

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**The 'Out Of This World' W!LD RICE BALL  
raises S\$1.275 million with 107 theatre seats 'planted'**



*Pictured: Finale Performance at Rice Ball 2018*

8 October 2018 – On 5 October 2018, W!LD RICE hosted the 17th edition of the RICE BALL, its annual charity gala. The event was a sold-out success, raising \$1.275 million with the kind support of 694 patrons.

“The Rice Ball provides a critical life-line for the work we do at W!LD RICE,” explains Founding Artistic Director Ivan Heng. “The money raised enables us to reach for the stars: to press on with our mission to create world-class theatre, while nurturing the next generation of theatre talents and audiences. We are deeply grateful to everyone who donated to our cause.”

**Plant A Seat at Funan**

Of the total raised, \$500,000 will go to the company’s brand-new theatre, scheduled to open in September 2019 at the upcoming Funan lifestyle complex.

This sum was raised in conjunction with the newly-launched ‘Plant A Seat’ appeal, which enables donors to name the custom-designed seats in the theatre.



“We wanted to give our supporters the opportunity to become – quite literally – a part of the future of Singapore theatre!” says Heng.

There are still limited seats available, at varying donation levels, to be ‘planted’ at the new theatre. For more details, interested donors can e-mail [gemma@wildrice.com.sg](mailto:gemma@wildrice.com.sg) or call Gemma Byrne at 6292-2695. As WILD RICE is a Singapore Registered Charity, all donations will be eligible for 250% tax deduction.

### **The Greatest Show In The Galaxy**

In the grand tradition of all Rice Balls, guests were treated to a spectacular concert extravaganza. Co-directed by Heng and Glen Goei and hosted by Pam Oei, the ‘Out Of This World’ concert featured a constellation of Singapore’s best and brightest stars, including Siti Khalijah Zainal, Benjamin Kheng, Sezairi, Cheryl Tan, Kimberly Chan, Rebekah Sangeetha Dorai, Candice de Rozario and Jo Tan.

In line with the Ball’s ‘Out Of This World’ theme, guests danced the night away in eye-popping costumes inspired by *Star Wars*, *Star Trek* and other science-fiction cultural touchstones.

This year’s Rice Ball was attended by luminaries such as Ambassador-at-Large Professor Chan Heng Chee, as well as Dr Finian Tan, co-founder of Vickers Venture Partners; and Anthonia Hui, Chief Executive and co-founder of AL Wealth Partners Pte Ltd.

## **About the RICE BALL**

The RICE BALL, now in its 17th 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 WILD 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 WILD, 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.

WILD 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 WILD RICE.

## **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 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 which nurtures young talents from the ages of 5 to 12.
- young & WILD, which identifies and develops Singapore's young theatre professionals.

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

In August 2006, WILD RICE presented the inaugural SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL, a biennial new writing festival committed to developing, presenting and promoting Singapore theatre. Renamed the OCBC SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL in 2008 and MAN SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL in 2011, this festival has, to date, produced 22 World Premieres of new Singapore writing, and has been hailed as "the main event in the world of the arts" (SPH The Straits Times, 2006), and the "Blockbuster Event of the Year" (TODAY, 2008).