

NEWS RELEASE

PIONEER ‘O’ LEVEL DRAMA GRAD TOPS LASALLE’S CLASS OF 2015

29th LASALLE Convocation: celebrating excellence, transformations and new talents in the creative industries

Singapore, 23 September 2015

It was at the tender age of five that Millicent Wong started her LASALLE education – as a young student of dance at the old LASALLE campus on Goodman Road, where she met the College’s late founder, Brother Joseph McNally.

Now 22, Millicent graduated today with a Diploma in Performance as the College’s top student and the recipient of its most prestigious honour, the McNally Award for Excellence in the Arts. She joins the ranks of other illustrious Performing Arts alumni from LASALLE such as Kit Chan, one of Singapore’s best loved singers; actress Elena Wang, who has been cast in the Broadway premiere of the musical *Allegiance* with George Takei; and Natalie Hennedige, Artistic Director of Cake Theatrical Productions.

“I’m deeply grateful to LASALLE for the skills it has helped me to develop, for its patient and giving lecturers, and for teaching me to be comfortable with who I am,” said Millicent.

From her professional stage debut at the age of 10, when she was cast in the Australian tour of the classic musical *Oliver!* as a children’s ensemble member, the former St Margaret’s Girls’ School student went on to number among the first batch in Singapore to study ‘O’ Level Drama in 2008.

She has since appeared in productions such as *Aladdin* (WILD RICE) and was a lead character on MediaCorp Channel 5’s *Stories of Love*, in addition to voicing commercials and hosting live events on several occasions.

Attributing her success to her parents’ support, Millicent recalled that it was her mother, Mrs Sherrie Wong, who first enrolled her in piano and ballet as a child. Initially taken aback when her daughter expressed her determination to make performance her career, Sherrie is now completely on board with Millicent’s choice.

“We are happy that Millicent is chasing her passion for performance arts. Even as a little girl, she had a strong interest in singing, dancing and acting,” said Sherrie. She added, “LASALLE has sharpened Millicent’s talent; kudos to all her teachers for guiding her.”

Millicent was just one of many outstanding young talents graduating today at LASALLE’s 29th Convocation, held at the Singapore Expo Convention and Exhibition Centre. Minister Grace Fu graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour.

747 graduates received their Diploma, Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts certificates today, across LASALLE’s comprehensive range of 31 programmes from fine arts to design, film, animation, fashion, dance, music, theatre, arts management, art therapy,

Asian art histories and more. Faculty Awards for Academic Excellence were also presented to 10 graduates who achieved the highest academic standing.

Looking ahead to the journey after graduation, Millicent shared that her first job after LASALLE was just days after her last semester ended, with the English National Ballet's production of *Le Corsaire* in Singapore. "Since then, I have been working nonstop," added Millicent, who is currently in rehearsals with children's theatre company Paper Monkey and will appear in *Beauty World* by The Presenting Company at the end of the year.

"Our time here at LASALLE has come to an end, but we've only completed the tutorial to the game of Life," said Millicent. "Bigger opportunities await."

About LASALLE

LASALLE College of the Arts in Singapore is a leading tertiary institution in cutting edge contemporary arts and design education and practice. The college offers 31 undergraduate and post-graduate programmes in art, design, film, animation, fashion, dance, music, theatre, arts management, artist education, art therapy, and Asian art histories.

Its faculty is led by a community of award-winning artists, designers, educators and researchers, and their practice-led research sets LASALLE apart as an international centre of excellence. Critically acclaimed alumni form the core of the cultural and creative sectors in Singapore and increasingly internationally.

Founded in 1984 by de la Salle Brother Joseph McNally – a visionary artist and educator – LASALLE is a not-for-profit, private educational institution. LASALLE receives tuition grant support from the Singapore Ministry of Education. Its degree programmes are validated by Goldsmiths, University of London.

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