



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LA CAGE AUX FOLLES SET TO LIGHT UP THE VICTORIA THEATRE!

3 January 2017 – Come April 2017, WILD RICE will bring the best of Broadway to the Victoria Theatre with its brand-new production of *La Cage Aux Folles*.

Dazzling in wit and spectacle, this award-winning musical charmed audiences and critics alike when it first played at the Esplanade Theatre in 2012. The Straits Times described *La Cage Aux Folles* as a show “oozing unabashed joy, a passion for life and an unerring belief that the best of times is now”.

In 2013, *La Cage Aux Folles* took home the Straits Times Life! Theatre Award for Production of the Year (Readers’ Choice). It was also nominated for Production of the Year, Best Actor (Ivan Heng) and Best Costume Design (Frederick Lee).

“The message of *La Cage Aux Folles* is timeless and one that we need more than ever today,” explains Glen Goei, Associate Artistic Director of WILD RICE, who is returning to helm this production. “In these strange and turbulent times we live in, *La Cage* reminds us of the value of embracing diversity and seeing things from a different perspective.”

To re-imagine *La Cage Aux Folles* for an increasingly divided world, Goei has assembled a crack team of designers who are among the very best Singapore’s theatre scene has to offer. The show will feature music direction by Elaine Chan, choreography by Lisa Keegan, sets by Eucien Chia, lighting by Mac Chan, costumes by Frederick Lee, hair by Ashley Lim and make-up by The Make Up Room.

Ivan Heng, Artistic Director of WILD RICE, will be leading the company of *La Cage Aux Folles* in the lead role of Albin – a family man by day who transforms into Zaza, a glittering cabaret star, by night.

He is thrilled to have the opportunity to revisit one of the most electric and fascinating characters in all of musical theatre.

“Albin’s story in *La Cage Aux Folles* is so powerful because it resonates with everyone,” he explains. “It’s about the sacrifices made in the name of family and unconditional love – themes familiar with parents and children all over the world!”

Playing the lead role of George opposite Heng will be Sean Ghazi, one of Malaysia’s brightest stars. After winning the Singapore Fame Awards in 1995, Sean has performed all over the world, from America to London and Germany, and has sung with top international acts such as Pink Martini and Elaine Paige. *La Cage Aux Folles* marks his return to Singapore theatre after 19 years.

Providing much of the show’s comic relief are some of the region’s best performers, including veteran actors like Hossan Leong, Darius Tan, Jo Tan and Dwayne Lau; and



promising talents such as Aaron Khaled, Frances Lee, Mae Elliessa and Erwin Shah Ismail. Eight incredible dancers will transform into Les Cagelles – a chorus line of tall, gorgeous showgirls who will set the stage alight with their singing and dancing.

Close to 35 years since it premiered on Broadway, *La Cage Aux Folles* is as relevant today as it ever was with its themes of family, love, acceptance and being true to oneself. Featuring Harvey Fierstein's sparkling script and Jerry Herman's classic songs (including *I Am What I Am* and *The Best of Times*), WILD RICE's unmissable production of *La Cage Aux Folles* will demonstrate precisely why the show remains a musical comedy classic.

Tickets to *La Cage Aux Folles* go on sale via SISTIC on 16 January 2017. Patrons are encouraged to purchase tickets promptly so as to take full advantage of a brand-new scheme that incentivises early booking.

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS

25% Super Early Bird

16 January – 8 February 2017

15% Early Bird

9 February – 1 March 2017

10% Last-Minute Bird

2 – 22 March 2017

On 16 January 2017, our website for *LA CAGE AUX FOLLES* will go live! Watch for it at <http://lacage.sg>.

LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

Ladies and Gentlemen, OPEN YOUR EYES!

You have arrived at **LA CAGE**, a fabulous nightclub in the heart of Tanjong Pagar. Here, George is your charming host and Albin, his long-time partner, headlines the world-famous cabaret as glamorous diva Zaza.

Life is beautiful, until George's son, Jonathan, announces his plan to marry the daughter of Mr. C.K. Tan, an ultra-conservative politician hell-bent on shutting down the colourful local nightlife.

When Jonathan brings his future in-laws home to 'meet the parents', the bonds of family are put to the test and the feather boas fly!

Winner of 11 Tony Awards and one of Broadway's biggest hits, WILD RICE's **La Cage Aux Folles** was staged in 2012 to standing ovations and was awarded the Straits Times Readers' Choice Award for 'Production of the Year'.

This new production is directed by Glen Goei and features a star-studded company led by Ivan Heng. With a glorious score featuring songs like *I Am What I Am* and *The Best of Times*, **La Cage Aux Folles** is a funny and heartwarming musical about one family's struggle to stay together, stay fabulous and, above all else, stay true to themselves!

DON'T BLINK, DARLINGS! Book your tickets now or you'll miss the musical extravaganza of the year!



REVIEWS

“... an entire Jurong Bird Park’s worth of exotic feathers in this show eventually peel back to reveal a strong, beating heart, melding unforced sweetness with a pointed political statement.”

SPH The Straits Times

“Electric, feisty, and fun, *La Cage Aux Folles* is an entertaining and heart-warming musical with unforgettable performances, fine actors, and music that will have you humming for days. Under all the sequins and corsets, *La Cage Aux Folles* is a musical with a big heart, and we cannot recommend it highly enough.”

InSing.com

“What stood out... were family, filial piety and acceptance – themes that would resonate with all audiences. *La Cage* makes you re-think about the sacrifices parents make for a child and accepting people for who they are – feather boas and all.”

AsiaOne

“*La Cage Aux Folles* dazzles not just through its spectacular sets, lights, costumes and songs, but also through a heart-warming story about families, love and acceptance that inspires thought and reflection in so many ways.”

Yahoo! Singapore

“With its affirming message set in ways that are not clichéd, it was no wonder the cast got a standing ovation from nearly the entire audience during its curtain call. You will too, seeing how such a seemingly antiquated play will touch you and make you want to scream, ‘Hey world, I am what I am!’”

XinMSN



2013 M1-THE STRAITS TIMES LIFE! THEATRE AWARDS

Production of the Year (Readers' Choice)

NOMINATIONS

Production of the Year

Best Actor – Ivan Heng

Best Costume Design – Frederick Lee



FAST FACTS

Title	:	<i>LA CAGE AUX FOLLES</i>
Book	:	Harvey Fierstein
Music & Lyrics	:	Jerry Herman
Director	:	Glen Goei
Music Direction	:	Elaine Chan
Choreography	:	Lisa Keegan
Cast	:	Ivan Heng as Albin/Zaza Sean Ghazi as George Hossan Leong as Jacob/Claudine Aaron Khaled as Jonathan Darius Tan as C.K. Tan Jo Tan as Mrs. Tan Frances Lee as Jacqueline Mae Elliessa as Anne Erwin Shah Ismail as Francis Dwayne Lau Crenshaw Yeo & The Cagelles!
Set Design	:	Eucien Chia
Lighting Design	:	Mac Chan
Sound Design	:	Joel Manuel Fernandez
Costume Design	:	Frederick Lee
Hair Design	:	Ashley Lim
Make-Up Design	:	The Make Up Room
Producer	:	Tony Trickett
Venue	:	Victoria Theatre
Show Dates	:	19 April – 13 May 2017
Advisory	:	16 and above (Some Homosexual Content)



- Ticketing Agent : SISTIC.com Pte Ltd
SISTIC Hotline (65) 6348-5555
SISTIC Website www.sistic.com.sg
SISTIC Authorised Agents
- Ticket Prices : S\$50 – S\$80
(Previews: 19 & 20 April, 8pm)
S\$60 – S\$100
(Tue, Wed & Thu 8pm)
S\$70 – S\$120
(Fri & Sat 8pm, Sat & Sun 3pm)
Prices exclude \$4 SISTIC handling fee
- Early Bird Discounts : **25% Super Early Bird**
16 January – 8 February 2017
15% Early Bird
6 February – 1 March 2017
10% Last-Minute Bird
2 – 22 March 2017
- Corporate & Group Deals : For bookings of 20 or more tickets, please contact
Ross Toh at 6292-2685 or sales@wildrice.com.sg.
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APPENDIX I ABOUT *LA CAGE AUX FOLLES*

La Cage Aux Folles is an award-winning musical with a book by Harvey Fierstein and music and lyrics by Jerry Herman. Based on Jean Poiret's 1973 play of the same name (which also inspired Hollywood film *The Birdcage*), *La Cage Aux Folles* first opened on Broadway in 1983 to resounding critical acclaim.

Over three decades, the show has enjoyed considerable success on Broadway. The landmark first production received nine Tony Award nominations and won six awards, including Best Musical, Best Score and Best Book. The musical has since been revived twice on Broadway – in 2004 and 2010 – and won the Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical both times. In total, *La Cage Aux Folles* has won 11 Tony Awards over its three Broadway productions.

WILD RICE's spectacular production of *La Cage Aux Folles* in 2012 was a hit with audiences and critics alike. In relocating the story to Singapore, director Glen Goei found new meaning and fresh life in this heartwarming tale of unconditional love and family values.

Come April 2017, WILD RICE will once again re-imagine *La Cage Aux Folles* for a new generation of audiences. Iconic songs like *I Am What I Am* and *The Best of Times* will soar through the Victoria Theatre as this beloved musical encourages one and all to celebrate the fact that *life's not worth a damn, 'til you can say, "I am what I am!"*

APPENDIX II SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS



WILD RICE LTD IS A RECIPIENT OF THE NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL'S MAJOR GRANT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2016 TO 31 MARCH 2019.

APPENDIX III CAST BIOGRAPHIES

IVAN HENG as Albin/Zaza

One of Singapore's most prominent and dynamic creative personalities, Ivan is the founder and artistic director of WILD RICE, Singapore's leading professional theatre company. Under his leadership, the company is today at the vanguard of creating theatre with a distinctive Singaporean voice. In a pioneering career spanning over two decades, Ivan has directed and acted in many landmark Singapore theatre productions that have been performed in theatres and at festivals in more than 20 cities around the world. Ivan was the Creative Director of the 2009 National Day Parade and the 2010 Youth Olympic Games' Opening and Closing Ceremonies. In 2013, Ivan was conferred the Cultural Medallion, Singapore's highest cultural award.

SEAN GHAZI as George

Sean has worked in Europe, Southeast Asia and the United States on stage, screen and in music. He played the title role in *P. Ramlee The Musical* in Kuala Lumpur, his biggest role to date. West End credits include Thuy in *Miss Saigon*, Angel in *RENT* & Lun Tha in *The King and I* at the London Palladium with Elaine Paige. Film credits include Paul in *C.O.G*, starring Jonathan Groff; and Balat in *Anna and the King*, with Jodie Foster and Chow Yun Fat. Following the release of his album, *Semalam*, Sean performed with Pink Martini at the Hollywood Bowl, the Seattle Symphony and, most recently, The Esplanade. This is for Tony!

HOSSAN LEONG as Jacob/Claudine

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', Hossan is a consummate performer whose skills include singing, dancing, acting, piano playing, and stand-up comedy. For the lowdown on Hossan, follow him on [FB.com/HossanLeongOfficial](https://www.facebook.com/HossanLeongOfficial); Instagram & Twitter: @hossanleong; and www.doubleconfirm.sg.

AARON KHALED as Jonathan

Aaron is a versatile singer, pianist, violinist, dancer and actor who began his training at the age of six. He studied music for two years at the prestigious Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Russia. He attended the Australian International Conservatorium of Music in Sydney on a full scholarship, graduating with a BA in Music (Performance). Aaron's theatre credits include *Follow the Light*, *Cabaret*, *The Secret Life of Nora*, *Romeo & Juliet* and, most recently, Pangdemonium's *RENT*, in which he played Angel. He is no stranger to television, having performed in numerous commercials and local shows such as *Interns* on Suria. Aaron is thrilled to work with WILD RICE once again!

DARIUS TAN as C.K. Tan

A seasoned, versatile and effectively bilingual actor/singer, Darius has performed in over 60 productions on stage and screen. Nominated thrice as Best Supporting Actor at the Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards, he recently shared the Best Ensemble Award with the cast of Nine Years Theatre's critically acclaimed *Twelve Angry Men* (2014). Notable WILD RICE credits include the recent *Monkey Goes West*, *Jack & the Bean-Sprout!*, *Aladdin*, *Cinderel-LAH!*, *Beauty & The Beast* and *Beauty World*. Other productions include *Liao Zhai Rocks!*, *Tartuffe*, *Ah Boys To Men: The Musical*, *Army Daze* and the inaugural *Forbidden City*. Darius is represented by FLY Entertainment. He will next be seen in Dream Academy's *Detention Katong*.

JO TAN as Mrs. Tan

Jo is a multi-lingual host, singer and player of multi-national characters on screens of various sizes (small screen, big screen and computer screen) for theatre projects that have travelled as far as New York, London and Korea. As a writer, she has a play in development with Saga Seed Theatre and has contributed scripts to the Esplanade's Flipside Festival and Dream Academy's *Happy Ever Laughter*. She spent over a year in Paris on a National Arts Council residency, studying under Master Clown Philippe Gaulier and receiving many Chinese burns. She's worked several times with WILD RICE – mostly on its pantomimes – so doing *La Cage* this year feels a lot like Christmas!

FRANCES LEE as Jacqueline

A rising star in the theatre scene, Frances recently clinched the title of 'Best Newcomer' in StyleXStyle's 2016 Trailblazer Awards. She was nominated for Best Actress for her performance as Helen in Pangdemonium's *Fat Pig* (2014), as well as Best Supporting Actress for her portrayal of Rosemary Joseph in Dick Lee's *Beauty World* (2015). Other nominations include Best Ensemble for her work in *Tribes* (Pangdemonium) and *Normal* (Checkpoint). Last seen in *Monkey Goes West* (WILD RICE), her other theatre credits include *RENT* (Pangdemonium), *Broadway Beng: 10th Anniversary Concert* (Dream Academy) and *Liao Zhai Rocks!* (The Theatre Practice).

MAE ELLIESSA as Anne

Mae is thrilled to be making her debut on the Singapore stage. Last seen in Dama Orchestra's *Larger Than Life* (2014), Mae has since dedicated her time to studying psychology. She is relieved to have the opportunity to dive back into her affair with the stage. Recent credits include Farah Sulaiman's *Broadway Bites* (2012) and PAN Productions' *Wizard of Oz* (2012), *The Producers* (2013) and *Merrily We Roll Along* (2014).

ERWIN SHAH ISMAIL as Francis

Erwin graduated from LASALLE College of the Arts with a BA (Hons) in Acting. He is a trilingual stage and screen actor, voice-over artist, singer and musician. He shares the Life! Theatre Award for Best Ensemble for *Dark Room x8* and was nominated twice for

Best Supporting Actor. Theatre credits include *Romeo & Juliet* (WILD RICE); *Othello* (SRT); *天冷就回来* (The Theatre Practice); *The Last Bull: A Life in Flamenco* (Checkpoint); *Kulit On The Go* (Teater Ekamatra), *RENT*, *Spring Awakening* (Pangdemonium); *Lord of the Flies*, *Boom* (Sightlines); *Café*, *Mosaic* (Take Off); and *Dark Room x8*, *Yusof*, *Off Centre* and *National Broadway Company* (Esplanade).

DWAYNE LAU (Ensemble)

Dwayne graduated from the NUS Theatre Studies Programme (Hons) in 2007 and currently runs the Drama Department at his church. He is the drama coach at Saint Anthony's Canossian Secondary School and Meridian Junior College. His stage credits include I Theatre's *You Are Special*; STAGES' *Broadway for Suakus*; WILD RICE's *Hansel & Gretel* and *HOTEL*; The Necessary Stage's *Pioneer (Girls) Generation* and SRT's *Treasure Island*. His playwriting credits include I Theatre's *Ashputtel – The Story of Cinderella* and *Brave Maeve*, a musical staged in 2013 to raise funds for the Children's Cancer Foundation.

CRENSHAW YEO (Ensemble)

Crenshaw graduated from LASALLE College of the Arts with a BA (Hons) in Musical Theatre. While at LASALLE, he played diverse roles, from Luigi Gaudi in *Lucky Stiff* and Roy Cohn in Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Angels in America* to Myron Hasler in *The Pajama Game*. Crenshaw's professional credits include playing Yong Nyuk Lin in *The LKY Musical*, Richard Gan in *Emily the Musical* and Town Mouse in *The Friendship of Town Mouse and Country Mouse*. Most recently, he was part of the ensemble in Pangdemonium's *RENT*. When not performing in shows, Crenshaw teaches musical theatre and singing.

APPENDIX IV CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

HARVEY FIERSTEIN – Book

Harvey Fierstein is an American playwright and actor. His book for *La Cage Aux Folles* won the Tony Award for Best Book of a Musical in 1984. He also wrote the books for musicals such as *Kinky Boots*, *Newsies* and *A Catered Affair*. Other Broadway writing credits include *Torch Song Trilogy* and *Casa Valentina*. As an actor, Mr. Fierstein has won the Tony Award twice for his starring roles in *Torch Song Trilogy* and *Hairspray*. He stepped into Albin/Zaza's shoes for the most recent Broadway revival of *La Cage Aux Folles* and reprised the role of Edna Turnblad for *Hairspray Live!* in December 2016.

JERRY HERMAN – Music & Lyrics

Jerry Herman is an American composer and lyricist, best known for his work in musical theatre. He composed the scores for several hit Broadway musicals, including *Hello, Dolly!*, *Mame* and *Mack & Mabel*. He has been nominated for the Tony Award five times, and won twice for *La Cage Aux Folles* and *Hello, Dolly!*. In 2009, Mr. Herman received the Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre. He is a recipient of the 2010 Kennedy Center Honors, and was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1982.

GLEN GOEI – Director

Glen's substantial body of work encompasses a wide range of the performing arts, including theatre, film, parades and world expos. Highlights include his Olivier Award-nominated performance in the title role of *M. Butterfly* opposite Anthony Hopkins in London's West End; and his critically acclaimed feature films, *Forever Fever* and *The Blue Mansion*. Goei has also made significant contributions to Singapore's theatre scene. Since 2002, Goei has served as the Associate Artistic Director of WILD RICE, for which he has directed hits such as *HOTEL*, *Public Enemy*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Cook a Pot of Curry*, *Emily of Emerald Hill* and *Boeing Boeing*.

ELAINE CHAN – Music Director

This award-winning music director/composer/arranger/vocal coach has music-directed, composed and arranged for several major musicals on the Singapore stage, notably: most of WILD RICE's pantomimes, the fabulous RICE BALLS and *La Cage Aux Folles* (2012); Toy Factory's *December Rains*, *881 The Musical* and *Glass Anatomy*; and Dream Academy's *Into the Woods*, *Dim Sum Dollies* and *Broadway Beng*. She has also produced arrangements and orchestrations for the National Day Parade (2013, 2005), MOE's *Youth Celebrate!* and Mediacorp's *The Dance Floor*. Her scores for *Cinderel-LAH!* (2010) and *Monkey Goes West* (2015) were nominated for Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards.

LISA KEEGAN – Choreographer

Lisa has over 30 years of experience as a performer and choreographer. To date, she has choreographed more shows than she can count and created some of Asia's largest and most prestigious events, providing artistic direction as well as costume/music design and choreography. Keegan has worked alongside top international artists, including Whitney Houston, Elton John, Andrea Bocelli, Céline Dion and Vanessa Mae. She has choreographed shows in venues like Beijing's Bird's Nest Stadium, Wembley Arena, Barcelona's Museu Nacional d'Art and The Esplanade. She credits her style of work to her diverse and international training in different dance forms and to the talented people and performers she works with.

EUCIEN CHIA – Set Designer

Eucien is thrilled to be working on *La Cage Aux Folles* and *Boeing Boeing* with WILD RICE, after previously collaborating on *Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs* and *The Emperor's New Clothes*. Selected Musicals: *RENT*, *Little Voice*, *Spring Awakening* (Pangdemonium); *Superhero Diaries*, *Shanghai Blues* (Toy Factory); *H is for Hantu* (STAGES); *Sing To The Dawn* (I Theatre). Selected Plays: *The Pillowman*, *Chinglish*, *Fat Pig* (Pangdemonium); *Normal* (Checkpoint). Selected Events: National Day Parade 2007 (Set & Floats at Marina Bay); *disSPACEments* (Singapore Arts Festival 2008). Awards: Straits Times Life! Best Set Design for *Company* (Dream Academy), *December Rains* (Toy Factory) and *Dealer's Choice* (Pangdemonium).

MAC CHAN – Lighting Designer

Mac's work in theatre lighting design has taken him around the world, from Malaysia to Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, the US, South Africa and Australia. He has served as the lighting designer for Singapore's National Day Parade five times: from 2009 to 2012 and, most recently, in 2016. Major theatre credits include *Puteri Gunung Ledang The Musical* (Enfiniti Productions, 2006) and *Cabaret* (Toy Factory, 2009). His work with WILD RICE includes *La Cage Aux Folles* (2012), *Emily of Emerald Hill* (2011) and *Beauty World* (2008). He is a proud member of OISTAT (International Organisation of Scenographers, Theatre Architects and Technicians) under UNESCO.

FREDERICK LEE – Costume Designer

Frederick's *couture* fashion-as-performance-art theatricality has made him one of Singapore's most sought-after designers. Innovatively using non-traditional materials to realise his extraordinary vision, Lee's award-winning work often pushes the envelope on fashion design as we know it. Apart from Frederick Bridal, his own *couture* boutique, he has designed costumes for the National Day Parade as well as the 2010 Youth Olympics Games in Singapore. To support his friends in the theatre, Lee has designed costumes for the likes of WILD RICE's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Dream Academy's *Dim Sum Dollies* and The Theatre Practice's *If There're Seasons*. He has won two Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards for Best Costume Design.

JOEL MANUEL FERNANDEZ – Sound Designer

Joel began his career as part of the sound crew for Singapore's Disney Fest in 1997. That same year, he worked on his first professional musical, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Joel has been an integral part of the sound team for several local music festivals, such as the Esplanade's Mosaic Music Festival and Baybeats. This is his third major production with WILD RICE, after serving as the sound engineer for *HOTEL* in both 2015 and 2016. Joel is also the proud father of five-year-old social media sensation Ayra Fernandez.

ASHLEY LIM – Hair Designer

Ashley started his hairstyling career in 1986 and set up Ashley Salon in 1999 to further pursue his dedication towards the art of hairdressing, especially for the theatre. Since 1987, he has worked on over 300 productions locally and abroad. He is privileged to be widely recognised by the local theatre community as a veteran in his artistry. Some of Lim's most memorable creations include his headpieces for *Forbidden City* and *Monkey Goes West*. Recent credits include *HOTEL* and *Grandmother Tongue* at WILD RICE's 2016 Singapore Theatre Festival; The Theatre Practice's *Liao Zhai Rocks!* and Dream Academy's *Broadway Beng: 10th Anniversary Concert*. He recently took home the Lifetime Achievement Award for Theatre, presented by Mediacorp.

THE MAKE UP ROOM – Make-Up Designer

Comprising Bobbie Ng and Low Jyue Huey, The Make Up Room has been passionately involved in designing make-up for local theatre productions for the past 13 years. Some of The Make Up Room's recent projects include WILD RICE's *Monkey Goes West*, Dream Academy's *Broadway Beng*, SRT's *Romeo & Juliet*, Toy Factory's *Kumarajiva*, The Theatre Practice's *Liao Zhai Rocks!*, the 2016 National Day Parade and various shows at the 2016 Singapore International Festival of Arts. Their make-up artistry also extends to weddings and an academy through which they share their skills and knowledge with aspiring make-up artists.

TONY TRICKETT – Producer

Born in Liverpool, Tony Trickett moved to Singapore from the UK in 1997. Prior to joining WILD RICE, he worked as a management consultant, specialising in leadership coaching and team development for multi-national companies. Trickett acted as a consultant in the establishment of WILD RICE and became a director of the company in 2001. In August 2002, he was appointed Executive Director, responsible for the overall management of the company. Trickett is the producer for all WILD RICE shows, both in Singapore and abroad. He also produced the acclaimed 2006, 2008, 2011, 2013 and 2016 Singapore Theatre Festivals, which he conceived together with Artistic Director Ivan Heng.

APPENDIX V ABOUT WILD RICE

WILD RICE was founded in 2000 by Ivan Heng, an internationally acclaimed and award-winning theatre practitioner, and is recognised today as one of Singapore's leading professional theatre companies.

Its mission is to provide an open forum for the shared experience of theatre: celebrating our diversity, reflecting on the problems and possibilities of our times, and presenting productions that inspire, challenge and entertain.

A commitment to the highest standards informs every aspect of WILD RICE's creative work, which is first and foremost a celebration of Singapore's theatrical talent. By producing and touring productions that are distinctively local in flavour and yet universal in vision and concerns, the company creates memorable experiences for audiences in Singapore and across the world.

The company's exciting and varied programming for the main stage includes:

- New and original works;
- New productions of the Singapore repertoire; and
- New interpretations of world classics.

The company's mission to build a theatre culture also extends to the wider community through the following divisions:

- FIRST STAGE!, a project that nurtures young talents from the ages of 5 to 12; and
- young & WILD, which identifies and develops Singapore's young theatre professionals.

WILD RICE is committed to touring its shows internationally to raise the profile of Singapore theatre, to create an international awareness of its unique productions, and to engage its artists and collaborators in creative dialogues with the international arts community. Its distinctively Singaporean productions have won great acclaim in major international arts festivals in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Macau, Malaysia, New Zealand and Russia.

In August 2006, WILD RICE presented the inaugural Singapore Theatre Festival, an event dedicated to celebrating contemporary Singaporean theatre through the development and presentation of new and original local writing. Over 10 years and five editions, the Festival has collaborated with local theatre companies and artists to present 32 productions, including 19 world premieres, of new local writing. In 2013, the Festival launched 'In The Spotlight' to present a season dedicated to the works of a single local playwright. The Festival has been hailed as "the main event in the world of the arts" (SPH The Straits Times) and the "Blockbuster Event of the Year" (TODAY).