

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



7 Sep 2015 – For the 12th edition of its annual must-see musical pantomime, WILD RICE will be giving a classic fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen a cheeky local make-over. *The Emperor's New Clothes* is a high-fashion escapade that will be directed by Pam Oei and written by Joel Tan (*Jack & The Bean-Sprout!*), with a brand-new score composed by pantomime newcomer Julian Wong (*Returning*).

“We didn’t have to look too hard to find a story that would fit perfectly into our imagiNATION season,” explains Ivan Heng, Artistic Director of WILD RICE. “The notions of social justice and equality folded into *The Emperor's New Clothes* have allowed us to inject our very WILD brand of irreverence and satire into a show that should appeal to people of all ages and political persuasions in this SG50 year!”

The Emperor's New Clothes marks Oei’s return to the role of director after making her critically acclaimed debut with WILD RICE’s 2013 pantomime, *Hansel & Gretel*. She is keen to try a few different things with this second show, such as casting a host of talents who have never been in a pantomime before – and having them all play instruments live onstage.

“In *The Emperor's New Clothes*, the actors are the band!” says Oei. “My first love is music, so I was really keen to try something different by casting actors who are all accomplished musicians, and then weaving them into a brand-new show.”

To find actors who could also play instruments, Oei cast her net far and wide and wound up with an exciting ensemble of fresh talents who will all be making their pantomime debuts with *The Emperor's New Clothes*. These include Benjamin Kheng (*The Sam Willows*), Sezairi (*Singapore Idol*), Audrey Luo (*My Sister Mambo*) and Benjamin Chow (*The LKY Musical*), who will share the stage with pantomime veterans Lim Kay Siu and Siti Khalijah Zainal. Six months before the show opens, several cast members have already gone for music lessons at the Flute and Music Academy Pte Ltd to brush up their skills.

In true pantomime tradition, the production will also feature 19 young talents, from the ages of 5 to 12, as part of WILD RICE's FIRST STAGE! Programme. Oei, who made a point of giving the FIRST STAGE! Kids more to do in *Hansel & Gretel*, has recruited some budding hip-hop dancers to add a little funk and rhythm to the show.

As befitting this year's sartorial theme, the elaborate costumes in *The Emperor's New Clothes* will be designed by Saksit Pisalasupongs and Phisit Jongnarangsin of Tube Gallery, an award-winning design and fashion company based in Bangkok. Tube Gallery's work for 2014's smash-hit production of *Monkey Goes West* won a Life! Theatre Award for Best Costume Design earlier this year.

"It's thrilling for us to have Saksit and Phisit back on board for *The Emperor's New Clothes*," enthuses Heng. "The costumes they create are absolute, eye-popping knock-outs that are also instrumental in adding depth – and style! – to the show and its characters."

THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES

Once upon a time, in a kingdom not so far away, ruled a vain and pompous Emperor, who was crazy about his clothes, himself and little else. So obsessed with fashion was he that he decreed that the 50th anniversary of his reign be celebrated with the most extravagant National Dress Parade of all time. But, as he primped and preened, he neglected his citizens, who could only get his attention by complimenting him on his appearance.

One day, two cheeky tailors decide to teach him a lesson. Presenting the Emperor with an eye-popping ensemble literally woven out of thin air, they convince him that only the smartest and most competent people in the land can see it.

What can be done to stop the nation's biggest wardrobe malfunction? Why won't the Emperor's courtiers and the aristocracy speak up? Is there anyone who's brave enough to tell the naked truth?

Following last year's smash-hit production of *Monkey Goes West*, WILD RICE puts a Singaporean spin on Hans Christian Andersen's timeless tale about the ultimate fashion victim. Directed by Pam Oei, *The Emperor's New Clothes* is a brand-new musical with a razor-sharp script by Joel Tan and a sparkling score by Julian Wong. Its stellar cast includes Lim Kay Siu as the Emperor, as well as Benjamin Kheng of *The Sam Willows*, *Singapore Idol*'s Sezairi Sazali and Siti Khalijah Zainal – all playing musical instruments live on stage!

Fun and laughter never go out of fashion. Don't miss the most hilarious, heartwarming musical of the holiday season!

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 benefits of theatre.

Courtesy of generous donations from Shaw Foundation and Keppel Care Foundation, our Gift of Theatre project sponsored 602 beneficiaries and their caretakers from seven homes and charities to watch WILD RICE's 2014 pantomime, *Monkey Goes West*. These include HELP Family Service Centre, Down Syndrome Association, Children Cancer Foundation, Arc Children's Centre, MCYC Community Services Society, Business Times Budding Artists and Association For Persons With Special Needs.

For *The Emperor's New Clothes*, we are hoping to raise \$25,000.00 to pay for tickets for 400 beneficiaries. As WILD RICE is a registered charity and an Institution of a Public Character (IPC), all donations in 2015 will be entitled to a 300% tax exemption.

For enquiries and donations, please contact us at info@wildrice.com.sg.

FAST FACTS

Title	:	<i>The Emperor's New Clothes</i>
Directed by	:	Pam Oei
Written by	:	Joel Tan
Music by	:	Julian Wong
Vocal Coach	:	Irene Jansen
Choreography	:	Hafeez Hassan & Gino Babagay
Set Design	:	Eucien Chia
Lighting Design	:	Adrian Tan
Sound Design	:	Shah Tahir
Costume Design	:	Tube Gallery by Phisit & Saxit
Hair Design	:	Ashley Lim
Make-Up Design	:	The Make Up Room
Producer	:	Tony Trickett
Cast	:	Benjamin Kheng Lim Kay Siu Sezairi Sazali <i>with</i> Benjamin Chow Candice de Rozario Andrew Lua Audrey Luo Andrew Mark Ong Seong Hui Xuan Benjamin Wong Siti Khalijah Zainal & The FIRST STAGE! Kids
Press Contact	:	Ain Zainal Marketing & Communications Executive Sirius Art PR Pte Ltd DID: +65 6435 0627 ain@siriusart.com.sg
Venue	:	Drama Centre Theatre
Show Dates	:	20 November – 12 December 2015
Ticketing Agent	:	SISTIC.com Pte Ltd



SISTIC Hotline (65) 6348 5555
SISTIC Website www.sistic.com.sg

- Ticket Prices : S\$45 - S\$70
(Previews 20 Nov 7.30pm & 21 Nov 2.30pm)
S\$50 - S\$75
(Tue, Wed & Thu 7.30pm & Thu 2.30pm)
S\$55 - S\$80
(Fri & Sat 7.30pm, Sat & Sun 2.30pm)
Prices exclude \$4 SISTIC handling fee
- Priority Booking : 14 September – 27 September 2015
20% Discount for OCBC Cardmembers only
- Early Bird : 28 September – 21 October 2015
20% Discount for OCBC Cardmembers, PAssion, and
SAFRA Card Members.
15% Discount for General Public
- Family Package : Save 25% when you purchase 4 x Cat 1 tickets
with your OCBC Credit/Debit Card.
Valid for 2 adults & 2 children (16 years & below)
- Corporate & Group : For bookings of 20 or more tickets, please contact
Ross Toh at 6292-2685 or sales@wildrice.com.sg

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APPENDIX I ABOUT THE WILD RICE PANTOMIME

Once a year, the very best of Singapore's theatre community come together to celebrate the festive season by giving everyone's favourite fairy tales an imaginative local twist. Our goal? To bring laughter and the magic of theatre to audiences from the ages of 5 to 85!

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), *Hansel & Gretel* (2012) and *Monkey Goes West* (2014) have tickled and touched an audience of over 160,000 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

"*Monkey Goes West* is a rip-roaring, side-splitting herald of the holiday season that leaves the newly refurbished Victoria Theatre bubbling over with good cheer."

SPH The Straits Times Life!

"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 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 *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 II SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

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APPENDIX III CAST BIOGRAPHIES

BENJAMIN KHENG

Benjamin is a Singaporean musician, actor, composer, and writer represented by FLY Entertainment.

In 2012, he founded the folk-pop quartet The Sam Willows. The group has performed globally at the SXSW Festival in Austin, the Canadian Music Festival in Toronto, MU:CON and Zandari Festa in Seoul, the Singapore F1 Grand Prix 2013 & 2014, and the Western Australian Music Festival in Perth. They have been produced by five-time Grammy Award winner Steve Lillywhite (U2, Rolling Stones). Their latest single, *Take Heart*, hit No.1 on the Singapore iTunes charts. Benjamin performed solo to a live audience of 50,000 people at the 2015 SEA Games Opening Ceremony. On stage, he played Romeo in Toy Factory's *Romeo and Juliet*, and recruit Ken Chow in *Ah Boys To Men: The Musical*. He can also be seen on screen in Channel 5's *Do-It-Yourself*, *Code of Law 2* and season two of *Mata Mata*.

LIM KAY SIU

Kay Siu has been acting professionally since 1985 in Singapore, America, London and Germany. Stage credits include *Drift* for Drama Box; *Enchanted Tales* for The Finger Players; *Memory: Human Remains & Virus* for Collective Mayhem; *4.44 (Decimal Points)* and *Cheek* for CAKE Theatrical Productions; *Lao Jiu the Musical* and *If There're Seasons* (both in Mandarin) for The Theatre Practice; *Public Enemy*, *Monkey Goes West*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Family Outing*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Animal Farm*, *Visit of the Tai-Tai* and *HOTEL* for WILD RICE; *3 Japanese Women* for Mu-lan Arts in London; *The Letter* for the Lyric Hammersmith, London; *7th Drawer*, *Morning People* and *Army Daze* for Toy Factory; *La Vie En Rose* for Sing'theatre; and *Death of a Salesman* and *Oleanna* for SRT. Musicals include *Beauty World*, *Fried Rice Paradise* (TheatreWorks) and *Nagraland* (lead role and assistant director), all by Dick Lee; and *Piaf* for TheatreWorks.

Kay Siu also went to directing school in London at the Central School of Speech and Drama in 1994. He 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).

SEZAIRI

Sezairi has built a reputation as one of Asia's rising and most promising pop stars. This boy next door has been making waves with not only his charm, but also with a rare and honest vocal quality that complements his hit songs.

Featured in Rolling Stone Indonesia as one of the artists to watch in 2014, his latest single, *Jangan Coba Berlari*, is a collaboration with Indonesia's biggest artist of that year, Tulus. This was a follow-up to the successful Asian remix of *Vida*, the 2014 FIFA World Cup

SuperSong, which Sezairi performed alongside international superstar Ricky Martin, Alif Satar from Malaysia and Judika from Indonesia.

Like any artist who often evolves, he made his acting debut as 'Adi', one of the main characters in big-budget historical film *1965*, which was released in July. *The Emperor's New Clothes* marks Sezairi's debut in musical theatre.

BENJAMIN CHOW

Benjamin is an actor, a musician and a spoken-word artist who has been featured at a variety of poetry events such as Destination Ink, The Singapore Art Salon, Speak, The New Word Order and the 2014 Singapore Biennale at the Singapore Art Museum. As an actor, he has performed in Chong Tze Chien's *Starring Hitler as Jekyll and Hyde* and Natalie Hennedige's *The Visit*, and played Lim Chin Siong in *The LKY Musical*. He finds immense joy in sharing stories and hopes to keep collaborating with artists of all mediums.

CANDICE DE ROZARIO

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 productions include *Junior Claus* (SRT's Little Co), *Puss In Boots* (I Theatre) and *If There're Seasons* (The Theatre Practice). Other notable acting credits include *Company* (Dream Academy), *Spring Awakening* (Pangdemonium), *Into The Woods* (Dream Academy), *Fried Rice Paradise* (SRT/PA), *The Full Monty* (Pangdemonium) and *Much Ado About Nothing* (SRT). Directing credits include *Hey, Little Mousedeer*, *Little Mermaid* and *Little Green Frog* for I Theatre. Candice earns her keep writing and directing educational shows for The Learning Connections.

ANDREW LUA

Never one to shy away from a creative challenge, this band geek said yes when Pam approached him to be a minister who toots his own horn. That's not too far a stretch from prancing around on stage as the stern Peranakan father of Princess Jasmine, an Ah Beng coffeeshop proprietor, a car-racing space-walking hamster or the flying, flaming, dancing Nila at the 2015 SEA Games – just a few of the wildly imaginative characters directors love to see him perform. You may also have seen him on screen as the overly enthusiastic coffee-offering neighbour, the wi-fi-hunting tourist in Hong Kong, the camera-man filming the old haunted Changi Hospital, the Chinese national wait staff in Porko's or quirky Inspector Larry Lim of Cantonment NPC. @AndrewLuaDJ is grateful to the lovely peeps at Fly Entertainment, WILD RICE, his LomL, his family and God.

AUDREY LUO

Audrey is a bilingual actress, singer and host. Some of the companies she has collaborated with include Pangdemonium, The Necessary Stage, The Finger Players, TheatreWorks, Toy Factory, The Theatre Practice and Drama Box. In 2012, Audrey won the Best Supporting Actress Award in the 12th ST Life! Theatre Awards for her role in *881 The Musical*. This year, she played the titular role in Toy Factory's *Titou Dao* and starred in her debut feature film, Cathay's 80th anniversary movie *Our Sister Mambo*. Audrey is excited and extremely grateful to Pam for giving her the opportunity to be in her first pantomime!

ANDREW MARK ONG

Andrew was last seen at TEDxNUS, where he showcased his spoken-word poetry and his short play, *Doctor! Doctor?!*. You can also catch him playing and singing at random bars across Singapore. A proud ACSian theatre and NUS Jazz Band alumnus, Andrew is very happy to be performing with WILD RICE for the first time and hopes that you have a wicked good time!

Notable theatre credits include Piggy in *Lord of the Flies* (SRT), Robert in *Proof* (Irrelephant Stage), the Narrator in *Off Centre* (Yellow Chair Productions) Prince Utama in *Roasted* (Sight Lines Entertainment) and Nick in *Our Time* (Yellow Chair Productions).

SEONG HUI XUAN

Hui Xuan is a freelance actress, singer and dancer. She is also experienced in teaching dance, piano and drama, and choreographing for dance and theatre. Selected credits: *Nanyang The Musical*, *Great World Cabaret*, *2 Houses*, *Rising Son*, *Crazy Christmas*, *Grotesque Playground Injuries*, *Machine*, *Songs For A New World*, *Rabbit Hole*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Twelfth Night*, *Spring Awakening*, *Into The Woods*, *Sweet Charity* and *Company* ('April'; Dream Academy – Best Supporting Actress, 13th Life! Theatre Awards). She is also a massive *Game of Thrones* fan.

Training: BA (first-class Hons.) Musical Theatre, LASALLE College of the Arts, 2010.

Instagram: huishspace. Web: www.seonghuixuan.com

BENJAMIN WONG

Training: Central School of Speech and Drama (UK), Victorian College of the Arts (Australia).

Past Performances: *Billy Goats Gruff* (SRT), *Dim Sum Dollies: The History of Singapore* (Dream Academy), *H.M.S Pinafore* (UK National Tour), *West End Christmas* (The Actors' Church), *Autumn of Han* (Tristan Bates Theatre), *The Princess and the Pea* (Edinburgh Arts Festival), *Paper Dolls* (Tricycle Theatre), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (The Watermill Theatre), *The 12 Tenors* (European Tour), *The King and I* (Theatre at the Mill), *The Firework Maker's Daughter* (UK No. 1 Tour), *Into The Woods* (Embassy Theatre), *Moonbird* (Esplanade), *Death and Dancing* (Play), *The Wizard of Oz* (Drama Centre), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Federation Hall), *Othello* (Victorian Arts Centre), *Hamlet* (Fort Canning Park).

Awards include: Best Supporting Actor – *Doctor, Doctor!*, Honorary Mention – The Singer of the Year Award (Australia).

SITI KHALIJAH ZAINAL

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.

Since then, she has been working with a wide range of theatre companies, both locally and internationally, and she considers herself very lucky.



She won the Best Actress Award for her role in *Model Citizens* at the 2011 Life! Theatre Awards, and was awarded The Young Artist Award by the National Arts Council in 2014.

APPENDIX IV CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

PAM OEI – Director

Apart from being one third of the cabaret trio Dim Sum Dollies, Pam has also been in over 70 theatre, television and film productions. Her theatre credits include the critically acclaimed *Animal Farm*, *The Campaign to Confer the Public Service Star on JBJ*, *Titoudao*, *Everything But The Brain*, *Rent* and *Boeing Boeing*.

At the inaugural Life! Theatre Awards in 2001, Pam won in both the Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress categories on the same night.

She has also been in several Mandarin and English TV programmes and was nominated for Best Actress in a Comedy at the Asian Television Awards for three consecutive years (2002 – 2004).

In film, she played the title role of *Peggy Su!* (BBC Films) and was also in Glen Goei's *Forever Fever* (Miramax Films) as the trash-romance-novel-reading Ah Mui. She had a cameo role in *The Blue Mansion*, also a Glen Goei film. In 2012, for the Ken Kwek short film omnibus *Sex.Violence.FamilyValues*, she played the pregnant producer in *Porn Masala*. Most recently, Pam was seen as the money-hungry landlady in the critically acclaimed *Unlucky Plaza*, also written and directed by Kwek. The film made its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival and was the first Singaporean film to open the Singapore International Film Festival in 2014.

In December 2012, Pam made her theatrical directorial debut with the Singaporean pantomime, *Hansel & Gretel*. She has also donned the producer's hat several times, producing many variety shows and charity fundraisers. She produced and directed AWARE's 25th-anniversary fundraiser in 2006 at the Esplanade Concert Hall, which raised a record-breaking SGD\$350,000 in a single night. In 2012, she produced the sold-out standup comedy show *Happy Ever Laughter* for Dream Academy, and is looking forward to directing *The Emperor's New Clothes* for WILD RICE yet again.

Pam is also the front-woman of local rock band Ugly in the Morning, and is currently working on the band's third album, slated to be released some time in 2015.

JOEL TAN – Playwright

Joel Tan is a playwright and performer. He is an Associate Artist with Checkpoint Theatre. Recent productions of his work include *The Way We Go* (Checkpoint Theatre, 2014) and *Mosaic* (Take Off Productions, 2015). He last collaborated with WILD RICE in 2013 on the book and lyrics for *Jack & the Bean-Sprout!*.

JULIAN WONG – Music Composer/Musical Director

Julian's musical collaborations with WILD RICE include *Beauty World*, *Cinderel-LAH!*, both runs of *Own Time Own Target*, *The Hypochondriac* and *Unlike Some People*. He also hosted *Talk Cock Sing Song* for the 2011 MAN Singapore Theatre Festival.

As an arranger, accompanist and musical director, Julian's work is broad and varied. He served as the music director of *Spotlight Singapore in Mexico City 2015*, *ChildAid 2014: All Stars Edition*; Madam Goh Lay Kuan's *Returning* (Singapore International Festival of Arts, 2015); Mark Chan's *Flight of the Jade Bird* (Hong Kong New Vision Arts Festival, 2012); *Lao Jiu* and *Day I Met The Prince* (Kuo Pao Kun Festival, 2012); and the Esplanade's *Octoburst 2015* concert celebration. He is the composer for the *Marina Bay Singapore Countdown* firework displays 2014/15 and 2015/16, which open and close the SG50 year. As a conductor, Julian has worked with the Joyful Strings Ensemble, Orchestra of the Music Makers and Metropolitan Festival Orchestra.

This year, Julian served as pianist and violinist to Ramli Sarip and Art Fazil for Suria's *Akustika Bersama*; and Kit Chan for her *Spellbound* concert. In addition, he recorded with Addy Cradle for Cradle's upcoming studio album.

Selected theatre credits include: *National Broadway Company* (Esplanade); *If There're Seasons*, *Liao Zhai Rocks* (The Theatre Practice); *Dim Sum Dollies*, *The Last Five Years*, *Happy Robin*, *Into The Woods*, *Great World Cabaret* (Dream Academy); *December Rains*, *Shanghai Blues* (Toy Factory); *Chestnuts* and *Broadway 4 Suakus* (STAGES). As an Associate Composer for I Theatre, Julian has orchestrated several main-season productions, including *Hop & Honk: The Ugly Duckling & The Frog Prince*, *The Ant and The Grasshopper*, *The Enormous Turnip*, *Magic Porridge Pot*, *Ashputtel: The Story of Cinderella*, and *Under the Baobab Tree* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2011).

IRENE JANSEN – Vocal Coach

Irene 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 2013 Busan Choral Competition 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 of 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* and recently debuted in her first monologue play *Kitchen Confidante*, a personal account of her growing-up years and life challenges told while cooking 'live' on stage. *Kitchen Confidante* was staged at The Arts House in September 2014.

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 for 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.

HAFEEZ HASSAN – Choreographer

Hafeez started out as a street dancer, with Michael Jackson being one of his heroes as a kid.

Fantastic 4, his street crew, has clinched many coveted dance awards, from – to name a few – the Singapore Hip Hop Championship (2006), Da:ns Festival's Overdrive at the Esplanade (2006) and Mediacorp's *The Dance Floor* (2007).

At 18, he was spotted by local rapper Sheikh Haikel and began working as a choreographer and dancer for music videos and concerts. In 2011, he began to explore different genres, such as contemporary, jazz and ethnic dance.

In 2012, he began his journey in theatre with TheatreWorks' *National Broadway Company*, Dream Academy's *Kumar: What Makes a Man a Man?* and Starlight Alchemy's *Dream of Dragons* at the Esplanade (Singapore Arts Festival's *Flipside*). He has also danced in productions for contemporary dance company Maya Dance Theatre.

Hafeez is also actively involved in the commercial and theatre scene as a choreographer. His works include the 2010 Youth Olympic Games Closing Ceremony's opening segment, *T-Net the Musical* (2012) and Maya Dance Theatre's *release 2.0* (2013). He also served as the co-choreographer of the 'Singapura' segment in the National Day Parade.

He has been and still is involved in numerous productions locally and overseas. Hafeez truly believes that there is no end when it comes to learning and exploring.

GINO BABAGAY – Choreographer

Born in the Philippines, Gino got more into dancing after moving to Singapore with his family in 2002. He kicked off his dancing career in MediaCorp's local TV dance competition, *The Dance Floor* (2007), with Fantastic 4. With his basic hip-hop background, Gino braved the dance and commercial scenes while learning other dance techniques and genres along the way. His dance credits include *Vision*, *Chingay 2011* (contingent choreographer), *National Broadway Company* and *Kumar: What Makes a Man a Man?*. He has explored his vocal and acting abilities as part of the ensemble in musicals such as *The Singing Chef* (2013), *T-Net the Musical*, *Army Daze* (2012, 2013), *High Class*, *Ah Boys to Men: The Musical* and *Dim Sum Dollies: The History of Singapore Parts 1* (2015) and *2* (2014).

EUCIEN CHIA – Set Designer

Eucien grew up in the Stage Club's pantomimes, first as Random Orphan #8, then as a non-flying John Darling in *Peter Pan*. Many years later, he designed the sets for *Snow White* (WILD RICE, 2008), and is glad to be back designing *The Emperor's New Clothes*.

Selected set design credits: *Chinglish*, *Spring Awakening*, *Little Voice* (Pangdemonium); *Normal* (Checkpoint Theatre); *Sing To The Dawn* (I Theatre); *H is for Hantu* (STAGES) and *Shanghai Blues* (Toy Factory).

Winner of Best Set Design (ST Life! Theatre Awards) for *December Rains* (Toy Factory), *Dealer's Choice* (Pangdemonium) and *Company* (Dream Academy).

All thanks to God for life, laughter and dearest Linda.

ADRIAN TAN – Lighting Designer

A graduate of LASALLE College of the Arts in 2006, Adrian has designed shows that have been staged both locally and internationally. His work spans a wide spectrum of the performing arts, as well as outdoor light installations.

He is extremely thankful to have worked with most of the major theatre and dance companies in Singapore, creating designs and spaces for operas, dances and experimental works produced by companies like Singapore Lyric Opera, Singapore Dance Theatre, T.H.E Dance Company, Re: Dance Theatre, Dream Academy, WILD RICE and The Necessary Stage.

Several of his works for the theatre have received awards, including *Monkey Goes West* by WILD RICE, *A Cage Goes In Search of a Bird* by A Group of People and *Dark Room x 8*, which was commissioned by The Esplanade.

SHAH TAHIR – Sound Designer

Shah Tahir has been involved in various aspects of the audio and music industry for more than 20 years.

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

As a music producer, Shah has been involved with many local talents like Humpback Oak, The Oddfellows, Heritage, Throb, Sweet Charity, Michaela Therese, Prema Lucas and Jacintha. He has also arranged and composed music for MediaCorp Channel 8 television series, such as 2002 Best Drama Serial nominee *Beautiful Connection*.

Currently, Shah is very much involved in ‘live’ performances and has served as the audio consultant/sound designer for the National Day Parade (2009-2014) and the 2015 SEA Games, as well as various corporate events and ‘live’ TV broadcast mixing for MediaCorp events.

Another passionate area of work for him is in the realm of theatre and musicals. He has designed and mixed audio for many major productions in Singapore, such as *881 The Musical*, *Into The Woods*, *Kumar The Queen*, *The Hossan Leong Show*, *December Rains*, *The Full Monty*, *Dim Sum Dollies* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

TUBE GALLERY by Phisit & Saxit – Costume Designer

Tube Gallery has been established as a new-generation Thai fashion house since 1999. The edgy and prolific Tube Gallery comprises 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 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 retailers all over the world, from Dubai (UAE), Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to Amsterdam (Netherlands), the US and

London (UK). Several local and international celebrities have been spotted in Tube Gallery dresses, including Kimberley Walsh from Girls Aloud, Ashley Roberts from The Pussycat Dolls, A*M*E, Paloma Faith and Stephanie Nala from X-Factor UK. Tube Gallery was also featured in *America's Next Top Model*, *Germany's Next Top Model*, *Thailand's Next Top Model*, *Vietnam's Next Top Model* and *Asia's Next Top Model* as guest designers and judges.

Apart from its work in fashion, designing theatre costumes is also a passion for Tube Gallery, which has worked on many musicals and plays in Singapore and Thailand. Singapore credits include *Maha Moggallana*, *881 The Musical*, *The Crucible*, *Glass Anatomy – the Musical*, *Romeo & Juliet* and *Monkey Goes West*. In 2012, Tube Gallery won the Best Costume Design Award in the 12th Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards.

ASHLEY LIM – Hair Designer

Ashley started his hairstyling career in 1986 and set up Ashley Salon in 1999 in order to pursue his passion for the art of hairdressing, especially in theatre productions. He first worked in the theatre in 1987, and has since worked on more than 300 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 diverse cultures and periods. His skill is extensive, the result of more than three decades of hairdressing experience. He is privileged to be widely recognised by the local theatre community as a veteran in his artistry.

Some of Ashley's most memorable creations include headpieces for *Forbidden City*, as well as *Monkey Goes West* (WILD RICE), which won the 2015 Life! Theatre Award for Production of the Year.

THE MAKE UP ROOM – Make-Up Designer

Bobbie Ng and Low Jyue Huey have been passionately involved in make-up for the past 16 years. They believe in beauty, and believe in a space that appreciates and respects beauty, and started The Make Up Room for these reasons.

The Make Up Room has been involved in local theatre productions for over 10 years. In 2015 alone, they have worked on *Great World Cabaret*, The Theatre Practice's *The Legends Of The Southern Arch*, Dream Academy's *Dim Sum Dollies* and SRT's *The Tempest*.

Apart from theatre, their make-up artistry extends to blissful brides on their wedding days, as well as an academy through which they share their skills and knowledge with women who want to look good and aspiring makeup artists who are keen to learn this art form.

TONY TRICKETT – Producer

Born in Liverpool, Tony Trickett 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 a 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. He also produced the acclaimed 2006, 2008 and 2011 Singapore Theatre Festivals, which he conceived together with Artistic Director Ivan Heng.

APPENDIX V 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 world classics.

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

- FIRST STAGE!, a project that nurtures young talents from the ages of 5 to 12; and
- 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, Macau, Malaysia, New Zealand and Russia.

In August 2006, WILD RICE presented the inaugural Singapore Theatre Festival, a 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).

In July 2013, WILD RICE launched In The Spotlight, a festival that presents a representative survey of a local playwright's body of work. The inaugural festival shone a spotlight on our resident playwright, Alfian Sa'at.