

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WILD@Home: Monkeying Around for the School Holidays, Emily Receives an Encore Run

5 May 2020 – WILD RICE, Singapore’s leading theatre company, today announced new outreach plans as part of **WILD@Home**, its ongoing initiative to entertain and engage audiences during Singapore’s extended circuit-breaking period.

Go Bananas with Monkey Goes West!

In time for the school holidays, which begin on 5 May, WILD RICE will be releasing a bumper pack of exciting activities for the whole family to enjoy as they watch *Monkey Goes West*, the final installment in the company’s hugely popular WILD@Home series.

Lovingly curated by the WILD RICE Academy (the division of WILD RICE dedicated to engaging with children from the ages of 5 to 12), the activity book will include suggestions for storytelling games, watch parties and even costumes. (See **Annex 1** for download details.)

“In these challenging times, we want to help parents and children to find new and exciting ways to experience the magic Singapore theatre together,” explains Thomas Lim, WILD RICE’s Associate Artistic Director for Youth and Education. “These activities will help transform screen time into family time.”

Audiences will also be able to listen to the music in *Monkey Goes West*, which features a score composed by Elaine Chan and lyrics by Alfian Sa’at. The cast recording will make its debut on Spotify on 7 May, ahead of the show’s online premiere on 8 May.

Emily Throws Open Doors to Emerald Hill Again

Meanwhile, due to overwhelming popular demand, WILD RICE will also be reviving *Emily of Emerald Hill* for an encore run from 15 May (Friday), 7.30pm SGT, through to 17 May (Sunday), 11.59pm SGT.

Emily of Emerald Hill was viewed close to 150,000 times on YouTube over its initial week of release – with audiences tuning in from all over the world, including Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia, Africa, China, Europe and the United States.

“Although we may be physically apart from each other, our stories truly have the power to bring people together: to connect, uplift and inspire us all. Four decades after Stella Kon wrote it and twenty years since it launched WILD RICE, *Emily of Emerald Hill* has reached out to a global audience,” Ivan Heng, WILD RICE’s Founding Artistic Director, observes.

“There were so many requests from people, young and old, saying how disappointed they were to have missed the initial broadcast. This was something we felt very moved

by, and really couldn't say no to. (See **Annex 2** for more details) So, it will be our great pleasure to once again throw open the doors of Emerald Hill for a limited run."

Supporting the Arts in a Time of Crisis

WILD RICE is pushing ahead with its industry-leading efforts to connect with audiences, even though the company is currently facing unprecedented financial uncertainty due to COVID-19.

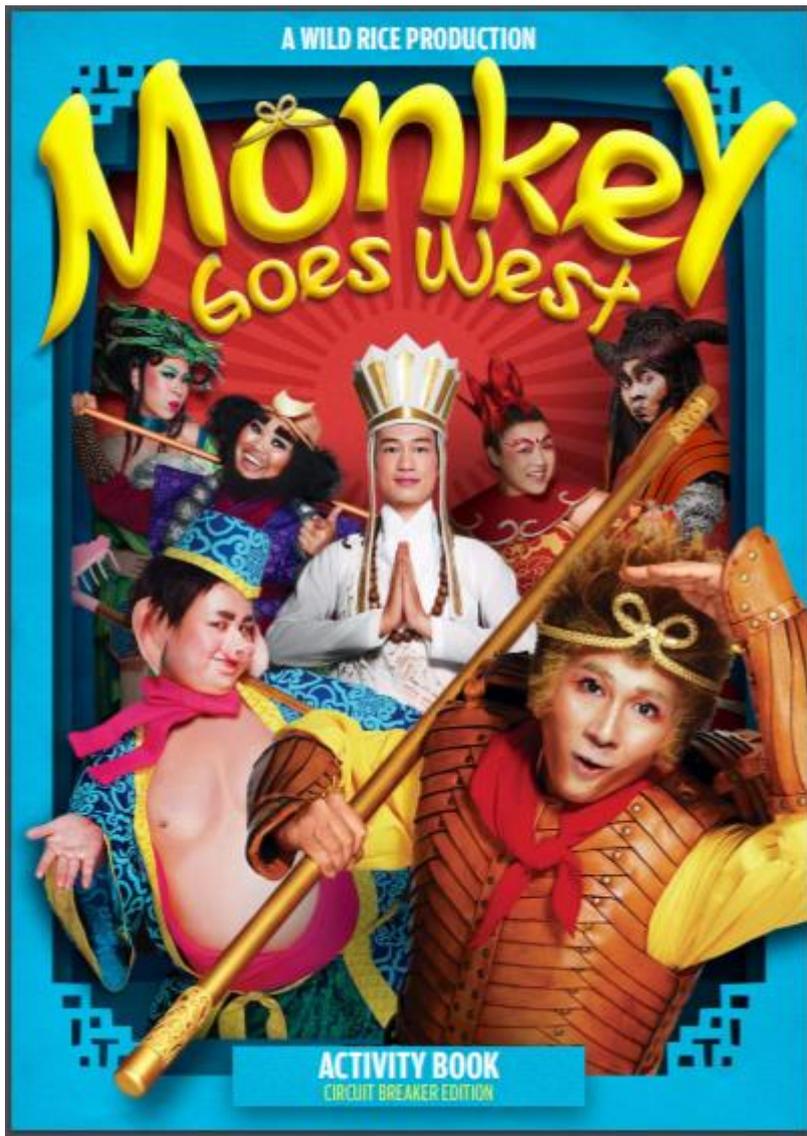
The pandemic has compelled WILD RICE to close its performing arts complex in Funan, as well as cancel much of its highly anticipated 2020 season.

"In spite of the fact that our theatre and arts community is enduring great hardship at this time, artists have put on a brave front to entertain our community and alleviate the boredom of these seemingly endless days," says Heng.

"If you have enjoyed the work of local artists, please consider making a vital donation to WILD RICE or another arts organisation in Singapore. Our community urgently needs your help to survive this crisis."

Those interested in making a donation to WILD RICE can do so by visiting <http://wildrice.com.sg/donate>

Annex 1 – Monkey Goes West Activity Book



<https://tinyurl.com/MGWactivitybook>



Annex 2

Thank you for sharing the Emily of Emerald Hill production with us. It was indeed a wonderful experience to watch the performance. I was watching it halfway earlier this morning and was surprised to know that it has been removed since 3 pm. Is there any possibility of allowing the production to be available? Would really hope to know the ending of this production. – Winnie Gwee

Hi, my son is in Secondary 2 this year. He was just been informed by his classmate that the Emily of the Emerald Hill play is available on YouTube. However we just went to YouTube and realised that it has been removed... He is very disappointed because Emily of the Emerald Hill is what he is studying for his literature this year. May I ask if there is any other way where he can watch the play online? - Ann Ann

Can I have the links to view the play of Emily of Emerald Hill? Just ended my chemo and was told about this by the nurses – Darwis Buang

This is quite overdue but I'd just like to drop a note to thank you all for making WILD@Home happen. In such an uncertain time (where even the rainy weather seems intent to drown us in a depressive mood) I found so much solace in watching all these brilliant productions so kindly made available to us through our screens. Emily was a really special play for me because it was the play that made me really interested in Singapore theatre. It was a big regret for me that I could not catch the production last year as I was starting college in the states. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to finally catch Ivan breathe life into such an important piece to me. And thank you for bringing such warmth to all of us. I know that the arts sector has been heavily affected by Covid-19, and I will certainly do my best to help in whatever way I can. Jiayou with everything! 🍵🍵 – Jared Ong

Greetings from North Borneo(Sabah)! My wife and I are not into plays, etc. However, due to the MCO, we decided to watch your play on 'Youtube'. Our final conclusion is, the production was absolutely amazing, incredible and awesome. For us to be glued close to two hours speaks volumes of the production. Simply world-class. Congratulations! – Dominic G. Joseph