

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Wild Rice to Re-Open Theatre With
Acclaimed One-Woman Show, *An Actress Prepares***



13 October 2020 – Wild Rice today announced the re-opening of its theatre complex in Funan in November.

Alfian Sa'at's *An Actress Prepares* will be the first show to play to live audiences in The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre since all performing arts venues were closed in March due to COVID-19.

Performed by acclaimed actor Siti Khalijah Zainal, this incisive one-woman show is based on Siti's own experiences as she made a life and career for herself in the theatre.

"*An Actress Prepares* is an intimate, insightful love letter to Singapore theatre," says Ivan Heng, Founding Artistic Director of Wild Rice.

"Siti's amazing story also speaks very much to the moment," Heng elaborates. "It examines what it means to make art and theatre against all odds – to keep dreams alive, to persevere and to be true to oneself."

"I couldn't think of a better show to help us welcome audiences back to our home in Funan."

Bringing audiences back to the theatre

Over the show's three-week run, *An Actress Prepares* will welcome 50 guests per performance. This represents just one-seventh of The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre's 350-seat capacity.

“We will be making a loss, given that our ability to sell tickets is so tightly restricted by safe-distancing requirements,” notes Heng. “Nonetheless, the safety of our cast, crew and audiences is of paramount importance.”

“We also feel that this is an important step in winning the confidence of audiences, hopefully leading to the recovery of our theatre scene.”

The production will take place depending on the government’s prevailing safety advisories regarding the resumption of live performances in November. It will be fully compliant with the safe management measures recommended by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and the National Arts Council.

AN ACTRESS PREPARES

Playwright:	Alfian Sa'at
Director:	Aidli 'Alin' Mosbit
Hair Designer:	Ashley Lim
Producer:	Koh Bee Bee
Cast:	Siti Khalijah Zainal
Press Contacts:	Samantha Jong (samantha.jong@distilleri.com.sg) Linda Tan (lindatan@wildrice.com.sg)
Venue:	The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre @ Wild Rice
Show Dates:	4 – 22 November 2020 Tue to Fri – 7.30pm Sat – 2.30pm & 7.30pm Sun – 2pm & 6pm
Ticket Price:	\$55
Angels' Priority Booking:	15 – 18 October 2020 20% Discount for Wild Rice Angels
Public Sales:	From 19 October 2020
Discounts:	20% Discount for Wild Rice Angels 10% Discount for Students & Senior Citizens 10% Solidarity Discount (<i>applicable for patrons buying tickets to Pangdemonium's Waiting for the Host and/or SRT's Tuesdays with Morrie</i>)
Ticketing Agent:	SISTIC.com Pte Ltd SISTIC Website www.sistic.com.sg SISTIC Hotline (+65) 6348-5555

AN ACTRESS PREPARES

4-22 November 2020

The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre @ Wild Rice

Written By: Alfian Sa'at

Directed By: Aidli 'Alin' Mosbit

Siti Khalijah Zainal is a familiar face on the Singapore stage. She's played a diverse range of roles, including a schizophrenic young woman, an Indonesian domestic worker and Singapore's first female Malay Prime Minister (not President!). But what challenges has she faced in her career?

Inspired by Konstantin Stanislavski's first handbook on acting, *An Actress Prepares* follows Siti on a journey through her life in theatre. She candidly shares various affecting and hilarious episodes: learning Chinese dance in primary school, falling in with the cool girls at the Bedok Institute of Technical Education, and being told that she might be 'too big' or 'too Malay' to get roles.

This is Siti as you've never seen her before – raw, vulnerable and achingly honest. In *An Actress Prepares*, Siti tackles the most difficult thing she has ever had to do as an actor: playing herself on stage.

An Actress Prepares was commissioned for a one-day performance by the Singapore Writers Festival in 2016.

IMDA Advisory: Some Mature Content

REVIEWS

"Alfian Sa'at's breezy script is **well-paced** and **sharply perceptive**, delving into the actress' history and family background, and peppering the show with **delightful anecdotes** of her growing up, going for auditions and becoming part of the Singapore theatre community." – The Straits Times

"*An Actress Prepares* is as much a show about Siti as it is **a love letter to local theatre**...It's a play that **inspires hope** through personal strength and transformation, and one that leaves us reeling..." – Bakchormeeboy.com

"Sa'at's script is **full of poignancy and insights**, especially in the segment which had Khalijah showcase an alternate timeline, where she didn't take a chance on becoming an actress, and instead got an office job, got married, and became a mother – and regretted never going with her passion and talent." – Blogcritics.org

WILD RICE @ FUNAN SAFETY GUIDE

Creating a Safe and Enjoyable Theatre Experience Together

The health and safety of our audiences, cast and colleagues remains Wild Rice's priority. To ensure you feel secure and comfortable at all times, we are closely following the government's health guidelines throughout our venue.

With your cooperation, we will be implementing the following safety measures:



Temperature Screening



SafeEntry Check-In



TraceTogether Enabled*



Face Masks Required



eTickets



Distanced Seating



Hand Sanitisers Available



Regular Cleaning

* Please note that all patrons can only enter our venue with the TraceTogether app or token enabled. This makes going to the theatre safer for everyone, as contact-tracing efforts will be more efficient and effective. We recommend downloading and testing the app on your mobile device before you join us at the theatre.

Other Important Things To Note

- The Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and the National Arts Council are currently conducting a pilot programme to test safe management measures at live performances. This is expected to conclude in mid-October.
- This production of *An Actress Prepares* will proceed depending on the prevailing safety advisories for the resumption of live performances in November.
- Wild Rice will offer new performance dates or full refunds to patrons if the resumption of live performances in Singapore is further delayed.