WILD RICE

A DOUBLE BILL DEVISED BY
SINGAPORE YOUTH THEATRE

EVERY STUDENT IS A GOOD STUDENT IN MY HEAD





DIRECTED BY
THOMAS LIM

THE STUDIO @ WILD RICE
15 – 18 JUN 2023

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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!

IMDA Advisory (Some Mature Content)

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MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAMME DIRECTORS

On behalf of Wild Rice and this company of brilliant young theatre-makers, welcome! We're very excited to share with you this double bill of plays that were written and devised by our third Singapore Youth Theatre cohort.

The first play, *Every Student Is A Good Student*, came out of the group's collective concerns and thoughts about what constitutes a large part of their everyday lives – being a student. Naturally, they're not just any students, but students in an education system that consistently produces top results across the globe.

The second play, *In My Head*, was inspired by the joys, anxieties and physical changes they all share and are currently going through as adolescents.

It has been our privilege to witness the journeys that these 12 young people have taken together over the past year. Some of them started with little experience and exposure to the theatre, but have since become young theatre-makers in their own rights. Today, they will take to the stage to perform for you in these brand-new plays that they have created.

On behalf of all 12 members of this company, we'd like to express our heartfelt gratitude to set designer TK, lighting designers Petrina and Zifeng, sound designer Jay, costume designer Theresa, hair designer Ashley and make-up designer, Bobbie, as well as the stage management, technical and production teams who have been instrumental in the production of this double bill.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank The Majurity Trust for their continued support, which has enabled us to make the Singapore Youth Theatre programme free-of-charge for a second year running.

To you in the audience, thank you for coming to the theatre today and sharing this experience with all of us.

Thomas Lim & Ezzat Alkaff

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ABOUT SINGAPORE YOUTH THEATRE



Wild Rice's Singapore Youth Theatre programme inspires, educates and empowers young people from the ages of 13 to 17 through the shared experience of theatre.

In learning how to write, direct and act for the stage, our Singapore Youth Theatre ensemble members make and present theatre that speaks to and for their generation.

Helmed by Thomas Lim (Wild Rice's Associate Artistic Director for Youth & Education) in partnership with industry professionals, Singapore Youth Theatre nurtures the next generation of creative, engaged and socially aware artists and audiences.

This initiative is supported by the FMAS Trampoline Fund, managed by The Majurity Trust.

FIND OUT MORE!

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VOICES OF SINGAPORE YOUTH THEATRE

We check in with our Singapore Youth Theatre ensemble on what their experiences in the programme have taught them!

I got to learn as a playwright by watching a dramatised reading of a play I'd written, with professional actors bringing characters that had once only existed in my imagination to life on stage!

ASHTON HO

We went to watch Teater Ekamatra's *Berak* together and it was amazing to see people like me represented on stage. I'll probably never stop talking about this experience for as long as I live, to be quite honest!

SITI 'THEO' SOFEANA



We wrote this show collaboratively, and it's been great to see how everyone's work comes together nicely. Teamwork makes the dream work!

HARRY ZHONG

I loved being part of the entire creative process – going through all the ups and downs to get to where we are today, while really having the chance to say what I want to say! :)

POR KATE YI

Always take the opportunity to change and challenge yourself. If you think of life as a game, isn't it more fun to try new experiences and level up instead of always staying at Level 0?

HAN LENG

I've always been scientifically inclined, viewing the world in clearly defined ways. Some things are true; some false. SYT taught me that it's okay to allow myself to blur that line a little when it comes to art.

PRANAYA MURUGAN



We've learnt how to try, fail and trust our instincts. We worked so hard to create a mini-musical for our third play – but it was so bad we decided to cut it!

NADYA ZAGORODNOVA

This was my first-ever exposure to making theatre. I learned that it's not just about performing on stage, but also working with your cast and backstage crew to tell a story together.

MRITTIKA KUMARAN

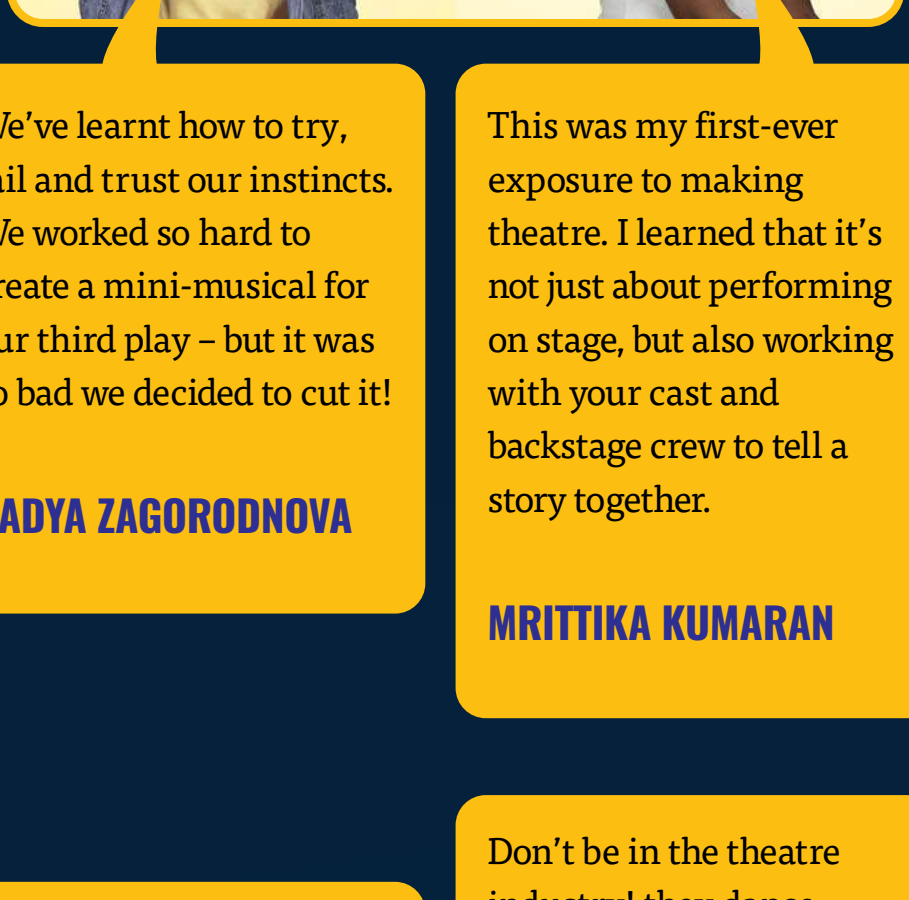
Have faith in the work you do, and give it some love even before others do! Don't be so hard on yourself, because when you put your heart and soul into something, it will turn out awesome!! :)

RAMAA SHIRISH RANGNEKAR

Don't be in the theatre industry! they dance too much and sing too much! save yourselves before they make you reenact scenes from *six*! #fearthetheatrekids #theatrephobiaisreal*

*for legal reasons, this is a joke

SAMUEL HADDEN



When making theatre, most things are not set in stone, so don't be afraid to try new ideas. Treat each failure as a learning experience!

SCARLETT SUMMER

Trust the process. Don't be afraid to try something new – sometimes, one step forward is better then no steps forward.

DARIUS KYAN

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CAST



SAMUEL HADDEN

Samuel, 16, is sporty, academically driven and a compulsive liar. The reason he auditioned for SYT is so that he can indulge in his love for theatre and because, at the time, his acting portfolio was collecting dust. Samuel tries his best to make everyone feel included and is confused whenever Thomas asks him to capitalise his letters. His hobbies include writing, music and Doja Cat.



ASHTON HO

Ashton, 18, is a theatre enthusiast who can often be found indulging in his National Theatre subscription instead of his school assignments. His passion for acting has since blossomed into a desire to create performance art that resonates with communities and individuals. Unlike his SYT counterparts, he has broken away from the chains of secondary school life and is now constantly rushing to complete his Poly assignments.



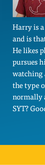
DARIUS KYAN

Darius, 17! Super passionate about acting and dancing, he was first introduced to the wonderful world of theatre back in Primary 2, when he took part in his first-ever musical. Darius loves dogs, big cities and Billie Eilish. He will never back down from thrill-seeking and adventurous adventures! He might not be the smartest guy you'll meet but he will always try to help :D



MRITTIKA KUMARAN

Mrittika, short, 16. She found her passion for the arts at age eight, when she created a script for her siblings to perform in front of their parents. Years later, she joined St. Theresa's Convent's drama club and was selected as its president shortly after. Life has changed a lot since entering this innovative world. As Oscar Wilde once said, "It was only in the theatre that I lived."



HAN LENG

Han, 16, has a passion for playing sports, especially volleyball. Off the court, he can often be found spending quality time with his family, watching random series or movies from reputable websites together. He also plays online games. Apart from these activities, Han actually enjoys going to school because it gives him an excuse to mess around with his friends.

PRANAYA MURUGAN

Pranaya, 15, sarcastic anti-hero with a heart. Her hobbies include singing, acting, writing and hiding from people during parties. She is passionate about shining light on taboo topics like mental illnesses, grief and the experiences of the LGBTQ+ community. She is inspired by Taylor Swift, Gina Linetti, her culture and her family. Her ambitions include becoming a psychiatrist and hopefully creating an impact on the world she lives in. The quote she lives by is: "Thick thighs save lives."

POR KATE YI

Kate Yi, 17, is an ambitious dreamer and cheerful ambivert. With a passion for both the arts and STEM, she loves learning and is always on the look-out for opportunities to grow. Singapore Youth Theatre is her first theatre experience and she is absolutely thrilled to have been a part of it. She hopes to share her joy and make long-lasting memories with her friends in SYT :D

RAMAA SHIRISH RANGNEKAR

Ramaa, 17, spends most of her time cracking jokes (...that no one laughs at). A professional daydreamer, she's the one to call if you want balloon dogs made for everyone in SYT :> Likes: brackets (evidently), chocolate, nature, books!, dressing up, Matt Damon (in *Good Will Hunting* specifically) and travelling. Ramaa hopes to start an animation production company some day (watch out, Pixar!).

SITI 'THEO' SOFEANA

Theo, 17, also known as Sofeana or Sofie, is a passionate, aspiring filmmaker and huge film buff with a love for acting and a flair for writing. She is a big fan of J-pop, specifically Snow Man and SixTONES, and a major cat lover. Her curiosity about the world manifests in her being weirdly knowledgeable about niche topics, as well as her burning desire to uplift the voices of those who are being forcibly silenced.

SCARLETT SUMMER

Scarlett, 15, otherwise known as 'that one emo aunty', is a very passionate theatre kid, human myna bird and aspiring criminal lawyer who hopes to somehow end up on Broadway one day. She is in her school's show choir (PEIRCE 4EVA) and is an avid history and biology lover. You can mostly find her hiding in her room, listening to music or scaring herself watching horror movies. Merry Christmas!

NADYA ZAGORODNOVA

Nadya, 15, is a little Russian girl who loves to bake, act, dance and hug cats. She is a multi-talented star who finds joy in small things like eating cakes, walking in forests and going to big malls. If you ever need someone to make bad jokes and complain about her bad decision-making skills, call Nadya, 'cause she's one of a kind, she's Nadya with a "y"!

HARRY ZHONG

Harry is a 15-year-old joker! He doesn't care much, and is that one friend with the "just do it" mentality. He likes playing many sports, and continuously pursues his academic goals, while gaming and watching *anime* at the same time. He isn't really the type of person to be motivated by work, and is normally an avid procrastinator. So why did he join SYT? Good question!

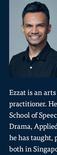
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CREATIVE TEAM



THOMAS LIM
Director

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.



EZZAT ALKAFF
Assistant Director

Ezzat is an arts manager, educator and theatre practitioner. He graduated from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama with a degree in Drama, Applied Theatre and Education. Since then, he has taught, produced and managed arts projects both in Singapore and overseas. He was the Co-Chair of the 2021 Theatre Arts Conference organised by The Singapore Drama Educators Association. Ezzat is currently the Head of Youth & Education at Wild Rice.



SINDHURA KALIDAS
Dramaturg

Sindhura is a theatre practitioner and educator. She is currently an Associate Artist with The Necessary Stage (TNS). Her recent dramaturgical credits include The Finger Players' *Puppet Origin Stories* (2022) and *Jun and the Octopus* (2022), as well as TNS's *Acting Mad*. This is her first time working with Singapore Youth Theatre and she has thoroughly enjoyed developing the works you are watching today with these brilliant young people.



TK HAY
Set Designer

TK (he/him) is a theatre designer working in Singapore and the UK. He was a recipient of the NAC Undergraduate Scholarship (2016) and trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. He subsequently won the Linbury Prize for Stage Design (2019) and was named Best Designer at the Stage Debut Awards (2022) in the UK. More information can be found on his website at tkhay.design.



PETRINA DAWN TAN
Lighting Designer

Petrina holds a Master of Art in Collaborative Theatre Production and Design from Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. She practices scenography and has conceptualised a range of projects including music festivals, circus acts and installations with elements of audience participation. More at petrinadawntan.com.



JAY ONG
Sound Designer

A jazz musician by training, Jay began exploring the world of sound design and composition during the COVID-19 pandemic. Recent projects include sound design for *Where Are You?* (2021) and *The Artist's Residency* (2021). His compositions have been programmed at The World Saxophone Congress (Croatia), the Esplanade's All Things New festival (Singapore) and *Pictures at an (SG) Exhibition* by Robert Casteels (National Gallery Singapore).



THERESA CHAN
Costume Designer

For the past 35 years, Theresa has helmed the wardrobe departments of countless theatre shows in Singapore and has expanded into costume departments for film and TV productions and events, such as *Asia's Got Talent*, Cathay Organisation movie *Our Sister Mambo*, the 2015 SEA Games etc. She runs her self-named wardrobe management company and a costume rental store, The Costume Pte Ltd. She dreams of the day when she will be able to create a costume management legacy by passing on her knowledge to younger generations in years to come.



JOYCE GAN
Prop Master

Joyce is a prop designer and art director for stage and screen. Recent highlights include Wild Rice's *Pinocchio* and *An Inspector Calls*; The Theatre Practice's *almost home* and *After Dark*, *Solitude* for television.



ASHLEY LIM
Hair Designer

Ashley started his hairstyling career in 1986. In 1999, he set up Ashley Salon to further pursue his dedication towards the art of hairdressing, especially for the theatre. He has worked on over 300 productions locally and abroad, and recently took home the Lifetime Achievement Award for Theatre, presented by Mediacorp.



BOBBIE NG
Make-Up Designer

Bobbie is the co-founder of The Make Up Room, and has been passionately involved in designing make-up for the theatre for the past 20 years. She enjoys the challenge of crafting looks that serve the story, ranging from nude and realistic to colourful and avant-garde. Bobbie first collaborated with Wild Rice on *Blithe Spirit* in 2001. Since then, Bobbie and The Make Up Room have worked with several of Singapore's top theatre companies and arts festivals on more than 200 local theatre productions.



JOYCE TAY
Production Stage Manager

Joyce graduated with a Bachelor of Dramatic Arts (Production) from Victorian College of The Arts, Melbourne, in 2012, with a major in Stage Management. Her many stage-management credits include *Made In America* (Joe's Pub, New York) and *SKIN* (Australia) for TerryandTheCuz, as well as *Medea* for Cake Theatrical Productions in Singapore. Joyce was the show-caller for Citrawarna 2017, Malaysia's annual national celebration of cultures and traditions organised by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture. Joyce also served as the production stage manager for Thomas Henning and TerryandTheCuz's *HuRi: hARa*, which was part of Asia TOPA 2020 in Melbourne, Australia.

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CREDITS

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

CREATIVE TEAM

Director	**Thomas Lim**
Assistant Director	**Ezzat Alkaff**
Dramaturg	**Sindhura Kalidas**
Set Designer	**TK Hay**
Lighting Designer	**Petrina Dawn Tan**
Associate Lighting Designer	**Tai Zi Feng**
Sound Designer	**Jay Ong**
Costume Designer	**Theresa Chan**
Prop Master	**Joyce Gan**
Hair Designer	**Ashley Lim**
Make-Up Designer	**Bobbie Ng**

PRODUCTION TEAM

Head, Production	**Melissa Teoh**
Production Stage Manager	**Joyce Tay**
Technical Manager	**David Sagaya**
Assistant Stage Manager	**Shawne Yzelman**
Stage Assistant	**Seth Arri Azhar**
Technicians	**David Sagaya**
	Woon Yan Tong
Wardrobe Manager	**Theresa Chan**
Dresser	**Ayuni**

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 2022/2023 Singapore Youth Theatre programme is supported by the FMAS Trampoline Fund, managed by The Majurity Trust.

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WILD RICE LTD IS SUPPORTED BY THE NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL UNDER THE MAJOR COMPANY SCHEME FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2025.

THANK YOU!

Daniel Teo

Jem Toh

Ruey Loon

SISTIC.COM Pte Ltd

Tuckys Photography

Wild Rice Angels

Wild Rice Ushers

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ABOUT WILD RICE

Wild Rice was founded in 2000 by Ivan Heng, an internationally acclaimed and award-winning theatre practitioner, and is recognised today as one of Singapore's leading professional theatre companies.

Our mission is to provide an open forum for the shared experience of theatre: celebrating our diversity; reflecting on the problems and possibilities of our times; and presenting productions that inspire, challenge and entertain.

A commitment to the highest standards informs every aspect of Wild Rice's creative work, which is first and foremost a celebration of Singapore's theatrical talent. By producing and touring productions that are distinctively local in flavour and yet universal in vision and concerns, the company creates memorable experiences for audiences in Singapore and across the world.

The company's exciting and varied programming for the main stage includes:

+ New and original works
+ New productions of the Singapore repertoire
+ New interpretations of world classics

The company's mission to build a theatre culture also extends to the wider community through the following divisions:

+ **Wild Rice Academy** and **First Stage**, which offer drama and training programmes to nurture young talents from the ages of 5 to 12
+ **Singapore Youth Theatre**, which develops and empowers young people aged 13 to 17 through theatre
+ **Young & Wild**, which identifies and develops Singapore's young theatre professionals from the ages of 18 to 30
+ **A Little Wild**, which creates new and original children's theatre to entertain, educate and enrich young audiences

Wild Rice is committed to touring our shows internationally to raise the profile of Singapore theatre, to create an international awareness of our unique productions, and to engage our artists and collaborators in creative dialogues with the international arts community. Our distinctively Singaporean productions have won great acclaim in major international arts festivals in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Macau, Malaysia, New Zealand and Russia.

Wild Rice @ Funan is our new home in the heart of Singapore's civic and cultural district, featuring the country's only dedicated thrust stage within The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre. Our groundbreaking performing arts complex promises to be an iconic destination theatre for Singapore - one committed to leaving a legacy of artistic excellence for future generations by creating and presenting the best of Singapore theatre, as well as nurturing the artists and audiences of tomorrow.

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WILD RICE TEAM

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MUHAMMAD AZHAR BIN AZMAN
Technician

JAYANT DANIEL SINGH
Technician

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HELP US SECURE THE FUTURE OF SINGAPORE THEATRE

Here at Wild Rice, we believe that theatre is a vital communal experience that can open hearts and change lives. Over the years, we have blazed a trail in creating and presenting the very best of Singapore theatre, while continuously striving to make our shows and our venue more inclusive and accessible for all. Our comprehensive education programmes nurture and inspire young theatre-makers from the ages of 5 to 35. At the same time, we provide gainful employment to hundreds of artists and theatre professionals every year as one of the largest employers in Singapore's arts industry.

To sustain a performing arts complex on this scale, we need your help.

While many people know of Wild Rice and the important work we do, not many know that we are also a registered charity. As we continue to weather the devastating aftershocks of the COVID-19 crisis, our ability to survive as an arts organisation depends critically upon the generosity of our donors and supporters.

If you enjoyed *Every Student Is A Good Student / In My Head*, if you share our passion for brave and brilliant productions that tell uniquely Singaporean stories, if you believe in the power of theatre as a force for good and for change, please consider making a donation today.

BE AN ANGEL



For as little as $350, you can get closer to the drama with complimentary tickets, special discounts, priority booking, exclusive events and the best seats in the house!

SIGN UP AS AN ANGEL

We also welcome any donations in support of Wild Rice. Every contribution, large or small, will make a dramatic difference.

All donations above $50 are eligible for 250% tax deduction.

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Cian Peter Meier
Steven Miller & Patricia Meyer
Vignesa Moorthy
Dr. Serene Ng
Ng Li Ya & Tan Shuo Yan
Nicholas Ong
Mr Stephen Ong
Chris Pantli & David Mungall
Pan Yah Chew
Prakash & Vidhya Pillai
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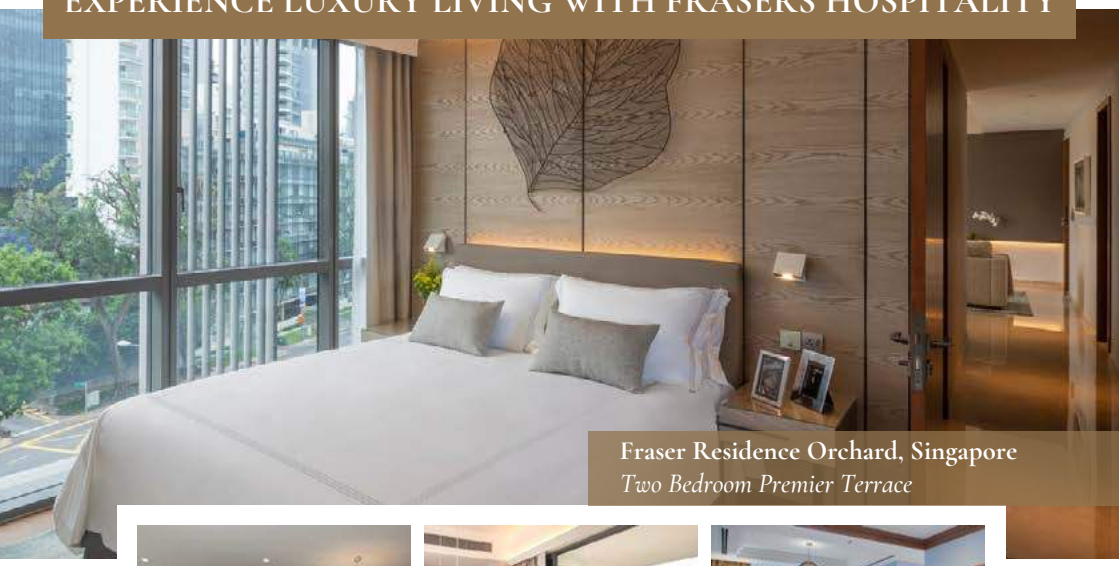
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WILD RICE ACADEMY

WEEKLY DRAMA CLASSES FOR KIDS AGED 5 TO 12



LEARNING COMES ALIVE THROUGH DRAMA AND STORYTELLING!

At the Wild Rice Academy, we believe that the theatre is a wonderful place where children can play, grow and learn more about themselves and the world around them. Our mission is to help empower children for the next stages in their lives by developing their confidence, creativity and social-emotional intelligence.

WHAT WE OFFER

In our highly experiential classes, children can partake in a host of fun, stimulating and engaging activities – from drama games and role-playing to performance opportunities.

By sharing the transformative magic of theatre and the arts with participants, we encourage them to experiment and make creative decisions in the ways they express themselves and tell stories. Our programmes are also designed to help children pick up foundational language and literacy skills.

We have programmes running throughout the year – from 10-week terms to end-of-year school holiday workshops. Classes are split by age groups (5-8 years and 9-12 years) to cater to children at different stages of their lives.

FIND OUT MORE HERE



“Through the Wild Rice Academy, I learnt to express my feelings. The class made me become a better actor, and be more hilarious!”

Haley (age 8)





"It's a great programme that enriches our creative world and imaginations, and a great place for us to have a dramatic outlet!"

Lauren (age 11)

“Thank you for making this possible and such an amazing experience! All the kids did really well. So glad to see Anna’s enthusiasm at her classes and to see her play her role with such delight!”

Jez, mother of Annamaria (age 5)



SURVEY

Thank you for attending today's performance of *Every Student Is A Good Student / In My Head*!

We would love to find out more about what you think about the show. Your feedback will help us create a better theatre experience for everyone.

This questionnaire will take you no more than 2 minutes to complete. Thank you for attending today's performance.

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK! 

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WILD RICE

wildrice.com.sg