

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

"With its striking black and white sets, the weaving of strains from a string quartet, and not to mention, the all-male cast, WILD RICE's production of The Importance of Being Earnest is certainly the most arresting local rendition of Oscar Wilde's last and most oft-produced play... visually ravishing and, especially in this day and age, extremely compelling."

- SPH The Business Times

17 December 2012 – In April 2013, W!LD RICE will present its radical and absolutely 'W!LD' interpretation of Oscar Wilde's ***THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST***, at the Drama Centre Theatre.

The original sold-out three-week run in 2009 won critical and popular acclaim for director Glen Goei's provocative casting of an all-male ensemble, its masterful performances, and slick and sophisticated production design. It went on to win three awards at the 2010 Life! Theatre Awards for Best Production, Best Supporting Actor (Chua Enlai) and Best Costume Design (Frederick Lee). The production also gleaned nominations for Best Director (Glen Goei) and Best Supporting Actor (Ivan Heng).

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST features a sensational international cast. Singapore's most acclaimed actors including Ivan Heng, Hossan Leong, Chua Enlai, Brendon Fernandez and Crispian Chan return, and are joined again by Daniel York from London and Gavin Yap from Kuala Lumpur. A new addition to the ensemble will be Lim Kay Siu who replaces Zahim Albakri as Rev. Canon Chasuble.

Putting paid to Wilde's credo that "style, not sincerity, is the vital thing", the company is dressed to the nines by Frederick Lee, and accompanied live by The Ensemble Dimension Players, a quartet brought together under the T'ang Quartet's The Ensemble Dimension Project. The latter is a platform for outstanding young musicians to undergo training and exposure by playing for public events and performances.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST is Wilde's most enduringly popular play and remains one of the most performed comedies around the world, boasting some of the funniest lines in the English language. W!LD RICE's production is an exhilarating evening of wit, laughter and romance that is not to be missed on any account.

Praise for *The Importance of Being Earnest*

"Delightfully insincere... WILD RICE's all-male staging of Oscar Wilde's iconic play has verve and polish... the stage oozed style and sophistication."

- TODAY

"This Oscar Wilde comedy was in safe hands with director Glen Goei, who concocted a delightful evening of satire and wit... masterful interpretation... The entire theatre revelled in the sheer delight of Wilde's witty retorts and sly critique of society's pretences and pretentiousness. It is not often that audiences here get to see such a successful staging of this classic play."

- SPH The Straits Time LIFE!

"Wild Rice director Glen Goei's version which features an all-male cast taps into the same basic idea but what makes his version remarkable is how unremarkable this stunt casting becomes."

"This intensification of the blurring of identity brings into even sharper focus the play's themes about double lives and the construction of identity... it would be myopic to reduce the grand ambitions of this interpretation to simple homoeroticism or gay activism. For one thing, there is no overt sexuality or titillation in the performances – it is truly Victorian in this regard..."

- The Flying Inkpot

Synopsis

Two dashing Romeos bend the truth to spice up their lives. Jack has invented a brother, Ernest, whom he uses as an excuse to escape his dull country life, and to visit the ravishing Gwendolyn. His best friend Algernon also decides to take the name 'Ernest' to court Jack's beautiful ward, Cecily, in the country. However, things get messy when their deceptions are discovered, threatening to spoil their romantic pursuits.

In WILD RICE's exciting production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, celebrated theatre and film director Glen Goei puts a provocative spin on this comic masterpiece by casting an all-male ensemble - revealing new insights into Wilde's comedy about courtship, hidden identities, and the foibles of high society.

Don't miss the chance to catch this radical, gender bending and absolutely WILD interpretation of Wilde's classic, which premiered in 2009 to much critical and popular acclaim. After a sold-out three-week run, it went on to win three awards at the 2010 Life! Theatre Awards for Best Production, Best Supporting Actor (Chua Enlai), Best Costume Design (Frederick Lee) as well as nominations for Best Director (Glen Goei) and Best Supporting Actor (Ivan Heng).

FAST FACTS

Title : *The Importance of Being Earnest*
 Director : Glen Goei
 Set Design : Ivan Heng
 Lighting Design : Mac Chan
 Sound Design : Shah Tahir
 Costume Design : Frederick Lee
 Hair Design : Ashley Lim
 Make-Up Design : Beno Lim (M.A.C)
 Producer : Tony Trickett
 Cast : Daniel York *as* John Worthing
 Brendon Fernandez *as* Algernon Moncrief
 Chua Enlai *as* Gwendolen Fairfax
 Gavin Yap *as* Cecily Cardew
 Hossan Leong *as* Miss Prism
 Lim Kay Siu *as* Rev. Canon Chasuble
 Crispian Chan *as* Lane/Merriman
 and
 Ivan Heng *as* Lady Bracknell
 with
 The Ensemble Dimension Players
 Press Contact : Hazel Joanne
 PR Executive
 Sirius Art Pte. Ltd.
 DID: +65 6488 0157
 hazel@siriusart.com.sg

Venue : Drama Centre Theatre

Show Dates : 10 April – 4 May

Press Night : 13 April

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

Ticket Prices : Previews at 8pm on 10 & 11 April
Cat 1: \$65
Cat 2: \$55
Cat 3: \$40
Cat 4 (restricted view): \$45

Tues, Wed, Thurs at 8pm
Sat & Sun at 3pm
Cat 1: \$70
Cat 2: \$60
Cat 3: \$45
Cat 4 (restricted view): \$50

Fri & Sat at 8pm
Cat 1: \$75
Cat 2: \$65
Cat 3: \$50
Cat 4 (restricted view): \$55

Priority Booking : 4 - 17 February 2013

- 20% Discount for OCBC Cards

Early Bird : 18 February – 13 March 2013

- 20% Discount for OCBC Cards
- 20% for PAssion & SAFRA Cards
- 15% Discount for General Public







ANNEX

- I. SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS
- II. CAST BIOGRAPHIES
- III. ABOUT THE ENSEMBLE DIMENSION PLAYERS
- IV. CREATIVES' BIOGRAPHIES
- V. ABOUT W!LD RICE
- VI. ABOUT W!LD RICE'S PATRON SPONSOR










APPENDIX I

SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

PATRON SPONSOR ARCHANGEL CORPORATE SPONSOR OFFICIAL MAKE UP OFFICIAL CARDS

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OFFICIAL OUTDOOR MEDIA OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHY OFFICIAL PRINTER OFFICIAL PRIVILEGE CARD OFFICIAL CATERER WITH SUPPORT FROM

APPENDIX II

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

DANIEL YORK – John Worthing

Daniel York is of mixed Singaporean/UK descent. His UK theatre work includes a season at the Royal Shakespeare Company, *Porcelain* at the Royal Court for Glen Goei's Mu-lan Theatre Company and Fortinbras opposite Alan Rickman's *Hamlet*.

In London he has performed at The Gate, Hampstead Theatre, Southwark Playhouse, Battersea Arts Centre and Old Vic. In the regions at Edinburgh Traverse, Leicester Haymarket, Manchester Library, Birmingham Rep as well as touring with the National Theatre in *The Tempest* and appearing in the feature films, *Rogue Trader* (with Ewan Macgregor), *The Beach* (Leonardo Di Caprio), *Doom* (The Rock), *Act Of Grace* and the soon to be released *Far Away*.

In Singapore- *The Magic Fundoshi*, *The Glass Menagerie* & *Kiss Of The Spiderwoman* (SRT), *Hot Dogs* (Theatreworks), *The Importance Of Being Earnest* & *Boeing Boeing* (Wild Rice) and *Dealer's Choice* (Pangdemonium) for which he won the 2012 Life! Theatre Award for Best Supporting Actor and most recently *Freud's Last Session* at the Esplanade.

His feature film script *Beautiful Friend* was developed by Film 4 and he recently wrote and co directed (with Jennifer Lim) the short film *Mercutio's Dreaming: The Killing Of A Chinese Actor* nominated for four awards at the World Independent Music & Film Festival.

BRENDON FERNANDEZ – Algernon Moncrief

Brendon is thrilled to be reprising his role as Algernon! Mostly because he gets to eat muffins on stage and talk with his mouth full.

He's also been in a number of other Wild Rice shows, like *La Cage aux Folles* (2012), *Romeo & Juliet* (2012), *Boeing Boeing* (2005) and *Landmarks: Asian Boys Vol. 2* (2004). His other stage credits include *Company* (2012), *Equus* (2011), *To Kill a Mockingbird* (2010), *The King Lear Project: A Trilogy* (2008), *Everything But the Brain* (2005), *Bent* (2003), *Rent* (2001) and *The Theory of Everything* (2000).

On television, Brendon prepared his Grandpa's beef stew on Diva Universal's *Hot Guys Who Cook* (2012). On Channel News Asia (CNA), he was the moderator for *Bridging Asia: The Singapore Debates* (2012), and the host of two documentary series, *The Next Asian Miracle* (2012) and *The Asian Century* (2011).

Brendon Fernandez is represented by FLY Entertainment.

CHUA ENLAI – Gwendolen Fairfax

Chua Enlai is one of the most-watched faces in Singapore's art and entertainment circles. Last seen on stage as Ong Keng Sen, in Esplanade's 10th Anniversary commission - *National Broadway Company*, he has performed in over 40 theatre productions. Enlai has twice received a Straits Times Life! Theatre Award - Best Actor (*Shopping & F***ing*), and Best Supporting Actor, for the 2009 production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Reprising his role as Gwendolyn

will mark Enlai's tenth production with Wild Rice. Their past collaborations were *Cinderel-ah!* (2010 & 2003), *Beauty & the Beast*, *Connect the Dots* (Hong Kong), *Oi! Sleeping Beauty!*, *Aladdin*, *The Visit of the Tai Tai* and *Landmarks: Asian Boys Vol. 2*.

Enlai is probably best known for his work on the International Emmy-nominated series *The Moose*, for which he has been named Best Actor (Comedy) at the Asian Television Awards. The show is screened on both terrestrial television channel Mediacorp Channel 5, as well as Comedy Central Asia. Other television credits, as both actor and host, include the latest sketch comedy hit *Random Island*, *Same But Different*, *Silver Lining*, *Sayang Sayang*, *Heartland Getaways*, *Parental Guidance* and *My Sassy Neighbour*. He was named Elle Magazine's Actor of the Year in 2008 for his work on the small screen. His film credits include *Judgement Day*, *The Ghosts Must Be Crazy* and *Already Famous*, as well as cameos in *Taxi! Taxi!* and *Greedy Ghost*. Enlai is managed by Fly Entertainment.

IVAN HENG – Lady Bracknell/Set Designer

Ivan Heng is one of Singapore's most prominent and dynamic creative personalities, and the founder and artistic director of W!LD RICE, Singapore's leading professional theatre company.

In a pioneering career spanning more than 2 decades, Ivan directed and acted in many landmark Singapore theatre productions, which have been performed in more than 20 cities throughout Europe, Asia, America, Australia, New Zealand and Russia.

In 1990, Ivan was the first recipient of the prestigious BAT Arts Scholarship to train the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Glasgow (formerly RSAMD). He graduated as top student, winning the *Royal Lyceum Theatre Award* for his portrayal of Shakespeare's Richard III. In 1993, he moved to London where he worked in film, television and radio, and founded the Tripitaka Theatre Company. The company's intercultural works prompted TIME OUT London to proclaim, "Ivan Heng is part of the future of theatre". In 1998, after touring extensively throughout Europe, Ivan returned to Singapore to contribute to Singapore's nascent arts scene.

In 2000, with his portrayal of *Emily of Emerald Hill*, Ivan founded W!LD RICE. Under his leadership, the company is today at the vanguard of creating theatre with a distinctive Singaporean voice and point of view, including the Man Singapore Theatre Festival, which was appraised as "the main event in the world of the arts" (SPH The Straits Times 2006), and the "Blockbuster Event of the Year" (Today, 2008).

Ivan's awards for excellence in theatre include the *Edinburgh Fringe First*, *Scottish Daily Express New Names of '93 Award*, *Edinburgh Spirit of the Fringe 1995*, *Singapore Young Artist Award 1996*, the *Singapore Youth Award 1998*, the *Straits Times Life! Theatre Award for Best Director 2002*, and the inaugural *Singapore Tatler Leadership Award for Culture (2006)*.

GAVIN YAP – Cecily Cardew

Gavin Yap is an actor/writer/director who has been involved in the Malaysian entertainment scene for years. Some of his theatre credits include 'The Complete Works of Shakespeare - Abridged', 'Hamlet' and 'The Fastest Clock In The Universe'.

He served as Director-In-Residence at the KLPac from 2005 to 2008, during which time he directed productions of 'The Homecoming', '4.48 Psychosis' and 'Wrecks' to name a few. In 2007, he was awarded the National Arts Award for directing.

He was last seen in the acclaimed Malaysian independent film 'Relationship Status' and Joe Hasham's 2011/2012 production of 'Someone Who'll Watch Over Me', which played in Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Singapore.

Gavin is also a voice director for animation for Tripod Entertainment. His projects include 'Saladin: The Animated Series, Silver Ant Studios' 'Seefood' and Tripod's animated Steampunk epic, 'War of the Worlds: Goliath', which premiered at the 2012 San Diego Comic Con and was released in cinemas in Malaysia last November.

He has had several comic book scripts published in 'Heavy Metal', one of the world's leading adult SC-FI/Fantasy magazines, and also writes the film column for the Malaysian Edition of Esquire Magazine.

He will next be seen in the upcoming Malaysian film 'Cuak' and is currently in post-production for his feature directorial debut, 'Take Me To Dinner', which will be released late 2013.

HOSSAN LEONG – Miss Prism

Hossan was awarded Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (The Order of Arts and Letters) in 2010 & he is one of Singapore's most loved and recognised actors. Affectionately known as the 'Singapore Boy', Hossan continues to delight audiences on stage and TV.

In 2003, Hossan made his directorial debut in Sydney with Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Flower Drum Song*. Recent directing credits include *Beauty & the Beast*, *Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs* and Stephen Sondheim's Tony Award- winning musical, *Company*.

Fluency in the French language has led Hossan to work with the Alliance Française and Sing'theatre. He was awarded the Prix des Ambassadeurs Francophones & represented the Singapore Actors in Paris at the Asian Film Festival, In 2006, Hossan was named Olympics Ambassador for Paris 2012.

A consummate performer who can sing, dance, act and play the piano, Hossan is one of Singapore's most highly sought after hosts and entertainers for corporate events and dinners.

As co-founder of the Paul Carr Consultancy Pte Ltd - a Singapore-based Entertainment & Media Training company, Hossan offers motivational talks as well as corporate training to executives in drama and presentation techniques.

Visit www.paulcarrconsultancy.com for a full list of Hossan's work.

LIM KAY SIU - Rev Canon Chasuble

Kay Siu has been acting professionally since 1985, in Singapore, America, London and Germany. Stage credits include *Drift* with Drama Box, *Enchanted Tales* with Finger Players, *Memory: Human Remains & Virus* with Collective Mayhem, *4.44* (Decimal Points) and *Cheek* with CAKE Theatre; *Lao Jiu* the Musical (in Mandarin) with Theatre Practice; *Romeo & Juliet*, *Family Outing*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Animal Farm* and *Visit of the Tai-Tai* with W!LD RICE; *3 Japanese Women* for Mulan in London; *The Letter* for the Lyric Hammersmith, London; *7th Drawer*, *Morning People* and *Army Daze* for Toy Factory; *Death of a Salesman* and *Oleana* for SRT. Musicals include *Beauty World*, *Fried Rice Paradise* (TheatreWorks), and *Nagraland* (Lead role and Assistant-Director), all by Dick Lee; and *Piaf* for TheatreWorks.

Kay Siu also went to directing school in London, at the Central School of Speech and Drama In 1994, and has directed *Half Lives* by Chay Yew for TheatreWorks, which was selected as Play of the Year by Straits Times in 1997, *Balls!* by Ming Wong for SRT, and *Club Tempest* for 3.14.

TV credits include *Tenko Reunion* for BBC, *Holoponono* for RTL, *Happy Belly*, *PCK* and *Drive* in Singapore, and *Monkey King* for Hallmark.

Movie credits include *Nightwatch* for Lion Films; *Anna and the King* for Fox; *Avatar* (Independent).

CRISPIAN CHAN - Lane/Merriman

Crispian has worked extensively in Australia and Singapore's Theatre and TV industry for over 15 years. Australian theatre credits include: Deborah Warner's *The Angel Project*; *Striptease*; *Six Characters Looking For An Author*; *Sarena's Song* and *Hidden Dragons* (Barking Gecko Theatre Company). At the 2004 WA Equity Awards he won 'Best Newcomer' and earned a nomination for 'Best Supporting Actor' for his performance in *A Man with Five Children* (Black Swan Theatre Company). He has also scored a 'Best Actor' nomination for his performance in *Micky.com* (Perth Surgeons) in 2005.

In 2005 he studied at LASALLE College of the Arts as part of the first cohort of BA(Hons) Acting graduates during which he was cast in Art Central's *9 Lives*.

In 2009 he appeared on the US NBC TV series, *The Philanthropist*, starring James Purefoy. Singapore TV credits include in *80s Rewind*; *Life Story 2*; *My Classmate Dad*, *In Cold Blood 2*; the OKTO tele-movie *Christina and the Runaways*; plus hosting OKTO gameshows such as *Spot On!* and *Supermart Science*.

His Singapore theatre credits include: *Clark In Sarajevo* (LASALLE); *The Importance of Being Earnest* (W!LD RICE); *The King Lear Project* (Singapore Arts Festival/ Kunstenfestivaldesarts, Brussels) and *Equus* (Toy Factory).

APPENDIX III ABOUT THE ENSEMBLE DIMENSION PLAYERS

+

This new initiative by the T'ang Quartet under the umbrella of The Ensemble Dimension Project (TEDP) aims at developing ensemble playing in Singapore. These series of community and outreach programs target a wider audience as well as amateur and aspiring local musicians. The Ensemble Dimension Players (TEDPlayers) are a group of outstanding and talented young musicians selected and brought together through the TEDP to expose them to playing for public events and performances. The players will undergo training by the T'ang Quartet to prepare them for these assignments and projects.

Selected TEDPlayers for *The Importance of Being Earnest* -

SEAH HUAN YUH – 1ST Violin

A Public Service Commission Overseas-specialist Scholar, Huan graduated with a 1st class Music degree from University of Birmingham (UK). Having won a few National Arts Council competitions since young, he has performed in prestigious music festivals in London, Sydney, Tokyo, Kirishima (awarded Outstanding Performer prize), and toured with Asian Youth Orchestra to US and Hawaii. He made his solo debut in UK at Birmingham's Symphony Hall (2003) playing Brahms Violin Concerto.

In the past decade, he made his solo debut at Esplanade premiering John Adams Violin Concerto at the President's Young Performer's concert with Singapore Symphony Orchestra. Thereafter, he has been given the duties of concertmaster to Singapore Festival Orchestra, Singapore Lyric Opera Orchestra, New Opera Orchestra, Opera Viva Orchestra, Chamber Players, The Philharmonic Orchestra, Braddell Heights Symphony and Orchestra of the Music Makers. Huan was also the leader for musicals *West Side Story* (2006), *Phantom of the Opera* (2006), *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (2007), and *The King and I* (2008).

Huan is also an electro-acoustic composer, and has collaborated with Belgium composer Dr. Robert Casteels on 2 works that garnered much interest in the digital music community - *Simple-X* (2010), and *Greed and Fear* (2011).

WILFORD GOH – 2ND Violin

Wilford picked up music at the age of three with the piano, followed by the violin when he was six. He first performed publicly when he was eight, and has since won prizes in competitions with both instruments, such as in the National Piano and Violin Competition in 2011 and the F.J. Benjamin – NAFA SYT Competition in 2012. A graduate of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme in Anglo-Chinese School (Independent) 2011, Wilford is currently serving his National Service. Additionally, he is the second violin principal and the Artistic Development Manager of the Orchestra of the Music Makers.

CHRISTOVEN TAN - Viola

Christoven Tan started studying the viola with Michelle Li Min Zhi. In 2005, he studied at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. During the summer breaks, Christoven attended the Interlochen Viola Institute and the Meadowmount School of music studying with Heidi Castleman, Jutta Puchhammer and Patricia McCarty. Upon graduation, he served national service in the Music and Drama Company playing viola while studying with Mgr Jiri Heger.

LIN JUAN - Cello

Lin Juan first learnt the cello at the age of 14. He has worked and studied in the UK while attending the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, and has given recitals in Essen (Germany), Montepulciano (Italy) and across the UK. In Singapore, he has worked with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Singapore Lyric Opera Orchestra, The Philharmonic Orchestra and re:mix.

APPENDIX IV CREATIVES' BIOGRAPHIES

GLEN GOEI - Director

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 four 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*, was a critical hit and 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 *La Cage aux Folles*, *Aladdin*, *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*, *The Little Shop Of Horrors* and *Into The Woods*.

MAC CHAN - Lighting Design

Mac has worked as a Lighting Designer for Malaysian and international theatre since 1993. Over the years, he had travelled with his lighting design work staged in Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan and South Africa. A three-time winner of Best Lighting Design at the BOH Cameronian Arts Awards of 2002, 2003 and 2004, he received an honorary mention at the 2002 Singapore Life! Theatre Awards for his lighting design works in Singapore. He also received the Malaysian National Arts Awards for Best Lighting Designer in 2006.

His lighting designs for WILD RICE include *Hansel & Gretel*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *Emily of Emerald Hill*, *The Woman in a Tree on the Hill*, *The Coffin is Too Big for the Hole* and *No Parking on Odd Days*, *Oi! Sleeping Beauty!*, *Jack & The Bean-Sprout!*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Happy Endings: Asian Boys Vol. 3* and has worked on a successful 2nd run of the smash hit *The Campaign to Confer the Public Service Star on JBJ* in September 2007, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *La Cage* and *NDP '09 '10 '11 & '12*.

SHAH TAHIR - Sound Design

Shah Tahir has been in the Audio and Music industry for more than 20 years and has been involved in various aspects of it.

As a musician, he has played the guitar on numerous albums of local and regional artists such as Dick Lee, Kit Chan, Jeremy Monteiro, Zainal Abidin, Sheila Majid, JJ, Chris Ho, Sandy Lam and many others.

As a music producer, Shah has been involved with many local talents like Humpback Oak, Oddfellows, Heritage, Trob, Sweet Charity, Michaela Therese, Prema Lucas, Jachinta and others.

He has also arranged and composed for multiple MediaCorp Channel 8 television programmes such as the 2002 Best Drama Serial Nominee *Beautiful Connection*.

Currently, Shah Tahir is very much involved with “Live” performances and has been the Audio Consultant/Sound Designer for the National Day Parade (2009-2012), Corporate Events and “Live” TV broadcast mixing with MediaCorp’s events.

Another passionate area of work for him is in Theatre and Musicals, which he has been designing and mixing audio for many major productions here such as, *881 The Musical, Into the Woods, Kumar The Queen, The Hossan Leong Show, December Rain, The Full Monty, Dim Sum Dollies, The Importance of Being Earnest* and many more.

FREDERICK LEE – Costume Design

Frederick Lee's couture fashion-as-performance-art theatricality has made him one of Singapore's most sought-after designers. His designs often act as windows into the future, not only because of his innovative use of non-traditional materials, but also because his extraordinary and often challenging ideals push the envelope on fashion design as we know it today. Named 'Designer of the Year' at the Singapore Fashion Awards 2004; Best Costumes Design' at the 4th and 10th Straits Times Life! theatre awards; Cleo Fashion Awards Designer of the Year 2006 and his successful couture boutique - Frederick Bridal was named "The Best of Singapore' 3 years consecutively since 2006 by Tatler Singapore. He was also the director of costumes for NDP 2008, 2009, 2011, and the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the inaugural Youth Olympic Games Singapore 2010. Frederick often shares his precious time supporting friends in the theatre with his creative designs which have appeared in numerous concerts, musicals and both television and theatre productions such as *Bent; Cabaret; Revenge of the Dim Sum Dollies; Dim Sum Dollies Singapore's Most Wanted; Little Shop of Horrors, Dim Sum Dollies in The History Of Singapore; If There's Seasons ; Kumar the Queen; Sleepless Town; Broadway Beng; The Importance of Being Earnest; Boeing Boeing; Emily of Emerald Hill; Into The Woods; La Cage aux Folles*.

ASHLEY LIM – Hair Design

Ashley started his hairstyling career in 1986 and set up Ashley Salon in 1999 in order to further pursue his dedication towards the art of hairdressing, especially with theatrical work. Ashley became involved with theatrical work in 1987 and has since worked on almost 150 productions of local and international standards. Many of these productions were participants of festivals, some of which became nominees and/or winners of various art awards.

Ashley has gained a wide range and depth of experience working with all the leading professional theatre companies of Singapore. He has had the opportunity to create hair designs from a diversity of different cultures and periods. His skill is extensive, culminating from more than two decades of hairdressing experience. He is privileged to be widely recognised by the local theatre community as a veteran in his artistry. Ashley is particularly thrilled to have participated in *Broadway Beng! Jiak Liu Lian* (Dream Academy), *Beauty & The Beast* (WILD RICE), *Victor/Victoria* (Zebra Crossing) and *The Monster Show* (Universal Studios Singapore), just to name a few. Apart from theatre, Ashley also extends his work to TV shows and advertorial works for leading local fashion magazines, providing contemporary hair designs for bridal and fashion projects.

BENO LIM (M.A.C) – Make-up Design

Beno has worked on numerous W!LD RICE productions over the years and was excited to be involved again with *The Importance Of Being Earnest*. Beno, as Senior Artist for M.A.C. has been doing make up for 21 years. Apart from conceptualizing and doing the make up for theatre productions, he is regularly involved in International Fashion Weeks in Europe, Asia and Singapore. This year, he was involved in the Milan Fashion Week.

His multi-faceted work also includes doing make up for magazine shoots, including for Nylon, Female, Her World, Urban, Nuyou, and Vulture. He has done the make up for international celebrities, including Lady Gaga, Fergie, Tiffany and Korean actor Sung Hoon. Most recently he did the make up for French actresses Sophie Marceau, Isabel Huppert and Fleu Lise Heuet.

Beno is inspired by the everyday – movies, music, nature and the quirks of experience. To Beno, make-up tells a story, which is why he has always enjoyed make-up for the theatre, particularly creating looks for characters to help propel the plays forward. Beno also loves the larger-than-life looks that theatre make-up requires, and the process of helping to transform an actor into his character through make-up.

APPENDIX V ABOUT W!LD RICE

W!LD 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.

Its mission is to provide an open forum for the shared experience of theatre; celebrating 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 W!LD 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:

- FIRST STAGE!, a project which nurtures young talents from 5 – 16.
- young & W!LD which identifies and develops Singapore's young theatre professionals.

W!LD 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, W!LD 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 and MAN SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL in 2011, this festival has to date produced 22 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).

APPENDIX VI ABOUT W!LD RICE'S PATRON SPONSOR – MAN INVESTMENTS

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. As at 31 December 2011, Man managed \$58.4 billion.

The original business was founded in 1783. Today, Man is listed on the London Stock Exchange and is a member of the FTSE 100 Index with a market capitalisation of more than £2 billion.

Man is a signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) and 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 sponsoring the Man Booker literary prizes and the Man Asian Literary Prize.