





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 Sunway University's School of Arts monthly newsletter in which we highlight and 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 highlights not only the December activities of SOA but also reviews the activities that took place in 2020. We highlight our achievements and celebrate these milestones.

School of Arts Press -

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School of Arts



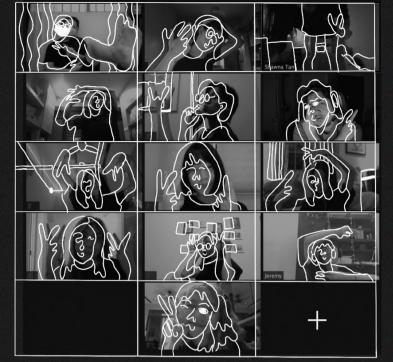
School of Arts, Sunway University



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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Happy New Year! Someone online pointed out that when one says "2021" it sounds like "2020 won." I do not believe it did. Last year was difficult for most of us, but I believe we grew through the experience, in spite of our tragic personal losses.

Those losses have been staggering and continue today. As I have mentioned in previous SOAP messages, I believe the Arts are an important tool through which humanity deals with loss. Toni Morrison, the Nobel Prize-winning poet, while discussing Art in times of crisis, once wrote: "This is precisely the time when artists go to work. There is no time for despair, no place for self-pity, no need for silence, no room for fear. We speak, we write, we do language. That is how civilizations heal."

Composer and conductor Leonard Bernstein once said, "The point is, art never stopped a war and never got anybody a job. That was never its function. Art cannot change events. But it can change people."

As we look forward to vaccinations and the longed-for end of the current pandemic, let us remember that the Arts — the communication of human emotion through creative activities — can show us the way forward, can help us to heal, can lead us to change.



Professor Donald Bowyer Dean of School of Arts

Ang Pow Design Competition 2020 Award Ceremony



Photo Source: Dr Perline

The School of Arts Graphic & Multimedia Design (DGM) and Design Communication (BDC) students received their prizes on 6th December after winning several awards from the 2020 Ang Pow Design Competition organised by Hanzi Malaysia. The ceremony was broadcasted live on Hanzi's Facebook page.

BDC student Kong Shi Hui, received a gold souvenir card from a representative of the Bank of China, while DGM and BDC students, Teh Poh Leng (First Place), Boon San Sann (Second Runner Up), and Zainab Ahmed Adeem (Second Runner Up — Most Creative Design), received their rewards in cash and IT gadget vouchers from the Bank of China and ALL IT Hypermarket respectively.

The School of Arts would like to congratulate the students for their winnings. Thank you for making everyone proud!



Photo Source: Mingguan/Fariz Rusadio

This year, Azmyl Yunor has been a prominent figure not only in the School of Arts but also within the local music scene. Recently featured in Utusan Malaysia, Azmyl talked about the significance of folk music, and why it is a needed genre. "Folk music is important as it is someone's voice". In the interview, he also expressed his amazement for the genre as he felt that folk music are songs made for the people by the people.

Ku Syafiq Ku Fozi, Utusan Malaysia's journalist wrote in his article that Azmyl's biggest success is in producing

Malaysian folk music as it is not an easy task given the strong influence of folk music from the USA and Indonesia. As a folk singer-songwriter, one has to have a strong sense of "rooted-ness" and identity to be able to produce such influence. Azmyl songs represent the millennial voices through his style of language, lyrical content, making his art relatable to all.

Read more on "Suara Satu Orang" here!

*Article is written in Malay, and quotes extracted above are translated and edited

"21" Recorded Live Performance by DPA



Photo Source: Geraldine Piong

Having to adapt to the new norm, the theatre students of the Diploma in Performing Arts (DPA) of 2019 devised performed recorded а performance, "21" which was done in fulfilment of their Theatre Final Year Project. And for the first time in DPA history, it was broadcasted virtually via Zoom.

"21" has 11 scenes, separated into 6 Acts. It was inspired by real stories, conversations. and a myriad of perspectives. The theatre production is about the struggles of youth with themselves, family, and society.

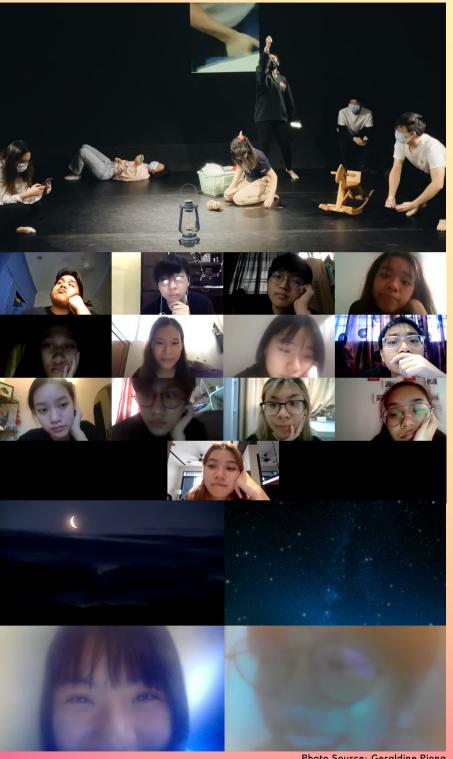


Photo Source: Geraldine Piong

The preparation took 15 weeks, while 6 weeks to re-plan for the performance to be done over zoom, performed respectively at home. With supervision and guidance from Assoc. Prof. Leow Pugy Tin, the production work such as directing, producing, writing, stage managing, design, and performance were distributed among the students.

Despite the inevitable bumps along the way, the 45 minute show was a success as almost 170 people had paid to watch the unique production.

Finally, as a means to honour the liveness of theatre, the students decided to perform a revised version of the final scene titled '21,21,21', live.

MyArchives: Archiving Malaysian Heritage: A Roundtable Discussion



Photo Source: ICTM Malaysia Facebook Page

In collaboration with School of Arts. MyArchives organised a roundtable discussion titled "Archiving Malaysian Heritage", streamed live on 12 December. The panel featured Joe Kidd from Ricecooker Archives, Paul Augustin from Penang House of Music, and Pauline Fan PUSAKA. The session was moderated by Iskandar Raja of University Malaysia Kelantan.

The three panellists shared and discussed the many ways their organisations collected and archived materials, and one of them was through the collaborations with various photographers, writers, as well as filmmakers. They answered also attendees' questions about documentation, filing, legal rights processes of archival materials, and the many obstacles that come along with the management and their upkeep.

One of the highlights of the online roundtable was the issue of continuity of these NGO bodies. Paul Augustin expressed that interest in the youth already exists, as many have volunteered to work with them. However, without proper funding and salaries there may be difficulties to sustain not only the body but the people within it. Despite that, through the consistent building of the community, there is still hope that archival work can continue for many generations to come.

MyArchives is a project developed by the ICTM National Committee of Malaysia, a collaborative effort by scholars, performers, and researchers to digitally preserve local performing arts that focus on traditions, past, and present. The roundtable stream is available to watch here!

Congratulations Philip Law and Iris Yap!



Photo Source: School of Arts Facebook Page

The School of Arts would like to congratulate Philip Law and Iris Yap for their Graduation Recital that was held on the 8th of December 2020

Philip's senior recital "Nationalist Impressions Violin Recital" was streamed on the School of Arts Facebook page. He performed works by Fritz Kreisler, Jean Sibelius, and Bela Bartok with a piano accompaniment by Mr Samuel Tan, Music Performance Programme Leader. Philip showed virtuosity in his violin playing and expressed a great understanding of the music he was performing.

Iris' "Virtual Graduation Recital" was also streamed on the School of Arts Facebook page later that afternoon. She performed works by J.S. Bach, E. Grieg, S. Prokofiev, and E. Chabrier. She gave a wonderful recital.

From The Joke Of The Same Name: Jazz Music By Professor Don Bowyer



Photo Source: Mingguan/Fariz Rusadio

We all know Professor Don Bowyer, Dean of the School of Arts from his Rooftop Trombone daily performances. Not only does Prof Don play the trombone, he has also composed over 60 pieces of music!

Last month, one of his pieces titled "From the Joke of the Same Name" was recorded by the Catatcha Orchestra from Prague, Czech Republic, as a project with Parma Recordings (USA). The six-minute long recording was performed socially distanced with each member of the Catatcha Orchestra playing their parts from the comfort of their homes.

The Cotatcha Orchestra is a modern jazz big band made up of 16 musicians playing on 10 different instruments. The full recording was published on YouTube by Parma Recordings, USA.Click here to watch!

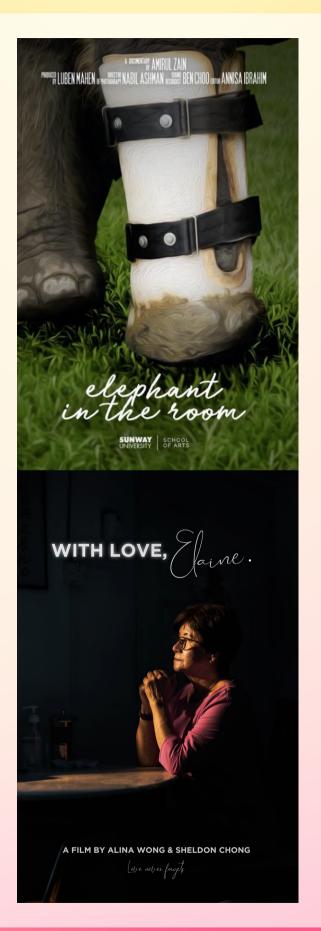


During the Movement Control Order (MCO), film students and lecturers at the Department of Film and Performing Arts (DFPA) found themselves at a crossroads. As gathering in groups was strictly prohibited, and filmmaking not allowed, a pivot was needed. An opportunity presented itself when film festivals moved their events online.

Digging into their film reserves, they discovered a wealth of already completed films and those that required the magical finishing touches. Students from various cohorts alongside a few graduates worked together with their lecturers, Dr. Dusan Petkovic and Dr. Adrian Lee Yuen Beng, as a virtual team to produce a list of films, identify potential films, produce EPKs (electronic press kits) and eventually clicking the submission button.

In total, more than 10 films with stories about clashes between religion and cultural beliefs (Pamparegla; Firasat; and Moksha), understanding more about elephants (Elephant in the Room), the search for memories (The Umbrella) and a romance-musical about an insomniac writer (Orpheus) were submitted to international film festivals. These films capably crossed international borders as they contained humanistic and cosmopolitan themes that transcended race, religion and culture. So far, four films — With Love, Elaine (MAS See Films: Students' Category Jury Award at the 16th Mini Film Festival; Lift Off Sessions); Little Things (Lift Off Sessions); Tok Ayah (MAS See Films: Students' Category Nominee) and Appetite Hunter (Official Selection at Golden Short Film Festival) have been selected as nominees, official selections or have won accolades.

With a number of DFPA student films still in contention for the much-coveted festival laurel leaves, we certainly look forward to sharing more exciting news that would make Sunway University and Malaysia proud.







In this issue of Life After SOA, the School of Arts Press features Nicole Cheong Wan Sin, a BA (Hons) in Communication majoring in PR Project Management 2020 graduate. Aside from being a former School of Arts Press contributor, she also fulfilled the role as President the School Arts for Representatives (SOAR)!

While in SOA, some of the best experiences she had were the various campaigns and events planned and executed with her classmates like TogetherLAH!, Lokal Night, and Hidden Figures Fashion Walk. She mentioned TogetherLAH! was held in conjunction with Hari Merdeka and Malaysia Day, while Hidden Figures celebrated different body shapes and sizes against society's standard of beauty.

The process of planning each event prepared her for future work, "It built me ready for when

I had to run my own campaigns and events now at work, with a much smaller team". Noting that "it was tough having to juggle everything", Nicole enjoyed every moment as she developed strong friendships with her classmates, especially those she was not close with at first because "You really have to work as a team to make these events happen".

Nicole now works as the PR and Marketing Lead at Savor Of Life, a Health-Tech Social Enterprise Startup that aims to help people build a healthy lifestyle through meal deliveries and mobile health coaching. Marketing channels, securing interview opportunities, writing press releases, and media relations are some of the skills she is hankful to have learnt as the Head of Public Relations and Marketing departments for events and campaigns. "These are the bread and butter in the day to day life of any Marketing or PR Practitioner".



Photo Source: Nicole Cheong

Given the current pandemic situation, Nicole said she would have to put her plans on hold temporarily. "My goal in the next few years is definitely for me to go overseas and continue my career in marketing, specifically digital marketing."

Through this experience, she has learnt that one can have many plans, but it will not be meaningful if one does not work to make it happen. "More than just having a goal for the future, it is important to think of how to make it [a goal] into a reality", she advises.

DECEMBER 2020 SCHOOL OF ARTS PRESS

SCHOOL OF ARTS PRESS HIGHLIGHTS OF



What a year it has been!

As we say our goodbyes to 2020, we would like to walk down memory lane and revisit School of Arts many activities and accomplishments that took place over the year. We raise our glasses and celebrate these milestones!

JAN APR 2020

Click the photos to read more on the stories highlighted!

CELEBRATING FRANK ONG FEBRUARY



ROOFTOP TROMBONE MARCH



DR. PERLINE'S ARTWORK **ON EXHIBITION JANUARY**



THE SEVEN SISTERS ENSEMBLE MARCH



ALDINA AZANI'S "THE STORY" **APRIL**



MAY **AUG** 2020

Click the photos to read more on the stories highlighted!

AZMYL YUNOR, CENDANA'S NEW MEMBER OF INDUSTRY ADVISORY PANEL JUNE



CHRIS TAN'S NEPHESH @ ZHAN ART SPACE AUGUST



SOA Q&A SESSION WITH PROFESSOR DON MAY



SHELDON CHONG & ALINA WONG WINNER OF THE JURY AWARD FOR STUDENT'S CATEGORY AT THE 16TH MINI FILM **FESTIVAL** JULY



AUG OCT 2020

Click the photos to read more on the stories highlighted!

> A NEW ADDITION TO THE **SCHOOL OF ARTS: CENTRE FOR SOUTH ASIAN AND INDIAN OCEAN STUDIES SEPTEMBER**



DR SABINE'S "STUDENT CONSUMER CULTURE IN NINETEENTH CENTURY OXFORD" **SEPTEMBER**



GERAN: WINNER OF THE DANIEL A. CRAFT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ACTION **CINEMA @ 19TH NEW YORK ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL 2020 AUGUST**



SCHOOL OF ARTS SUNFM DEBUTS ON WORLD COLLEGE RADIO DAY SEPTEMBER



OCT DEC 2020

Click the photos to read more on the stories highlighted!

DAD'S WINNING SWEEP @ ANG POW DESIGN COMPETITION 2020 OCTOBER



SCHOOL OF ARTS HOSTS THE 7TH INTER ASIA **POPULAR MUSIC STUDIES** (IAPMS) CONFERENCE



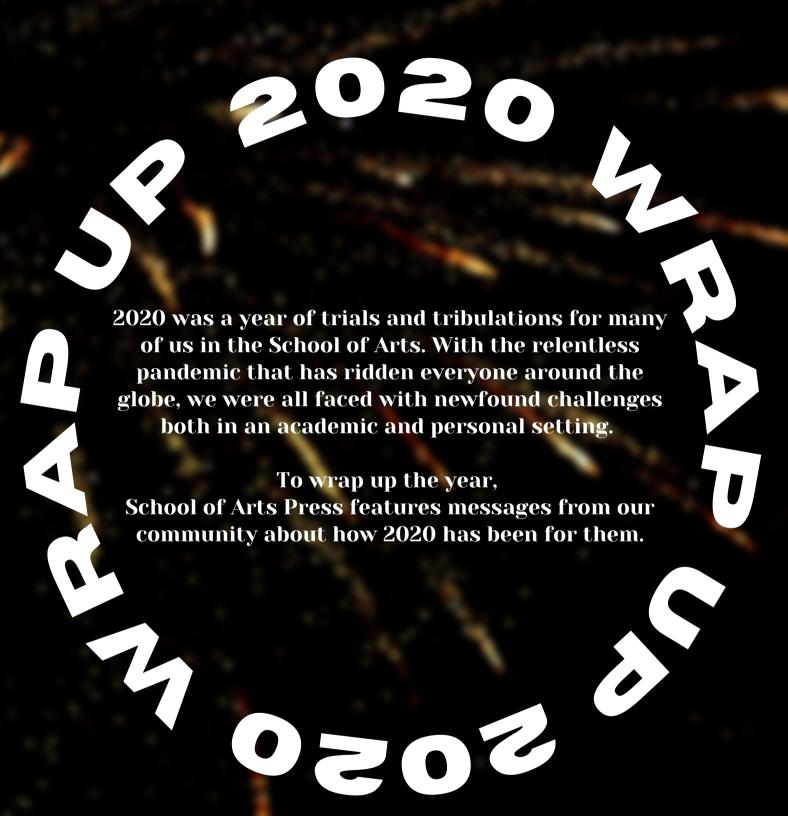
DR PAULINE'S APPOINTMENT @ THE CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE FOR THEOLOGICAL ENGAGEMENT OCTOBER

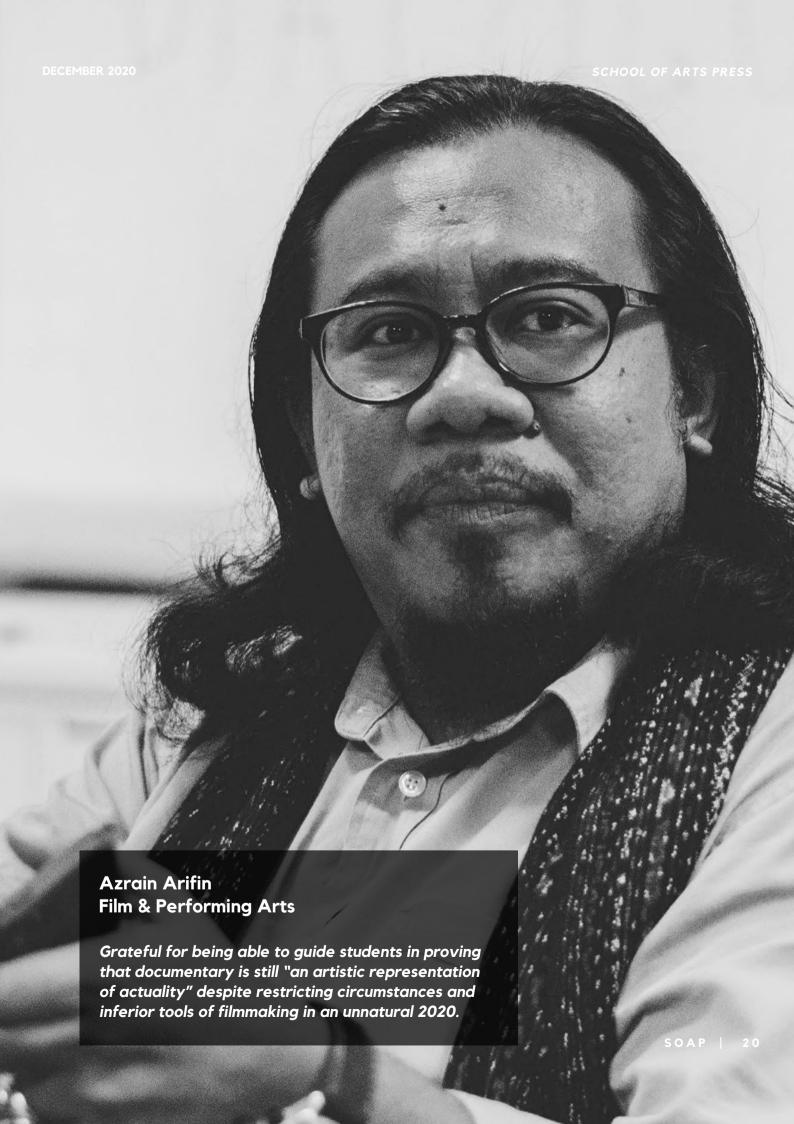


DR SUFFIAN'S CROSS-SECTIONAL SURVEY STUDY **PUBLISHED IN JMIR TOP 10% NOVEMBER**

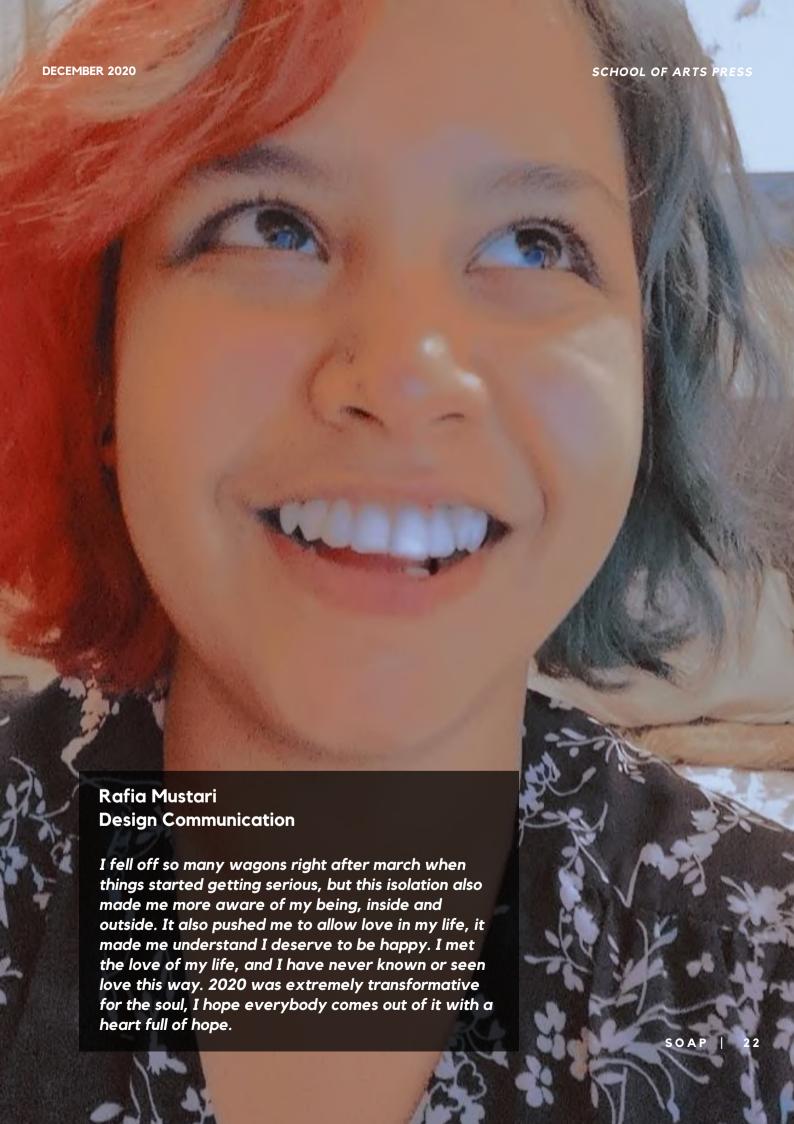


DECEMBER 2020 SCHOOL OF ARTS PRESS



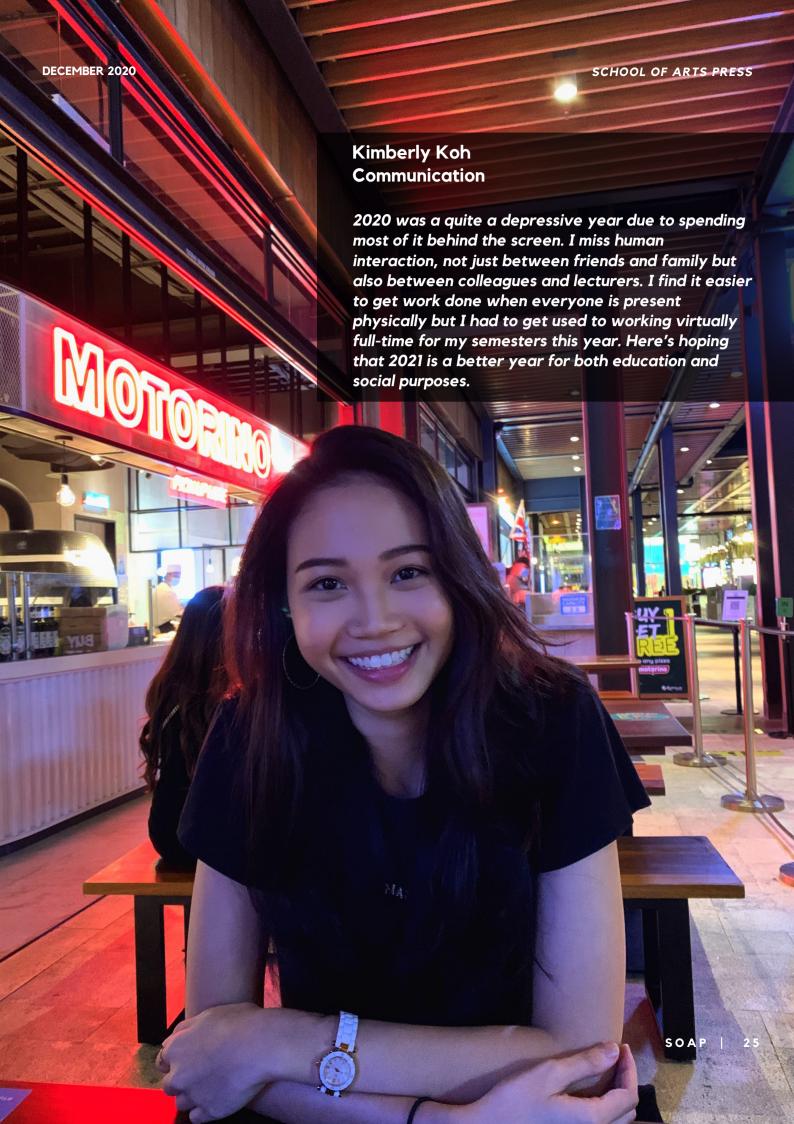


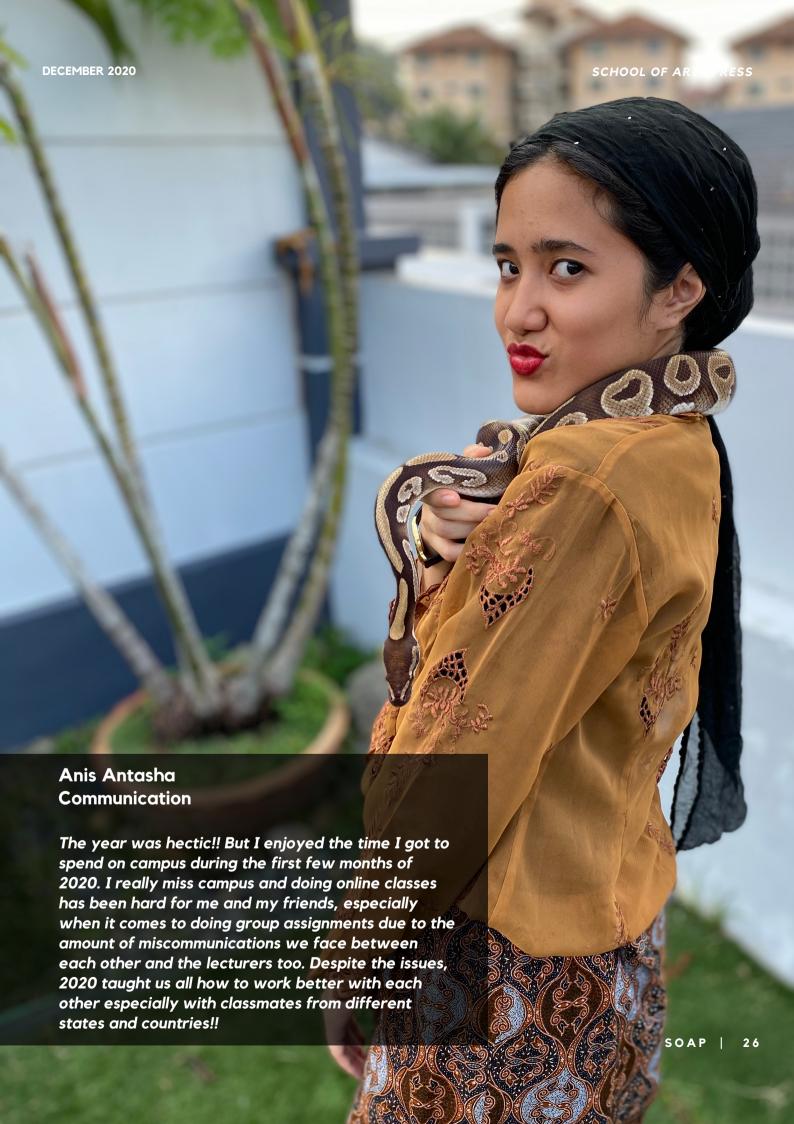


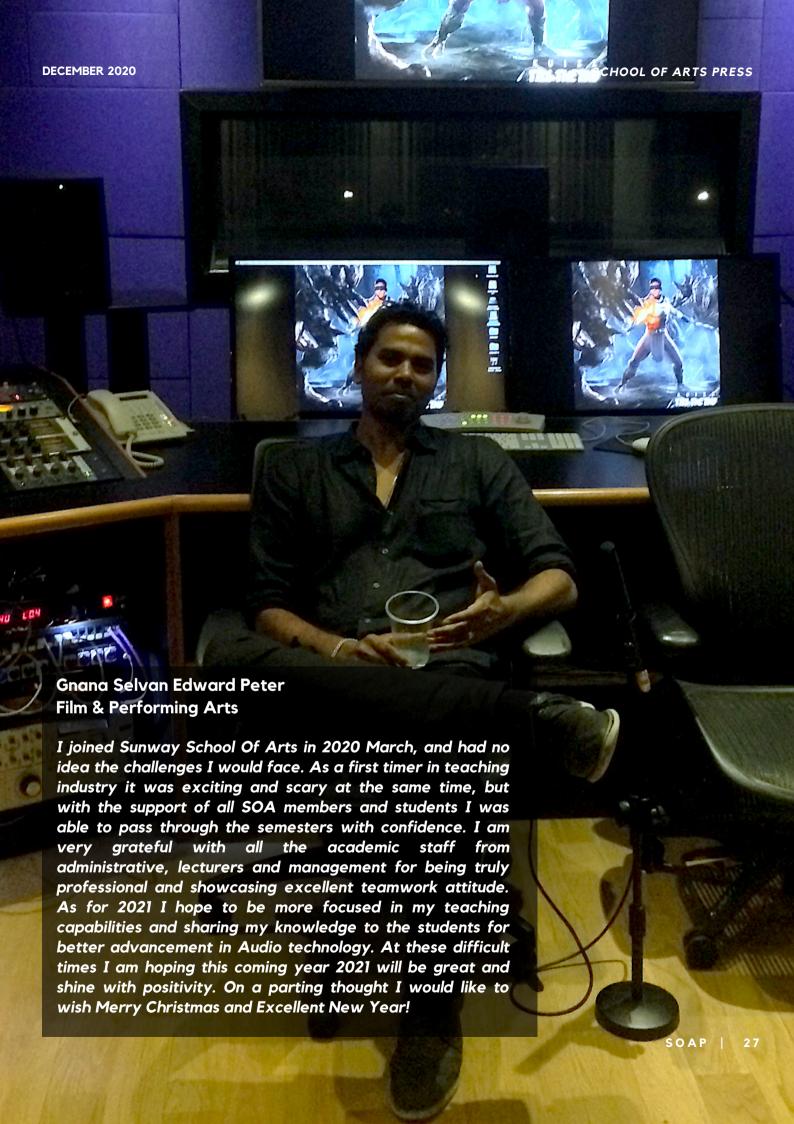




















2020 has been a challenging year for all of us. But despite it being a not so great year, there are still so many things to be grateful for. Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year 2021

CAROLYN M LEE SCHOOL OF ARTS (SUNWAY CONSERVATOIRE OF MUSIC)



It was a hectic year with the virus and lockdown which we thought gave a full stop to our careers but hats off to the lecturers who did not make us realize even for a second that online class is tough.

NADHA
INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE



2020 was filled with so many uncertainties and challenges. Nonetheless, grateful for my wonderful students, colleagues, & friends. Looking forward to better days where we can have F2F interactions again. Happy New year!

RACHEL ONG ARTS PROJECT MANAGER



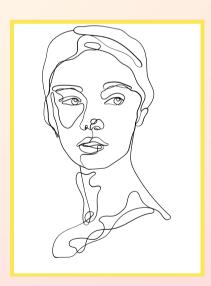
Online learning was fun and engaging to me. However, the exams time was limited and not like face to face exams that lead to challenging to do within the time given. Overall I have enjoyed the semester.

SHARMELA JEYARAMAN COMMUNICATION



This year was my first at
Sunway University and I feel
that the online learning,
although very understandable
and efficient to use, was not
my cup of tea.

NAVINEETA GINABALAN INTERIOR DESIGN



I've never engaged in so many Zoom & MS Teams online meetings this year. If there's one thing I missed most is having the actual human communication via F2F. BEGONE, COVID!

MABEL CHONG FILM & PERFORMING ARTS



2020 showed me just how resilient we are as people.
Grateful for both the pains and blessings that this year has brought me.

SOPHIA ALYSSA COMMUNICATION



"Everything will be okay in the end. If it's not okay, it's not the end." - John Lennon

LEE ANGIE
COMMUNICATION



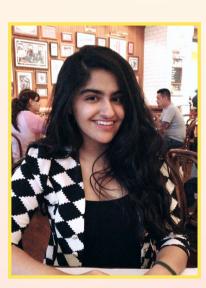
As messy and unpredictable 2020 has been, studying online has given me many opportunities like avoiding traffic jams. Anyway, I miss my friends so here's to a better year ahead!

YIN BEI COMMUNICATION



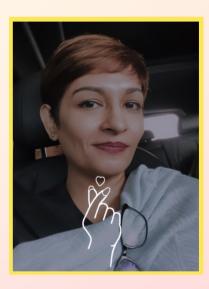
2020 was a rollercoaster year. Hope the mankind learnt the lesson from our mother earth. Let's look forward to a better year with better life. Cheers!

GOH YI SHENG, ART & DESIGN



Amidst the darkness of the pandemic, SOA never failed to help with our difficulties, encouraged us to stay positive and showed us the path of light during these trying times.

KASHISH RAJESH BUXANI COMMUNICATION



The pandemic has taught me what's truly valuable and has shown me how adaptive we can be. 2020: I'm thankful for the lessons.

VIJAYA SOORIA COMMUNICATION



Nothing scarier than to survive your life & job with the pandemic at the same time.

Just be glad and thankful if you still have it. Godspeed for incoming journey. Happy

Holidays

TUAH KHAIRUDDIN AHMED THARBE ADMIN TECHNICAL



We've just completed a year online. While it wasn't ideal, you stepped up and produced an amazing body of work that we can all be proud of and I want to thank all of you for your efforts. Enjoy your welldeserved break and we'll see you next year.

GEORGE J HESS JR. D.A FILM & PERFORMING ARTS



I would like to thank all the Sunway's staff. Y'all did a great job handling well known issues and despite the 6 month enrolment process of mine.. I'm satisfied now and wish you all the best.

VLADIMIR AKA BOB REZNIKOV CONTEMPORARY MUSIC (AUDIO TECHNOLOGY)



It was a hard year for me to study online but the lectures were helpful for us.

LEE GHASSAN MOHAMMED ALI ALSABAHI GRAPHIC AND MULTIMEDIA DESIGN



This year sets the precedent for novel things to come in teaching and learning. I sure am forward to seeing a change in the upcoming years!

SERENA LEOW COMMUNICATION



Making music during a worldwide pandemic was not easy. But with the support of the teachers, the staff and my fellow students I could learn a lot, personally and professionally.

GIANLUCA CAFAGNA CONTEMPORARY MUSIC (AUDIO TECHNOLOGY)