

Gah!

Kalau ada kemahuan, pasti ada jalan. Berpegang teguh pada pepatah ini, dua pelajar yang berdepan dengan ujian membuktikan tiada yang mustahil dalam mengejar impian murni. Wartawan Gah! menyingkap jerih payah yang diharungi dengan tertutupnya tirai persekolahan mereka.

Fesyen Muslimah bekas pelajar madrasah ke persada antarabangsa

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BELIAU tidak pernah terfikir koleksi pakaiannya akan dapat diperagakan di pentas antarabangsa iaitu pentas sama yang digunakan pereka fesyen terkenal seperti Prabal Gurung dan Oscar de la Renta.

Tetapi mimpi menjadi nyata bagi pelajar tahun akhir Maktab Seni LaSalle, Cik Nur Hafizah Ghazali, minggu lalu apabila koleksi Muslimahnya, Sutra, digayakan para model antarabangsa semasa Festival Fesyen Audi (AFF).

Festival tersebut yang diadakan di Tent@Orchard, Ngee Ann City, Civic Plaza selama lima hari itu merupakan sebahagian daripada acara Pertukaran Fesyen Asia (AFX) yang diadakan setiap tahun.

Tahun ini 20 pelajar terbaik tahun akhir bidang fesyen LaSalle dipilih khas untuk mengambil bahagian dalam pertunjukan fesyen berprestij di Singapura itu.

“Saya diberitahu rekaan saya lebih praktikal dan mempunyai sasaran pasaran khas,” kata gadis berwawasan berusia 23 tahun ini yang agak teruja koleksi Muslimahnya buat julung-julung kali diberi peluang diperagakan dalam AFF.

Menurut Cik Nur Hafizah, beliau mendapat inspirasi menghasilkan koleksi enam pakaian Sutra itu daripada pakaian pantai 1930-an



RIANG DIHARGAI: Cik Nur Hafizah Ghazali (kiri) saat diberikan sejobang bunga oleh pakar hias rambutnya, Cik Nurhanis Mohd Rohayat, di Festival Fesyen Audi Tent@Orchard di Ngee Ann City minggu lalu. – Foto-foto ZAINAL YAHYA

yang menggunakan fabrik sutera lembut dan banyak menggunakan seluar palazzo (jenis longgar dan kembang).

“Sejujurnya saya menangis apabila para model memperagakan koleksi saya. Saya tiba-tiba teringat arwah nenek saya, Samsiah Kachong.

“Beliaulah yang bijak menjahit pakaian untuk kami semua setiap kali Hari Raya. Disebabkan beliau

jumlah saya memilih laluan ini,” jelasnya yang berkata nama Sutra dipilih kerana jika ia diterjemahkan ke bahasa Arab ia memberi maksud ‘menutup’.

Tidak seperti temannya yang lain, Cik Nur Hafizah, yang merupakan bekas pelajar Madrasah Al-Maarif Al-Islamiah, memilih melanjutkan pelajaran di peringkat ijazah dengan kepujian dalam bidang fesyen pakaian wanita di LaSalle.

“Kebanyakan teman saya melanjutkan pelajaran ke Universiti Al-Azhar atau ke universiti tempatan.

“Tetapi saya kata kepada diri saya, saya tidak mahu melibatkan diri dalam dunia akademik. Saya mahu lakukan sesuatu yang lebih kreatif,” ujarnya yang berkata beliau tidak berpeluang meneroka pendidikan seni di Madrasah Al-Maarif kerana madrasah itu tidak menyediakan subjek tersebut untuk pelajarannya.

Namun, menghasilkan koleksi fesyen pakaian mempunyai cabarannya memandangkan setiap pelajar perlu mengeluarkan belanja sendiri untuk membeli kain.

Bahkan beliau perlu membelanjakan sekitar \$4,000 untuk koleksi Sutranya.

“Pihak sekolah ada mengesyorkan kami ke Hongkong untuk mencari kain yang sesuai.

“Teman-teman saya, yang kebanyakannya pelajar asing, membawa sehingga \$3,000 untuk belanja, manakala saya hanya mampu bawa \$900 sahaja,” katanya yang ibunya seorang suri rumah dan bapanya pemandu van sekolah.

Bahkan bagi menampung kos perbelanjaannya selama tiga tahun di LaSalle, Cik Nur Hafizah sanggup bekerja sehingga empat pekerjaan.

“Saya mengajar tuisyen bahasa

Arab kepada tiga pelajar dan pada hujung minggu saya mengajar sambil di sebuah masjid di bawah program aL.I.V.E.

“Hujung minggu juga saya sempat bekerja sebagai penolong cef di sebuah kafe dan pada masa lapang saya bekerja selaku pereka grafik bebas.

“Memang penat tetapi alhamdulillah, keluarga terutama ibu saya, Maisarah Mohamed, tidak putus-putus mendoakan saya dan memberi saya sokongan berterusan,” tambah anak sulung empat beradik ini.

Ditanya apakah beliau akan mula memasarkan koleksi Sutranya, Cik Nur Hafizah, yang meminati hasil kerja pereka fesyen Muslim asal Pakistan, Barjis Chohan, yang koleksinya telah diperagakan di Minggu Fesyen Paris baru-baru ini, berkata:

“Kebanyakan pereka fesyen terkenal hari ini pernah bekerja dengan pereka fesyen terkemuka terlebih dahulu sebelum melancarkan label mereka.

“Chohan pun begitu. Beliau pernah bekerja dengan pereka fesyen terkenal asal Britain, Vivienne Westwood, sebelum mengambil keputusan mempunyai labelnya sendiri.

“Banyak lagi yang perlu saya pelajari tentang selok-belok dunia fesyen ini. Tetapi insya-Allah, satu hari nanti... doakan,” katanya.

CIPTAAN MENAWAN:
Salah satu koleksi fesyen ‘Sutra’ ciptaan Cik Nur Hafizah.

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Former madrasah student showcases Muslimah's fashion in international limelight

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She never expected her collection to be showcased on an international stage, the very same stage used by well-known fashion designers such as Prabal Gurung and Oscar de la Renta.

Her dream came true for Ms. Nur Hafizah Ghazali, a final year student of LASALLE College of the Arts, last week when her Muslimah collection, Sutra, was showcased by the models at the International Audi Fashion Festival (AFF).

The festival, held at the Tent@Orchard at Ngee Ann City's Civic Plaza is part of the five-day Asian Fashion Exchange (AFX) which is held annually.

This year, 20 of the best final year students from the BA(Hons) Fashion Design and Textiles programme were specially selected to participate in this prestigious fashion show in Singapore.

"I was told my designs were more practical and targeted the niche market," said the 23-year-old, who was quite excited that her Muslimah collection was given the opportunity to be displayed at the AFF.

According to Ms Nur Hafizah, her collection of 6 Sutra outfits were inspired by beach attire from the 1930s, which used soft silk fabric and palazzo pants (loose and flair types).

"Honestly I cried when the models showcased my collection. I suddenly remembered my late grandmother, Samsiah Kachong.

"She was very talented at sewing clothes for all of us for every Hari Raya. It is because of her too that I chose this path," she said. The name Sutra was chosen because when translated into Arabic it means 'cover'.

Unlike her friends, Ms. Nur Hafizah, who is a former student of Madrasah Al-Maarif Al-Islamiah, choose to pursue a degree with honours in women's fashion design in LASALLE.

Most of my friends furthered their studies at the University of Al-Azhar or to a local university.

"But I said to myself, I do not want to be involved in the academic world. I wanted to do something more creative." She added that she did not have the opportunity to explore arts at Madrasah Al-Maarif because the school did not provide that particular subject for students. However, producing a collection of clothes has its challenges as each student must buy the fabrics on their own. In fact, she had to spend around \$4,000 for her Sutra collection.

"The school recommended us to find suitable fabrics in Hong Kong.

"My friends, who are mostly foreign students, brought up to \$3,000 for shopping, while I was only able to bring \$900," explaining that her mother was a homemaker while her father was a school van driver.

In fact to cover the cost of expenses for her three years at LASALLE, Ms. Nur Hafizah took up four jobs.

"I teach Arabic language tuition to three students and on weekends I also teach part time at a mosque under the aLIVE programme.

"During the weekend I also managed to work as an assistant chef at a cafe and in my spare time, I work as a freelance graphic designer.

"It's tiring, but thank God, my family, especially my mother, Maisarah Mohamed's unfailing prayers provided me with constant support," added the eldest of four siblings.

When asked whether she would start marketing her Sutra collections, Ms. Nur Hafizah, who is interested in the work of Barjis Chohan, a Pakistani Muslim fashion designer whose collection was displayed at Paris Fashion Week recently said:

"Many of today's well-known fashion designers worked with leading fashion designers before launching their own label.

"Chohan is also the same. He worked with Vivienne Westwood, a British fashion designer, before deciding starting his own label.

"There is so much more I need to learn about the ins and outs of the fashion world. However God willing, one day.... send me your prayers", she said.

Photo caption 1:

Captivating Creation. One of the 'Sutra' designs by Nur Hafizah

Photo caption 2:

Ms Nur Hafizah (left) receiving a bouquet of flowers from her hairdresser, Ms Nurhanis Mohd Rohayat, at the Audi Fashion Festival Tent@Orchard at Ngee Ann City last week