

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WILD RICE ANNOUNCES FINAL THREE SHOWS  
TO CLOSE 2023 ON A HIGH NOTE**



29 June 2023 – Wild Rice today announced the final three shows of its 2023 season: ***Psychobitch***, ***G\*d Is A Woman*** and ***Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs***.

**A Thrilling New Gender Power Play**

Written with dark humour and searing insight by Amanda Chong, **PSYCHOBITCH** introduces us to overachieving journalist Anya Samuel just as her fiancé tasks her to explain the four times she has cried in public since they started dating. (See **Annex A** for more information.)

Directed by Pam Oei and starring Sindhura Kalidas, this thought-provoking one-woman show boldly dissects gender power dynamics and the subtle shades of toxic relationships.

“*Psychobitch* speaks of the stereotype associated with female emotionalism, but Anya Samuel’s journey is one that all of us have been on,” says Chong. “Ultimately, this play is about our deeply human desire to be fully known and fully loved, and the toxic circumstances we often tolerate to fulfil that, until we come to know our worth. As Anya examines her life with wit and vulnerability, I hope she gives us permission to laugh at ourselves and, above all, to hope.”

## **A Side-Splitting Satire about Singapore's Cancel Culture**

Howlingly funny and gleefully irreverent in equal measure, Joel Tan's **G\*D IS A WOMAN** explores what happens when a fake petition to cancel Ariana Grande gets taken so seriously that her upcoming concert in Singapore comes under threat. (See **Annex B** for more information.)

A devastatingly sharp satire on censorship, complaint culture and moral outrage on the Singaporean internet, this brand-new play will be directed by Ivan Heng, Wild Rice's Founding Artistic Director.

"In writing this play, I'm taking revenge on the killjoys who run our country. But rest assured it's very equal-opportunity – *everyone* gets slagged for taking themselves too seriously," says Tan. "I hope audiences walk away from the show a little damp, because I just want them to laugh so hard that they end up peeing themselves a little!"

## **The *Perfect* Musical Comedy For The Whole Family**

Last, but certainly not least, Wild Rice continues its annual holiday tradition of entertaining the entire family with Alfian Sa'at's **SNOW WHITE & THE SEVEN DWARFS**, a hilarious, heartwarming musical comedy that puts a joyously Singaporean spin on one of the world's most beloved fairy tales. (See **Annex C** for more information.)

This reimagined production will be directed by Hossan Leong, with a brand-new cast led by Chua Enlai as the Queen, Nadya Zaheer as Snow White, and Siti Khalijah Zainal as the Magic Mirror.

First staged in 2008, this riotously funny musical marked the first time Alfian tried his hand at writing a Wild Rice pantomime – which meant that he had to create a show that would play as satisfactorily for children *and* adults.

"I'm excited to see how children will respond to the familiar story of Snow White – now that it comes with new layers, where it deals with themes such as the pursuit of perfection and how this affects one's self-image and self-esteem," says Alfian.

"While Snow White is the protagonist, I think many will identify with the dwarves – as misfits who have been banished – because they do not conform to certain norms. I hope that the audience will leave the show feeling hopeful that difference is not something to be afraid of, but something that we can acknowledge and celebrate."

**Tickets for all three shows are now on sale. Audiences will enjoy a 15% Early Bird discount on all Category 1 & 2 tickets purchased from now till 12 July 2023.**

For media enquiries, please contact Linda Tan at [lindatan@wildrice.com.sg](mailto:lindatan@wildrice.com.sg).

Please see **Annex D** for the biographies of all three shows' playwrights and directors.



## SYNOPSIS

Anya Samuel: Over-achieving journalist.  
Level of Excellence: Perpetual.  
Level of Chill: NIL.

When her tech CEO fiancé accuses her of being “too emotional” and tasks her to explain the four times she has cried in public since they started dating, Anya cannot help but bring her A-game.

As she prepares to deliver a slide deck to save her relationship, complete with animated infographics of her menstrual cycle, Anya is forced to confront harsh truths about who she really is and what she actually wants in clearer light.

Will her life remain a relentless exercise of proving herself in all arenas, including grappling with the expectations of her pastor father? What will it take for Anya to truly come to know her worth?

Written with dark wit and searing insight by Amanda Chong, ***Psychobitch*** boldly dissects gender power dynamics while exploring the subtle shades of toxic relationships. Directed by Pam Oei, this thought-provoking one-woman show starring Sindhura Kalidas challenges us to examine the concessions we make in our search for love and the secrets we keep in order to live.

*Psychobitch* was developed under the mentorship of Haresh Sharma as part of The Necessary Stage’s developmental playwriting programme, Playwrights Cove 2022.

## FAST FACTS

<b>Playwright</b>	Amanda Chong
<b>Director</b>	Pam Oei
<b>Cast</b>	Sindhura Kalidas
<b>Dramaturg</b>	Alfian Sa'at
<b>Set &amp; Multimedia Designer</b>	Elizabeth Mak
<b>Lighting Designer</b>	Adrian Tan
<b>Sound Designer</b>	weish
<b>Costume Designer</b>	Max Tan
<b>Hair Designer</b>	Ashley Lim
<b>Make-Up Designer</b>	Bobbie Ng
<b>Performance Dates</b>	<b>3 – 19 August 2023</b> Tue – Fri: 7.30pm Sat: 3pm & 7.30pm Sun: 3pm <u>Previews</u> : 3 & 4 August @ 7.30pm
<b>Ticket Prices</b>	Tue – Thu: \$25, \$35, \$45, \$55 Fri, Sat & Sun: \$30, \$40, \$50, \$60 <u>Previews</u> : \$20, \$30, \$40, \$50
<b>Venue</b>	The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre @ Wild Rice
<b>Press Contact</b>	Linda Tan ( <a href="mailto:lindatan@wildrice.com.sg">lindatan@wildrice.com.sg</a> )
<b>Public Sales</b>	From 19 June 2023, 12 noon <b>Early Bird</b> : 15% off on Category 1 & 2 tickets from 26 June to 12 July 2023
<b>Discounts</b>	20% off on Category 1 & 2 tickets for Wild Rice Angels 10% off on Category 1 & 2 tickets for Students, Full-Time NSFs & Senior Citizens Group Discounts Available for 20+ Tickets
<b>Ticketing Agent</b>	SISTIC.com Pte Ltd SISTIC Website <a href="http://www.sistic.com.sg">www.sistic.com.sg</a> SISTIC Hotline (+65) 6348-5555



## SYNOPSIS

In Singapore, there is only one rule: be careful who you troll.

Frustrated by the rigid, unforgiving system in which they try to make art, a bunch of irate artists start a fake petition to cancel Ariana Grande.

Things get wildly out of hand when some Singaporeans take the petition so seriously that Ari's upcoming concert comes under threat.

In a whirlwind of competing petitions, frantic Zoom calls between Los Angeles and Singapore, and whispered conversations at the golf course, the campaign to save the concert comes up against the most powerful people in Singapore: the easily offended.

From acclaimed playwright Joel Tan (*Tartuffe: The Imposter*, *The Butterfly Lovers*) comes ***G\*d Is A Woman*** – a scathing satire on censorship, complaint culture, and the ridiculous outbursts of moral outrage that frequently reverberate across the Singaporean internet. Directed with gleeful irreverence by Ivan Heng, this audaciously funny new play will make you laugh until it hurts. Come see it for yourself before you cancel us!

## FAST FACTS

<b>Playwright</b>	Joel Tan
<b>Director</b>	Ivan Heng
<b>Cast</b>	Munah Bagharib, Benjamin Chow, Brendon Fernandez & Zee Wong
<b>Set Designer</b>	TK Hay
<b>Sound Designer</b>	Daniel Wong
<b>Costume Designer</b>	Theresa Chan
<b>Hair Designer</b>	Ashley Lim
<b>Make-Up Designer</b>	Bobbie Ng
<b>Performance Dates</b>	<b>8 – 23 September 2023</b> Tue – Fri: 7.30pm Sat: 2.30pm & 7.30pm Sun: 2.30pm <u>Previews</u> : 8 & 9 September @ 7.30pm
<b>Ticket Prices</b>	Tue – Thu: \$30, \$40, \$60, \$70 Fri, Sat & Sun: \$35, \$45, \$65, \$75 <u>Previews</u> : \$25, \$35, \$55, \$65
<b>Venue</b>	The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre @ Wild Rice
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## SYNOPSIS

Not so far away, in the Eternal Kingdom, lives a Queen who wants everything and everyone to be perfect – just not as perfect as her. So, when her subjects turn 18, they are sent for “Enhancement” – a programme to correct their flaws.

One day, her Magic Mirror, who cannot lie without literally cracking up, reveals to her that a new beauty has come of age – her own step-daughter, Snow White. Seething with jealousy, the Queen orders the girl to undergo a nip-tuck by the creepy Royal Surgeon.

To save her own skin, Snow White runs away to the Outer Limits, where she meets and befriends a host of misfits and outcasts – including the rapping, breakdancing Seven Dwarfs, who have been banished from the Kingdom for falling short of the Queen’s impossibly high standards.

Will the Queen’s relentless pursuit of perfection ever end? Will Prince Charming find his true love amongst the piles of trash in the Outer Limits? And can Snow White find a way to keep it real while saving herself, her friends and the Kingdom from the Queen’s diabolical control?

15 years after its world premiere, ***Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs*** makes a triumphant return to the Wild Rice stage with a brand-new cast led by Chua Enlai as the Queen and Nadya Zaheer as Snow White. With a cheekily satirical script by Alfian Sa’at and catchy original music by Elaine Chan, this hilarious, heartwarming musical comedy is the *perfect* show for the whole family. Join us at the theatre this holiday season for an unforgettable experience that will put a grin on your face, a spring in your step, and a song in your heart!

## FAST FACTS

<b>Playwright</b>	Alfian Sa'at
<b>Director</b>	Hossan Leong
<b>Composer &amp; Music Director</b>	Elaine Chan
<b>Cast</b>	Chua Enlai <i>as</i> The Queen Nadya Zaheer <i>as</i> Snow White Vester Ng <i>as</i> Prince Charming & Siti Khalijah Zainal <i>as</i> The Magic Mirror <i>with</i> Marcus Chiau, Alecia Kim Chua, Benjamin Koh, Medli Dorothea Loo, Andrew Lua, Suhaili Safari & Tan Rui Shan <i>as</i> the Seven Dwarfs
<b>Choreographer</b>	Hafeez Hassan
<b>Set Designer</b>	Wong Chee Wai
<b>Lighting Designer</b>	James Tan
<b>Sound Designer</b>	Shah Tahir
<b>Costume Designer</b>	Tube Gallery
<b>Hair Designer</b>	Ashley Lim
<b>Make-Up Designer</b>	Bobbie Ng
<b>Performance Dates</b>	<b>From 16 November 2023</b> Tue – Fri: 7.30pm Sat: 2.30pm & 7.30pm Sun: 2.30pm & 7.30pm <u>Previews</u> : 16 & 17 November @ 7.30pm, 18 November @ 2.30pm
<b>Ticket Prices</b>	Tue – Thu: \$30, \$40, \$70, \$80 Fri, Sat & Sun: \$35, \$45, \$75, \$90 <u>Previews</u> : \$25, \$35, \$60, \$70
<b>Venue</b>	The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre @ Wild Rice
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## **PRAISE FOR *SNOW WHITE & THE SEVEN DWARFS***

"Smart, sassy and satirical... with enough good, clean fun for the whole family. The result is an enjoyable show with plenty of heart and some inspired musical touches... Just take the whole family."

– **The Straits Times**

"A witty and satirical plot interspersed with healthy doses of humour and political innuendo... this timely, enjoyable [musical comedy] will put you in a merry mood!"

– **The Sunday Times**

"With a wave of his wand (his pen), playwright Alfian Sa'at has successfully transformed a harmless fairy tale into a tongue-in-cheek modern-day Singaporean allegory... a hoot [that] proved to be engrossing enough for kids even as it dished out naughty allusions on the country's political climate left and right."

– **Today**

"If you are looking for the best play in the land, Wild Rice's *Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs* definitely comes within the top contenders... a light-hearted, satirical, entertaining piece fit for all ages."

– **ArtZine Singapore**

"It is refreshing to see Alfian's rebellious, sardonic persona peek through the litany of hook-driven melodies and slick dance moves, lending this zany, messy musical a slightly devilish streak that is more than just typical pantomime subversion."

– **The Flying Inkpot**

## BIOGRAPHIES

### PLAYWRIGHTS

#### **ALFIAN SA'AT – Playwright of *Snow White & The Seven Dwarfs***

Alfian is the Resident Playwright of Wild Rice. He has been nominated at the Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards for Best Original Script 12 times, and has received the award four times. His plays with Wild Rice include *HOTEL* (with Marcia Vanderstraaten), *The Asian Boys Trilogy*, *Cooling-Off Day*, *The Optic Trilogy* and *Homesick*. He was the winner of the Golden Point Award for Poetry and the National Arts Council Young Artist Award for Literature in 2001. His publications include *Collected Plays One, Two and Three*; poetry collections *One Fierce Hour*, *A History of Amnesia* and *The Invisible Manuscript*; and short story collections *Corridor* and *Malay Sketches*.

#### **AMANDA CHONG – Playwright of *Psychobitch***

Amanda is a lawyer trained in Cambridge and Harvard who writes when she should be sleeping. Amanda explores themes of gender and power in her work as a poet and playwright. Her poetry collection, *Professions*, was shortlisted for the Singapore Literature Prize, and her poetry is studied in the Cambridge International GCSE Syllabus. Her staged plays include the musical *The Feelings Farm* (The Esplanade, 2021) and *#WomenSupportingWomen* (winner of T:>Works' 24-Hour Playwriting Competition in 2021).

#### **JOEL TAN – Playwright of *G\*d Is A Woman***

Joel's recent work in Singapore includes *Tartuffe: The Imposter* and *The Butterfly Lovers* (Wild Rice); *Tango* (Pangdemonium); *Mosaic* (M1 Fringe Festival) and *Café* (Twenty Something Theatre Festival). He first worked with Wild Rice in 2011 on the Singapore Theatre Festival premiere of his play, *Family Outing*. In the UK, recent productions include *No Particular Order* (Theatre 503), *When the Daffodils* (Orange Tree Theatre) and *Living Newspaper* (The Royal Court). He is on commission with Royal Court Theatre, Headlong Theatre and Almeida Theatre.

### DIRECTORS

#### **IVAN HENG – Director of *G\*d Is A Woman***

In a pioneering career spanning more than three decades, Ivan has directed, acted in and designed many landmark Singapore theatre productions that have been performed in more than 20 cities around the world. Ivan founded Wild Rice in 2000. Together with Executive Director Tony Trickett, he envisioned a new home for the company – a groundbreaking iconic theatre that opened in the heart of Singapore's civic and cultural district in 2019. Under Ivan's leadership, Wild Rice has reached out to an audience of over a million people, and is today at the vanguard of creating theatre with a distinctive Singaporean voice. In 2013, Ivan was awarded the Cultural Medallion, Singapore's highest cultural honour.

### **HOSSAN LEONG – Director of *Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs***

Hossan, Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, is one of Singapore's most loved and recognised entertainers. Affectionately known as 'Singapore Boy', he is a consummate performer whose skills include directing, singing, dancing, acting, piano-playing and stand-up comedy. He is actively involved in theatre, television, film and radio.

### **PAM OEI – Director of *Psychobitch***

Pam has been in over 100 theatre, television and film productions. Theatre acting credits include the critically acclaimed *Faghag*, *HOTEL*, *Animal Farm*, *Everything But The Brain*, *Rent* and *Boeing Boeing*. She is probably best known for being one third of Singapore's favourite cabaret trio, The Dim Sum Dollies. Her directing credits for Wild Rice include *Pinocchio*, *Mama White Snake*, *Boeing Boeing*, *The Emperor's New Clothes* and *Hansel & Gretel*. This multi-hyphenate is also the frontwoman of Singaporean rock band Ugly In The Morning. IG: @pam\_oei