



– FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 29 MARCH 2010

WILD RICE, Singapore’s leading professional theatre company is 10 in 2010.

To celebrate this milestone, the company will present ‘10 WILD YEARS’, a season of exciting, inspiring and groundbreaking works that represent the best of WILD RICE.

Animal Farm, Boeing Boeing, Cinderel-LAH!, and Emily of Emerald Hill are four iconic works that have captured the public’s imagination over the past decade. True to the company’s mission of making theatre exciting and relevant, this season of revivals will see these productions reworked and revitalised for today’s audiences.

10 WILD YEARS is presented by OCBC Bank, which has been a major sponsor of WILD RICE through the years.

“We set out to make theatre that Singaporeans could identify with and be proud of,” said Artistic Director Ivan Heng, “The past 10 years has been, first and foremost, a celebration of Singapore’s theatre talent. We feel privileged to have been able to provide a platform for the creation of works with a distinctive voice and a point of view. And not least for making theatre sexy!”

Over the years, WILD RICE has presented 112 productions, 1401 shows, 56 new and original works, 2 Singapore Theatre Festivals, 13 tours to 7 cities, as well as education and outreach programmes, reaching out to an audience of more than half a million in Singapore and around the world.

The Company’s achievements include:

- The Singapore Theatre Festival
- The Annual WILD RICE Pantomime
- Touring Productions
- CHILL! PADI, our education and outreach programme
- young & WILD, our training programme for young actors 16 years and above
- FIRST STAGE!, our exposure programme for children between 5 to 11 years

- **The Singapore Theatre Festival**

In August 2006, WILD RICE presented the inaugural Singapore Theatre Festival, a biennial new writing festival committed to develop, present and promote Singapore Theatre. Renamed the OCBC Singapore Theatre Festival in 2008, this festival has to date produced 19 World Premieres of new Singapore writing, and has been hailed as “the main event in the world of the arts” (SPH The Straits Times 2006), and the Blockbuster Event of the Year (Today, 2008).

In conjunction with the Singapore Theatre Festival, a series of forums was held, called ‘The Art and Life Sessions’. The aim of the forums was to expand the space for public discourse in Singapore, using the plays in the festival as starting points for discussions. Invited panelists included artists, academics as well as prominent members from civil society.

▫ **The Annual WILD RICE Pantomime**

The Pantomime is a British tradition, which WILD RICE has re-interpreted for local audiences. Singapore's best theatrical talents take to the stage at the end of the year, to play characters from familiar fairy tales, entertaining children and adults alike. These children's classics are given a irreverent Singaporean twist, and are an anticipated event during the festive season, featuring new original songs, elaborate choreography, fantastic sets and award-winning costume designs.

▫ **Touring Productions**

WILD RICE was the first Singaporean theatre company to fly the Singapore Flag in Melbourne, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Moscow. WILD RICE is committed to touring its shows internationally to raise the profile of Singapore theatre, to create an international awareness of its unique productions, and to engage in creative dialogues with the international arts community.

▫ **CHILL! PADI**

CHILL! PADI is our Education and Outreach Division, dedicated to school-children, youth and the community at large. Since 2002, CHILL! PADI's exciting arts education and outreach programmes have brought theatre magic to over 200 schools, for the benefit of more than 250,000 children and youth.

▫ **young & WILD**

young & WILD is our division 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. The first cohort won the 2007 LIFE! Theatre Award for Best Ensemble for their roles in *Mad Forest* and were nominated again at the 2008 LIFE! Theatre Awards for *The Hypochondriac*.

▫ **FIRST STAGE!**

FIRST STAGE! trains and coaches participants through their first performing experiences on the professional stage, working alongside Singapore's finest actors and entertainers. Since its 2003, more than 100 children have benefited from FIRST STAGE!, and they have performed for an audience of more than 60,000.

OUR SEASON

ANIMAL FARM

21 APRIL – 08 MAY 2010

DRAMA CENTRE THEATRE

Directed by **Ivan Heng**

Written by **George Orwell**

Adapted by **Ian Wooldridge**

Starring **Lim Yu-Beng, Pam Oei, Gene Sha Rudyn, Yeo Yann Yann, Gani Abdul Karim, Denise Tan, Daniel Jenkins, with music by Jenson Koh**

“A vivid, satisfying and excellent production. I loved it.”
— Radio New Zealand

Something is going on at Manor Farm. The animals have overthrown Farmer Jones and, with the pigs as leaders, have created a new state for themselves, *Animal Farm*.

In the hands of Director Ivan Heng, Orwell’s deceptively simple tale of barnyard betrayal gets down on all fours to deliver exciting, powerful and urgent theatre. With a stunningly agile cast, innovative design and original live music, this *Animal Farm* is styled for the 21st century. Vital, sexy and wickedly funny, WILD RICE’s internationally acclaimed award-winning production will have you squealing for more!

Production History:

- 18 April - 04 May 2002, Jubilee Hall, Singapore
- 03 - 21 September 2003, Jubilee Hall, Singapore
- 06 - 10 March 2004, Te Papa Soundings Theatre, Wellington, New Zealand (New Zealand International Arts Festival) – all 7 performances sold-out
- 05 - 07 March 2010, Shouson Theatre, Hong Kong Arts Centre (38th Hong Kong Arts Festival) – all 5 performances sold-out

Awards:

2002 DBS LIFE! Theatre Awards Winner:

- Best Director – Ivan Heng
- Best Acting Ensemble
- Honourable Mention (Music) – Philip Tan

“A triumph! Four legs good, your two legs better go and see.”
— SPH The Straits Times LIFE!, Singapore

“Dare I say it, as good as the book.”
— The Guardian



WILD RICE Celebrates 10 WILD YEARS

Presented by OCBC Bank



BOEING BOEING
05 AUGUST – 04 SEPTEMBER 2010
DRAMA CENTRE THEATRE

Directed by **Glen Goei**

Written by **Marc Camoletti**

English Version by **Beverley Cross**

Starring **Adrian Pang, Emma Yong, Chermaine Ang, Wendy Kweh, Daniel York & Siti Khalijah**

“The man beside me was laughing so hard, I honestly thought he was going to have a heart attack. ★★ ★ 1/2”

— The Flying Inkpot

Bernard, a swinging bachelor thinks he can easily juggle his three air stewardess girlfriends. Everything goes like clockwork. That is, until their timetables are rescheduled...

WILD RICE's phenomenally successful smash hit comedy returns! Directed by Glen Goei, with an astounding cast led by Adrian Pang, a spanking new set and ravishing lingerie, this is *Boeing Boeing* revamped and reloaded.

This hilarious, side-splitting, roll-down-the-aisles comedy is guaranteed to lift your spirits and take you on a mile-high adventure you'll never forget! So book your seats early and don't miss this flight.

Production History:

- 01 - 21 October 2002, Jubilee Hall, Singapore
- 07 - 24 April 2005, Victoria Theatre, Singapore

“If you see one show this year... this has got to be IT.”

— GetAsia.com



CINDEREL-LAH!

25 NOVEMBER – 11 DECEMBER 2010

ESLPANADE THEATRE

Directed by **Ivan Heng**

Written by **Selena Tan**

Music by **Elaine Chan**

Starring **Emma Yong, Sebastian Tan, Chua Enlai, Darius Tan, Neo Swee Lin, Lim Kay Siu, Najip Ali & Gurmit Singh**

“Cinderel-lah!’s greatest achievement was that there was something in it for both adults and children.”
— SPH The Straits Times LIFE!

Poor Cindy lives in a crowded HDB flat with her Evil Mahjong-Obsessed Step-Mother and two Ugly Step-Sisters. All she dreams about is going to The Grand Fish Ball where Prince Char Mee will choose a bride. Fairy God Makcik appears, and Cindy is transformed from “no taste” to “fashion ace” and off to The Ball she goes! But will the Prince be smitten? And will her dreams come true?

With an imaginative local spin on the world's favourite fairytales, the WILD RICE musical pantomime is the must-see family show of the festive season. *Cinderel-LAH!*, our very first pantomime, is upsized for the EspLAHnade!! Don't miss it on any account!

Production History:

- 03 – 28 December 2003, Jubilee Hall, Singapore

“It brought out the true essence of a pantomime. I daresay everyone enjoyed every minute of it.”
— The Flying Inkpot

EMILY OF EMERALD HILL**03 – 13 MARCH 2011
ESPLANADE THEATRE**Directed by **Glen Goei**
Written by **Stella Kon**
Starring **Ivan Heng**

"Absolutely brilliant... Undoubtedly one of the best performances I have ever seen!"
— HK Magazine, Hong Kong

Born in 1940s Singapore, Emily is an abandoned girl child. But by dint of her native wit and cunning, becomes the matriarch of a distinguished household and Singapore society's "hostess with the mostest". But, at what cost?

Emily of Emerald Hill was WILD RICE's very first production and has captured the hearts of audiences and critics with 98 performances around the world.

As a fitting finale to 10 WILD YEARS, Glen Goei directs Ivan Heng in an exhilarating new production at the Esplanade Theatre, offering fresh insights into one of the most well-loved heroines, and a glimpse of the decadent glory days of the Singaporean Peranakan community.

Production History:

- 06 – 17 October 1999, Dramalab Actors Studio, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 20 – 25 January 2000, Fringe Club, Hong Kong (*Star Alliance City Festival*)
- 25 April – 10 May 2001, Jubilee Hall, Singapore
- 26 August – 16 September 2002, Jubilee Hall, Singapore
- 28 February 2002, Adelaide Arts Mart, Australia
- 29 October – 02 November 2002, George Fairfax Studio, Victorian Arts Centre, Melbourne, Australia (Melbourne International Arts Festival)
- 19 – 23 November 2002, CINARS, Montreal, Canada

A total of 98 performances to date

"When Glen Goei and Ivan Heng come together in the name of Art, any play can be expected to deliver wit and sensitivity."
— 8DAYS, Singapore



TICKETS

Tickets for all shows will be available from SISTIC
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Annexe 1

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

WILD RICE is 10 in 2010!

To celebrate this happy occasion, we are delighted to present '10 WILD YEARS', a season of exciting, inspiring and groundbreaking works representing the best of WILD RICE, and that has captured the public imagination through the past decade.

With *Animal Farm*, *Boeing Boeing*, *Cinderel-LAH!*, and *Emily of Emerald Hill*, this sensational season promises to tickle and touch you, and to rekindle your favourite memories of theatre magic. Tell your friends, family and colleagues about the shows, or better yet, plan to come with them. It's a wonderful opportunity to introduce them to the fabulous Company that you keep.

And if you haven't been to a WILD RICE show, this is your chance to catch our smash hits. You will experience and understand why our proudly home-grown works have endeared us to an audience of more than half a million people in Singapore and around the world.

These 10 years would not have been possible without our sponsors, supporters and Angels. They have championed our relentless quest for excellence, and made it possible for us to take the risks a credible theatre company has to. Importantly, they have enabled us to keep to our mission of creating theatre of the highest quality that is affordable and accessible. And for that, we are deeply grateful.

Last but not least, thank you dear audience for loving WILD RICE.

This is a season that's dedicated to you.

My best, as ever,

Ivan Heng
Founding Artistic Director



Annexe 2

ABOUT WILD RICE

WILD RICE was founded in 2000 by Ivan Heng, an internationally acclaimed and award-winning theatre practitioner, and is recognized today as one of Singapore's leading professional theatre companies.

Our mission is to provide an open forum for the shared experience of theatre; celebrating our diversity, reflecting on the problems and possibilities of our times, and presenting productions that inspire, challenge and entertain.

A commitment to the highest standards informs every aspect of WILD RICE's creative work which is first and foremost a celebration of Singapore theatrical talent. By producing and touring productions that are distinctively local in flavour and yet universal in vision and concerns, the company creates memorable experiences for audiences in Singapore and the World.

The company's exciting and varied programming for the main stage includes:

- New and original works.
- New productions of the Singapore repertoire.
- New interpretations of the World's Classics.

The company's mission to build a theatre culture also extends to the wider community through the following divisions:

- CHILL! PADI, our Education and Outreach division for schools and community audiences.
- FIRST STAGE!, a project which nurtures young talents from 5 – 16.
- young & WILD, which identifies and develops Singapore's young theatre professionals.

WILD RICE is committed to touring its shows internationally to raise the profile of Singapore theatre, to create an international awareness of its unique productions, and to engage its artists and collaborators in creative dialogues with the international arts community. Its distinctively Singaporean productions have won great acclaim at major international arts festivals in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand and Russia

In August 2006, WILD RICE presented the inaugural SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL, a biennial new writing festival committed to develop, present and promote Singapore Theatre. Renamed the OCBC SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL in 2008, this festival has to date produced 19 World Premieres of new Singapore writing, and has been hailed as "the main event in the world of the arts" (SPH The Straits Times 2006), and the "Blockbuster Event of the Year" (Today, 2008).

WILD RICE is a Singapore Registered Charity (no. 01579)