

Highlights From The Musical

Fried Rice
Paradise
the Musical

Book, Music & Lyrics by Dick Lee



A Division of The Singapore Repertory Theatre

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Stage Two Profile

Stage Two is a division of the Singapore Repertory Theatre (SRT), established to develop and stage original Singaporean work. It incorporates SRT's Playwright Incubator Programme, launched in 2002. This programme was initiated to give Singaporean playwrights a chance to spend a full year writing and developing new plays, with the dramaturgical resources and support of SRT.

Award-winning international playwrights serves as mentors to dramaturg the plays in the development process. SRT aims to stage one to two productions a year under the Stage Two division.

The first production under the Stage Two banner was Dick Lee's play, *The Good Citizen*, which he wrote and developed within the auspices of the Playwright Incubator Programme.

www.srt.com.sg

FRIED RICE PARADISE - THE MUSICAL

Book, Music & Lyrics by Dick Lee

2010 Cast

Johan
Choo Bee Lean
Girly Danker
Choo Kew Teng
Rickson Goh
Hennessy Goh "XO"
Campari D' Cruz
Devi devandram
Osman
Siti

Taufik Batisah
Denise Tan
Candice De Rozario
Lim Yu Beng
Darius Tan
Sebastian Tan
Amanda Tee
Alemay Fernandez
Hatta Said
Rahimah Rahim

ENSEMBLE

Eden Ang, Zarinah Bahtiar, Andy Cai, Elinor Coulson, Michel Cruz Fernandez, Marcus Foo, Gianti Giadi, Farhan Hassan, Francesca Harriman, Kay Lee, Joshua Lim, Andrew Lua, Nur Ateeqah, Oliver Pang, Jacqueline Pereira, Kluane Saunders, Fariz Spears, Bibiana Tan, Celine Rosa Tan and Rebecca Yeo

Stage Two has been commissioned by People's Association to produce *Fried Rice Paradise –The Musical* to commemorate 50 years of bringing people together.

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CD RECORDING

Music & Lyrics by
Book by
Music Director

Dick Lee
Dick Lee
Iskandar Ismail

The Band

Music Arrangers/ Keyboard
Trumpet/ Flugal Horn
Trumpet/ Flugal Horn
Alto Sax/ Flute/ Clarinet
Tenor Sax/ Flute/ Clarinet
Trombone
Flute
Acoustic/ Electric Guitar
Bass
Drums

Iskandar Ismail & Ruth Ling
Steve Cannon
Kenneth Lun
Eddie Sangcap
Fabian Lim
Leo Jeoh
Rit Xu
Daniel Chai
Casey Subramaniam
Jimmy Lee

Additional Credits

Orchestrations/ Music Preparations

Helen Chuan/ Syawaludin Kassim and
Ince Kosasih

CD Credits

Executive Producer
CD Produced by
Vocal Producers
Additional Vocals by
Recorded by
Mixed & Mastered by
Recorded, Mixed & Mastered at
All songs published by

Gaurav Kripalani
Iskandar Ismail & Dick Lee
John Lee & Elaine Chan
John Lee
Gao Yang & Mandric Tan
Gao Yang
Pavane Recording Studio (Singapore)
Fried Rice Paradise Entertainment
(administered by Universal Music Publishing)

SYNOPSIS

It's 1979 and Singapore is in the midst of a modernisation plan. In the race to create a world-class city, old districts are being torn down for new developments, and businessman Rickson Goh is one such developer with big plans to convert sleepy old Jalan Calamansi into an entertainment area.

Its surviving residents (many have already moved out to the brand new housing estates like Ang Mo Kio), include Choo Kew Teng and his daughter Bee Lean, who run a noodle shop on the ground floor of their crumbling shophouse home. Together with her neighbours, Bee Lean struggles to save her little street (and business) from the threatening advance of progress, and along the way, encounters excitement, fear and love.

1. TURNING TWENTY-ONE

BEE

Just yesterday, my days were
Oblivious of the future
Nothing mattered more
Than what the present had in store
But now that time is ending
It's time to stop pretending
Nothing's gonna change.
Life stays the same, it has to,
Though it's often said
One is bound to dread

Turning twenty one
Though it should be fun
I'm not really done with my days of growing
Turning twenty one
And I've just begun
Desperately to run from the age that's showing
All the tantrums, prayers and tears
Won't erase the growing fear
Of turning twenty one.

JOHAN

Just yesterday, your days were
Oblivious of the future
Nothing mattered more
Than what the present had in store

GIRLY

But now that time is ending
It's time to stop pretending Nothing's gonna change.
Life stays the same, gets better,

JOHAN

You will be a star

JOHAN & GIRLY

Sure of who you are

JOHAN, GIRLY & BEE

Turning twenty one
Really will be fun!
When you will be done with your days of growing
Turning twenty one
You will have begun
Shining like the sun from the love that's flowing

GIRLY

All around you from your friends

BEE

All the loving that you send

JOHAN & GIRLY

You're turning twenty one.

BEE

I'm turning twenty one.

JOHAN, GIRLY, BEE

What lies ahead, I wonder -
Will progress bring us under?
What a cruel curse:
Responsibility and worse

ALL

No more naive excuses
'Cause innocents are losers
In the grown-up world
No place for silly little girls
No time to waste
Sharpen up and face

When you're twenty-one
You will start to run
Surely you'll be stunned by the brilliant future
When you're twenty-one
Baby days are done
But I promise one thing: you will get out

Kiss goodbye to precious youth
Dry your eyes, confront the truth
Of turning twenty-one
Turning twenty-one
Turning twenty-one



2. DISCO BOOGIE HUSTLE BUMP

CAMPARI

Somewhere down in Orchard Road
There's a secret little hideaway
There, you can unload your load
Throw your troubles and your cares away.
Everybody arrives
And the place begins to feel right
Then the music begins and the mood just flies
into the night.

Disco Boogie Hustle Bump
Let's take a chance
Surrender
Disco Boogie Hustle Bump
A dance romance

Disco Boogie Hustle Bump

Let's take a chance
Surrender

ALL

Disco Boogie Hustle Bump
A dance romance

Woo-oo

Woo-oo

JOHAN

Somewhere in an old dance hall
There's a hidden disco wonderland
Just follow the boogie's call
That's been pumping since the dance began
Everyone on the floor
Shining from the lights up above
Starts to hustle and bump till they're flying high
Falling in love

ALL

Disco Boogie Hustle Bump

JOHAN

Let's take a chance
Surrender

ALL

Disco Boogie Hustle Bump

JOHAN

A dance romance

ALL

Disco Boogie Hustle Bump
Let's take a chance
Surrender
Disco Boogie Hustle Bump
A dance romance



Woo-oo

Woo-oo

Disco Boogie Hustle Bump

Let's take a chance
Surrender
Disco Boogie Hustle Bump
A dance romance
Disco! Wool Hustle Bump
Let's take a chance
Surrender
Disco Boogie Hustle Bump
A dance romance

3. DAY TO DAY

BEE

I know you think I'm immature and so naive
But I am not as innocent as you believe
Well, yes, as you can guess,

I'm still a mess where love's concerned
But ain't there a lesson you have yet to learn?

And I -

Just take life day to day

And I -

Can say that life's okay
I'm quite prepared to wait
For love to come my way

I know you think I'm not concerned with meeting guys
Believe you me, it's not as if I haven't tried
In town, they're all around
And when I've found someone who's cute
I turn into a block of wood, brain-dead and mute.

And so tonight there comes a guy who notices
And it may all be just a lie, it could be worse
So what? It's still a start
I'll give my heart a game to play
I may as well take all my chances anyway.

So I -

Pretend that it's all cool

I try -

To not look like a fool

And I -

Just take life day to day

And I -

Can say that life's okay
I'm quite prepared to wait
For love to come my way

4. MOVE ALONG WITH THE TIMES

DEVI

We sit around and gripe all day

We really have a lot to say, it's true
The higher buildings start to rise
The more we feel we're left behind
What's new?

Don't you consider it odd
There's nothing we can afford?
We'll end up being the ones
That the future forgot.

Move along with the times
Go with the flow or be left behind
Move up with the times
Open your eyes to open your mind
Don't do it alone

Let's go forward together
Take a ride to a future that's bright
With a friend by your side
That friend could be
Someone like me.

We like to grumble and complain
We see the world through eyes of pain and gloom
And right before our very eyes
The city starts to modernize -
We're doomed!

BEE

Look at the state we are in
In which decade have we been?
We ought to face the rat race
All together, begin!

TENG

After all this time, I'm through
Battling it alone
Had enough of acting tough
All on my own

DEVI

Now you find I'm right next door
Drifting far and fast

DEVI & BEE

While you're anchored to
Your past.

TENG

Move along with the times

DEVI & BEE

Go with the flow or be left behind

TENG

Move up with the times

DEVI & BEE

Open your eyes to open your mind

DEVI, BEE & TENG

Don't do it alone
Let's go forward together
Take a ride to a future that's bright
With a friend by your side

ALL

Move along with the times
Go with the flow or be left behind
Move up with the times YES!
Open your eyes to open your mind
Don't do it alone
Let's go forward together
Take a ride to a future that's bright
With a friend by your side

DEVI

That friend could be
Someone like me.

ALL

Move along with the times
Move along with the times
Move along with the times

5. DREAMGIRL

JOHAN

I was alone
Saturday night
Not in the mood to be hanging at home
Went for a ride
Cruising the streets
Looking for someone to meet
Someone I've known all along
Like a favourite song
Wondering who it could be

And as unreal as it seems
I saw the girl of my dreams
Right before my own eyes
There you smiled
And in a moment of fear
I believed that you would disappear
But my schemes
In my dreams
Keep you near.



All of our lives
We have been close
So many times when the chance came to speak
I simply froze.
Can I rewind?
Can our dreams turn back time?
Can two good friends from the past
Be together at last
Is there a way you'd be mine?

And as unreal as it seems
I saw the girl of my dreams
Right before my own eyes
There you smiled
And in a moment of fear
I believed that you would disappear
But my schemes
In my dreams
Keep you near

And in a moment of fear
I believed that you would disappear
But my schemes
In my dreams
Keep you near
But the girl of my dreams isn't here

6. I'LL BE THERE

TENG
Everybody needs a little smile sometimes
A caring friend, a helping hand,
A guiding light.
And you should always know
That there is a place to go
Whenever you need any help
To make the future bright.

Everybody needs to know a little more
But knowledge is the key for those
Forbidden doors

Now, all you need to know
Is whatever helps you grow
If ever you decide to fly
I'll give you wings to soar

And I'll be there
To brighten up your day

BEE
With tender loving care
To bring around the change

TENG
And in return
I'll learn a little more
About the wonders of the heart

TENG & BEE
'Cause sharing loves what our hearts are for.

BEE
Everybody needs some help along the way
Somebody who can point you to
A better day,
And it's so nice to know
That I'll never be alone

TENG
We'll make a team for building dreams
And here the dreams will stay
And I'll be there
To brighten up your day
With tender loving care
To bring around the change

BEE
And in return
We'll learn a little more
About the wonders of the heart

TENG & BEE
'Cause sharing love
is what our hearts are for.

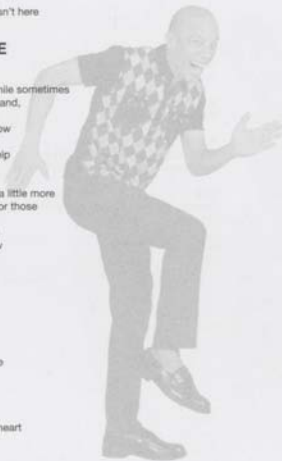
BEE
And if I feel I can't get
Through it on my own

TENG
Together we can pave
The way for moving on

TENG & BEE
Let's make the starting point,
The willingness to try
Reach up to the sky
Keep on flying
Higher

BEE
And you'll be there
To brighten up my day
With tender loving care
To bring around the change

TENG & BEE
And in return
I'll learn a little more
About the wonders of the heart
'Cause sharing love
is what our hearts are for.



7. THAT GIRL

XO

She's really not a perfect match
But now she seems like the perfect catch
She's not my type, and that's a fact
Well, as you know, opposites attract.
I go about my old routine
As if I'm in some kind of dream
And yet I'm glad somehow I can't forget
Someone I just met.

There's something odd about that girl
She's overtaken my whole world
She's not the kind that I would look at twice
But look at me now
Thinking so much about that girl
How did she come into my world?
And even more, I'm falling for
That girl.

JOHAN

It's hard to say the way I feel
I can't explain it, but I know it's real
I've never felt this way before
But this sweet pain keeps me wanting more.
What should I do? I'm so confused
She's not someone I'd care to lose
How can it be that it's still hard to see
If she's into me?

There's something strange about that girl
She's overturned my very world
She's not the kind that I would call my type
So call me a fool
'Cause I am mad about that girl
How did she come into my world?
I want to shout I'm wild about
That girl.

XO & JOHAN

There's something odd about that girl
She's overtaken my whole world
She's not the kind that I would look at twice
But look at me now
Thinking so much about that girl
How did she come into my world?
And even more, I'm falling for
That girl.
And even more, I'm falling for
That girl.



8. RASA SAYANG

DEVI, SITI, OSMAN, GIRLY, BEE

Rasa sayang, eh
Rasa sayang, sayang, eh
Eh that nona jauh
Rasa sayang sayang, eh
Sayang!

GIRLY

Once upon a time there were only trees
And a lion or two enjoying the breeze
Then a boat arrived one sunny day
And human beings were here to stay

BEE

The King of the jungle couldn't really complain
He got the whole damned island named after him
And as for the lions here's news for you
You can see their descendants at the Mandal Zoo

GIRLY

The island since has come very far
All thanks to the man named

ALL

Utamah!

BEE

No, we couldn't forget him, if we tried,
And what about Raffles?

ALL

We love that guy!

GIRLY

So, here we are having so much fun
Can hardly believe this was a jungle once

BEE

Sometimes I can still hear the lion's roar
Goings Singa - Singa -

ALL

- pore!

BEE

Yi, er, san

ALL

Rasa sayang, eh
Rasa sayang, sayang, eh
Eh lihat nona jauh
Rasa sayang sayang, eh
Hol!

DEVI

Now we can explain in a little while
This is not your ordinary tropical isle
Everything we have has to be the best
Of the fabulous east and the wonderful west

OSMAN

Of all the things we've got that's good
At the top of everybody's list is

ALL

Food!

DEVI

We got prata,

GIRLY

Mee pok - so sedap!

SITI

What about the ketupat at the satay club?

BEE

If no chye tau kway, then gai fan lor

DEVI

Eat till you faint so cheap, some more

OSMAN

Ya, the best thing has to be the price

BEE

Singapore's my Fried Rice Paradise!

SITI

We can eat, eat, eat, till we nearly drop

DEVI

Then we all get up, and we

ALL

Shop, shop, shop!

DEVI

And if you asked us how we rate this place,
We'll just say this:

ALL

It's great!

DEVI

Oona, renda, moona

ALL

Rasa sayang, eh
Rasa sayang, sayang, eh
Eh lihat nona jauh
Rasa sayang sayang, eh
Hol!

SITI

Let's talk about work: it's quite okay

OSMAN

Life here's like a holi-holi-day!
We take things easy, there's no big rush
Unless the people upstairs make a fuss

SITI

We work, then makan, watch movie

OSMAN

What for? CC got free T.V.

SITI

We window shop at night market



OSMAN

Lucky Plaza got free toilet

SITI

Life is tough, but we can't complain
At least we're not sleeping in the drain

BEE

Life is really fine for me
When I've got my friends and family

GIRLY

Success to us quite simply means
There is such a thing as a Singapore Dream

OSMAN

Oi, why you all down to say
You just want lots of money, lehl

SITI

Satu, dua, tiga

ALL

Rasa sayang, eh
Rasa sayang, sayang, eh
Eh lihat nona jauh
Rasa sayang sayang, eh
Rasa sayang, eh
Rasa sayang, sayang, eh
Eh lihat nona jauh
Rasa sayang sayang, eh

9. STAY**SITI**

When you wake every day
And you think life is going your way
You will go round a corner and Bang!
You hit a wall
And one that's very tall
So I look at the top
And I think that I might as well stop
'Cause I'm not gonna get anywhere

SITI & OSMAN

Yes I know
Time to turn around
Fly away somewhere
Get up off the ground
I would go
Where the world is good
If I only could I'd run away
But the truth is, here I want to stay

**OSMAN**

When you look at the change
And you think that it's all very strange
Then you try to fit in and then Bang!
You hit the end

SITI

It drives you round the bend

SITI & OSMAN

So you say, "Start again"
Even though you are going insane
Though you won't be a big millionaire

You just go

Struggling like a dope
Waiting for a chance
Hanging on to hope
I would go

Where the world is good
If I only could I'd run away
But the truth is here I want to stay

You just go

Struggling like a dope
Waiting for a chance
Hanging on to hope
I would go

Where the world is good
If I only could I'd run away
But the truth is here I want to stay
I would go

Where the world is good
If I only could I'd run away
But the truth is here I want to stay

10. THE TREASURE INSIDE

XO

This might appear rather strange,
This little thing I must say:
I do believe you were sent by an angel –
– in some way ...
You show that fortune's arrived
You make my dreams come alive
I may be wrong, but you ...
– Shall I go on?

All that having been said
I'd be pleased if you let me
Share in your dreams
Be a part of your team
Then we'll see
If this can be

Even though it's hard to know
If this will turn out right
Leave the fates to clearly state
The feelings that we hide
Trust in what you feel
Let your heart reveal
Every wish you're treasuring inside.

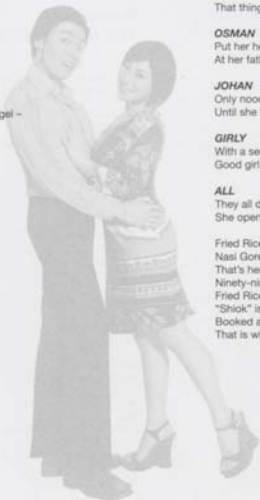
BEE

This might appear rather strange
Why do I feel the same way?
Yes, you could say I've been sent by an angel –
– one I paid!

I never guessed I'd receive
Such a sweet offer, not me
So shy and awkward, you –
– So kind and sweet.
All that having been said
I'd be happy to let you
Be in my gang
But to start, take my hand
Then we'll see
If this can be

XO & BEE

Even though it's hard to know
If this will turn out right
Leave the fates to clearly state
The feelings that we hide
Trust in what you feel
Let your heart reveal
Every wish you're treasuring inside.
Every wish you're treasuring inside.



11. FRIED RICE PARADISE

JOHAN

I've got a friend, her name Bee Lean
She told me, she told me
That one day she would make it big

DEVI

In the mornings she would scheme
In the evenings she would dream

SITI

She would tell her plans to me
Believing all her fantasies

GIRLY

Planned her hopes on horoscopes
Poor girl, didn't know what to do.

TEG

Four years passed, went very fast
She told me, she told me,
That things would just pick up from here

OSMAN

Put her heart into her job
At her father's coffee shop

JOHAN

Only noodles she would cook
Until she found her mother's book

GIRLY

With a secret recipe
Good girl, all her dreams came true

ALL

They all did come true
She opened

Fried Rice Paradise

Naai Goring, very nice
That's her speciality
Ninety-nine varieties
Fried Rice Paradise
"Shick" is how it's been described
Booked a table? Very wise
That is what I would do

JOHAN

Now and then my friend Bee Lean
 Would tell me, she'd tell me
 That something would be coming through

DEVI

Days went by without a cheer
 Snowballed into months and years

SITI

She'd get lucky, she would say,
 Although no fortune came her way

GIRLY

But the stars had plans for her
 Poor girl, didn't know what to do.

ALL

So, what did she do?
 She opened
 Fried Rice Paradise
 Nasi Goreng, very nice
 That's her speciality
 Ninety-nine varieties
 Fried Rice Paradise
 "Shiok" is how it's been described
 Booked a table? Very wise
 That is what I would do

OSMAN, JOHAN & TENG

Woh-oh woh-oh Chow Fun Baby
 Oohh Chow Fun Baby
 You're my Chow Fun Baby
 Nice hot Chow Fun Baby
 Baby!
 You make me crazy!

SITI, DEVI & GIRLY

Chow fun, chow fun baby, baby
 Chow fun, chow fun baby, baby
 Chow fun, chow fun baby, baby
 Chow fun, chow fun baby, baby
 Baby! Baby!
 Wo-oh, wo-oh

OSMAN

Gado-gado's so-so anyway
 Satay is quite okay

TENG

O-luak?
 Oh yuik!
 What else can I say?

**ALL**

But I like my Chow Fun anyday!

Fried Rice Paradise
 Nasi Goreng, very nice
 That's her speciality
 Ninety-nine varieties
 Fried Rice Paradise
 "Shiok" is how it's been described
 Booked a table? Very wise
 That is what I would do

Fried Rice Paradise
 Nasi Goreng, very nice
 That's her speciality
 Ninety-nine varieties
 Fried Rice Paradise
 "Shiok" is how it's been described
 Booked a table? Very wise
 That is what I would do
 If I were you!

Bonus Track: THE MAHJONG SONG

XO

When your work is getting stress,
 You give your work the sack

BEE

Call your three kakis
 To come and help you to relax

TENG

It's a form of exercise
 It's almost like a swim

RICKSON

It's a competition I must
 Win, win, win!
 Eh faster lah, so slow!

TENG

Can we just play friendly for a little while?

RICKSON

Sure..

BEE

Take it easy
 Let's all do this with a smile

ALL

Life is always full of problems
 Always something wrong
 So then when we want to get out of it
 What do we do?
 We play mahjong!

Mahjong – those three little words:

TENG

Chi!

XO

Pong!

RICKSON

Kong!

ALL

Best words that I've heard all week long
What a wonderful game to play
We could just go on
Forgetting our worries
Mahjong's not played in a hurry
What's wrong with running away for a day?
We just want to play
Mahjong

XO

All the cards you're giving me
Are very, very nice

BEE

Oh my goodness, now I really
Must consider twice

TENG

Strategy and cunning are the
Skills I really lack

RICKSON

How to concentrate when you all
Yak, yak, yak?

This whole street soon will be my own
Sold to me by this big sucker
Soon he must find another home
'Cause I must sell my hamburger

XO

When your work is getting stress,
Give your work the sack
Call your three kakis
To come and help you to relax
It's a form of exercise
It's almost like a swim
It's a competition I must
Win, win, win!

TENG & BEE

I must
Say I
Love to play this
Lovely Game
'Cause we
Gather
Round this way to
Win, win, win!

RICKSON

This whole street soon
will be my own
Sold to me
by this big sucker
Soon he must
'Cause I must buy
find another home
and win, win, win!

ALL

Life is always full of problems
Always something wrong
So then when we want to get out of it
What do we do?
We play mahjong!

Mahjong – those three little words:

XO

Chi!

RICKSON

Pong!

TENG

Kong!

ALL

Best words that I've heard all week long
What a wonderful game to play
We could just go on
Forgetting our worries
Mahjong's not played in a hurry

BEE

What's wrong with running away for a day?

ALL

We just want to play
Mahjong
Mahjong
Mahjong
Mahjong!

BEE

Pong!



2010 Cast Recording

Book, Music & Lyrics	Dick Lee
Director	Steven Dexter
Musical Director	Iskandar Ismail
Set Designer	Francis O' Connor
Costume Designer	Lai Chan
Lighting Designer	Mac Chan
Sound Designer	Mike Walker
Projection Designer	Andrzej Goulding
Choreographer	Jeffrey Tan
Hair Designer	Ashley Lim

Fried Rice Paradise

the Musical



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1. Turning Twenty - One
2. Disco Boogie Hustle Bump
3. Day to Day
4. Move Along With The Times
5. Dreamgirl
6. I'll Be There

7. That Girl
8. Rasa Sayang
9. Stay
10. Treasure Inside
11. Fried Rice Paradise

Bonus track:
Mahjong



FEATURING **TAUFIK BATISAH, ALEMAY FERNANDEZ, LIM YU BENG, RAHIMAH RAHIM, CANDICE DE ROZARIO, HATTA SAID, DARIUS TAN, DENISE TAN, SEBASTIAN TAN AND AMANDA TEE**

Presented by



50
YEARS OF PA
1965-2015

Managed by

LIFE SKILLS
LIFESTYLE
#PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION

Produced by



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