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SUNWAY UNIVERSITY

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DECEMBER 2022

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In this month's issue, SOAP highlights the December activities and achievements of SOA staff and students, bid farewell to 3 well-loved SOA lecturers, celebrate the Christmas spirit, and wrap up a year's worth of ART UNLIMITED!

Message from the Dean



December is an eventful month for Sunway University as the academic semester draws to a close. In the School of Arts, this culminates in a series of showcases and exhibitions, including our first ever DFPA Festival to wrap up the year!

As the campus quiets for the holidays, I wish all staff and students a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Stay safe and see you in 2023!

- Prof. Matthew Marshall
Dean of the School of Arts

COMNECT, a PR Campaign by Communication Students



COMMECT, aka Communication Leads Connection, is a PR campaign organised by BA (Hons) in Communication students. It began on the 14th and ended on the 26th of November, and was primarily targeted towards university students. Its aims were to raise awareness about the importance and application of different communication methods in life. Each stage of the campaign held a variety of content for the audience to enjoy and experience. This included documentaries, informative videos, and physical activities held on the 24th and 25th of November at the Sunway University Foyer.

Visit [@commeconnect](https://www.instagram.com/commeconnect) on Instagram to learn more about the campaign.



(Photo source: School of Arts Press)

Music Performance Alumnus Returns for Heart to Heart Violin Recital



On November 16th, we welcomed back BA(Hons) Music Performance alumnus Philip Law for a violin recital hosted by the Sunway Conservatoire of Music! Philip was joined by pianists Kenneth Teh and Tui Jia Jun in an hour-long recital which featured works by Biber, Bach, Brahms and Sibelius. In collaboration with Persatuan Pusat Kebajikan Chen Ai OKU, all donations received from the recital will be donated to the organisation. A massive thank you to Philip for returning to participate in such a meaningful and exciting event!



(Photo source: School of Arts Press)

Sustainability Poster Exhibition by Communication Students



On 28th November, students from the Corporate Communication Responsibility module of the BA(Hons) in Communication programme organised a two-day poster exhibition on sustainability. Led by Ms. Yesuselvi Manickam, the exhibition aimed to create and educate people about the Sunway Community's initiatives for people, the planet, and the environment. The students displayed posters about Sunway Group's sustainable projects as well as some ongoing projects led by Prof. Mohammad Khalid, Prof. Susela Devi K Suppiah, Dr Jane Gew Lai Ti, Dr Ravinder Kaur Kirpal Singh, and Ms Priyadharshini Ahrumugam.





(Photo source: Ms Yesuselvi Manickam)

Discussions Begin for 2023 SEAMSA Communications Conference at Sunway University



Professor Freeman, The School of Arts' Associate Dean of Education, recently travelled to Bangkok to meet with Alexander J. Klemm, editor of the Southeast Asian Media Studies journal and Executive Director of the Southeast Asian Media Studies Association (SEAMSA), an academic community that aims to be at the forefront of Southeast Asian media studies and research. The two met in order to discuss the 2023 SEAMSA Communications conference to be held at Sunway University in November.

For more information about SEAMSA, check out their webpage [here](#).

(Photo source: Prof. Bradley Carl Freeman)

Dr Pauline Leong Awarded Research Grant by CHRISTE



Congratulations to Dr Pauline Leong and her fellow research associates for receiving a research grant from the Christian Institute for Theological Engagement (CHRISTE). The research grant was awarded by the Cornelius Cardinal Sim Professorial Chair in Theology and Dialogue. The research, titled, “Are Malaysian and Singaporean Christians flocking back to church or flying away?” mainly focuses on reasons why some Christians have gone back to physically praying in church while others prefer to do so online which occurs during the recovery stage of Covid-19. On December 9th, a simple award ceremony was held at the School of Arts to commemorate the moment.

Watch a brief video footage of the ceremony [here](#).

(Photo source: CHRISTE Youtube channel)

Feature: DFPA FEST 2022

For the first time in history, the Department of Film & Performing Arts came together to showcase the best works from all programmes - CMAT, DFP, MP, and DPA - in DFPA FEST 2022! This 3-week long festival featured film screenings, theatre shows, music recitals, and much more. Read on to learn more about what went down at DFPA FEST.

Music Performance Solo Senior Recitals at SOA Gallery



DFPA FEST kicked off on the 29th and 30th of November as 9 final-year BA (Hons) Music Performance students performed their solo graduation recitals at the School of Arts Gallery. Each student planned their hour-long performances under the guidance of programme leader Mr Samuel Tan. They demonstrated their expertise featuring instruments such as piano, violin, and vocals. The audience had the pleasure of enjoying each recital, which was essentially a culmination of their studies at Sunway. Congratulations to the Music Performance students on the completion of your degree!





(Photo source: School of Arts Press)



Light, Camera, Magic — DFP Film Screenings



From the 5th of December to the 8th of December, the BA (Hons) Digital Film Production programme held 'Light, Camera, Magic', a film screening event! Held daily from 10AM - 4PM at Lecture Theatre 3, the event screened every single work produced by the DFP students over the August 2022 semester. The films were screened in random order, ranging from Year 1 Documentaries to Year 3 Final Year Projects. Each screening was immediately followed by a Q&A session with the production team.

The Final Year Projects were also screened in front of industry partners on a special Industry Screening event on December 8th!



(Photo source: School of Arts Press)

Year 1 and 2 Students' Music Performance Showcase



On 6th December 2022, a Music Performance Showcase took place at the School of Arts Gallery. Year 1 and Year 2 students from the BA (Hons) Music Performance programme took the chance to exhibit their skills and progress to the audience. The showcase included a mix of solo performances and chamber ensembles in groups of 3. A group choir performance conducted by opera singer and vocal director Ms Chaing Yi Ling concluded the event. Included were a few Christmas tunes, which added a festive touch to end the showcase with!





(Photo source: School of Arts Press)



Serendipity — Graduation Recital by Aven Phang



On December 7th, BA (Hons) Contemporary Music (Audio Technology) student Aven Phang gave the first solo graduation recital in CMAT history!

Aven and his two bands featured various genres of music through vocals, keys, guitar, bass, and drums. Aven also performed his very own original song, “Sunday”. The song came about when Aven was bored and stuck at home during the Movement Control Order period. All the songs he performed in the recital hold a special place in his heart.



During the recital, Aven showed appreciation to his parents and his lecturer, Miss Christine. He also showed appreciation to the sound and stage crew, the bands, and his girlfriend who supported him during the journey to the recital.

Aven concluded his hour-long recital with yet another original song, titled “Dream of Us”, which is a slow and mellow breakup song.

Watch the [soulful recital here](#).

(Photo source: Aven Phang)



CMAT End-of-Semester Showcase



The BA (Hons) Contemporary Music (Audio Technology) programme (CMAT) concluded the last showcase for the year 2022 on December 7th! This particular showcase was the first physical showcase since the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in immense excitement and enthusiasm from both the performers and audience. The 2-hour long CMAT showcase featured the finest works and performances from the Year 1 to Year 3 students.

Besides live performances, one of the special highlights of the showcase was the featuring of pre-recorded works from the Audio Processing & Mixing class, which is a

brand new class taken by the Year 2 students. One group did audio optimisation, sound processing, and voice acting based on the storylines that they have created. Another group did an animation short which used the same techniques.



Before the last performance from Year 3 students, Miss Christine, the CMAT programme leader, took the opportunity to show appreciation to all the backstage crew and advisors that supported the showcase.

A job well done to all the remarkable performers and organisers!

Enjoy the [full showcase here](#) (covered by [Sun4U Radio](#)).

(Photo source: Jonathan Cheah)



Songwriting Workshop With Local Musician Ali Aiman



On the 8th of December, a Songwriting Workshop with local songwriter and performer Mr Ali Aiman was conducted at the Level 9 Keyboard Lab. Students from the BA (Hons) Contemporary Music (Audio Technology) and BA (Hons) Music Performance programmes were given the opportunity to participate. Mr Aiman's prowess in composition and musical direction meant that he was able to offer personalised feedback to participants who shared their compositions during the workshop. On the whole, it was a valuable learning opportunity for all who took part in the workshop.

(Photo source: School of Arts Press)

The Like Award — DFP Award Ceremony



On the 9th of December, the DFP Film Screenings came to an end with an Award Ceremony for the students at Lecture Theatre 3, from 5pm to 8pm. This ceremony was held to appreciate the hard work of the BA (Hons) Digital Film Production students throughout the year, with awards personally handed out by subject lecturers for each subject category. Together, the students and lecturers celebrated their achievements and growth along their path to becoming great filmmakers.

(Photo source: School of Arts Press)



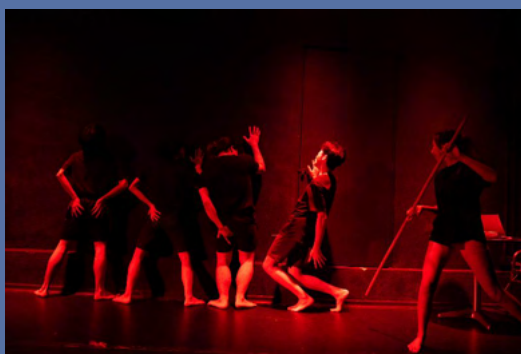
Stand-Up We-Rapy — DPA Final-Year Project Theatre Showcase



For two days, the graduating cohort from the Diploma in Performing Arts programme held their Final-Year Project Theatre Showcase, Stand-Up We-Rapy!

The theatre showcase featured stories and monologues on growing up.

Through various modes of storytelling, the ensemble covered real stories on father-son relationships, loss of friendships, dealing with difficult relatives, unconventional love, and sisterly support. Hosted at the Rooftop Theatre, both days of the showcase played to full houses!





(Photo source: Siaw Boon Keat)

DPA End-of-Semester Showcase

On December 10th, the Diploma of Performing Arts programme capped the end of the August semester with a showing of best works by both junior and senior DPA cohorts. These included devised work from Improvisation, short films from Directing for the Camera, documentaries from Audio-Visual Production, and scenes from Rajiv Joseph's *Gruesome Playground Injuries* from Acting & Text.



(Photo source: Mr Kelvin Wong)

The Lunchbox — DPA Final-Year Project Film Screening



On December 11th, the Diploma in Performing Arts graduating cohort held their Final-Year Project Film Screening, hosted by Andy Gomes, the DPA Film FYP supervisor.

'The Lunchbox' is a coming-of-age narrative of a boy who discovers a friend through the lunches he brings to school. The screening ended with a Q&A session with the production team.





(Photo source: Mr Kelvin Wong)

Current DPA students and alumni as well as students from other programmes were in attendance and thanks to everyone, the event was a success!



IF ONLY — a Rooftop Theatre DPA Alumni Project

TIN RAMAN

WENDY WONG

DEXTER ZHEN

IF

AN EXPERIMENTAL DEvised PLAY BY MURASAKI HARU

ONLY

DECEMBER 14 - 18 > 8:30PM
DECEMBER 17 + 18 > 3:00PM

ROOFTOP THEATRE
SUNWAY COLLEGE

RM40

VISIT @HHHOWLS_ ON IG
TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS
(LINK IN BIO / DM)

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SUNWAY
UNIVERSITY



This year's Rooftop Theatre DPA Alumni Project featured a new devised piece by alumnus Murasaki Haru, who graduated with DPA in 2018. 'IF ONLY' explored the texts, stills, colours, and forms that emerge from yearning, impulsivity, regret, and vindication. This production was produced by Howls Theatre Co. that Haru founded, and featured emerging theatre-makers from the Malaysian theatre scene: Tin Raman, Wendy Wong, and Dexter Zhen.



(Photo source: Abdul Sami Shahid)

'CLOUD' Department of Art, Design, and Media Graduate Showcase



The DADM final year project showcase, 'CLOUD', took place from the 13th to 18th of December at Sunway University's Art Gallery! 'CLOUD' references the network service providing data hosting services through the internet, which was meaningful for the students who had participated in online learning for most of their courses. It involved students from the following programmes: Diploma in Interior Design, BA (Hons) in Interior Architecture, Diploma in Graphic & Multimedia Design, and BA (Hons) Design Communication. Students exhibited vibrant and diverse works of art ranging from hostel layouts to journal branding projects, which was a treat for the audience to appreciate.





(Photo source: CLOUD 2022 Team)

Visit [@cloudbysoa](https://www.instagram.com/cloudbysoa) on Instagram for more photos of this spectacular showcase!

Farewell to SOA Lecturers Prof George, Mr Samuel, and Ms VG!

Three well-loved School of Arts lecturers had left Sunway at the end of last semester. This includes BA (Hons) Contemporary Music (Audio Technology) lecturer Prof. George Hess, BA (Hons) Music Performance programme leader Mr Samuel Tan, and Department of Communication lecturer Ms Vijaya. With hefty teaching experiences under their belts, all three lecturers have guided many students and made wonderful memories with the Sunway community. We hope you have had a good time at Sunway, and we wish you all the best in your future endeavours!



Prof. George John Hess Jr

Professor

Department of Film and Performing Arts



Samuel Tan Hsien Chih

Lecturer/ Program Leader

Department of Film and Performing Arts



Vijaya Sooria Sangaran Kutty

Lecturer

Department of Communication

(Photo source: [Sunway University Website](#))

SOAP Special: Sharing the Christmas Spirit

December is the month of giving and receiving so In light of Christmas day, we reached out to students to share their Christmas stories.

Ophelia Chua

One of the first people that comes to my mind when I think of Christmas is my late grandmother. Ever since I could remember, I've always spent Christmas with my late grandmother and her great spread of home-cooked dishes. I can never forget her out-of-the-box idea of hanging red packets (yes, angpaos) on the Christmas tree as gifts for her grandchildren, doubling as Christmas ornaments. This Christmas definitely felt different without her, but all these memories she left with us comforts me. Merry Christmas, Ah Ma! We miss you. ❤️

Alicia Ashley

My family has this tradition where we would go for Christmas holidays and my 2019 holiday was the most memorable. We went to Phuket and had the best time there just enjoying the food, culture and making the best memories with them.



(Photo source: Alicia Ashley)

ART UNLIMITED Wrap

As the year is ending, we would like to appreciate some of the artwork we received this year from the students of School of Arts. Here is a wrap up of some of the best artwork that was featured on ART UNLIMITED this year. We would like to thank all students who took their time to send us their artwork this year.

That's a wrap!

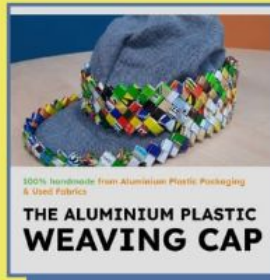
Art: Unlimited

Wrapped 2022

Aluminium Plastic Weaving Cap

Lim Chia Hui, Seshadri Sessa, Lee En Yuen
Bachelors in Design Communication / Bachelors in Interior Architecture

Introducing the Aluminium Plastic Weaving Cap. An environmental friendly yet Stylish Cap, completely made out of Aluminium Plastic Packaging and Fabric from Used Denim. This was inspired by upcycling Methods for used clothing and unused plastics.



@recapmy

Poker

Belle Ang Ma'e
BA (Hons) Design Communication

The artwork is inspired
by Victoria's Secret models.



Film Photography

Alicia Ashley
BA (Hons) Communication

I love taking pictures to capture moments as a form of a memory and I picked up film photography in 2019. I was really fascinated with film photography as it gives a little vintage feel to a modern memory in every picture that I capture. Previously I was only using disposable cameras to take my film pictures but I got really interested in it when my grandma gave me my grandfather's old film camera. I started experimenting with different films and I'm still learning my ways through film photography. I mostly take pictures of my families, portraits and a little bit of architecture photography. I'm definitely still learning but I'm still proud of my pictures.

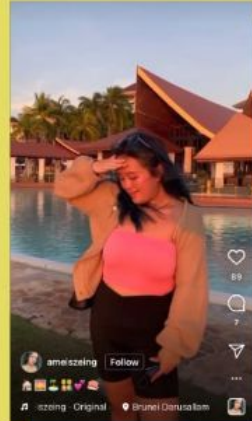
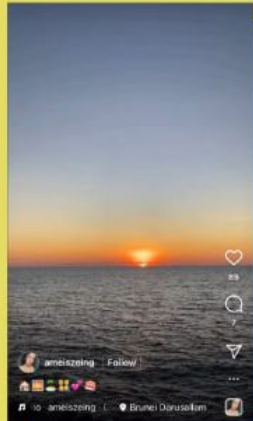


Follow me to Brunei!

Liaw Mei Sze (Mei)
BA (Hons) Communication

I am one who loves to live in the moment but also one who loves to capture the little snippets in life. A short and minimalist vlog allows me to leave traces in my

memory lane while being able to live in the present. Every vlog I create is also accompanied by the songs I enjoy to vibe and connect with the viewers.



Thank you for reading the **December 2022** issue of the School of Arts Press Newsletter.

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