

SCHOOL OF ARTS PRESS



SUNWAY UNIVERSITY | JUNE 2020



ABOUT US

The School of Arts at Sunway University offers a variety of disciplines, ranging from Advertising and Public Relations to Design, Architecture, Film Production, Theatre and Music.

School of Arts Press (SOAP) is a monthly newsletter in which we provide information on student and staff achievements, past events as well as a notification platform for upcoming events.

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

In this month's issue, SOAP covers the happenings and achievements of the SOA community amidst the ongoing MCO.

School of Arts Press —

Advisor/Editor: Rachel Ong (SOA Arts Project Manager)

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Cover Photo: Portrait of Azmyl Yunor — Appointment as CENDANA's new member of Industry Advisory Panel.



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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

"Movement Control Order." Those three words seem to have taken on a life of their own, but they have not stopped the School of Arts at Sunway University from continuing to create valuable research and arts activities.

We look forward to inviting you back to live activities in the School of Arts. In the meantime, see below for a sampling of some of the work that has been going on in your absence.

Please forward this email to anyone who would be interested in receiving a monthly review of upcoming events and past successes in the SOA. Links to subscribe or unsubscribe are included at the bottom of the newsletter.

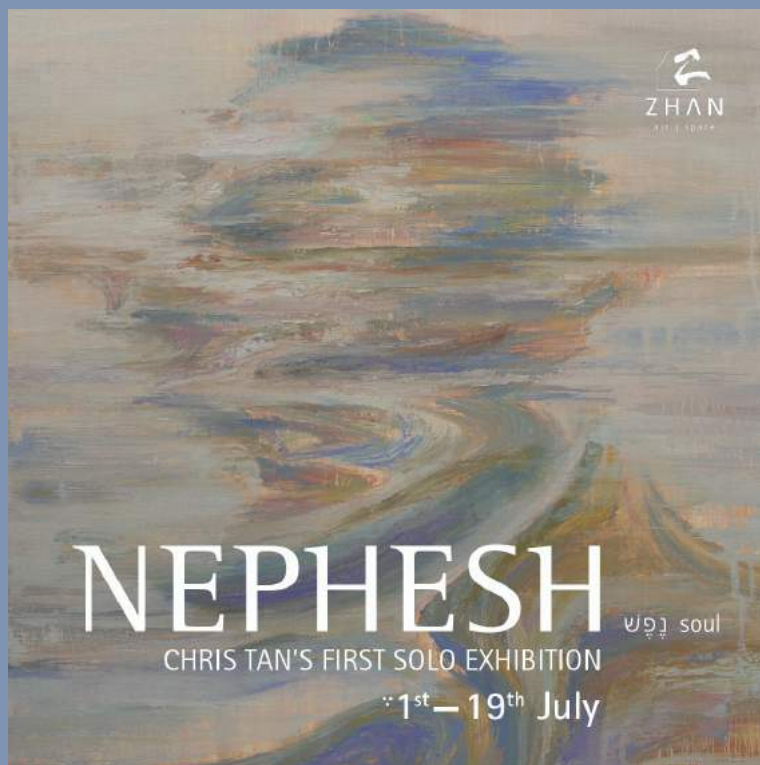
— *Professor Donald Bowyer*

SCHOOL OF ARTS PRESS

**WISHES ALL STUDENTS THE BEST OF LUCK
ON THEIR FINALS!**



UPCOMING EVENTS!



NEPHEESH
1ST TO 19TH JULY, 5PM
ZHAN ART SPACE @
THE SCHOOL, JAYA ONE

In the month of July, Chris Tan, School of Arts' Department of Art and Design Teaching Fellow will be holding his first solo exhibition titled Nephesh. From the 1st to 19th of July, head over to ZHAN Art Space at The School, Jaya One to view Chris Tan's artistic expressions of examining the paradoxical relationships between the soul and flesh through Nephesh.



Photo Source: Dr. Andrew Filmer

THE BRAVE NEW WORLD OF ONLINE TEACHING

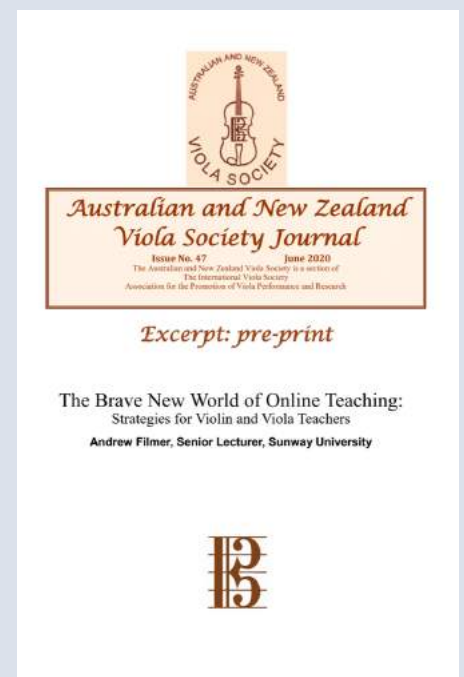
With the world being awoken and adapting to remote learning, many have resorted to online teaching and learning. School of Arts' Dr. Andrew Filmer discusses the strategies of navigating music teaching online in his article titled *The Brave New World of Online Teaching*, newly published in the *Australian and New Zealand Viola Society Journal*, Issue No. 47 June 2020.

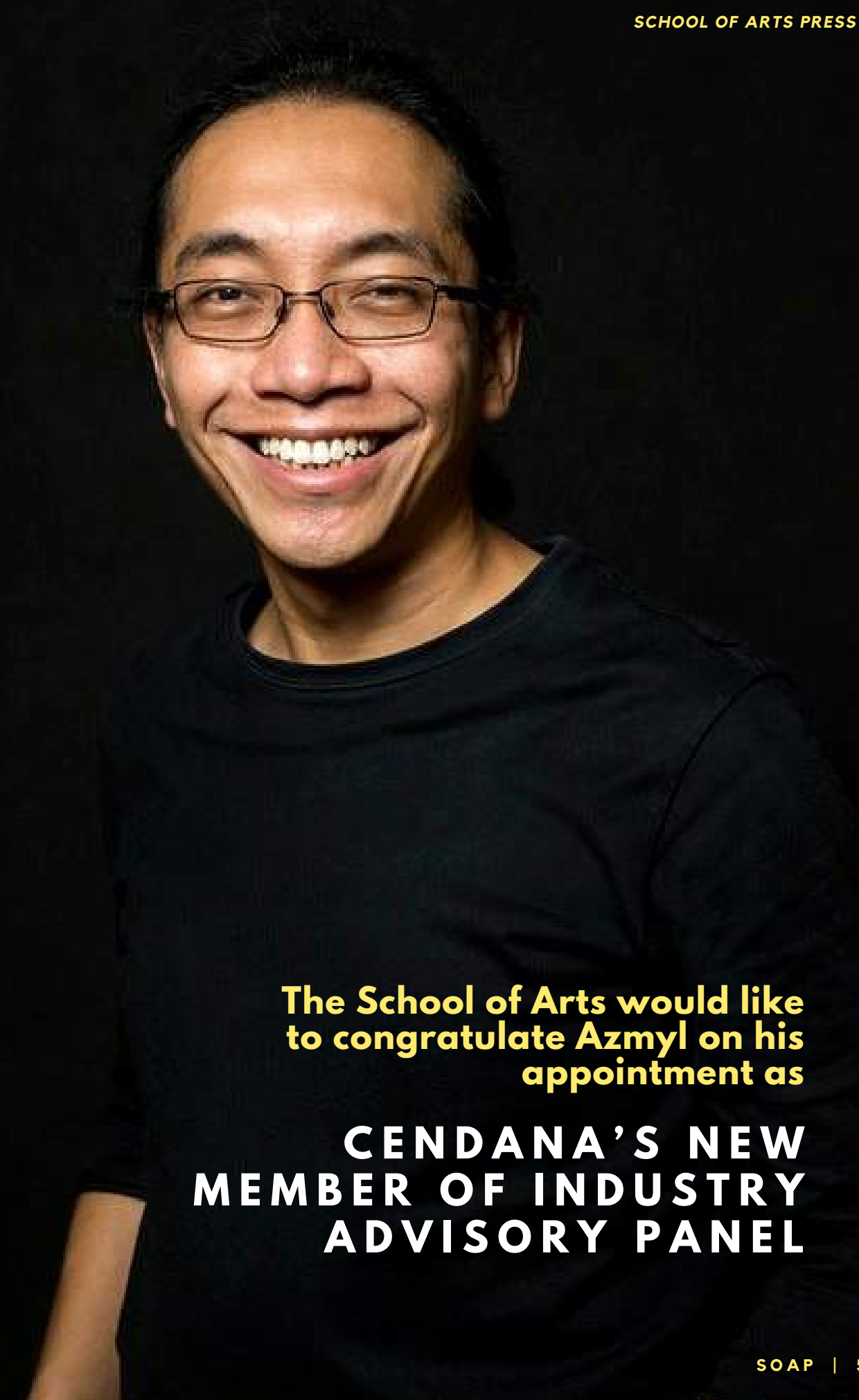
Dr. Filmer has outlined 3 key themes in his strategies, namely, reshaping the studio, equipment and setup, and changes in teaching strategies. Focusing on the use of Zoom, he also looked into particulars like audio quality, screen-sharing, and recording while conducting lessons.

Read this insightful article [here!](#)



Dr Andrew Brian Filmer is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Film and Performing Arts. Among some of the subjects he teaches are Large Ensemble, Principal Study, Music History: Renaissance to Classical.





**The School of Arts would like
to congratulate Azmyl on his
appointment as**

**CENDANA'S NEW
MEMBER OF INDUSTRY
ADVISORY PANEL**



Photo Source: "Let It Come" Music Video

Azmyl Yunor is making news in the School of Arts Press again! In early June, the Department of Film and Performing Arts (DFPA) senior lecturer was announced as CENDANA'S new member of its Industry Advisory Panel. CENDANA (Cultural Economy Development Agency) is a local arts development organisation "dedicated to shape a vibrant, sustainable, and ambitious cultural economy for Malaysia" and are active advocates to supporting the local art scene be it independent music, visual arts, performing arts, as well as other creative venues. With Azmyl's expertise within the independent music sector, the panel will be guided and advised on efforts that would allow CENDANA to elevate the Malaysian arts and culture profile amongst its stakeholders and the public.

Warga's 10th Anniversary

That's not all! This month also marks the 10th anniversary of one of Azmyl's breakthrough albums titled "Warga", a bilingual folk album that carries a "slice of Malaysiana". To commemorate, on the 10th of June 2020, he released a music video for one of his tracks in the album named "Let It Come". The music video was directed by the School of Arts' very own Emily Ong Shuyi (Diploma in Performing Arts graduate) and performed by Fahmi Sani (Award-winning Digital Film Production student), a creative collaboration as part of Azmyl's personal initiative to engage with film students, filmmakers, and artists.

Most of Azmyl's work have included elements of various social commentaries on contemporary society. This collaboration features Emily's visually conceptualised "Let It Come", which follows the life of a fictional character named "Azeem Shah ", incorporating layers of political subtext.

"Trying to both uphold the spirit of the lyrics and subvert them, I toyed with the idea of a young politician going through a bad week and playing truant at work so that as a character we can relate to him"

- Emily Ong Shuyi

You can watch the music video [here!](#)



Azmyl Yunor @ Azmyl Yusof is a senior lecturer in the School of Arts. He is also an independent English and Malay language singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and writer. He is a journalist and filmmaker by training.

**SOA ONLINE
GUEST SERIES:**

**INTERVIEW WITH
EMILY UNDERHILL
@ TUSKS**



Photo Source: School of Arts Facebook

The School of Arts is honoured to host an interview session with the talented post-rock sensation - Emily Underhill aka Tusks. She was invited by Prof. Matthew Sansom as an artist for the SOA Online Guest Series on 12 June. The online interview was moderated by Prof. Matthew Sansom and conducted over Zoom. It lasted for one hour, starting from 5 pm to 6 pm and was streamed live on the School of Arts Facebook page. Throughout the one-hour session, Emily enthusiastically shared her experience as a singer-songwriter, producer, musician and on topics such as creativity, touring, merch, and so on.

Emily started the session by sharing the challenges she faced in pursuing a career as a singer-songwriter. She said that it was not easy to stand out in the music industry as it is competitive. When asked about her stage name 'Tusks',

Emily shared that she finds the word 'Tusks' to be ambiguous because it is gender-neutral, and it does not reveal whether the artist is a solo-ist or a band. She likes the fact that her new audience could not make any presumptive judgements before hearing her music. Following that, she expressed her frustration about the gender stereotypes which she faced for being a blonde girl, playing the guitar, and being a producer.

Tusks shared her experience on the process from pre to post-production: from writing to composing a song to eventually producing an album. She also stressed that the relationship between music and lyrics is also important. On the topic of production, she expressed that there is also competition in the music production industry, especially among producers.

When asked about if she could share any tips for being a singer-songwriter, Emily said that role playing helps in the music generating process. She added that she learns a lot from the process of music production and that the process also inspires her creativity.

The interview was a wonderful opportunity for SOA students, especially for those who are interested in songwriting and music production, to get insight into the music industry through Tusks' sharing. The viewers were fueled by the speaker's passion for music and her inspirational story in achieving her dream of being an artist.

Stay updated on our Facebook and Instagram page so you won't miss a chance to meet talented guest artists in the next episode of the SOA Online Lecture/Guest Series!

Rewatch the lecture [here!](#)



The School of Arts would like to thank Emily Underhill of TUSKS for generously gifting her time for this interview.

Emily Underhill is an English singer, songwriter, and producer of introspective indie electronica from London, United Kingdom.



il tiranno e notte e giorno fatta spettrò agiterò.
My ghost will haunt the tyrant day and night

Photo Source: David Chin

MUSIC PROGRAM COLLABORATION FOR HANDEL'S 335 PROJECT

On 29 June, in celebration of Handel's 335th birthday, School of Arts - String Ensemble, Sunway University, showcased one of Handel's most celebrated arias, 'Piangerò la sorte mia' (I shall weep over my cruel fate) from the opera 'Giulio Cesare'. Handel 335 is a project established in April by Dr. David Chin with his beloved students as well as his dear friend and colleague - Mezzo-soprano YiLing Chaing. This is not only the first time for Music Performance students to play in a Baroque Ensemble, but also their first-ever Virtual Ensemble Project!

Although the rehearsals were conducted entirely online, the students expressed their gratitude to the lecturers - Dr. David Chin (conductor & harpsichordist) and Ms Chaing Yi Ling (mezzo-soprano) who motivated them to work together in this project! Students who were involved in the project are from the Music Program. They are: See Yun Chuan (violin), Damien Tai (violin), Kylie Tan (violin), Kyvie Tan (violin), Timmy Lim (cello), and Grace Oh (cello).

Dr. David Chin shared on his Facebook: " This was the first time for these students to play in a "Baroque Ensemble", and I had a terrific time working with them." They really had wonderful rehearsing days and together explored how to play more in the Baroque style in the aria "Piangero". Likewise, he showed his special gratitude to the Sound Engineer - Ong Yuanshun for his assistance with this project.

Click here to [watch!](#)

Dr. David Chin and Ms. Chaing YiLing are part-time tutors for Large Ensemble in SOA. Dr. David coaches the orchestra section while Ms. YiLing coaches the choir.

A portrait of Prof. Sabine Chaouche, a woman with dark, wavy hair, wearing a dark blue blazer over a light-colored top. She is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression. Her hands are visible, resting on her lap, and she is wearing a ring on her left hand.

**PROF. SABINE CHAUCHE'S
EDITED PUBLICATION:
THE STAGE AND ITS CREATIVE
PROCESSES (16TH-21ST CENTURY)**

**By Prof. Sabine Chaouche,
Associate Dean
Department of Film and Performing Arts**

JUNE 2020

2020 – 1, n° 14

European Drama and Performance Studies

The Stage and its Creative Processes (16th-21st century), volume 2

Edited by Sabine Chaouche



CLASSIQUES GARNIER

Photo Source: Prof. Sabine Chaouche

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TESTIMONY

The Elderly Other:
A Methodological Monologue



Fig. 1 – Puay Tin Leow, © Sabine Chaouche, September 2019, Kuala Lumpur.

The second volume of *The Stage and Its Creative Processes (16th-21st century)* edited By Prof. Sabine Chaouche has been published under Editions Classiques Garnier this year.

Volume 1 (2019) and 2 reconstruct a history of the theories and philosophy of theatrical creation. They focus on the creative processes in the performing arts through the ages and attempt to define the different contexts and scenic practices linked to not only in Europe but also in China, Chile, and Brazil. Volume 2 explores the role of experience and experimentation, of individual emotions and desires, talents, and personalities in the creative process. It shows the essence of creation lies in its holistic processes and organic working methods. Volume 2 also includes a section on historically informed performances.

The two volumes gather international scholars from Brazil, Australia, France, the United Kingdom, Belgium, the Netherlands, Poland, Malaysia, and famous personalities such as Eric Ruf (Director of the Comédie-Française, the most prestigious and oldest French playhouse), and Serge Tranvouez (Director of École supérieure d'Art dramatique de la Ville de Paris / Paris School of Acting).

In volume 2, acclaimed Malaysian playwright and lecturer in the Department of Film and Performing Arts, Leow Puay Tin published a monologue-essay. This text is written as a 'methodological monologue' to describe the process of writing a recent performance text on the subject of aging and dying.

The theatrical mode of speaking, which is evocative rather than explanatory, enables the recursive and disjointed patterns of the creative process by making use of chance and choice, intuition and serendipity, gaps, quotes, and fragments. The act of writing has also been an act of performance-making and remains a work-in-progress. Ms. Puay Tin uses performance as a medium to look at people and life. *Three Children*, *Family*, and *(A Modern Woman Called) Ang Tau Mui* are among her works that have been performed and published. She has also produced texts under the *Tikam-Tikam* series which require the use of chance in performance.

Apart from being the editor of the volume, Prof. Sabine also published an article in the same volume. Her article explores the relationship between creation and training, looking at how exercise was at the heart of the creative process and body eloquence in the classical age, as the actor-orator had to be in good shape. However, in the Age of Enlightenment, new notions were discussed, such as mental capacities and creative acting in performance. These notions have called into question the need for the actor to practice before going on stage.

Read it [here!](#)



Prof. Sabine Chaouche is an Associate Dean (Research) in the Department of Film and Performing Arts. Her main expertise lies in the history of European acting and staging, and early modern literature and culture. Professor Chaouche has extensively published on early modern performances.

MORE THAN A LECTURER, MORE THAN A FRIEND

By Cheah Kah Hou, Third Year Student in
the Department of Communication.





Photo Source: Padma Pillai - Ms. Padma enjoying being outdoors

Padma Priya Pillai is the programme leader of the Department of Communication (DOC). She is seen as a tiger parent and a stern lecturer of Sunway University, but underneath that seemingly fierce facade, she is someone that genuinely cares about the relationships she builds with her students. Her loving intentions go unnoticed because we are too busy fearing her sternness. Well, it's time to change that perspective of yours because she cares about us students more than you know!

“Let it be teaching, or learning. I always believe in ‘Learn, unlearn, and relearn.’”

She started teaching in 1999 and realised how important it was for the future generation of communication experts to freely express themselves, given her background in the field of journalism. This pushed her to start teaching and allowing her students to voice out their opinions without judgement. Teaching isn't always a breeze, she expressed.

It can be challenging but she always sticks to her mantra which is (to) “Learn, unlearn, and relearn.” She emphasizes that we need to learn everything that we need to know, unlearn all the bad habits and biases, and relearn the proper ways of doing things. That way, she moves away from the perceived image of a strict lecturer to a kind and loving one, which has helped in creating relationships with students that last a lifetime. When asked what was her most successful experience in getting a shy student to open up, she couldn't name a specific one because she has met so many students in 20 years of teaching. Ms. Padma enjoys tutorials more than lectures because she gets to spend time with her students to get to know them better. Introverted students would open up in a short time, thanks to her personal guidance and the bond they created along the way.

Ms. Padma's primary aim in building relationships with her students is a simple one: to spread positivity. She believes that being able to build positive relationships with her students allows her to guide them to be better human beings. Not every rock she polishes comes out shiny, but she still tries her best to coach her students because she wants the best for them. “Being able to build relationships is important for classroom learning because it creates trust,” she says. Let's put it this way: if your lecturer comes in and says that they don't want to teach you, you wouldn't want to learn from them either because you won't trust in the genuineness of their teaching. Ms. Padma builds trust in the students through her teaching and mentoring. Simply put, students trust her because she trusts in her students' willingness to learn from her.



Photo Source: Padma Pillai

“If you are able to change one person’s life in your lifetime, then I think that’s wonderful.”

As the programme leader, she is always busy. But she is doing everything she can to ensure the relationships with her students remain strong. Even after working hours, she would set aside her personal time to attend to her students. She usually only teaches Year 3 students, but now she has decided to go back to teaching Year 1 students. This allows her to create a foundation with the newer students.

We’ve learned about her from our seniors, and now, we have to unlearn our biases about her and relearn that she’s a lecturer who is like a national treasure!



This feature writing was a collaborative effort between the School of Arts Press and Dr. Catherine Lee to publish the works of Public Relations students from the Department of Communication. This piece by Cheah Kah Hou was submitted as an assignment for the PR Writing class under Dr. Catherine Lee.

LIFE AFTER SOA SERIES:

FROM SOA TO SOA

Featuring Lee Angie





Photo Source: Lee Angie

"Life After SOA" is a new series of the newsletter that features School of Arts alumni and their stories about being a student in SOA and life after SOA. Starting off the series, SOAP reached out to Lee Angie, BA (Hons) in Communication Class of 2020 graduate who is also a familiar face in SOA's administration office!

Angie reminisced about her time spent in the School of Arts to be "very good one". She treasures and is thankful for the many good friends she has made. She has also learned valuable lessons while embarking on her undergraduate degree. Having given the opportunity to be a leader, Angie had to learn how to navigate between being strict and being able to compromise, which is a significant part of leadership in order to encourage better teamwork and to produce good results. Time management was also

something she had to learn as she felt that a sense of accountability and discipline helped her to overcome difficult tasks at the time when it seemed impossible for her to complete.

The programme "broadened my horizons... allowing me to do things I never thought I would be able to do", such as radio and television advertisement productions as well as campaign and event planning. "I remember having a very meaningful theme for our campaign back then... [called] beYOUtiful", which is a campaign created to promote self-love and self-acceptance. She added that the campaign was done to challenge unrealistic beauty standards that were often prompted by the media

"We are all beautiful and we should show the world that we are comfortable with the way we are"

emphasising that inner beauty overrides physical looks when it comes to self-worth. From these experiences, one of the most important takeaways that Angie got was to always "believe in yourself". It was hard for her to imagine that she'd ever graduate with first class honours, but "I worked hard... I am proud to say that I did it!".

Angie is currently working in the School of Arts as an Administrative Executive for the Department of Communication (DoC). When asked why, she said that her interest in the education industry stemmed from her inert desire to be a teacher. "I always wanted to become a teacher since I was a child", sharing that after graduating, she had previously worked as a part time teaching assistant at a Montessori.



Photo Source: Lee Angie

The reason for her return was a call for a new DoC programme administrator, a position opened by DoC's programme leader, Padma Pillai. "I knew that I would get the opportunity to gain more exposure if I were to work in the higher education industry". So the offer prompted her decision to apply. However, that wasn't the sole purpose for her return. Having been a student of Sunway ever since she finished secondary school, she felt a "deep connection" to the institution. Prior to her undergraduate studies, Angie had undergone a Foundation in Arts, making Sunway feel like her second home.

Despite the challenges she faced, the past 6 months of working in Sunway University were great for Angie. "I met many nice people that I would definitely miss a lot if I were to leave this place". Her perseverance came from the skills she had learned throughout her undergraduate studies, and despite it being tough, she is grateful for the challenges she had faced. "Just because something is hard, it does not mean that it's impossible", extending her thanks to her fellow colleagues for being her support system as she navigated challenging times.

Angie shared that after a few years of being in the working world, she hopes to enrol for a Master's degree. "Preferably back here in Sunway University", she said. Finally, she hopes she'll be able to continuously build a successful career within the education industry.