

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WILD RICE ANNOUNCES FINAL FOUR SHOWS OF 2024 SEASON,
EARLY BIRD SALES BEGIN ON 24 JUNE!**



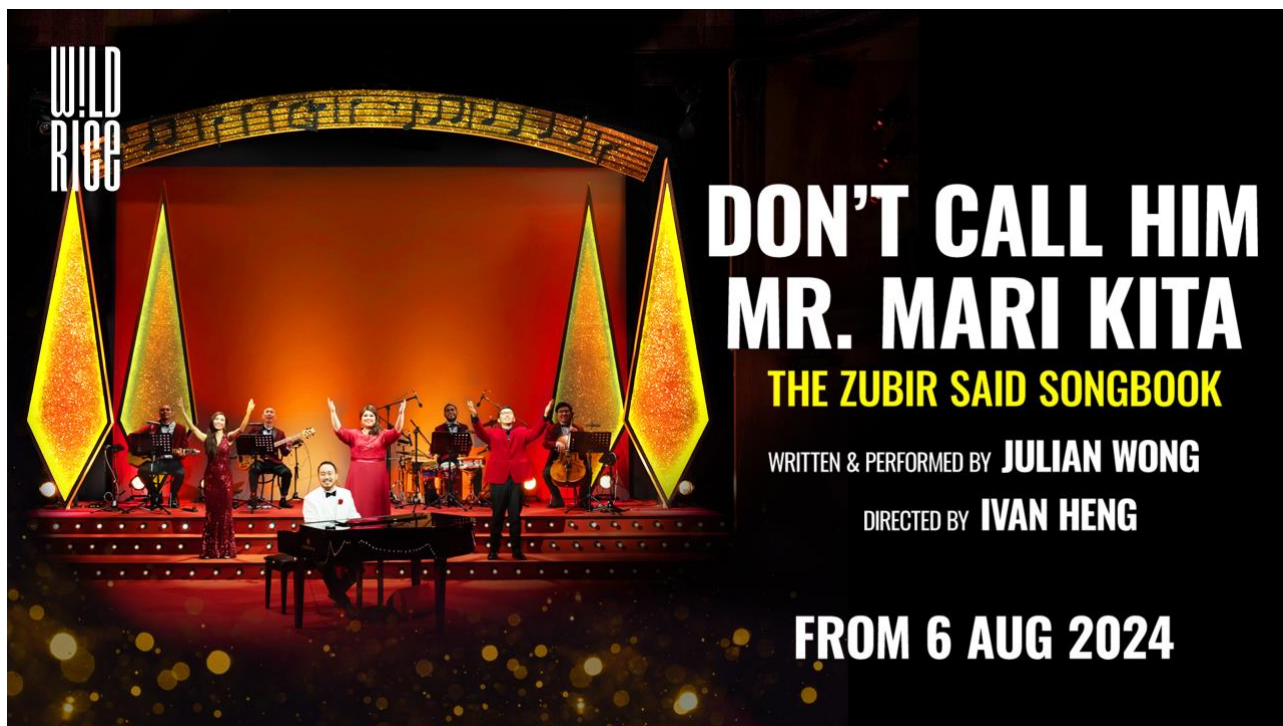
10 June 2024 – Wild Rice today announced the final four shows of its 2024 season, which include:

- ***Don't Call Him Mr. Mari Kita*** (from 6 August 2024)
In this joyful, moving and inspiring celebration of Zubir Said's life and legacy, Julian Wong – one of Singapore's most acclaimed music directors – pays loving tribute to his teacher's teacher. Following a critically acclaimed sold-out run in 2022, *Don't Call Him Mr. Mari Kita* returns to The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre for a strictly limited final season. (See **Annex A** for more information.)
- ***Dive*** (5 to 22 September 2024)
Inventive, heartfelt and humorous, Laura Hayes' *Dive* explores the dark side of love through the prism of one relationship, as love mutates into something unbearable, but is still impossible to let go of. This small, intimate show will be performed in Wild Rice's Studio. (See **Annex B** for more information.)

- ***Accidental Death of an Activist*** (26 September to 19 October 2024)
Uproariously funny and profoundly thought-provoking, this reimagined classic – featuring a razor-sharp new script by Jo Kukathas – serves up a biting commentary on the abuse of power and the absurdity of authority. (See **Annex C** for more information.)
- ***The Wizard of Oz*** (from 14 November 2024)
When a cyclone transports Dorothy from Yishun to the magical land of Oz, she must find her way back home with the help of a Hokkien-speaking Scarecrow, a Tin Man with a big axe and even bigger vocabulary, and a sensitive, crochet-loving Lion. A visionary reimagining of the beloved children’s book, this joyous new musical is fabulous fun for the whole family! (See **Annex D** for more information.)

Tickets for all four shows go on priority sale to Wild Rice Angels from today. Public sales begin on **24 June, with a 15% Early Bird discount on all Category 1 & 2 tickets available until 10 July for the three shows playing in The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre.**

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



SYNOPSIS

Zubir Said made history with his music. In 1958, he composed *Majulah Singapura* – the iconic song that has galvanised our nation, and is still sung all over the island to this very day. But there is so much more to Zubir Said’s remarkable career than the song that has come to define it.

In this joyful, moving and inspiring celebration of Zubir Said’s life and legacy, Julian Wong – one of Singapore’s most acclaimed music directors – pays loving tribute to his teacher’s teacher. Accompanied by some of our country’s most accomplished musicians and young vocalists, Julian will bring you the best of Zubir Said’s songbook – from beloved classics like *Semoga Bahagia*, *Sayang Disayang* and *Orang Singapura*, to rare musical gems long thought to have been lost forever.

Following a critically acclaimed sold-out run in 2022, *Don’t Call Him Mr. Mari Kita* returns to The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre for a strictly limited final season. Directed with keen insight and visual flair by Cultural Medallion winner Ivan Heng, this production incorporates archival footage from Singapore’s golden age of cinema and stunning period costumes to evoke the style and glamour of a 1960s television variety show.

Come and meet the man behind the melody we all know by heart. You’ll never sing ‘Mari Kita’ in the same way again!

PRAISE FOR DON'T CALL HIM MR. MARI KITA

“Wong and his musicians did a moving, instrumental version of *Majulah Singapura* and even brought to life some of Pak Zubir's rare, previously unheard gems... The heavy use of narration could have easily turned the performance into a didactic music history lecture, but Wong's natural charisma, humorous delivery and rapport with his musicians and the audience ensured that it was a delightful and entertaining show.”

– **The Straits Times**

“We were so touched and so deeply moved by the show. To think that we continually search for our Singapore identity and our sense of belongingness, when it's right here under our noses in the music and sentiments expressed by the very composer of our national anthem, Zubir Said. Julian Wong did an amazing job and he is patently the anointed one to tell Pak Zubir's story. As a 61-year-old man who just had a national medal given to me, I can say that I have never felt my Singaporeanness more deeply than I did tonight.”

– **Jeremy Monteiro** (Cultural Medallion Winner, 2002, and Public Service Medal Recipient, 2021)

“Soulful, spiritual, brilliantly produced and with so much depth. I learned so much about Pak Zubir's story, and Julian's telling of it reminded me of my own story – of how my dad opposed me doing things I wanted to do. The show reminded me of how happy and honoured I am to be a Singaporean.”

– **Datuk Ramli Sarip**

“I have heard these stories about Pak Zubir but never in the way they were presented in this show. The more I learn, the more I realised the less I know. Julian Wong was endearing, captivating and passionate. I would definitely invite more people to see this work.”

– **Najip Ali**

“Despite not being born Singaporean, this show gave us such a beautifully sung, classy, educational and truly valuable history class about Singapore. We were so deeply touched to learn about Zubir Said, who came from humble origins but was a giant in terms of his achievements and contributions to this nation.”

– **Anthonia Hui & Leonardo Drago**

“I had grudgingly sung Zubir Said's songs in school, but watching Don't Call Him Mr. Mari Kita helped me realise how meaningful they are. Julian made me want to relearn and sing these songs every day. Such a magical, awesome and emotive evening!”

– **Susanna Kang**

“A moving, beautiful story of mentorship and love, and a wonderful tribute to an important person in our lives. It made me think about who we are as a people and it felt like a proper celebration of Singapore through the music and legacy of one man. It was patriotic without pander or pomp, celebratory yet contemplative. Thank you once again for a beautiful show. Can't wait to buy tickets for everyone I know!”

– **Petrina Kow**

FAST FACTS

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| Composer / Lyricist | Zubir Said |
| Writer / Music Director / Arranger | Julian Wong |
| Director / Set Designer | Ivan Heng |
| Performers | Julian Wong <i>with</i> Hannah Nordin, Malcolm Lim & Rohaniah Sa'id |
| Musicians | Julian Wong <i>with</i> Din Safari, Leonard Mikhail, Riduan Zalani & Ryan Sim |
| Dramaturg | Alfian Sa'at |
| Lighting Designer | Alberta Wileo |
| Sound Designer | Lim Cheng Yi |
| Multimedia Designer | He Shuming |
| Costume Designer | Frederick Lee |
| Choreographer | Hafeez Hassan |
| Hair Designer | Ashley Lim |
| Make-Up Designer | Bobbie Ng |
| Performance Dates | From 6 August 2024 Tue – Fri: 7.30pm Sat: 2.30pm & 7.30pm Sun: 2.30pm <u>No Show</u> : 9 August, Friday |
| Ticket Prices | Tue – Thu: \$40, \$50, \$60, \$70 Fri, Sat & Sun: \$45, \$55, \$65, \$75 |
| Venue | The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre @ Wild Rice |
| Press Contact | Linda Tan (lindatan@wildrice.com.sg) |
| Public Sales | From 24 June 2024, 12 noon Early Bird : 15% off on Category 1 & 2 tickets from 24 June to 10 July 2024 |
| Discounts | 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

Ticketing Agent

SISTIC.com Pte Ltd
SISTIC Website www.sistic.com.sg
SISTIC Hotline (+65) 6348-5555





SYNOPSIS

Love feels so good... until it doesn't. But every couple has disagreements, right?

You wonder if this feeling is normal — the walking on eggshells, sharpness, broken glass. Or are you being over-sensitive? And then things are good again, the world disappears and nothing else matters. There is nothing but you and me.

Friends start to ask: 'Is everything okay?' And something inside screams at you: 'This isn't normal, this isn't right. Leave, why don't you just leave?' But you've been together so long. You can't imagine life apart.

Dive follows one such relationship from giddy adolescence to old age, as love mutates into something unbearable, but is still impossible to let go of.

Inventive, humorous and heartfelt, *Dive* marks theatre-maker Laura Hayes' Wild Rice debut, directed by Sim Yan Ying "YY". Come explore the dark side of love through the prism of one couple, who could be any one of us.

FAST FACTS

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| Playwright | Laura Hayes |
| Director | Sim Yan Ying “YY” |
| Cast | Irsyad Dawood, Jean Ng, Ebi Shankara & Ellison Tan |
| Dramaturg | Joel Tan |
| Set & Lighting Designer | Elizabeth Mak |
| Sound Designer | Ningru Guo |
| Multimedia Designers | Mervin Wong & Ming |
| Hair Designer | Ashley Lim |
| Make-Up Designer | Bobbie Ng |
| Performance Dates | 5 to 22 September 2024 Tue – Fri: 7.30pm Sat & Sun: 2.30pm & 7.30pm |
| Ticket Price | \$40 (free seating) |
| Venue | The Studio @ Wild Rice |
| Press Contact | Linda Tan (lindatan@wildrice.com.sg) |
| Public Sales | From 24 June 2024, 12 noon |
| Discounts | 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 |
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SYNOPSIS

In a bustling metropolitan city, a man under interrogation has fallen to his death from the fourth-floor window of the police station.

Did he jump? Or was he pushed?

As the police do everything in their power to avoid a scandal, a mysterious trickster turns up and begins to conduct a madcap investigation of his own – one that threatens to expose the conspiracies and corruption that lie at the heart of the powers that be.

A timeless classic that is as uproariously funny as it is profoundly thought-provoking, Dario Fo and Franca Rame's *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* storms the Wild Rice stage in this razor-sharp adaptation penned with irreverent wit by award-winning theatre-maker Jo Kukathas, who also co-directs with Glen Goei.

Starring a cast that includes Ghafir Akbar, Siti Khalijah Zainal, Lim Kay Siu and Munah Bagharib, *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* will leave you breathless with laughter even as it serves up a biting commentary on the abuse of power and the absurdity of authority.

FAST FACTS

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| Adapter | Jo Kukathas |
| Playwrights | Dario Fo & Franca Rame |
| Directors | Glen Goei & Jo Kukathas |
| Cast | Ghafir Akbar, Munah Bagharib, Lim Kay Siu, Krish Natarajan, Siti Khalijah Zainal & Sugie Phua |
| Set Designer | Wong Chee Wai |
| Lighting Designer | Alberta Wileo |
| Hair Designer | Ashley Lim |
| Make-Up Designer | Bobbie Ng |
| Performance Dates | 26 September to 19 October 2024 Tue – Fri: 7.30pm Sat: 2.30pm & 7.30pm Sun: 2.30pm <i>Previews:</i> 26 & 27 September @ 7.30pm |
| Ticket Prices | Tue – Thu: \$40, \$50, \$70, \$80 Fri, Sat & Sun: \$45, \$55, \$75, \$90 <i>Previews:</i> \$35, \$45, \$60, \$70 |
| Venue | The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre @ Wild Rice |
| Press Contact | Linda Tan (lindatan@wildrice.com.sg) |
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SYNOPSIS

“Toto, I’ve a feeling we’re not in Yishun anymore.”

If there’s one place in Singapore where freaky things can happen, it’s Yishun. That’s how Dorothy finds herself swept up by a cyclone one day and transported to the magical land of Oz, where the Munchkins live the high life in the East and the Winkies toil and labour in the West under the tyrannical rule of the Wicked Witch.

To find her way back, Dorothy needs to seek an audience with the mysterious Wizard of Oz. Along the way, she gets help from a Hokkien-speaking Scarecrow, a Tin Man with a big axe and even bigger vocabulary, and a sensitive, crochet-loving Lion.

But what dangers lie ahead in this strange world that sometimes reminds Dorothy so much of Singapore? And will brains, heart and courage be enough to get her home?

In this visionary reimagining of L. Frank Baum’s beloved children’s book, award-winning playwright Alfian Sa’at serves up a story full of heart, humour and home truths that will delight everyone from the young to the young at heart. Directed with marvellous flair by Ivan Heng and packed with Yellow Brick Road-trip-friendly tunes by Elaine Chan, *The Wizard of Oz* is fabulous fun for the whole family. Don’t miss this joyous new musical that will send you and your loved ones singing and dancing all the way home!

FAST FACTS

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| Playwright / Lyricist | Alfian Sa'at |
| Director | Ivan Heng |
| Composer / Music Director | Elaine Chan |
| Cast | Rebecca Dass, Benjamin Chow, Dwayne Lau, Siti Khalijah Zainal, Karen Tan & Timothy Wan |
| Set Designer | Eucien Chia |
| Lighting Designer | James Tan |
| Sound Designer | Shah Tahir |
| Costume Designer | Tube Gallery |
| Hair Designer | Ashley Lim |
| Make-Up Designer | Bobbie Ng |
| Performance Dates | From 14 November 2024 Tue – Fri: 7.30pm Sat & Sun: 2.30pm & 7.30pm <u>Previews</u> : 14 & 15 November @ 7.30pm 16 November @ 2.30pm |
| Ticket Prices | Tue – Thu: \$40, \$50, \$75, \$85 Fri, Sat & Sun: \$45, \$55, \$80, \$95 <u>Previews</u> : \$35, \$45, \$65, \$75 |
| Venue | The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre @ Wild Rice |
| Press Contact | Linda Tan (lindatan@wildrice.com.sg) |
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