



WILD@Home: A New Initiative by WILD RICE to Entertain Audiences and Empower Artists

COMPANY REGISTRATION
NO. 200100091D

IPC REGISTRATION
NO. 000122

FOUNDING
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
IVAN HENG

COMPANY DIRECTORS

TAN SIOK SUN – CHAIR
JANICE KOH – VICE CHAIR
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SIMONE LOUREY
TONY TRICKETT

Singapore, April 17, 2020 – WILD RICE, Singapore’s leading theatre company, today announced the launch of **WILD@Home**, its new initiative to bring together audiences and artists in the wake of strict circuit-breaking measures introduced by the government to curb the transmission of COVID-19.

Entertaining Audiences At Home

Through **WILD@Home**, WILD RICE will be screening three of its most successful and popular shows online: *Emily of Emerald Hill*, *Supervision* and *Monkey Goes West*. Each show will be available for seven days via WILD RICE’s YouTube channel (**Annex 1**).

“Whilst nothing can take the place of a live theatrical encounter between artists and audiences,” says Ivan Heng, WILD RICE’s Founding Artistic Director, “We hope these classic Singapore productions will entertain, inspire and provide audiences with some respite from the anxiety and fear that surrounds the global pandemic.”

At the end of each week, audiences are invited to participate in a live talkback with the artists involved in each show.

For those interested in exploring the plays at home, free resource packs will be made available online. These will include in-depth interviews and suggested activities for children and students.

“In this age of social distancing, it’s more important than ever to create opportunities for our community to come together,” Heng explains. “We may not be able to meet in person, but we can still make a human connection through sharing our stories.”

Engaging and Empowering Artists

WILD RICE will be offering **online developmental programmes** designed to nurture and support theatre practitioners who are seeking to hone their skills.

These include **four residencies offering grants of up to \$10,000 for aspiring and emerging directors** to create and present a production in WILD RICE’s Studio Theatre under Heng’s mentorship. (**Annex 2**)

Playwrights who are looking to improve their craft can apply for **one-on-one playwriting workshops** with Alfian Sa’at, WILD RICE’s award-winning Resident Playwright. (**Annex 3**) In these virtual consultations, Alfian will offer advice on how to develop ideas into scripts, as well as provide feedback on works already in progress.



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“These programmes were originally planned for 2021, but we felt an urgency to bring them forward to encourage and support our theatre practitioners at this difficult time,” Heng says.

“It’s a much-needed investment, and a perfect opportunity for artists to nurture their craft and create new work, even as we look forward to better days for all of us.”

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ANNEX 1: ENGAGING AUDIENCES



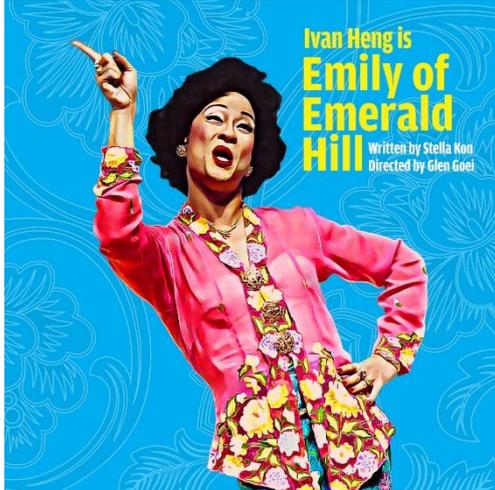
Go WILD@Home!

WILD RICE is thrilled to present some of our most popular and beloved shows in the comfort of your living room. Over the next month, you’ll be able to enjoy some of Singapore’s very best theatre for free, with each title streaming on YouTube for one week.

We’d also love for you to join us for a live talkback every Thursday at 9pm. These post-show discussions are the perfect opportunity for artists and audiences to come together after sharing in a theatrical experience.

For those interested in exploring the plays at home, free educational packs will be available online. These will include in-depth articles, interviews and suggested activities for children and students.

So, while we’re all staying safe by staying home, let us entertain you!



EMILY OF EMERALD HILL

Streaming from 24 April (Friday), 7.30pm /
Live Talkback: 30 April (Thursday), 9pm

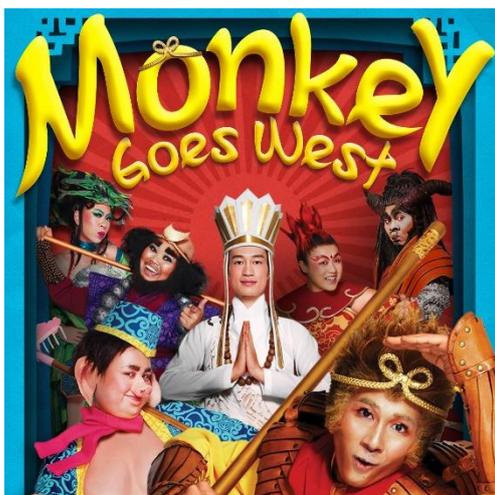
Who is Emily Gan? Is she a heroine or a villain? A woman ahead of her time, or a woman trapped by tradition? Ivan Heng, directed by long-time collaborator Glen Goei, brings to life one of Singapore theatre's most iconic and complex characters in this critically acclaimed, definitive production of Stella Kon's classic play.



SUPERVISION

Streaming from 1 May (Friday), 7.30pm /
Live Talkback: 7 May (Thursday), 9pm

Teck has just suffered a stroke that leaves him wheelchair-bound. When he insists on moving back home, Jenny, his no-nonsense daughter, hires a young Indonesian domestic worker, Yanti, to look after him. Darkly funny and profoundly moving, Thomas Lim's *Supervision* examines the complicated dynamics of love, family and privacy in a Singapore where foreign workers have become our primary care-givers.



MONKEY GOES WEST

Streaming from 8 May (Friday), 7.30pm / Live
Talkback: 14 May (Thursday), 9pm

When orphan Ah Tang runs away from home, he finds himself transported to a strange land where he befriends Wukong, Pigsy and Sandy. Together, the fearless foursome embark on the adventure of a lifetime. Winner of the 2015 Straits Times Life! Award for Production of the Year, Alfian Sa'at's hilarious and heartwarming musical adaptation of the classic Chinese fantasy is perfect for the whole family!

ANNEX 2: THEATRE DIRECTOR RESIDENCIES

Open Call for Aspiring and Emerging Directors!

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Have you always wanted to tell a story in the theatre? Are you looking for ways to hone your skills and grow as a director? You'll get the opportunity to do all that and more through WILD RICE's new residency programme for theatre directors!

Under this intensive and stimulating residency with WILD RICE, you will have the opportunity to work closely with Ivan Heng, our Founding Artistic Director, as you work towards creating a show of your own. He will support, challenge and encourage you – from the first moment of conceptualisation, all the way through to rehearsals and until the curtain goes up on your show.

Successful applicants will be awarded a grant of up to \$10,000 to translate their vision into reality – in the form of three performances before audiences in WILD RICE's Studio Theatre. WILD RICE will also provide each applicant with all necessary technical support as well as access to rehearsal spaces.

Interested candidates should submit the following to Koh Bee Bee at bbkoh@wildrice.com.sg:

- Latest CV
- A brief bio including any relevant theatre credits (200 words max)
- Proposal for a production of a play of your choosing, including your concept and how you feel it speaks to the contemporary moment, addresses under-explored issues and/or features under-represented communities.

Deadline: 6 May 2020 (Monday), 12pm

For short-listed candidates, interviews will take place on 11 and 12 May 2020 via video-conferencing.



ABOUT IVAN HENG

In a pioneering career spanning three decades, Ivan has directed, acted in and designed many landmark Singapore theatre productions, which have toured to over 20 cities around the world. He founded WILD RICE in 2000. Under his leadership, the company has reached out to an audience of more than a million people, and is today at the vanguard of creating theatre with a distinctive Singaporean voice. In 2013, Ivan was awarded the Cultural Medallion, Singapore's highest cultural honour. He shares his practice by giving workshops internationally, and has taught at the Central School of Speech and Drama (London), Tramway (Glasgow), Intercult (Stockholm), Kannonhallen (Denmark), Dramalab (Malaysia) and LASALLE College of the Arts (Singapore).

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ANNEX 3: PLAY-WRITING WORKSHOPS

The Script Doctor Is In!

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WILD RICE’s Resident Playwright, Alfian Sa’at, is offering one-to-one virtual consultations (via Zoom video-conferencing) to anyone who is writing a play. Whether you’re developing an idea into a script or already have a work in progress, WILD RICE welcomes you to tap on his expertise in playwriting and dramaturgy.

Consultations will include discussions on how to translate ideas into theatrical form (from character work to crafting conflict and dialogue), relevant recommended readings and script dramaturgy. Sessions will be tailored to each student and the specific requirements of their script.

Applicants should be 18 years of age or older. There are currently 10 slots available, with priority given to freelance members of Singapore’s theatre community.

Please apply by writing to sales@wildrice.com.sg by 3 May 2020. Your e-mail should be titled ‘Virtual Script Consultations’. Please include your CV as well as a statement of interest (‘Why I would like to apply for this programme’) in under 200 words.

Dates: 4 May to 30 June 2020

Duration: 4 sessions @ 60 mins each (timings to be arranged with Alfian)

Fee: \$320

ABOUT ALFIAN SA’AT

Alfian has been nominated for Best Script 11 times at the Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards, and has won the award four times. His plays have been published as *Collected Plays 1, 2 and 3* by Ethos Books. Since 2016, he has been the dramaturg for WILD RICE’s Singapore Theatre Festival, helping to develop works such as Thomas Lim’s *Grandmother Tongue* and *Supervision*, Neo Hai Bin’s *When The Cold Wind Blows*, Chong Woon Yong’s *G.F.E.* and Ruth Tang’s *Building A Character*.