

Once upon a
Time



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Once Upon A Time: The W!LD RICE Ball”
The 16th Annual W!LD RICE Charity Gala
6 October 2017, Friday, 7.00pm
Island Ballroom, Shangri-La Hotel

A FANTASY ADVENTURE OF EPIC PROPORTIONS!

W!LD RICE is thrilled to announce the 16th edition of the RICE BALL, one of the most highly anticipated highlights of Singapore’s social calendar.

Since 2001, the RICE BALL has distinguished itself as one of Singapore’s most entertaining and creative fundraising events.

W!LD RICE, like all other major theatre companies from around the world, looks to the generosity and support of benefactors, patrons and sponsors in order to do its work. All funds raised from the evening’s festivities will go directly towards supporting the company’s artistic and educational programming.

This year, *Once Upon A Time: The W!LD RICE BALL* promises a sensational evening of fantasy, magic and wonder. Leave reality at the door and step into a marvellous realm where fairy tales come true, legends come to life, and anything can happen.

“From the very beginning, our mission as a theatre company has been to tell Singaporean stories,” says Glen Goei, Co-Artistic Director of W!LD RICE. “*Once Upon A Time* reflects that. It’s also a really exciting theme that we hope will inspire both our creative team and guests to have some fun!”

In the grand tradition of the RICE BALL, guests will be treated to an exquisite culinary experience. Renowned celebrity chef Pepe Moncayo of BAM! will be casting spells on taste buds all night, as he conjures up a delicious banquet in collaboration with the chefs of the Shangri-La Hotel.

The RICE BALL is also celebrated for its concerts that showcase the region’s brightest stars and theatre legends. This year, guests will be invited to step ***Through The Looking Glass*** for a spectacular evening of entertainment directed by and starring Goei and Ivan Heng, W!LD RICE’s Founding Artistic Director. Hosted by the one and only Pam Oei, this concert will star Sean Ghazi, Andrew Marko, Cheryl Tan, Rishi Budhrani, Sharul Channa and the Thomson Big Band.

“In this economic downturn, when raising funds for the arts can be especially challenging, the RICE BALL is a critical lifeline for us,” explains Heng. “The funds raised will enable us to plan for the future with confidence, as we do the work we have always done – staging quality productions and nurturing future generations of artists and audiences.”

Once Upon A Time is set to be the most thrilling event of the fundraising season. Join W!LD RICE for a spectacular night you will never forget!

Donation tables, each seating 10 guests, are now available. For more details, please e-mail riceball@wildrice.com.sg or call Katherine Khoo at 6292-2695. Tables are priced at \$20,000, \$15,000, \$10,000 and \$6,000. As W!LD RICE is a Singapore Registered Charity, all donations will be eligible for 250% tax deduction.

FAST FACTS

Number of Guests	:	650
Edition Number	:	16
Directed By	:	Ivan Heng & Glen Goei
Music Direction	:	Elaine Chan
Choreography	:	Lisa Keegan
Set Design	:	Wong Chee Wai
Sound Design	:	Shah Tahir
Multimedia Design	:	Brian Gothong Tan
Costume Design	:	Frederick Lee
Hair Design	:	Ashley Lim
Make-Up Design	:	The Make Up Room
Date	:	6 October 2017, Friday
Venue	:	Island Ballroom, The Shangri-La Hotel
Time	:	7.00pm
Table Prices	:	\$20,000, \$15,000, \$10,000 and \$6,000
Secretariat (Table Sales)	:	WILD RICE LTD Katherine Khoo T: 6292-2695 E: katherinekhoo@wildrice.com.sg
Press Contact	:	BlessAnn Luah Huntington Communications Pte Ltd DID: 6339-2883 blessann.luah@huntington.com.sg
Organising Committee	:	Kitch Lum Susanna Kang Ken Khoo Andrea Friedman John Friedman Ivan Heng Glen Goei Tony Trickett Katherine Khoo

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About the RICE BALL

The RICE BALL, now in its 16th edition, has distinguished itself as one of Singapore's most entertaining and creative fundraising events, not least because of its trademark all-star concerts.

Annually, Singapore's great and good, the members of its social and business elite, come together to show their support for W!LD RICE as it continues to fulfil its mission of creating significant, inclusive and innovative theatre that inspires audiences in Singapore and around the world.

Every RICE BALL is guaranteed to be fun-filled and W!LD, with guests dressed to the nines according to the night's theme, supping on a gastronomic feast created by the island's finest chefs and enjoying a concert that showcases Singapore's best theatre talents.

W!LD RICE, like all other major theatre companies from around the world, looks to the generosity and support of benefactors, patrons and sponsors in order to do its work. All funds raised from the evening's festivities will go directly towards supporting artistic and educational programming at W!LD RICE.

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About W!LD RICE

W!LD 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 W!LD 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 & W!LD, which identifies and develops Singapore's young theatre professionals.

W!LD 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, W!LD 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).

Praise for WILD RICE

“Clearly, one of the most dynamic, innovative and exciting theatre companies in town!”
- *938LIVE*

“Theatre that’s accessible and intelligent, which combines serious intent with serious entertainment.”
- *SPH The Straits Times*

“Always the sense that you are attending a theatrical event.”
- *The Flying Inkpot*

“Exciting and hugely entertaining... This is rich and tender theatre!”
- *South China Morning Post, Hong Kong*

“Moving, funny and accomplished. The stage bristles with invention.”
- *The Dominion Post, New Zealand*

“Bold and insightful. Scintillatingly funny and thought-provoking.”
- *SPH The Business Times*

“This is entertaining and challenging theatre.”
- *The Age, Australia*

“The zenith of finely wrought artistry.”
- *The Arts Magazine, Singapore*