

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



29 August 2014 – For the 11th edition of its annual must-see musical pantomime, WILD RICE is looking to the East for inspiration. *Monkey Goes West* is based on endearing Chinese fantasy classic *Journey To The West*, as affectionately re-imagined and relocated to modern-day Singapore by WILD RICE's Resident Playwright Alfian Sa'at. Acclaimed music composer Elaine Chan will compose a brand-new score for the production.

"We've always prided ourselves on taking well-loved fairy-tales and giving them a distinctly local twist," explains Ivan Heng, Artistic Director of WILD RICE. "We felt that it was time to explore the wealth of literature and adventure available to us from sources closer to home."

Monkey Goes West marks Broadway Beng Sebastian Tan's directing debut with WILD RICE. No stranger to the WILD RICE pantomime, Tan has won great acclaim for playing the evil witch in two previous productions (*Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs* and *Hansel & Gretel*). He is thrilled to be taking on the role of director for *Monkey Goes West*.

"I wanted it to be based on Tripitaka's *Journey To The West* because, as a kid, this epic story captured so much of my imagination," says Tan. "We want to bring audiences on a funny, fabulous, fantastical journey!"



The elaborate costumes for the pantomime will be designed by Saksit Pisalasupongs and Phisit Jongnarangsin of Tube Gallery, an award-winning design and fashion company based in Bangkok. Singaporeans have seen their work onstage before: *881 The Musical*, *The Crucible* and *Glass Anatomy*. *Monkey Goes West* marks the first collaboration between WILD RICE and Tube Gallery.

“We love having Saksit and Phisit on board,” says Heng. “They have such passion and enthusiasm for telling stories through the beautiful costumes they create.”

The talented cast of *Monkey Goes West* features an exciting mix of veteran actors and fresh faces. Familiar faces like Chua Enlai (*The Importance of Being Earnest*, TV's *The Noose*), Lim Kay Siu (*Lao Jiu The Musical*) and Siti Khalijah Zainal (*Jack & the Bean-Sprout!*, *Best Of*) will be joined onstage by Joshua Lim (*Ah Boys To Men The Musical*), Sugie Phua (*Project Super Star*, *Glass Anatomy*) and recent LASALLE College of the Arts graduates Frances Lee (*Fat Pig*) and Kimberly Chan (*High Class*, *Hot Pants*).

The production will also feature the young talents, ages 5 to 12, as part of WILD RICE's FIRST STAGE! Programme. As *Monkey Goes West* will be the first pantomime to feature *Wushu* as part of its onstage action and choreography. Children from Martial House – Singapore's leading *Wushu* academy – will also be taking to the stage to show off their impressive martial arts skills.

Monkey Goes West will be staged at the Victoria Theatre, giving audience an opportunity to experience the beloved Christmas show in the newly refurbished venue.

ABOUT MONKEY GOES WEST

WILD RICE looks East for its 11th holiday musical extravaganza for the whole family! An affectionate and cheeky retelling of the beloved Chinese fantasy classic, *Monkey Goes West* is an epic thrill ride that will take you from Haw Par Villa to Jurong West – by way of a colourful world filled with mythical monsters and naughty fairies.

When orphan Ah Tang runs away from home after quarreling with his adoptive family, he finds himself transported to a new, strange land. There, he befriends a trio of fellow travellers: Wukong, the cheeky Monkey King; Pigsy, a brave but always-hungry warrior; and Sandy, a stubborn but loyal river ogre.

Together, the fearless foursome embark on the adventure of a lifetime, one fraught with trials and dangers aplenty. Can they contain the rowdy mischief of the fire-breathing Red Boy? Will they be able to defeat the monstrous shape-shifting King Bull? How in the world will they get their hands on the magic fan of the man-eating Princess Iron Fan? Most importantly, will Ah Tang ever find a place that he can call home, truly?

Written by Alfian Sa'at, with music composed by Elaine Chan, this production marks Broadway Beng Sebastian Tan's directing debut with WILD RICE. Packed with catchy songs, hilarious gags, *Wushu* and magic, *Monkey Goes West* promises to brighten up your holiday season and keep you and your loved ones laughing well into the New Year. Come and be entertained... and enlightened!



OUR SPONSORS

WILD RICE is delighted to have on board.....

Simmons, which was a first-time sponsor of the arts when they became our “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 our 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 2013 (*Jack & the Bean-Sprout!*). And now, once again, in 2014, **Simmons** will be our “Official Sleeping Partner” for *Monkey Goes West*.

Frasers Hospitality, which has now sponsored WILD RICE for over 11 years! As Corporate Sponsor, **Frasers** has covered all of WILD RICE’s accommodation requirements for visiting artists and performers for over a decade. **Frasers** hosts its serviced-apartment guests and clients at our shows throughout the year, and always brings a wonderful party to the year-end musical pantomime.

OCBC Bank, which has supported WILD RICE for most of our 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), *Alfian Sa’at – In The Spotlight* (2013) and *Jack & the Bean-Sprout!* (2013). **OCBC** was also the Presenting Sponsor for 10 WILD YEARS, WILD RICE’s 10th Anniversary Season.

We would also like to thank all our other wonderful sponsors and supporters, without whom making magic onstage would not be possible. They include: AL Wealth Partners Pte Ltd, M.A.C., 8 Days, Allegro Print, PAssion Card, Lavish DINE, SAFRA, IKEA FAMILY and Lee Foundation.





GIVING THE GIFT OF THEATRE

In celebration of the year-end holiday season, WILD RICE is working with several charities to give underprivileged children and young people the opportunity to experience the magic of live theatre.

The theatre is a wonderful place for children and young people. Not only does it give them a place to share laughter and tears, and the space to imagine new worlds and possibilities, it challenges them to think and to empathise with those who are different from themselves. Not all our children and their families have the means to enjoy the theatre.

Courtesy of generous donations from Shaw Foundation and Keppel Care Foundation, 560 less privileged Singaporeans will be able to watch our annual holiday pantomime, *Monkey Goes West*, this year.

The charity organisations which will benefit from the charity drive include the Arc Children's Centre, which cares for children with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses; HELP Family Service Centre, which provides support for single parents and their children; Down Syndrome Association (Singapore), which provides support for individuals with Down Syndrome and their families; and the Children's Cancer Foundation, Asian Women's Welfare Association (AWWA) School, which aims to improve the quality of life of children with cancer.

FAST FACTS

Title	:	<i>MONKEY GOES WEST</i>
Book & Lyrics by	:	Alfian Sa'at
Music by	:	Elaine W Chan
Directed by	:	Sebastian Tan
Musical Director	:	Bang Wenfu
Cast	:	<p>Chua Enlai <i>as</i> Princess Iron Fan Lim Kay Siu <i>as</i> King Bull Siti Khalijah Zainal <i>as</i> Sandy Joshua Lim <i>as</i> Ah Tang Frances Lee <i>as</i> Pigsy Kimberly Chan <i>as</i> Red Boy <i>and introducing</i> Sugie Phua <i>as</i> Monkey King</p> <p>The FIRST STAGE! Kids Martial House Kids & a LIVE 6-Piece Band!</p>
Choreography	:	Filomar Tariao
Martial Arts Choreography	:	Gordon Choy
Vocal Coach	:	Irene Jansen
Set Design	:	Wong Chee Wai
Lighting Design	:	Adrian Tan
Sound Design	:	Shah Tahir
Costume Design	:	Tube Gallery
Hair Design	:	Ashley Lim
Make-Up Design	:	Bobbie Ng
Producer	:	Tony Trickett
Venue	:	Victoria Theatre
Show Dates	:	21 November – 13 December 2014



- Ticketing Agent : SISTIC.com Pte Ltd
SISTIC Hotline (65) 6348 5555
SISTIC Website www.sistic.com.sg
SISTIC Authorised Agents
- Ticket Prices : S\$45, S\$60, S\$70
(Previews 21 November 7.30pm & 22 November 2.30pm)
S\$50, S\$65, S\$75
(Tue, Wed & Thu 7.30pm & Thu 2.30pm)
S\$55, S\$70, S\$80
(Fri & Sat 7.30pm, Sat & Sun 2.30pm)
Prices exclude \$4 SISTIC handling fee
- Priority Booking : 15 September – 28 September 2014
20% Discount for OCBC Cardmembers only
- Early Bird : 29 September – 22 October 2014
20% Discount for OCBC Cardmembers, PASSion, SAFRA,
British Club and IKEA FAMILY Card Members.
15% Discount for General Public
- Family Package : Save 25% when you purchase 4 Cat 1 tickets for the price
of 3 with your OCBC Credit/Debit Card.
Valid for 2 adults & 2 children (16 years & below).
- Press Contact : Yee Zhiyun
Marketing and Communications Executive
Sirius Art PR Pte Ltd
DID: +65 6435 0625
yeezhiyun@siriusart.com.sg
- Lew Yook Kim
Manager
Sirius Art PR Pte Ltd
DID: +65 6435 0627
yookkim@siriusart.com.sg



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ABOUT THE WILD 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. Our goal? 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, biting satire, catchy songs, toe-tapping dance routines, fabulous costumes, spectacular sets, audience participation and a rollicking story that pits Good against Evil... with plenty of romance and adventure thrown in for good measure.

Through its FIRST STAGE! Programme, WILD RICE is also keen to develop the talents of children from the ages of 5 to 12, many of whom take their first steps on the Singapore stage during our annual pantomimes.

Cinderel-LAH! (2003 & 2010), *Beauty & the Beast* (2009), *Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs* (2008), *Jack & the Bean-Sprout!* (2006 & 2013), *Oi! Sleeping Beauty!!* (2005), *Aladdin* (2004 & 2011) and *Hansel & Gretel* (2012) have tickled and touched an audience of over 100,000 people. Today, the WILD 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 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!

"WILD 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 extenders 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 *Jack & the Bean-sprout!* 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

APPENDIX TWO

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Chua Enlai as Princess Fanny

Enlai, a two-time Asian Television Award winner for Best Comedy Actor, was last seen onstage in WILD RICE's 2014 production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* at the 25th Macao Arts Festival. 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 (*The Importance of Being Earnest*). *Monkey Goes West* will mark Enlai's twelfth production with WILD RICE. Past collaborations were *The Importance of Being Earnest* (2009, 2013 & 2014), *Cinderel-LAH!* (2003 & 2010), *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 Noose*. The show is screened on terrestrial television channel Mediacorp Channel 5, as well as Comedy Central Asia. Last year saw Enlai foray into Mandarin-speaking programmes with *Laughing Out Loud* (笑笑没烦恼), *I'm In Charge* (小子当家) and *Say It* (好好说慢慢讲), the highest-rating variety programme in Singapore last year. Other television credits, as both actor and host, include *Scrum*, *Say the Word*, *Random Island*, *Same But Different*, *Silver Lining*, *Sayang Sayang*, *Heartland Getaways*, *Parental Guidance* and *My Sassy Neighbour*. For his work on the small screen, Enlai was named Elle Magazine's Actor of the Year in 2008. His film credits include *Judgement Day*, *The Ghosts Must Be Crazy* and *Already Famous*, as well as cameos in *Everybody's Business*, *Taxi! Taxi!* and *Greedy Ghost*. Enlai is managed by Fly Entertainment.

Lim Kay Siu as King Bull

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* and *If There're Seasons* (both in Mandarin) with Theatre Practice; *Romeo & Juliet*, *Family Outing*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Animal Farm* and *Visit of the Tai-Tai* with WILD RICE; *3 Japanese Women* for Mu-Lan in London; *The Letter* for the Lyric Hammersmith, London; *7th Drawer*, *Morning People* and *Army Daze* for Toy Factory; and *Death of a Salesman* and *Oleanna* for SRT. Musicals include *Beauty World*, *Fried Rice Paradise* (TheatreWorks), and *Nagaland* (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 directed *Half Lives* by Chay Yew for TheatreWorks, which was selected as Play of the Year by the 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; and *Avatar* (Independent).

Siti Khalijah Zainal as Sandy

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 of *Best Of*, *Model Citizens* and *Gemuk Girls*. She has also acted in *Jack & the Bean-Sprout!*, *Hansel & Gretel* and *Cinderel-LAH!* by WILD RICE, *Rainbow Fish* and *Just So* by I-Theatre, *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* by The Presenting Company and *The Bride Always Knocks Twice* by The Theatre Practice.

She has 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, as well as *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.

Joshua Lim as Ah Tang

Joshua is a graduate from the Singapore Management University. In 2010, he made his professional debut in *Fried Rice Paradise* (SRT), and has since performed in *Into The Woods* (Dream Academy), *October* (The Necessary Stage), *Glass Anatomy* (Toy Factory), *Poor Thing* (The Necessary Stage), and *Turn By Turn We Turn* (The Finger Players), just to name a few. He excels at army-themed productions, having played Ah Beng in *Army Daze* (SimplyWorks) and the well-received Qi Dong Qiang in *Ah Boys To Men The Musical* (Running Into The Sun). You may have seen him on TV as Noah, a new character introduced in the latest season of *Code Of Law*, or as the lead in the Toggle advertisement – “the guy who scratched his butt”. He is an avid singer who does voiceovers, hosts, and plays a number of instruments including the piano, flute, guitar, and drums.

Joshua is delighted to be reunited with Sebastian, Elaine, and Fil, the creative team of *Honk!* – the production at SMU largely responsible for why he is pursuing his passion till today – in his second WILD RICE production.

Frances Lee as Pigsy

Frances graduated from the BA (Hons) Acting course at LASALLE College of the Arts in May 2014. Since then, she has been heavily involved in children's theatre, working with Act 3 International on numerous productions. She was recently in Pangdemonium's staging of *Fat Pig* as the titular Helen. While at LASALLE, she worked with notable directors such as Natalie Henedige, Adam Marple, Stefanos Rassios and Nelson Chia. Her most notable roles include The Burgomaster in *The Visit*; Paulina in *A Winter's Tale*; Mrs. Bennett in *Pride and Prejudice* and Tiresias in *Oedipus the King*. Her stage debut came at the tender age of 8, when Jacintha Abisheganaden cast her in a production of *Baby Beauty World* as Rosemary Joseph, staged in Jubilee Hall. From 1998-2002, she was part of the children's



ensemble in *Chang & Eng The Musical*, directed by Ekachai Uekrongtham, when the production embarked on its Asia tour to KL and Bangkok.

This being her first pantomime, Frances is incredibly thrilled and blessed to be working with such a star-studded cast.

Kimberly Chan as Red Boy

Fresh out of LASALLE's Musical Theatre Programme, Kimberly Chan is well-versed in singing, acting and dancing. LASALLE has provided her the opportunity to perform in *And the World Goes Round*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Shadow Box* and the graduation show, *The Wedding Singer*, in which she played the leading lady, Julia Sullivan.

She has also acted in Main Wayang's *Malam Newstalgia* as well as Michael Chiang's new play *High Class*. Kimberly also appeared in Asa Palomera's play *Women of Asia* in June as well as the revival of Dick Lee's *Hotpants* in August this year.

Trained in Tap, Spanish Dance and Flamenco, Ballet and Jazz, Kimberly has taught dance and choreographed for dance studios in Singapore and Shanghai. Her choreography credits include: *VVVV & Assassinat dans le Salon* (Meridian Junior College), *A Christmas Cabaret* (Sightline Productions), and *Beauty World* (NUS CAPT).

Sugie Phua as Monkey King

Young and vibrant, Sugie was one of the male finalists for mammoth Channel U singing competition *Project Superstar I*. Sugie's talent in singing was further recognised when he came in among the top 7 contestants in an international singing competition *Million Star III* held in Taiwan. Famous Taiwanese host Matilda Tao (陶子) gave Sugie the nickname 『美猴王』 ('monkey king'), by which he has since been widely known.

Sugie first started acting in the theatre in 2008's *Liao Zhai Rocks*, a musical produced by The Theatre Practice. The following year, he took the lead and acted alongside the late Emma Yong in the musical *Mahamogalana*, a musical by Toy Factory. Subsequently, he has appeared in *Don't Forget To Say Goodbye*, *Sing Song Tell Tales*, a well-known play by the late Kuo Pao Kun, *Lao Jiu*, *Glass Anatomy* and *Innamorati*.

Martial House

Martial House is Singapore's premier *wushu* sports academy, founded by award-winning sports coach and international *wushu* judge/coach Mr. Leo Wen Yeow. Today, Martial House has under its belt nine years of history and more than a thousand members islandwide. The academy is staffed with several professional coaches who are committed to promoting *wushu* and grooming young talents to become the next *wushu* champions.

Martial House also conducts numerous *wushu* courses and workshops, providing training for big companies as well as one-to-one personal coaching for individuals from the age of 5 to 65. The academy has also had vast experience in *wushu*, stunts and even dance choreography and mass performances over the years, which include: the International Olympic Conference (2005), Asia On The Edge (2008), National Day Parade (from 2009 until today), Youth Olympic Games Opening (2010 – directed by Cultural Medallion recipient Ivan Heng), the Istana's CNY events, Chingay, MediaCorp events, world-scale corporate



congresses & the upcoming SEA Games 2015 at the new Sports Hub, mainly choreographed by resident choreographer/artistic consultant Gordon Choy (who is also movement coach and fight choreographer of *Monkey Goes West*).

Martial House is very honoured and proud to be part of the *Monkey Goes West* team, as this marks their debut on the local theatre scene. Thanks to Ivan, Sebastian and the WILD RICE production team!

APPENDIX THREE

CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

SEBASTIAN TAN – Director

Sebastian has been a Dream Academy Artiste since 2006.

He was the director of *Honk!* and *Just So* (SMU's Arts Festival 2009-2010).

Notable musical and theatre credits include the *Happy Ever Laughter* series, *Broadway Beng* series, *Crazy Christmas* series, *Hansel & Gretel*, *Into The Woods*, *\$!NG Dollar*, *Cinderel-LAH!*, *Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs*, *Jack & the Bean-Sprout!* (2006), *Landmarks: Asian Boys Vol. 2*, *Fried Rice Paradise*, *Twist of Fate*, *Forbidden City*, *Titoudao* and *Miss Saigon* (UK tour).

TV credits include *Payday*, *First Class – Seasons 1 & 2*, *Sayang Sayang Season 2*, *The Moose*, *Police & Thief*, *City-Spy Singapore*, *My Big Brother* and *Odd Squad*.

Film credits: *The Blue Mansion* and *Judgement Day*.

Vocal recordings include TV serial theme song *Price of Peace* (Best Theme Song, Star Awards 1997), National Day 2007 theme song *Will You*, and Chingay 2013 theme song *Fire in Snow*.

Sebastian won the Best Supporting Actor Award in the Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards 2009 for the role of The Queen in *Snow White* (WILD RICE). Other awards include Best Ensemble (ST Life! Theatre Awards 2010) and Actor of the Year (Elle Awards 2007). Sebastian was also the winner of Talent Search 1996.

He was the emcee for National Day Parade 2013 and also appeared as Broadway Beng in the pre-Parade segment.

ALFIAN SA'AT – Playwright

Born in 1977, Alfian Bin Sa'at is currently a Resident Playwright with WILD RICE. His plays with the company include *Homesick*, *Happy Endings: Asian Boys Vol. 3* and *Cooling-Off Day*. His published works include two collections of poetry, *One Fierce Hour* and *A History of Amnesia*; two collections of short stories, *Corridor* and *Malay Sketches*; and two collections of plays, *Collected Plays 1 & 2*.

Alfian has been nominated eight times for Best Script at the Life! Theatre Awards, eventually winning for *Landmark*, *Nadirah* and *Your Sister's Husband*. He also won the Boh Cameronian for Best Original Script for *Parah* and Best Original Book or Lyrics for *The Secret Life of Nora*. He was also 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, Stockholm, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

ELAINE W CHAN – Composer

Best known for the LTA jingle *Love Your Ride*, National Day Parade 2005 theme song *Reach Out for the Skies* and 2013's *One Singapore*, 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 National Day Parade 2005 & 2013 and, together with Selena Tan, was nominated in 2011's Life Theatre Awards for *Cinderel-LAH!*

Her prolific portfolio encompasses musical direction, original writing and arrangements for all Dream Academy productions of *Dim Sum Dollies*, *SingDollar*, *Hossan Leong Show* and *Broadway Beng*, the first *Crazy Christmas*, W!LD RICE's pantomimes: *Hansel & Gretel*, *Cinderel-LAH!*, *Jack & the Bean-Sprout!* (2006 & 2013), *Aladdin*, *Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs*, *Beauty & the Beast* and a musical adaptation of the Bard's *Romeo and Juliet*.

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

Her recent musical direction work for the theatre includes a Shanghai Musical Tour of Toy Factory's *Glass Anatomy & Like! Musical*, Dream Academy's *Crazy Christmas Concerts* (2011 & 2012), W!LD RICE's *La Cage Aux Folles* (2012, Life Theatre Awards 2013 Readers' Award for Production of the Year), *Aladdin* (2011), *Into The Woods* (2011), SingTheatre's *A Singaporean In Paris* (2010 & 2014) and *No Regrets* (2011), and Toy Factory's mega-musicals *December Rain* and *881*.

Once again, she is most happy to be writing the original score for *Monkey Goes West* alongside its uber-talented creative team, cast, crew, production team and musicians.

BANG WENFU – Musical Director

Wenfu is one of Singapore's most sought-after composers, arrangers and musical directors. He currently freelances, and actively collaborates with I-Theatre, Sound Farm Productions, Stereo Image, Funkie Monkeys Productions and Pandemonium Productions.

His creativity is best featured in *Chestnuts*, a very popular annual live parody show, for which he has designed the music from 1997 through to 2013. Some of his prolific music arrangement work includes SRT's historic musical *Forbidden City – Portrait of an Empress* (2002), for which he was also associated music director, W!LD RICE's pantomime *Jack & the Bean-Sprout!* (2006), Toy Factory's award-winning musical *December Rains* (2010), and Theatre Practice's critically-acclaimed *Lao Jiu The Musical* (2012). Other notable theatre productions featuring his music include Pandemonium's *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*; W!LD RICE's *Family Outing*, *Homesick*, *The Hypochondriac*, *Own Time Own Target*; Theatre Practice's musicals *If There're Seasons*, *Liao Zhai*, SRT's *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Oleanna*; I-Theatre's *Sing To The Dawn*, *Moon Bird*, *Arabian Nights*, *Grimm's Tales*; ACTION Theatre's *Women On Canvas*, *Manhood*; Ingot Arts' *Art & Life – A Sondheim Revue*,



STAGES' *Loving Them; Invade My Privacy; H is for Hantu*, Theatreworks' *National Broadway Company*, and Spare Room Production's *It's My Life the Musical*, among others.

He also produces music for indie bands, indie films, and writes soundtracks for animation films, corporate events and commercial ads. He is also an active music composer and director for school productions.

FILOMAR TARIAO – Choreographer

DrFil, as he's fondly called by his students, recently won three 1st-place awards at the Prague International Dance Festival. Local credits: *Banwa Esplanade Dance Festival, Everything But The Brain, Twelfth Night, Much Ado About Nothing, Midsummer Night's Dream, R&J, Beauty World, Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs, Victor/Victoria, Pinocchio, Boy Who Cried Wolf, The Romance of Magno Rubio, La Traviata, Salome, Annie, HONK!, Just So, Imelda's Boys, Theatre Idols*. He has performed/choreographed for SRT, WILD RICE, Lyric Opera and ACTION Theatre. International credits: *Chicago Dance Masters Association, International Jazz Congress (USA), Darna, Nutcracker, Cinderella, LeSacre du Printemps, Interior, Pirates of Penzance, Fame, MIPIM Cannes Festival, Singapore Season-Shanghai-Beijing*, (Filipiniana EuroTour). Companies: Gus Giordano Jazz Dance Company Chicago, Ballet Philippines, Power Dance, Repertory Philippines, Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts, Filipiniana Dance Company. He teaches at NAFA, LASALLE and SOTA. A licensed physician, DrFil left his practice to pursue a greater passion. More @ www.entablado.com.sg

GORDON CHOY – Martial Arts Choreographer/Dance Captain

Gordon is a well-established action actor/choreographer known for his forte in *wushu*, Chinese opera, stiltwalking, lion/dragon dance, acrobatic stunts & oriental-stylised drumming in the local theatre and showbiz industry. He is also well-known as the Monkey God in the local Chinese opera scene. He was formerly a member of the Singapore National *Wushu* Team. Presently, he is the resident choreographer of the SAF Music and Drama Company & artistic consultant/choreographer for Martial House, whose *wushu*-trained kids are featured among the First Stage! Kids for this production. He has contributed his talents as actor, dance captain and choreographer to local theatre companies like WILD RICE, Toy Factory, Theatre Practice, Theatreworks, Dream Academy, ACTION Theatre, SRT, Paper Monkey, Cake Theatre and Nine Years Theatre. He was last seen in *Ah Boys To Men The Musical* in the role of CSM and also served as fight choreographer. Recently, he won the Best Ensemble award in the 2014 Life! Theatre Awards for his work in Nine Years Theatre's *Twelve Angry Men*.

Gordon has choreographed for a wide range of events, from the relatively small scale of the Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) for schools, which earned him a Gold With Honours Award for Nanyang Girls' High School in 2007, to medium-scale corporate event conventions, through to the large-scale International Olympic Conference (IOC) (2006), Youth Olympic Games (YOG) (2010), Chingay (2012 & 2013), National Day Parade (NDP, 2006-2014) and next year's SEA Games Opening Ceremony (2015).

IRENE JANSEN – Vocal Coach

Irene Jansen is currently the vocal trainer and director of the ITE Show Choir, which was one of the first show choirs formed in Singapore. The ITE Show Choir's recent achievements include winning the Silver Award at the Busan Choral Competition in 2013 in Korea. Her



other work includes vocal training and vocal direction for musicals for ITE, acting as musical director for PA TNET's productions, as well as teaching singing to vocal groups, from children to adults. Irene also conducts school vocal training aesthetics programmes and appreciation workshops for school staff.

Marrying her love for food and music, Irene is also Singapore's first "Singing Chef" and made her debut musical performance as such in Esplanade's *Flipside*. She performed thereafter in the role for *Celebrate December 2013*.

Irene continues to explore opportunities for her students and has formed the group, One Heart One Voice, to work with people in the arts industry, whether they are performing in TV programmes, stage shows or private gigs. Irene also continues to nurture newer talents so they can go far and do well in the future.

She believes that a song is meant to inspire, motivate, encourage and touch lives and she hopes that she can continue to nurture each and every one of her singers.

For this project, she will be assisted by her sister Audrey, who supports her with most of her music projects. Irene is also thankful to be given a chance to work with the *Monkey Goes West* team and would like to thank Ivan and Sebastian for this wonderful opportunity to be the vocal coach for this great cast.

WONG CHEE WAI – Set Designer

Chee Wai is a full-time freelance set designer. He has designed and worked with various performing arts companies in Singapore.

Some of his recent works include Blank Space Theatre's *Red*, The Theatre Practice's *If There're Seasons*, WILD RICE's *The House Of Bernarda Alba*, Sight Lines Entertainment's *Everything But The Brain*, Nine Years Theatre's *Art* (Huayi 2014), *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Macao Arts Festival 2013) and *Twelve Angry Men* (Huayi 2013), Sing Theatre's *A Singaporean In Paris*, *French Kiss* and *8 Women*, and Blank Space Theatre *Freud's Last Session*.

ADRIAN TAN – Lighting Designer

A graduate of LASALLE College of The Arts in 2006, Adrian has since designed shows that have been staged both locally and internationally.

Recent designs include *Company The Musical* (Nominee, Production of The Year, Life! Theatre Awards 2013), *Broadway Beng*, *Kumar*, *Crazy Christmas*, *Happy Ever Laughter* and *The Hossan Leong Show*, all for Dream Academy. Shows for WILD RICE include *Cooling-Off Day* (Nominee, Production of The Year, Life! Theatre Awards 2012); *National Language Class*, which premiered at the first Singapore Theatre Festival in 2006; and *Cook A Pot Of Curry*, which was part of the WILD RICE Festival, *Alfian Saat: In The Spotlight*.

More notably, Adrian designed for *A Cage Goes In Search of A Bird* for A GROUP OF PEOPLE, which was nominated for Best Lighting Design at the 2011 Life! Theatre Awards and also awarded the Production of The Year.



His versatility has been displayed in numerous dance shows such as *Coppelia*, *The Nutcracker*, *Romeo & Juliet*, the 2012 and 2013 editions of *Masterpiece In Motion* and *Ballet Under The Stars*, all for Singapore Dance Theatre. As a regular collaborator of T.H.E Dance Company and Re: Dance Theatre, he has lit most of their shows over the last three years, including *Solo/Duets*, *LiTHE*, *The Contact Dance Festival* and *New Vision*, all for T.H.E Dance Company. For Re: Dance Theatre, designs include *Colab* 2013 and 2014, *Revisit The Sunflower*, *Lost Days* and *Sleep and Traces*, as part of the NUS Arts Festival 2014.

Recently, he wrapped up his fourth year at the NUS Arts Festival with *CON\$UMED*, a collaboration with Edith Podesta and Brian Gothong Tan.

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 served as the Audio Consultant/Sound Designer for the National Day Parade (2009-2012), corporate events and “live” TV broadcast mixing with MediaCorp’s events.

Another area of passion in his work is in theatre and musicals. He has designed and mixed 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.

TUBE GALLERY – Costume Designer

Tube Gallery has been established as a new generation Thai fashion house since 1999. The edgy and prolific Tube Gallery is made up of two dynamic designers, Saksit Pisalasupongs and Phisit Jongnarangsin, who have made waves in the fashion scenes of Bangkok and the region. Tube Gallery is about dramatic but yet fun designs, ready-to-wear with a touch of semi *couture*. They are proud to have showcased their pieces at renowned fashion shows in Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Jakarta, Beijing, Shanghai, Tokyo, Sydney, and Paris.

Tube Gallery has been stocked by leading fashion stores in various countries, from Dubai (UAE), Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Amsterdam (Netherlands), the USA to London (UK).

Local and international celebrities have been spotted in Tube Gallery dresses, including Kimberley Walsh from Girls Aloud, Ashley Robert from The Pussycat Dolls, A*M*E, Paloma Faith, and HRH Sirivannavari Nariratana from Thailand.



In 2012, Tube Gallery won The Best Costume Designer Award in the 12th Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards for their work in *881 The Musical*.

ASHLEY LIM – Hair Designer

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 for the theatre. Ashley became involved with theatrical work in 1987 and has since worked on almost 300 productions of local and international standard. 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 diverse cultures and periods. His skill is extensive, the result of 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.

THE MAKE UP ROOM – Make-Up Designer

A place that conducts both personal as well as professional make-up workshops, The Make Up Room have been steadily growing their repertoire of make-up services and artistry into commercial projects, editorial shoots for magazines, bridal services and local theatre productions. We have been involved in theatre productions in the last ten years and recent projects include *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *Happy Ever Laughter*, *Shakespeare In The Park: Merchant of Venice*, *Little Voice* and *Ah Boys To Ah Men The Musical*.

Till today, The Make Up Room are still passionately involved in expanding the artistry of make-up in big and small ways.

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 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 across 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 to 12.
- 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 in major international arts festivals in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand and Russia.

In August 2006, WILD RICE presented the inaugural SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL, a biennial new writing festival committed to 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).