



young & W!LD, a division of W!LD RICE
presents
FAMILY
by Leow Puay Tin
Opens 24 March 2010 | Drama Centre Black Box

-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

10 February 2010 – W!LD RICE is proud to present the second cohort of **young & W!LD** in their debut performance of **FAMILY** by Leow Puay Tin.

This powerful and haunting play traces the life of Tan Neo, a woman who comes to Singapore in 1920 to start a new life, only to lose her husband, then all her sons. Matriarch of a house of widows – nine women cast adrift in a man's world – Tan Neo realises the pain and sacrifice that forges a strong family. For them, blood will always be thicker than tears. But generations later, in today's Singapore, how much does that family remember?

FAMILY stars the ten new actors of the second **young & W!LD** cohort, directed by Jonathan Lim. After nine months of training, these emerging young actors aged between 19 and 26 are ready to meet the Singapore audience! This production sees them playing multiple roles across gender, age and race to create three generations of the Yang family.

ABOUT FAMILY

“Blood is thicker than tears.”

Previously staged by Theatreworks and directed by Ong Keng Sen as *The Yang Family* in 1996, **FAMILY** traces events in the 90-something year life of Tan Neo, offering a vivid and moving picture of a woman so much at the mercy of fate but who found remarkable strength in herself and her children. It is a tale of how families survive, and how generations change. It echoes the rapidly transforming cultural landscape of our island, vividly evoking how we have journeyed from the humble pioneer spirit of our forefathers to the affluent cosmopolitanism we live in today.

Journeying through the generations, this play reveals not only our history, but how history has shaped our present. It reminds us to value the sweat and blood spilt by our forefathers (and foremothers) while celebrating the dynamism and adaptability of our contemporary culture.

In a challenging ten-week rehearsal process, the ten Chinese, Malay and Eurasian actors of **young & W!LD** defy the barriers of race, gender, age, and culture to breathe new life into this powerful ensemble play, creating a world of compelling imagery and shifting scenescapes. Learning new languages and dialects, challenging gender roles, and digging deep into their own families' pasts for



inspiration and life-material, these young actors stretch their skills and imaginations to inhabit almost a century of human drama.

Directed by Jonathan Lim (*Own Time Own Target, Homesick, Chestnuts*)

Music & Sound design by Bang Wenfu (*Chestnuts, Forbidden City, If There're Seasons...*)

Set design by Nicholas Li (*Homesick, Beauty & The Beast, Kumar the Queen*)

Lighting design by Yeo Hon Beng (*H is for Hantu*)

Starring

Kamal Abdul Rahim, Faizal Abdullah, Sarah Cheng-De Winne, Johannes Hadi,
Adi Jamaludin, Grace Khoo, Yin Mei J J Lenden-Hitchcock, Elizabeth Loh,
Glory Ngim, Grace Soo

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. This innovative actor-training programme aims to prepare Singapore's next generation of actors for the professional theatre scene. Over the past 9 months, these 10 young actors have explored the many facets of theatre practice, developing their craft through a combination of theoretical exploration, critical discussion and practical project work.

Led by W!LD RICE's Associate Artistic Director Jonathan Lim, and trained by guest practitioners like Nelson Chia and Koh Wan Ching, **young & W!LD** have explored texts from Greek tragedy, Japanese noh, Shakespeare, Tennessee Williams and Molière.

In addition to practical skills, the **young & W!LD** philosophy also stresses the role that actors (and theatre) play in shaping our society. The **young & W!LD** actors learn that as artists, they also have a responsibility to the audience and the wider public – to illuminate, to educate, to communicate, and to share in the common experience.

Beginning with **FAMILY**, **young & W!LD** enters a new phase of their development – by presenting a triptych of powerful and provocative productions that will entertain, challenge and most of all, communicate with local audiences.

W!LD RICE is proud to invest in the future of Singapore theatre by playing its part in developing our next generation of multi-skilled, socially-aware and creatively-versatile theatre practitioners. We hope you will join us in our efforts by supporting the work of these exciting new performers.



FAST FACTS

Title	:	Family
Written by	:	Leow Puay Tin
Directed by	:	Jonathan Lim
Music & Sound by	:	Bang Wenfu
Set Design	:	Nicholas Li
Lighting Design	:	Yeo Hon Beng
Costume Design	:	young & W!LD
Hair Design	:	Ashley Lim
Make-Up	:	M.A.C
Producer	:	Tony Trickett
Cast	:	Kamal Abdul Rahim Faizal Abdullah Sarah Cheng-De Winne Johannes Hadi Adi Jamaludin Grace Khoo Yin Mei J J Lenden-Hitchcock Elizabeth Loh Glory Ngim Grace Soo
Show Dates	:	24 – 28 March 2010
Time	:	8pm (Weds – Sun) 3pm (Sat & Sun)
Venue	:	Drama Centre Black Box, National Library Building 100 Victoria Street, Level 5
Ticketing Agent	:	SISTIC.com Pte Ltd SISTIC Hotline 6348 5555 www.sistic.com.sg SISTIC Authorised Agents
Ticket Prices	:	\$30 (Standard) \$20 (Concession for Students, Senior Citizens & NSFs) Prices exclude \$3 SISTIC handling fee

young & WILD

A DIVISION OF WILD RICE

- Early Bird** : 22 February – 10 March 2010
 20% Discount for OCBC Credit/Debit Cardmembers
 15% Discount for General Public
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BIOGRAPHIES

LEOW PUAY TIN – Playwright

Leow Puay Tin is one of Malaysia's finest writers for the theatre. All her texts, most notably *Ang Tau Mui*, *Three Children* and *Family*, delve insightfully and incisively into the Malaysian psyche through the lives of individuals. Performances of her texts have been staged in Malaysia, Singapore and abroad by distinguished directors such as Krishen Jit, Ong Keng Sen and Ivan Heng.

A performer as well as a writer, her works experiment with improvisation during performance, non-linearity, modular writing, the use of songs, and the incorporation of 'borrowed' non-fictional writings by other writers, such as autobiography, biography and magazine articles.

In addition to creating texts for performance, Puay Tin also devises performances through collaborations with theatre practitioners, students and non-performers to come up with shows such as *Bags of Stories* and *Tikam-tikam: Merdeka*. Currently Puay Tin heads the Department of Performance & Media at Sunway University College.

JONATHAN LIM - Director

Jonathan Lim is an actor, director, playwright and a graduate of both the NUS Theatre Studies Programme and Sydney's prestigious National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA). He is currently Artistic Director of young n W!LD, W!LD RICE's youth actor training division, and also his own theatre company STAGES. He is also the creator, writer and star of the long-running live parody sketch comedy show *Chestnuts*, which is in its 12th year. Most recently wrote, directed and starred in *Broadway 4 Suakus* and *Chestnuts Does Christmas: Like A Hard Candy Virgin*.

For W!LD RICE he has directed *Own Time Own Target* (Best Ensemble nomination, 2009 Life! Theatre Awards), Alfian Sa'at's *Homesick* and the hit panto *Jack & the Bean-sprout!*. For young & W!LD, he directed *On North Diversion Road* and Caryl Churchill's *Mad Forest* (Best Ensemble winner 2008 Life! Theatre Awards). As an actor, he has appeared in W!LD RICE's *Aladdin*, *The Visit of the Tai-Tai*, *Connect the Dots* (Hong Kong City Festival), *The Magic Fundoshi* and *Second Link* (2007 Cameronian Award for Best Ensemble).

Other directing credits include the family musical *H is for Hantu*, Ovidia Yu's *Woman In A Tree On A Hill* (Sydney premiere), 3 installments of the charity extravaganza *A Nation In Concert*, the inaugural Singapore Day concert in New York's Central Park, 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*, *Dick Lee's Sunshine Girls* and *Five Pillars*, *One Roof*, a groundbreaking new musical revue for the 25th anniversary of Total Defence.



His acting credits include *Into the Woods*, Dick Lee's *Kampong Amber*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, *Bent* (Best Play, 2004 Life! Theatre Awards), *The Fantasticks*, *Little Violet and the Angel*, *Lao Jiu: The Musical*, the kabuki classic *Sukeroku: Flower of Edo*, Lord Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet* and Caliban/Ferdinand/Gonzalo in *Tempest*, *Magic Box*, all 3 runs of the Mandarin comedy *The Soldier and His Virtuous Wife* (The Theatre Practice) and *Das Experiment: Black Box*. He was nominated for Best Actor in the 2002 Life! Theatre Awards for his one-man show *Emerald Hole*. He played Hugo A-Go-Goh in *Chicken Rice War* and starred in Royston Tan's anti-censorship short film *CUT*. He also appears in *881* and Brian Gothong Tan's debut feature film *Invisible Children*.

His writing credits cover an impressive scope, ranging from WILD RICE's 2006 hit pantomime *Oi! Sleeping Beauty!!*, musicals like *Women on Canvas* and *Flight Fever* (the 2004 SIA musical), plays like *People Say Got Ghost* and *Emerald Hole* (both directed by the late Krishen Jit), and scripts on AIDS awareness, smoking cessation, sex education for parents and healthy eating for the Health Promotion Board. His poetry and prose appeared in *CAPSULE* and *The Best Of Singapore Erotica*. His first book *Between Gods And Ghosts* (Times Editions, Marshall-Cavendish Intl.) is in bookstores now.

TONY TRICKETT – Producer

Born in Liverpool, Tony moved to Singapore from the UK in 1997. Prior to joining WILD RICE, he worked as a management consultant, specialising in leadership coaching and team-development for multinational companies in London and subsequently in South East Asia.

Tony acted as consultant in the establishment of WILD RICE and became a Director of the company in 2001. In August 2002, Tony was appointed as Executive Director, responsible for the overall management of the company. His portfolio encompasses finance, administration, marketing, fund-raising and sponsorship.

Tony is the Producer for all WILD RICE productions. Shows include: *Boeing Boeing*, *Oi! Sleeping Beauty!!*, *The Magic Fundoshi*, *Jack & The Bean-Sprout!*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Asian Boys Vol. 3*, Eleanor Wong's *The Campaign to Confer the Public Service Star on JBJ*, *Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs* and the 20th Anniversary production of *Beauty World*. Tony also produced the 2006 and 2008 OCBC Singapore Theatre Festivals, which he conceived together with Artistic Director Ivan Heng.

KAMAL ABDUL RAHIM

Kamal have been performing ever since he was in school. He has always been actively involved in his school choir, Malay drama society as well as the school first ever musical where he landed one of the lead roles. It carried on to ITE where he was given main roles for ITE's production of *Sing to the Dawn* and *A Midsummer's Night Dream*. His ability was recognised by Tony Quek (director of both productions)



and was given an opportunity, along with other gifted students, to be a part of DramaPlus Arts Youtheatre.

He became an intern followed by doing Assembly Education Programs (AEPs) with DramaPlus. After completing his National Service, he got heavily involved in theatre by performing in AEPs, crewing as well as volunteering for front of house. He also performed in both seasons of Short And Sweet Singapore. His credits involved *Peter Pan*, *Show Off*, *Life*, *O'Glamour*, *Balada Tun Fatimah* and *Gentarasa 2007* for Wayang Warehouse, Faithworks, Teater Artistik, Teater Kami and People's Association Mesra. Other than theatre, he has also done TV commercial, TV series and short films, most notably being Suria's telemovie of *Metefora: The Café* done by DV Studios. He is currently teaching Speech and Drama for Acts of Life.

FAIZAL ABDULLAH

Faizal is always looking. But nobody really knows what he is looking for. Having discovered the joy of performing from an early age, this budding actor, writer and director – in no particular order, impulsively chose a career that he had a passion for and would probably enjoy doing. Before long, he realised that he would have to give up his ambition of one day owning a Jaguar (a very expensive car). Having made peace with that reality – reluctantly – he is determined to make a difference through theatre.

After spending three years in LASALLE-SIA College of the Arts studying Theatre Arts, Faizal patriotically and whole-heartedly spent the next two years of his young life serving the country in the Singapore Armed Forces. That experience really put things into perspective for him and he is now ready to throw himself headlong into theatre.

He was an active performer in LASALLE, in school and out. He has performed with Agni Koothu, Theatre of Fire (*1915*, *Mines*, *Romusha*) under the direction of renowned director Elangovan. He also frequently acts for Act 3 Theatrics (*Born in Syonan*, *3 Little Pigs...*, *Pressure Cooker*). A budding writer, Faizal has dabbled in playwriting and hopes his plays would see the light of day and have an effect on people.

To date, Faizal has only directed himself. One day, maybe one day, he would have the opportunity to make people laugh, cry and think – in no particular order. And he would still be looking.

SARAH CHENG-DE WINNE

Sarah is currently pursuing a double major B.Soc.Sci (Hons) in Psychology and Theatre Studies at the National University of Singapore, and is currently enrolled in young & W!LD where she hopes to improve her performance skills. She was recently a cast member of Jonathan Lim's *Five Pillars, One Roof* (2009), previously playing Sharon in Spare Room's *It's My Life* (2008), and Kirrian in Stella Kon's *A*



Christmas Wish (2008). Last year, she endeavoured into directing and songwriting for an original musical, *Saving Grace: A Musical for the Mind* (2008), produced by the NUS Students' University Scholars Club (USC). She is currently rehearsing for Christine Chong's *Something Blue* (2009) and continues playwriting and songwriting and in her own time.

A trained singer with a decade of choral experience, Sarah is now a vocalist for the NUS Jazz Band, and was the artistic director of NUS Jazz Band Concert *Treat Her Like A Lady!* (2009) as part of the NUS Arts Festival 2009.

JOHANNES HADI

Johannes Hadi is a kid trapped in an apparently post-pubescent body. An aspiring actor, he is proud and extremely excited about honing his theatrical skills at young & WILD, under the tutelage of Jonathan Lim. His dramatic experiences are mainly school-based, acting for the Anglo-Chinese School (Independent) Drama Club and Independent Stage for the last 5 years, with an external production of Neil Simon's *God's Favourite* with local youth theatre company Upstage in 2007. He has also participated in two Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) Drama competitions in 2005 and 2008, and was awarded with Gold and Gold With Honours respectively.

As a singer, Johannes trains vocally at Playground Studio and has lent his tenor voice to several gigs, at venues including the HomeClub, Prince of Wales Backpackers' Bar, Liang Court Mall, the Singapore Make-A-Wish Foundation charity concerts and even several Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) events.

Johannes seeks constantly to refine his mastery in his chosen craft and strives to establish himself in the Singapore theatre scene one day.

ADI JAMALUDIN

Adi's interest in acting started when he was in polytechnic, where he acted in two productions *Hide It* and *The Office*, which was produced and directed by Alin Adli Mosbit. After graduating from Ngee Ann Polytechnic with a diploma in Mass Communication in 2006, Adi decided to pursue a career in acting. His first opportunity came when Sentosa introduced roving characters in its museum, where he was trained by Jalyn Han. In 2007, Adi took on several school tours by Stagehandz, Stagecraft and D'rama. He has since worked with various directors Danny Jow, Rila Melati, Christina Sergeant, Ruby Lim Yang, to name a few. He has also been nominated Best New Talent for the Short and Sweet Festival 2007.

GRACE KHOO

Forced to take speech and drama classes at five owing to suspected autism (unfounded parental fears, as it turned out), Grace has since grown to love drama and performance. Currently a 4th year Theatre Studies major at the National



University of Singapore, her past production credits include *Eyeshadow* (Lead Actress; 2005) and *Swingers!* (Playwright and Director; 2007) for Raffles Hall productions, the National Museum of Singapore's commissioned *Fight Club* (Actress; 2007), Short+Sweet 10 Minute Play Festival (Actress/Director for *Mandarin 10*). For her graduation production at NUS, she was Assistant Director to Professor Grant Shen for the staging of Chinese opera classic *The West Wing (Xi Xiang Ji)*. The production also toured Shanghai in May 2008 where Grace played the lead role of Scarlet.

Grace is proud to be a member of young and W!LD and hopes to hone her craft under the programme. Apart from acting, her other interests include performance theory, drama in education, playwriting and film. With young and W!LD as a stepping stone, Grace aspires to equip herself with the proper skills and experience to eventually go into theatre directing (her true calling!).

YIN MEI J J LENDEN-HITCHCOCK

Yin Mei has had a love affair with theatre for as long as she can remember and like all affairs, it has had its on/off moments. However, she is glad that young & W!LD has given her an opportunity to rekindle this love. She mingles her passion for theatre with tap dancing and singing and hopes to be able to perform all three at once in a musical. She was last seen in SDEA's Outreach Programme's *The Other Me*, SRT's Little Company's *Hot Christmas* and the NUS Theatre Studies Programme's *Twilight of the Golds*. Other theatre credits include The Musical Theatre's *Broadway Baby: A Sondheim Revue* and The Stage Club's *Habeas Corpus*. When Yin Mei is not performing she can be found teaching Drama to impressionable teenage minds and mucking around in the mud playing contact rugby.

ELIZABETH LOH

Elizabeth got her theatre head start while training under DramaPlus Arts, Youtheatre. Besides learning to act, she also learnt the ropes behind the curtains, she has done crew work with DramaPlus Arts, Wayang Warehouse, Toy Factory, and at Gateway Entertainment, she went from crew member to being their stage manager for *Magic of Love* which toured around Asia and USA.

In between production work, acting with various companies like ACT 3 Theatrics, rehearsals, friends, family and gym sessions, she likes to dance anything from hip hop to ballet. Singing will be the next challenge that awaits her.

GLORY NGIM

Glory acts, sings, dances, hosts and voice-overs. Currently majoring in Theatre Studies at NUS, she dances Jazz (ATOD Gold Medal) and Latin-Ballroom



(Technique Level), and sings with the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music Chamber Singers.

Stage credits include *Beauty & The Beast* (WILD RICE), *On Display* (2009 Short+Sweet Festival), *Singapore Love Letters* (ACTION Theatre), *It's My Life!* (Spare Room Pte Ltd), *West Side Story*, *Rashomon*, *Beauty & The Beast: A Gothic Fable* (ACSian Theatre), *The Guys* (2006 Singapore Youth Festival 'Play of The Year'), and *ACSian Theatre* in South Africa, an exhilarating song, dance and theatre tour that toured schools in Johannesburg.

Screen credits include hosting for *SCOOPS!* infotainment series (OKTO Channel), and voiceover for *The Cut-Out Family* animation series (Klik TV). Glory can be seen as Evelyn, the female lead in *The Band*, an OKTO drama series that premiered January 2010. Catch Glory next in Ayub Khan-Din's *All In Good Time: Rafta Rafta* (HuM Theatre), in April/May 2010.

GRACE SOO

Grace Soo got involved with theatre when she started at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada while she studied psychology, biology, English literature, and education. Her theatre experience thus far is mostly Canadian since she first appeared in *The Wizard of Oz* (Kinsmen, 2004). Some previous roles she has played include Mrs. Smith in *The Bald Soprano*. Apart from enjoying backstage work, Grace also writes, and once co-wrote a play *Heterotopia* (Critical Stage Company). Her involvement in the social issues theatre group, Project Outreach for Secondary School Education, has interested her in creating works that educate and entertain all at once. Grace is excited to be young and Wild and hopes to develop her acting, writing, and directing abilities.