

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Wild Rice Announces New Dramatised Reading Series and Calls for New Play Submissions



3 March 2025 – Wild Rice today announced the launch of **The Rice Cooker** – an incubation programme that will kick off with a series of dramatised readings of new plays by both established and emerging playwrights.

This new scheme is part of the theatre company’s New & Now initiative, which is dedicated to developing new and original writing for the Singapore stage in a structured, sustainable way.

“New plays are the lifeblood of theatre, but they need the right conditions to rise,” says Ivan Heng, Founding Artistic Director of Wild Rice. “That’s where The Rice Cooker comes in – giving playwrights the essential ingredient for developing their plays: test audiences. These dramatised readings let writers taste what works, tweak the recipe, and refine their plays to serve up a feast for the imagination!”

At the same time, the company announced that it will be opening **a submissions window for new plays**. Playwrights can submit a maximum of one script each from 3 March to 30 April 2025. (More information on submission guidelines can be found in **Annex A**.)

“We’re looking for plays with a flash of urgency, an innate theatricality, and a sense that audiences will find something fresh, potent, and surprising in these stories,” says Joel Tan, who leads Wild Rice’s literary team, in partnership with Centre 42, to ensure that all submitted scripts are read.

This open call is part of Wild Rice's ongoing commitment to engaging with as many writers as possible.

"It's especially important to keep our channels open to writers who may not be known to us, and who might not have access to networks and platforms to have their plays read and developed," adds Joel.

"From last year's submissions alone, two plays – *Homepar* and *kink* – have gone into The Rice Cooker this year. And we found enough writers to form two Writers' Groups, in which playwrights support one another as they write a new play with us. That's why we're excited to call for more submissions – this will enable us to keep building a pipeline of new and original work for the Singapore stage."

The four plays that will be part of the Rice Cooker's inaugural series of dramatised readings include:

- i. **VOX POPULI by Jo Tan (28 – 30 March)**: In this dark, deranged dystopian comedy, Govfrey – an A.I. android created by a government ministry – starts learning from Singaporean TikTok trends, forums and comments sections at an alarming speed. A wild, unexpected ride into Smart Nation 3.0, *Vox Populi* delves into themes like online clout, artificial intelligence, and how we Singaporeans use our voices online – or don't. (See **Annex B** for more information.)
- ii. **HOMEPAR by Mitchell Fang (21 or 22 June)**: To power through a tough break-up and celebrate their evolving gender identity, Oliver hosts a homepar – a secret house party that recreates the gay nightclub atmosphere – with their closest friends in the home they share with their widowed mother, Hui. But what happens when the dreaded knock on the door comes at 4am? (See **Annex C** for more information.)
- iii. **KINK by Jaryl George Solomon (21 or 22 June)**: Two's company but three's a good time... right? *kink* explores how an innocent anniversary gift of a threesome can unfurl into a night of surprising scrutiny. Boyfriends Andrew and Daniel are forced to confront the foundation of their relationship as Jay realises that his invitation comes with some peculiar expectations. (See **Annex D** for more information.)
- iv. **MUNDUR SINGAPURA: THE SECOND WAVE OF QUEER SINGAPOREAN THEATRE by Ng Yi-Sheng (21 – 22 November)**: A kaleidoscopic romp through the *rabak* 90s and early noughties of queer plays, mapped against the backdrop of loosening restrictions, daring experimentation and parliamentary debates about Section 377A. (See **Annex E** for more information.)

**Tickets for *Vox Populi* are on sale now for \$20.** Ticketing and casting information for the remaining dramatised readings will be announced later this year via Wild Rice's website and social media channels.

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

## OPEN CALL FOR SCRIPT SUBMISSIONS

Wild Rice is a vital home for new Singapore plays. In line with our belief that good theatre begins with good writing, we are committed to providing a platform through which we can discover and potentially develop exceptional new plays by Singaporean writers.

We are therefore thrilled to be opening an unsolicited scripts submission window **from 3 March to 31 April 2025**.

This is a way for us to meet new writers, get a feel for what's energising writers today, and open artistic conversations with writers in the hopes of getting their work on stage down the line.

We are very excited to be partnering with Centre 42, who will help manage the reading process. Wild Rice will be tapping into Centre 42's diverse network of writers, dramaturgs, and directors to form the team of readers receiving and reading the scripts with us.

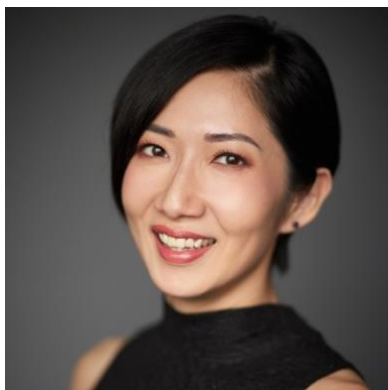
**SUBMIT YOUR SCRIPT HERE!**

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- We are only accepting scripts by Singaporeans (including PRs) and Singapore-based writers who are at least 21 years old.
- We are not accepting scripts, including new drafts, that have previously been submitted to Wild Rice.
- We can accept only one script per writer.
- We are only accepting completed, full-length works that are at least 60 minutes long. As a guide, this would be a minimum of approximately 50 pages, or 25-30 pages for a monologue.
- This year, we are accepting books for musicals. If submitting a musical, please send us the book, lyrics, and, if available, a link to an online folder containing musical demos and/or a score.
- We are not accepting adaptations, film and TV scripts, project pitches, synopses, and outlines.
- As part of your submission, please prepare a 15-page excerpt from your script. For musicals, please ensure this excerpt contains at least one song.
- Scripts must not have been professionally produced by a major presenting body, festival, or theatre company; and must not currently be under commission or option. This does not include developmental presentations such as dramatised readings.
- If you wish to submit a play written in languages other than English, please provide translations in English.
- We will also require: a CV (2 pages maximum), a short bio, and a short synopsis of the submitted play.

## VOX POPULI

In a Singapore on another branch of the multiverse, a government ministry creates Govfrey, an A.I. android. At an alarming speed, Govfrey devours local TikTok Trends, forums, podcasts and, most significantly, comments sections, as he embarks on an evolution into the ultimate SG Guy. Take a wild, unexpected ride into Smart Nation 3.0 in ***Vox Populi***, a dark, deranged dystopian comedy about online clout, artificial intelligence, and how we Singaporeans use our voices online – or don't.



### ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

**Jo Tan** is an award-winning actor and/or playwright, but most often 'and', as seen in her plays like *King*, *Forked*, and *Session Zero*. She has a somewhat international CV, with *Forked* touring the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, *Por Por's Big Fat Surprise Wedding* co-headlining Adelaide's OzAsia Festival, and dubious two-minute routines created while attending École Philippe Gaulier, a renowned clown school in France.

### FAST FACTS

<b>Playwright</b>	Jo Tan
<b>Director</b>	Adib Kosnan
<b>Cast</b>	Edward Choy, Brendon Fernandez, Grace Kalaiselvi, Dennis Sofian, Jo Tan & Zee Wong
<b>Performance Dates</b>	<b>28 – 30 March 2025</b> Fri (28 March): 8pm Sat (29 March), Sun (30 March): 3pm
<b>Ticket Price</b>	\$20
<b>Venue</b>	The Studio @ 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 3 March 2025, 12 noon
<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

## HOMEPAR

For decades, 'homepars' have been at the heart of Asia's gay party circuit – house parties in which the gay nightclub atmosphere is recreated in a living or hotel room. To power through a tough break-up and celebrate their evolving gender identity, Oliver hosts a homepar with their closest friends in the home they share with their widowed mother, Hui. But as the night rages on and more people keep showing up, the fear that plagues every homepar rears its ugly head – that knock on the door at 4am. How many secrets can the paper-thin walls of a typical Singaporean home hold? What freedoms have we already given up, even before the cops come calling? And how far would a mother go to protect her child?



### ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

**Mitchell Fang** is a theatre artist who writes, performs, and directs. He has honed his skills as a writer through playwriting programmes offered by The Necessary Stage and NTU. In 2018, *One Thousand Millennials Crying*, a play he co-wrote with Kenneth Chia, premiered at the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival. As an actor, he has worked with Nine Years Theatre, The Necessary Stage and Drama Box. He has also directed plays for Toy Factory and the Twenty-Something Festival.

### FAST FACTS

<b>Playwright</b>	Mitchell Fang
<b>Director/Cast</b>	TBC
<b>Performance Dates</b>	<b>21 or 22 June 2025</b> <i>Date &amp; Timings TBC</i>
<b>Ticket Price</b>	\$20
<b>Venue</b>	The Studio @ Wild Rice
<b>Press Contact</b>	Linda Tan ( <a href="mailto:lindatan@wildrice.com.sg">lindatan@wildrice.com.sg</a> )
<b>Public Sales</b>	TBC
<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

## kink

Two's company but three's a good time... right? *kink* explores how an innocent anniversary gift of a threesome can unfurl into a night of surprising scrutiny. Boyfriends Andrew and Daniel are forced to confront the foundation of their relationship as Jay realises that his invitation comes with some peculiar expectations.



### ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

By day, **Jaryl George Solomon** is an educator. By night, he sleeps – sometimes soundly, mostly not. His writing revolves around race, queerness and the complexities of being big. Jaryl is the co-founder and poetry editor of Mahogany Journal, Singapore's only literary journal dedicated to celebrating +65 South Asian voices.

### FAST FACTS

<b>Playwright</b>	Jaryl George Solomon
<b>Director</b>	Thomas Lim
<b>Cast</b>	TBC
<b>Performance Dates</b>	<b>21 or 22 June 2025</b> <i>Date &amp; Timings TBC</i>
<b>Ticket Price</b>	\$20
<b>Venue</b>	The Studio @ Wild Rice
<b>Press Contact</b>	Linda Tan ( <a href="mailto:lindatan@wildrice.com.sg">lindatan@wildrice.com.sg</a> )
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# MUNDUR SINGAPURA: THE SECOND WAVE OF QUEER SINGAPOREAN THEATRE

*Mundur Singapura: The Second Wave of Queer Singaporean Theatre* is a kaleidoscopic romp through the *rabak* 90s and early noughties of queer plays, mapped against the backdrop of loosening restrictions, daring experimentation and parliamentary debates about Section 377A.

This dramatised reading is presented in collaboration with Centre 42, as part of its The Vault series, and is a sequel to [Desert Blooms: The Dawn of Queer Singaporean Theatre](#).



## ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

**Ng Yi-Sheng** is a writer, researcher and activist with a keen interest in the forgotten histories of Singapore and Southeast Asia. His books include *Lion City* (winner of the Singapore Literature Prize) and *SQ21: Singapore Queers in the 21st Century*, as well as the forthcoming children's book *Twisted Temasek* and novel *Utama* (shortlisted for the Epigram Books Fiction Prize). He has written plays like *The Last Temptation of Stamford Raffles* (Wild Rice) and crafted lecture performances such as *Desert Blooms: The Dawn of Queer Singaporean Theatre* (the prequel to *Mundur Singapura*). He tweets and Instagrams at @yishkabob.

## FAST FACTS

<b>Playwright</b>	Ng Yi-Sheng
<b>Director/Cast</b>	TBC
<b>Performance Dates</b>	<b>21 – 22 November 2025</b> <i>Timings TBC</i>
<b>Ticket Price</b>	\$20
<b>Venue</b>	The Studio @ Wild Rice
<b>Press Contact</b>	Linda Tan ( <a href="mailto:lindatan@wildrice.com.sg">lindatan@wildrice.com.sg</a> )
<b>Public Sales</b>	TBC
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