



拉萨尔艺术学院毕业生林俊融（左）和阿菲卡，分别对时尚和舞蹈抱有满腔热忱。（邬福梁摄）

## 男生热爱时尚 放弃国大转读拉萨尔

蔡欣颖 报道

choxyx@sph.com.sg

虽然追随热忱的道路比他人更长，但林俊融从未后悔，一直在追寻梦想的道路上努力进取。

曾在两家知名时尚杂志社实习的林俊融（25岁），从小对时尚艺术深感兴趣，但一开始没有报读这方面课程，反而选择到新加坡国立大学修读工业设计。然而，他在上课四个星期后觉得志不在此，决定转学到拉萨尔艺术学院报读时尚媒体与行业课程。

由于新学期已经开始，林俊融只能在隔年入学。为了充分利用时间，他决定到奢侈品牌普拉达（Prada）实习，学习行销方面等知识。

林俊融说：“虽然父母没有反对我转学的决定，但一开始并不完全理解。他们觉得为了从事创意工作，放弃本地大学文凭有点可惜……但也因为实习，他们看到我认真的态度，而愿意支持我的决定。”

在拉萨尔艺术学院修读期间，林俊融也利用假期到不同品牌或公关公司实习。由于学业和课外成绩亮眼，他昨天在毕业典礼上从活动主宾国会议长陈川仁手中获颁拉萨尔艺术学院毕业生最高荣誉的“麦纳利艺术卓越奖”（McNally

Award）。

他说：“与众人想法不同，我不觉得一年的空档期是在浪费时间，或导致我落后于同期的朋友。相反的，那一年的实习经验让我更了解自己的优缺点，从而自我进步。”

陈川仁致辞时说，人生道路不是每次都能得偿所愿，有时会跟原定计划不同。但无论做什么，都应满怀热忱，并且学习、培育和发展技能，就算最终所走道路和原先想象不一样，但可能有意外收获，更重要的是不忘回馈社会。他也提醒家长，每个人都有自己的强项，不要只注重文凭，而应把重心放在价值观和品格道德上。

今年共有852名学生从拉萨尔艺术学院毕业，其中有331人和466人分别获颁专业文凭和文学士学位，另有55人取得硕士学位。人力部长林瑞生因妻子章秀雯获颁亚洲艺术史硕士学位，与家人出席在新加坡博览中心举行的毕业礼。

另一名毕业生是修读舞蹈系专业文凭课程的阿菲卡（22岁）。她曾经因为过度专注舞蹈活动而荒废学业，必须重考N水准会考，但这个挫折从未让她放弃当编舞者的梦想。毕业后，她打算继续深造，梦想是开设舞蹈公司，通过编舞传达正面信息。

## **Local university student pursues passion at LASALLE instead**

By Choy Xin Ying

Photo: LASALLE College of the Arts graduates Jerome Lim Junrong (left) and Nur Afifah Bte Rapee (right) are passionate about fashion and dance respectively.

He may have taken a longer path to follow his heart but Jerome Lim Junrong has never regretted his decision. Even till today, he is still working hard to pursue his dream of being a thought leader in fashion.

Jerome's interest for fashion and the arts began since he was young. Nevertheless, the 25-year-old former intern of two well-known fashion publications chose to enter the National University of Singapore to study industrial design.

However, four weeks into the programme, he realised this was not what he desired and thus made the switch to LASALLE College of the Arts to take up a degree in Fashion Media and Industries.

But given that the new semester had started, Jerome had to wait a year to commence his studies. Deciding that he should make full use of his time, he approached luxury fashion label, Prada, for an internship to learn more about sales and branded communication.

"Although my parents didn't object to my decision to switch schools, they couldn't quite wrap their heads around the notion. They felt that it was a pity to give up a placement at a local university... but after seeing my earnest attitude during the internship, they were willing to support my decision," said Jerome.

During his semester breaks at LASALLE, Jerome also interned at several other fashion labels and public relations companies. His hard work and outstanding performance paid off yesterday when he received LASALLE's most prestigious honour, the McNally Award for Excellence in the Arts, from the Guest-of-Honour, Speaker of Parliament, Tan Chuan-Jin, at the College's 31<sup>st</sup> convocation.

"Contrary to what others may think, I don't believe that the one-year gap I had was a waste of time or made me lag behind my peers in any way. Instead, my internship experience in that one year made me understand my strengths and weaknesses better so that I may self-improve on where I'd fall short," said Jerome.

In his speech, Mr Tan Chuan-Jin mentioned the following: "In life, we seldom always achieve our dreams and more often than not, things don't always pan out as planned. But no matter what you do, you should be passionate about it, and you should constantly learn, cultivate and develop your skills.

Even if the path you take at the end of the day is different from what you had imagine, you may be in for some pleasant surprises. And more importantly, don't forget to give back to society.”

Mr Tan Chuan-Jin also reminded parents that everyone has his or her own strengths so instead of focusing only on academic accomplishments, parents should also place equal importance on nurturing values, character and morals in their child.

This year, a total of 852 students graduated from LASALLE's Convocation 2017. Among them, 331 were awarded professional diplomas and 466 received Bachelor of Arts degrees; another 55 were conferred their Master's degree.

Minister of Manpower, Lim Swee Say, also attended the College's convocation, which was held at the Singapore EXPO Convention & Exhibition Centre, as his wife, Elaine Cheong, was awarded an MA in Asian Art Histories.

Another graduate, Nur Afiqah Bte Rapee, received her Diploma in Dance on that day too, and she shared that she once had to retake her N-level exams because she was too focused on dance activities. But this setback did not thwart her dream of becoming a choreographer. Instead, she forged ahead and came to LASALLE.

The 22-year-old is now currently pursuing a BA(Hons) Dance degree with LASALLE, and she intends to set up her own dance company one day because she believes choreography can inspire positive sentiment in others.