

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wild Rice Welcomes Audiences Back to the Theatre With Fabulous, Critically Acclaimed *FAGHAG!*



Singapore's #1 Faghag is Back and Fully Vaccinated! 🖋️

21 June 2021 – Wild Rice today announced that The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre will re-open with *Faghag* on 1 July.

Written by and starring Pam Oei, one of Singapore's funniest, most beloved performers, *Faghag* has never been staged in Wild Rice's venue – though not for lack of trying.

The production was originally scheduled for company's Housewarming Season in July 2019, but was postponed due to construction delays to June 2021. However, the show was put on hold when COVID-19 regulations were tightened during the Phase 2 (Heightened Alert).

“We can't think of a more uplifting show to welcome audiences back to the theatre,” says Ivan Heng, Wild Rice's Founding Artistic Director, who also directs the production. “Its message of love and hope is one that we need now more than ever.”

***Faghag* will now run from 1 to 25 July. Tickets to the new performances go on sale from noon on 21 June (Monday).**

Safely Welcoming Audiences Home

In line with the latest public health advisories, all audience members will have to be tested for COVID-19 before entering The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre. Exemptions will be made only for individuals who have been fully vaccinated. (See **Annex A** for more details.)

“To encourage Singapore audiences to safely return to the theatre and to ensure that no one is excluded from watching this wonderful production, **Wild Rice has decided to cover the costs of testing for *Faghag***,” says Heng.

The costs of Pre-Event Testing (PET) – up to \$30 per person – are substantial. Wild Rice will incur costs of approximately \$40,000 to provide free testing for *Faghag*.

“In spite of the cost, it is critically important for us to press on with the show,” continues Heng. “Singapore’s theatre community is facing a crisis unlike anything we have experienced before. We need to do everything we can to keep our company moving forward, and to help our wider theatre industry survive.”

Wild Rice has established a new fund – **The Wild PET Kitty** – for audience members who would like to support the company by contributing towards their PET costs. (Find out more at **Annex B**.)

Faghag: Hilarious, Uplifting & Inspiring

On her part, Pam Oei is thrilled to finally perform *Faghag* at the Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre.

“Third time’s the charm and I’m raring to go!” she declares. “We couldn’t perform this show in June as originally intended, but I’m so glad we’re closing out Pride Month with the show!”

Written in the run-up to the tenth anniversary of Pink Dot in 2018, *Faghag* documents Oei’s journey as an LGBTQ+ ally and activist. Over the years, this has seen her join the ongoing fight to repeal Section 377A of the Penal Code, which criminalises sex between consenting male adults in Singapore. (See **Annex C**.)

“So many of my dear friends in the LGBTQ+ community are very far from having the same rights as me,” says Oei. “*Faghag* will make you laugh and lift your spirits, but it also doesn’t shy away from exploring the discrimination that my friends continue to suffer in Singapore – the place we call home.”

“I hope that audiences will come to the show with open minds and leave with open hearts.”

WILD RICE @ FUNAN: UPDATED VISITOR SAFETY INFORMATION

The health and safety of our audiences remains our priority. To ensure that audiences feel secure and comfortable, Wild Rice will be closely following the government's health guidelines.

From 1 July 2021, we will be implementing **Pre-Event Testing (PET)** in addition to the existing safety measures.



Pre-Event Testing*



Face Masks Required



TraceTogether Check-in



Temperature Screening



eTickets



Distanced Seating



Hand Sanitisers Available



Regular Cleaning



Antimicrobial Shield

On Pre-Event Testing

Unless fully vaccinated, audiences must complete their PET and return a negative test result before they can attend a show.

From two hours before each performance, a team of trained medical staff will be stationed at Funan to perform quick, painless swab tests for all audience members. **The tests will be provided free of charge.**

Individuals who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (i.e., 14 days have passed since the date of their last required dose) will be exempt from PET. This also applies to individuals who have recovered from a COVID-19 infection.

(Please visit <https://www.wildrice.com.sg/visitor-safety-information> for more details.)

GIVE SOME LOVE TO THE WILD PET KITTY! 🐱

To encourage audiences to return to the theatre, Wild Rice will be covering the costs of Pre-Event Testing (PET) for *Faghag*.

This is in keeping with our belief in the vital importance of creating theatre that is both accessible and affordable.

The costs of PET – at up to \$30 per person – are substantial. Wild Rice will be incurring approximately \$40,000 in additional costs for *Faghag* alone.

If you are in a position to do so, please contribute any amount you can to **our Wild PET Kitty!**



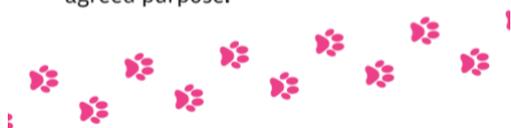
We greatly appreciate your support for *Faghag* and Wild Rice at this challenging time.

Any help you can give will enable us to keep making Singaporean theatre that matters, while securing the livelihoods of our performing arts community.

kitty

['kɪ.ti] noun

A communal fund made up of small amounts of money given by different people, to be used by them for an agreed purpose.



WILD RICE LTD
UEN: 200100891D



SCAN TO CONTRIBUTE TO
THE WILD PET KITTY

FAGHAG FAST FACTS

Playwright & Performer	Pam Oei
Director	Ivan Heng
Music Director	Julian Wong
Performance Dates	1 – 25 July 2021 Tue – Fri: 7.30pm Sat: 3pm & 7.30pm Sun: 2pm & 6pm
Ticket Prices	\$40, \$55, \$70
Venue	The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre @ Wild Rice
Press Contacts	Samantha Jong (samantha.jong@distilleri.sg) Linda Tan (lindatan@wildrice.com.sg)
Public Sales (for new dates)	From 21 June 2021, 12 noon
Discounts	20% off on Category 1 tickets for Wild Rice Angels 10% off on Category 1 tickets for Students & Senior Citizens
Ticketing Agent	SISTIC.com Pte Ltd SISTIC Website www.sistic.com.sg SISTIC Hotline (+65) 6348-5555

Synopsis

Pam Oei likes gay boys. Gay boys like her too. She has always felt a profound affinity with them – even as a teenager, before she knew what the term ‘gay’ meant.

Over the years, Pam’s adventures have included: coaxing gay boyfriends out of the closet, attending her first gay wedding in 2001, fighting to repeal Section 377A of the Penal Code in 2007, and acting as Pink Dot’s Countdown Queen every year (though the job is less ‘queen’ and more ‘drill sergeant’!). This makes her a gold-star straight ally and a *bona fide* faghag.

Join Pam and the multiple characters she plays in this rainbow-coloured cabaret! Accompanied by maestro Julian Wong on the piano, Pam will tell jokes, share heart-warming tales and throw in a few torch songs for good measure. Along the way, she’ll show you exactly why she deserves the title of Singapore’s Number One Faghag!

Directed with joyous pride by Ivan Heng, *Faghag* is back by popular demand following its critically acclaimed premiere at Wild Rice’s Singapore Theatre Festival in 2018.

Reviews

A Smash Hit With Critics!

“*Faghag* is part sketch comedy, part musical revue, full of eye-popping colours and rapid costume changes... It was a bravura performance from Oei at her flamboyant best as stand-up comic, singer and dress-up diva.” – *The Straits Times*

“Oei gave us a very real and raw look at a subject that is very dear and valuable to her. She included personal and intimate stories and anecdotes that ranged from funny to touching to impassioned, and in the process, gave us one big performance that was both magnetic and soul-stirring.” – *BlogCritics.org*

“*Faghag* is a riot of a show, and Pam is completely in her element as she plays to her strengths in each and every scene. A polished performance brimming with real emotion, *Faghag* is the fine origin story of a modern superhero, and all it takes to recognise Pam as Singapore’s reigning faghag in our eyes.” – *Bakchormeeboy*

Audiences Love *Faghag*!

“One of the best solo shows of my life. Pam should tour the world with it - though Singapore would miss her too much!” – *Aubrey Mellor*

“It was fantastic - brilliant script, singing and music! Just excellent theatre!” – *Aida Haron*

“An awesome show for everyone, straight or gay... Pam Oei was absolute gold. My friends and I laughed till our jaws hurt... And our hearts pained with hers, as she talked about the struggles of the local LGBTQ community.” – *Kelly Chong*

Biographies

PAM OEI – Playwright & Performer

Pam has been in more than a hundred theatre, television and film productions over the past 26 years, and is equally known for being a dramatic and comedic actor. She is also one third of the popular cabaret trio, The Dim Sum Dollies. This multi-hyphenate is also a producer and director for theatre and, in 2019, produced her first feature film. Pam is currently the lead singer for her rock band, Ugly in the Morning. Instagram: @pam_oei

IVAN HENG – Director

Ivan is one of Singapore's most prominent and dynamic creative personalities. In a pioneering career spanning three decades, Ivan has directed, acted in and designed many landmark Singapore theatre productions. Ivan founded Wild Rice in 2000. Under his leadership, the company has reached an audience of over a million people, and is today at the vanguard of creating theatre with a distinctive Singaporean voice. Its ground-breaking theatre complex opened in September 2019 with a mission to create and present the best of Singapore theatre, nurture young artists and audiences, and leave a legacy of artistic excellence for generations to come. In 2013, Ivan was awarded the Cultural Medallion, Singapore's highest cultural honour.

JULIAN WONG – Music Director

Julian is a composer, arranger and music director. He has been making music with Wild Rice since 2007. Selected credits include *Peter Pan in Serangoon Gardens*, *The Amazing Celestial Race*, *Rice Ball 2020: MASKquerade!* and *An Actress Prepares*. Julian first performed with Pam in 1999 at the album launch of her folk band, Peculiar Remedies. He accompanied her in the *Dim Sum Dollies* shows and created *The Emperor's New Clothes* In 2015 with Pam and Joel Tan. Julian will next perform in *Don't Call Him Mr. Mari Kita*. He is honoured to share the stage with his *Faghag* once again!