



# **DEAR AUDIENCE**,

t gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the MAN SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL 2011. With six productions by four theatre companies, the festival offers some of the most exciting, challenging and thought-provoking plays made in Singapore.

This year's line-up includes three brand-new plays. Alfian Sa'at's Cooling Off Day is a timely reflection of the watershed 2011 General Elections. Based on real-life interviews, this production will give voice to the private thoughts of voters and candidates against the backdrop of party rhetoric and public opinion. Huzir Sulaiman's The Weight of Silk on Skin offers a searing and intimate reflection on the nature of love and loss, and the value we place on things in our transient and fast-paced lives. First-time playwright Joel Tan's funny and compelling Family Outing tests the foundations of unconditional love in a family as instantly recognisable and dysfunctional as our own.

The Festival will also present recent new works as part of the "ENCORE" season. These new works moved me deeply and I believe they deserve a larger audience. Chong Tze Chien's Charged (Best Script 2010, The Straits Time Life! Theatre Awards) and Alfian Sa'at's Nadirah (Best Script 2009, The Straits Time Life! Theatre Awards) take a brutally honest look at the issues of religion and ethnicity in Singapore.

To enrich your theatre-going experience, there will also be many events taking place in an around the festival. Take on a starring role in *This is Home?*, a stimulating acting workshop by Drama Box, that culminates in a free public performance. Engage with prominent thought leaders and public personalities at "The Art & Life Sessions", and debate issues inspired by the plays in the Festival. Chill out at the new Festival Club, an intimate cabaret where you can meet the artists and discover new talents of stand-up comedy and musical theatre.

Please join us in saluting Man Investments as the Title Sponsor for the 2011 Singapore Theatre Festival and Patron Sponsor of W!LD RICE. Man's sponsorship marks a dynamic new partnership between a world-leading independent alternative investment manager and a resolutely independent festival. With this affiliation, Man joins us in making a significant investment in the social, intellectual and cultural capital of Singapore and society at large. Thank you Man Investments.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this is a festival about YOU – your concerns and fears, your hopes and dreams. These plays speak of the Singaporean experience in fiercely passionate and powerful ways. Whether you are a fan of well-written, realistic dramas (Family Outing, Nadirah), hard-hitting political theatre (Cooling Off Day, Charged), or intimate reflections on the nature of love (The Weight Of Silk On Skin), the MAN SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL promises a tantalising buffet of homegrown riches.

We look forward to welcoming you to the theatre.

#### **IVAN HENG**

**Artistic Director** 



# TITLE SPONSOR'S MESSAGE

an Investments, in conjunction with W!LD RICE, is delighted to present the MAN SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL 2011. The Festival will take place from 3 to 21 August 2011, aspiring to make a contribution to the cultural, intellectual and social life of Singapore.

Man Investments has been a strong supporter of the Arts around the globe, and this is the first time we have ventured into theatre in Singapore. We are deeply committed to fostering literature and literacy around the world, and we do so through a combination of sponsorships and charitable giving.

Our most widely recognized sponsorship is the Man Booker Prize, which we first sponsored in 2002. Here in Asia, we have sponsored the Man Hong Kong International Literary Festival for the past six years, presenting over 40 events built around 50 major authors from around the world every year. And to build upon the success of the festival, we were the founding sponsor of the Man Asian Literary Prize in 2007. The Prize was created to bring new voices onto the world stage by encouraging the publication and translation of Asian works in and into English.

I would like to congratulate the creative talents at W!LD RICE who have successfully raised the profile of Singapore theatre internationally over the years with their high quality and innovative productions. With over 19 World Premieres of new Singapore writing produced since 2006 under the lead of Mr Ivan Heng, the Founding Artistic Director, I am confident that the Man Singapore Theatre Festival will continue to be one of the major events in the Singapore Arts calendar, attracting not just local theatre lovers, but audiences from all over the world.

#### **TIM PEACH**

Executive Director and Head of Sales – South East Asia Man Investments

#### **ABOUT MAN**

Man is a world-leading alternative investment management business. It has expertise in a wide range of liquid investment styles including managed futures, equity, credit and convertibles, emerging markets, global macro and multi-manager, combined with powerful product structuring, distribution and client service capabilities. Man manages US\$71.0 billion.

Man Group is listed on the London Stock Exchange and is a member of the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index and the FTSE4Good Index. Man also supports many awards, charities and initiatives around the world, including sponsorship of the Man Booker literary prizes and the Man Asian Literary Prize.



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# THE WEIGHT OF SILK ON SKIN

PRESENTED BY W!LD RICE IN COLLABORATION WITH Checkpoint Theatre

DIRECTED BY Claire Wong STARRING Ivan Heng

### 3-7 AUGUST 2011 / DRAMA CENTRE THEATRE

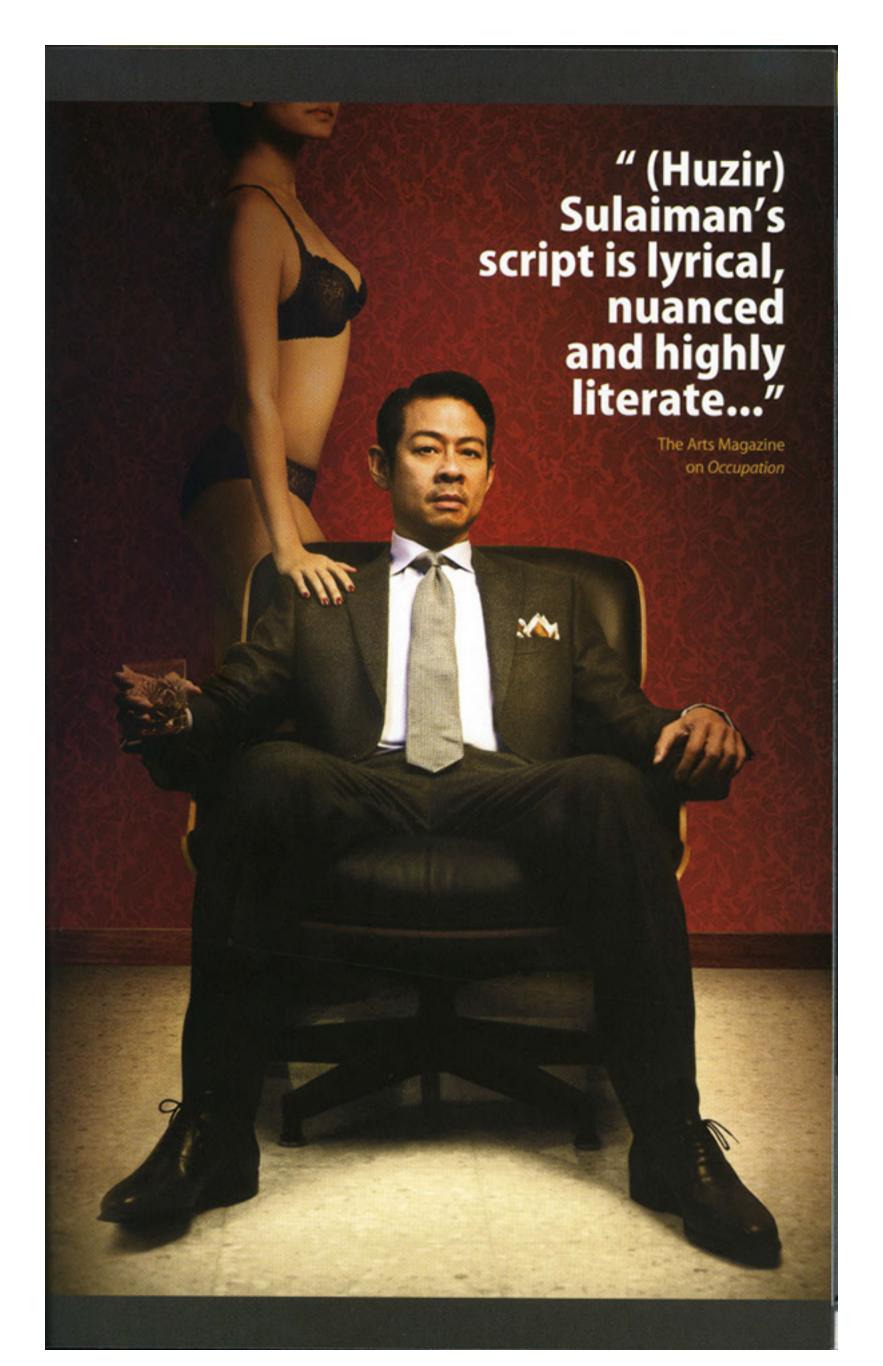
"It's only when you pull her dress over her head that you can begin to understand the weight of silk on skin; to divine, in the lines left by the seams on her bare shoulders, how you will leave, and when, and with what rehearsed words of deep regret."



e's an arbiter of elegance at the end of the road, rewinding a life of cold beauty and harsh truths. His distractions are many: the erotic allure of women; neat whiskey in cut crystal; the matchless charms of a well-cut suit. But what happens when memories aren't beautiful and style can't conquer everything? And if he can't regain lost time, can he still reclaim lost loves?

Lyrical, biting and powerful, *The Weight of Silk on Skin* is a timely meditation on the sensual pleasures and pain of a man's life.

The Weight of Silk on Skin brings together Ivan Heng, Huzir Sulaiman and Claire Wong, three of Singapore theatre's most celebrated artists in a sexy new collaboration that promises to get you hot under the collar.





# **COOLING OFF DAY**

PRESENTED BY W!LD RICE

CURRETTEN BY Alfian Sa'at
DIRECTED BY Jonathan Lim

Rodney Oliveiro / Tan Kheng Hua

#### 10-14 AUGUST 2011 / DRAMA CENTRE THEATRE

"Memorable witty punchlines and insider jokes abound... there is a sense of heartfelt urgency..."

TODAY on Happy Endings: Asian Boys Vol. 3

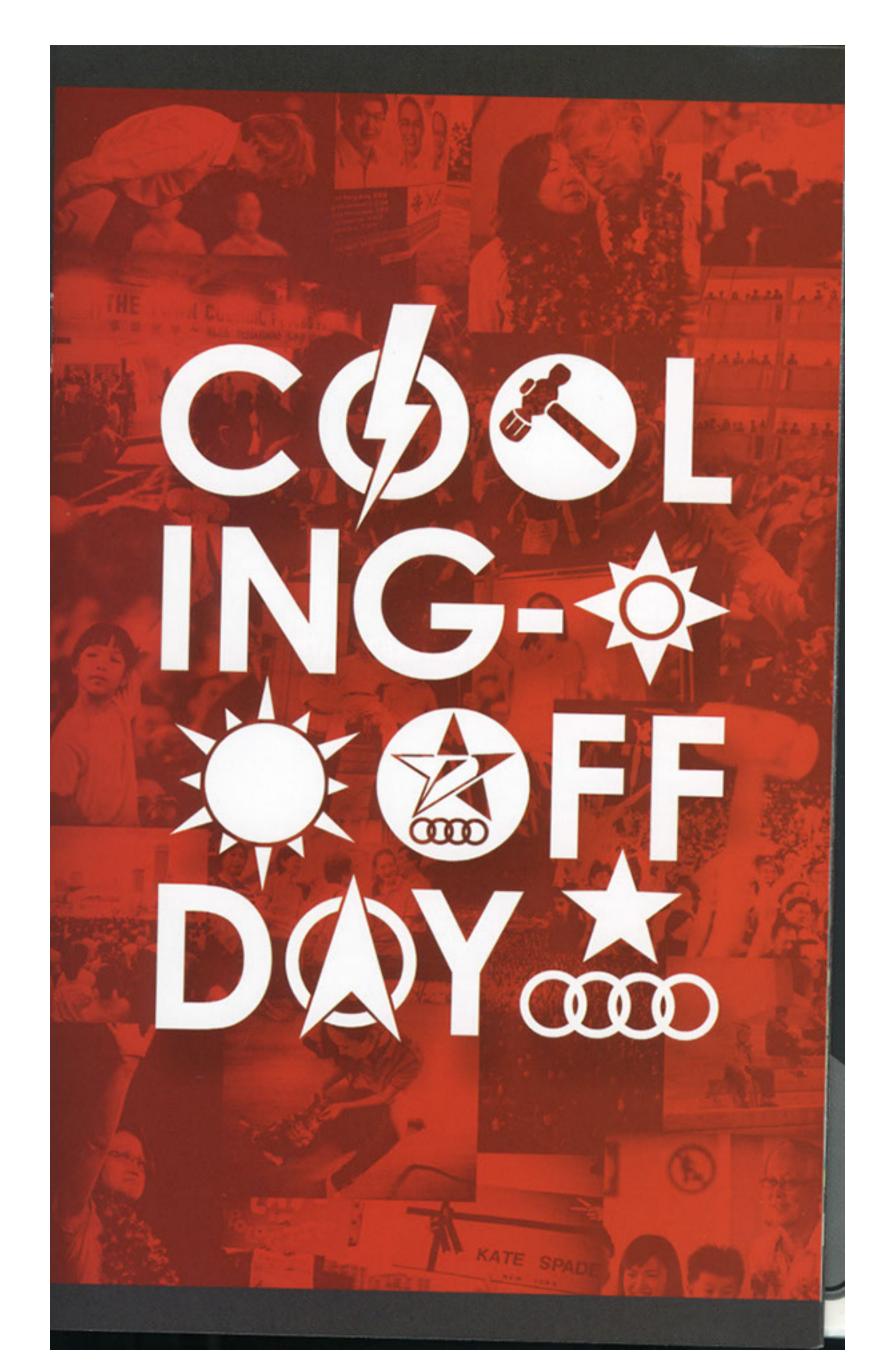
Why do you vote? What issues influenced you? What does citizenship mean to you?

In the electrifying months leading up to the watershed 2011 General Elections, and in the tumultuous months after, playwright Alfian Sa'at interviewed Singaporeans to discover their responses to these searching questions. Boldly putting aside concerns about secrecy, the interviewees opened their hearts to share what they honestly felt and what they truly believe.

Covering a wide social and political spectrum, the candid interviews capture the GE experience through the voices of individual Singaporeans – from election candidates to pro-establishment civil servants; from taxi-drivers to teachers; from diehard opposition supporters to young people casting their virgin votes. From the transcripts of these real-life interviews emerges a script that chronicles the momentous event that not only rocked the boat, but created startling ripples that are still widening even now.

The private clashes behind the public debates... the personal convictions behind the party politics... even that unforgettable moment as they finally stood alone in the polling booth with pen in hand, poised to make their mark. These interviews – some hopeful, some fearful, some hilariously frank, some achingly honest – form a portrait of Singapore confronting the real meaning of democracy and rediscovering their role in shaping the country's future.

An ensemble of our most versatile actors, playing characters aged 17 to 70, takes on these Singaporean voices – in a playful and poignant piece of testimony theatre that proves how political views are not just the hot air of coffeeshop talk.



# FEST!VITIES

# THE ART & LIFE SESSIONS

What is it in real LIFE that inspires the ART on stage? How does ART relate to, engage with, and resonate with LIFE?

The ART & LIFE SESSIONS is a series of free lively forums about the urgent issues of the day. Engage with some of the most forward thinking minds of "the concerned citizenry" – personalities, politicians, artists, activists and academics – to exchange views and opinions about the pressing issues of our times.

#### 06 AUGUST / SATURDAY

ART CHARGED LIFE On RACE — Can We Handle the Hard Truths?

It's been forty-five years since the Pledge was written, and since we declared that we would be one united people. But why is race still such a sensitive topic? Will there always be 'primordial sentiments' and 'tribal allegiances' that are resistant to nation-building? Is racial harmony forged through gestures of appearement, rather than a genuine understanding among different races? And is the spectre of racial riots still lurking around the corner, under our skin?

#### 13 AUGUST / SATURDAY

ART COOLING OFF DAY LIFE On POLITICS — A Brave New World?

The 2011 General Elections was widely acknowledged to be a watershed in the country's political life. Charged national issues took centrestage, including calls for greater transparency and a multi-party democracy. What had changed? What kinds of thresholds have we crossed? Almost 100 days (98 cooling off days, to be exact) since the elections, where are we now? Have we forged ahead? Or have we just returned to business as usual?

### **20 AUGUST / SATURDAY**

ART FAMILY OUTING LIFE On MORALITY — The Good, The Bad, and The Referees

What are our 'core values'? Who decides what they are? How are they affected by various historical trends, such as Victorian morality in our legal codes, 'Asian Values' as a response to 'Westernisation' and recent movements such as religious revivalism? What is socially acceptable in today's Singapore? Are we still the conservative society the powers that be seem to suggest? And is globalization changing the rules of the game?

5.30 - 7.00PM / FESTIVAL CLUB, DRAMA CENTRE FOYER, LEVEL 3

Moderators & Participants to be confirmed

## THIS IS HOME? WORKSHOP & PERFORMANCE

You can take on a starring role in *This Is Home?*, a stimulating drama workshop by Drama Box that culminates in a free public performance on 14 August 2011 at The Plaza, National Library Building. If you are interested in taking part in this exciting project, please contact Kate on 6324-5434 or email *kate@dramabox.org*. No acting experience is necessary. Just your enthusiasm and willingness to share your stories.

### **BOOK LAUNCHES**

The MAN SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL will witness the official launch of play collections by two of Singapore's leading playwrights.

W!LD RICE's Resident Playwright, Alfian Sa'at will launch two collections of plays, including the celebrated *Homesick*, *The Optic Trilogy* and *The Asian Boys Trilogy*. The festival will also feature another celebrated local playwright Chong Tze Chien's new and sophomore collection of plays titled *Four Plays*.

### THE FEST!VAL CLUB

#### TALK COCK SING SONG & STAND UP FOR SINGAPORE!

Fabulous and fun, the foyer of the Drama Centre has been transformed into the Festival Club where the audience, artists and friends can relax and chill with a drink and munch on light bites before and after performances.

Come join us in discovering new talents in stand up comedy and musical theatre on Friday and Saturday nights: STAND UP FOR SINGAPORE and TALK COCK SING SONG promise a raucous fun evening hosted by local theatre stars including Pam Oei and Hossan Leong.

# TALKBACK THURSDAY FEEDBACK FRIDAY

Your feedback plays a critical part in the development of new writing, and this is an opportunity to share your experience of the play, with the playwright and director, and with other members of the audience. Performances on Thursday and Friday nights will be followed by a "Meet the Artists" session in the respective theatre venues.

# **TICKETS**

### PERFORMANCES AT DRAMA CENTRE THEATRE

03-07 August 2011 — THE WEIGHT OF SILK ON SKIN

10-14 August 2011 — COOLING OFF DAY

17-21 August 2011 — FAMILY OUTING

Wed, Thu, Sun – 8pm / Sat & Sun – 3pm : \$35 / \$45 / \$55

Fri & Sat - 8pm: \$39 / \$49 / \$59

### PERFORMANCES AT DRAMA CENTRE BLACK BOX

03-07 August 2011 — CHARGED 17-21 August 2011 — NADIRAH

Wed - Sun 8pm / Sat & Sun 3pm : \$35

### **DISCOUNTS**

#### EARLY BIRD 13 JUNE - 13 JULY 2011

- 20% Discount for OCBC Credit & Debit Cardmembers, W!LD RICE Angels
- 15% Discount for General Public

#### **DISCOUNTS 14 JULY – 21 AUGUST**

- 15% Discount for W!LD RICE Angels
- 10% Discount for OCBC Credit & Debit Cardmembers, PAssion Card Members,
   Singapore Academy of Law members, Trevvy Members

#### **DISCOUNTS 13 JUNE – 21 AUGUST**

20% Discount for Students (Local/International), NSFs, Senior Citizens

For corporate and group bookings, please contact **Jessamine B.** at 6292-2695 or sales@mansingaporetheatrefestival.com

SISTIC Hotline 6348-5555 / www.sistic.com.sg / SISTIC Authorised Agents All prices exclude \$3 SISTIC Handling Fee.

Please visit www.sistic.com.sg for details of other discounts.

# ABOUT THE MAN SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL

"The Blockbuster Event of the Year"

- TODA

he MAN SINGAPORE THEATRE FESTIVAL is a biennial festival committed to the development, production and promotion of contemporary Singaporean theatre. Working in collaboration with local theatre companies and artists, the festival aims to provide a creative, nurturing and optimistic environment where new plays can be developed and presented. The Festival takes place in the month of August, when Singapore celebrates National Day and it is in this context that theatre artists and the public are encouraged to engage in a conversation about theatre, Singapore and the world.

### PRAISE FOR THE FESTIVAL

"It was a year in which ambitious, heart-felt local productions outshone lacklustre, lumbering art imports... the main event in the world of the arts this year was arguably Wild Rice's inaugural Singapore Theatre Festival in August."

- SPH The Straits Times Life!

"Statistics compact the inaugural Singapore Theatre Festival to three weeks, nine plays and 11,500 sold tickets. But the expanded version is more interesting: as many as 200 people showing up for the various forums held to discuss topics raised by the plays; ... the issues being debated island-wide; and the demonstration that the arts are an integral part of an urban society, not to be relegated to suburbia."

- The Business Times

"The fact that the Singapore Theatre Festival could premiere five new works to intense audience response is testament not only to the wealth of writing talent here but also the audience's hunger for substantive theatre offerings... Let's hope that this return to form after the wilderness years is no temporary aberration, but the next big leap in the ever-changing face of Singapore drama."

- SPH The Straits Times Life!

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#### 2011 AT A GLANCE! 07 05 06 SATURDAY SUNDAY 3.00pm / 8.00pm 3.00рм / 8.00рм THE WEIGHT OF SILK ON SKIN THE WEIGHT OF SILK ON SKIN 3.00рм / 8.00рм 3.00рм / 8.00рм CHARGED CHARGED 5.30pm - 7.00pm ART & LIFE: On Race — Can We **Handle the Hard Truths?** 10.00pm - 1.00am **Stand Up for Singapore** Host: Pam Oei 12 13 14 SATURDAY SUNDAY 3.00рм / 8.00рм 3.00pm / 8.00pm **COOLING OFF DAY COOLING OFF DAY** 2.00pm - 10.00pm 2.00рм - 7.00рм THIS IS HOME? (Workshop) THIS IS HOME? (Workshop) 5.30PM - 7.00PM 7.30рм - 9.30рм ART & LIFE: On Politics - A Brave THIS IS HOME? New World? Performance @ The Plaza 10.00pm - 1.00am Stand Up for Singapore **Host: Hossan Leong** 21 19 20 SATURDAY SUNDAY 3.00рм / 8.00рм 3.00pm / 8.00pm **FAMILY OUTING FAMILY OUTING** 3.00рм / 8.00рм 3.00рм / 8.00рм **NADIRAH** NADIRAH 5.30PM - 7.00PM ART & LIFE: On Morality -The Good, The Bad, and The Referees 10.00pm - 1.00am Come Out & Party **Host: Ivan Heng**

#### Celebrate expanded horizons

As experts in alternative investment strategies, we know how potent and powerful a different perspective can be. That's why Man is proud to put our name to the Singapore Theatre Festival 2011. Here's to a new mental landscape.

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87,74,37,69,56

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