

God Is A Woman - Pre-show Notes

Prepared by Seren Chen and Grace Lee-Khoo for Wild Rice

Introduction and Audio Described Show Information

Welcome to this introduction to *God Is A Woman*, an audaciously funny satire on censorship in Singapore written by Joel Tan and directed with gleeful irreverence by Ivan Heng, presented by Wild Rice.

Note that the official title replaces the “o” in “God” with an asterisk.

The audio described performance is at 2.30pm on Saturday the 16th of September, with a Touch Tour commencing at 1:30pm, an hour ahead of the show. Your audio describers are Seren Chen and Grace Lee-Khoo. The performance runs for approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes, including a 20-minute intermission.

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 comes a scathing satire on censorship, complaint culture, and the ridiculous outbursts of moral outrage that frequently reverberate across the Singaporean internet.

Do note that this play is rated R18 for mature content and coarse language.

Creative Team

This play was written by Joel Tan and directed by Ivan Heng. The associate director is Sim Yan Ying, aka YY. The set designer, TK Hay. The lighting designer, Tai Zi Feng. The multimedia designer, Brian Gothong Tan. The costume designer, Theresa Chan. The sound designer, Daniel Wong. The choreographer, Ryan Ang. The hair designer, Ashley Lim. The make-up

designer, Bobbie Ng. The prop master is Joyce Gan and the stage manager, Carolene Ruth Liew.

Cast, Characters, and Costumes

God Is A Woman stars four actors in eight main roles. In their approximate order of appearance:

Jonathan is a playwright played by Benjamin Chow. He has short dark hair and first appears wearing a terracotta-brown bomber jacket with black accents worn over a white tee, cuffed navy jeans, and dirty white sneakers.

He first appears in conversation with Caleb, a festival director, who is dressed in sleek art-world casual. Played by Brendon Fernandez, Caleb has shoulder-length straight dark hair pulled back in a half-ponytail. A mandarin-collared white shirt is accompanied by a soft ribbed black blazer and slouchy black pants with gentle pleats in the fabric, tapering down to a narrow ankle and glossy patent oxford shoes.

Maggie is an actor who is a close friend of Jonathan's. Played by Munah Bagharib, her bob-length curly hair is lively and animated, pulled out of her face by a black cloth headband at her hairline. We first see her in rehearsal wearing a bright yellow hoodie over flared black leggings and black sneakers. In a later scene with Tee, she sheds the hoodie, showing a black tshirt underneath.

Tee is a friend of Maggie's played by Zee Wong. Her hair is short, with a long side-swept fringe. In true stage manager fashion, we first meet her in all black - boxy black short-sleeved button-down with skinny black cargo pants and combat boots. However, her socks are purple with bright pink polka-dots. A later scene with Jeff finds her in a similar outfit, but with a deep eggplant-purple blazer over a black tshirt.

Jeff is a concert promoter played by Brendon Fernandez. Shaved bald, he looks as if he would be right at home in Miami or LA, with a navy-red-white striped shirt cuffed at the elbows and the neckline open three buttons down. His open decolletage features a ropey gold chain. His cerulean blue slacks are held up by a black Hermes belt, and he wears glossy brown brogues, no socks. A pair of gold sunglasses with yellow lenses completes the look. In a later interview scene with Clarissa, he replaces his shirt with a dark floral one and throws a matching cerulean blue blazer on top.

Clarissa Foo is a corporate executive played by Zee Wong. She has brown, bobbed hair and heavily blushed cheeks. For the interview, she appears prim and proper, wearing a white knee-length sheath dress accompanied by a cream tweed cropped jacket, a string of pearls around her neck, and low block-heeled white pumps. She holds one of those Dior tote bags - a boxy one in navy and blue, with the navy stripe across the centre that says Christian Dior.

Her husband, Darius Foo, is also a corporate executive. Played by Benjamin Chow, he first appears in his bedroom with Clarissa, reading a report in bed in a silky grey pyjama set and heavy rectangular glasses. Meeting with a minister later on, he wears a white polo, grey slacks, and white sneakers.

The min, on the other hand, played by Munah Bagharib, wears a white polo and khaki slacks with white sneakers. For this role, Munah puts on a short grey wig and moustache, accompanied by round glasses.

There are a few other minor characters and costume pieces that have been omitted for brevity.

Set and Setting

God Is A Woman keeps its set a secret. You will be given hints during the touch tour and a few more details when the pre-show notes are read 15 minutes before the show. Otherwise, find out alongside everyone else!

The setting, however, is straightforward. The show takes place in various real-world settings, such as an art gallery, a rehearsal room, a columbarium, a meeting room or a bedroom, with only a few choice set pieces that will be described during the show.

Access Information

Wild Rice aims to provide an excellent experience and service for all patrons who may require additional support to access our venue and enjoy our events.

Wild Rice at Funan is located on the 4th floor of Funan Mall, at 107 North Bridge Rd, Singapore 179105. The nearest parking option is in Funan Mall itself.

For public transport, the nearest bus stops are 04249, Opposite the Treasury; 04168, After City Hall Station Exit B; 04149, Grand Park City Hall; and 04223, Old Hill Street Police Station.

The nearest MRT station is City Hall, on the East-West and North-South lines.

If you are attending the Touch Tour, please have your mobile device and headset with you. Say hello to the friendly Box Office manager and they will gladly assist you.

Wild Rice at Funan and Funan Mall are assistance dog friendly. They are also accessible for wheelchair use, and an accessible toilet is available on the same floor as the theatre, near the lifts.

If you require a wheelchair space, would like to learn more about transferring options, or have any other questions, do contact our venue team at 6971 1051.

The bar will be open before the show and at intermission serving a variety of beverages and ice cream from Birds of Paradise.

We look forward to welcoming you and hope you have a wonderful time with us!