



MAN SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL 2011

3 – 21 August 2011

Drama Centre, National Library Building

Press Release

31 May 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAN INVESTMENTS ENDORSES THE SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL 2011

31 May 2011 – WILD RICE today announced its plans to stage the third Singapore Theatre Festival in partnership with Man Investments.

WILD RICE is delighted to welcome Man Investments as the Title Sponsor for the ***Man Singapore Theatre Festival 2011***, as well as Patron Sponsor of WILD RICE's 2011/12 Season. This alliance marks an exciting new partnership between a world-leading independent alternative investment manager and an independent theatre festival of new writing.

The ***Man Singapore Theatre Festival 2011*** will take place from 3rd to 21st August at the Drama Centre. With 6 productions representing some of the most bold, ambitious and thought-provoking plays made in Singapore, the ***Man Singapore Theatre Festival 2011*** promises to be the most talked about theatrical event of the year.

Tim Peach, Executive Director and Head of Sales - South East Asia of Man Investments said,

"We are very excited to play a part in the festival this year. WILD RICE has successfully raised the profile of Singapore theatre internationally over the years with its high quality and innovative productions. Man is a strong supporter of the Arts around the globe, and we are proud of our lead role in the effort to maintain such an important cultural event in the Singapore Arts calendar."

Man's sponsorship continues its tradition of supporting many awards, charities and initiatives around the world, including sponsorship of the Man Booker Prizes and the Man Asian Literary Prize.

Ivan Heng, Artistic Director of the ***Man Singapore Theatre Festival 2011*** said,

"This sponsorship is significant because it is an endorsement of the important work of the Singapore Theatre Festival. It gives us the confidence to pursue our commitment to present engaging and enriching plays that give voice to the issues of the day, and to nurture the talent of the future."



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ENGAGING THE NOW, EMBRACING THE FUTURE

Politics, race, religion, sex and love take centre-stage at the *Man Singapore Theatre Festival 2011*, reflecting the most current and pertinent issues of the day.

The Festival line-up proudly presents three world premieres. Alfian Sa'at's *Cooling Off Day* is a timely reflection on the electrifying 2011 General Elections. Based on real-life interviews, this production will give voice to the private thoughts of voters and candidates against the backdrop of party rhetoric and public opinion. Huzir Sulaiman's *The Weight of Silk on Skin* offers an intimate and moving reflection on the nature of love and loss. First-time playwright Joel Tan's funny and compelling *Family Outing* tests the limits of unconditional love in a family as instantly recognisable and dysfunctional as our own.

The *Man Singapore Theatre Festival 2011* will also feature a new "ENCORE" season of recent new works produced in the past two years, but which we believe deserve a larger audience. Chong Tze Chien's *Charged* and Alfian Sa'at's *Nadirah* explore with honesty and courage the issues of religion and ethnicity in Singapore.

Ivan Heng said,

"These plays speak of the Singaporean experience in fiercely passionate and powerful ways. But far from merely naval gazing, they are very universal and human – reflecting the anxieties and fears, the hopes and dreams of our times."

The plays will be directed by some of the most experienced directors working in Singapore today including Glen Goei, Claire Wong, Jonathan Lim and Zizi Azah Abdul Majid.

On the acting front, Ivan Heng will once again tread the boards in Huzir Sulaiman's *The Weight of Silk on Skin* following his triumphant return to the stage as *Emily of Emerald Hill* at the Esplanade in March 2011. A veritable galaxy of stars will be performing in this year's festival including Siti Khalijah Zainal, Jo Kukathas, Lim Kay Siu, Neo Swee Lin, Karen Tan, Tan Kheng Hua, Rodney Oliveiro, and Najib Soiman.

Recognising that theatre does not begin or end with the rise and fall of the curtain, many activities have been planned. These include *This is Home?*, a series of workshops on Forum Theatre by its most active and prolific practitioners, Drama Box, culminating in the presentation of an original theatre piece to a live audience by the workshop participants. The *Festival Club* will present a brand new after-hours programme in an intimate cabaret setting, that will introduce audiences to emerging talents in other theatrical forms, including stand-up comedy and musical theatre.

The Art and Life Sessions will return, comprising a series of forums where prominent public personalities will be invited to discuss issues inspired by the plays in the Festival. Past sessions have included spirited exchanges with academics, politicians, civil society activists and various other social commentators.



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The *Man Singapore Theatre Festival 2011* will also witness the official launch of play collections by Alfian Sa'at and Chong Tze Chien, two of Singapore's leading playwrights.

Whether you are a fan of well-written, realistic dramas set within complex families (*Family Outing*, *Nadirah*), hard-hitting political theatre (*Cooling Off Day*, *Charged*), or intimate reflections on the nature of love (*The Weight Of Silk On Skin*), the *Man Singapore Theatre Festival 2011* promises a tantalising buffet of homegrown riches.

THE FUTURE

WILD RICE intends for the *Man Singapore Theatre Festival* to play a significant role in the Singapore Arts scene. The festival aspires to make a contribution to the cultural, intellectual and social life of Singapore through the following:

- Encouraging the creation of new Singapore plays in an optimistic, supportive and open environment.
- Invigorating the Singapore theatre scene through inspiring interest and appreciation for new plays, by artists and audiences alike.
- Creating a literary and artistic legacy for future generations of Singaporeans.
- Promoting the international image of Singapore as a vibrant, creative city.

Committed to developing and showcasing the quality and vibrancy of contemporary Singapore Theatre, the *Man Singapore Theatre Festival* aims to be a national and international festival that will attract not just Singaporeans, but theatre audiences from all over the world.

Prepared by:
Ivan Heng, Artistic Director
25th May 2011



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FAST FACTS

Title : **Man Singapore Theatre Festival 2011**

Festival Director : Ivan Heng

Festival Dramaturg : Alfian Sa'at

Festival Producer : Tony Trickett

Venue : Drama Centre

Date : 3 – 21 August 2011

3 – 7 August 2011

***The Weight of Silk on Skin
Charged***

10 – 14 August 2011

Cooling Off Day

12 – 14 August 2011

This is Home?

17 – 21 August 2011

***Family Outing
Nadirah***

Ticketing Agent : SISTIC.com Pte Ltd
SISTIC Hotline (65) 6348 5555
SISTIC Website www.sistic.com.sg
SISTIC Authorised Agents

Ticket Prices : S\$35 to S\$59 (excluding SISTIC charge)

Early Bird : 13 June – 13 July 2011
20% Discount for OCBC Credit & Debit Cards
15% Discount for General Public

Public Sale : 14 July 2011



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With Support from : Arts Fund



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APPENDIX 1

ABOUT MAN

Man is a world-leading alternative investment management business. It has expertise in a wide range of liquid investment styles including managed futures, equity, credit and convertibles, emerging markets, global macro and multi-manager, combined with powerful product structuring, distribution and client service capabilities. Man manages US\$71.0 billion.

The original business was founded in 1783. Today, Man Group plc is listed on the London Stock Exchange and is a member of the FTSE 100 Index with a market capitalisation of over £4.5 billion.

Man Group is a member of the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index and the FTSE4Good Index. Man also supports many awards, charities and initiatives around the world, including sponsorship of the Man Booker literary prizes and the Man Asian Literary Prize.

APPENDIX 2

ABOUT THE SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL

Conceived by Artistic Director Ivan Heng and presented by WILD RICE, the ***Singapore Theatre Festival*** is a biennial Festival committed to the development and presentation of new Singapore writing. The festival takes place in August, the month when Singapore celebrates National Day and it is in this context that theatre artists and the public will be encouraged to engage in a conversation about theatre, Singapore and the world.

Challenging, bold, innovative, exciting and new, these plays explore questions of identity, nationality, politics and home. These are stories about how we came to be and what it means to be living in Singapore here and now. Collectively, they present complex and interesting ideas of our national psyche and identity.

The first two editions of the ***Singapore Theatre Festival*** presented 19 world premieres by living local playwrights. They also involved a total of 13 Directors, 84 performers and as many people in the design and production teams. The festivals also brought together 7 theatre companies including, Drama Box, panggung Arts, TheatreWorks, The Theatre Practice, Spell #7, The Substation and WILD RICE.

A total of 23,020 audience members from all ages, races and walks of life attended the festival. In addition to the plays, audiences also participated in various forums, discussing and debating the pressing issues of the day in the Art and Life Sessions. Feedback Fridays, theatre workshops and a forum theatre event created by members of the public also enabled a deeper understanding and engagement of the plays and the creative process.

A supportive media, consisting of the press, radio and television provided extensive coverage through interviews, listings and reviews. Significantly, there were also many articles with in-depth analyses and debate, delving not only into the dramatic potential of each play, but also about the festival's impact on the social and political fabric of society.



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PRAISE FOR THE SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL:

*"It was a year in which ambitious, heart-felt local productions outshone lacklustre, lumbering art imports...the main event in the world of the arts this year was arguably WILD RICE's inaugural **Singapore Theatre Festival** in August."*

SPH The Straits Times LIFE!

*"Statistics compact the inaugural **Singapore Theatre Festival** to three weeks, nine plays and 11,500 sold tickets. But the expanded version is more interesting: as many as 200 people showing up for the various forums held to discuss topics raised by the plays;... the issues being debated island-wide; and the demonstration that the arts are an integral part of an urban society, not to be relegated to suburbia."*

The Business Times

*"The fact that the **Singapore Theatre Festival** could premiere five new works to intense audience response is testament not only to the wealth of writing talent here but also the audience's hunger for substantive theatre offerings...Let's hope that this return to form after the wilderness years is no temporary aberration, but the next big leap in the ever-changing face of Singapore drama."*

SPH The Straits Times LIFE!

"The Blockbuster Event of the Year"

TODAY



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APPENDIX 3

THE PRODUCTIONS

World Premiere

THE WEIGHT OF SILK ON SKIN R(18)

Presented by **WILD RICE**

In collaboration with **Checkpoint Theatre**

Written by **Huzir Sulaiman**

Directed by **Claire Wong**

Starring **Ivan Heng**

Venue: **Drama Centre Theatre**

Dates: **3-7 August 2011**

"It's only when you pull her dress over her head that you can begin to understand the weight of silk on skin; to divine, in the lines left by the seams on her bare shoulders, how you will leave, and when, and with what rehearsed words of deep regret."

He's an arbiter of elegance at the end of the road, rewinding a life of cold beauty and harsh truths. His distractions are many: the erotic allure of women; neat whiskey in cut crystal; the matchless charms of a well-cut suit. But what happens when memories aren't beautiful and style can't conquer everything? And if he can't regain lost time, can he still reclaim lost loves?

Lyrical, biting and powerful, *The Weight of Silk on Skin* is a timely meditation on the sensual pleasures and pain of a man's life.

The *Weight of Silk on Skin* brings together Ivan Heng, Huzir Sulaiman and Claire Wong, three of Singapore theatre's most celebrated artists in a sexy new collaboration that promises to get you hot under the collar.

"Sulaiman's script is lyrical, nuanced and highly literate..."

The Arts Magazine on *Occupation*



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Encore
CHARGED

Presented by **Teater Ekamatra**

Written by **Chong Tze Chien**

Directed by **Zizi Azah Abdul Majid**

Starring **Serene Chen, Yazid Jalil, Guna Morgan, Aidli 'Alin' Mosbit, Rodney Oliveira, Anwar Hadi Ramli, Hatta Said and Tan Shou Chen**

Venue: **Drama Centre Black Box**

Dates: **3-7 August 2011**

Winner, Best Original Script, Chong Tze Chien
Best Supporting Actor (Nomination), Yazid Jalil
Best Supporting Actress (Nomination), Aidli 'Alin' Mosbit
Best Supporting Actress (Nomination), Serene Chen
2011 Life! Theatre Awards

It's Chinese New Year and the only soldiers in camp on guard duty are Malay or Indian. That is, until Corporal Russell Lim turns up. Things start turning ugly when the insults start flying and all that's taboo becomes fair game. By the end of the night, a Chinese and a Malay soldier are found dead.

Enter Investigating Officer Victor de Souza, who needs to uncover the chain of events that have led to the tragedy.

The stakes are high because the incident has led to an eruption of tension between the Malay and Chinese communities in Singapore. Yet with each interview that he conducts, he plunges deeper into a labyrinth of slippery half-truths and sly omissions.

Can Officer de Souza arrive at the truth? Or will he be confronted with something so terrible that there is no other choice but a cover up?

Set in the claustrophobic confines of the army, Chong Tze Chien's CHARGED interrogates the thorny issue of race with brutal honesty and a refreshing lack of political correctness.

"Charged is an effective piece of political theatre...explosive and volatile yet sensitive and nuanced....The script crackles with electricity because it feels authentic."

The Flying Inkpot

"This gutsy play tackles truths with great writing..."

SPH The Straits Times LIFE!



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World Premiere

COOLING OFF DAY

Presented by **WILD RICE**

Written by **Alfian Sa'at**

Directed by **Jonathan Lim**

Starring **Jo Kukathas, Neo Swee Lin, Tan Kheng Hua, Rodney Oliveiro, Najib Soiman**

Venue: **Drama Centre Theatre**

Dates: **10-14 August 2011**

Why do you vote? What issues influence your vote? What does citizenship mean to you?

In the months leading up to the 2011 watershed elections and its aftermath, playwright Alfian Sa'at interviewed various Singaporeans to discover their responses to these questions. The interviews were conducted across a wide political spectrum, from election candidates, to pro-establishment civil servants, to die-hard opposition supporters, to young people who would cast their votes for the first time. These voices, ranging from the comic to the serious, from the fearful to hopeful, form a portrait of Singaporeans concerned about their role in shaping the country's future.

With the script assembled from the transcript of real-life interviews, *Cooling Off Day* is a play done in the style of testimony theatre. Performed by an ensemble cast of six, playing characters from 17 to 70, the play reveals how political views are not just the hot air of coffeeshop talk.

"Writer Alfian Sa'at is the voice that will not let you forget... A skillful marriage of political and personal concerns...Landmarks hits perfect pitch."

SPH The Straits Times LIFE! on *Landmarks: Asian Boys Vol. 2*

"Memorable witty punchlines and insider jokes abound in Happy Endings...but there is a sense of heartfelt urgency in Alfian's words—the real star of the play...This play is, as it should be, for everyone."

TODAY on *Happy Endings: Asian Boys Vol. 3*



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Workshop and Performance **THIS IS HOME?**

Presented by **Drama Box**

Directed by **Koh Hui Ling**

Venue: **12 - 14 August 2011**

Date: **Drama Centre Function Room & National Library Building Plaza**

What does “home” mean to you? Do you consider Singapore your home?

After a successful run in 2007, Drama Box returns with the second installment of this workshop, where we hope to delve deeper into the issues of *Home, Citizenry and Belonging*. This piece of theatre will represent the voices and thoughts of Singaporeans on these issues. Led by Koh Hui Ling, Artistic Director of NeNeMas (education arm of Drama Box), participants will share personal stories and create short plays from them. These will culminate into a performance after 3 days of workshops and will be performed in front of a live audience.

Employing the techniques of Forum Theatre, the audience gets to participate in the outcome of the play, and the entire community explores and discovers what home means to everyone.

“The endless stream of volunteers to subsequently offer suggestions for interventions is evidence of how the production had captured the audience’s imagination.”

The Flying Inkpot on *Trick or Threat*

“Exhilarating,, Engaging”

The Flying Inkpot on *Trick or Threat*



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World Premiere

FAMILY OUTING

Presented by **WILD RICE**

Written by **Joel Tan**

Directed by **Glen Goei**

Starring **Karen Tan, Lim Kay Siu, Galvin Yeo, Koey Foo and Johannes Hadi**

Venue: **Drama Centre Theatre**

Dates: **17-21 August 2011**

The Choos aren't used to being sad, even with a death in the household. A year after their son Joseph dies, the family — HDB auntie Doris, civil servant Amos and their neurotic youngest son, Brandon — pops a bottle of bubbly in good Christian cheer to celebrate his life and times. But a knock at the door promises to change things forever. A young man called Daniel arrives to announce the truth of a Joseph the family had never known.

What follows is intense family drama as the Choos and Daniel struggle to reconcile the facts of Christian life—hellfire and damnation— with the Joseph they've lost, want to remember and are already beginning to forget. Meanwhile, Joseph looks on and comes to terms with being dead, filling the loneliness of the grave with fond memories of his family.

Family Outing is both a playful romp and a moving biography of a family examining — with laughs along the way—some painful facts of life: the burdens of unconditional love and of saying goodbye.

Directed by Glen Goei, WILD RICE is proud to present Joel Tan's first full-length play.



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Encore **NADIRAH**

Presented by **Teater Ekamatra**

Written by **Alfian Sa'at**

Directed by **Zizi Azah Abdul Majid**

Starring **Siti Khalijah Zainal, Neo Swee Lin, Tony Quek, Shida Mahadi and Hatta Said**

Venue: **Drama Centre Black Box**

Dates: **17 – 21 August 2011**

Winner, Best Original Script, Alfian Sa'at
Winner, Best Supporting Actress, Neo Swee Lin
Best Actress (Nomination), Siti Khalijah Zainal
2010 Life! Theatre Awards

Nadirah is the popular and articulate Vice-President of her university's Muslim Society. She convenes inter-faith meetings where students talk about how they should respect one another's spaces.

Nadirah is also the product of a mixed marriage. Her father is a Malaysian Malay and her mother a Singaporean Chinese who had converted to Islam.

One day, Nadirah's mother tells her that she's going to re-marry. To a man who's not Muslim. Nadirah's best friend Maznah, believes that everyone has a right to happiness. Her senior, Farouk, however, is outraged and urges her to do 'the right thing'.

How does Nadirah make peace between various religions in school when she's having the same problems at home? Can mother and daughter worship different gods? Will love or faith prevail?

Funny, insightful and moving, Alfian Sa'at's award-winning *Nadirah* wrestles with the complex issue of religion by grounding it in a story about a quirky family and the ties that bind.

Performed in Malay and English (with English subtitles)

"The political incorrectness that drives much of the humour in the play is so funny because it rings so true."

The Flying Inkpot

"Neo Swee Lin delivered a sensitive, grounded performance as Nadirah's mother, easing us into the considerable complexities of her finely written character... and by the end it was clear that her surface tranquility was the product of the deepest of running waters."

The Flying Inkpot



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“Perasaan gembira, marah, kecewa, sedih dan ketenangan hati terasa...Pengarang naskah, Alfian Sa’at, berjaya membawa penonton menikmati pelayaran perasaan dengan mata penanya yang tajam dan pemikirannya yang luas. Kekuatan pementasan Nadirah, produksi Teater Ekamatra ini, adalah naskhahnya.

(One is awash with joy, anger, disappointment, sadness and finally, tranquility...playwright Alfian Sa’at succeeds in taking the audience on an emotional journey with his sharp writing and sweeping imagination. The power of the production was in the script.)”

Berita Harian

APPENDIX 4

ACTIVITIES IN & AROUND THE FESTIVAL

- **‘The Art and Life Sessions’**

What is it in real LIFE that inspires the ART on stage?
 How does ART relate to, engage with, and resonate with LIFE?

The Art and Life Sessions is a series of free lively forums about the urgent issues of the day. Engage with some of the most forward thinking minds of “the concerned citizenry” - personalities, politicians, artists, activists and academics - to exchange views and opinions about the pressing issues of our times.

6 Aug ART: Charged / LIFE: On Race — Can We Handle the Hard Truths?

It’s been forty-five years since the Pledge was written, and since we declared that we would be one united people. But why is race still such a sensitive topic? Will there always be ‘primordial sentiments’ and ‘tribal allegiances’ that are resistant to nation-building? Is racial harmony forged through gestures of appeasement, rather than a genuine understanding among different races? And is the spectre of racial riots still lurking around the corner, under our skin?

13 Aug ART: Cooling Off Day / LIFE: On Politics — A Brave New World?

The 2011 General Elections was widely acknowledged to be a watershed in the country’s political life. Charged national issues took centre stage, including calls for greater transparency and a multi-party democracy. What had changed? What kinds of thresholds have we crossed? Almost 100 days (98 cooling off days, to be exact) since the elections, where are we now? Have we forged ahead? Or have we just returned to business as usual?

20 Aug ART: Family Outing / LIFE: On Morality — The Good, The Bad, and The Referees

What are our ‘core values’? Who decides what they are? How are they affected by various historical trends, such as Victorian morality in our legal codes, ‘Asian Values’ as a response to ‘Westernisation’ and recent movements such as religious revivalism? What is socially acceptable in today’s Singapore? Are we still the conservative society the powers that be seem to suggest? And is globalization changing the rules of the game?

Time: 5.30 - 7pm

Venue: Drama Centre Foyer



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Moderators & Participants to be confirmed

- **Forum Theatre and Performance**

Members of the public can take on a starring role in *This is Home?*, a stimulating acting workshop and forum theatre performance by Drama Box that culminates in a free public showing on 14 August 2011 at the National Library Building Plaza.

- **The Festival Club: Talk Cock Sing Song and Stand Up for Singapore!**

Fabulous and fun, the Festival Club is an intimate space where the audience, artists and friends can relax and chill with a drink and munch on light bites before and after performances.

The Club transforms to an after-hours Cabaret on Friday and Saturday nights, where new talents in stand-up comedy and musical theatre will be discovered. *Stand Up for Singapore* and *Talk Cock Sing Song* promise a raucous fun evening hosted by local theatre personalities.

- **Book Launches at the *Man Singapore Theatre Festival***

The *Man Singapore Theatre Festival* will witness the official launch of play collections by two of Singapore's leading playwrights.

WILD RICE's Resident Playwright, Alfian Sa'at will launch two collections of plays, including the celebrated *Homesick*, *The Optic Trilogy* and *The Asian Boys Trilogy*. The festival will also feature another celebrated local playwright's new and sophomore collection of plays titled "Four Plays: Chong Tze Chien".

- **Talkback Thursday / Feedback Friday**

Your feedback plays a critical part in the development of new writing, and this is an opportunity to share your experience of the play, with the playwright and director, and with other members of the audience. Performances on Thursday nights in the Black Box, and Friday nights in the Theatre will be followed by a "Meet the Artists" session in the respective theatre venues.

Dates: 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 & 19 August 2011

Time: Immediately after each show

Venue: Black Box & Theatre

APPENDIX 5

BIOGRAPHIES OF PLAYWRIGHTS & DIRECTORS

HUZIR SULAIMAN – PLAYWRIGHT (*THE WEIGHT OF SILK ON SKIN*)

Huzir Sulaiman works across different media, art forms, and genres, telling stories that allow people to access complex ideas in simple, personal, human ways. Huzir writes for theatre, film, television and newspapers; directs for the stage and screen; and acts.

A co-founder and Joint Artistic Director of Checkpoint Theatre, he last directed *The Good, The Bad, and The Sholay* in March 2011 to critical acclaim. He teaches playwriting at the National University of Singapore. As a playwright, his works include the satire *Atomic Jaya* (1998), as well as Singapore Arts Festival commissions *Occupation* (2002) and *Cogito* (2007). A collection of his work, *Eight Plays*, is published by Silverfish Books.

Huzir is also the co-founder and Creative Director of Studio Wong Huzir, a brand communications consultancy that specialises in designing experiences. As a consultant, he has worked as the Creative Director of the observation deck on the 124th floor of the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, and completed a book last year for Temasek Holdings on the history of the investment firm. Studio Wong Huzir also publishes POSKOD.SG, an online magazine about Singapore.

Huzir was educated at Princeton University, where he won the Bain-Swiggett Poetry Prize. He was a 2007 Yale World Fellow.

CLAIRE WONG – DIRECTOR (*THE WEIGHT OF SILK ON SKIN*)

A lawyer, theatre director, actress and filmmaker, Claire is a co-founder of Studio Wong Huzir and serves as its Senior Consultant. She is also the Head of Corporate Communications for Rodyk & Davidson, Singapore's first and oldest law firm, and is a Joint Artistic Director of Checkpoint Theatre.

Claire graduated from the National University of Singapore with a Bachelor of Law (Hons). While practising law, she also carved a career in theatre as an actress and director. Claire has received training in both Asian and Western performing arts, and obtained her Master of Fine Arts from Columbia University. She has played leading roles in landmark Singapore stage productions and has performed internationally in major arts festivals.

Claire co-directed the Singapore Arts Festival commission *Occupation* which was described by the press as a “triumph of a production”. She has received the Life! Theatre Award nomination for Best Director. Recently, she directed *wo(men)* and *Power of Notions/Notions of Power*, both commissioned by the NUS Arts Festival. Claire writes, directs and performs for the camera, and was recently seen on screen in *Blue Mansion*.

She has taught at the National University of Singapore, at both the Faculty of Law and in the Theatre Studies department.

ALFIAN SA'AT – PLAYWRIGHT (*COOLING OFF DAY & NADIRAH*)

Born in 1977, Alfian Bin Sa'at is currently a Resident Playwright with WILD RICE. His plays with the company include *Homesick*, *Landmarks: Asian Boys Vol. 2*, *Happy Endings: Asian Boys Vol. 3*, *Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs* and *Beauty & the Beast*. He is also an Artistic Artist with Teater Ekamatra, a Malay-language theatre company. His published works include two collections of poetry, *One Fierce Hour* and *A History of Amnesia*, as well as a collection of short stories, *Corridor*.

Alfian has been nominated six times for Best Script at the Life! Theatre Awards, eventually winning in 2005 for his play, *Landmarks*, and later in 2010 for his play, *Nadirah*. He has also been nominated for the Kirayama Asia-Pacific Book Prize and the Singapore Literature Prize for *A History of Amnesia*.

In 2001, Alfian won the Golden Point Award for Poetry as well as the National Arts Council Young Artist Award for Literature. His plays have been translated into German, Swedish and Danish and have been read and performed in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, London, Zürich, Hamburg, Munich, Berlin, Copenhagen and Stockholm.

JONATHAN LIM – DIRECTOR (*COOLING OFF DAY*)

Director, actor and playwright Jonathan Lim graduated from the NUS Theatre Studies Programme and Sydney's prestigious National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA). He is Artistic Director of STAGES and young & WILD. He is also the creator of Singapore's long-running parody show *Chestnuts*, which turns 15 this year.

For WILD RICE, he has directed *Homesick*, *Jack & the Beansprout*, *Own Time Own Target* and written *Oi! Sleeping Beauty!!*. For young & WILD, he directed *On North Diversion Road*, *Mad Forest* (Best Ensemble, 2007 LIFE! Theatre Awards), Leow Puay Tin's *Family*, Edward Albee's *The Lady From Dubuque* and *Swordfish + Concubine : The Fall of Singapura*. Other directing credits include *Dick & Ja: The Early Years*, *The Woman In A Tree On A Hill* (New Theatre, Sydney), *A Right Ritual* (Toy Factory), *MURDER D.i.Y*, *Pontianak -A Love Story*, *Pan Island Expressway* (Theatreworks), *Hi is for Hantu* and *Broadway4Suakus: You, Me, HDB*.

Most recently he directed Dick Lee's concert show *The Adventures of the Mad Chinaman* and he next directs *Beauty Kings* by Dick Lee, then writes *Aladdin* for WILD RICE. In September, he joins The Theatre Practice's second Playwrights' Boot Camp as a resident director.

His first book *Between Gods And Ghosts* is stores now.



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ZIZI AZAH ABDUL MAJID – DIRECTOR (*CHARGED & NADIRAH*)

Zizi Azah is the Artistic Director of Teater Ekamatra. A graduate of the National University of Singapore in Philosophy and Sociology, Zizi Azah is effectively bilingual in English and Malay and is both playwright and theatre director. She has helmed numerous theatre productions performed in English, Malay and Peranakan.

A leading figure in a new generation of theatre professionals, her plays have been nominated for Best Script, Best Actress and Best Sound Design awards at numerous Singapore Life! Theatre Awards. Aside from her work as a theatre artist, Zizi also lectures at the Lasalle College of The Arts. She is also a published author of *Fatimah and Her Magic Socks*, a children's book illustrated by her husband, Izmir Ickbal.

As an artist, she is interested in creating work that is emotionally resonant. She is in constant search for the universal truth. Her plays are known for being both imaginative and unexpected, with settings that are often non-naturalistic and border more along the styles of magical-realism and absurdism. Her plays frequently deal with social-political issues - issues she has written about include the plight of lower middle-class Singaporeans; the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; gender inequality as well as consumerism and the rat race.

CHONG TZE CHIEN – PLAYWRIGHT (*CHARGED*)

Multiple award-winning playwright Chong Tze Chien has been the Company Director of The Finger Players since 2004. Some of his prize-winning scripts include *Pan Island Expressway* (Singapore Dramatist Award 1998), *Furthest North, Deepest South* (Best Production of the Year 2005) and *Charged* (Best Script 2011) at The Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards. Upon graduating from NUS with a degree in Theatre Studies, he joined The Necessary Stage as a full time Playwright/Director from 2000 to 2004. He was awarded the Young Artist Award for theatre in 2006 by the National Arts Council for his contribution to the arts scene. In 2010, Chong Tze Chien represented Singapore at La Ma Ma—Playwright's Symposium in Italy, where he wrote *To Whom It May Concern*. It will premiere on 1st September 2011 at Esplanade Theatre Studio as part of Esplanade Theatre Studio Series.

KOH HUI LING – DIRECTOR (*THIS IS HOME?*)

As a young child, Hui Ling was trained in Speech & Drama at the Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan Arts & Cultural Troupe from 1988, before venturing into professional theatre in 2001. One of Singapore's most versatile mandarin theatre actresses, Hui Ling has explored a wide range of theatre genres to critical acclaim.

Besides acting, Hui Ling has been a Speech & Drama teacher since 1999, Co-founding NeNeMas in 2004 and ARTivate in 2007, she is currently the Artistic Director of NeNeMas – the education arm of Drama Box and ARTivate – the youth wing of Drama Box, developing the training programme for the youths. Hui Ling is also overseeing the curriculum development of NeNeMas and has developed a set of Drama-in-Education and Theatre-in-Education programmes and pedagogies through her years of teaching

and working with participants of diverse backgrounds and age groups.

Hui Ling has attended international conferences and workshops on theatre/drama education in London, Greece and Hong Kong. She recently returned with an MA in Applied Drama (Distinction, 2010) from the University of Exeter, UK. With many years of teaching and facilitating experience in educational institutions, Hui Ling continues to believe in the humanistic value of education and aspires to touch people with her work.

JOEL TAN – PLAYWRIGHT (*FAMILY OUTING*)

Born in 1987, Joel Tan currently reads English Literature at the National University of Singapore. Between 2010 and 2011, he studied playwriting with Huzir Sulaiman, under whose guidance he wrote *Family Outing*.

A number of his plays have been performed by theatre groups in NUS. *Dogs Go Hump Hump in the Night*, and *Lovers' Pier*, a musical, were performed by NUS Stage as part of "Mind Games" (2011); and *Walking In*, was staged by the NUS University Scholars Club, as part of "Behind The Yellow Line" (2010).

Walking In won first prize in the drama category at the NUS Literary Society Creative Writing Competition, where, both in 2009 and 2010, he also received prizes for his poetry and fiction.

He is also an active musician, and plays the trombone with various orchestras.

GLEN GOEI – DIRECTOR (*FAMILY OUTING*)

Glen's body of work embraces a wide range of the performing arts ranging from film, theatre, musicals, parades, large scale shows and World Expos over a twenty two year period. This started with his Olivier Award-nominated performance in the title role of *M. Butterfly* opposite Anthony Hopkins in London's West End. It grew through his multi-award winning tenure as Artistic Director of Mu-Lan Arts with productions like *Porcelain* (Best Play and Best Production 1993) and *The Magic Fundoshi* (Best Comedy 1993) which garnered acclaim in London, Singapore and worldwide. It reached another level with the development of his film career with his self-written, directed and produced picture *Forever Fever* (aka *That's The Way I Like It*) – the first Singapore film to have achieved a worldwide commercial film release. His second feature, *The Blue Mansion*, has just completed a worldwide tour of film festivals, including Pusan, Tokyo, Hawaii and Berlin (Asian Hot Shots Opening Film).

Underpinning this has been his constant and substantial contribution to the theatre, principally as Associate Creative Director of WILD RICE. Here his productions have included hits such as *Boeing Boeing*, *The Magic Fundoshi*, *Blithe Spirit* and his internationally lauded 2009 interpretation of *The Importance Of Being Earnest* and for Dream Academy, *The Revenge Of The Dim Sum Dollies®*, *The History Of Singapore* and *The Little Shop Of Horrors*.

APPENDIX 6

COMPANY PROFILES

WILD RICE

WILD RICE was founded in 2000 by Ivan Heng, an internationally acclaimed and award-winning theatre practitioner, and is recognised 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.

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

CHECKPOINT THEATRE

"Singapore's multi-disciplinary Checkpoint Theatre, already a repository of much of the territory's best stage talent..."

Financial Times (UK)

Checkpoint Theatre was founded in 2002 in Singapore. Its Joint Artistic Directors, Claire Wong and Huzir Sulaiman, are both directors, actors, and writers, and they bring this multi-disciplinary approach to Checkpoint's work.

Checkpoint creates new work that is anchored by strong writing and acting - the traditional foundations of theatre. With rigorous technique, Checkpoint makes art with a strong sense of craft, respecting the intelligence of audiences and challenging them aesthetically. Connecting in ways both beautiful and intellectually honest.

The work – including productions like Atomic Jaya, Occupation and Cogito - is varied in theme and form: socio-political satire, explorations of history and memory, verse texts, chamber opera, collaborations with regional artists, rapid-fire comedy, powerful music and arresting imagery. All united by an attention to detail and integrity of performance.

CHECKPOINT MENTORS NEW TALENT

Checkpoint is the mentor of NUS Stage, the student theatre group under the auspices of the National University of Singapore's Centre For the Arts. Through a rigorous mentorship programme and thoughtful collaboration, Checkpoint is nurturing the next generation of theatre talents and staging debut plays by young writers, like wo(men) by Faith Ng and The Good, The Bad & The Sholay by Shiv Tandan, to popular and critical acclaim.

CHECKPOINT TURNS TEN

In 2012, Checkpoint marks ten years of theatre-making. We celebrate the joy and magic of theatre. We celebrate our past work - from large-scale arts festival commissions to theatre in the intimate setting of an art gallery – and we celebrate our future, as we continue to create theatre that connects, challenges and inspires.



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DRAMA BOX

Drama Box Ltd is a non-profit contemporary Mandarin theatre company with charity status. Formed in 1990, it has since gained a respectable reputation for its acute sensitivity and perception in heightening social awareness and civic responsibility. Our productions remain fun and entertaining, yet thought provoking and reflective.

Known to be a forerunner in Community Theatre here in Singapore, Drama Box has been creating numerous theatre projects with different interest groups, such as the elderly, migrant workers and out of school youth to rave reviews for the past 10 years. Topics such as domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, Problem Gambling and Environment (eco-issues) have been explored.

In creating a theatre that is essentially about life, Drama Box's mission is to be a contemporary Mandarin theatre company that liberates life!

TEATER EKAMATRA

Teater Ekamatra is a non-profit theatre company that is dedicated to developing and producing socially relevant plays that reflect the contemporary Singaporean vernacular. Teater Ekamatra believes in integrating the arts, social services and the different cultures as a vehicle for entertainment, education, tolerance and affecting social change. The company believes that theatre must be seen as an integral part of Singapore's artistic evolution. To renew itself, theatre must constantly reassess its role in society and address what role it may play in the future.

In existence since 1988, Teater Ekamatra is recognised for its dedication and commitment to developing and expanding definitions and forms of Malay Theatre, and is a recipient of the National Arts Council Annual Arts Grant. Teater Ekamatra does not define nor restrict Malay Theatre to performances in the Malay language, but seek to give voice and visibility to the Malay condition and experience with regards to contemporary local and global climate. Ultimately, Teater Ekamatra is about individual equality, cultural pluralism and artistic excellence.

APPENDIX 7**PRODUCTIONS FROM PAST FESTIVALS****SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL '06****2 – 20 AUGUST 2006****HOMESICK** by WILD RICE

2 - 6 August 2006

Drama Centre Theatre, Singapore

Nominated for Best Original Script (Alfian Sa'at)*THE SILENCE OF THE KITTENS** by WILD RICE

2 - 6 August 2006

Drama Centre Black Box, Singapore

Nominated for Best Supporting Actress (Alecia Kim Chua)*BY THE WAY** by The Theatre Practice

4 - 13 August 2006

Stamford Arts Centre, Singapore

THE CAMPAIGN TO CONFER THE PUBLIC SERVICE STAR ON JBJ by WILD RICE

9 - 13 August 2006

Drama Centre Theatre, Singapore

Nominated for Production of the Year*Nominated for Best Original Script (Eleanor Wong)***NATIONAL LANGUAGE CLASS / UTAMA: EVERY NAME IN HISTORY IS I** by spell#7

9 - 13 August 2006

Drama Centre Black Box, Singapore

Nominated for Best Actress (Yeo Yann Yann)*SECOND LINK** by WILD RICE, Five Arts Centre & The Actor's Studio, Kuala Lumpur

16 - 20 August 2006

Drama Centre Theatre, Singapore

SALSA SALSA SALSA! by WILD RICE & TheatreWorks Writers' Lab

16 - 20 August 2006

Drama Centre Black Box, Singapore

SING YOUR WAY HOME by dramabox

18 - 20 August 2006

National Library, Singapore



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OCBC SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL '08 6 - 24 AUGUST 2008

THE SWORDFISH, THEN THE CONCUBINE by WILD RICE

6 - 10 August 2008

Drama Centre Theatre, Singapore

ANGEL-ISM by panggung Arts in association with dramabox

6, 9, 10 August 2008

Drama Centre Black Box, Singapore

TREE/HOUSE by spell#7 & Ho Tzu Nyen

7 - 9 August 2008

Drama Centre Black Box, Singapore

THE LAST TEMPTATION OF STAMFORD RAFFLES by WILD RICE

13 - 17 August 2008

Drama Centre Theatre, Singapore

**Nominated for Best Original Script (Ng Yi-Sheng)*

**Nominated for Best Actor (Rehaan Engineer)*

**Nominated for Best Costume Design (Moe Kasim)*

**Winner for Best Set Design (Wong Chee Wai)*

I AM QUEEN by The Theatre Practice

14 - 17 August 2008

Drama Centre Black Box, Singapore

APOCALYPSE: LIVE! by WILD RICE

20 - 24 August 2008

Drama Centre Theatre, Singapore

**Nominated for Best Set Design (Wong Chee Wai)*

OWN TIME OWN TARGET by WILD RICE

20 - 24 August 2008

Esplanade Theatre Studio, Singapore

**Nominated for Best Ensemble*

BLOOD BINDS by Magdalena (Singapore) & The Substation

21 - 24 August 2008

Drama Centre Black Box, Singapore

TESTING 1-2-3 by dramabox

16 - 17 August 2008

Drama Centre, Function Room 1 & 2, National Library Building, Singapore



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APPENDIX 8

WILD RICE SEASON 2011/12

Patron Sponsor: Man Investments

1) MAN SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL 2011

Venue: **Drama Centre**

Dates: **3 - 21 August 2011**

Conceived and curated by WILD RICE's Artistic Director Ivan Heng, the **Singapore Theatre Festival** is a biennial festival committed to the development, production and promotion of Singapore plays. The Festival takes place in the month of August, when Singapore celebrates National Day and it is in this context that theatre artists and the public are encouraged to engage in a conversation about theatre, Singapore and the world.

“The Main Event in the World of The Arts”

SPH The Straits Times LIFE!

“The Blockbuster Event of the Year”

Today

2) RICE BALL 2011 – PEOPLE’S ACTING PARTY

Directed by **Ivan Heng**

Venue: **Shangri-La Hotel Island Ballroom**

Cast: **The stars of Singapore stage & screen**

Dates: **21 October 2011**

The **RICE BALL** is the annual charity gala held to raise funds for WILD RICE, Singapore’s most dynamic leading theatre company.

Like all other major theatre companies from around the world, WILD RICE looks to the generosity and support of benefactors, patrons and sponsors. All funds raised from the gala go directly towards supporting both the artistic and educational programming at WILD RICE. This enables the company to continue developing and producing works of excellence, as well as making a name for Singapore on the world stage.

The inaugural **RICE BALL** was held in 2003 at the Shangri-La Hotel and was graced with the presence of His Excellency President S. R. Nathan as guest of honour. The gala has been held every year since and has established itself as one of the most talked about and highly anticipated events of the Singapore social calendar. The list of guests attending the **RICE BALL** reads like a veritable “Who’s Who” of Singapore’s social and business elite, and includes many Ministers, Ambassadors and CEOs.



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RICE BALL 2011 marks the fundraiser's 10th edition. True to form, this year's theme is "**People's Acting Party**", so deliciously tongue-in-cheek and then again, so apt for a leading theatre company that has endeared itself to the hearts and minds of the PEOPLE of Singapore by serving the community for over a decade.

The all-star concert, the highlight of every **RICE BALL**, will feature the most well-loved and respected artists of theatre, film and television, as well as new and young talent. You can count on some of the funniest, most entertaining and memorable acts - each and every one a loving tribute and celebration of our uniquely Singaporean identity and idiosyncracies, and naturally, remembering the highlights of the General Election 2011.

The dress-code for the evening is White (of course!). And we encourage you to be as fabulous, as angelic, as virginal or knightly, sparkly and as creative as you dare to, or care to.

3) ALADDIN

Written by **Jonathan Lim**

Directed by **Glen Goei**

Starring **Hady Mirza as Aladdin**

Venue: **Drama Centre Theatre, National Library Building**

Dates: **21 November – 17 December 2011**

Once a year, the best of Singapore's television and theatre artistes come together to celebrate the festive season by taking everyone's favourite fairy tales and giving them an imaginative local twist – just to bring laughter and the magic of theatre to audiences from five to eighty-five.

The WILD RICE Pantomime brings together all the elements of great family entertainment – slapstick comedy, satire, political incorrectness, snazzy songs, toe-tapping dance routines, fabulous costumes and spectacular sets, audience participation and a Good versus Evil story that is strong on romance and adventure.

Through the years, *Beauty & The Beast* (2009), *Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs* (2008), *Jack & The Bean- Sprout!* (2006), *Oi! Sleeping Beauty!!* (2005), *Aladdin* (2004) and *Cinderel-LAH!* (2003, 2010) have tickled and touched an audience of more than 100,000. Today, the WILD RICE Pantomime has become the MUST-SEE musical of the holiday season, and the best possible way to round up the busy year!

Aladdin, this year's pantomime, will be directed by Glen Goei, with a new script by Jonathan Lim, and a "GLEE"-ful soundtrack. It will star Hady Mirza, the first Asian Idol, as Aladdin.



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4) ROMEO & JULIET

Written by **William Shakespeare**

Directed by **Ivan Heng**

Starring **To be confirmed**

Venue: **Drama Centre Theatre, National Library Building**

Dates: **04 – 29 April 2012**

In the instant of a chance meeting, two young people fall in love. Impulsively they marry in secret, but their innocent union is threatened by a bloody family feud.

Romeo and Juliet, one of Shakespeare's most thrilling and popular plays, captures the beauty, intimacy and ultimate fragility of young love in a hostile world.

In April 2012, Ivan Heng will direct a brand new WILD RICE production of the world's greatest love story, confronting a new generation of theatre audiences with its passion and power.