

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WILD RICE LAUNCHES **A LITTLE WILD**
WITH **THE VELVETEEN RABBIT**



22 May 2023 – Wild Rice today announced the launch of its **A Little Wild** division with a brand-new adaptation of Margery Williams’ classic children’s story, **The Velveteen Rabbit**.

Dedicated to providing young audiences with the perfect first live theatre experience, A Little Wild will be creating new and original shows for children aged 5 and up.

“Wild Rice has long been at the forefront of creating theatre for the whole family – our annual holiday musical has become a highlight of Singapore’s arts calendar,” says Ivan Heng, Founding Artistic Director of Wild Rice. “We are proud to expand on that grand tradition with shows designed especially to inspire children today to build the artists and audiences of tomorrow.”

“When I was growing up, the theatre was a magical place for me – it’s where I was inspired to dream and to stay curious about the world around me,” adds Thomas Lim, Wild Rice’s Associate Artistic Director for Youth & Education. “With A Little Wild, we hope to create and share theatrical experiences that will similarly spark moments of wonder and discovery for our young audiences.”

In August, the company will present its first A Little Wild show: **THE VELVETEEN RABBIT**, which will be adapted for the stage and for Singapore audiences by Lim. This endearing tale about a stuffed toy rabbit that yearns to become real has moved generations of children with its timeless themes of friendship, self-acceptance and what it means to be truly alive. (Refer to **Annex** for more information.)

The production will be directed by Ian Loy, who is well-known in the Singapore theatre scene for his work with young audiences, including multiple productions for the Esplanade under its PLAYtime! children's theatre series.

This is the first time he will be collaborating with Wild Rice, and he is excited to work on a show that will help young audiences better understand themselves and the world around them.

"I have always passionately believed that theatre can empower children as they grow – providing them with ways to think and talk about challenging situations, from making new friends to the loss of someone close to them," says Loy. "We hope *The Velveteen Rabbit*, with its moving message about the power of love, will stimulate meaningful conversations between parents, caregivers and their children. At the same time, they can expect a really fun day out at the theatre – filled with movement, brilliant costumes and stellar live music, this show will be an unforgettable experience!"

Three performances of *The Velveteen Rabbit* – at 11am on 19, 20 and 26 August 2023 – will be available for public sale. Tickets go on sale from 12 noon on 22 May.

School bookings for all weekday performances – at 9.30 and 11.30am from 14 to 25 August 2023 – can be made by emailing academy@wildrice.com.sg.

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

SYNOPSIS

When the Velveteen Rabbit first arrives in the Boy's playroom on Christmas morning, she finds herself quickly overshadowed by the other fancier, mechanical toys.

Feeling forgotten and sorry for herself, the Rabbit seeks the advice of the old and wise Skin Horse, who explains that a toy's greatest achievement is to be truly loved by a child – for only then can a toy become Real.

When the Boy finally notices her, she quickly becomes his constant companion. But, one day, tragedy strikes. The Boy falls ill, and the Rabbit is forcibly wrenched away from his side.

Where will the Rabbit go now? Can she ever become Real? And, most importantly, will she ever see her best friend again?

Wild Rice is proud to present our first **A Little Wild** show – a brand-new Singaporean adaptation of Margery Williams' beloved classic, just in time for its 101st anniversary. This endearing tale has enthralled generations of children through its exploration of friendship, self-acceptance and what it means to be truly alive. Reimagined for the stage with joy, humour and a touch of magic, *The Velveteen Rabbit* is the perfect show for the young and the young at heart!

ABOUT A LITTLE WILD

A Little Wild is a division of Wild Rice dedicated to producing children's theatre that entertains, educates and enriches young audiences.

We believe that, while children are still growing and learning, life should be A Little Wild. With our shows, we aim to provide safe, fun and nurturing spaces where their minds can roam free, their hearts can be wide open, and their senses can tune into the wonders and mysteries of the world.

A Little Wild brings together Singapore's top theatre-makers and drama educators to create captivating theatre that helps children learn more about themselves and the world around them. Our goal is to inspire generations of children through these transformative first theatrical experiences – empowering them today to become the compassionate, inquisitive and imaginative artists and audiences of tomorrow.

CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES



THOMAS LIM
Playwright

Thomas made his professional debut as a playwright and director with *Grandmother Tongue*, which is performed in Teochew, English and Mandarin. His sophomore work, *Supervision*, won Best Original Script at the 2019 Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards. Other writing credits include *Pinocchio*, *Straight Acting* and *Peter Pan in Serangoon Gardens*. He has worked as a drama educator in secondary schools and junior colleges across Singapore, and is currently the Associate Artistic Director for Youth and Education at Wild Rice.



IAN LOY
Director

Ian is a theatre-maker well-known in Singapore for his innovative work with children and young audiences. He graduated from LASALLE College of the Arts in 2002 with a Diploma in Drama with Distinction and was also a recipient of the NAC Georgette Chen Arts Scholarship. He founded MySuperFuture Theatrical Productions in 2009, which produces community outreach and theatre projects for people of all ages and abilities, with a focus on young audiences. For many years, he served as the Esplanade's Associate Artist for Young Audiences, directing several of its PLAYtime! productions. In 2014, he received the National Arts Council's prestigious Young Artist Award for his accomplished work in theatre for young audiences. Ian received a Best Director nomination at the 2017 Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards for *Grandpa Cherry Blossom* – the only time a show created for young audiences has been recognised in this category.

FAST FACTS

Playwright	Thomas Lim
Original Story By	Margery Williams
Director	Ian Loy
Performance Dates	14 – 26 August 2023 Mon – Fri: 9.30am & 11.30am (for schools) Sat & Sun (19, 20 & 26 August): 11am (open to public)
Ticket Prices	\$35, \$45
Venue	The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre @ Wild Rice
Press Contact	Linda Tan (lindatan@wildrice.com.sg)
Public Sales	From 22 May 2023, 12 noon
Ticketing Agent	SISTIC.com Pte Ltd SISTIC Website www.sistic.com.sg SISTIC Hotline (+65) 6348-5555