

Pembelajaran seni mampu menjamin masa depan seorang individu dengan pelbagai prasarana yang giat dibina pemerintah bagi memajukan seni. Inilah yang diyakini sekumpulan anak muda yang berusaha membangkitkan minat berterusan dalam memburu impian yang berlandaskan kecenderungan. **HARYANI ISMAIL** (haryani@sph.com.sg) melaporkan.



KESUNGGUHAN KELUAR DARI ZON SELESA: Bermula sebagai penari hip hop Fantastic Four Dance Crew, Encik Syaril Amri Mohd Tajuddin, kini mampu melakukan aksi dirian tangan dengan lebih baik selepas melalui latihan balet menerusi kursus diploma tarian daripada Maktab Seni Lasalle. – Foto-foto KHALID BABA

Gerak tari jaya lulusan cemerlang Lasalle

SEKECIL usia 11 tahun, Encik Syaril Amri Mohd Tajuddin sudah didedahkan pada kebangsaan dunia tarian hip hop.

Beliau merupakan anggota termuda kru hip hop popular, Fantastic Four Dance Crew, yang dipimpin Encik Mohd Ridwan (Ewan) Rashid.

Bagaimanapun, bidang tarian ini tidak diambil serius olehnya kerana cita-cita utamanya dahulu ialah mengikuti kursus diploma pengurusan sukan dan riadah di Politeknik Republic (RP).

Tapi impian itu tidak menjadi nyata, menyebabkan beliau mencari-cari kursus yang sesuai dengan jiwanya.

Hanya selepas bersempang dengan dua penari mapan, Encik Shahrin Johry dan Encik Mohamad Sufri Juwahir, barulah Encik Syaril terbuka hati mengikuti diploma tarian di Maktab Seni Lasalle.

Jumaat lalu, beliau, yang kini berusia 21 tahun, menutup tirai pengajiannya pada majlis konvokesyen Lasalle yang berlangsung di Dewan Persidangan dan Pameran Singapore Expo.

Beliau juga antara pelajar cemerlang kursus itu yang menerima Dermasiswa Tan Chay Bing selama tiga tahun berturut-turut sepanjang pengajian di Lasalle.

Ketika ditemui *Gah!*, Encik Syaril, yang merupakan anak seorang pemandu teksi dan suri rumah, berkata:

“Menari hanyalah hobi sahaja walaupun saya terdedah pada tarian hip hop sewaktu di bangku sekolah rendah.

“Memandangkan saya aktif dalam sukan bola lantai, saya idamkan peluang mendalami kursus pengurusan sukan dan riadah di Politeknik Republic.

“Apabila harapan itu tidak kesampaian, tarian merupakan bidang gantian. Saya akui pada hari pertama di Lasalle, saya terasa kekok, bagaikan terperangkap di dalam dunia serba asing.

“Saya tiada latar belakang tarian balet. Tahun pertama memang penuh jerih payahnya. Tapi kosa kata saya dalam dunia tarian semakin bertambah dengan setiap kepayahan yang dilalui. Saya juga mula tahu siapa ‘Permaisuri Tarian Moden’, Martha Graham.”

Berkat latihan gigih yang dilaluinya, beliau mampu menguatkan ototnya. Kursus balet bahkan membolehkan Encik Syaril melakukan dirian tangan pada tempoh waktu lebih lama.

“Kedudukan postur saya lebih baik. Saya tidak pernah putus asa bagi memperbaiki diri saya.

“Fokus saya pada usaha menguasai setiap teknik yang diajar pensyarah. Banyak onak dan durinya tapi saya anggap motivasi guru atau leteran mereka sebagai pembakar semangat,” ceritanya lagi.

Beliau jenis pelajar yang banyak bertanya di studio tarian bagi membolehkannya memahami sesuatu teknik atau teori tari yang diajar dengan baik.

Ditanya mengenai kenangan manisnya di Lasalle, Encik Syaril berkata:

“Pastinya kenangan menjadi satu-satunya pelajar diploma yang terpilih bagi projek pesta tarian jurutari dan pensyarah tari tidak asing lagi, Albert Tiong. Pelajar lain yang dipilihnya merupakan mereka di peringkat ijazah, baik dari Lasalle atau Akademi Seni Halus Nanyang (Nafa).

“Saya ingat detik-detik saya, yang ketika itu di tahun pertama, terpaksa mencuri pandang di balik pintu kaca studio tarian ketika Albert mengajar pelajar-pelajar tahun keduanya.

“Saya impikan pengalaman berada di bawah bimbingannya. Memang penat bukan kepalang dan berpeluh sebab ia bak satu pelajaran 2.4 kilometer yang tiada kesudahannya! Albert tegas dengan pelajarannya tetapi selalu mempercayai kebolehan kami.”

Encik Syaril juga sempat bekerjasama

dengan penari antarabangsa, Ole, yang berlatih dalam bidang hip hop menerusi karya tari bertajuk *Electricity*.

“Selepas Perkhidmatan Negara (NS), saya bercadang melakukan kerja sebagai jurutari. Impian saya suatu hari nanti ialah menyertai institusi tarian terbilang, *Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance* di London.

“Seorang pensyarah saya mempelajari sains tarian yang mengkaji cara merangsang otot kita agar bergerak dalam proses tarian di institusi itu. Pastinya ia cabang tarian yang menarik dan membuka minda,” katanya lagi.

Di majlis konvokesyen Lasalle Jumaat lalu, Pemangku Menteri Pendidikan (Pendidikan Tinggi dan Kemahiran), Encik Ong Ye Kung, yakin peluang pekerjaan cerah bagi lulusan kesenian daripada Lasalle.

Bersandarkan Tinjauan Pekerjaan Lulusan kendalian Kementerian Pendidikan (MOE), beliau mendedahkan bahawa kebanyakan lulusan kesenian Lasalle (tujuh dalam kalangan 10 yang ditinjau), mampu mendapatkan pekerjaan sepenuh masa, sambilan atau bebas dalam tempoh enam bulan selepas tamat pengajian tahun lalu.

“Kami hanya perlu tekankan kepada anda (para lulusan kesenian) bahawa sebilangan besar daripada lulusan Lasalle di masa lalu mempunyai portfolio atau kerjaya bebas yang memerlukan mereka mengimbangi bermacam tugas. Kerja anda bukan tugas masuk 9 pagi pulang 5 petang, Isnin hingga Jumaat.

“Begitulah keadaan industri yang anda sendiri pilih untuk diceburi. Seiringan dengan itu, terdapat lebih ramai pelajar yang bukan dalam jurusan seni, memilih menjadi usahawan atau menawarkan khidmat profesional atau pakar secara bebas.

“MOE berharap dapat mengambil kira perubahan keadaan bekerja masa kini dalam mengukur hasil pekerjaan di masa akan datang,” jelas Encik Ong.

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With the government investing in various facilities to promote art, students pursuing art educations can now look forward to a secure future. This is the opinion of a group of youths who worked hard to keep their passion alive while pursuing their dreams.

Dance movements by an outstanding LASALLE graduate

DETERMINATION TO GET OUT OF THE COMFORT ZONE: Starting from being a hip hop dancer for the Fantastic Four Dance Crew, Mr Syaril Amri Mohd Tajuddin, is now able to do a better handstand after going through ballet lessons from the Diploma in Dance programme from the LASALLE College of the Arts. – Photograph KHALID BABA

From as young as 11 years old, Mr Syaril Amri Mohd Tajuddin has been exposed to the agility of the hip hop dance world.

He was the youngest member of the popular hip hop crew, Fantastic Four Dance Crew, led by Mr Mohd Ridwan (Ewan) Rashid.

However, dancing was not taken seriously because he previously wanted to take up a sports and leisure management diploma at the Republic Polytechnic (RP).

But that dream was not fulfilled, which led him to seek for another suitable course.

After talking with two established dancers, Mr Shahrin Johry and Mr Mohamad Sufri Juwahir, Syaril set his heart to take up a Diploma in Dance at the LASALLE College of the Arts.

Last Friday, the LASALLE's convocation ceremony at the Singapore Expo Conference and Exhibition Hall marked the completion of his studies who is by now 21 years old.

He is also one of the top students of the course who received Tan Chay Bing Scholarship for three consecutive years throughout his studies at LASALLE.

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When approached by *Gah!*, Syaril, who is the son of a taxi driver and a housewife, said, “Dancing was only hobby even though I have been exposed to hip hop since my primary school days.

“But as I was active in floor ball, I always wanted to take up the sport and leisure management course at the Republic Polytechnic.

“When that dream seemed impossible, dance became an alternative field. I admit that on my first day at LASALLE, I felt awkward, as if I was trapped in a foreign world.

“I didn’t have any background in ballet. The first year was full of struggles. But with time and effort, my knowledge of dance increased – I even came to learn who the modern dance queen, Martha Graham was.”

Through all the tough trainings, which he carried out diligently, he was able to strengthen his muscles. In fact, within a short time through the ballet course, Syaril could do a handstand.

“My posture improved. I never stopped improving myself. My focus is to master each technique taught by the lecturer. There were so many difficulties but I was very motivated by my lecturers and considered their nagging as encouragement,” he added.

He was the type of student who asked a lot of questions in the dance studio to ensure that he fully understood a dance technique or theory taught.

When asked about his unforgettable memories at LASALLE, Syaril said, “Definitely the best memory is being the only Diploma student selected for a dance production by the well-known dance trainer and lecturer, Albert Tiong. Other students he selected were BA(Hons) Dance students from LASALLE or Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA).

“I remembered the time when I was in my first year, I stole glances from beyond the glass door of the dance studio when Albert was teaching the second year students. I yearned for the experience of being under his guidance. It can be extremely tiring and sweaty because it was like an unending 2.4 kilometre run! Albert can be strict with his students but he also believed in our abilities.”

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Syaril also managed to collaborate with international dancer, Ole, who was skilled in hip hop from the dance work entitled *Electricity*.

“After National Service (NS), I hope to be a dance trainer. My dream is to be able to enrol in the multi-dance institution, Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London.

“One of my lecturers took Dance Science at that institution, which studied the way our muscles are stimulated as we move during the dancing poses. The branch of that dance field is interesting and eye opening,” he added.

During the LASALLE convocation held last Friday, the Acting Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills), Mr Ong Ye Kung, shared that he believes job opportunities are bright for the arts graduates from LASALLE.

Based on the Graduate Employment Survey, he revealed that seven in 10 LASALLE graduates were able to obtain full time employment, part time or freelance work within six months of completing their studies last year.

“We only have to emphasise to you (arts graduates) that the majority of past LASALLE graduates have portfolios or freelance careers which require them to balance many tasks. Your work is not to come in at 9am in the morning and return home at 5pm in the afternoon, from Monday till Friday.

“That is the industry that you have chosen to embark on. Correspondingly, there are many students not from the arts field, who choose to be entrepreneurs or provide freelance professional or expert service.

MOE hopes to take into account the changes in the current working conditions when measuring future work outcomes,” added Mr Ong.