



Letter

The Dance Society of Malaysia

ISSUE
01/20



Reg. Address : 487, Jalan 17/17,
46400 Petaling Jaya, Selangor D.E.
Tel : (03) 79318339
Correspondence Address : 332A-20A, 20th Fl.,
Plaza Ampang City, Jalan Ampang, 50450 Kuala
Lumpur, Malaysia.
Enquiries : (03) 4257 7642
Fax : (03) 4265 1902
Email : tdsmlaysia@gmail.com
Facebook : The Dance Society of Malaysia
Website : tdsmlaysia.com.my

Honorary Patron

YAM Tunku Dara Tunku Tan Sri Naquiah
Bte. Almarhum Tuanku Ja'afar

2020 Committee

President	Sunny Chan Tel: 03-4257 7642 (Office)
Vice President	Katy Cheong Thing Kin Tel : 012-273 9435
Hon. Secretary	Priscilla Yong Cui Leng Tel : 016-338 5045
Hon. Treasurer	Kathryn Chew Yee Hsuen Tel : 017-677 1982
Publication Officer	Kong Ke Xin Tel : 019-411 4010
Committee Members	Ho Kah Yeng Tel : 016-678 6339 Tan Yee Min Tel : 017-208 5503 Irene Low Soo Mei Tel: 016-626 0937 Lim Jeng Bing Tel : 010-222 1955 Koh Wen Yee Tel : 012-608 7567 Datin Rosalina Ooi Tel : 012-505 2192 Wong Yit Fook Tel : 016-281 9602 Galvin Foo Chwan Lee Tel : 012-486 9982 Chua Meei Sien Tel : 019-326 9076

Sub-Committee Chairpersons

Publication	Kong Ke Xin / Priscilla Yong/ Sunny Chan / Helen Cheah
Competition	Ho Kah Yeng / Tan Yee Min / Irene Low / Crystal Lwi / Sunny Chan / Helen Cheah
Membership	Irene Low
Workshops	Tan Yee Min
ORDers for TDS' DVDs	Chua Meei Tyng
Website	Kathryn Chew
Festival of Dance VIII	Katy Cheong / Priscilla Yong/ Suzanne Liew Chiang Ching

From the President



How do you like us with face masks?

Dear Members,

2020 began with much joy and hope for me when Katy Cheong informed of her wish to organise the next Festival of Dance at end of the year. This is a very long overdue expectation as the last Festival of Dance VII held in Putrajaya was in 2009. I was even more happy when Priscilla Yong proposed to organise a TDS classical ballet production thereafter for the early part of 2021. These are all in addition to our annual TDS Solo Classical Ballet Competition chair by Ho Kah Yeng to be held annually in May and ballet workshops in Malaysian style led by Tan Yee Min scheduled in March which is just before the competition.

Preparation for these four (4) events was already in advanced stage by separate sub-committees to make all these possible, then came the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown in March! What a disappointment but yet a challenge for us to still see a success at such times.

As we all know, the Covid-19 pandemic has halted all our physical dance activities. I do hope that when the virus 'evaporates' sooner than later, we will get back to full steam ahead for 2021 and 2022. It is as importantly to stress again, I am willing to lead all such activities by TDS with assistance from the younger committee members to give our future generation the opportunity to learn and love this wonderful art form: ballet!

TDS'23rd Solo Classical Ballet Competition has been postponed several times. It was originally scheduled on 26th–29th May, then to 5th–27th Jan. 2021, and recently decided to postpone to dates to be confirmed between 1st – 27th May 2021, giving dance students more time to practice in proper premises. I believe practising via virtual training is not satisfactory for a dancer in ballet, as the place, environment and most important, a sprung floor is not there to help a ballet dancer technique training. Hopefully and yes, at the time of writing, students may now return to their studio for coaching. I pray with God Blessings that there will be no further enforcement on movement restriction.

If the competition is to be held in Jan.2021 which is only 4 weeks away, such short time for re-training is not only unfair but may damage their bodies. However, the Committee's decision to postpone to May 2021, an extension of 4+ months gives contestants a chance to restore their ability to proper standards and perhaps with greater improvement.

We are delighted to have received seven (7) write-ups from the 2019 competition award winners of their dance experience which will be included in this TDS LETTER. We are also delighted to include an article by Katy Cheong, our Vice President; a short write-up on the 32nd AGM held virtually on 9th Aug; Don Quixote, a production by Asia Ballet Academy held at Istana Budaya in mid Dec.2019, and most of all our recent 2nd Variation Workshop held virtually on 29th Nov 2020 conducted in FAB with the four (4) invited choreographers, namely, Imran Syafiz, Fauzi Amirudin, Hii Ing Fung and Kenny Shim, co-ordinated by Tan Yee Min.

On behalf of our Honorary Patron, Members of the Committee and Sub-Committee of The Dance Society, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy, Healthy and Blessed New Year for 2021. Keep well and stay safe!

God Bless
~Sunny Chan~
7th Dec 2020



with Kenny Shim



with Hii Ing Fung



Imran Syafiz, Fauzi Amirudin, Sunny & Yee Min

Dance Teachers and Covid 19,

The year 2020 will go down in history as the year the world stood still (well almost) and brought down to its knees by an enemy which cannot be seen with the naked eye, the Covid-19 virus.

The scenario is almost like a chapter out of a science fiction novel. The horrifying scenes on the news of over-crowded/under-staffed hospitals throughout the world. When we had to go out on necessary missions, we are wary and suspicious of everyone around us.

Stay home. STAY HOME! That was the order from our Prime Minister. We embarked on the MCO (Movement Control Order) on 18th March 2020. Then we began on our journey of MCO to CMCO (Continuing Movement Control Order) and now RMCO (Recovery Movement Control Order) which will go on till December 2020.

Many businesses and industries have been severely affected; some did not survive. From the perspective of dance industry, particularly of the dance teachers, it was a tremendous blow. However, dance teachers are resilient. This stems from years of creative thinking and having to provide solutions 'on the spot' for students. Desperate times calls for desperate measures. They took to having online classes.

My first online class was on Google Meet. It was a disaster. I was a collapsed heap of misery and tears. It does not mean Google Meet is not a good platform, but it did not serve my purpose. Then I paid for a year's subscription for Zoom and have not looked back.

Nothing can replace physical classes in a studio, but we live in unprecedented times with the worry of getting infected and having to stay home during those months. Therefore, Zoom classes were the next best thing. It kept the teachers connected with the students. It helped maintain or at least tried to maintain the standard of technique. Teaching via Zoom has its challenges. One of the first things I noticed is the music. Students will hear it on their end approximately 2 counts later. Therefore, to me, the ballet teacher, the students are always late. However, the solution was, if ALL the students are moving in unison in their respective windows, that means they are ALL on time.

It was a huge learning curve, not only for the teachers but for the students and their parents too. Teachers became even more creative, learning to cope with different dance space available in each individual home of the students. There were occasions when I had to ask students to take me on a mini virtual tour to determine the best area for their classes. Another challenge was parents were used to setting up the Zoom sessions for their children's schoolwork. That does not require full body view. Hence, I sometimes get the face view, or feet view or even stomach view! I am glad that was resolved after a while. However, that means the camera is a distance away to capture the full body, which opened another can of worms, some students are using phones and at a distance, they are unable to see me! Parents evolve too. They began to connect to bigger screens. There was even an occasion where a student's parent projected onto a huge screen!

When I got better with Zoom classes, the students became smarter too, smarter in mischievous ways. One of the girls suddenly stood very still and pretended to be 'frozen'! I would not have noticed that she was pretending if my laptop is not connected to my TV. On the big screen, I saw the slight movement from her and yelled "Stop pretending! I saw you move!" She 'un-froze' and giggled.



In all my 38 years of teaching, I would have never imagined that I will be teaching classes online. I had not even thought it is possible. But having gone through it, I think it is not without its merits. There are limitations such as space, music timing, teacher's hands-on corrections but it also developed students' independence. They had to learn to understand what is required of them and work it out on their own. Teachers also learnt to teach in a new way. I used a lot of analogies and shared a lot of pictures and videos to help students understand the quality of the movement. Once, I even took my laptop to the bathroom to show the student how they are supposed to open their arms from 1st to 2nd position!

When we went back to studio classes in August, I was holding my breath, wondering how effective those Zoom classes were. When I taught the first few studio classes, tears of happiness welled up in my eyes. I could see tremendous progress in each and everyone of them. More importantly, the students have matured immensely and are now more equipped to work independently for their own progress.

Do I want to use Zoom entirely for lessons? Most definitely not! But now I and the entire world's population of dance teachers know that we will not be kept down by the virus. It had provided a bridge to take our students along their dance journey.

~ Katy Cheong ~
4th Sept 2020

32nd Annual General Meeting

9th August 2020 @ 8:00pm
Virtual Meeting via "Zoom"

.....
In light of the Covid-19 pandemic and in compliance with the SOP, this AGM was delayed and allowed to be held on a virtual platform only. Members who wish to join the meeting were invited to register via the links: <https://surveyheart.com/form/5f13b3b9e7f0d97ccb1d6e6b>.

A quorum was achieved by 20:10 hrs. on 9th Aug 2020 with attendance of a total 21 registered members.

Office bearers elected :

President	: Sunny Chan Hean Kee
Vice President	: Katy Cheong Thing Kin
Secretary	: Priscilla Yong Chui Leng
Hon. Treasurer	: Kathryn Chew Yee Hsuen
Publication Officer	: Kong Ke Xin
Membership	: Irene Low Soo Mei

Committee Member :

Ho Kah Yeng, Tan Yee Min, Lim Jeng Bing, Koh Wen Yee,
Rosalina Ooi Poh Gaik, Chua Meei Sien, Galvin Foo Chwan
Lee and Wong Yit Fook.

The President wishes to thank all members of the previous Committee and all others not in the Committee for their contribution and commitment to The Dance Society of Malaysia as in the past year.

He also thanked all members of the previous Committee who have offered themselves to serve the Society for another year, and also those who have decided to retire, namely Sandra Christian, Crystal Lwi Xiau Jing and Dr. Chen Wei.

In view of no activities up to August 2020, we were considering whether members' registration for 2020 be brought forward to 2021, including for those who have registered for the 23rd Solo Classical Ballet Competition being planned to be postponed to early January 2021. It was hoped by then the Covid-19 pandemic will be over soon, so that ballet classes could resumed for students and teachers and our activities planned for 2020 could be carried out in 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 21:00 hrs.

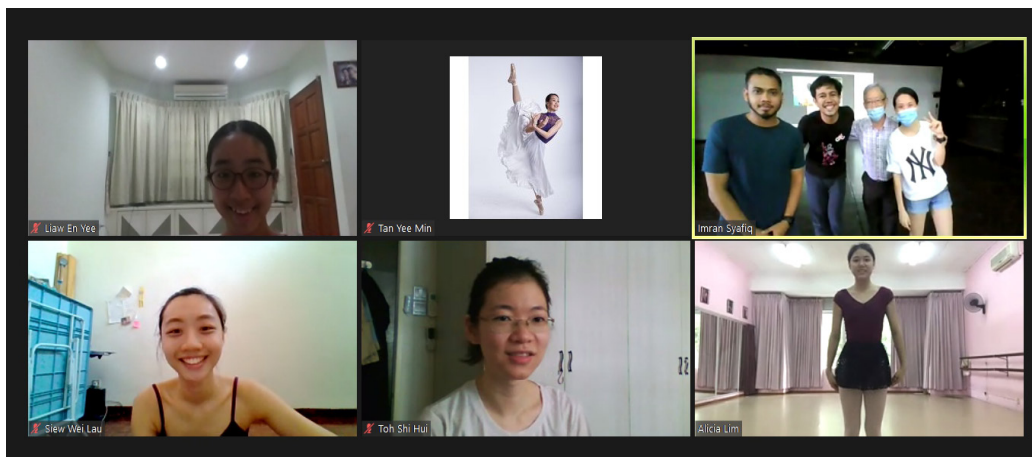
Choreographed 2nd Variation Workshop

29th November 2020 at Fonteyn Theatre, Bangunan FAB, Petaling Jaya

This workshop was originally scheduled to be held on 19th March 2020. With the Movement Control Order (MCO) imposed nationwide from 18 March 2020 due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, we decided to postpone it to 29th October 2020 (see email of 19th Sept.2020), hoping by then, the MCO could be lifted. However, much to our disappointment, it has not been so but then, with a possible extended Conditional MCO, we decided to postpone the workshop further to 29th Nov 2020 (see email of 22nd Nov.2020) and without having to postpone it again, we made a final decision to conduct a virtual workshop via "Zoom" instead, which turned out with great success!.

I have to thank Tan Yee Min for setting up the virtual workshop at Fonteyn Theatre as scheduled together with the four (4) choreographers, namely Imran Syafiq, Fauzi Amirudin, Hii Ing Fung and Kenny Shim.

The attendees at the 1st Session (9:00am-10:30am) conducted by Imran Syafiq & Fauzi Amirudin (Class B) were Lau Siew Wei, Trish Tan, Liaw En Yee, and observers were Tan Kelly, Alicia Lim and Toh Shi Hui.

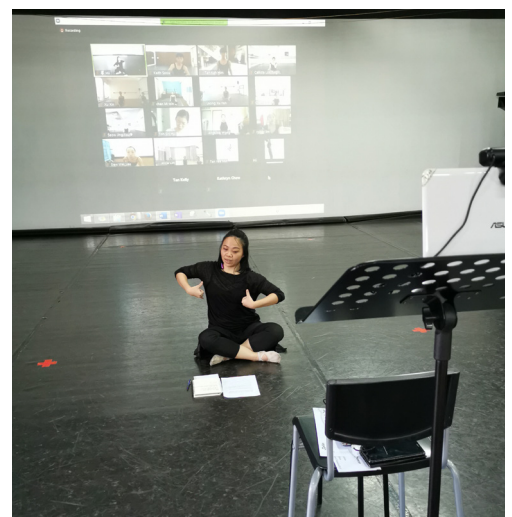


Class B Imran Syafiq & Fauzi Amirudin

The 2nd Session (11:00am-12:30pm) conducted by Hii Ing Fung (Class A) were attended by Seow Sze Yung Keith, Leong Xu Yen, Tan Kah Him, Chan Kit Tzin Casandra, Chan Kit Vern Belinda, Wong Yee Ping, Lau Siew Wei, Tan Kelly, Amelie, Lim Jing Tung, Eunice Lo, Calista Lok Ting Wei, Seow Jing You, Leong Xu Xin, and observers were Ang Swee Peng, Alicia Lim, Toh Shi Hui and Ng Siew Fong.

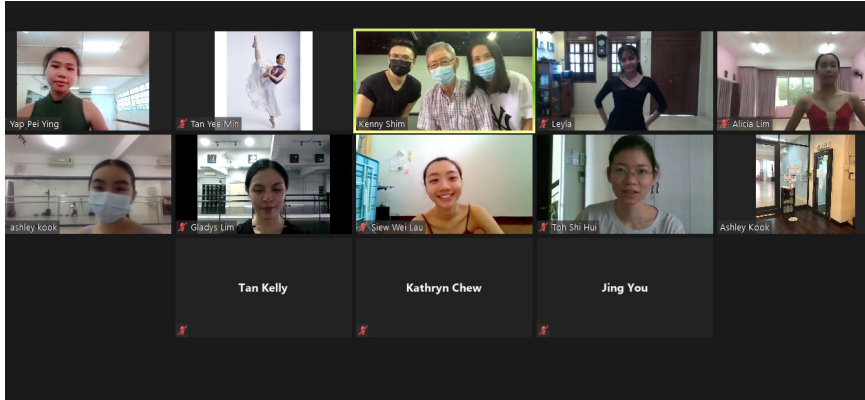


Class A Hii Ing Fung



Hii Ing Fung

The 3rd Session (1:00pm-2:30pm) conducted by Kenny Shim (Class C) were attended by Lau Siew Wei, Yap Pei Ying, Lam Yan Qi Olivia, Ashley Kook Shin You, Emer Leyla Ridzuan, Seow Jing You, Lim Jing Xuan and observers were Tan Kelly, Alicia Lim and Toh Shi Hui.

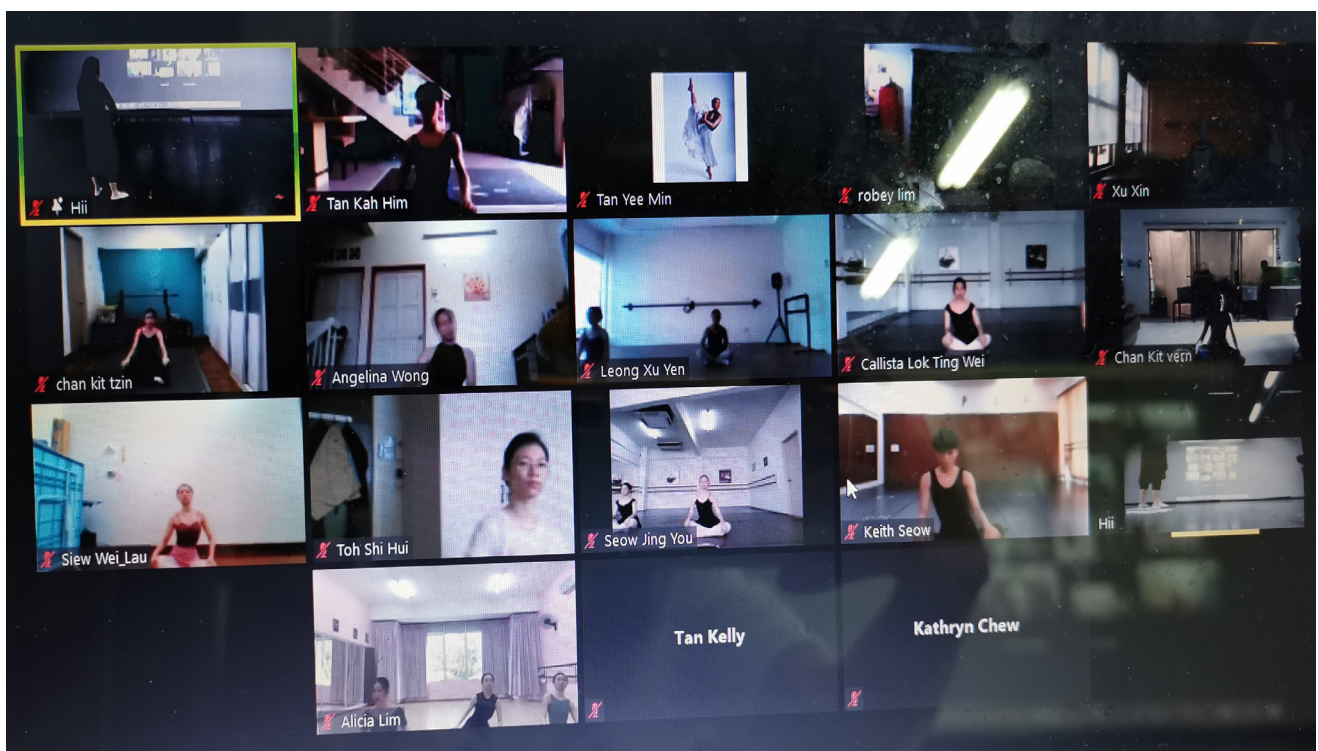


Class C Kenny Shim



Kenny Shim

In all, it was an experience which many of you would have got used to since the lockdown in March 2020, but for me it was indeed an eye opening, seeing the enthusiasm and attentiveness of both the choreographers and the attendees. This appears to be a future norm which I sincerely hope not. I believe on-stage performances are better for its purpose and to be enjoyed with an audience.



Don Quixote

14th to 15th December 2019 at Istana Budaya, Kuala Lumpur
Presented by Asia Ballet Academy



Jaime Teoh Jia Qi, Wayne Woo & Lai Xing Yi

Don Quixote is a classical ballet first presented in 1869 by the Ballet of the Imperial Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, Russia. It is choreographed by Marius Petipa. It is a very iconic ballet in a Spanish style with bright red long dresses and the use of a fan as well as a tambourine.

Don Quixote is the 2nd production by Asia Ballet Academy held at Istana Budaya after the Fairy Doll. We are very glad to have the guest male principal dancer, Mr. Rudy De Dios from Ballet Manila. Locally, we have our female principal dancers, Jaime Teoh Jia Qi and Esther Feng Xing Yi as Kitri who are students from Asia Ballet Academy. We are glad to have Ms. Ivy Chung to be the artistic director to re-stage the full-length Don Quixote, while Ms. Cathy Luk and Mr. Glenn Ragel as Ballet Mistress and Master.

Ivy Chung
Artistic Director
Asia Ballet Academy



Jaime Teoh Jia Qi



Benjamin Loh & Carmen Wong Ching Li



Jaime Teoh Jia Qi & Rudy De Dios



Jaime Teoh Jia Qi & Rudy De Dios



Jaime Teoh Jia Qi & Rudy De Dio

*Dance Experience
by Phun Wing Qin
Category 2: Singapore Dance Theatre Intensive Ballet Programme Award*

17th to 22nd June 2019

I am grateful for the opportunity given to me by the judges at the TDS' 22nd Solo Classical Ballet Competition, to attend the Singapore Dance Theatre Intensive Ballet Programme 2019. It was quite challenging having to dance from 9.30am to 5.30pm with only a few short breaks between the 6 days but the truth is, I absolutely loved it.

Every day, we'd have about 2 classical ballet classes, a pointe class, variation class and repertoire class taught by either Mr Janek Schergen, Mr Timothy Harbour, Ms Chihiro Uchida or Ms Rosa Park. It was such an honour to learn from such wise and experienced teachers. Each and every one of them had a unique way of teaching and it was very interesting to see the difference. Because of the variety of expectations and methods of teaching, I managed to learn much more than I have at every other intensive programs.



with Mr Janek Schergen

We also had contemporary classes which were taught by Mr Max Chen. He taught us some exercises that we would repeat throughout the week so that we could continuously improve in our technique. Though I found some of these exercises quite tough, I still managed to pull through and by the end of the week, it didn't seem so complicated anymore. We also learned a short choreography that I found interesting and I enjoyed putting my emotions into the dance.

Ms Tamana Watanabe, who is an artiste at the Singapore Dance Theatre, gave us body conditioning classes. We learned how to use the correct muscles when we were dancing and she even showed us her drawings of parts of the human body so that we could visualize it. She taught us the ways to relax and stretch our muscles after a long day of dancing. It was very much needed as we were constantly pushing ourselves to the limit daily.

Within the week, I managed to make friends from all around the world. It was very interesting to dance with people from different cultures and ballet techniques. Moreover, we got a chance to watch the company dancers of Singapore Dance Theatre rehearse and perform in front of our eyes. It was absolutely mesmerizing to see how the dancers move around the company every day. On the last day of the intensive program, we showcased what we have learnt from ballet technique classes and the repertoire from Swan Lake that we have been learning as 'Corps de ballet' throughout the week. Seeing everyone's improvement at the end of the day made me feel thankful for being given this scholarship and for my family and teachers who have always back me up. I would like to thank TDS once again for this opportunity!



Dance Experience
by Lim Ern Qi
Category 3: Singapore Ballet Academy Award

8th-13th December 2019
5-day Dance Masterclass Series Workshop

I, Lim Ern Qi participated The Dance Society of Malaysia's 22nd Solo Classical Ballet Competition 2019 on the 28th to 31st May 2019. On the day of Finals, I achieved 2nd placing and won the Singapore Ballet Academy Workshop Award. This was a 5-day Dance Master Class Series conducted by Mr Han Kee Juan from the 9th to 13th December 2019 at the Singapore Dance Theatre. On the 8th of December, I departed from Kuala Lumpur and headed to Singapore by Aeroline coach bus.



The next day, the first day of the Dance Master Class Series began. On the 9th to 13th December, Ms Nicole taught us body conditioning from 10am to 10:45am. She taught us many different exercises and ways to strengthen our bodies. Some of these exercises caused muscle aches, so Ms Nicole taught us how to relax our muscles by stretching and rolling out with massage balls.



After that, we had Ms Chan's contemporary class at 11am for 1½ hour. She taught us some cool steps and how to move freely on the floor. We had a lot of fun in her classes.

Lunch was at 12:30pm to 1:30pm. As I did not order the set lunch at the SBA, my mum packed mixed rice or Subway sandwiches for me every day. This gives me more time and opportunity to make new friends. I was glad to meet so many talented and amazing dancers from all around the world.

After lunch, we had ballet and pointe class taught by Mr Han Kee Juan. Although he is strict, he is a very experienced and knowledgeable teacher. He corrected our mistakes and we learnt so much from him. The ballet and pointe techniques class was from 1:30pm to 3:45pm.

Ms Ong and her assistant, Ms Deborah taught us ballet repertoire class from 3:45pm to 5:15pm. Both of them taught us a graceful part from Swan Lake. Moreover, we also learnt to dance in our own groups in synchronization.

The solo variation coaching taught by Mr Han was held on the 10th and 12th December from 6pm-7pm. He started with storytelling of Harlequinade (my variation) and how to perform it in character. Mr Han also gave me a lot of advices and corrections for my technique.

On 13th December, the last day, we had a showcase in the Singapore Dance Theatre studio. We performed ballet and pointe class, solo variation and our contemporary group dance. I was exhausted but grateful to be given the opportunity to attend this Dance Master Class Series. I would like to thank Ms. Nicole, Ms. Chan, Mr. Han and Ms. Ong for tutoring me for the week, Ms. Goh Soo Khim and The Dance Society of Malaysia for giving me this wonderful opportunity and memorable experience.



Dance Experience
by Ashley Kook Shin You
Category 3: Singapore Ballet Academy Award

8th-13th December 2019
5-day Dance Masterclass Series Workshop



with Mr Han Kee Juan



with Ms Goh Soo Khim



with Ms Christina



with Ms Nicole

A wonderful experience at Singapore Ballet Academy.

On the 9th to 13th of December of 2019, I had the opportunity to attend the Singapore Ballet Academy Workshop having won the scholarship at the TDS 22nd Solo Classical Ballet Competition held in Malaysia. I was delighted when Mr. Han Kee Juan awarded me a scholarship for another year at SBA. I enjoyed the experience and being able to learn from many different tutors.

Classical Ballet classes were taught by Mr.Han. The classes were very enjoyable and fun. I liked these classes because our goal in every class was to show details and artistry. Repertoire classes were taught by Ms.Ong. Her sessions were really tiring because we had to dance as a group and keep repeating the steps in order to get them right and be on the music together. Overall, I enjoyed her classes very much! Additional coaching classes were taught by Mr.Han and he focused a lot on the musicality, artistry and the details in between all the steps.

Other than Ballet, we had Contemporary classes by Ms. Christina. I enjoyed the classes as they were free-spirited and relaxed. It was different from what I knew about Contemporary compared to what I usually do in Malaysia with my teacher. The classes were amusing and I was really fortunate to be able to partner with my friend, Lim Ern Qi! We also had Ms. Nicol to conduct Body Conditioning classes. These classes were my favourite as they were the first class we have in the morning, warming up our muscles and get our blood circulating before Contemporary classes.

On the final day of the workshop, we had the usual classes and a showcase in the evening at Singapore Dance Theatre's Founder's Studio. We did a small segment of Sleeping Beauty choreographed by Ms. Ong, class conducted by Mr.Han in the Founder's Studio and a Contemporary piece put together by Ms.Christina. After the showcase, is photo session time with new friends I met in Singapore and tutors who have taught me during the 5 days. I was very sad that it all came to an end and had wished I could have stayed longer. But I was very lucky that I had gained new knowledge to share with my teacher back at home in Malaysia.

Lastly, I would like to thank my mother for coming along to accompany me in this trip and also my family for supporting me all along the way. I really hope I can get another scholarship to Singapore!



Friends & Mr Han Kee Juan



With friends, Ms.Goh Soo Khim & Mr Han Kee Juan

*Dance Experience
by Soh Chel Ann
Category 4: Singapore Ballet Academy Award*

8th-13th December 2019
5-day Dance Masterclass Series Workshop

First of all, I would like to thank The Dance Society of Malaysia for giving me this wonderful and amazing opportunity to attend the "Dance Masterclass Series Workshop 2019" (Singapore Ballet Academy Workshop) in Singapore. It was held at the Singapore Dance Theatre and was organized by Mr. Han Kee Juan. No word can describe how cheerful and excited the day before as we arrived in Singapore to view one of the Singapore Dance Theatre ballet's performance "Swan Lake". It was the most awesome and stunning performance I have ever watched in my life.

We had 4 classes each day, body conditioning and Contemporary in the morning and classical ballet and Repertoire in the afternoon. Besides, I have a solo coaching class on Tuesday and Thursday in the evening.

The first class I had was Body Conditioning conducted by Ms. Nicole. It warmed me up to prepare my rest of the day and made my body stronger. She taught us many useful exercise which we can improve our body muscles such as Inner thigh, Quadriceps, Extensor muscles and more. I have learnt so much about using the correct muscles to stretch and to warm yourself from this class. Therefore, I can use it before class or during my spare time. It was really a challenging class for me!

The Contemporary class was tutored by Ms. Christina. It was an enjoyable class as the exercise and the movements were interesting and we even have a chance to improvise in the dance with friends. It has lots of floor work and we often need to keep in touch with the floor with big movement and it must be done smoothly to prevent heavy sound. Additionally, I really like the last part of the dance as we have a chance to improvise the dance with friends because I can imagine more of those unusual movements which can get the attraction of others. Sometimes our mind goes blank and we are stuck, Ms. Christina will try to encourage us to have a peek from our friends to have more movement. This is one of the most enjoyable classes ever among the 4 classes!

After our lunch break, we have our ballet class with Mr Han Kee Juan, the principal of Singapore Ballet Academy. He is very strict throughout the 5 days masterclass. Besides, he is very cautious about turning out your foot and our foundation. While having Mr Han's class, everyone paid full attention about what he had said because he does not like to see the repeated mistake we usually do. We have our pointe work on the last 45 minutes, it was a tough time on the last day as my foot were all covered up with huge blister.



with Mr Han Kee Juan



with Ms Ong, Ms Nicole &
Ms Christina



Next, we have our Repertoire class with Ms Ong. It was a valuable and fun time to learn our Repertoire dance, Swan Lake. I've made many new friends in this class and we even got a chance to exchange experience and culture! I have learnt much useful knowledge in this class which can apply to my dancing skills.

On Tuesday and Thursday evening, I have a solo coaching with Mr Han Kee Juan. It was great pleasure to learn many stronger techniques to improve my variation. After two days of coaching, I think I made lesser mistakes and corrections. I really want to thank Mr Han for his coaching and passion otherwise my dance wouldn't be that bright on stage.

Once again, I would like to thank to the entire judges of the competition, Mr Sunny Chan, Ms. Goh Soo Khim and my teacher, Ms. Fion Too Wei Qin for giving me this wonderful opportunity.

Dance Experience
by Eleanor Inn Rei Shuen
Category 4: Singapore Ballet Academy Award

8th-13th December 2019
5-day Dance Masterclass Series Workshop



with Mr Han Kee Juan & Ms Goh Soo Khim



When I received the Singapore Ballet Academy scholarship, I was told it was an opportunity not to be missed. Thank you Mr. Sunny Chan and The Dance Society of Malaysia for making this experience possible. I would also like to thank Ms. Goh Soo Khim for awarding it to me.

Mr. Han Kee Juan certainly lived up to his daunting reputation - having his own unique style of correcting his students. At first, I was terrified of him, but as the week progressed, I grew more accustomed to his style and started to enjoy his classes. Among Mr. Han's many corrections, certain ones stayed etched in my mind, namely, his particularity for "squareness" of the hips, and the use of upper body. I found private coaching especially beneficial because all his attention and energy were focused on one person at any point in time. Mr. Han opened my eyes to a different depiction of my variation- La Esmeralda. He then suggested a series of changes to stay consistent with this interpretation of the character. The enthusiasm and conviction he displayed as he demonstrated inspired me too and rekindled a spark.

Throughout our stay in Singapore, my TDS comrades and I met some new friends from Japan, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines. We could learn from each other's strengths and weaknesses during technique class and we really bonded through shared experiences. Before Mr. Han's class, we got to the studio earlier to mark out the classwork. After Ms. Nicole's body conditioning, we found solace amongst ourselves, empathizing with each other's aching core and muscles. During our free time, we recapped Ms. Christina's contemporary routine and Ms. Ong's repertoire for synchronization. I grew even closer to the people with whom I was placed in groups for respective presentations.

My experience at the Singapore Ballet Academy has been truly rewarding. I hope to meet my newfound friends again someday whether at competitions or workshops. I certainly hope I would be given another opportunity to attend such a workshop again.



with friends, Ms Goh Soo Khim & Mr Han Kee Juan



with friends, Ms Goh Soo Khim & Mr Han Kee Juan

Dance Experience
by Neo Kharsyn
Category 1: The Dance Society of Malaysia Award

6th to 12th January 2020
Cecchetti Residential Summer Ballet School 2020

In January 2020, I attended the Cecchetti International Residential Summer Ballet School 2020 held in Melbourne, Australia. Firstly, I would like to thank The Dance Society of Malaysia for giving me this wonderful opportunity to participate in the summer school. When I was given this scholarship, I was very excited as this was the first time I get to attend a summer school overseas, but at the same time I was very nervous because it was also the first time I travel alone to another country. I didn't know what to expect.



with Ms Laura Uhe

When I arrived at Avalon Airport, I was greeted by Ms. Alice Connell's dad and we had an hour drive to the Ormond College. Upon arrival, I was such in awe to see such a beautiful building, like the "Harry Potter" vibe. Ms. Sandra Allan welcomed us and she showed us to our rooms and to settle down.



with Ms Meagan Pfeiler

Everyday we start the morning with breakfast together followed with Floor Barre Class led by Ms. Janice Heale. Though this class was an optional class, I chose to do it everyday because it really helped to warm up my muscles for the long day of dancing. Then, followed with 4 classes (each a different style) and a lunch break in between, dinner, and lastly a choreographic class.

The first style of dance class was Classical. It was taught by two teachers, Mr. Jarryd Madden and Mr. Tyson Powell, both from The Australian Ballet. The combinations and the corrections that they taught were really good. Following was Repertoire taught by Ms. Joanne Michel. We danced a beautiful piece, the Waltz section of Swan Lake. The next style was Contemporary taught by Mr. Adrian Ricks who is a very energetic teacher and his choreography was very interesting to experiment with.



with Ms Sandra Allan



with Ms Janice Heale

The fourth style was Jazz taught by Ms. Meagan Pfeiler. The fifth style was Musical Production taught by Mr. Nicholas Eaton. Jazz and Musical Production are very similar. I felt as though I was in a dance party whenever I danced these two styles as everyone dance with full energy and had the brightest smile on their faces. The last style was Flamenco taught by Ms. Laura Uhe. It is a very interesting style with strong and powerful character. When she demonstrated the steps, she did it so effortlessly and could really see the fire from her eyes. Also, not to forget the pianists, Mr. Paul Brickhill and Ms. Janine Torriero who played beautiful melodies for us. It was a blessing to have live music played as we do not have that very often at home.



with Ms Alice Connell



with Mr Nicholas Eaton



with Mr Adrian Ricks

On the last day, we had a concert to showcase all the dances that we had learnt over the week. I also had the pleasure to perform a ballet solo, 'Satanella' during the concert. I am grateful to get to meet so many friends during the summer school. Everyone is very friendly and helps you along the way. It is also nice to be able to know more of the Cecchetti style and their dance culture over there.

Once again, I want to thank Mr. Sunny Chan and Ms. Sandra Allan for giving me this opportunity to learn and to grow as a dancer. I really get to open my eyes, experience the various dance styles, and to be inspired by the talent over there. I also want to thank my teacher, Ms. Yap Lee Ya, for nurturing me and helping me become better day by day. I also couldn't have done it without the support from my family and friends. This is an experience I'll never forget.



with Malaysian and Australian Friends

Dance Experience
by Tan Jun Hee
Category 3: The President Award

6th to 12th January 2020
Cecchetti Residential Summer Ballet School 2020



with Angle, Kharsyn, Julie & Kathy



with Ms Jeanice Heale



with Ms Meagan Pfeiler

I attended the Cecchetti Summer Residential Summer Ballet School in Melbourne, Australia from the 6th to 13th of January 2020. Winning the President Award was a huge surprise for me as I have not expected much last year. It was an honour winning it and I felt really happy. I would like to thank my teachers, Ms. Choong Wan Chin and Ms Rino Rino Fujihashi for guiding and teaching me to become a better dancer.

On the first day upon arrival, I was greeted by Ms. Alison Moon-Borton at the Tullamarine Airport who also turned out to be participating in the summer school. We arrived at Ormond College at approximately 10.30a.m. It was a really big campus that gave off a "Harry Potter" vibe to me. We got inside the building and were greeted by Ms. Sandra Allan and Ms. Sandra Clack. We then checked-in ourselves along with the other dancers at the Junior Common Room. We were given a landmark, a name tag, a Bloch Towel and our schedule. We then had our room allocations and were given a short briefing about the rules and regulation and an overview of the fire drill that was going to be held in the evening. We had our dinner and later had a miming class with Mr Colin Peasley. It was really fun as he had made jokes throughout the class.

The next day, I had gotten up at 6.00am. In the morning to prepare for the classes, I had my breakfast at the cafeteria with my Malaysian friends Kharsyn, Kathy and Angel whom I met upon arrival. We started the morning with floor barre class taught by Ms. Jeanice Heale at the Valrene Tweedie Studio. She explained about the history of floor barre and continued on with showing us some movements. The movements were tiring but definitely beneficial. After floor barre, we had classical and repertoire class taught by Mr Jarryd Madden and Mr Tyson Powell respectively at the main studio. The class wasn't too tiring as it was pretty fun. We then had lunch followed by contemporary and jazz class which were taught by Mr Adrian Ricks and Ms. Meagan Pfeiler. We did some warm ups and went straight into the choreography. At night, we had a choreographic class taught by the advanced level students. I was assigned in group C and was taught by Benjamin Harris.

We also had other exciting classes like the musical theatre class taught by Mr. Nicholas Eaton and Flamenco class taught by Ms Laura Uhe. For the musical theatre class, we did "Frozen" and I was one of the "trolls". I personally liked the flamenco class the most because it is an interesting form of art I had not discovered before. We also played some games that involve singing songs and making beats.

On the fourth day, we had a performance at the main studio. Before the performance, there was a barbecue party. We had burgers and chicken skewers topped with a variety of fruits. We had to get ready for the performance after the barbecue session. We were to perform what we had learned throughout the week. I had a chance to perform my solo variation on stage. The performance was a success and we had a small party after that.

The last day, there was a prize giving ceremony at the Valrene Tweedie Studio. I had won the half scholarship for the Cechetti Summer Residential Summer Ballet School 2021 and was over the moon. After the ceremony ended, we packed our luggage and took plenty of photos for remembrance before heading to the airport to catch our flight home.

I would like to thank Mr Sunny Chan and The Dance Society of Malaysia for giving me this opportunity to attend this summer school in Australia. I would also like to thank my teachers and parents for giving me their unconditional support throughout my years of ballet. Lastly, I would like to thank Ms. Sandra Allan for taking good care of me while I was in Melbourne.



with Mr Adrian Ricks



with Mr Nicholas Eaton



with Ms Laura Uhe

Coming Events

<p>4th– 7th March 2021 Coppelia Singapore Dance Theatre Esplanade Theatre, Singapore</p>	<p>May 2021 23rd Solo Classical Ballet Competition The Dance Society of Malaysia DPAC Theatre, Petaling Jaya The Temple of Fine Arts, Kuala Lumpur</p>	<p>10th–13th June 2021 Peter & Blue's School Holiday Singapore Dance Theatre School of the Arts (SOTA) Singapore</p>
<p>July 2021 Ballet Theatre Malaysia DPAC Theatre, Petaling Jaya</p>	<p>2nd– 4th & 9th–11th July 2021 Ballet Under the Stars Singapore Dance Theatre Fort Canning Green, Singapore</p>	<p>6th – 7th August 2021 Masterpiece in Motion (33rd Anniversary Season) Singapore Dance Theatre Esplanade Theatre, Singapore</p>
<p>5th– 7th Nov. 2021 Passage: Festival of New Works Singapore Dance Theatre School of the Arts (SOTA) Singapore</p>	<p>8th– 12th December 2021 The Nutcracker Singapore Dance Theatre Esplanade Theatre, Singapore</p>	

TDS Membership

TDS LETTER is strictly for members only.
Registration or renewal of membership is now online. Please visit our website: www.tdsmalaysia.com.my.
For any queries on membership, kindly email to thedancesocietymalaysia@gmail.com.

The Dance Society of Malaysia

Registered Address:

No. 487, Jalan 17 / 17, 46400 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia

Email: tdsmlaysia@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME (As in I/C or B/C): _____
(Please underline surname)

I/C No.(New): - - B/C No.:

SEX : ☐ (M or F) RELIGION : _____ MARITAL STATUS : _____

DATE OF BIRTH : (DD/MM/YY) PLACE OF BIRTH : _____

RESIDENT ADDRESS : _____ MAILING ADDRESS (if different from resident address) : _____

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

POSTCODE:

STATE : _____

COUNTRY: _____

Tel.(House):

Tel.(Office):

Email: _____

POSTCODE:

STATE : _____

COUNTRY: _____

Fax:

Mobile:

FOR CONTACT PURPOSE, PLEASE STATE THE NAME OF YOUR DANCE SCHOOL: _____

Annual Subscription (Subscriptions are NON-Transferable)

- ☐ ADULT ORDINARY MEMBER - RM 60 per year
- ☐ JUNIOR ORDINARY MEMBER - RM 30 per year (Age below 18 years)
- ☐ ADULT LIFE MEMBER - MINIMUM RM 480 (In one lumpsum)

Registration online at tdsmalaysia.com.my or email thedancesocietymalaysia@gmail.com to request for Membership Form.

Mode of Payment

- Direct or Online Bank-in** to THE DANCE SOCIETY OF MALAYSIA
Public Bank Bhd A/C No. 3216260903
- Cheque or Money Order** payable to THE DANCE SOCIETY OF MALAYSIA
Write your name and I/C No. on the reverse side.
- Cash** is acceptable when delivered by hand to the Membership Coordinator with issuance of receipt. Please DO NOT send cash through the post.

Submission of Application Form with cheque OR copy of bank-in receipt

By Post : _____ OR By Email Attachment : thedancesocietymalaysia@gmail.com
THE DANCE SOCIETY OF MALAYSIA
332A-20A, Plaza Ampang City, Jalan Ampang
50450 Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

DATE RECEIVED _____

RECEIVED BY _____

PAYMENT MODE _____

SYSTEM RECORD _____

MEMBERSHIP CARD SENT _____

DEC 2020