

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs - Pre-show Notes

Prepared by Seren Chen and Roger Jenkins for Wild Rice

Introduction and Audio Described Show Information

Welcome to this introduction to *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, presented by Wild Rice.

The audio described performance is at 2.30pm on Saturday the 23rd of December, with a Touch Tour commencing at 1:15pm, an hour and fifteen minutes ahead of the show. The performance runs for approximately two hours and fifty minutes, including a twenty-minute intermission. Your audio describers are Seren Chen and Roger Jenkins.

Synopsis

Not so far away, in the Eternal Kingdom, lives a Queen, fairest in the Kingdom. One day, her Magic Mirror, who cannot lie, reveals to her that a new beauty has come of age – her own step-daughter, Snow White. The Queen seethes with jealousy and plots to disfigure her.

To save her own skin, Snow White runs away to the Outer Limits, where she meets and befriends a host of misfits and outcasts – including the rapping, breakdancing Seven Dwarfs, who have been banished from the Kingdom for falling short of the Queen's impossibly high standards.

Will the Queen's relentless pursuit ever end? Will Prince Charming find his true love amongst the piles of trash in the Outer Limits? And can Snow White find a way to keep it real while saving herself, her friends and the Kingdom from the Queen's diabolical control?

Creative Team

The playwright and lyricist is Alfian Sa'at. The director is Hossan Leong. The music director, composer, arranger, and keyboardist is Elaine W. Chan. She is accompanied by Feri Susanto on guitar, Rizal Sanip on drums, as well as Brandon Wong and Charlene Looi on the bass, live on the balconies each show. The assistant director is Lim Shien Hien. The choreographer, Hafeez Hassan. The set designer is Wong Chee Wai, and the lighting designer is James Tan. The sound designer is Shah Tahir, and the costume designer is Tube Gallery. The props designer is Joanne Ooi, and the hair designer is Ashley Lim. The make-up designer is Bobbie Ng. The stage manager is Anne Lee.

Cast, Characters, and Costumes

This show features a large cast, many of whom play multiple characters, with a riot of different costumes.

The first character we meet is Prince Charming, played by Vester Ng. Every bit a fairytale prince, he wears a white blouse with billowing sleeves that sway gracefully when he moves. The silver fringed shoulder pieces, also known as epaulettes, as well as the long red cape slung over his right shoulder complete his princely outfit.

Snow White is played by Nadya Zaheer, who has brown skin, dark hair with bouncy curls at her shoulders, and a sweet smile. The colours of her outfit echo that of the well-known Disney Snow White - red, blue, and yellow. The red is found in her glittering red ribbon hairband, similarly glittering strapless top, and red shoes. Under her strapless top is a translucent royal blue blouse with a tall, wide collar that floats around her neck, and shell-shaped puffy sleeves at her shoulders. And finally, she wears a sunshine yellow skirt that bobs gently as she moves. When she is with the dwarfs, she wears a slightly less glamorous outfit of a similar silhouette and colour, but no more glitter.

The Queen is played by Chua Enlai. For most of the show, she appears in a red and black ensemble, with sharp, protruding shoulder pads on her shiny black top and seven layers of fringe on her long, fitted red skirt. Her fitted black sleeves dramatically end in full gloves and has long black and red fringe down the back of the arms that drape down to her calves. She first appears for the pageant, however, in an all-white outfit in a similar silhouette, with a similarly dramatically fringed skirt and crystals everywhere. Her crown, which she wears regardless of her outfit, is tall in the centre, tapering at the sides, and encrusted in glittering crystals.

Siti Khalijah Zainal plays the dual parts of Snow White's Nanny and the Magic Mirror. As the Nanny, she has salt and pepper hair and wears a black pinafore dress over a white top. As the Magic Mirror, everything from her hair to her shoes is silver and glittering, with mirror panels all over that scatter tiny lights around the entire theatre when she moves. There is an ornate oval mirror frame attached to her costume, set handsfree in front of her face, with lights on the inner rim, so her face is always cast in an otherworldly glow.

Marcus Chiau, Alecia Kim Chua, Benjamin Koh, Medli Dorothea Loo, Andrew Lua, Suhaili Safari and Tan Rui Shan each play multiple roles. As citizens of the Eternal Kingdom, they all wear black and white plaid clothing. However, as the 7 dwarfs, they are an explosion of colour, with kneepads, hair, and triangular hats all in different bright colours. They each have different outfits - one full of distressed denim, another with fluffy lime green arm warmers, and another in a pink dress with different-coloured ribbons all over - but they all have the sense of being cobbled together from fabric scraps. Each of these actors also play other characters in the story, from the pageant host and contestants to the Chief Plastic Surgeon and his nurses, and even animals in the Zoo.

This show features two casts of 6 First Stage Kids, who come from Wild Rice's intensive theatre training programme for children aged 5 to 12. They play many different characters from citizens of the Eternal Kingdom, to different animals, and also actual children.

Set and Setting

Much of the stage is bare for much of the play, with substantial use of lighting to create atmosphere, but across the back extends a bare metal-frame balcony at 2.5m height. There's a waist-high guard rail divided into 5 sections, each of which is topped with a simple arch which is often highlighted with LED lights running along the upside-down U of the arch itself.

A curving flight of metal stairs, on wheels so it can be repositioned occasionally, descends to the stage. A floor-to-ceiling curtain is suspended immediately behind the balcony.

Act 1 takes place in the Eternal Kingdom, and Act 2 largely in the Outer Limits, which are like the lower depths of society, before returning to the Kingdom for the finale.

The key feature of the stage is what the cast and crew call 'the doughnut' – a rotatable ring that lies just inside the perimeter of the stage and which turns anticlockwise to ferry various set pieces into position, principally for the Queen's use – a tiger-skin rug complete with gaping mouth head, a tall stand piled high with her birthday presents, and an ornate table bearing a huge steaming cauldron in which her Majesty can concoct and brew her famous poisoned-apple potion,

Apart from the Queen's chambers, other locations in her Kingdom are the Zoo, represented by 3 free-standing barred cage-fronts, behind which the magnificently masked and costumed lion, zebra and elephant are held captive, and lastly the deceptively misnamed Enhancement Clinic.

The Outer Limits – every time they're mentioned by characters in the Kingdom there's a menacing sound effect and a flash of lurid green light - the Outer Limits are represented by a colourful construction built around the flight of stairs, up to the railing on the balcony, that resembles the trunk of an exotic tree-house. Scattered in front of it are an odd assortment of painted barrels and boxes that seem to have been randomly discarded on the ground, as well as various toys – such as a kid's trombone, an old radio, an umbrella, a stuffed bear. There's a mattress on the right, which is the bottom end of the chute by which people arrive (on their bottom!) in the Outer Limits. Up above, a huge collage of plastic bags is lowered in front of the balcony, forming a leafy foliage branching out from and above the 'tree'.

Access Information

Wild Rice aims to provide an excellent experience and service for all patrons who may require additional support to access our venue and enjoy our events.

Wild Rice at Funan is located on the 4th floor of Funan Mall, at 107 North Bridge Rd, Singapore 179105. The nearest parking option is in Funan Mall itself.

For public transport, the nearest bus stops are 04249, Opposite the Treasury; 04168, After City Hall Station Exit B; 04149, Grand Park City Hall; and 04223, Old Hill Street Police Station.

The nearest MRT station is City Hall, on the East-West and North-South lines.

Please have your mobile device and headset with you. Say hello to the friendly Box Office manager and they will gladly assist you.

Wild Rice at Funan and Funan Mall are assistance dog friendly. They are also accessible for wheelchair use, and an accessible toilet is available on the same floor as the theatre, near the lifts.

If you require a wheelchair space, would like to learn more about transferring options, or have any other questions, do contact our venue team at 6971 1051.

The bar will be open before the show and during intermission, serving a variety of beverages and ice cream from Birds of Paradise.

We look forward to welcoming you and hope you have a wonderful time with us!