proud member of the pioneer cohort of young & WILD.

He has also acted in *If There're Seasons... 2007 & 2009*, *Sunshine Girl*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Short+Sweet Singapore 2007 & 2008*, *The Hypochondriac*, *Beauty World*, *Mad Forest (Best Ensemble, 8th Straits Times LIFE! Theatre Awards)* and *On North Diversion Road*.

He was also the Stage Manager for *Dark Knuts: Welcome to Avenue Quantum* and Production Manager for *Mad Forest*.

CAST – TERENCE TAY

It was back in 1993 when Terence Tay took on his debut role as an innocent young boy inflicted with the highly contagious chicken pox virus in the Christmas program, *All I Want This Christmas*. From the moment he stepped on stage, a different bug caught hold of him, and he knew that this was what he was meant to do – to infect the world not with chicken pox, but with his passion in acting.

Terence then went on to nab the coveted role of Max in the highly acclaimed sitcom, *Living With Lydia*, which spanned four very successful seasons in Singapore, Hong Kong, Canada and the United States. He has also since appeared in numerous plays which includes *The Perfect Ganesh* (SRT), *Dark Knuts: Welcome to Avenue Quantum* (Stages) and the previous sold-out run of *Own Time Own Target*, part of the OCBC Singapore Theatre Festival'08.