

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **WILD@Home: The Best of WILD RICE Now Available On Demand**

16 July 2020 – WILD RICE, Singapore’s leading theatre company, today announced its plans to launch **WILD@Home On Demand** – a new programme to bring the best of Singapore theatre to audiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under this initiative, audiences will be able to enjoy WILD RICE’s world-class theatre productions on demand for a small donation. Each digital rental period lasts 48 hours, and will cost US\$10.

All proceeds will go directly towards securing the survival of WILD RICE, as well as protecting the livelihoods of the staff and artists who work with the company.

### **WILD RICE’s Greatest Hits Make Digital Premiere**

The programme kicks off later this month with two of WILD RICE’s recent blockbuster hits – **Merdeka / 獨立 / சுதந்திரம்** and **The Importance of Being Earnest**. (See **Annex 1**.)

“Singapore has opened up a lot under Phase 2, but theatres must still stay closed for the time being,” says Ivan Heng, Founding Artistic Director of WILD RICE.

“Nonetheless, we want to stay connected with our audiences – lifting their spirits and sparking conversations through the shared experience of theatre. We know these two shows have the power to do just that!”

*Merdeka / 獨立 / சுதந்திரம்* will be available on demand from 30 July until 10 August. Alfian Sa’at and Neo Hai Bin’s bold, thought-provoking exploration of Singapore’s forgotten history made its world premiere in October last year. Directed by Glen Goei and Jo Kukathas, the production played to sold-out houses and resounding critical acclaim.

*The Importance of Being Earnest* will be available on demand from 20 to 30 August. WILD RICE’s award-winning, all-male production of Oscar Wilde’s classic comedy of manners has won rave reviews all over the world – from Singapore to Macau and Australia.

### **Free Family-Friendly Shows For School Holidays**

At the same time, WILD RICE will be re-releasing two of its most popular holiday musicals, **Monkey Goes West** and **Mama White Snake**, to entertain children and families during the July school holidays. (See **Annex 2**.)

Both shows will be available for free on the company’s YouTube channel from 20 to 26 July.

To enrich the experience for children watching both shows from home, the WILD RICE Academy has prepared activity books that include games, activities and costume ideas.

### **Helping the Arts Weather This Storm**

During these uncertain times, WILD RICE remains committed to bringing artists and audiences together through the shared experience of theatre.

“If our work has brought you joy since the pandemic began, we hope you will consider donating to WILD RICE or other arts organisations in Singapore,” says Heng. “Our arts industry needs your help to survive this crisis of unprecedented proportions. You can help us continue making theatre and telling stories that matter.”

Those interested in making a donation to WILD RICE can do so by visiting [\*\*http://wildrice.com.sg/donate\*\*](http://wildrice.com.sg/donate)

**Merdeka / 獨立 / சுதந்திரம்**

**WILD@Home On Demand Premiere**

Streaming from 30 July (Thursday) until 10 August (Monday), 11.59pm SGT



**Directed By:** Glen Goei & Jo Kukathas

**Starring:** Chong Woon Yong, Rebekah Sangeetha Dorai, Brendon Fernandez, Ghafir Akbar, Umi Kalthum Ismail and Zee Wong

As the Singapore Bicentennial is celebrated, six young people form a group called Raffles Must Fall to examine our country's colonial legacy. During their gatherings, they pore over forgotten texts and artefacts, re-enacting scenes from the past to better understand the nightmare of subjugation... and the dream of self-determination.

Drawing upon a wealth of historical documentation, including speeches, newspaper articles, petitions and songs, *Merdeka / 獨立 / சுதந்திரம்* confronts us with questions about our colonial past and how it still echoes through our present and into our future.

Why celebrate the beginning of colonialism rather than its end? Has Singapore gained independence without truly undergoing a process of decolonisation? And if Raffles must fall, what will he take down with him?

Written by the award-winning Alfian Sa'at in collaboration with up-and-coming playwright Neo Hai Bin, this provocative and moving new play examines how our history and humanity have been shaped – and shattered – by the forces of colonialism.

**Merdeka / 獨立 / சுதந்திரம்** will be available on demand via WILD RICE's [Vimeo channel](#) from 30 July to 10 August. For a small donation of US\$10, audiences will be able to watch the show from the comfort of their living rooms for 48 hours.

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## Reviews

“WILD RICE's provocative ambush of a play [shows] why our history is so much richer and more complex than we thought.”

- **The Business Times**

“... a necessary confrontation with our colonial hangover... the script is the star of this entire production. The effort put into crafting this written piece of work is a public service, and an education we all need as citizens to truly call this island country our home. ”

- **Popspoken**

“In equal parts inventive, revelatory and entertaining, *Merdeka* is a stunning, enthralling addition to Alfian Sa'at's body of work. ”

- **The Flying Inkpot**

## The Importance of Being Earnest

WILD@Home On Demand Premiere

Streaming from 20 August (Thursday) until 30 August (Sunday), 11.59pm SGT



**Directed By:** Glen Goei

**Starring:** Daniel York Loh, Brendon Fernandez, Chua Enlai, Gavin Yap, Ivan Heng, Hossan Leong & Lim Kay Siu

Two romes bend the truth to spice up their love lives. Jack has invented a brother, Ernest, whom he uses to escape his dull country life and to woo the ravishing Gwendolyn. His best friend, Algernon, also decides to take the name 'Ernest' to cosy up to Jack's beautiful ward, Cecily, in the country. But things spin hilariously out of control when their deceptions are discovered, threatening to spoil their romantic pursuits.

Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* is one of the world's most popular comedies, boasting some of the funniest lines in the English language. In WILD RICE's award-winning production, celebrated theatre and film director Glen Goei puts a joyous spin on this comic masterpiece by casting an all-male ensemble – revealing fresh insights into this classic tale about courtship, hidden identities and the foibles of high society.

With a sensational international cast, dressed to the nines by renowned fashion doyen Frederick Lee and accompanied live by The Concordia Quartet, *The Importance of Being Earnest* promises to lift your spirits with an evening of sparkling wit, laughter and love.

***The Importance of Being Earnest* will be available on demand via WILD RICE's [Vimeo channel](#) from 30 July to 10 August. For a small donation of US\$10,**

audiences will be able to watch the show from the comfort of their living rooms for 48 hours.

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## Reviews

“WILD RICE has grasped *The Importance of Being Earnest* with both hands, and performed it at its extravagant best.”

– **Limelight Magazine, Australia**

“Strong camaraderie onstage with a peculiarly powerful mix of testosterone and coquettish teasing...”

– **The Straits Times**

“Visually ravishing and extremely compelling”

– **The Business Times**

## Monkey Goes West

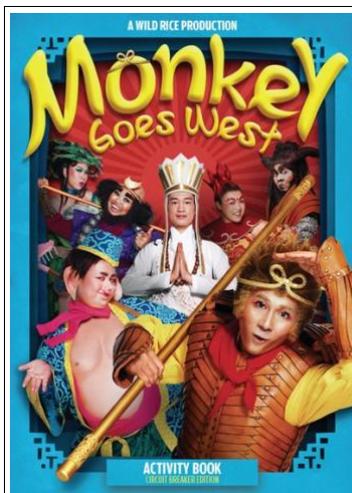
Streaming via YouTube @ <https://youtu.be/RLxOy0uhBMk>

From 20 July (Monday) to 26 July (Sunday), 11.59pm SGT



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. Alfian Sa'at's brilliant, award-winning adaptation of this iconic Chinese tale will make you laugh and cry. Perfect for the whole family!

Directed by Sebastian Tan and featuring music composed by Elaine Chan, *Monkey Goes West* stars Joshua Lim, Sugie Phua, Chua Enlai, Siti Khalijah Zainal, Frances Lee, Darius Tan and the First Stage Kids.



Our **Activity Book** for *Monkey Goes West* can be downloaded via the QR Code below, or at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/MonkeyActivityBook>



## Mama White Snake

Streaming via YouTube @ <https://youtu.be/RE4YqvEloY4>

From 20 July (Monday) to 26 July (Sunday), 11.59pm SGT



For all his young life, Meng has dreamt of adventures beyond the confines of Emei Mountain. But, when he finally leaves home, he finds old secrets from his family's past slithering to the surface. Full of heart, humour and home truths, **Mama White Snake** is an epic musical adventure you don't want to misssss!

Directed by Pam Oei, *Mama White Snake* features a sparkling script by Alfian Sa'at and a delightful score by Elaine Chan. For the first time in 30 years, Glen Goei returns to the Singapore stage in the title role – forming a celestial sister act with Ivan Heng as Green Snake. Together, they lead a stellar cast that includes Andrew Marko, Siti Khalijah Zainal, Cheryl Tan, Zelda Tatiana Ng and the First Stage Kids.



Our **Activity Book** for *Mama White Snake* can be downloaded via the QR Code below, or at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/MamaActivityBook>

