

# From Neverland to Serangoon Gardens

In the second instalment of *SGCC at the Theatre*, the theme of childhood continues with W!LD RICE's year-end pantomime, *Peter Pan in Serangoon Gardens*.

The production's director and playwright reveal the inspiration to set it in Singapore.

**T**heatre group W!LD RICE has been entertaining audiences in Singapore and beyond for 19 years. In that time, it has won numerous fans for its high-quality and always entertaining productions. It has also built up a wide following beyond its core audience for its year-end pantomime. Since 2003, the company has successfully imprinted a Singaporean stamp on this British theatre tradition and given local twists to famous fairy tales.

"We're so proud that the W!LD RICE pantomime has evolved into one of the highlights of Singapore's theatre calendar," says Ivan Heng, its Artistic Director. "Our pantomimes have become a holiday tradition for so many families. Many children who grew up watching and performing in the shows are now adults. And it's also incredibly rewarding that many of them are working in our theatre industry."



## Continuing The Tradition

This year, that tradition continues with *Peter Pan in Serangoon Gardens*. Premiering on 21 November 2019, Heng will be directing the production. As for the inspiration to set it in Serangoon Gardens, playwright Thomas Lim reveals that the original title of the tale by JM Barrie is *Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens*, thus Kensington Park condominium became the natural localised setting for the show!

More importantly, the decision to adapt *Peter Pan* was down to how it speaks to the nature of childhood in Singapore. "Peter Pan is also known as the boy who never grew up. That

is very much unlike children here in Singapore, who all grow up very fast," explains Lim. "Not long after we are born, we are shuttled to schools and classes to prepare to be an adult, so much so that there is very little time to play. I think *Peter Pan* is a timely reminder to let our children be children. They only have one childhood."

While the resonances are clear, Lim admits that he had to grapple with certain aspects of cultural translation in his adaptation. "I had to think a lot about what certain things mean culturally. The Lost Boys are often seen dressed in animal costumes like the fox, bear and skunk, but not all



Artistic Director

Ivan Heng

## W!LD RICE sinks roots in own theatre

After 19 years in the theatre business, W!LD RICE finally has a home to call its own at Funan, which opened in late June this year.

Known as W!LD RICE @ Funan, the theatre company will have a 358-seat theatre, a studio, and a production office within the shopping mall.

The theatre is uniquely configured with a thrust stage. This means that the stage extends into the audience, and audience members surround the stage on three sides. This not only creates an immersive experience for the audience and performers, it also allows the audience to face each other and acknowledge each other's presence and experience. "It provides an unparalleled sense of community," explains Ivan Heng, the company's Artistic Director.

Having one's own space is not about having the company's name on the façade of the mall. Rather, it provides a certain stability for the company to create "a supportive and conducive environment for everyone who wants to collaborate with us to create, develop and present new and exciting works," insists Heng.

Additionally, a mid-sized theatre enables the company to present longer runs at affordable ticket prices — something that will benefit audiences and the local theatre industry in the long run.

The new venue will be welcoming its first group of audience in August.

Our pantomimes  
have become a  
holiday tradition for  
so many families.

of them are native to Southeast Asia. Also, the idea of growing up means very different things to the English of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century compared to Singaporeans today."

For Heng, the play serves as a reminder for adults to have the courage to dream. "It's a story about what it means to grow up while holding on to your ability to dream. At the same time, how do we hang on to a youthful spirit of adventure? How do we keep taking risks instead of growing stagnant in our lives? I find that tension in the *Peter Pan* story to be very true and inspiring. That also pretty much sums up what we're doing in building our own theatre in the heart of the city," adds Heng. [see box story]



Thomas Lim

Playwright



## FEATURE



Pam Oei

plays Peter Pan



Siti Khalijah Zainal

plays Captain Hook



### Book It!

SGCC at the Theatre is pleased to partner W!LD RICE to offer Members this thrilling experience at exclusive rates:

#### **Peter Pan in Serangoon Gardens**

7.30pm Thursday  
28 November 2019

The Ngee Ann Kongsi Theatre @ W!LD RICE  
Funan #04-08  
107 North Bridge Road  
Singapore 179105

Specially discounted tickets at \$75 each (closing date 16 September 2019)

Contact Jean Lee at 6398 5383 or [jean\\_lee@sgcc.com.sg](mailto:jean_lee@sgcc.com.sg)

Imagine an island  
full of children...  
with no iPads.

#### **The stars of the show**

*Peter Pan in Serangoon Gardens* will be headlined by local favourites Pam Oei (who plays Peter Pan) and Siti Khalijah Zainal (who plays Captain Hook), complemented by a talented group of local actors and First Stage Kids. Heng promises that the show would be an absolute treat. "Audience can expect to leave the theatre dancing on air," he assures.

No expense has been spared in this production. An international creative team, from as far afield as Canada, has been roped in for choreography, costumes and sets. To add the magic of flight to the show, W!LD RICE has hired a team of rigging experts who have worked with Cirque du Soleil. This is another aspect of the show that audiences will be excited about.

As for what the W!LD RICE's version of Neverland would be like, Lim has only this to say: "Imagine an island full of children... with no iPads."

# CONTENTS

AUGUST • SEPTEMBER 2019



- 16** FEATURE  
**From Neverland to Serangoon Gardens**  
 WILD RICE's Ivan Heng and Thomas Lim talk about *Peter Pan in Serangoon Gardens*

- 19** FEATURE  
**Live, dance, exercise**  
*ClubSpirit* profiles SGCC Fitness Instructor Derrick Ee

- 20** FEATURE  
**SGCC celebrates Oktoberfest!**  
 Find out what German dishes will be made available



- 30** UPCOMING  
**New programmes under Sports & Recreation, Food & Beverage, and Junior Gems / Social**

- 2** PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- 3** WELCOME / FAREWELL

- 4** GARDENS ROUND-UP  
**Coverage of events around SGCC**

- 14** FEATURE  
**Relive your childhood!**  
 A chat with Sing'Theatre Artistic Director TJ Taylor



- 24** EVENTS CALENDAR  
**All the happenings at a glance**

- 26** FEATURE  
**Larry Lai recalls**  
 The former Rediffusion DJ reminisces about his career

- 28** FEATURE  
**A dream of a ship**  
 Find out the amenities on board Dream Cruise's Genting Dream

## PATRON-IN-CHIEF

Mr Goh Chok Tong  
 Emeritus Senior Minister

## PATRONS

Ms Sylvia Lim  
 Mrs Lim Hwee Hua  
 Mr George Yeo

## TRUSTEES

Mr Hendrick Koh PPA BBM PBM  
 Mr Anthony Tan  
 Mr Pao Kiew Tee

## GENERAL COMMITTEE

Mr Terrence Fernandez  
 President

Mr Benjamin Wong  
 Vice-President

Mr Daniel Ho  
 Assistant Honorary Secretary

Mr Rayner Ng  
 Honorary Treasurer

Mr Rodrigues John Jack Patrick  
 Assistant Honorary Treasurer

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr George Lim Yort Gue  
 Mr Lee How Giap

## CONVENORS

Mr Emrys Phua	Billiards
Mr Edward Tan	Bowling
Mr Ronnie Ng	Chess
Mr Rick Seah	Darts
Mr Eddie Ng	Fitness
Mr Aaron Lim	Golf
Mr Edwin Lee	Squash
Mr Steven Lee	Tennis

## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Mr Farrock Ebrahim  
 Mr Garry Moss  
 Mr Marcus Lim

## PUBLISHING AGENT

ThinkFarm Pte Ltd  
 Contributors:  
 Isaac Tan, Samuel Chong

## PRINTING

Mainland Press Pte Ltd

**ClubSpirit** is a bi-monthly publication of Serangoon Gardens Country Club  
 22 Kensington Park Road  
 Singapore 557271  
 Tel: 6286 8888  
 Fax: 6398 5355  
[www.sgcc.com.sg](http://www.sgcc.com.sg)

MCI (P) 066 / 02 / 2019. All rights reserved. Copyright.  
 No article may be reprinted in part or in full without the permission of the publishers. The information published in this magazine is correct at the time of printing. The views and opinions expressed in the magazine are not necessarily that of the Club's. The Club accepts no responsibility for the quality of the goods and services advertised. While information stated is considered to be true and correct at the date of publication, changes in circumstance after the time of publication may impact the accuracy of the information. The information may change without prior notice and the Club is not in any way liable for the accuracy of any information printed or in any way interpreted and used by the user.

By attending events organised by the Club held within the Club's premises or at off-site locations, you consent to photography, audio / video recording and its / their release, publication, exhibition or reproduction in articles featuring events organised by the Club, in marketing & promotional collaterals for the Club (videos, publications, websites, social media platforms, etc), and in archival materials for future reference.