

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROBINSON GROUP AND OCBC BANK PRESENT



17 September 2013 – Following the overwhelming success of *Alfian Sa'at – In The Spotlight*, WILD RICE presents the 10th edition of its annual must-see musical pantomime – **JACK & THE BEAN-SPROUT!**

First staged in 2006 at the Drama Centre Theatre, this is a brand-new production re-written by exciting young playwright Joel Tan and directed by none other than WILD RICE's Artistic Director Ivan Heng. Elaine Chan returns to compose the soundtrack of original new music for her seventh panto adventure with WILD RICE.

JACK & THE BEAN-SPROUT!'s talented all-star cast features Caleb Goh (*Asian Boys Vol. 1*) making his pantomime debut as the titular Jack. He will be joined onstage by panto favourite Darius Tan (*Cinderel-lah!*, *Aladdin*, *La Cage Aux Folles*), who will be rustling up some skirts – in the grand old tradition of the 'pantomime dame' – to play Jack's widowed mother.

Other familiar faces include panto veterans Karen Tan (*Aladdin*, *Goh Lay Kuan & Kuo Pao Kun*) and Siti Khalijah (*Hansel & Gretel*, *Best Of*). It will also feature the charm and talents of 40 children, aged 4 to 12, as part of WILD RICE'S FIRST STAGE! programme.

In true WILD RICE tradition, **JACK & THE BEAN-SPROUT!** promises to spice up the holiday season with its special brand of heart-warming, cheeky and resolutely local humour. Come take a trip up the bean-sprout with us as Jack leads us on a merry, musical adventure in the clouds far above the Marina Bay Sands.

ABOUT JACK & THE BEAN-SPROUT!

Life's a drag for Jack and his poor mother Widow Neo - the cupboard is bare, there are bills to pay and the loan sharks are circling. With the writing literally on the void-deck

walls, they finally resort to selling Ah Kow, their beloved pet cow. But when Jack only gets a handful of green beans instead of cold hard cash for their pet, disaster looms...

That is, until a gigantic bean-sprout springs up in Marina Bay! It reaches high up beyond the clouds, to a mystical land where a man-eating Giant is rumoured to live! Desperate, Jack climbs up the *taugeh* – to discover danger, adventure and the stirrings of first love.

WILD RICE proudly presents ***Jack & the Bean-Sprout!***, a brand new musical-comedy pantomime about dreams, a mother's love, and the perils of gambling. With side-splitting gags, catchy songs, snazzy dance routines, outrageous costumes, fabulous sets and rowdy audience participation, ***Jack & the Bean-Sprout!*** promises to catapult you to Cloud Nine for the holiday season and keep you laughing well into the New Year!

OUR SPONSORS

WILD RICE is delighted to welcome **Robinson Group & OCBC Bank** back as Presenting Sponsors of WILD RICE's pantomime this year. This marks the fourth time this exciting partnership has worked together to stage WILD RICE's annual musical pantomime.

Robinson Group has been a stout supporter of WILD RICE's pantomimes following their sponsorship of the 20th Anniversary production of *Beauty World* back in 2008. With their kind assistance, WILD RICE was able to stage *Beauty & the Beast* (2009), *Cinderel-LAH!* (2010) and *Hansel & Gretel* (2012).

"Christmas is a truly special time of the year for everyone at Robinsons," says Franz Kraatz, Managing Director, Robinsons. "We are delighted to be working with WILD RICE to bring the laughter, magic and joy of their festive pantomime for all Singaporeans to enjoy."

OCBC Bank has supported WILD RICE for most of its main-stage productions over the past 12 years. On top of being our "Official Card", **OCBC** has sponsored many individual productions including *Beauty World*, *The Singapore Theatre Festival*, *Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs* (all 2008), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (2009 & 2013), *Beauty & the Beast* (2009), *Cinderel-LAH!* (2010), *Hansel & Gretel* (2012) and *Alfian Sa'at – In The Spotlight* (2013). They were also the Presenting Sponsors for *10 WILD YEARS*, WILD RICE's 10th Anniversary Season.

"OCBC Cards is thrilled to continue supporting WILD RICE with ***Jack & The Bean-Sprout!***," says Ms Renee Ker, Head Core Cards and Lifestyle Usage, OCBC Bank. "WILD RICE's annual pantomimes have been enormously popular with our customers, and we're happy to be working with Robinsons again to help bring them and their children some Christmas cheer."

Frasers Hospitality has now sponsored WILD RICE for over 10 years! As Corporate Sponsor, they have covered all of WILD RICE's accommodation requirements for visiting artists and performers. **Frasers** hosts their serviced apartment guests and clients at WILD RICE shows throughout the year, and always have a wonderful party with them at the year-end musical pantomime.

Simmons was a first-time sponsor of the arts when they became the "Official Sleeping Partner" for *Beauty World* in 2008. Encouraged by the success of that first foray into sponsorship, **Simmons** has continued its support of WILD RICE by sponsoring the annual year-end musical pantomime in 2008 (*Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs*), 2009 (*Beauty & the Beast*), 2010 (*Cinderel-LAH!*), 2011 (*Aladdin*), 2012 (*Hansel & Gretel*) and, once again, in 2013 will be our "Official Sleeping Partner" for ***Jack & the Bean-Sprout***.

We would also like to thank all our other wonderful sponsors and supporters without whom it would not be possible to make magic on stage. They include: M.A.C, 8 Days, Allegro Print, PASSion Card, TimeOut, Jitterbugs and SAFRA.

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WITH SUPPORT FROM



FAST FACTS

Title	:	<i>JACK & THE BEAN-SPROUT!</i>
Book & Lyrics by	:	Joel Tan based on an original concept and characters created by Desmond Sim
Music by	:	Elaine Chan
Directed by	:	Ivan Heng
Cast	:	Caleb Goh as Jack Darius Tan as Widow Neo Karen Tan as Golden Hits Harp Siti Khalijah as Goose Mangat Ethel Yap as Xeno Gene Sha Rudyn as Tua Hia Gordon Choy Alecia Kim Chua Hang Qian Chou Candice de Rozario Jo Tan & the FIRST STAGE! KIDS & a LIVE 6-Piece Band!
Choreography	:	Richard Chia
Set Design	:	Ian Bailie
Lighting Design	:	James Tan
Sound Design	:	Shah Tahir
Costume Design	:	Moe Kasim
Hair Design	:	Ashley Lim
Make-Up Design	:	Beno Lim (M.A.C.)
Producer	:	Tony Trickett
Venue	:	Drama Centre Theatre

Show Dates : 21 November – 14 December 2013

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

Ticket Prices : S\$40, S\$45, S\$55, S\$65
(Previews 21 & 22 November 7.30pm)
S\$45, S\$50, S\$60, S\$70
(Tue, Wed, Thu & Sun 7.30pm)
S\$50, S\$55, S\$65, S\$75
(Fri & Sat 7.30pm, Sat & Sun 2.30pm)
Prices exclude \$3 SISTIC handling fee

Priority Booking : 16 September – 29 September 2013
20% Discount exclusively for OCBC Cardmembers

Early Bird : 30 September – 23 October 2013
20% Discount for OCBC Cardmembers, SAFRA and
PAssion Card members
15% Discount for General Public

Family Packages : Save 25% when you purchase 4 Cat 1 tickets
with your OCBC Credit/Debit Card (Limited availability)
Valid for 2 adults & 2 children (16 years & below).

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ABOUT THE W!LD RICE PANTOMIME

Once a year, the best of Singapore's 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 W!LD RICE Pantomime brings together all the elements of great family entertainment – slapstick comedy, satire, political incorrectness, catchy songs, toe-tapping dance routines, cross-dressing, fabulous costumes and spectacular sets, audience participation and a Good versus Evil story that is strong on romance and adventure.

Through its FIRST STAGE! programme, W!LD RICE is also keen to develop the talents of children from the ages of 5 to 16, many of whom take their first steps on the Singapore stage during our annual pantomimes.

Cinderel-LAH! (2010 & 2003), *Beauty & The Beast* (2009), *Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs* (2008), *Jack & The Bean-Sprout!* (2006), *Oi! Sleeping Beauty!!* (2005), *Aladdin* (2004 & 2011), and *Hansel & Gretel* (2012) have tickled and touched an audience of over 100,000 people. Today, the W!LD RICE pantomime has become the MUST-SEE musical of the holiday season, and the best possible way to round up a busy year!

PRAISE FOR JACK & THE BEAN-SPROUT! (2006)

"W!LD RICE bakes good panto. *Jack & the Bean-Sprout!* is a sugar buzz of fun, featuring overblown, interactive episodes that kids will love, with heaps of subversive double-entendres for the adults. A rollicking good time! 4 STARS."

The Flying Inkpot

"The slick, natural performances from the talented cast and comic-perfect local humour, make it all rather enjoyable. Sort of what would happen if Phua Chu Kang, in his hilarious heyday, decided to tell Mother Goose stories. Furthermore, the puppet effects designed by Tan Beng Tian and the comic-book-esque set by Tan Ju Meng lend a touch of surreal magic to the proceedings."

SPH The Straits Times LIFE!

"Jack & the Bean-Sprout! lives up to its acclaimed and popular predecessor, *Cinderel-LAH!*... impresses with a strong cast and laughs aplenty..."

TODAY

PRAISE FOR WILD RICE'S PANTOMIMES

"The (*Hansel & Gretel*) script is belly-achingly funny... The quality of singing here easily rivals any Broadway or West End musical theatre performance... It's hard to believe this is Oei's directorial debut, for the direction here shows a true gift and the genius of an immensely creative mind..."

blogcritics.org

"It's hard not to fall in love with *Aladdin*. It's so charming, kids and adults will fall under its spell!"

SPH The Straits Times Life!

"*Cinderel-LAH!*'s greatest achievement was that there was something in it for both adults and children."

SPH The Straits Times Life!

"*Oi! Sleeping Beauty!!* is a politically incorrect pantomime with a social conscience – which is the best kind..."

SPH The Business Times

"*Snow White*... is smart, sassy and satirical... just take the whole family!"

SPH The Straits Times Life!

"*Beauty & The Beast* cannot be faulted for its high production values and dedication to entertainment. It offers many laughs, feet-tapping catchy songs and a lovable cast. Great fun for the family."

SPH The Straits Times LIFE!

APPENDIX TWO

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

CALEB GOH – Jack

Caleb graduated with his Bachelor of Arts in Drama from the Queensland University of Technology in Australia and received his Masters degree in Musical Theatre from San Diego State University.

Hailing from Singapore, Caleb has worked professionally as an actor, singer, playwright, director and dancer in over seventy stage productions, a dozen television series, and four feature films. He has worked with numerous professional US theatre companies including Moonlight Stage Productions, Lamb's Players Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, San Diego Musical Theatre, Starlight Theatre, as well as over a dozen Singapore theatre companies including Singapore Repertory Theatre, Toy Factory, Theatreworks and The Necessary Stage.

Favourite theatre credits include 'Abel' in *Children of Eden*, 'Charlie Brown' in *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, 'Paul' in *Kiss Me Kate*, 'Harvey Johnson' in *Bye Bye Birdie*, 'Perchik' in *Fiddler On The Roof*, 'Kwai' in *Sing to the Dawn* and 'Ching Ho' in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.

For the past 6 years, Caleb was the glee club director and full-time drama, dance and musical theatre teacher at La Jolla Country Day School in California.

He is currently completing his PhD in Musical Theatre at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts in Australia and will begin teaching Musical Theatre History and providing thesis supervision at LASALLE College of the Arts this fall.

DARIUS TAN – Widow Neo

Jack & The Bean-Sprout! marks Darius' 7th collaboration with WILD RICE and he is excited to don his heels and lashes once again!

A seasoned and bilingual performer, Darius has performed in more than 50 productions on stage & screen. Thrice-nominated Life! Theatre Awards' Best Supporting Actor (*The Soldier & His Virtuous Wife* [2009], *Big Fool Lee* [2008] & *Beautiful Thing* [2004]), his multi-faceted versatility as an actor/singer is evident in the many roles he has played.

Stage credits: *Twelve Angry Men* (Nine Years Theatre), *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Aladdin* (2011), *Cinderel-LAH!*, *Beauty & The Beast*, *Beauty World*, *The Swordfish*, *Then The*

Concubine (WILD RICE), *Fried Rice Paradise*, *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*, *The Odd Couple*, *Forbidden City* (SRT), *Maha Moggallana*, *The Peranakan Ball*, *Shanghai Blues*, *Army Daze* (2006), *East Side Story* (Toy Factory), *Army Daze* (2012/2013) (Simplyworks), *Mulan*, *Sampek Engtay* (Theatre Practice), *Pursuant* (Singapore Lyric Opera), *Very Wagnerian Night: All Is Divine* (Singapore Arts Festival 2012), *Trainstopping* (Sightlines Productions), *The Full Monty* (Pangdemonium), *Chang & Eng*, *Viva! Viagra!* (ACTION Theatre), *Power of Notions/Notions of Power* (Checkpoint Theatre) amongst many others.

An accomplished singer/actor, Darius created his own cabaret *Let Me Entertain You!* in 2006, as well as 4 successful FLIPSIDE! Concerts at the Esplanade. Darius was also part of WILD RICE's MAN Singapore Theatre Festival 2011 late-night performance, *Talk Cock Sing Song* – a cabaret revue created by Mr. Julian Wong.

Darius is also a voice-over artist, host/emcee, director, educator, and an occasional costume designer.

KAREN TAN – Golden Hits Harp

Karen enjoys pantomimes, as they give Singaporeans – young and old – the chance to shout out and vent otherwise chargeable emotions; however, when you're told to be quiet so the story can go on, please do, because really, it's all about me, not you.

Karen has been in 7 WILD RICE pantomimes, including this restaging of *Jack and the Bean-sprout!*. She thinks that this qualifies her for a parking lot wherever the show rehearses, or at the very least, free *yin-yang peng* every day.

Karen feels that it can only truly be Christmas in Singapore when the one thing we rush around to do is to love the ones around us.

SITI KHALIJAH ZAINAL – Goose Mangat

Siti made her debut as a full-time theatre actress after she attended the year-long Theatre for Youth Ensemble programme in 2003 held by The Necessary Stage. Some of her acting credits include The Necessary Stage's main season productions like *Best Of*, *Model Citizens*, *Gemuk Girls*, *Those Who Can't, Teach* and *Good People*. She has also acted in *Hansel & Gretel*, *Cinderel-LAH!* and *Boeing Boeing* by WILD RICE; *Desire at the Melancholic String Concert* and *Nothing* by Cake Theatre; *...dan 3 dara terbang ke bulan* by Panggung Arts; *Happy Ever Laughter* by Dream Academy; *Army Daze* and *High Class* by Simply Works; and *The Bride Always Knocks Twice* by The Theatre Practice.

She won Best Actress for her role in *Model Citizens* at the LIFE! Theatre Awards 2011, and has been nominated in the same category for her roles in *Gemuk Girls* by The Necessary Stage, *How Did The Cat Get So Fat?* and *Nadirah*, both by Teater Ekamatra.

Her work has allowed her to travel to Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Australia, Scotland and Russia, where she performed and/or assisted in forum theatre workshops.

ETHEL YAP – Xeno

Ethel has had the privilege of performing in Menken and Ashman's *Little Shop of Horrors* (2009), Arifin C Noer's *Kapai-Kapai* (2010), La Passionata Svironi's *The Hood* (2010) for the Singapore Arts Festival, Stephen Sondheim's *Sunday in the Park with George* (2012), Platform 65's *Rites and Regulations* (2012) for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Yellow Chair Productions' *The Last Five Years* (2013), OKTO Channel's *After School* (2013) and I Theatre's *The Enormous Turnip* (2013), amongst other pursuits. Ethel graduated from London's Royal Central School of Speech and Drama with a Masters (Distinction) in Musical Theatre in 2012, and also enjoys writing folk/acoustic pop songs when inspiration strikes. You can find out more information about her performances and varied endeavours at www.facebook.com/ethelyapsg. Ethel would like to thank God for His grace, and hopes you will enjoy *Jack and the Bean-Sprout!* very much!

GENE SHA RUDYN – Tua Hia

Singaporean-Baweanese-Muslim Gene Sha Rudyn, born in 1968, is a multi-faceted theatre artist – director, writer, choreographer, designer, constructor, educator and award-winning actor – with over twenty-five years of professional experience.

He has graced the theatre stages of international arts festivals in Singapore, Hobart, Hong Kong, Budapest, Wellington, Perth, and Yokohama. Some of his more memorable roles are Snowball and Benjamin in WILD RICE's *Animal Farm*, Crew in The Finger Players' *Furthest North, Deepest South*, The Car in ACTION Theatre's *The Car*, and Puck in Singapore Repertory Theatre's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

His most noteworthy contributions to theatre are the 2007 six-Malaysian-states Kampong Tour of The Actors Studio, Kuala Lumpur's *Anak Bulan Di Kampong Wa' Hassan*, the 2009 Mosque Premiere and the 2011 Mosque Tour of Keelat Theatre Ensemble's *AL-IKHLAS (SINCERITY) – a monologue in seven acts re-introducing God*, and the 2012 Madrasah Premiere of Keelat Theatre Ensemble's *TWO OCEANS – an Experiential Caravan Theatre on the story of Moses at the Junction of the Two Oceans*, all unprecedented.

Gene Sha Rudyn is Founding Artistic Director and Leader of Keelat Theatre Ensemble.

JO TAN – Kopi Gao

Jo is a law graduate who's somehow managed to host, sing for events, and play a range of multi-national characters on screens of various sizes (small screen, big screen and computer screen) and in both plays and musicals in English and Mandarin that have travelled as far as Hong Kong and Korea. As recipient of a National Arts Council Residency 2012, she just returned a few months ago from Paris where she studied under Master Clown Philippe Gaulier, who spent the entire nine months insulting her and giving her Chinese burns. As a result, she is much more fearless and jumped without a second thought into the production of *High Class* after just two days' rehearsal, performing in place of an actress who contracted dengue fever just before the opening. Despite the short rehearsal period, audiences did not give her Chinese burns but actually quite nice reviews. She has spent more than two days rehearsing for this pantomime so hopefully it will be even better. She absolutely loves WILD RICE pantomimes and is happy to be in her third to date!

CANDICE DE ROZARIO – Siew Dai

Candice, a classically-trained mezzo soprano who used to front a death metal band, is a Jill-of-all-trades who acts, sings, directs and does puppetry. Recent roles include Sarah in Stephen Sondheim's *Company* (Dream Academy, recipient of 3 Life! Theatre Awards), Eldest Sister in her first Mandarin production, *Lao Jiu: The Musical* (Theatre Practice, 2 Life! Awards and one Honourable Mention), and a reprise of the Goose in the third run of I Theatre's *Little Red Hen*.

Notable acting credits include The Finger Players' *Furthest North, Deepest South* (Best Ensemble and Best Production, Life! Awards 2005), young & WILD's *Mad Forest* (Best Ensemble, Life! Awards 2008), *The Full Monty* and *Spring Awakening* (Pangdemonium), *Into The Woods* (Dream Academy), *Fried Rice Paradise* (SRT/PA), *Forbidden City* (SRT), and numerous non-human roles in I Theatre's family shows. Directing credits include I Theatre's *Little Mermaid*, *Moonbird* (as AD) and *Hey, Little Mousedeer* (as AD). Candice earns her keep conceptualising, writing, directing and occasionally acting in educational shows under The Learning Connections, and it is an open secret that, even at her age, she still harbours an ambition to star in a blockbuster superhero movie someday. Or at least appear on *The Big Bang Theory*.

GORDON CHOY – Dance Captain / Ah Kow

Gordon is a action actor / choreographer known for his forte in wushu, Chinese opera, stilt-walking, lion/dragon dance, acrobatic stunts & oriental-stylised drumming. He is also a former National Wushu Team member & choreographer/artiste of SAF Music and Drama Company. Besides WILD RICE, he has contributed his talents to local theatre companies such as Toy Factory, Theatre Practice, Theatreworks, Dream Academy,

Action Theatre, SRT, Paper Monkey, Nine Years Theatre as actor, dance captain and choreographer. TV & movie wise, he's often been seen in featured villain roles.

Choreography credits: Gordon has choreographed events from a small scale (including S'pore Youth Fest (SYF) for schools which, earned him a Gold With Honours Award for Nanyang Girls' School in 2007) to a medium scale (including corporate event conventions) to a large scale – the International Olympic Conference (IOC) in 2006, Youth Olympic Games (YOG) in 2010, Chingay (2012 & 2013) and National Day Parade (NDP), from 2006 till this year, for which he's routinely engaged to produce items combining *wushu* & dance.

He's a regular of the W!LD RICE Pantomime almost every year and this is the second time he's playing the same role in *Jack and the Bean-Sprout!*. It will be a challenging task for him to make it more interesting this time round!

HANG QIAN CHOU – Khong / Orh Luat

Qian Chou is excited to be appearing in his first pantomime, after having worked with W!LD RICE on *Beauty World* and both runs of *Own Time Own Target*. He was also part of the pioneer cohort of young & W!LD, with whom he acted in *On North Diversion Road*, *Mad Forest* and *The Hypochondriac*.

He graduated from the NUS Theatre Studies Programme and has also trained at Ecole Philippe Gaulier Summer School (France). He is now currently training in the Suzuki Method of Acting and Viewpoints as part of the Nine Years Theatre Ensemble Project.

He won The Straits Times Life! Theatre Award for Best Ensemble twice, for *Lao Jiu: The Musical* and *Mad Forest*, and was similarly nominated for *Own Time Own Target* and *The Hypochondriac*.

He performed in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2011 and co-created his first clown show *The Wrestling 3-Oh!!!* as part of *Flipside 2013*. Other theatre credits include: *Twelve Angry Men* (Nine Years Theatre); *Liao Zhai Rocks!*, *If There're Seasons...*(Theatre Practice); *Glass Anatomy*, *December Rains* (Toy Factory); *The Arabian Nights*, *Sing to the Dawn*, *The Elves & the Shoemaker*, *Under the Baobab Tree*, *The Gingerbread Man*, *Duck & Dive* and *The Wizard of Oz* (I Theatre).

ALECIA KIM CHUA – Daisy / Orh Nee

The year is 2013, which marks Alecia's 10th year in theatre and her seventh production with WILD RICE!!!! Nice numbers..... Faster go buy 4D!!!! Besides the theatre, Alecia also loves teaching drama and being a mummy to her two boys, whom she loves most of all!!!!!! Merry Christmas, everyone, and have a blessed New Year!

APPENDIX THREE

CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

IVAN HENG – Director

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

In a pioneering career spanning more than 2 decades, Ivan has 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 at 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 home to contribute to Singapore's nascent arts scene.

In 2000, with his portrayal of *Emily of Emerald Hill*, Ivan founded WILD 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 *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).

JOEL TAN – Playwright

Joel Tan is a playwright and performer.

He read English Literature at NUS, where he also studied playwriting with Huzir Sulaiman. In 2011, he made his debut with WILD RICE's production of *Family Outing* at the MAN Singapore Theatre Festival. His other plays have been staged with various young-people's theatre groups such as USProductions, NUS Stage and Takeoff Productions, with whom he has worked as a writer, director and dramaturg. He was most notably an actor, team-writer and musical director in the Checkpoint Theatre and NUS Stage production of *City Night Songs* in the 2012 NUS Arts Festival.

He most recently wrote and co-directed *The House*, a dance-theatre adaptation of Federico García Lorca's *The House of Bernarda Alba*, for Flamenco Sin Fronteras, and presented his new play, *Mosaic*, with Takeoff Productions at the Lit Up Festival organised by Word Forward.

Joel also writes essays on a diverse range of subjects, and his work can be read on POSKOD.sg and in *Esquire Singapore*.

His bio sounds very serious but Joel has been told that he is, in fact, very flighty. "Thanks, Ivan," he might say, "for dragging me on board for the ride to Panto-land".

Joel is an Associate Artist with Checkpoint Theatre, and tweets @joeltheobscure.

ELAINE W CHAN – Composer/Music Director

Best known for the LTA jingle *Love Your Ride* and the NDP 2005 theme song *Reach Out For The Skies*, this popular theatre composer-arranger-director garnered songwriting awards in her teens, wrote and directed her first full-length musical score at 18, toured the south of New Zealand, received the Wong Yee Hua Memorial Music Excellence Award, music-directed NDP 2005 together with Selena Tan, and was nominated in 2011's Life Theatre Awards for *Cinderel-LAH!*

Her prolific portfolio encompasses musical direction, original writing & arrangements for all Dream Academy Productions' of *Dim Sum Dollies*, *SingDollar*, *Hossan Leong* and *Broadway Beng Shows*, the first *Crazy Christmas*, WILD RICE's Pantomimes: *Hansel & Gretel*, *Cinderel-LAH!*, *Jack and the Bean-sprout!*, *Aladdin*, *Snow White*, *Beauty and the Beast*.

Her varied engagements include theatrical and commercial productions, CD projects, recordings, charity concerts as well as orchestrations for the *2010 Singapore Youth Festival Opening Ceremony* and vocal arrangements and direction for the *2010 YOG Opening Ceremony* as well as the recent music direction for *National Day Parade 2013*.

Her recent musical theatre directions include *Broadway Beng 5*, Toy Factory's *Glass Anatomy*, Dream Academy's *Crazy Christmas 2012 & 2011*, *Into the Woods 2011*, WILD RICE's *La Cage Aux Folles 2012* (Life! Theatre Awards 2013 Readers' Award for Production of the Year), *Aladdin 2011*, SingTheatre's *A Singaporean In Paris 2010 & No Regrets 2011*, and Toy Factory's mega-musicals *December Rain & 881*.

She is most grateful to God, family and friends' support and is most happy to return to composing music for Jack after six years.

RICHARD CHIA – Choreographer

Richard's performance career started at Neptune Theatre Restaurant, where he was a dancer/singer/compere. He then joined the SAF Music & Drama Company, where he was the dance captain. Since then, he has performed in numerous musicals for Theatreworks (*Beauty World/Mortal Sins*), SRT (inaugural production of *Godspell/Rent*), Pangdemonium (inaugural production of *The Full Monty*), and W!LD RICE (*Beauty World/Beauty and the Beast/Snow White*) to name a few. He is currently adjunct lecturer at NAFA, where he teaches movement classes to the Diploma in Theatre and Music students. He specialises in tap dance, and his first loves remain teaching and performing in musicals. This is his second time choreographing the W!LD RICE pantomime, having done *Aladdin* in 2011. He is incredibly excited and honoured to be choreographing again, working with friends old and new, and especially with the very talented young kids. Thank you, Ivan, Glen and Tony for your continued faith, love and trust in me!

IAN BAILIE – Set Designer

Ian Bailie graduated with First Class Honours from Hornsey College of Art London and Manchester University, England. With 25 years' experience worldwide in film and TV, this award-winning Hollywood Production Designer and Art Director's long list of credits include the features *Reign of Fire*, and Universal's Oscar and BAFTA Awards-winning *Pride & Prejudice* and *Atonement*. His introduction to film was as a set builder on Gotham City for *Tim Burton's Batman*. His professional alumni include Bruce Beresford, Pierce Brosnan, Christian Bale, Keira Knightley, Donald Sutherland and Joe Wright, on films that have won over 200 awards and nominations and grossed over US\$500m.

Ian was nominated for "Standard of Excellence in Art Direction" by the Art Directors Guild of America for his work on Universal Studio's *Atonement*.

In 2008, Ian designed Glen Goei's feature film *The Blue Mansion*, which was shot in Penang and, more recently, HBO's *Deadmine* in Indonesia and *The Last Reel* in Cambodia. He stage-designed for the Singapore productions of *Into The Woods* and last year's *Swimming with Sharks*, for which he was nominated for Best Set Design.

Ian is the founder of new art and design production house Garage One Pte Ltd.

JAMES TAN – Lighting Designer

James Tan is the recipient of The Allen Lee Hughes Lighting Design Fellowship, the United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) YD&T Lighting Design Award, USITT Commissioners Grant & International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD) Education Trust for IALD Enlighten Americas and National Arts Council Of Singapore Arts Professional Scholarship. He has a Masters Of Fine Arts in Lighting Design from the University of California, San Diego. Selected USA Lighting Design Credits: *Too Clever by Half*, *As You Like It*, *The Misanthrope*, *Camino Real* & *The Seagull*. ALD for *Madame*

Butterfly (San Diego Opera), *Sammy* (The Old Globe), *Restoration & Little Miss Sunshine* (La Jolla Playhouse), *Ah! Wilderness & The Normal Heart* (Arena Stage, The Mead Center For American Theater). Recent Singapore Lighting Design Credits: *Next To Normal* (Pangdemonium Productions), *8 Women* (Sing'Theatre), *David The Best 2.0 Kucing Kurap FTW* (Drama Box), *The Sleeping Beauty* (Singapore Dance Theatre), *Eat a Bitter Bloom* (Arts Fission), *The Last Temptation Of Stamford Raffles* (WILD RICE), *Attempts On Her Life* (Theatre Training & Research Programme) & *Esplanade Dains Festival with Wade Robson* (Esplanade, Theatres On The Bay). Museum Architectural Lighting Design: *The Art of the Brick® Exhibition by Nathan Sawaya* (MBS ArtScience Museum). International & Regional Tour: *Relatively Speaking* (The British Theatre Playhouse) & *God Of Carnage* (Singapore Repertory Theatre).

SHAH TAHIR – Sound Designer

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, Jacinta 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 (2009-2013), corporate events and “live” TV broadcast mixing for MediaCorp’s events.

Another passionate area of work for him is in theatre and musicals. 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 Rains*, *The Full Monty*, *Dim Sum Dollies*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* and many more.

MOE KASSIM – Costume Designer

Moe received training in performance with the SAF Music and Drama Company. Not only does he sing, dance and act, he also designs costumes. As a self-taught designer, his credits include major national events like the *National Day Parade* (2006) and the annual Chingay Parade. His designs for WILD RICE’s pantomimes *Aladdin* (2004), *Oi! Sleeping Beauty!!* (2005) and Toy Factory’s *Titoudao* (2007) have won him Best Costume Design at the ST Life! Theatre Awards. Subsequently, he achieved the prestigious honour with the same award for The Theatre Practice’s *Liao Zhai Rocks* (2011). His work in *The Secret Life of Nora*, starring Tiara Jacquelina, Ryan Silverman

and Aznil, was also nominated for Best Costumes at the 9th BOH Cameronian Arts Award in Kuala Lumpur.

Moe's credits for costumes in theatre include *Hansel & Gretel*, *Cinderel-LAH!*, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, *Jack and the Bean-Sprout!*, *The Magic Fundoshi*, *Singapore Theatre Festival* (2006, 2008 and 2011), *Happy Endings: Asian Boys Vol. 3*, and *Beauty World* for WILD RICE; *The Broadway Beng* shows, *Dim Sum Dollies: History of Singapore*, *Kumar The Queen*, and *Multiple Personalities Disorder* for Dream Academy; *Liao Zhai Rocks* for The Theatre Practice; and *High Class* and *Army Daze* for the Singapore Street Festival.

ASHLEY LIM – Hair Designer

Ashley started his hairstyling career in 1986 and set up Ashley Salon in 1999 to further pursue his dedication towards the art of hairdressing, especially with regards to theatrical work. Ashley became involved with theatrical work in 1987 and has since worked with more than 200 productions of local and international standards. Many of these productions were participants of festivals, some of which became nominees and/or winners of art awards. Ashley has gained a wide range and depth of experience working with all the leading professional theatrical companies of Singapore. He has had the opportunity to create hair designs from a diverse range of different cultures and eras. His skill is extensive, culminating from more than two decades of hairdressing experience. He is privileged to have been 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. Ashley also participated in the inauguration of Singapore's The Esplanade in October 2002 and was the Creative Hair Designer for the World Premiere of the musical *Forbidden City: Portrait Of An Empress*. Apart from theatre, Ashley also extends his work to TV shows and advertorial works for leading local fashion magazines, as well as providing contemporary hair designs for bridal and fashion projects.

BENO LIM (M.A.C.) – Make-Up Designer

M.A.C. Pro Team Senior Artist Beno has been doing make-up for 21 years. To Beno, make-up tells a story, which is why he has enjoyed make-up for theatre, particularly creating looks for characters that help propel stories forward. Beno draws his inspiration from the everyday – movies, music, nature, travelling and the quirks of experience. Some of his more recent work includes WILD RICE's *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Alfian Saat – In The Spotlight* and Theatre Practice's *Lao Jiu* and *The Bride Always Knocks Twice*.

Beside doing make-up for international Fashion Week in Milan, Beno also keyed the FIDE Fashion Week, New Paper New Face and Manhunt 2013.

He also does magazine shoots for *Nylon*, *Her World*, *Female*, *NuYou*, *Vulture*, *Shape* and *Ziggy*. He also done makeup for celebrities such as Lady Gaga, Sophie Marceau, Isabelle Huppert, Fleur Lise Heuet, Steven Tyler and Sung Hoon.

TONY TRICKETT – Producer

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

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

Tony is the Producer for all WILD RICE shows, both in Singapore and internationally. These include the 10th Anniversary productions of *Animal Farm*, *Boeing Boeing*, *Cinderel-LAH!*, *Emily of Emerald Hill* and *La Cage Aux Folles*, as well as the tour of *Animal Farm* to Tasmania, where it headlined the prestigious *10 Days on the Island Festival*. Tony produced the acclaimed 2006, 2008 and 2011 *Singapore Theatre Festivals*, which he conceived together with Artistic Director Ivan Heng.

APPENDIX FOUR

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.

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 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 in 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 developing, presenting and promoting 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).