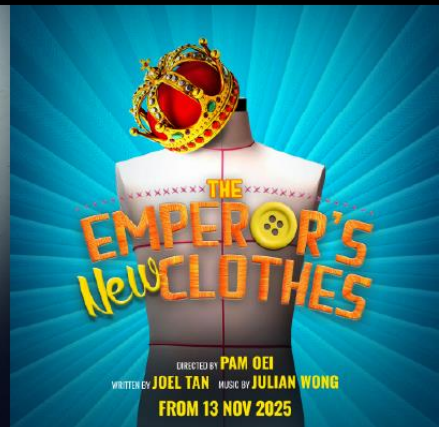


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WILD RICE CELEBRATES 25 WILD YEARS WITH THE BEST OF SINGAPORE THEATRE



16 December 2024 – Wild Rice today announced its 2025 anniversary season celebrating the best of Singapore theatre. Featuring a mix of homegrown classics and thrilling new plays, the six shows in the line-up showcase the groundbreaking work of some of Singapore’s best playwrights, including Alfian Sa’at, Joel Tan and Thomas Lim.

The theatre company will be celebrating its 25th birthday in the same year that Singapore turns 60 – the perfect occasion to shine a spotlight on how Singaporean theatre can so effectively explore all of who we are and can be.

“Our work has always spanned the breadth and depth of what it means to be Singaporean,” says Ivan Heng, Founding Artistic Director of Wild Rice. “That’s why, in this landmark year for Wild Rice and for Singapore, we wanted to offer an eclectic season of theatre that best represents the excellent and diverse work being produced right here in the country.”

The six shows in Wild Rice's 2025 season include:

- I. **SUPERVISION:** Darkly funny and profoundly moving, Thomas Lim's critically acclaimed domestic drama explores the complicated dynamics of family, privacy and ageing with dignity in a Singapore where foreign workers have become our primary caregivers. Winner of the 2019 Straits Times Life! Award for Best Original Script.
- II. **TUNGGU SEKEJAP: THE P. RAMLEE SUITE:** Following the success of *Don't Call Him Mr. Mari Kita*, Julian Wong, winner of the National Arts Council's Young Artist Award in 2024, mines P. Ramlee's body of work to re-compose familiar melodies – like *Azizah*, *Geteran Jiwa* and *Tunggu Sekejap* – into three movements. Led by maestro Foo Say Ming, the 30-piece re: mix orchestra makes its debut at The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre, which has been lauded as "Singapore's finest venue for chamber music" (*The Straits Times*).
- III. **DREAMPLAY: ASIAN BOYS VOL. 1:** First staged in 2001, with a critically acclaimed revival at the 2013 Singapore Theatre Festival, Alfian Sa'at's play is a pioneering work of queer Singapore theatre and a touchstone for Singapore's LGBTQ+ community. Director Ivan Heng will reimagine this production for Wild Rice's main stage, with Pam Oei set to star as Agnes, a goddess on a mission 'to save gay men from themselves'.
- IV. **HOTEL:** Spanning a century and performed over close to five hours in nine languages, Alfian Sa'at and Marcia Vanderstraaten's *HOTEL* is an immersive, multi-generational epic that has been hailed as an "instant classic" by *The Straits Times*. In a year when Singapore celebrates SG60, this historical epic is perfectly timed to delve deeply into the country's past to envision where we might be heading in the future.
- V. **THE SERANGOON GARDENS TECHNO PARTY OF 1993:** Punchy, unhinged, and pulsing with youthful anger, *The Serangoon Gardens Techno Party of 1993* is Joel Tan's provocative new play about one young woman raging against the machine in 1990s Singapore – when rebellion steamed beneath the orderly surface of the city.
- VI. **THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES:** In the beloved tradition of the Wild Rice holiday musical, this hilarious, heartwarming and family-friendly show puts a Singaporean spin on Hans Christian Andersen's timeless tale about the ultimate fashion victim. First staged in 2015, this runway-ready musical comedy will be completely reimaged and updated by its original creative team: director Pam Oei, playwright and lyricist Joel Tan, and composer Julian Wong.

"This season has something for everyone – from modern classics like *HOTEL* to brand-new plays like *The Serangoon Gardens Techno Party of 1993*, from domestic dramas such as *Supervision* to family-friendly musicals like *The Emperor's New Clothes*, exploring issues as varied as ageing with dignity and the rebelliousness of youth," explains Heng.

"In conjunction with SG60, many shows in our WR25 season mine Singapore's history for inspiration. Plays like *HOTEL*, *Tunggu Sekejap*, *Dreamplay* and *The Serangoon Gardens Techno Party of 1993* explore stories about Singapore and Singaporeans that we need to hear, but do not always find a place in our official narrative or the history books."

Since its founding in 2000, Wild Rice has staged close to 180 productions that have entertained and inspired more than 1.2 million audience members, both in Singapore and abroad.

“It’s deeply gratifying for us to have built an audience for homegrown theatre over the past quarter of a century,” notes Heng. “We can’t wait to welcome even more audiences into our theatre in 2025 to share our Singapore stories, in productions that are as ambitious and accomplished as anything you will see on Broadway or in the West End.”

Tickets for the first three shows in Wild Rice’s 25th anniversary season – *Supervision*, *Tunggu Sekejap: The P. Ramlee Suite* and *Dreamplay: Asian Boys Vol. 1* – go on sale to Wild Rice Angels from 10am on 16 December. To enjoy priority access, complimentary tickets and other benefits, interested patrons can sign up to become Angels [here](#). All donations are eligible for 250% tax deduction, with contributions made before 31 January 2025 eligible for matched funding by the Tote Board.

Public sales for these three shows begin at noon on 6 January 2025. Audiences will enjoy a 15% Early Bird discount on all Category 1 & 2 tickets purchased from 6 January to 5 February 2025.

Tickets for the remaining three shows in Wild Rice’s 2025 season will go on sale in 2025.

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

Please see Annexes A through F for more information on each show in the season.



SYNOPSIS

71-year-old Teck, a grumpy retiree, has just suffered a stroke that leaves him wheelchair-bound. When he insists on moving back to his own home, Jenny, his no-nonsense daughter, hires a young Indonesian domestic worker, Yanti, to look after him.

At first, Yanti dutifully follows the strict caregiving regime drawn up by Jenny. But Teck refuses to give up a few of his favourite vices. When Jenny is not around, Yanti gives in to Teck's demands for fatty, braised pork belly and the occasional cigarette.

And yet, somehow, Jenny always knows exactly what is going on...

Darkly funny and profoundly moving, *Supervision* holds a mirror up to our modern world and its rapidly ageing population. Would you give up the things you enjoy in exchange for a few more years? Does working in someone else's home mean giving up your right to privacy? And to what lengths would you go to watch over someone you love?

Following two critically acclaimed, sold-out runs, *Supervision* returns to The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre to kick off Wild Rice's 25th anniversary season. Featuring a searingly incisive script by Thomas Lim (*National Day Charade*, *Grandmother Tongue*) and insightful direction by Glen Goei, this production stars Julius Foo and Amirah Yahya, and welcomes Janice Koh back to the Singapore stage. Don't miss this homegrown modern classic that challenges us to think about issues that hit close to home: from ageing with dignity and the right to privacy, to the difficult choices we make when it comes to taking care of the people we love.

PRAISE FOR SUPERVISION

"[*Supervision*] is a rich, complex and stimulating work that asks more questions than it provides answers, which is just as it should be. With a fine, tight script, excellent performances all round and a deft directorial touch, it's a 'must see' production, and a testament to Wild Rice's commitment to 'inspire, challenge and entertain'."

– **The Robb Report**

"A captivating human story that is one of the most evocative local theatre offerings we've seen this year. The best stories are sometimes the simplest ones, capturing real people in their everyday voices. *Supervision* does this and subtly adds a political slant, nudging us to think about the surveillance culture our society has built itself on."

– **Crystalwords**

"The work opens a window into the world of all three characters, and therein lies its brilliance... Lim is a playwright with an uncanny ability to transpose the nuances of real-life relationships, in all their bittersweet complexity, onto the stage. At the same time, he locates these relationships firmly within a socio-political context, making the implications of the characters' struggles apparent without shoving commentary down anyone's throats."

– **Centre 42**

FAST FACTS

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|--------------------------|--|
| Playwright | Thomas Lim |
| Director | Glen Goei |
| Cast | Janice Koh, Julius Foo & Amirah Yahya |
| Performance Dates | 27 March – 12 April 2025 Tue – Sat: 7.30pm Sun: 2.30pm <u>Previews</u> : 27 & 28 March @ 7.30pm |
| Ticket Prices | Tue – Thu: \$40, \$50, \$65, \$75 Fri, Sat & Sun: \$45, \$55, \$70, \$80 <u>Previews</u> : \$35, \$45, \$60, \$70 |
| Venue | The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre @ Wild Rice |
| Press Contact | Linda Tan (lindatan@wildrice.com.sg) |
| Public Sales | From 6 January 2025, 12 noon Early Bird: 15% off on Category 1 & 2 tickets from 6 January to 5 February 2025 |
| 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

Julian Wong, one of Singapore's most outstanding music arrangers and directors, has always been passionate about the lyrical music of P. Ramlee, who was a giant in the world of Malay film and music in the 1950s and 60s.

In this heartfelt and stirring tribute to P. Ramlee's music, Wong has re-composed familiar melodies – including *Azizah*, *Getaran Jiwa* and *Tunggu Sekejap* – into three movements. They will be performed by re: mix, a 30-member chamber orchestra, under the direction of maestro Foo Say Ming.

During the concert, Wong will share the process and inspirations behind his re-composition. Audiences will discover how P. Ramlee's music is not only evergreen, but also surprisingly contemporary.

Reuniting the same creative team that memorably brought *Don't Call Him Mr. Mari Kita* to life on stage, *Tunggu Sekejap: The P. Ramlee Suite* will be directed by Ivan Heng. Interspersed with iconic film clips and key biographical trivia, this concert celebrating P. Ramlee's musical legacy promises to both illuminate and enchant.

FAST FACTS

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Writer & Arranger | Julian Wong |
| Composer | P. Ramlee |
| Director | Ivan Heng |
| Performers | re:mix, Foo Say Ming & Julian Wong |
| Performance Dates | 15 – 31 May 2025 Wed – Fri: 7.30pm Sat: 2.30pm & 7.30pm Sun: 2.30pm <u>Previews</u> : 15 & 16 May @ 7.30pm |
| Ticket Prices | Wed – Thu: \$40, \$50, \$70, \$80 Fri, Sat & Sun: \$45, \$55, \$75, \$85 <u>Previews</u> : \$35, \$45, \$65, \$75 |
| Venue | The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre @ Wild Rice |
| Press Contact | Linda Tan (lindatan@wildrice.com.sg) |
| Public Sales | From 6 January 2025, 12 noon Early Bird: 15% off on Category 1 & 2 tickets from 6 January to 5 February 2025 |
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SYNOPSIS

Armed with fantastic powers, Agnes is a goddess on a heroic mission: ‘to save gay men from themselves’. But where on earth can she go to make the biggest difference?

When Agnes lands in the strait-laced realm known as Singapore, a mysterious guide called ‘Boy’ offers to show her around. Together, they travel through time – meeting horny, sweaty rickshaw coolies, love-doomed resistance fighters during the Japanese Occupation, and the lonely drifters of a virtual landscape known in the 1990s as the ‘Internet Relay Chat’.

Blending the divine with the profane, by turns harrowing and hilarious, Alfian Sa’at’s *Dreamplay: Asian Boys Vol. 1* takes audiences on a fabulous tour through Singapore’s history, throwing light and fairy dust at the little-known beginnings of an alternative community on this seemingly heteronormative island.

Directed with flamboyant flair by Ivan Heng and featuring an all-new cast led by Pam Oei as Agnes, *Dreamplay* makes its exuberant return to the Singapore stage during Pride Month. Come and see for yourself why *Dreamplay* – written unapologetically at the tentative turn of the millennium – has rightly earned its place as one of the pioneering works in queer Singapore theatre.

FAST FACTS

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Playwright | Alfian Sa'at |
| Director | Ivan Heng |
| Cast | Ryan Ang, Goh Seng Henk, Irsyad Dawood, Izzul Irfan, Pam Oei & Timothy Wan |
| Performance Dates | 20 June to 12 July 2025 Tue – Fri: 7.30pm Sat: 2.30pm & 7.30pm Sun: 2.30pm <u>Previews</u> : 20 June @ 7.30pm & 21 June @ 2.30pm |
| Ticket Prices | Tue – Thu: \$45, \$55, \$70, \$80 Fri, Sat & Sun: \$50, \$60, \$80, \$90 <u>Previews</u> : \$40, \$50, \$60, \$70 |
| Venue | The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre @ Wild Rice |
| Press Contact | Linda Tan (lindatan@wildrice.com.sg) |
| Public Sales | From 6 January 2025, 12 noon Early Bird: 15% off on Category 1 & 2 tickets from 6 January to 5 February 2025 |
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| Ticketing Agent | SISTIC.com Pte Ltd SISTIC Website www.sistic.com.sg SISTIC Hotline (+65) 6348-5555 |

WILD
RICE

HOTEL



WRITTEN BY
**ALFIAN SA'AT &
MARCIA VANDERSTRAATEN**

FROM 14 AUG 2025

DIRECTED BY
IVAN HENG & GLEN GOEI

SYNOPSIS

A hotel in Singapore is opened at the turn of the century, when the island is still a jewel in the crown of the British Empire. Each day, new faces appear and swiftly disappear – guests and staff alike.

Every ten years, we check in to meet the hotel's residents: Indian mutineers, Cantonese nannies, Malay film stars, Japanese soldiers, transsexual sex workers, wedding guests, suspected terrorists, and more. They live out the pivotal moments in their personal lives, as empires die and new ones are born from their ashes.

Even though the chambermaids clean up after them, readying the room for the next guests, traces of the past persist, and time reveals its cyclical nature. Ghosts communicate with the living, doubles are separated by decades, and a single moment of decision haunts the generations that come after.

An immersive, multi-generational epic, *HOTEL* explores the notions of empire, nationhood, migration and identity against the backdrop of a shrinking world. Spanning a century and performed over close to five hours in nine languages, this groundbreaking theatrical event highlights the eclectic energies born from the collisions between the old and the new, East and West, tradition and modernity.

PRODUCTION HISTORY

An epic odyssey through one hundred years of Singapore's history, *HOTEL* made its world premiere at the 2015 Singapore International Festival of Arts. Proclaimed an "instant classic" by *The Straits Times*, the production won four Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards: Production of the Year, Best Direction, Best Original Script and Best Ensemble.

HOTEL headlined Wild Rice's Singapore Theatre Festival in 2016, playing to sold-out houses throughout its limited run. In 2017, *HOTEL* made its international premiere, winning rave reviews at the OzAsia Festival in Adelaide, Australia.

In conjunction with our 25th anniversary, *HOTEL* – a fully homegrown production that best represents Wild Rice's ethos as a theatre company – returns to The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre following a hugely popular run in 2023 that played to full houses and standing-room audiences.

PRAISE FOR HOTEL

"A must-watch that captures Singapore's complexity... an epic piece of theatre spanning 100 years of Singapore's history that might just transform how some people view the certainty of the nation state... There are heaps of empathy in the narrative... It is also full of patriotism, filled with courage in its willingness to challenge historical orthodoxy."

– **The Straits Times**

"Rich, nuanced and utterly joyous, [*HOTEL* is] performed in an astounding nine languages by a diverse and fantastic cast. It remains one of the finest pieces of local writing I've seen and a true state-of-the-nation play... It's wonderful to see this show in Wild Rice's very own Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre. The intimacy of the space really made the stories resonate deeply."

– **Naeem Kapadia** (@nkapped)

"An exploration of historical fiction on a grand scale, yet done simply with a concise structure, good research, nuanced writing and compelling characters set in a single hotel room that aged beautifully with the decades. What a compelling piece of work! This is how we should be learning our national history."

– **Rajkumar Thiagaras** (@rajkumar_thiagaras)

"As good as I remember it. Witty writing, big emotions, ace performances, and some of the sharpest perspectives on 100 years of Singapore history, including the bits some would rather we forgot. Two consecutive nights and five hours is a big commitment for any theatregoer, but it's well worth it. This is some of the best fare Singapore theatre has to offer."

– **Dan Teo** (@stayingonthehill)

FAST FACTS

| | |
|--|--|
| Playwrights | Alfian Sa'at & Marcia Vanderstraaten |
| Directors | Ivan Heng & Glen Goei |
| Cast | Ghafir Akbar, Munah Bagharib, Rebecca Ashley Dass, Brendon Fernandez, André Jewson, Jo Kukathas, Dwayne Lau, Moo Siew Keh, Pam Oei, Siti Khalijah Zainal & Yap Yi Kai |
| Performance Dates | From 14 August 2025 Tue (Part I) & Wed (Part II): 7.30pm Thu (Part I) & Fri (Part II): 7.30pm Sat: 2.30pm (Part I) & 7.30pm (Part II) Sun: 2.30pm (Part I) & 7.30pm (Part II) |
| Ticket Prices | TBA |
| Venue | The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre @ Wild Rice |
| Press Contact | Linda Tan (lindatan@wildrice.com.sg) |
| Public Sales | Ticket sales for this production will begin later in 2025 Please stay tuned for more information! |
| 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 |
| Frequently Asked Questions on HOTEL | https://www.wildrice.com.sg/hotel-faq/ |



SYNOPSIS

It's 1993, and 16-year-old Candice, in her nice house in her nice neighbourhood in Serangoon Gardens, wonders why the city around her seems so sleepy and lame compared to the world she glimpses in MTV and her music magazines – pictures roiling with sex, drugs, and rebellion.

When Candice's mum burns all her tapes and magazines in a fit of moral panic, Candice finally snaps and embarks on a night-long bender to end all benders. In the darkness, she sees the Singapore she's been craving all this time: punks in a sweaty mosh pit, a police raid, and a seductive American boy with diplomatic immunity and an endless supply of happy pills...

Punchy, unhinged, and pulsing with youthful anger, *The Serangoon Gardens Techno Party of 1993* is the story of one young woman raging against the machine. How brightly can you burn without killing yourself and the people around you? Directed by Sim Yan Ying "YY", this provocative new play by Joel Tan is a love song to the crazy Singapore of the 1990s, when rebellion steamed beneath the orderly surface of the city.

FAST FACTS

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Playwright | Joel Tan |
| Director | Sim Yan Ying “YY” |
| Cast | TBA |
| Performance Dates | 17 October to 1 November 2025 Tue – Fri: 7.30pm Sat: 2.30pm & 7.30pm Sun: 2.30pm |
| Ticket Prices | TBA |
| Venue | The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre @ Wild Rice |
| Press Contact | Linda Tan (lindatan@wildrice.com.sg) |
| Public Sales | Ticket sales for this production will begin later in 2025 Please stay tuned for more information! |
| Discounts | 20% off on Category 1 & 2 tickets for Wild Rice Angels 10% off on Category 1 & 2 tickets for Students, Full-Time NSF’s & Senior Citizens Group Discounts Available for 20+ Tickets |
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SYNOPSIS

Once upon a time, in a kingdom not so far away, ruled a vain and pompous Emperor who was crazy about his clothes, himself and little else. So obsessed with fashion was he that he decreed that the 60th anniversary of his reign be celebrated with the most extravagant National Dress Parade of all time, with him at the centre of all the pomp and pageantry.

One day, two cheeky tailors discover a dark secret in the Emperor's palace and decide to teach him a lesson. Presenting the Emperor with an eye-popping ensemble literally woven out of thin air, they convince him that only the smartest and most competent people in the land can see it.

What can be done to stop the nation's biggest wardrobe malfunction? Why won't the Emperor's courtiers and the aristocracy speak up? Is there anyone who's brave enough to tell the naked truth?

This holiday season, Wild Rice is proud to present *The Emperor's New Clothes* – a Singaporean spin on Hans Christian Andersen's timeless tale about the ultimate fashion victim. Inventively directed by Pam Oei, this runway-ready production features a razor-sharp script updated by Joel Tan and a sparkling score by Julian Wong. Fun and laughter never go out of fashion – don't miss the most hilarious, heartwarming musical of the year!

PRAISE FOR *THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES* (2015)

“*The Emperor's New Clothes* will have you in stitches with the cut of its costumes and wit... there is little to fault and much to enjoy in this production.”

– **The Straits Times**

“An enjoyable adaptation, complete with the now-familiar but still very clever local twists... If you're looking for a great musical to sink your teeth into – and really, this can rival most international productions in terms of sheer entertainment and engagement value – this is definitely the ticket to get.”

– **Today Online**

“A thought-provoking, sometimes hilariously incendiary, pantomime that flew in the face of everything I had come to know about family-friendly audience participation... You know you're dealing with something special when the usually reticent Singaporean audience gets noisily involved.”

– **Bandwagon Asia**

FAST FACTS

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Playwright & Lyricist | Joel Tan |
| Composer | Julian Wong |
| Director | Pam Oei |
| Cast | TBA |
| Performance Dates | From 13 November 2025 Tue – Fri: 7.30pm Sat: 2.30pm & 7.30pm Sun: 2.30pm |
| Ticket Prices | TBA |
| Venue | The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre @ Wild Rice |
| Press Contact | Linda Tan (lindatan@wildrice.com.sg) |
| Public Sales | Ticket sales for this production will begin later in 2025 Please stay tuned for more information! |
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