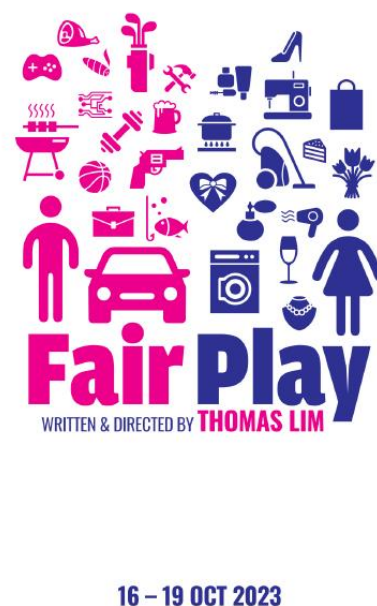
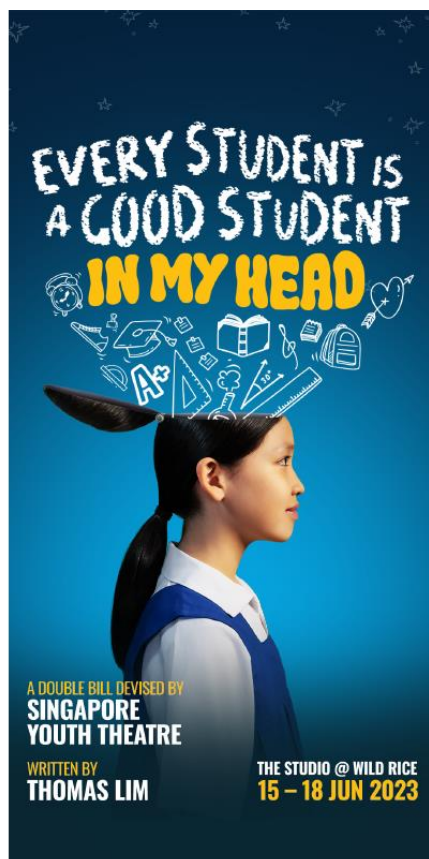


UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 27 MARCH 2023

THREE NEW SHOWS GIVING VOICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR CONCERNS



24 March 2023 – Wild Rice today announced an exciting line-up of three new shows made for, by and about young people: *The Wonderful World of Dissocia*, *Every Student Is A Good Student / In My Head* and *Fair Play*.

The three shows reflect Wild Rice's commitment to empowering young people to make and watch theatre that speaks to and for their generation.

Each one grapples with the issues that matter to young people growing up in Singapore today – from mental health and gender roles, to the pressures of surviving the punishing school system.

"If you want to understand what young people think, feel and care about these days, come join them at the theatre. Their bravery, insights and talent will blow you away!" says Ivan Heng, Founding Artistic Director of Wild Rice.

Young & Wild Takes On Mental Illness

In May, Young & Wild will take the stage in a boldly inventive production of Anthony Neilson's *The Wonderful World of Dissocia* – a funny, surreal exploration of mental health through the journey of one woman looking for a lost hour of time. (See **Annex A** for more information.)

“Young people are increasingly challenging the ways in which we think and talk about mental health issues here in Singapore. They are so brave about facing up to them and not sweeping them under the proverbial rug,” says programme director Edith Podesta, who is also an award-winning playwright, director and educator.

“I’m excited to see how the ensemble comes to grips with the no-holds-barred depiction of mental illness in ***The Wonderful World of Dissocia***; I hope it will help them grow in their understanding of the world and themselves.”

This production is the graduating showcase for the eighth cohort of Young & Wild, Wild Rice’s dedicated training programme for aspiring actors from the ages of 18 to 35. Under Podesta’s guidance, the 12 members of this ensemble have spent the past year learning the art and craft of acting for the stage.

“Young & Wild is the most comprehensive acting course I’ve ever attended,” says Tiara Yap, 28, who writes and performs for SGAG and joined Young & Wild to hone her skills as an actor. “You really get well-rounded training in all aspects of theatre from industry professionals – apart from acting, we also learn about voice work, industry practices, and even the importance of self-care!”

Singapore Youth Theatre Gets Into The Head of the Singapore Student

Coming up next in June is Singapore Youth Theatre’s ***Every Student Is A Good Student / In My Head***, a double bill devised and performed by a young company of artists in their teens.

The two plays explore what it is like to be a teenager growing up in Singapore today – the former exploring the challenges of surviving our regimented education system; and the latter inviting audiences to experience the chaotic inner life of a teenager from inside their head.

“I hope that, through watching our show, audiences will be able to empathise with us and really hear what we have to say about our lives and our experiences,” says Por Kate Yi, 16.

First launched in 2020, the Singapore Youth Theatre programme teaches young people from the ages of 13 to 17 how to write, direct and act for the stage. (See **Annex B** for more information)

“Everything you see on stage comes from these brilliant young artists,” says director Thomas Lim, Wild Rice’s Associate Artistic Director for Youth & Education. “That’s what Singapore Youth Theatre has always stood for – the freedom for young people to express themselves and make sense of their place in the world through their own stories.”

Re-Thinking Gender Roles and Societal Expectations

In October, Wild Rice will be presenting ***Fair Play***, a piece written and directed by Lim that was first staged during Wild Rice’s Grand Opening season in 2019. The play aims to start conversations among its young audiences about gender roles, societal expectations and how fair they really are. (See **Annex C** for more information.)

“Gender roles and the societal expectations that come with them are very much in the consciousness of teenagers today,” Lim elaborates. “With ***Fair Play***, we want to spark

thoughtful conversations amongst young people who are starting to think about the roles they play in their families and in society at large.”

Fair Play returns to The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre for a strictly limited run of daytime performances in October. Tickets are currently on priority hold for schools, and will be released for public sale subject to availability.

Tickets for *The Wonderful World of Dissocia* and *Every Student Is A Good Student / In My Head* go on sale from 12 noon on 27 March. School bookings for *Fair Play* can be made by emailing academy@wildrice.com.sg.

For media enquiries, please contact Linda Tan at lindatan@wildrice.com.sg.



YOUNG & WILD PROUDLY PRESENTS

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF DISSOCIA

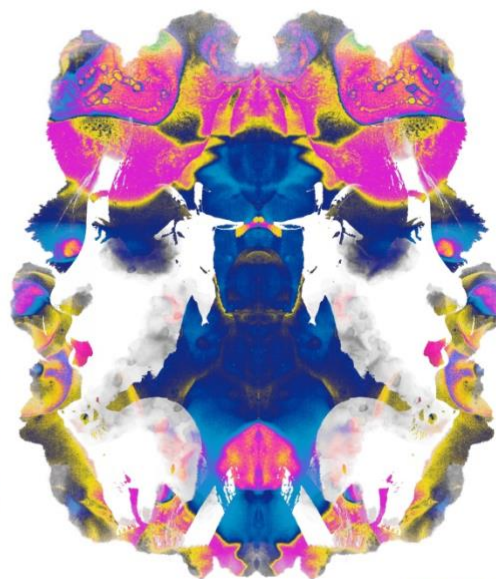
WRITTEN BY

ANTHONY NEILSON

DIRECTED BY

EDITH PODESTA

11 – 14 MAY 2023



RATING: R18

SYNOPSIS

What would you do if you lost an hour out of your day? How much are those stolen moments worth to you? And how far would you go to get that time back?

Determined to retrieve her missing hour, Lisa embarks on a surreal adventure into the weird, wacky underworld of Dissocia. Brimming with imagination, magic and possibility, it's the kind of place where polar bears sing and cars fly.

But, as Lisa spends more time in Dissocia, she begins to discover the dangers that lurk beneath its bright, colourful surface. She meets a host of strange, funny characters, from a violent scapegoat to insecurity guards, all of whom desperately want her to stay in Dissocia – hopefully forever.

A fiercely tragicomic exploration of trauma and mental health, *The Wonderful World of Dissocia* turns theatrical convention inside out to hilarious and heartbreaking effect. In playwright Anthony Neilson's own words, "if you like *Alice in Wonderland* but there's not enough sex and violence in it, then *Dissocia* is the show for you."

Proudly presented by Wild Rice, this thrilling, inventive new production of *The Wonderful World of Dissocia* sees **Young & Wild** – the eighth cohort of our award-winning youth ensemble – taking centre stage in this "wildly imaginative play" that "carries both insight and heart" (*Variety*).

PRAISE FOR *THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF DISSOCIA*

"[*The Wonderful World of Dissocia*] more than stands the test of time in its portrait of mental illness – it is original, brutal, memorable."

– **The Guardian**

"Bubbling with inventiveness that is distinctly its own... deserves to be a modern classic."

– **The Telegraph**

"Anthony Neilson's wildly imaginative play carries a serious purpose. As well as being delirious fun, *The Wonderful World of Dissocia* is an affecting drama about mental illness... Neilson's staging and story continually surprise with their imaginative twists, but behind the knockabout comedy, uplifting song and dazzling fantasy is a disturbing edge of danger... a tremendously brave piece of stagecraft that carries both insight and heart."

– **Variety**

"*The Wonderful World of Dissocia* is not a play for timid theatregoers. Its lost-in-the-fun-house storytelling can be relentless... But audiences who appreciate distinctive and provocative visions will find this production a memorable experience... an intriguing, challenging play."

– **The Washington Post**

"*The Wonderful World of Dissocia* is whimsical, off-kilter, and disturbing in a fantastically honest way. But, most importantly, it's brave."

– **DCTheatreScene.com**

FAST FACTS

Playwright	Anthony Neilson
Director	Edith Podesta
Cast	Eleanor Ee, Michelle Hariff, Hoe Wei Qi, Elisa Mustika, Nicole Shaan, Monil SJ, Gosteloa Spancer, Su Paing Tun, Jovi Tan, Valerie Tan Su Min, Tiara Yap & Christian Yeo
Performance Dates	11 – 14 May 2023 Thu – Sun: 7.30pm, Sat & Sun 2.30pm
Ticket Price	\$35 \$25 for students
Venue	The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre @ Wild Rice
Press Contact	Linda Tan (lindatan@wildrice.com.sg)
Public Sales	From 27 March 2023, 12 noon
Ticketing Agent	SISTIC.com Pte Ltd SISTIC Website www.sistic.com.sg SISTIC Hotline (+65) 6348-5555

ABOUT YOUNG & WILD

Young & Wild is a division of Wild Rice dedicated to the training and nurturing of future generations of actors in Singapore.

Under the leadership of award-winning theatre-maker/educator/performer Edith Podesta, this year-long, comprehensive acting programme aims to prepare promising young talents for careers in the creative and performing arts industries.

By providing opportunities to learn from and work alongside career professionals from Singapore and all over the world, Young & Wild offers participants unique insights into how a professional theatre company creates work, connects with an audience, and engages with the community.

Over a hundred promising talents have benefited from our Young & Wild training programme since its inception in 2008 – many of whom have gone on to make substantive contributions to Singapore's performing arts scene.

Wild Rice is proud to invest in the future of Singapore theatre by educating and empowering the next generation of multi-faceted, socially aware and creatively versatile theatre practitioners.



Young & Wild (Class of 2023)

Top Row: Jovi Tan, Gosteloa Spancer, Monil SJ, Tiara Yap

Middle Row: Elisa Mustika, Nicole Shaan, Eleanor Ee, Michelle Hariff, Hoe Wei Qi

Bottom Row: Valerie Tan, Petrina Kow (instructor), Su Paing Tun

Not pictured: Christian Yeo



SYNOPSIS

What is it like to grow up in Singapore today? How do young people survive the overwhelming pressure to fit in at school and get good grades? And why does it feel like their thoughts and emotions are constantly at war with one another?

Wild Rice's Singapore Youth Theatre invites you to find out in this electrifying double bill of brand-new plays written for, by and about young people.

In ***Every Student Is A Good Student***, we find ourselves trapped in a regimented, deeply unimaginative education system that has only one primary aim – turning out carbon copies of good students whose only purpose in life is to work hard to get good grades. But what happens when one student just can't fit the mould?

Things take a wildly Freudian turn with ***In My Head***, where we meet a young person who seems to have it all figured out – their pleasure-seeking Id co-existing in perfect harmony with their impulse-controlling Superego. But their internal balance is thrown out of whack when a Raging Hormone suddenly appears on the scene, ready to wreak all kinds of havoc. Let the mind games begin!

Funny, original and thought-provoking, ***Every Student Is A Good Student / In My Head*** tells young people's stories as only they can tell them. Conceptualised, devised and performed by Wild Rice's third Singapore Youth Theatre ensemble, this production is the perfect opportunity to catch tomorrow's theatre-makers in action today!

FAST FACTS

Devised & Written By	Singapore Youth Theatre (Class of 2023)
Director	Thomas Lim
Cast	Samuel Hadden, Ashton Ho, Darius Kyan, Mrittika Kumaran, Han Leng, Pranaya Murugan, Por Kate Yi, Ramaa Shirish Rangnekar, Siti 'Theo' Sofeana, Scarlett Summer, Nadya Zagorodnova & Harry Zhong
Performance Dates	15 – 18 June 2023 Thu – Sun: 8pm, Sat & Sun 3pm
Ticket Price	\$35 \$25 for students
Venue	The Studio @ Wild Rice
Press Contact	Linda Tan (lindatan@wildrice.com.sg)
Public Sales	From 27 March 2023, 12 noon
Ticketing Agent	SISTIC.com Pte Ltd SISTIC Website www.sistic.com.sg SISTIC Hotline (+65) 6348-5555

ABOUT SINGAPORE YOUTH THEATRE

Wild Rice's **Singapore Youth Theatre** programme was developed especially to give students and young people from the ages of 13 to 17 the space to make and present theatre that speaks to and for their own generation.

Guided by Thomas Lim, our Associate Artistic Director for Youth & Education, participants are given the opportunity to think, talk and learn more about themselves and the world in which they live. Over the course of a year, they gain first-hand experience in how to make theatre – from writing and directing to performing, designing and stage-managing – through master classes and workshops conducted by Singapore's top theatre-makers.

With the kind support of the ACI Trampoline Fund, managed by The Majority Trust, this programme is offered free of charge to all participants. This ensures that young people from all walks of life can participate in Singapore Youth Theatre, regardless of their financial situations.



Singapore Youth Theatre (Class of 2023)

Top Row: Pranaya Murugan, Darius Kyan, Ramaa Shirish Rangnekar, Harry Zhong, Nadya Zagorodnova, Han Leng, Ashton Ho, Samuel Hadden

Bottom Row: Scarlett Summer, Mrittika Kumaran, Por Kate Yi

Not Pictured: Siti 'Theo' Sofeana

PRAISE FOR SINGAPORE YOUTH THEATRE

“My experience in Singapore Youth Theatre was one-of-a-kind. It didn’t feel like just another student programme – it felt like we were really creating theatre. I learned a lot about how to write, direct and act. It gave me the confidence that I needed to branch out into other projects of my own.” **SETH ARRI AZHAR, age 17, Class of 2020**

“I have learned that theatre has a special power to change people. I don’t mean just the audience. The cast members, the production team, and even the crew members change and evolve as human beings over a show’s run. Theatre reflects life and what it means to be human. Controlling that chaos into the creation of a production each and every night is such a thrilling and human experience, and I could do it for the rest of my life. This is what Singapore Youth Theatre has taught me: theatre in its purest and most unadulterated, unapologetic form.” **SEBASTIAN STREET, age 15, Class of 2020**

“I’ve really enjoyed working with people my age who all share a great passion and love for the theatre! When we first met, we were 16 teenagers with different backgrounds and different levels of experience with drama, but I think I speak for everyone when I say that we’ve grown a lot as individuals and as a team since then. Besides that, I’m grateful that we had the chance to catch quite a few plays that were put up over the course of the year, gaining more exposure to the local theatre scene.” **NG YU XIN, age 15, Class of 2022**

“I love the collaboration. I love being so excited to see everyone and to just be surrounded by people who love theatre just as much as I do. I love how we all just put our love, care and energy into this play and we are really talking about something that resonates with every one of us. We all share these beliefs and we are spreading our message together.” **DHARSHAN NATHAN, age 16, Class of 2022**

“What I love most about Singapore Youth Theatre is that it has given me the opportunity to explore my passion without any boundaries and without any judgement. It has given me the platform to speak my mind through acting, writing and performance – teaching me to express myself more. Through this programme, I’ve realised that there’s no reason to be afraid to embrace every attribute that makes you unique.” **SAMUEL HADDEN, age 15, Class of 2023**

WILD
RICE

Fair Play

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY THOMAS LIM



16 – 19 OCT 2023

SYNOPSIS

Moments before they make their entrance into our world, Boy and Girl are each assigned scripts by a Playwright. As they rehearse for the lives that they will lead, they begin questioning the roles that they have been given.

Why are women and men expected to behave in certain ways? How did the world come to be such an unequal place for women and men? Can there be a different way of raising future generations?

In this challenging and insightful original comedy by Thomas Lim, one of Singapore theatre's most exciting playwrights, Wild Rice invites young people to participate in the shared experience of theatre – to engage with a play's themes and think about how the issues raised relate to everyday life and the world we live in.

Learning outside the classroom has never been this inspiring and fun!



Fair Play (2019), starring Victoria Chen, Jeramy Lim and Masturah Oli

FAST FACTS

Playwright & Director	Thomas Lim
Performance Dates	16 – 19 October 2023 Mon – Thu: 9.30am & 11.30am
Ticket Price	\$35
Venue	The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre @ Wild Rice
Press Contact	Linda Tan (lindatan@wildrice.com.sg)

Tickets are currently on priority hold for schools, and will be released for public sale subject to availability. School bookings can be made by emailing academy@wildrice.com.sg.

OUR YOUNG AUDIENCES LOVE *FAIR PLAY*

“Loved the audience participation – I’ve never seen anything like it before. The play challenges social norms and really got us thinking about society and its stereotypes, and how we ourselves can change it.” **YAN JUN, Age 15**

“As a visual learner, I appreciate how this lesson on gender stereotypes is brought to me through a performance, instead of the usual hands-on activity aspect of most school programmes.” **JEWEL, Age 14**

“Much more engaging and interesting – I usually get bored halfway through learning journeys, but this one intrigued me, possibly because of how the play resonated with me.” **JANE, Age 17**

“The way the show was presented was impactful, and the post-show dialogue was thought-provoking as well.” **SIVAGAMI, Age 15**

“For the first time, an enrichment programme was amazing and worth it!” **AQIL, Age 14**

“It was entertaining, educational, and a pleasant surprise that I’m sure most of us enjoyed because it was something we could relate to.” **CLAIRE, Age 15**

Please note that we have withheld the full names and schools of these students to protect their privacy.