

WILD
RICE

SCHOOLED

OUR TURN

SARAH SYAZLINA, EWAN LIM
& BJÖRN HAAKENSON

FIRST
EDITION



|| To Teach ||

Seth Arri Azhar
Elizabeth Rei Ando
Sebastian Street

You

ERIN CHEN
ZOE ROWE
EVANGEL WONG



• A LESSON •

Madeline Yeo
Chloe Choo
Rayen Hovinga

SYT
BOOKS

17 – 20 DECEMBER 2020

THE NGE E ANN KONGSI THEATRE @ WILD RICE

Revolutions happen. Governments change. The one thing that has stayed the same throughout the course of human history? Adults always think they know better than the young.

But that's not necessarily true. There are so many lessons that grown-ups can afford to learn from the young people who will one day run the world.

Schooled is a devised theatre production written and conceptualised by the 12 fearless young theatre-makers in Wild Rice's inaugural Singapore Youth Theatre ensemble. Over the course of the past year, they have learnt to write, perform and make theatre in order to tell their own stories.

This is their message to the adults. And it's time for us to shut up, sit down, and start taking notes...

IMDA Advisory: 16 (Some Mature Content)

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

When we started building our theatre in 2017, we envisaged putting together a comprehensive youth and education programme – one that would fulfil Wild Rice's mission of developing the theatre talents and audiences of tomorrow.

We realised then that there was a gap between our First Stage and Young & Wild programmes. Once children graduated from the former at the age of 12, they were at a loss for the next several years, since the minimum age limit for Young & Wild is 18.

We started thinking about what we could do for, and more importantly with, teenagers. These young people are at a special time in their lives – when they are beginning to discover who they are, gain awareness about the society we live in, and imagine and contribute to the world they will inherit.

And so, Singapore Youth Theatre was born.

With this programme, we set out to create a safe space where young people can experiment, learn and grow through working with one another. Over the past year, we have offered them a home where they can create work that speaks to and for their generation.

What you will see today is due in no small part to Thomas Lim and his passionate Youth & Education team, including Ezzat Alkaff and Shalyn Yong. Thank you for your vision and your devotion to creating meaningful learning opportunities for children and young people.

A heartfelt thank you, too, to our inaugural Singapore Youth Theatre ensemble for participating in our foundational programme, and for inspiring and challenging us all in *Schooled*.

Last, but certainly not least, thank YOU for being in the audience for this new and original work. Apart from school shows, it's not often that young people are authentically represented on stage, telling their stories in their own words. Thank you for coming to support this young company; to listen, and quite possibly, to learn something about ourselves and our future.



IVAN HENG

Founding Artistic Director
Wild Rice

ABOUT SINGAPORE YOUTH THEATRE



Wild Rice's Singapore Youth Theatre programme inspires, educates and empowers young people from the ages of 13 to 17 through the shared experience of theatre.

In learning how to write, direct and act for the stage, our Singapore Youth Theatre members make and present theatre that speaks to and for their generation.

Helmed by Thomas Lim (Wild Rice's Associate Artistic Director for Youth & Education) in partnership with industry professionals, Singapore Youth Theatre nurtures the next generation of creative, engaged and socially aware artists and audiences.

If you, or someone you know, would like to be a part of Singapore Youth Theatre, we will be holding auditions over the next few weeks! No prior acting or theatre experience is necessary.

Find out more [here!](#)

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Over the last decade, the world has witnessed movements powered and led by young people. In the US, they marched for gun reform. In the UK, they organised demonstrations against Brexit. In Hong Kong, they protested against the proposed extradition bill. All over the world, young people have rallied together to demand action on the Climate Crisis.

In Singapore, the laws and political environment are quite different. And so, we don't see big demonstrations or protests on that scale. Nonetheless, through my interactions with these

12 young artists, it was very clear that they, too, have very strong opinions and ideas about the country and world we live in.

Rather than having them perform a play that had already been written, we decided to devise something from scratch, so that they could make their voices heard through the stories they want to tell.

Schooled represents some of the innermost thoughts, ideas and dreams of these 12 young theatre-makers. I've had the privilege of witnessing their process of negotiating, debating and charting their hopes for what a better world would look like. I often found myself thinking that I, too, would like to live in that world.



THOMAS LIM

Associate Artistic Director
Youth & Education

OUR CAST



ELIZABETH REI ANDO

Elizabeth, 17, is inspired by theatre to tell and share stories. Despite her affinity and love for the theatre, Elizabeth's favourite subjects are Chemistry and Biology, and she dreams of becoming a surgeon. However, that dream won't stop her love of acting, as the theatre will always be a part of her.

Key Takeaway from Singapore Youth Theatre

Theatre isn't simply about acting – it's about devising, embodying and understanding the work, the script and the characters, and bringing their voices, stories and opinions to life.



SETH ARRI AZHAR

Humorous, inquisitive and sociable, Seth – who originally came from a sports background – was inspired by his teachers to pursue theatre. Having just finished his O-Levels, Seth is excited for the next chapter in his life, as he moves towards achieving his aspirations of being a professional actor and drama educator.

Most Memorable Experience in Singapore Youth Theatre

The very first session has really stayed with me. It's when we all discussed what we wanted to get out of this programme and what it would be – we realised that, although we all came from very different backgrounds, we were all working towards the same goal.



ERIN CHEN

Erin is currently a Year 5 theatre student at School of the Arts Singapore. Professional performance credits include TheatreWorks' *The Book of Mothers* and Mediacorp's *Say Cheese*. She is grateful to be part of the Singapore Youth Theatre programme, and treasures the experience of having stepped outside of her comfort zone to help devise this original piece.

Most Memorable Theatre Experience

Travelling Light – a school production I was involved in earlier this year. It was special because it was an original play written, directed and performed by my classmates and me. It addressed the treatment of refugees, which is a very important issue.



CHLOE CHOO

Chloe is bubbly, all-rounded, loves science and is a triple threat. Since the age of six, she has been singing, dancing and acting. To date, she's performed in three Wild Rice pantomimes as well as Pandemonium's *Fun Home* (2017). Chloe enjoys learning in all forms, and looks forward to continuing her journey academically and in the theatre.

Key Takeaway from Singapore Youth Theatre

I've learnt to always keep an open mind and to never be so quick to reject an idea, because we could miss some hidden gems that come from exploring it!



BJÖRN HAAKENSEN

Björn is a 16-year-old theatre practitioner who has an avid interest in the performing arts. His theatre credits include *Monkey Goes West* and *The Emperor's New Clothes* (Wild Rice); *Fun Home* (Pangdemonium); *Requiem For Change* (Singapore American School) and *Peter Pan* (SingTheatre).

Key Takeaway from Singapore Youth Theatre

There is always more I can do to improve – and that's both in theatre productions and out of them! A sword is never fully sharpened. Like our skills as theatre-makers, it can keep becoming better.



RAYEN HOVINGA

Rayen, 14, is a cheerful and sociable person. In school, he's part of the Chinese Drama Club. Professionally, he has performed on TV and in theatre – most notably as John in Wild Rice's production of *Peter Pan in Serangoon Gardens* (2019). He looks forward to pursuing his studies in the Humanities while still being involved in the theatre scene.

Most Memorable Theatre Experience

Getting to perform in Peter Pan in Serangoon Gardens last year. I met so many new people and learned about just how much hard work goes into putting on a show by people you don't see on stage! And it was a delight to be able to play a character that gets to "fly" during the show!



EWAN LIM

Ewan is an energetic and all-rounded individual who aspires to contribute to the scientific community whilst also engaging in the performing arts. An active member of his school's drama club, Ewan has performed at The Esplanade, as part of the socially conscious 2019 M1 Peer Pleasure Youth Theatre Festival, which explored the issue of poverty.

Most Memorable Theatre Experience

2019 was the year that really saw me grow to love theatre as much as I do now, because I had the chance to perform a piece – which took 1.5 years of devising alongside my friends – at The Esplanade! There was definitely hardship along the way, but overcoming that helped me find my passion for the art of theatre-making.



SARAH SYAZLINA

A passionate young talent who aspires to inspire, Sarah started performing when she was eight, and has been in two of Wild Rice's pantomimes: *The Emperor's New Clothes* (2015) and *Monkey Goes West* (2016). Since then, she has continued singing, dancing and acting, and aims to continuously improve and challenge herself by participating in local and international competitions.

Most Memorable Experience in Singapore Youth Theatre

Getting to write a part of the play you'll be seeing today! This was memorable because I had never written anything like it before. It was stressful but, with the help of my instructors, it was really fun too. I knew nothing about making theatre when I joined this programme, and I'm glad to have learned all that and more.



SEBASTIAN STREET

Although Sebastian is only 13 years old, he has performed in a multitude of school and professional productions. Most recently, he played Atas in Wild Rice's *Peter Pan in Serangoon Gardens*. Here, at the start of his theatrical career, Sebastian knows that this is just the beginning of a lifelong journey.

Most Memorable Theatre Experience

Getting to perform in Wild Rice's Peter Pan in Serangoon Gardens. I still remember the rewarding feeling of performing in front of an audience and thinking, "This is what I want to do for the rest of my life!"



ZOE ROWE

Zoe is very enthusiastic and passionate about the arts. She is currently 14 years old and studies theatre at School of The Arts Singapore. Her first production with Wild Rice, *Mama White Snake*, inspired her to pursue an education in the arts. Zoe is excited to be a part of Singapore Youth Theatre.

Key Takeaway from Singapore Youth Theatre

To never limit myself! In this programme, I was given many opportunities to experience all aspects of theatre-making, including directing and script-writing. This showed me that I have so much more to learn and explore in the arts.



EVANGEL WONG

Evangel's love for performance began at a young age, when she repeatedly performed her ridiculous renditions of songs for her family. When introduced to the theatre, she fell deeply in love and knew she had found her passion. Evangel currently studies at SJI-International and is the Vice-President of the Theatre Council.

Key Takeaway from Singapore Youth Theatre

When you're putting on a performance, deep meaning can be created by the smallest intentions. And, ultimately, it is up to the audience to have their own personal experiences and interpretations of a work of art.



MADELINE YEO

Madeline, 18, has actually passed the age limit of this youth programme. At seven, she migrated to Beijing, where her love for acting began. It should be noted, however, that she cannot speak Mandarin to save her life. Returning to Singapore in 2018, she continues to pursue her dreams of being on stage. Her theatre works include: this show. That's it.

Most Memorable Experience in Singapore Youth Theatre

The first time I tried directing a scene, I remember feeling disappointed at what I had created. I wanted there to be more depth, to provide some sort of commentary. I later realised that this was actually a good feeling: to want to do more. It shows how much I care for making theatre that matters to me, and it became a driving force for me to keep improving as an artist.

OUR TEAM



THOMAS LIM

Director

Thomas made his professional debut as a playwright and director with *Grandmother Tongue*, which was performed in Teochew, English and Mandarin. His sophomore work, *Supervision*, won Best Original Script at the 2019 Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards. He has worked as a drama educator in secondary schools and junior colleges across Singapore, and is currently Associate Artistic Director for Youth & Education at Wild Rice.



EZZAT ALKAFF

Assistant Director

Ezzat is an arts manager, facilitator and performer. Ezzat has taught, produced and managed projects with young people and within communities. He is the Co-Chair of the 2021 international Theatre Arts Conference, organised by the Singapore Drama Educators Association, and is the Manager of Wild Rice's Youth & Education department.



WONG CHEE WAI

Set Designer

Chee Wai is a full-time freelance set designer. He has designed for and worked with various performing arts companies in Singapore. Some of his recent works include Wild Rice's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Merdeka / 獨立 / சுதந்திரம்*, *Fair Play*, *Emily of Emerald Hill*, *Supervision*, *Mama White Snake*, *HOTEL*, *Monkey Goes West*, *Public Enemy* and *The House of Bernarda Alba*; as well as The Necessary Stage's *Those Who Can't, Teach* and Sight Lines Entertainment's *Lord of the Flies*.



TAI ZI FENG

Lighting Designer

Zi Feng is a freelance lighting designer who graduated with a B.A. (Hons) in Theatre Arts from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. Lighting design credits include: *5 Element* (Musa Sg, 2020), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Wild Rice, 2020) and *Infinite Island* (Singapore Chinese Orchestra, 2019). Scenography credits include Toy Factory's *Permanence*, *Oedipus* and *Innamorati 2*.



THERESA CHAN

Costume Designer

Theresa graduated from LASALLE College of the Arts in 2004 with a Diploma in Theatre Arts. Her forte is in wardrobe management. Over the years, Theresa has worked on countless theatre shows. She has also expanded into providing and managing costumes for film and television productions, such as *Asia's Got Talent* and Cathay Organisation's *Our Sister Mambo*. Her most recent adventure saw her opening her own costume shop - The Costume. She is thankful for all the wonderful people and opportunities that have brought her to where she is today.



VICTORIA ANNA WONG

Stage Manager

Victoria is a stage manager and production manager. Her first experience in Singapore's professional theatre industry was Wild Rice's 2008 production of *Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs*. Credits include *A Bitesize of Astronomy* (Bitesize Theatre Productions); *Both Sides Now: Songs For Tomorrow* (Drama Box); *Emily of Emerald Hill* and *La Cage Aux Folles* (Wild Rice).

CREDITS

CAST

Elizabeth Rei Ando
Seth Arri Azhar
Erin Chen
Chloe Choo
Björn Haakenson
Rayen Hovinga
Ewan Lim
Sarah Syazlina
Sebastian Street
Zoe Rowe
Evangel Wong
Madeline Yeo

CREATIVE TEAM

Devised By **The Singapore Youth Theatre Ensemble**
Director **Thomas Lim**
Assistant Director **Ezzat Alkaff**
Set Designer **Wong Chee Wai**
Lighting Designer **Tai Zi Feng**
Costume Designer **Theresa Chan**

PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer **Koh Bee Bee**
Production Manager **Melissa Teoh**
Technical Manager **David Sagaya**
Production Co-ordinator **Phua Yun Yun**
Production Assistant **Angela Ee**
Stage Manager **Victoria Anna Wong**
Assistant Stage Manager **Nurarina Nasir**
Props Mistress **Joyce Gan**
Dresser **Janette Audrey Chee**
Technicians **Ahmad Hafriz Bin Berkath & Muhammad Azhar Bin Azman**
Technical Crew **Muhammed Muzzamier & Celestine Wong**

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THANK YOU!

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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
- + New interpretations of world classics

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

- + Wild Rice Academy and First Stage, which offer drama and training programmes to nurture young talents from the ages of 5 to 12
- + Singapore Youth Theatre, which develops and empowers young people aged 13 to 17 through theatre
- + Young & Wild, which identifies and develops Singapore's young theatre professionals from the ages of 18 to 30

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.

Wild Rice @ Funan is the company's new home in the heart of Singapore's civic and cultural district. This groundbreaking performing arts complex promises to be an iconic destination theatre for Singapore, one dedicated to creating and presenting the best of Singapore theatre, while nurturing the artists and audiences of tomorrow.

WILD RICE TEAM

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Resident Playwright / Co-Artistic Director,
Singapore Theatre Festival

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Cole C Casper
Paula Craigie
Mona and Parag Desai and
Family
Derrick
Mal Das
Mark Ehrke

Almira Farid, Azura Farid and
Faizah Jamal
Fazylah
Robert Fok
Dawn Foo
Fanny Foo
Carolyn Fu
Gabriel Fu Bojun
Bob & Nantha Gattie
Charlotte Goh
Clara Goh
Galvyn Goh
Goh Hian Fong
Ashish Goyal
Paul Haakenson
Siti Rohana Hamson
Harvon and Tim
Hanrong
Mike Hewetson
William S W Ho
Matt Howe
Matthew Ing and
Olivia Loh-Ing
Elizabeth Ip
Mariam Jaafar
Jan and Sihao
J L
Travis J
Alan John
Fiona K
Joel Kek
Peggy Kek
Dr. Lana Y L Khong
Michael Koh
Serena Koh
Koh Shixin
Joyce Kok
Kok Wai Mun Jessy
Dr. Jack Tsen-Ta Lee
Joanne Lee
Kevin Lee
Lee Yean Lay
Yida Lee
Leigh
Sumerry Leonardi
Cedric Leong
Leong Fengyi
Jimmy Leong
Lucia Leong Yong Wah
Lim-Ang Family
Nat Lim
Lim Rui Sheng
Lim Seh Leng
Lim Siew Fern

Stephanie Lim
Vanessa Lim
Lim Yu-Beng
Zorine Lim
Lin Yongqing
Norman and Valerie Lockhart
Peter Loke
Lone
Sophie and Aditya Mathur
Vignesa Moorthy
Nevins-Koh Family
Gregory Ng
Ng Soo Kok
Stella Ng
Terence Ng
Tina and Jeremy Nixon
Vernie Oliveira
Ong Beng Lee
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P. Jordan Seah
Benedict SeeToh
Shirley Sim
Susan Sim
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Ms. Jane Toh Hwee Tiang
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Caroline Grant-Uhr
Sara Matilde Vachet
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Jeremy Wang
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Joanna Wong
Kai Wong
Winnie Wong
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Siti Maryam Yaakub
Weicheng Yang
Joanne Yee
Glynisia Yeo
Kelvin Yip
Yiyan
Margaret Yoong
Ms. Pat Young Siew Rang
Yves Meyer
Yvonne

**We also wish to thank our
new Angels whom, due to
printing deadlines, we have
not been able to include.**

HELP US SECURE THE FUTURE OF SINGAPORE THEATRE

Please kindly consider being an Angel.

We hope you enjoyed the show. Today, you have experienced an original work by Singapore Youth Theatre, a brand-new programme we created to inspire and empower young people to tell their stories.

If you are in a position to do so, we would greatly appreciate your support. It will help us to survive the COVID-19 crisis, and also enable us to keep doing the work we do.

As a leading Singapore theatre company, Wild Rice has blazed the trail for over two decades in the relentless pursuit of excellence.

We have created and presented the best of Singapore theatre - reaching out to more than a million audience members here and around the world, whilst nurturing and developing the artists and audiences of tomorrow. As one of the largest employers in the Singapore theatre industry, we provide gainful employment to hundreds of people, on stage and off, every year.

Last, but certainly not least, our award-winning, independently-run venue has brought unprecedented visibility and prominence to Singapore theatre, while also creating a home for the performing arts where all are welcome.

If you share our belief in the power of theatre as a force for good and for change, please consider coming on board as a Wild Rice Angel. Your support will enable us to face the future with courage and confidence, and to achieve all that we set out to do.



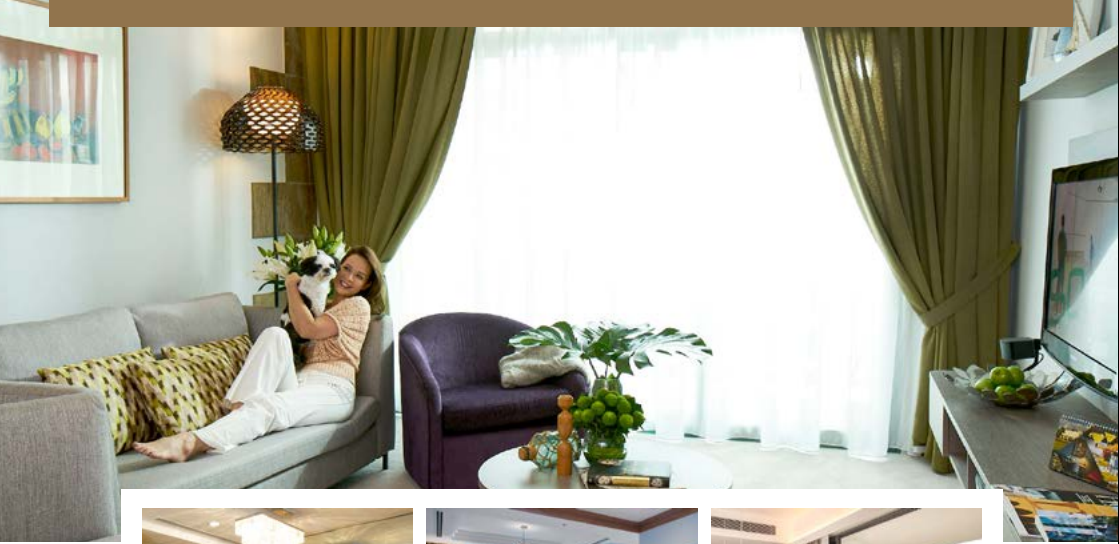
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- Meeting the Artists
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WILD RICE ACADEMY

DRAMA PROGRAMMES FOR CHILDREN

ADVENTURES IN STORYLAND

For Ages 5-8

Stories are full of magic and wonder — they can teach us about ourselves, or fly us to the moon and back.

Wild Rice Academy's *Adventures In Storyland* is a weekly drama programme for 5 to 8-year-olds that will give children the gift of stories and story-telling. This year, we are excited to go on *Adventures In Storyland* with two Singaporean writers!

Each programme features a mix of story-telling, drama skills and role-playing that will engage your child's creativity, imagination and empathy. The programme will culminate in a showcase of their little creations!

[Click Here to Find Out More](#)

[Sign Up Now!](#)

January Term

15 Weeks, Begins 9 Jan 2021
Saturdays

5-6 year-olds
9.30am - 11am

7-8 year-olds
11.30am - 1pm

July Term

13 Weeks, Begins 3 Jul 2021
Saturdays

5-6 year-olds
9.30am - 11am

7-8 year-olds
11.30am - 1pm



wildrice.com.sg/children



+65 8876 3524 (WhatsApp)



academy@wildrice.com.sg



WILD RICE ACADEMY

DRAMA PROGRAMMES FOR CHILDREN

ACTS OF IMAGINATION For Ages 9-12

Making theatre is a thrilling adventure that gives us new ways in which to think and talk about the world.

In this programme for 9 to 12-year-olds, children learn to make and perform theatre under the guidance of industry professionals. This year, we are excited to introduce two new modules - *Devising Performance* (January Term) and *Performing Comedy* (July Term)!

Each programme will focus on a set of skills comprising a mix of acting, expression and scene creation that will stretch your child's creativity, empathy and reflective thinking. The programme will culminate in a showcase for parents and invited guests.

[Click Here to Find Out More](#)

[Sign Up Now!](#)

January Term

15 Weeks, Begins 9 Jan 2021
Saturdays

9-10 year-olds
2pm - 3.30pm

11-12 year-olds
4pm - 5.30pm

July Term

13 Weeks, Begins 3 Jul 2021
Saturdays

9-10 year-olds
2pm - 3.30pm

11-12 year-olds
4pm - 5.30pm



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AUDITION NOTICE: **Singapore Youth Theatre 2021**

Are you interested in theatre-making? Are you between the ages of 13 and 17 years old? Then come join us for the 2021 edition of Singapore Youth Theatre!

This initiative is a holistic theatre-making programme for young people, providing a platform for them to make and present theatre that speaks to and for people of their own generation. Participants will gain first-hand experience of how to make theatre — from writing and directing to performing. At the end of the programme, participants will stage an original production under the guidance and direction of a professional creative team.

No prior acting or theatre experience is necessary. All you need to be a part of Singapore Youth Theatre is a willingness to learn and experience the magic of theatre!

The 2021 Singapore Youth Theatre programme is supported by the ACI Trampoline Fund, managed by The Majority Trust.

Audition Details

Book an Audition Slot

Programme Details

February - December 2021
Every Saturday
10am - 1pm
Wild Rice @ Funan

Cost

Free!

All participants who are admitted into the programme are expected to commit for its entire duration.

Audition Dates

21 Dec (Mon): 2.30pm — 6.15pm
22 Dec (Tue): 2.30pm — 6.15pm
23 Dec (Wed): 2.30pm — 6.15pm

NEW:

28 Dec (Mon): 10.30am — 5pm
29 Dec (Tue): 10.30am — 5pm

Each audition slot will be approximately 15 minutes.

Coming Soon at **WILD RICE**

祖 母 語

GRANDMOTHER TONGUE

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY **THOMAS LIM**

14 – 31 JANUARY 2021



THE AMAZING CELESTIAL RACE

DIRECTED BY **GLEN GOEI**
BOOK & LYRICS BY **DWAYNE LAU**
MUSIC BY **JULIAN WONG**

FROM 19 FEBRUARY 2021



THE OTHER F WORD

DIRECTED BY **AIDLI MOSBIT**
WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY **MIRIAM CHEONG**

24 – 28 MARCH 2021





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