



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AWARD-WINNING *MONKEY GOES WEST* RETURNS BY POPULAR DEMAND!

2 September 2016 – Bringing the Year of the Monkey to a happy climax, WILD RICE's award-winning *Monkey Goes West* will be returning for a strictly limited season to the Drama Centre Theatre for the holidays.

Monkey Goes West completely sold out its first run in 2014, playing to an audience of more than 15,000 at the newly refurbished Victoria Theatre. It dominated the 2015 Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards with seven nominations – more than any other production that year. It eventually took home the awards for Production of the Year, Production of the Year (Reader's Choice) and Best Costume Design (Tube Gallery).

"The WILD RICE pantomime is a unique annual tradition for family audiences in Singapore, and *Monkey Goes West* set a new benchmark in terms of the artistic excellence that we always strive for," says Ivan Heng, Artistic Director of WILD RICE. "In the Year of the Monkey, we are thrilled that audiences, both loyal and new, will have the opportunity to experience this incredible show for themselves!"

With an affectionate, cheeky script by WILD RICE Resident Playwright Alfian Sa'at, music by acclaimed composer Elaine Chan and direction by Broadway Beng Sebastian Tan, *Monkey Goes West* is the first WILD RICE pantomime to take inspiration from the East, relocating beloved Chinese literary classic *Journey To The West* to modern-day Singapore.

Tan, who earned a Straits Times Life! Theatre Award nomination for Best Director for his work, will return to direct the production, which he describes as a "dream come true".

"*Monkey Goes West* turned out to be this award-winning show that audiences loved and couldn't get enough of, which is really why we are bringing it back so soon," Tan explains with pride.

Young talents from Martial House – Singapore's leading *wushu* academy – will be showing off their impressive martial arts skills on stage. The academy will also work closely with the children of WILD RICE's FIRST STAGE! programme, aged 5 to 12, in preparation for their stage debuts.

The cast of *Monkey Goes West* includes some of Singapore's finest veteran actors and rising stars. Familiar faces like Chua Enlai (*The Importance of Being Earnest*, TV's *The Noose*), Siti Khalijah Zainal (*HOTEL, Best Of*) and Darius Tan (*Army Daze, Twelve Angry Men*) will share the stage with Sugie Phua (*Project SuperStar, Liao Zhai Rocks!*) Joshua Lim (*My Mother Buys Condoms, Café*), Frances Lee (*Beauty World, Fat Pig*) and Kimberly Chan (*High Class, Hotpants*).

MONKEY GOES WEST

In the Year of the Monkey, WILD RICE looks East for its 13th holiday musical extravaganza for the whole family! Named Production of the Year at the 2015 Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards, *Monkey Goes West* is an affectionate and cheeky re-telling of the beloved Chinese fantasy classic. Join us for this epic thrill ride that will take you from Haw Par Villa to Jurong West, by way of a colourful world filled with mythical monsters and naughty fairies!

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

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

This award-winning production is directed by Broadway Beng Sebastian Tan and written by Alfian Sa'at, with music composed by Elaine Chan. Packed with catchy songs, hilarious gags, *wushu* and magic, *Monkey Goes West* promises to brighten up your holiday season and keep you and your loved ones laughing well into the New Year. Come and be entertained... and enlightened!



REVIEWS

“*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!

“Myth, mirth and mayhem make WILD RICE’s adaptation of Chinese epic *Monkey Goes West* one of the funniest and most satisfying rides in Singapore theatre this year.”

The Business Times

“One of WILD RICE’s unqualified successes has been to make the traditional Western tradition of the pantomime its own... And *Monkey Goes West* is a riot.”

TODAY



2015 M1-THE STRAITS TIMES LIFE! THEATRE AWARDS

Production of the Year

Production of the Year (Readers' Choice)

Best Costume Design – Tube Gallery by Phisit & Saxit

NOMINATIONS

Best Director – Sebastian Tan

Best Actor – Sugie Phua

Best Supporting Actress – Siti Khalijah Zainal

Best Sound Design/Original Score – Elaine Chan & Bang Wenfu



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 individuals and corporations like Shaw Foundation and Keppel Care Foundation, our Gift of Theatre project has sponsored close to 1,400 beneficiaries and their caretakers from 16 homes and charities to watch WILD RICE's pantomimes, *The Emperor's New Clothes* (2015) and *Monkey Goes West* (2014). 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 *Monkey Goes West*, we are hoping to raise \$25,000 to pay for tickets for 400 beneficiaries. SPH Foundation and other kind donors have already signed on to be a part of this initiative. More donations are welcome. As WILD RICE is a registered charity and an Institution of a Public Character (IPC), all donations will be eligible for a 250% tax exemption.

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

FAST FACTS

Title	:	<i>MONKEY GOES WEST</i>
Book & Lyrics By	:	Alfian Sa'at
Music By	:	Elaine Chan
Directed By	:	Sebastian Tan
Music Direction	:	Bang Wenfu
Cast	:	<p>Chua Enlai as Princess Iron Fan Siti Khalijah Zainal as Sandy Joshua Lim as Ah Tang Darius Tan as King Bull Frances Lee as Pigsy Kimberly Chan as Red Boy <i>and</i> <i>featuring</i> Sugie Phua as Monkey King</p> <p>The FIRST STAGE! Kids Martial House Kids & a LIVE 5-Piece Band!</p>
Choreography	:	Andy Benjamin Cai
Martial Arts Choreography	:	Gordon Choy
Vocal Coach	:	Irene Jansen
Set Design	:	Wong Chee Wai
Lighting Design	:	Adrian Tan
Puppet Design	:	The Finger Players
Sound Design	:	Shah Tahir
Costume Design	:	Tube Gallery
Hair/Headgear Design	:	Ashley Lim
Make-Up Design	:	The Make-Up Room



Producer : Tony Trickett

Venue : Drama Centre Theatre

Show Dates : 18 November – 17 December 2016

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

Ticket Prices : S\$45 – S\$70
(Previews: 18 November, 7.30pm
& 19 November, 2.30pm
& Thursday matinees @ 2.30pm)
S\$50 – S\$75
(Tue, Wed & Thu 7.30pm)
S\$55 – S\$80
(Fri & Sat 7.30pm, Sat & Sun 2.30pm)
Prices exclude \$4 SISTIC handling fee

Priority Booking : 19 September – 2 October 2016
20% Discount for OCBC Cardmembers only

Early Bird : 3 – 26 October 2016
20% Discount for OCBC Cardmembers, PAssion
and SAFRA Card Members
15% Discount for General Public

Family Package : Save 25% when you purchase 4 Cat 1 tickets for
the price of 3 with your OCBC Credit/Debit Card.
Valid for 2 adults & 2 children (16 years & below).

Corporate & Group Deals : 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 in our annual pantomimes.

Cinderel-LAH! (2003 & 2010), *Aladdin* (2004 & 2011), *Oi! Sleeping Beauty!!* (2005), *Jack & the Bean-Sprout!* (2006 & 2013), *Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs* (2008), *Beauty & the Beast* (2009), *Hansel & Gretel* (2012), *Monkey Goes West* (2014) and *The Emperor's New Clothes* (2015) have collectively tickled and touched an audience of close to 175,000 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

"If you're looking for a great musical to sink your teeth into – and really, [*The Emperor's New Clothes*] can rival most international productions in terms of sheer entertainment and engagement value – this is definitely the ticket to get."

TODAYonline.com

"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!

“*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!

“*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!

“*[Jack & the Bean-Sprout!]* is] a sugar buzz of fun, featuring overblown, interactive drama that children should love... Yet the piece also seeks to make the pantomime genre socially relevant to our times... 4 STARS.”

The Flying Inkpot

APPENDIX II SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS



APPENDIX III CAST BIOGRAPHIES

CHUA ENLAI as Princess Iron Fan

Enlai is an actor and host on TV, the silver screen and on stage. He is best known for playing well-loved characters like Jacques Ooi, B.B. See and Pornsak Sukhumvit on *The Noose*, for which he won the Asian Television Award for Best Comedy Performance by an Actor in 2010 and 2013. A veteran of the theatre scene, Enlai has been in over 40 theatre productions. He was named Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor at the Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards for his respective performances in *Shopping & F***ing* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Enlai is a Mediacorp artiste managed by FLY Entertainment.

SUGIE PHUA as Monkey King

Sugie was one of the male finalists for Channel U's inaugural *Project SuperStar* singing competition. He also came in among the top seven contestants in Taiwan's top-rated *One Million Star*. Famous Taiwanese host Matilda Tao (陶子) gave Sugie the nickname 美猴王 (Monkey King), by which he is now widely known. Sugie first started acting in the theatre in 2008's *Liao Zhai Rocks!*, a production he revisited in The Theatre Practice's revival earlier this year. Other theatre credits include *Lao Jiu: The Musical*, *Glass Anatomy* and *Innamorati*. He was nominated for Best Actor at the 2015 Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards for his performance in *Monkey Goes West*.

SITI KHALIJAH ZAINAL as Sandy

Siti made her debut as a full-time theatre actress after she attended The Necessary Stage's year-long Theatre for Youth Ensemble programme in 2003. Since then, she has worked with a wide range of theatre companies, both locally and internationally, and she considers herself very lucky. She won the Best Actress Award twice at the Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards for her performances in *Model Citizens* (2010) and *Off Centre* (2015). She was awarded the Young Artist Award by the National Arts Council in 2014.

JOSHUA LIM as Ah Tang

Joshua is thrilled to be playing Ah Tang again. He feels blessed to be working professionally in the arts and entertainment industry. He has performed in big-budget spectacles and intimate indie works, playing all sorts of roles that range from dramatic and suave to goofy and uncouth. Armed with no formal training in performance, this SMU graduate does theatre, film, television and community shows, and is happy that his efforts have managed to delight, touch and engage those with whom he has had the privilege of sharing his work. He hopes to add to the ripples and waves of other artists to create a culturally rich and compassionate community.

DARIUS TAN as King Bull

Darius is ecstatic to be back with his WILD RICE Pantomime Family! A seasoned, versatile and effectively bilingual actor/singer, he has performed in over 60 productions on stage and screen. Nominated thrice as Best Supporting Actor at the Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards, he recently shared the Best Ensemble Award with the cast of Nine Years Theatre's critically acclaimed *Twelve Angry Men* (2014). Notable WILD RICE credits include *Jack & the Bean-Sprout!*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Cinderel-LAH!*, *Beauty & The Beast* and *Beauty World*. Other productions include *Liao Zhai Rocks!*, *Tartuffe*, *Ah Boys To Men: The Musical*, *Army Daze*, the inaugural *Forbidden City* and more. Darius is represented by FLY Entertainment.

FRANCES LEE as Pigsy

A rising star in the theatre scene, Frances already has a string of theatre credits and nominations to her name. She was nominated for Best Actress for her performance as Helen in Pangdemonium's *Fat Pig* (2014), as well as Best Supporting Actress for her portrayal of Rosemary Joseph in Dick Lee's *Beauty World* (2015). Other nominations include Best Ensemble for her work in *Tribes* (Pangdemonium) and *Normal* (Checkpoint Theatre). Soon to be seen in *Rent* (Pangdemonium), her other theatre credits include *The Last Bull* (Checkpoint Theatre), *Broadway Beng: 10th Anniversary Concert* (Dream Academy), *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris* (Sing'theatre) and *Liao Zhai Rocks!* (The Theatre Practice).

KIMBERLY CHAN as Red Boy

A graduate of LASALLE College of the Arts with a BA in Musical Theatre, Kimberly is well-versed in singing, acting and dancing. She has performed in several notable local productions, including *Monkey Goes West*, Michael Chiang's *High Class*, *Women of Asia* and Dick Lee's revival of *Hotpants*. In 2015, she performed in *Three Billy Goats Gruff* and *Treasure Island* (SRT The Little Company); *George's Marvellous Medicine* (The Players Theatre); and *Pintu Pagar*, a play written and directed by Desmond Sim. Most recently, she was seen in The Players Theatre's *Elephant and Piggie's 'We Are In A Play!'* and *The Witches*.

MARTIAL HOUSE

Martial House is Singapore's premier *wushu* sports academy. Founded in 2005 by award-winning sports coach and international *wushu* judge/coach Leo Wen Yeow, Martial House has more than 1,000 members island-wide. The academy is staffed with professional coaches who are committed to promoting *wushu* and grooming young talents to become Singapore's next *wushu* champions. Apart from conducting workshops and providing training for companies and individuals, Martial House has had vast performing experience at such events as Chingay, the 2010 Youth Olympic Games, the 2015 SEA Games and several editions of the National Day Parade.

APPENDIX IV CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

SEBASTIAN TAN – Director

Best known as Singapore’s favourite Broadway-singing, Hokkien-spewing Broadway Beng®, Sebastian Tan has been a Dream Academy® Artist since 2006. Most recently, Sebastian celebrated the tenth anniversary of his well-loved and critically acclaimed stand-up musical-comedy series, *Broadway Beng®*, with a concert at Capitol Theatre. Other theatre credits include the UK tour of *Miss Saigon*, *Titou Dao*, *Snow White & The Seven Dwarfs*, *Forbidden City*, *Into The Woods*, *Fried Rice Paradise*, *The LKY Musical* and the *Crazy Christmas®* series. In 2014, Sebastian made his professional directing debut with WILD RICE’s *Monkey Goes West*, which earned him a Straits Times Life! Theatre Award nomination for Best Director.

ALFIAN SA’AT – Playwright

Alfian 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*.

ELAINE CHAN – Composer

This award-winning music director/composer/arranger/vocal coach has music-directed, composed and arranged for numerous major musicals on the Singapore stage, notably: most of WILD RICE’s pantomimes, the fabulous RICE BALLS and *La Cage Aux Folles*; Toy Factory’s *December Rains*, *881 The Musical* and *Glass Anatomy*; and Dream Academy’s *Into the Woods*, *Dim Sum Dollies* and *Broadway Beng*. She has also produced arrangements and orchestrations for the National Day Parade (2013, 2005), MOE’s *Youth Celebrate!* and Mediacorp’s *The Dance Floor*. Her scores for *Cinderella-LAH!* (2010) and *Monkey Goes West* (2015) were nominated for Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards. She is delighted to hear the score of *Monkey Goes West* come alive again.

BANG WENFU – Music Director

Wenfu is one of Singapore’s most sought-after composers, arrangers and music directors. His various creative works include Chingay 2015’s *Dragon Dance*, *River Hongbao Fireworks*, *Garden Rhapsody* at Gardens By The Bay, the Singapore Youth Olympics Opening Torch Relay and Universal Studios Singapore’s Christmas shows. His theatre credits include WILD RICE pantomimes *Oi! Sleeping Beauty!!* and *Jack & The Bean-Sprout!*; SRT’s *Forbidden City – Portrait of an Empress*; Toy Factory’s *December Rains*; The Theatre Practice’s *Liao Zhai Rocks!* and *If There’re Seasons*; and Dream Academy’s *Great World Cabaret*. He is currently the music director and arranger

on Kit Chan's *Spellbound* concert tour.

ANDY BENJAMIN CAI – Choreographer

Andy started his professional dancing career after graduating with a Diploma in Dance from LASALLE College of the Arts in 2005. Shortly after, he won the Best Dancer Award in Mediacorp dance competition *The Dance Floor*. As a dancer, he has performed in numerous countries and represented Singapore in international competitions in Italy, France and Russia. Andy has performed in several local musical theatre productions, including *Victor/Victoria*, *Fried Rice Paradise* and *La Cage Aux Folles*. As a choreographer, he has worked on *Crazy Christmas*, *Great World Cabaret*, *Dim Sum Dollies*, *The LKY Musical*, *Nanyang: The Musical*, *December Rains* and, most recently, *GE TAI – The Musical*.

GORDON CHOY – Movement Coach / Fight Choreographer / Dance Captain

Gordon is an actor and choreographer renowned in the local theatre industry for his skills in *wushu*, stilt-walking, lion/dragon dance and acrobatic stunts. Well-known in Singapore's Chinese opera scene for playing the Monkey God, he performed the role in celebration of the Year of the Monkey on Chingay 2016's main float. Formerly a member of Singapore's national *wushu* team, he is presently the artistic creative director of Martial House. Gordon has choreographed for large-scale events, including ten National Day Parades, and theatre productions such as SRT's *Romeo & Juliet* (2016), for which he was the fight/dance choreographer. In 2014, he was part of the award-winning ensemble of Nine Years Theatre's *Twelve Angry Men*.

IRENE JANSEN – Vocal Coach

Irene is currently the vocal trainer and director of the ITE Show Choir, which won the Silver Award at the 2013 Busan Choral Competition in Korea. An experienced music director and vocal coach for children and students (including those with special needs), her theatre credits include WILD RICE's *The Emperor's New Clothes*. She is grateful to have this opportunity to reunite with the *Monkey Goes West* team. For this project, she will be assisted by her sister, Audrey. Irene believes that a song is meant to inspire, encourage and touch lives, and she hopes that she can continue to nurture each and every one of her singers.

WONG CHEE WAI – Set Designer

Chee Wai is a full-time freelance set designer. He has designed and worked with various performing arts companies in Singapore. Some of his recent works include WILD RICE's *My Mother Buys Condoms*, *HOTEL*, *Public Enemy*, *Monkey Goes West* and *The House of Bernarda Alba*; Pangdemonium's *Tribes*; Sight Lines Productions' *Lord of the Flies*, *Everything But The Brain* and *Boom*; Michael Chiang & Dick Lee's *Beauty World*; Blank Space Theatre's *Red* and *Freud's Last Session*; The Theatre Practice's *Liao Zhai Rocks!* (2016), *Legends of the Southern Arch* and *If There're Seasons* (2014); and Nine Years Theatre's *Red Demon*, *Art*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and *Twelve Angry Men*.

ADRIAN TAN – Lighting Designer

Since graduating from LASALLE College of the Arts in 2006, Adrian has designed shows that have been staged locally and internationally. His work spans a wide spectrum of the performing arts as well as outdoor light installations. He has created designs and spaces for most of Singapore's major theatre and dance companies, including WILD RICE, Dream Academy, The Necessary Stage, Singapore Lyric Opera, Singapore Dance Theatre, T.H.E Dance Company and Re:Dance Theatre. He has worked on several award-winning theatre productions, including *Monkey Goes West* by WILD RICE; *A Cage Goes In Search Of a Bird* by A Group Of People; and *Dark Room x8*, which was commissioned by The Esplanade.

THE FINGER PLAYERS – Puppet Designer

One of Singapore's leading theatre companies, The Finger Players is known for its visually and emotionally charged productions as well as its signature style of puppetry. For its pioneering efforts in puppet theatre, the company has won numerous awards – from the 2007 President's Design Award and 2008 Singapore Youth Award to multiple Life! Theatre Awards, including Production of the Year for *Roots* (2013), *Turn By Turn We Turn* (2012) and *Furthest North, Deepest South* (2005). The company has taken its productions to Austria, Australia, China, France, Hong Kong, Hungary, Japan, Kenya, Macau, Myanmar, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand and Turkey, making it one of Singapore's most prolific international touring companies.

SHAH TAHIR – Sound Designer

Shah has been involved in various aspects of the audio and music industries for more than 20 years. In 2015, he was given the Artistic Excellence Award by The Composers and Authors Society of Singapore (COMPASS). Currently, Shah is very much involved as the audio consultant and/or sound designer for live performances and broadcast events, including the National Day Parade (from 2009 to 2016) and the 2015 SEA Games. He has designed and mixed audio for several major theatrical productions in Singapore, including *Kumar The Queen*, *Dim Sum Dollies*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Great World Cabaret*.

TUBE GALLERY – Costume Designer

Tube Gallery comprises two dynamic designers, Saksit Pisalasupongs and Phisit Jongnarangsin. This new-generation Bangkok fashion house has showcased its pieces at renowned fashion shows all over the world. Tube Gallery has also designed costumes for several stage productions in Singapore, Thailand and Korea. Singapore credits include *Kumarajiva*, *Romeo & Juliet* and *The Emperor's New Clothes*. Its designs for *881 The Musical* and *Monkey Goes West* were both honoured with the Best Costume Design Award at the Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards. Tube Gallery was also the costume and puppet designer for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the 2015 SEA Games as well as the costume designer for Singapore's 51st National Day Parade.

ASHLEY LIM – Hair & Headgear Designer

Ashley started his hairstyling career in 1986 and set up Ashley Salon in 1999 to further pursue his dedication towards the art of hairdressing, especially for the theatre. Since 1987, he has worked on over 300 productions locally and abroad. 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 his headpieces for *Forbidden City* and *Monkey Goes West*. Recent credits include *HOTEL* and *Grandmother Tongue* at WILD RICE's 2016 Singapore Theatre Festival; The Theatre Practice's *Liao Zhai Rocks!* and Dream Academy's *Broadway Beng: 10th Anniversary Concert*.

THE MAKE UP ROOM – Make-Up Designer

Comprising Bobbie Ng and Low Jyue Huey, The Make Up Room has been passionately involved in designing make-up for local theatre productions for the past 12 years. Some of The Make Up Room's recent projects include WILD RICE's *HOTEL*, Dream Academy's *Broadway Beng*, SRT's *Romeo & Juliet*, Toy Factory's *Kumarajiva*, The Theatre Practice's *Liao Zhai Rocks!*, the 2016 National Day Parade and various shows at this year's Singapore International Festival of Arts. Their make-up artistry also extends to weddings and an academy through which they share their skills and knowledge with aspiring make-up artists.

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. 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 Executive Director, responsible for the overall management of the company. Tony is the producer for all WILD RICE shows, both in Singapore and abroad. He also produced the acclaimed 2006, 2008, 2011, 2013 and 2016 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.

Its 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.

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

- New and original works;
- New productions of the Singapore repertoire; and
- 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, an event dedicated to celebrating contemporary Singaporean theatre through the development and presentation of new and original local writing. Over 10 years and five editions, the Festival has collaborated with local theatre companies and artists to present 32 productions, including 19 world premieres, of new local writing. In 2013, the Festival launched 'In The Spotlight' to present a season dedicated to the works of a single local playwright. The Festival has been hailed as "the main event in the world of the arts" (SPH The Straits Times) and the "Blockbuster Event of the Year" (TODAY).