



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

'COOL OFF' INDOORS WITH W!LD RICE

9 July 2013 – W!LD RICE announced today that its upcoming late-night performances of *Cooling-Off Day* will take place at Lowercase Cafe. The original plan to stage the play after 10pm on the arts college's Campus Green had to be changed in view of police guidelines, which mandate that outdoor performances taking place near residential areas must end by 10.30pm.

Ivan Heng, Artistic Director of W!LD RICE, said, "It's a pity that Singapore audiences won't get to enjoy *Cooling-Off Day* the way we had planned it. Our goal was to create a genuine festival atmosphere on the grounds of LASALLE. Nevertheless, the show will go on. This weekend and next, *Cooling-Off Day* will be heating up Lowercase Cafe instead!"

As part of the ongoing *Alfian Sa'at: In The Spotlight* season, admission to the three performances on Fri 12 July, Sat 13 Jul and Fri 19 July 2013 is free-of-charge.

Based on real-life interviews, *Cooling-Off Day* gives voice to the private thoughts of voters and candidates against the backdrop of party rhetoric and public opinion during the watershed 2011 General Elections. First staged as part of Man Singapore Theatre Festival in 2011 and restaged in 2012 due to popular demand, the production has been seen by more than 12,000 audiences.

This special edition of *Cooling-Off Day* reunites several members of the original cast – Neo Swee Lin, Jo Kukathas, Peter Sau, Rodney Oliveiro Najib Soiman and Janice Koh.

In this instalment, the texts will be performed by lottery, in a 'tikam-tikam' format involving audience participation. Taxi drivers will share the same stage as economists, while opposition politicians trade views with grassroots leaders.



THE STORY OF 'COOLING-OFF DAY'

Why do you vote?

What issues influenced your vote?

What does citizenship mean to you?

In the electrifying months leading up to the watershed 2011 General Elections (GE), and in the tumultuous months after, WILD RICE's resident playwright Alfian Sa'at interviewed Singaporeans to discover their responses to these searching questions. Boldly setting aside concerns about secrecy, the interviewees opened their hearts to share what they honestly felt and what they truly believe.

Covering a wide social and political spectrum, the candid interviews capture the GE experience through the voices of individual Singaporeans – from election candidates to pro-establishment civil servants; from taxi-drivers to teachers; from diehard opposition supporters to young people casting their virgin votes. From the transcripts of these real-life interviews emerges a script that chronicles the momentous event that not only rocked the boat, but created startling ripples in our political waters that are still evident even now.

The private clashes behind the public debates... the personal convictions behind the party politics... even that unforgettable moment as voters finally stood alone in the polling booth with pen in hand, poised to make their marks...

These interviews – some hopeful, some fearful, some hilariously frank, some achingly honest – form a portrait of Singaporeans confronting the real meaning of democracy and rediscovering their role in shaping the country's future.

An ensemble of our most versatile actors, playing characters aged 17 to 70, takes on these Singaporean voices – in a playful and poignant piece of testimony theatre that proves how political views are not just the hot air of coffeeshop talk.



RAVE REVIEWS FOR 'COOLING-OFF DAY'

"The third and most important reason why Cooling Off Day is a must-see is that you will recognise yourself in it."

SPH The Straits Times, Life!

"Alfian and the rest of the team have done an admirable job in presenting the Singaporean community's voices with unembellished honesty, creating a piece that is thought-provoking, heartfelt, and hilarious."

The Flying Inkpot

"It manages to relive a watershed moment for political participation here with a kind of crackle and immediacy that you can only get with stripped-down live theatre."

SPH The Straits Times, Life!

"Alfian Sa'at's script was highly entertaining and peppered with hilarious moments..."

Channelnewsasia.com

"There was so much 'Singaporean' in the play that I was tempted to lead a standing ovation at the end of it..."

The Online Citizen

"Despite being staged months after GE 2011, it maintains a sense of urgency, a play caught up in the heat of the moment that wants to be heard now, now, now."

TODAY

"Alfian Sa'at and WILD RICE have done remarkably well in capturing the Singapore political zeitgeist of 2011..."

Buttons In the Bread



FAST FACTS

Title: **Cooling-Off Day**

Directed by: Ivan Heng & Jo Kukathas

Written by: Alfian Sa'at

Cast: Najib Soiman, Janice Koh, Jo Kukathas, Neo Swee Lin, Peter Sau & Rodney Oliveira

Producer: Tony Trickett

Venue: Lowercase Cafe, LASALLE College of the Arts

Date/time: Fri 12 July, Sat 13 July & Fri 19 July 2013 at 10.30 pm

Advisory: 16 years and above

Ticket Prices: Free Admission

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