

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA

15 January 2014 – In March 2014, WILD RICE presents an electrifying new production of *The House Of Bernarda Alba*, Spanish playwright Federico Garcia Lorca's explosive tale of suppressed desires and jealousies.

Lorca's complex play tells the combustible tale of a tyrannical matriarch who compels her five daughters to enter an eight-year period of mourning after the death of their father.

The production is part of WILD RICE's Masterpiece Theatre season, which aims to bring a world classic to the Singapore stage every spring. The text was adapted into English by veteran Singaporean playwright and director Chay Yew. Chay's contemporary adaptation has been staged to great acclaim in America.

"I was fascinated by the premise of the play – that Bernarda could demand that her daughters be shut in for eight years of grieving," says Glen Goei, WILD RICE Associate Director and the director of this production. "There's so much there about rules, tradition and keeping up appearances that is so strikingly reminiscent of our own lives here in Singapore."

Three generations of Singapore's finest actresses will share the stage in *The House Of Bernarda Alba*. Claire Wong leads the award-winning all-female cast in the title role. Chafing under Bernarda's unrelenting rule are her five daughters, who will be played by Neo Swee Lin, Karen Tan, Serene Chen, Noorlinah Mohamed and Glory Ngim. Margaret Chan returns to the stage as Bernarda's mother, Maria Josefa. Rounding out the powerhouse ensemble are Jo Kukathas and Sharda Harrison as members of the Alba household's domestic help and Sharon Lim as a family friend.

ABOUT *THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA*

One matriarch. Five daughters. Eight years of mourning.

To keep up appearances after the death of her husband, tyrannical mother Bernarda resolves to seal her family off from the world - a decision that effectively compels her five daughters to give up love and happiness for a life of duty and obligation. Within the oppressive confines of the Alba household, tensions swirl and emotions run high. The arrival of a seductive suitor lays bare the bitter rivalries and repressed sexuality that lie at the twisted, tragic heart of Bernarda's family.

An explosive tale of suppressed desires and jealousies, *The House Of Bernarda Alba* is a masterpiece of modern European theatre. It is the final – and possibly finest – play written by Spanish playwright Federico Garcia Lorca, completed shortly before Nationalist sympathisers murdered him in 1936.

Deftly transposed into Singapore's rigid, rule-bound Peranakan community, WILD RICE's electrifying production of Lorca's classic play features three generations of Singapore's best actresses on one stage. Together with celebrated director Glen Goei, they bring to life an internationally acclaimed adaptation by Singaporean playwright Chay Yew (*Porcelain, A Language Of Their Own*). Designing *The House of Bernarda Alba* are Wong Chee Wai (sets), James Tan (lighting) and Ivan Heng (costumes).

This thrilling production of one of the world's greatest plays promises to be one of the highlights of 2014. Don't miss it on any account!

Praise for *The House of Bernarda Alba*

“an engrossing, implosive performance”

- Variety

“a transcendent experience... not to be missed.”

- Offoffoff.com

“The audience will find *The House Of Bernarda Alba* a memorable evening of intense drama.”

- Criticontheloose.blogspot.sg

“remarkably plangent production”

- Variety

“a fine production”

- Variety

“...forcefully commands our attention and engagingly entertains”

- Curtainup

“a night defined by desperation for freedom and a madness derived from deprivation and sexual tension.”

- Sacramento Press

“a fine interpretation of Lorca's memorable classic”

- Backstage.com

“packs a powerful emotional punch”

- Nytheatre.com

“a visual and aural knockout”

- Nytimes.com

“a unique and timeless production”

- davislifemagazine.com

FAST FACTS

Title : ***THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA***
 Author : Federico Garcia Lorca
 Adapted by : Chay Yew
 Director : Glen Goei
 Set Design : Wong Chee Wai
 Lighting Design : James Tan
 Sound Design : Jeffrey Yue
 Costume Design : Ivan Heng
 Hair Design : Ashley Lim
 Make-Up Design : Beno Lim (M.A.C.)
 Producer : Tony Trickett
 Cast : Claire Wong as Bernarda Alba
 Margaret Chan as Maria Josefa
 Neo Swee Lin as Angustias
 Karen Tan as Magdalena
 Serene Chen as Amelia
 Noorlinah Mohamed as Martirio
 Glory Ngim as Adela
 Jo Kukathas as Poncia
 Sharda Harrison as Blanca
 Sharon Lim as Prudencia
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- Venue : Drama Centre Theatre
- Show Dates : 12 – 29 March 2014
- Ticketing Agent : SISTIC.com Pte Ltd
SISTIC Hotline (65) 6348 5555
SISTIC Website www.sistic.com.sg
SISTIC Authorised Agents
- Ticket Prices : Previews 12 & 13 March 8.00pm \$45 ~ 65
Preview 14 March 8.00pm \$50 ~ \$70
Tue, Wed, Thu 8.00pm, Sat 3.00pm and
Sun 2.00pm & 6.00pm \$50 ~ 70
Fri & Sat 8.00pm \$55 ~ 75
- Prices exclude \$3 SISTIC handling fee
- Early Bird : 20 January – 12 February 2014
20% Discount for OCBC Card members, SAFRA and
PAssion Card members
15% Discount for General Public, Expat Living and Time
Out readers
- From 13 Feb onwards: Discounts available for Students, Senior Citizens, Full-
time NSFs, OCBC Card members, SAFRA, PAssion Card
members, Expat Living and Time Out readers
- Corporate & Group: For booking of 20+ tickets, please contact Ross Toh at
6292 2695 or sales@wildrice.com.sg

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SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS



APPENDIX II

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

CLAIRE WONG – Bernarda Alba

Claire Wong is Joint Artistic Director of Checkpoint Theatre. Trained in both Asian and Western performing arts, Claire obtained her Master of Fine Arts (MFA, Theatre Arts) from Columbia University. She directs and acts for the stage and the camera.

As a theatre director, Claire recently directed Faith Ng's *For Better or For Worse* and Huzir Sulaiman's *Occupation*. She co-directed *Dream Country: a lost monologue*, a dance-theatre production by 35 performers for the Singapore Arts Festival 2012. As an actress, Claire's memorable lead roles include her one-woman performances in *Madame Mao's Memories*, *Atomic Jaya* and *Occupation*. She has performed in landmark Singapore productions and in international arts festivals (Edinburgh Fringe; Telstra Adelaide Arts Festival; Theatre der Welt). She most recently appeared in Checkpoint Theatre's 2013 production of *Atomic Jaya*.

Claire is a co-founder and Senior Consultant of Studio Wong Huzir. A trained lawyer, she is Head of Corporate Communications & Training for Rodyk & Davidson LLP.



MARGARET CHAN – Maria Josefa

Margaret Chan's career in theatre began in the early 1970s with pioneering English language theatre clubs, the University of Singapore Society and the Experimental Theatre Club. In 1985, she was the first Singaporean to perform Stella Kon's acclaimed *Emily of Emerald Hill*. The following year, Margaret took the performance to the prestigious Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh for the Commonwealth Arts Festival, and returned later in 1986 to reprise the role at the "textbook" Traverse Theatre for the internationally acclaimed Edinburgh Festival. At home, Margaret is well-remembered for her 1994 portrayal of the matriarch in the nation's first English-language TV drama series *Masters of the Sea*. Her signature line, "I'll crush you like a cockroach", has become a Singapore catchphrase. In 1995, Margaret was the first English-language actress from Channel 5 to cross over to Channel 8 for the principal role in the Mandarin drama series *The Golden Pillow*. In 2002, in another "first", Margaret crossed to Suria Channel for the Malay drama series *Anak Metropolitan (Children of the City)*.

Margaret is Assoc. Professor of Theatre/Performance Studies at Singapore Management University. She holds a PhD in Theatre/Performance Studies from the University of London.

NEO SWEE LIN – Angustias

An accomplished theatre, television and film actor, Swee Lin is probably most recognisable to audiences as the beloved batty Ahma in the TV series *Phua Chu Kang Pte Ltd*, a role which won her the first Best Comedy Actress award in the Asian Television Awards way back in 1999.

However, the theatre has always been her first love. Swee Lin won the award for Best Supporting Actress at the 10th Life! Theatre Awards in 2010 for her role in the Singapore Teater Ekamatra production of *Nadirah*. The same role won her Best Actor at the Boh Cameronian Awards in KL.

Her work with WILD RICE includes: *Cook A Pot of Curry*, *Romeo + Juliet*, *Cooling Off Day*, *Homesick*, *Beauty World*, *Second Link: The Singapore-Malaysia Text Exchange*, *For The Pleasure Of Seeing Her Again*, *Cinderel-LAH!*, *Blithe Spirit*, *The Coffin Is Too Big For The Hole* and *No Parking On Odd Days*.

Other stage work includes: *8 Women* (Sing'Theatre); *Cheek* (Cake Theatricals); *Poop* (The Finger Players); *Those Who Can't, Teach* (The Necessary Stage); *Hamlet* (SRT); *Postcards From Rosa* (ACTION Theatre); *First Light* (Toy Factory); *Crazy Christmas* (Dream Academy); *Cogito* (Checkpoint Theatre); and *Half Lives* (TheatreWorks).

In film, her work includes roles in *The Blue Mansion*, *Kallang Roar*, *Anna and the King*, *12 Storeys*, *Where Got Problem*, *Katong Fugue*, and *Cut*. Her TV work includes *Really Something*, *Phua Chu Kang Pte Ltd*, *My Grandson the Doctor*, *The Celebration*, and *Drive*.



KAREN TAN – Magdalena

Karen has had the incredible privilege of working with practically every theatre company in Singapore, playing a wide range of roles, in musicals (*Cabaret*; *La Cage aux Folles*; *COMPANY*), devised work (*Still Building*; *Model Citizens*), experimental pieces (*Cheek*; *4:44*), bilingual plays (*Titoudao*; *Afar*; *The Bride Always Knocks Twice*), as well as a long list of Singaporean plays, including *Invitation to Treat*; *Asian Boys Vol 3: Happy Endings*; *Family Outing*; and *To Whom It May Concern*.

Karen has lived and worked in the UK, Austria, Cairo, KL and New Zealand, but she's happiest in Singapore, as a working mum with just about the best job in the world.

SERENE CHEN – Amelia

Serene Chen is a graduate of the National University of Singapore's Theatre Studies programme. She has worked in radio, television, film and theatre. An award-winning actress, Serene's more recent theatre projects include Robert Thomas' *8 Women* produced by S'ing Theatre, Tan Tarn How's *Fear of Writing*, *Lan Fang Chronicles* conceived by Choy Kar Fai, Chong Tze Chien's *Charged* and *Wong Kar Wai Dreams*, Euonesco's *Rhinoceros*, Robin Loon's *DNR* and *120* conceived by Ong Keng Sen. With Action Theatre, Serene performed in Jean Tay's *Everything But the Brain* and Ovidia Yu's *Hitting (on) Women*, both of which were directed by Samantha Scott-Blackhall.

On television, she was most recently seen as Deputy Public Prosecutor Sally Cheng in *Code of Law*. On celluloid, she has starred in Woo Yen Yen and Colin Goh's seminal feature film, *Singapore Dreaming*, as well as *3 Meals*; Wee Li Lin's award-winning short *Autograph Book*, Sun Koh's *Dirty Bitch* and *Singapore Panda*. She was also in the controversial film *Sex Violence Family Values*, directed by Ken Kwek and produced by The Butter Factory.

In 2005, she was named Best Supporting Actress in Alfian Sa'at's *Asian Boys Volume 2*, staged by WILD RICE. 10 years later, she is excited to be working with WILD RICE again. She is also happy to reunite with Glen 20 years after her first role in *Kampong Amber*, which he directed.

GLORY NGIM – Adela

Glory Ngim is a Singaporean actress who works in theatre, television and film. Last seen in *Crazy Christmas: Ting Tong Belles* (Dream Academy Productions), her theatre credits include Eleanor Wong in *National Broadway Company* (Theatreworks / Esplanade), Vina in *Rafta Rafta: All In Good Time* (HuM Theatre), Kathy in *COMPANY* (Dream World Productions), Audrey in *Singapore Love Letters* (Action Theatre), and Noi in *Sing To The Dawn* (I Theatre). She also performed at the 2012 Edinburgh Fringe Festival and the 2010 Metroplus Theatre Festival in Chennai, India. Her television credits include Evelyn in *The Band* (OKTO), and hosting *Beautiful Homes* (Channel 5) and *SCOOPS!* (OKTO). She has also appeared in films such as Kelvin Sng's *德士当家* and Noel Ng's *回*. Catch Glory next as Jane in *What Do Men Want*, a drama series premiering on Mediacorp Toggle. Visit www.gloryngim.com for more of her work.

NOORLINAH MOHAMED – Martirio

Noorlinah left her full-time job in marketing, public relations and advertising in 1995 to commit to all things related to the arts. Be it performance, applied theatre in both education and community settings, or voluntary work in the community, she works with ‘theatre’ and all its varied possibilities.

As a performer, she has worked with Singapore as well as international theatre companies, performing in devised productions, text-based work as well as physical and experimental theatre. As a teaching artist, she has undertaken artist residency projects in schools, developed curricula for teaching as well as teacher and artist professional development in arts education. She has also developed arts programmes for the community, in contexts such as prisons as well as migrant and socially and economically resource-challenged communities.

Noorlinah is a recipient of various awards including the Shell-NAC Arts Scholarship (1988), the JCCI Culture Award (2008) and the 9th Life! Theatre Award for Best Actress (2009). She recently completed her doctoral research in arts education with the University of Warwick and returns to Singapore to resume working with the indefatigable Singapore arts community. Noorlinah is a proud member of the Singapore Drama Educators Association.

JO KUKATHAS – Poncia

Jo Kukathas is an actor, writer and director of The Instant Café Theatre Company, KL. She is best known in Malaysia for her iconic alter egos such as YBeeee, Ribena Berry and Puan Badariah. She currently divides her time between KL and Singapore, and has directed and/or acted in works by Huzir Sulaiman, Alfian Sa’at, Haresh Sharma, Natalie Henedige, Saidah Rastam, Brian Gothong Tan as well as Shakespeare, Beckett, Fugard, and Fo. She has also worked with directors such as Krishen Jit, Sue Ingleton, Rey Buono, Zahim Albakri, Chris Jacob, Ghafir Akbar, Claire Wong, Ivan Heng and Alvin Tan.

Jo’s acting credits include one person shows (*Atomic Jaya*, *Election Day*, *Occupation* by Huzir Sulaiman and *Table Mountain to Teluk Incan* by Shahimah Idris and Ann Lee); multiple character performances (*Caught In the Middle* by Kami, *Cuckoo Birds* by CAKE Theatre, *The Girlie Show* by Instant Cafe); classics (Mercutio in Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*, Winnie in Samuel Beckett’s *Happy Days*, Helen in Fugard’s *Road to Mecca*). Her directing credits include *Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *Merchant of Venice*, *Twelfth Night* (Shakespeare); *M! The Opera* (Saidah Rastam); *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* (Fo), *Nadirah*, *Cooling Off Day*, *Parah* (Alfian Sa’at). Her intercultural collaborations include *The Island In Between* (Tokyo, KL); *Hotel Grand Asia* (Tokyo); *Break-ing* (KL, Tokyo, Singapore). She has also developed and directed various new Malaysian works (*Flies and Foreigners* by Ridzwan Othman, *Air Con* by Shanon Shah and *Hero* by Arun Subramaniam as well as her own writing *Silence, Please*; *The Morning After* and *Going to the Dogs*. She was last seen in Singapore in Alfian Sa’at’s *Dreamplay: Asian Boys Vol.1* and Brian Gothong Tan’s *Decimal Points*.

SHARDA HARRISON – Blanca

Sharda Harrison is an actor currently residing in Singapore. She graduated from LASALLE College of the Arts with a BA (Hons) degree in Acting in 2009. In 2008, she won the best Actress award at the annual Short and Sweet play competition for her role in the play *How do you like me? How do you want me now?* In 2009, she was invited by Elizabeth de Roza to collaborate on a reworked version of *Curry Devil* at the Transit Women on the Periphery festival at Odin Teatret in Denmark. Her recent works include *The Kanjoos* with HuM Theatre, *Dream Country* for the 2012 Singapore Arts Festival, *Crossings*, *Encore 4: Love Life!* and *Mobile 2: Flat Cities* by The Necessary Stage, *Decimal Points 5.1* by Cake Theatre and *The Crucible* by Toy Factory. Sharda is one of the founding members of research and performance group, Theatrestrays. Sharda has also appeared on screen, including hosting the children's programme *Oktolive* and performing in the dance film *Once upon/dance* commissioned for the 2012 Singapore Arts Festival by Freestate Productions.

SHARON LIM – Prudencia

Sharon has performed in several productions over the years, including William Teo's *Macbeth*, *Mahabharata*, Krishen Jit's *Scorpion Orchid* and *US in Singapore* and Ong Keng Sen's *Broken Birds*, *Lear* and *Yang Family*. She is very much looking forward to working with Glen Goei in this production.

Lately, she runs her little cafe, indulges in sewing, cooking and her dogs, with a little mahjong-playing thrown in for good measure.

APPENDIX III

CREATIVE TEAMS' BIOGRAPHIES

FEDERICO GARCIA LORCA – Author

Federico García Lorca is possibly the most important Spanish poet and dramatist of the twentieth century. Much of García Lorca's work was infused with popular themes such as Flamenco and Gypsy culture. During the early 1920s, García Lorca became part of a group of artists known as Generación del 27, which included Salvador Dalí and Luis Buñuel, who exposed the young poet to surrealism. In 1928, his book of verse, *Romancero Gitano* (The Gypsy Ballads), brought García Lorca far-reaching fame; it was reprinted seven times during his lifetime.

In 1931, García Lorca participated in the Second Ordinary Congress of the Federal Union of Hispanic Students. The Congress decided to build a "Barraca" in central Madrid in which to produce important plays for the public. "La Barraca", the traveling theatre company that resulted, toured many Spanish towns, villages, and cities performing Spanish classics in public squares. Some of García Lorca's own plays, including his three great tragedies *Bodas de sangre* (1933), *Yerma* (1934), and of course *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* (*The House of Bernarda Alba*) (1936), were also produced by the company. Sadly, Lorca never got to see his final play produced, as he was assassinated by the conservative Nationals in the Spanish Civil War before it could even be accepted by a company.

CHAY YEW – Adaptor

Chay Yew's plays include *Porcelain, A Language of Their Own, Red, Wonderful, Question 27, Question 28, A Distant Shore, 17* and *Visible Cities*. His other work includes adaptations, *A Winter People* (based on Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*) and Lorca's *The House of Bernarda Alba*; a musical *Long Season* and performance works, *Vivien and The Shadows, Home: Places Between Asian and America*, and *A Beautiful Country*. His work has been produced throughout the United States including the Public Theater, Mark Taper Forum, Manhattan Theatre Club, Long Wharf Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Intiman Theatre, Wilma Theatre, Portland Center Stage, East West Players, Dallas Theatre Center, Cornerstone Theatre Company, Group Theatre, Studio Theatre, Smithsonian Institute, amongst others. His work has been produced by the Royal Court Theatre (London), Fattore K and Napoli Teatro Festival (Naples), La Mama (Melbourne), Shanghai Dramatic Arts Center, Four Arts (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia), Singapore Repertory Theatre, Toy Factory, Checkpoint Theatre, TheatreWorks Singapore, to name a few. He is the recipient of the London Fringe Award for Best Playwright and Best Play, George and Elisabeth Marton Playwriting Award, GLAAD Media Award, APGF Community Visibility Award, Made in America Award, AEA/SAG/AFTRA Diversity Honor, and Robert Chesley Award. His plays *The Hyphenated American Plays* and *Porcelain and A Language of Their Own* are published by Grove Press. He recently edited a new anthology *Version 3.0: Contemporary Asian American Plays* for TCG Publications. He is presently working on commissions from Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Writers Theatre. As a director, he is also the recipient of the Obie and DramaLogue awards. An alumnus of New Dramatists, he serves on the Executive Board on



the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers. Chay Yew is also the Artistic Director of Victory Gardens Theater in Chicago since July 2011.

GLEN GOEI – Director

Glen's body of work embraces a wide range of the performing arts, covering film, theatre, musicals, parades, large-scale shows and World Expos over a twenty-four-year period. This began 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* (a.k.a. *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*.

WONG CHEE WAI – Set Design

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 *8 Women* directed by Samantha Scott Blackhall (Sing'Theatre), *12 Angry Men* directed by Nelson Chia (Nine Years Theatre – Huayi 2013 festival commission), *Silences We Are Familiar With – An Ode To Love* by Kuik Swee Boon and *Bani Haykal* with T.H.E Dance Company (*Da:ns Festival 2012*), *The Perfection of Ten* directed by Sean Tobin (The Studios: eXchanges), Sight Lines Entertainment's *Boom* directed by Derrick Chew, Blank Space Theatre's *Freud's Last Session* directed by Samantha Scott Blackhall and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Huayi 2012 festival commission) directed by Nelson Chia.

JAMES TAN – Lighting Design

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).

JEFFREY YUE – Sound Design

Jeffrey was awarded the Glaxo-Wellcome/EDB Scholarship to pursue a degree in Technical Theatre at the prestigious Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. Upon graduation, he returned as Sound Coordinator for the Esplanade, Theatres On The Bay, Singapore.

With his focus on theatrical sound design and production engineering, Jeffrey has worked extensively in the UK and other parts of the world. Recent notable design works include *Voyage de La Vie* at the Festive Grand Theatre, Resort World Sentosa; and the biggest show in town – NDP 2009. Jeffrey continues to work with a plethora of directors/artists, including three-time Golden Horse Award winner Lim Giong, Ong Keng Sen, Li Xie, Guo Jing Hong, Ho Tzu Nyen, Fran Borgia, Choy Ka Fai and Samantha Scott Blackhall.

Jeffrey travels extensively for projects as a Production Sound Engineer, Assistant Production Sound Engineer, and is no stranger to the demands of touring sound production.

As an educator, Jeffrey teaches and develops the curriculum for the 'Performance Sound' module as part of the diploma/degree Technical Theatre Arts programme at LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore. He is also an Artist-In-Residence of the acclaimed Hong Kong Academy of Performance Arts with the Entertainment, Design and Technology department.

IVAN HENG – Costume Design

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 two decades, Ivan has directed and acted in many landmark Singapore theatre productions, which have been performed in over 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 the title character in *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). Most recently, he was awarded the Cultural Medallion, Singapore's highest cultural award for his contribution to excellence and distinction in arts and culture.

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 regard to 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 advertorials for leading local fashion magazines, providing contemporary hair designs for bridal and fashion projects.

BENO LIM (M.A.C) – Make-up Design

M.A.C. Pro Team Senior Artist Beno has been doing make-up for 21 years. Beno draws his inspiration from the everyday – movies, music, nature, travelling and the quirks of experience. 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. Some of his more recent work includes WILD RICE's *La Cage Aux Folles* and *Hansel & Gretel*. He also helmed the looks for The Theatre Practice's *Lao Jiu*.

Besides doing make-up for International Fashion Week in Milan, Beno also keyed the Singapore Men's Fashion Week, Audi Fashion Festival and Singapore Haute Couture Week last year.



He also does magazine shoots for Nylon, Her World, Female, Elle, NuYou, Vulture, Designare Homme, Shape and Ziggy. He has done make-up for celebrities like Lady GaGa, Sophie Marceau, Isabelle Huppert, Fleur Lise Heuet and Korean actor Sung Hoon. He has also worked with local designers like Ashley Isham, Reckless Ericka and Max Tan.

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 IV

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.

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 WILD RICE's creative work, which is first and foremost a celebration of Singapore theatrical talent. By producing and touring productions that are distinctively local in flavour and yet universal in vision and concerns, the company creates memorable experiences for audiences in Singapore and the World.

The company's exciting and varied programming for the main stage includes:

- New and original works.
- New productions of the Singapore repertoire.
- New interpretations of the World's Classics.

The company's mission to build a theatre culture also extends to the wider community through the following divisions:

- FIRST STAGE!, a project which nurtures young talent from 5 to 12 years of age.
- young & WILD, which identifies and develops Singapore's young theatre professionals.

WILD RICE is committed to touring its shows internationally to raise the profile of Singapore theatre, to create an international awareness of its unique productions, and to engage its artists and collaborators in creative dialogues with the international arts community. Its distinctively Singaporean productions have won great acclaim at major international arts festivals in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand and Russia.

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).