

**WILD
RICE**
PRESENTS



**SINGAPORE
THEATRE FESTIVAL 2016**

30 JUNE - 24 JULY 2016 | LASALLE COLLEGE OF THE ARTS





[Embargoed until 15 April 2016]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WILD RICE PRESENTS THE 2016 SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL

15 April 2016 – WILD RICE today unveiled its plans for the fifth Singapore Theatre Festival (STF), a month-long event dedicated to celebrating new local writing. At a time when the nation is poised between its storied past and the uncertain future, the Festival presents eight of the most exciting, ambitious and thought-provoking new plays that have been written in and about today's Singapore.

NEW WRITING, NEW TALENT, NEW IDEAS

From 30 June to 24 July, the STF will transform LASALLE College of the Arts into a buzzing hub of activity. Throughout the Festival, audiences will have their pick of a diverse line-up of hilarious, heartbreaking, witty and whimsical works created by some of Singapore's most exciting and innovative theatre-makers.

"In this day and age, many issues surrounding race, religion, politics, sex and gender identity have become divisive and polarising. We are paralysed by fear when it comes to thinking and talking about them. We need new ways of seeing and thinking," said Ivan Heng, Artistic Director of the STF. "Collectively and individually, the plays invite and enable conversation and debate about today's hot-button topics. Insightful, funny and moving, they challenge and encourage us to imagine possibilities beyond our own biases and prejudices, giving us clues as to how we can live with one another."

WILD RICE's Resident Playwright Alfian Sa'at, the Festival's Dramaturg, added, "We believe that the theatre can serve as a public forum where such issues can be freely explored, where our playwrights can reflect on the society they live in with nuance and conviction. What is particularly exciting about this Festival is that it provides a platform for Singapore's next generation of playwrights, some of whom are presenting their first plays."

A FESTIVAL FOR EVERYONE

Featuring the work of **9 Playwrights, 8 Directors and 4 Companies**, the plays tell stories of contemporary Singapore and give voice to people from all walks of life: from the young and the old, to minorities and the marginalised, including members of the LGBT, Teochew and motorbiking communities. The plays also span a range of genres and forms, encompassing written and devised works as well as verbatim theatre. From the disarmingly intimate to the startlingly epic, these plays will open your eyes, touch your hearts and blow your minds.

The cornerstone production of the Festival will be **HOTEL**, an epic odyssey through a hundred years of Singapore's history that was presented at the 2015 Singapore International Festival of Arts. Proclaimed an "instant classic" by The Straits Times (ST), WILD RICE's electrifying production follows the guests, staff and ghosts of an iconic **HOTEL** in Singapore through a century of social and political change. Directed by Ivan Heng and Glen Goei and written by Alfian Sa'at and Marcia Vanderstraaten, the production was recently nominated



for seven ST Life! Theatre Awards, including Best Direction, Best Original Script and Production of the Year.

As part of the STF's ongoing commitment to discovering new talent, the season will feature brand-new plays by first-time playwrights – Helmi Yusof's ***My Mother Buys Condoms*** is a heartfelt romantic comedy that puts a cheeky spin on active ageing; and Nessa Anwar's ***Riders Know When It's Gonna Rain*** takes audiences on an exhilarating ride through the adventures and friendships shared by members of Singapore's motorbiking community. Thomas Lim's ***Grandmother Tongue*** also makes its world premiere during the Festival; the play examines the ways in which the concepts of family and identity get lost in translation when younger generations can no longer speak the languages of their forebears.

The Festival will also feature re-worked productions of recently staged plays. Rodney Oliveiro's ***Geylang***, created in collaboration with young & WILD, lifts the lid on the past, present and future of Singapore's most colourful and notorious district. Johnny Jon Jon's ***Hawa*** teases out the conflicts between faith and sexuality when an unconventional love story comes to a premature end. Kenneth Chia and Mark Ng's ***Let's Get Back Together*** uses the heartfelt testimony of LGBT individuals in Singapore to provide eye-opening insights into their trials and tribulations. Last but not least, Alfian Sa'at's ***GRC (Geng Rebut Cabinet)*** unearths some uncomfortable truths in a topsy-turvy political landscape in which Malays form the majority of the population, and was recently nominated for three ST Life! Theatre Awards (Best Original Script, Best Actor, Best Actress).

"We saw enormous potential in these plays, which were first performed for short runs in tiny venues and were thus overlooked by the wider theatre-going public," Alfian explained. "We believe they deserve a larger audience, and have worked with the playwrights to revise and further develop their scripts for the Festival."

Recognising that theatre does not begin or end with the rise and fall of the curtain, a programme of ***FESTIVITIES*** at LASALLE's Lowercase Café has been planned. ***The Art & Life Sessions*** will feature prominent public personalities reflecting on the issues of the day in a series of lively forums that are free to the public. Audiences can also kick back and relax in the ***Festival Club*** with ***Drag Attack!***, ***Songs of Protest*** and ***Stand Up for Singapore***, a late-night programme that shines a spotlight on emerging and established talents in the respective fields of drag, music and stand-up comedy.

"This Festival is very much about the Singaporean experience. These new plays and the accompanying festivities are so immediately relevant to anyone who calls Singapore home," said Heng. "But, far from being insular and parochial, they also speak to the universal experience of being human and the world we live in today."

Tickets to the Singapore Theatre Festival go on sale on SISTIC from 18 April 2016. Visit <http://www.singaporetheatrefestival.com> for more details!



FAST FACTS

1. SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL 2016

Established in 2006, the Singapore Theatre Festival is an event dedicated to celebrating contemporary Singaporean theatre through the development and presentation of new writing. Since its inception, the Festival has presented 25 productions, including 17 world premieres, of new and original works by Singapore's best and most promising playwrights.

Festival Director: Ivan Heng
Festival Dramaturg: Alfian Sa'at
Festival Producer: Tony Trickett
Venue: LASALLE College of the Arts
Dates: 30 June – 24 July 2016

2. THE 8 NEW PLAYS

HOTEL by WILD RICE

Venue: The Singapore Airlines Theatre
Show Dates: 30 June – 24 July 2016
Ticket Prices: \$80, \$100
Preview: 30 June 8pm (Part 1) & 1 July 8pm (Part 2)
\$110, \$130
Tue & Wed 8pm; Thu & Fri 8pm;
Sat 3pm & 8pm; Sun 3pm & 8pm
Each ticket permits entry to Parts 1 & 2 of *HOTEL*
(Prices exclude \$4 SISTIC handling fee)
Advisory: 16 and above (Some Mature Content)

GEYLANG by WILD RICE

Venue: Flexible Performance Space
Show Dates: 30 June – 3 July 2016
Ticket Price: \$35
Thu-Sun 8pm; Sat & Sun 3pm
(Price excludes \$3 SISTIC handling fee)
Rating: R18 (Mature Content)

Double-Bill:

RIDERS KNOW WHEN IT'S GONNA RAIN by WILD RICE

HAWA by Hatch Theatrics

Venue: Creative Cube
Show Dates: 30 June – 3 July 2016
Ticket Price: \$35
Thu-Sun 8pm; Sat & Sun 3pm
(Price excludes \$3 SISTIC handling fee)
Advisory/Rating: TBA (*Riders*) & R18 (*Hawa*)



LET'S GET BACK TOGETHER by Red Pill Productions

Venue: Flexible Performance Space
Show Dates: 7 – 10 July 2016
Ticket Price: \$35
Thu-Sun 8pm; Sat & Sun 3pm
(Price excludes \$3 SISTIC handling fee)
Rating: R18 (Homosexual Content)

GRANDMOTHER TONGUE by WILD RICE

Venue: Creative Cube
Show Dates: 7 – 10 July 2016
Ticket Price: \$35
Thu-Sun 8pm; Sat & Sun 3pm
(Price excludes \$3 SISTIC handling fee)
Advisory/Rating: TBA

GRC (GENG REBUT CABINET) by Teater Ekamatra

Venue: Flexible Performance Space
Show Dates: 14 – 24 July 2016
Ticket Price: \$40
Tue-Sun 8pm; Sat & Sun 3pm
(Price excludes \$3 SISTIC handling fee)
Advisory: 16 and above (Mature Content)

MY MOTHER BUYS CONDOMS by WILD RICE

Venue: Creative Cube
Show Dates: 14 – 24 July 2016
Ticket Price: \$40
Tue-Sun 8pm; Sat & Sun 3pm
(Price excludes \$3 SISTIC handling fee)
Advisory/Rating: TBA



3. TICKETING DETAILS

Tickets go on sale on 18 April 2016

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

Special Savings & Discounts

FESTIVAL PASS: Buy tickets to 3 or more shows and save!
25% Discount: 18 April – 11 May
15% Discount: from 12 May

Early Bird: 18 April – 11 May 2016
20% Discount for OCBC Cardmembers
& SAFRA Card Members
15% Discount for General Public

Discounts: From 12 May 2016
10% Discount for OCBC Cardmembers
& SAFRA Card Members

Concessions: 10% Discount for all shows
(For Students, Full-Time NSFs & Senior Citizens)

Corporate & Group Bookings: For bookings of 20 or more tickets, please contact Ross Toh at 6292-2695 or sales@wildrice.com.sg.

Press Contact : Siti Ahmad
Marketing & Communications Executive
Sirius Art Pte Ltd
DID: +65 6435 0627
siti@siriusart.com.sg

ANNEX

- I. THE 8 NEW PLAYS**
 - a. HOTEL**
 - b. Geylang**
 - c. Riders Know When It's Gonna Rain**
 - d. Hawa**
 - e. Let's Get Back Together**
 - f. Grandmother Tongue**
 - g. GRC (Geng Rebut Cabinet)**
 - h. My Mother Buys Condoms**

- II. THE FEST!VITIES**
- III. THE PLAYWRIGHTS & DIRECTORS**
- IV. THE COMPANIES**
- V. THE SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL**
- VI. THE SPONSORS**

APPENDIX I THE 8 NEW PLAYS

HOTEL

Presented By:	WILD RICE
Playwrights:	Alfian Sa'at & Marcia Vanderstraaten
Directors:	Ivan Heng & Glen Goei
Set Designer:	Wong Chee Wai
Lighting Designer:	Lim Woan Wen
Sound Designer:	The Gunnery
Multimedia Designer:	Brian Gothong Tan
Costume Designer:	Theresa Chan
Hair Designer:	Ashley Lim
Make-Up Designer:	Bobbie Ng (The Make Up Room)
Producer:	Tony Trickett
Cast:	Ben Cutler / Brendon Fernandez / Ghafir Akbar / Sharda Harrison / Jo Kukathas / Dwayne Lau / Lim Kay Siu / Moo Siew Keh / Neo Swee Lin / Pam Oei / Siti Khalijah Zainal / Julie Wee / Yap Yi Kai

A hotel in Singapore is opened at the turn of the century, when the island is still a jewel in the British Crown. It serves as an exotic pit stop for travellers who wish to explore the glittering expanse of the British Empire.

Each day, new faces appear and swiftly disappear – guests and staff alike. Every ten years, we check into the hotel and meet its residents. As Singapore morphs from British colony to Malaysian state to sovereign nation, its denizens experience profound and dramatic changes. We meet Indian mutineers, Cantonese nannies, Malay film stars, Japanese soldiers, transgender sex workers, wedding guests and suspected terrorists. They live out pivotal moments in their personal lives, even as empires die and new ones are born from their ashes.

An immersive, multi-generational epic that spans a century and unfolds in nine languages over five hours, *HOTEL* explores the notions of empire, nationhood, migration and identity against the backdrop of a shrinking world.

Unanimously acclaimed as an instant classic and a five-star experience following its sold-out premiere at the 2015 Singapore International Festival of Arts, *HOTEL* is a ground-breaking theatrical event that highlights the eclectic energies born from the collisions between old and new, East and West, and tradition and modernity.

HOTEL was commissioned by the Singapore International Festival of Arts in 2015 and first produced in partnership with WILD RICE.

Performed in English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Hokkien, Malay, Tamil, Urdu, Tagalog and Japanese, with English surtitles.

Reviews

“WILD RICE’s *HOTEL* is a five-star experience! ... This is a permanent notch in Singapore theatre history, the sort of play that declares to the world – we have arrived.”

– *The Straits Times, Life!*

“An instant classic! ... Audacious, exhilarating, splendidly funny and at times heartbreaking, *HOTEL* sets a new benchmark for Singapore theatre that will not likely be surpassed by any other soon.”

– *The Business Times*



GEYLANG

Presented By: WILD RICE
Playwright & Director: Rodney Oliveira
Set & Lighting Designer: Mac Chan
Multimedia Designer: Andre Chong
Producer: Tony Trickett
Cast: Jane Chia / Matthew Fam / Farez Najid / Gabriele Goh /
Lim Jun Jie Jey / Loh An Lin / Elizabeth Loh /
Nur Hamidah binte Abdul Rahim / Perry Felix Shen /
Faith Sim / Siti Zuraidah binte Abdul Rahim / Leonard Tan /
Yazid Jalil

Step into the neon-lit *lorongs* of *Geylang*, where a happy ending is not what you think it is.

In this wicked interplay of four stories, meet those who have lived, loved and lost in Geylang. A pair of star-crossed lovers defy the river and cultures that separate them. Mediums and *mamasans* prey on lost souls. A single mother struggles to keep up with the relentless march of progress. A gang leader is swept up in a maelstrom of drug-fuelled violence. A civil servant falls under the heady spell of nostalgia as an iconic hawker stall is forced to relocate – or close down for good.

A potent, exhilarating brew of history and fiction, *Geylang* looks for truth in the past, present and future of Singapore's most colourful district. Sexy, funny and poignant, *Geylang* is an electrifying, thought-provoking showcase of new Singaporean voices and talent.

GEYLANG was created in collaboration with the third cohort of young & WILD (2014-2015), WILD RICE's youth development division.

Reviews

"A highly entertaining and contentious play... completely worth my time."
– *TheSmartLocal.com*

"The satire was so spot-on that it had me in fits the entire time... amazing..."
– *WhatsNext.sg*



Double-Bill

**RIDERS KNOW WHEN IT'S GONNA RAIN
(Riders Tahu Time Nak Hujan)**

Presented By: WILD RICE
Playwright: Nessa Anwar
Director: Aidli 'Alin' Mosbit
Lighting Designer: Helmi Fita
Sound Designer: James Lye
Producer: Tony Trickett
Cast: Nessa Anwar / Norisham Osman / Raimi Safari / Riduan Zalani

Alep, Remy, Nizam and Risha – the only girl in the gang – all love their motorbikes. They remember the day they received their 2B licenses. They can tell bikes apart from the purring of the engines. And they relish the easy give of a kickstarter under the soles of their feet.

Riders Know When It's Gonna Rain is a coming-of-age story of friendship that blossoms in the little-known, frequently misunderstood *mat moto* subculture in Singapore. It captures the bright, reckless spirit of youth: from the desire to rebel and an addiction to danger, to the fierce loyalty that springs up between kindred spirits. When their adventures take an unexpected detour, the four childhood friends learn that the road to adulthood can be bumpy and treacherous.

Written with an insider's intimate understanding of the culture and lingo of Singapore's motorbiking community, Nessa Anwar's tough, tender play is an affecting portrait of youths living in the fast lane.

RIDERS KNOW WHEN IT'S GONNA RAIN was first commissioned for and performed at the 2015 Singapore Writers Festival, as part of Checkpoint Theatre's 'What I Love About You Is Your Attitude Problem'.

Performed in Malay and English, with English surtitles.

Double-Bill

HAWA

Presented By: Hatch Theatrics
Playwright: Johnny Jon Jon
Director: Faizal Abdullah
Lighting Designer: Helmi Fita
Cast: Koh Wan Ching / Al-Matin Yatim / Saiful Amri

Siti, a recent convert to Islam, is suddenly tasked with overseeing the funeral arrangements of her close friend and companion. Ahmad, a funeral director, is summoned to perform the last rites. As he learns more about Siti, he begins to question the true nature of the relationship between Siti and her friend. While funeral preparations are being made, a charming stranger – Zaki – arrives unexpectedly. He strikes up a conversation with Siti that gradually reveals his motives and her heartbreak.

Hawa is a play that dares to ask difficult questions about faith, love and sexuality. Even as Siti grieves for the deceased, she has to contend with the societal forces that threaten to deny her of her own existence.

Performed in Malay and English, with English surtitles.

Reviews

“This is a beautifully sorrowful, poetically explosive, humorously serious piece of work.”
– *Centre 42*

“*Hawa* works as a black comedy and Jon Jon has a knack for witty dialogue... The actors turn in commendable performances.”
– *The Straits Times, Life!*



LET'S GET BACK TOGETHER

Presented By: Red Pill Productions
Playwrights: Kenneth Chia & Mark Ng
(in collaboration with Kimberly Arriola)
Director: Mark Ng
Set Designer: Elizabeth Kow
Lighting Designer: Hay Teow Kwang
Multimedia Designer: Kimberly Ong
Producers: Pamela Lai & Perry Felix Shen
Cast: Ezzat Alkaff / Ann Lek / Ruzaini Mazani / Eleanor Tan /
Jo Tan / Zachary Ibrahim

"I do not think Singapore is ready... There are gay groups in Singapore, there are gay people in Singapore and they have a place to stay here and we let them live their own lives. And we do not harass them or discriminate against them. But neither, I think, if you ask most Singaporeans, do we want the LGBT community to set the tone for Singapore society. The society is basically a conservative one."

- Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong (4 June 2015)

What is it like to grow up different in a country where laws, morality and the media dictate what is normal? Who gets to determine what constitutes harassment and discrimination against minorities? Is Singapore society really as conservative as we're often told it is? Can this country truly be a home for everyone, regardless of race, language, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity?

Based on frank, funny and sometimes fabulous interviews conducted with over 50 brave and inspiring individuals, *Let's Get Back Together* is an original testimonial theatre piece exploring the realities that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people face on a daily basis in Singapore. Even as the rest of the world begins to wake up to the idea that LGBT rights are human rights, *Let's Get Back Together* sheds light on the trials and triumphs of these individuals as they grapple with issues of faith, identity and acceptance.

Reviews

"Let's Get Back Together quickly draws the audience into its world of heartfelt, sometimes brutally honest confessions and feelings... the impact of the monologues come hard and fast, often exempt from flowery language and hitting you right in the gut with raw, relatable emotion."

- *JustWatchLah.com*

"Let's Get Back Together will go down in history."

- *Popspoken*



World Premiere

GRANDMOTHER TONGUE

Presented By: WILD RICE
Playwright & Director: Thomas Lim
Set Designer: CK Chia
Lighting Designer: Petrina Dawn Tan
Producer: Tony Trickett
Cast: Jalyn Han / Tan Shou Chen / Rei Poh

In a Singapore where dialects have been losing relevance for generations, *Grandmother Tongue* traces a young man's struggle to connect with his 84-year-old Teochew-speaking grandmother. He teaches her to use a mobile phone. He helps her buy her favourite brand of soya sauce. He visits her in hospital after a fall. Along the way, he begins to understand just what it means to spend decades in linguistic and cultural exile.

Inspired by Kuo Pao Kun's seminal *Mama Looking For Her Cat*, Thomas Lim's funny, insightful play examines the social costs of our mother-tongue language policy and the erasure of dialects in today's Singapore. In ways both humorous and heartbreaking, *Grandmother Tongue* explores how our identities are bound up with the languages that we use and the ones that we lose.

Performed in Teochew and English, with English surtitles.

GRC (GENG REBUT CABINET)

Presented By: Teater Ekamatra
Playwright: Alfian Sa'at
Director: Mohd Fared Jainal
Set & Costume Designer: Mohd Fared Jainal
Producer: Shaza Ishak
Cast: Serene Chen / Khairudin Samsudin / Dalifah Shahril /
Farah Ong / Fir Rahman

With elections around the corner, a political party is planning to field candidates in a five-member Group Representation Constituency. On the shortlist are a Minister, a Brigadier-General, a high-flying lawyer and a grassroots organiser.

But the team is not complete without a minority candidate. This candidate has to be likeable. He or she has to be a respected member of the community. Most importantly, he or she has to be... Chinese.

GRC examines what it means to be part of a minority in a topsy-turvy farcical world where the disempowered now rule, and the invisible have their faces plastered everywhere – but only during campaign season.

Who defines whether someone is a member of a minority? Who sets the standards for a 'model minority' and a 'problem minority'? And is the country ready for a minority Prime Minister?

Performed in Malay and English, with English surtitles.

Reviews

"*GRC* is a funny play. There are laughs but these lead to sobering realisation, as the audience sees itself reflected in the funhouse mirror of the world on stage... *GRC* is as inclusive as the reality it represents fails to be."

– *The Straits Times, Life!*

"Fuelled by the script's punchlines and steady wit, *GRC* delves into the intricacies of politicking during elections... *GRC* turns the world upside down, and in doing so, shows us what is possible."

– *TODAYonline*



World Premiere

MY MOTHER BUYS CONDOMS

Presented By: WILD RICE
Playwright: Helmi Yusof
Director: Ivan Heng
Set Designer: Wong Chee Wai
Lighting Designer: Petrina Dawn Tan
Sound Designer: The Gunnery
Producer: Tony Trickett
Cast: Lok Meng Chue / Remesh Panicker / Elnie S. Mashari /
Joshua Jonathan Lim / Seong Hui Xuan

Sex and star-crossed love are domains reserved for the young... aren't they? That's what Maggie, a retired school teacher, has always believed. But everything Maggie had come to assume and accept about her life changes when she agrees to teach Raju, an air-con repairman, how to read.

As their relationship blossoms into an unconventional romance, those close to Maggie begin to question her behaviour, morals and choices. Nora, her best friend, claims that she no longer recognises her. Wilfred, her son, is outraged. Only Gwen, Maggie's daughter, seems to understand, but she has secrets of her own.

A romantic comedy that puts a cheeky spin on active ageing, Helmi Yusof's first play challenges society's attitudes towards sex and senior citizens. Inspiring and empowering, *My Mother Buys Condoms* challenges audiences to re-evaluate the freedom to love for those who may no longer be young in body, but remain young at heart.

MY MOTHER BUYS CONDOMS was first developed for the TheatreWorks Writers Lab's 'Writing From The Heart' programme in 2014.

APPENDIX II THE FEST!VITIES

THE ART & LIFE SESSIONS

*What is it in real LIFE that inspires the ART onstage?
How does ART relate to, engage with, and resonate with LIFE?*

The ART & LIFE SESSIONS is a series of free lively forums about the urgent issues of the day. Engage with some of the most forward-thinking minds of “the concerned citizenry” – including artists, activists, academics and politicians – to exchange views and opinions about the pressing issues of our times.

#01: ONE DIVIDED PEOPLE?

10 JULY / SUNDAY 5.30PM / LOWERCASE CAFÉ

From the controversies stirred up over Adam Lambert’s New Year Countdown appearance to Madonna’s *Rebel Heart* concert, conservative Singaporeans are making their voices heard. However, what is seen as an affirmation of family values by some is seen as censorship by others. Should morality be legislated in Singapore? Is social liberalisation a sign of progress or decadence? Join our panel of artists and other concerned stakeholders as we discuss the ways in which we can avoid a potential culture war in Singapore.

#02: REGARDFUL OF RACE, LANGUAGE AND RELIGION

17 JULY / SUNDAY 5.30PM / LOWERCASE CAFÉ

In recent years, more and more people have taken to lodging police reports against ‘racially or religiously insensitive’ speech in Singapore. While doing so can protect those who have genuine cause to be offended, it also imposes vague limits on free speech. Can rigid adherence to being ‘politically correct’ become an act of silencing? Is it possible to draw a clear line between the spouting of hate speech and the exercising of free speech? Join our panel of legal experts and inter-faith activists as we examine the ways in which public discussions about hot-button issues such as race, language and religion are policed – both by society and by ourselves.

#03: HISTORY, HIS STORY, WHOSE STORY?

24 JULY / SUNDAY 5.30PM / LOWERCASE CAFÉ

Tan Pin Pin’s *To Singapore, With Love* was banned in Singapore, and the National Arts Council withdrew a publishing grant earlier awarded to Sonny Liew’s *The Art of Charlie Chan Hock Chye*. Both works deal with Singapore’s history in the ’50s and ’60s, and raise questions about the state’s demonisation of left-wing movements and figures. Is history becoming a new contentious terrain? What kind of chilling effect will this have on artists who explore history in their works? Join our panel of historians, writers and filmmakers as we unpack the official and alternative versions of ‘The Singapore Story’.

Moderators and participants to be confirmed.



THE FESTIVAL CLUB: AFTER HOURS

DRAG ATTACK!

9 JULY / SATURDAY 10.30PM / LOWERCASE CAFÉ

Sexy. Raunchy. Naughty. Unleash your inner queen and dance the night away with a rainbow of drag performers who will charm, shock and titillate even as they demolish societal stereotypes and conventional concepts of gender. Don't miss out on this crazy, colourful evening featuring some of Singapore's Most Fabulous!

SONGS OF PROTEST

16 JULY / SATURDAY 10.30PM / LOWERCASE CAFÉ

Inspired by the lyrical masterpieces of Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, Bob Marley, Joan Baez, Tracy Chapman and Public Enemy, we invited some of Singapore's best singer-songwriters and spoken-word artists to compose a 'protest song' (or poem or rap) for this very special event. This is your chance to catch your favourite artists performing their own deeply personal, fire-in-the-belly anthems – don't miss it!

STAND UP FOR SINGAPORE

23 JULY / SATURDAY 10.30PM / LOWERCASE CAFÉ

Looking to have a WILD, wicked night of fun, laughter and comedy? Join some of the nation's finest stand-up comics for a raucous show that promises to tickle your funny bone as it excavates the lighter side to living in Singapore!

PLAYWRITING WORKSHOP

RANSACKING THE ARCHIVES: WRITING HISTORY INTO DRAMA

23 or 24 JULY / 10AM - 1PM

Join WILD RICE's Resident Playwright Alfian Sa'at as he takes you through various exercises to find inspiration for drama and fiction from historical documents such as photographs, oral history interviews and newspaper cuttings. How can one try to reproduce the nuances of a bygone era in one's playwriting? How much creative liberty can one take with the source material? Through his experience of writing historical epic *HOTEL*, Alfian will share tips and strategies for turning 'boring' history into compelling works of art.

TALKBACK THURSDAY / FEEDBACK FRIDAY

Throughout the Festival, performances on Thursday and Friday nights will be followed by 'Meet the Artists' sessions in the respective theatre venues. Audience feedback plays a critical part in the development of new writing. These sessions give you the opportunity to share your experience of the play with your fellow audience members, as well as the playwrights, directors and actors who have worked tirelessly to create each show in the Festival.

APPENDIX III THE PLAYWRIGHTS & DIRECTORS

ALFIAN SA'AT – PLAYWRIGHT (*HOTEL & GRC*)

Alfian Sa'at is the Resident Playwright of WILD RICE. He has been nominated at the Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards for Best Original Script 10 times, and has received the award thrice. He was the winner of the Golden Point Award for Poetry and the National Arts Council Young Artist Award for Literature in 2001. His publications include *Collected Plays One and Two*; poetry collections *One Fierce Hour* and *A History of Amnesia*; and short-story collections *Corridor* and *Malay Sketches*.

MARCIA VANDERSTRAATEN – PLAYWRIGHT (*HOTEL*)

Marcia Vanderstraaten obtained her MFA in Dramatic Writing from NYU Tisch School of the Arts Asia. Her most recent plays are *HOTEL* (WILD RICE, 2015), a commission for the Singapore International Festival of Arts that was co-written with acclaimed playwright Alfian Sa'at; and *Mindmap of Love* (Skinned Knee Productions, 2015), a dinner-theatre show staged in collaboration with ZOTT's True Alps that was based on the novel of the same title by Christian Zott. She recently concluded an associate artistship with WILD RICE.

IVAN HENG – DIRECTOR (*HOTEL & MY MOTHER BUYS CONDOMS*)

One of Singapore's most prominent and dynamic creative personalities, Ivan Heng is the founder and artistic director of WILD RICE, Singapore's leading professional theatre company. Under his leadership, the company is today at the vanguard of creating theatre with a distinctive Singaporean voice. In a pioneering career spanning over two decades, Ivan has directed and acted in many landmark Singapore theatre productions that have been performed in theatres and at festivals in more than 20 cities around the world. Ivan was the Creative Director of the 2009 National Day Parade and the 2010 Youth Olympic Games' Opening and Closing Ceremonies. In 2013, Ivan was conferred the Cultural Medallion, Singapore's highest cultural award.

GLEN GOEI – DIRECTOR (*HOTEL*)

Glen Goei's substantial body of work encompasses a wide range of the performing arts, including theatre, film, parades and World Expos. Some highlights include his Olivier Award-nominated performance in the title role of *M. Butterfly* opposite Anthony Hopkins in London's West End; his multi-award-winning tenure as Artistic Director of Mu-Lan Arts; and his critically acclaimed feature films, *Forever Fever* and *The Blue Mansion*. Glen has also made significant contributions to Singapore's theatre scene. Since 2002, Glen has served as the Associate Artistic Director of WILD RICE, for which he has directed hits such as *HOTEL*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Emily of Emerald Hill* and *Boeing Boeing*.



RODNEY OLIVEIRO – PLAYWRIGHT & DIRECTOR (*GEYLANG*)

Rodney Oliveiro has been working in the Singapore theatre industry as an actor, director and drama educator for 15 years. He has acted in more than 40 productions and has written and/or directed for many secondary and tertiary institutions. In recent years, Rodney has also branched out into developing programmes for drama training. Since 2014, he has been the co-programme coordinator for young & W!LD, writing and/or directing their showcases – *Little Riots and Other Stories* and *Geylang*.

MARK NG – PLAYWRIGHT & DIRECTOR (*LET’S GET BACK TOGETHER*)

Mark Ng graduated with a Diploma in Applied Drama & Psychology from Singapore and is currently completing his degree in Drama at London’s Queen Mary University on a scholarship. He believes that art and purpose should be neither mutually exclusive nor inextricable from each other. Inclined towards contemporary issues, he is also very interested in the intersection of theatre and technology.

KENNETH CHIA – PLAYWRIGHT (*LET’S GET BACK TOGETHER*)

Currently pursuing his B.A. in Theatre Studies at the National University of Singapore, Kenneth Chia hopes to create bold, accessible and socially incisive experiences as a young theatre-maker, actor and writer for stage and screen. Theatre credits include: *TragicForm* (Natalie Hennedige); *Other/s* (Esplanade RAW Series); *It Won’t Be Too Long: The Lesson* and *Ways of Wandering* for the Singapore International Festival of Arts; and Loo Zihan’s *With/Out* (M1 Fringe Festival, 2015), on which he served as a research intern. His writing has been featured in *SingPoWriMo 2015: The Anthology* and the ASEAN International Film Festival.

MOHD FARED JAINAL – DIRECTOR (*GRC*)

A recipient of the Goh Chok Tong Youth Promise Award, Mohd Fared Jainal graduated with a Master In Arts (Design) from Open University/LASALLE College of the Arts. Fared has collaborated extensively with various theatre and art groups as a director, performer, visual artist and set designer. In 2010, he was selected for residency with the prestigious La Mama International in Spoleto, Italy. Fared teaches at the Faculty of Theatre at School of the Arts (SOTA). He is currently searching for fresh narratives of Singapore and the Malay Archipelago from amidst oft-forgotten and submerged perspectives.



NESSA ANWAR – PLAYWRIGHT (*RIDERS KNOW WHEN IT'S GONNA RAIN*)

Nessa Anwar has acted, written, produced and directed for theatre, television, digital content and short films. She believes in the importance of having an all-rounded experience in the arts, and that this begins with being well-versed in every single aspect of the industry. A philosophy graduate by training, she is currently a multimedia journalist by day. Nessa's bike goes everywhere with her: on TV, on video, in films and on stage. Her ultimate goal in her pursuit of craft perfection is to develop enough focus to win one measly game of Minesweeper. Bike of choice: HONDA XR400. *Riders Know When It's Gonna Rain* is Nessa's first play.

AIDLI 'ALIN' MOSBIT – DIRECTOR (*RIDERS KNOW WHEN IT'S GONNA RAIN*)

Aidli 'Alin' Mosbit graduated from Queensland University of Technology and has worked extensively with local companies like The Necessary Stage, Teater Kami, WILD RICE, Cake Theatrical Productions, Toy Factory, The Theatre Practice, Teater Ekamatra and Drama Box. In 2003, Aidli published *BISIK*, an anthology of Malay plays, with Noor Effendy Ibrahim and Alfian Sa'at. She has performed Singapore-brand theatre on tours to Scotland, Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Romania, Hong Kong and Hungary. Recipient of the NAC Young Artist Award for Theatre in 2008, she is currently working in Temasek Polytechnic as the Section Head of the Arts Division while pursuing her Master of Education.

JOHNNY JON JON – PLAYWRIGHT (*HAWA*)

Johnny Jon Jon read English, with a Minor in Creative Writing, at Nanyang Technological University. Since first dabbling with theatre-making in 2006, Jon Jon has had the opportunity to collaborate with some of the industry's best. In keeping with his goal of writing one script a year, he has written nine plays to date, including *National Memory Project*, *Orang Utan(Asia)* and *Khabar Kepada Kawan*.

FAIZAL ABDULLAH – DIRECTOR (*HAWA*)

Faizal Abdullah is an actor and theatre practitioner. After graduating with a diploma from LASALLE College of the Arts in 2005, he pursued further training via the youth programmes of WILD RICE (young & WILD) and Cake Theatrical Productions (In A Decade). Since his professional acting debut in playwright-director Elangovan's *1915*, he has worked with many companies, including ACT 3 Theatrics, TheatreWorks, Cake Theatrical Productions and Teater Ekamatra. Faizal directed and designed the sets for *Di Manakah Kau Sorokkan Yusof Ishak* and *Hawa* (both for Hatch Theatrics), among other productions. Faizal is currently the Artistic Director of Hatch Theatrics.



THOMAS LIM – PLAYWRIGHT & DIRECTOR (*GRANDMOTHER TONGUE*)

Thomas Lim is a playwright, director and educator. Since graduating with a Diploma in Applied Drama and Psychology from Singapore Polytechnic, Thomas has been writing for and working with schools and young people. His past works include *Dear Mom* (Bound Theatre, 2012), *Scroll* (Bound Theatre, 2014) and, more recently, *Pull Up for One Man Riot*, a performance collective he founded in 2015. Thomas was also a member of Teater Ekamatra's merEKA programme from 2013 to 2014, during which he was mentored by Irfan Kasban for a series of four experimental performances.

HELMY YUSOF – PLAYWRIGHT (*MY MOTHER BUYS CONDOMS*)

Helmi Yusof is an arts and culture correspondent for The Business Times. *My Mother Buys Condoms* is his first play. It was written in 2014 for TheatreWorks' Writers Lab's 'Writing From The Heart' programme, which was conducted by playwright Tony Perez. The play was subsequently revised for the 2016 Singapore Theatre Festival, following workshops with WILD RICE Artistic Director Ivan Heng, Festival Dramaturg Alfian Sa'at and the cast. Helmi would like to thank the TheatreWorks and WILD RICE teams for their unstinting support and advice.



APPENDIX IV THE COMPANIES

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's 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.

HATCH THEATRICALS

Hatch Theatricals is a collective of young and multi-hyphenated theatre-makers that aims to rediscover, reinvent and revitalise Singapore's contemporary Malay theatre. We believe in the potential and beauty of collaboration and in always learning from other theatre practitioners. In addition, we find strength in crafting and negotiating a voice for the youth of our community through the medium of theatre. Through our productions, we hope to continue contributing to the social library of original theatre works produced by young, vibrant and passionate Malay theatre practitioners.

RED PILL PRODUCTIONS

Established in 2013, Red Pill Productions is a company of young aspiring theatre-makers driven to continue seeking and making new art. Through its productions and works, Red Pill Productions attempts to question, explore, and provoke dialogue about facets of society and humanity that are often not talked about. The company also hopes to be a home for like-minded, fearless, inquisitive artists who are looking for fresh perspectives and avenues for collaboration.

TEATER EKAMATRA

Teater Ekamatra is an established and exciting Singapore arts company that shines a spotlight on contemporary experimental theatre. Guided by its values of diversity, inclusivity, integrity, accountability and people-centredness, Teater Ekamatra is committed to creating engaging theatre that inspires, while incubating emerging talents and expanding diversity within the industry. Currently helmed by award-winning director and designer Mohd Fared Jainal, Teater Ekamatra has been commissioned by notable international arts festivals such as the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival, Man Singapore Theatre Festival and KakiSeni Festival. Our productions have won numerous accolades, including the ST Life! Theatre Awards for Best Original Script (*Kakak Kau Punya Laki, Charged, Nadirah*) and Best Actress (*Nadirah*).

APPENDIX V THE SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL

Presented by WILD RICE, the Singapore Theatre Festival is an event dedicated to celebrating contemporary Singaporean theatre through the development and presentation of new and original local writing. The Festival takes place in the months of July and August, when Singapore celebrates National Day; it is in this context that theatre artists and the public are encouraged to engage in a conversation about theatre, Singapore and the world.

In four editions since 2006, the Festival has collaborated with local theatre companies and artists to present 25 productions, including 17 world premieres, of new local writing. The Festival prides itself on having collaborated with undiscovered, emerging and established playwrights, including Alfian Sa'at, Eleanor Wong, Huzir Sulaiman, Chong Tze Chien, Ovidia Yu and Joel Tan. In 2013, the Festival launched 'In The Spotlight' to present a season dedicated to the works of a single local playwright. It remains the only festival in Singapore that focuses on presenting fully realised productions of new local writing.

The Aims of the Festival

- To develop, produce and promote Singapore theatre, with a focus on new works;
- To re-appraise Singapore's existing repertoire of plays with today's audiences, thereby creating the country's own classics;
- To present the best of contemporary Singapore theatre-making; and
- To engage audiences and artists in a conversation about theatre, Singapore and the world.

Since 2006, the Festival has:

- Enriched the social, cultural and intellectual life of Singapore;
- Raised the levels of awareness and appreciation for Singapore theatre;
- Encouraged the creation of distinctive homegrown work;
- Enhanced the international image of Singapore as a vibrant creative city; and
- Created a literary and artistic legacy for future generations of Singaporeans.

PRAISE FOR THE SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL

"It was a year in which ambitious, heartfelt local productions outshone lacklustre, lumbering art imports... the main event in the world of the arts this year was arguably WILD RICE's inaugural Singapore Theatre Festival in August."

– *SPH The Straits Times, Life!*

"Statistics compact the inaugural Singapore Theatre Festival to three weeks, nine plays and 11,500 sold tickets. But the expanded version is more interesting: as many as 200 people showing up for the various forums held to discuss topics raised by the plays... the issues being debated island-wide; and the demonstration that the arts are an integral part of an urban society, not to be relegated to suburbia."

– *The Business Times*

APPENDIX VI THE SPONSORS

The Singapore Theatre Festival is made possible by the kind support of the following sponsors and partners:

ARCHANGEL



AL Wealth Partners Pte Ltd

CORPORATE SPONSOR



OFFICIAL MAKE-UP



OFFICIAL CARDS



OCBC ARTS PLATINUM CARD

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE



OFFICIAL PRINTER



OFFICIAL CATERER



FESTIVAL CLUB



FESTIVAL WEBSITE PARTNER



WITH SUPPORT FROM



WILD RICE Ltd is a recipient of the National Arts Council's Major Grant for the period from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2019.