

# 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN PARA GAMES OPENING CEREMONY PRESS KIT



National Shooter Aishah Samad being filmed by Associate Visual Director Yan Tuck Hong, for a film projection in the 'Shooting For The Best' performance in the Opening Ceremony. Photograph by Transfixion (Ngee Ann Polytechnic)

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## WHY ARE THE SHOWS EXTRA-ORDINARY? 5 HIGHLIGHTS

The Opening and Closing Ceremonies (OCC) of the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games (APG), *Celebrate the Extraordinary*, will be an exuberant celebration of the mental and physical strengths of people of all abilities. Get ready for dazzling, cool, warm-hearted and well-made world-class multimedia extravaganzas.

### 1. SG50 Celebrations Finale

The shows are a spectacular finale of our year-long SG50 celebrations. They will be unforgettable, magnificent parties for our family and friends in Singapore and South East Asia. We are extremely fortunate to collaborate with students from fifteen Special Schools, as well as the community. At last count we have a mighty troupe of 174 volunteers, 120 motivators, 454 students and 661 performers. They are dedicating their time to rehearse, to get things right. → *Let's make 2015 truly memorable, with this breathtaking party to end all parties!*



### 2a. Sports + arts: ceremony and performance

For the first time in the ASEAN Para Games Opening Ceremony history, formal aspects of the official ceremony – from oath-taking to torch relay – will be meticulously woven within the narrative of the performance. → *Watch sparks fly as sports and arts come together in a magical mix!*



### 2b. Sports + arts: sports stars as performers

Our national sporting heroes past and present, such as Raja Singh (Wheelchair Racing), Aishah Samad (Shooting), Theresa Goh (Swimming), Khirmer Mohamad (Athletics, pictured) and Paralympian Yip Pin Xiu (Swimming) will be transformed into characters as part of the performance. → *Spot the 'who's who' of the elite sports world in the stadium or on the large screens!*



### 3a. Inclusive: anchored and inspired by persons with disability

We are resolutely inclusive. The show is en-abled by industry professionals, students and volunteers with a wide range of abilities and talents who work together to create something surprising and sublime. Every single item in the Opening Ceremony has been anchored and inspired by an athlete, performer or creative team member with disability. The Creative Team is also very fortunate to have people with disability to join the core team. They are the people who help us to grasp, expand and spread the true meaning of the ASEAN Para Games. → *Let us learn from one another. Let us motivate one another.*



### 3b. Inclusive: barrier-free

For the first time in Singapore broadcasting, there will be 'live' sign language interpretation and live captioning. We have been in close consultation with the Singapore Association for the Deaf. Mr Neo Hock Sik, Senior Manager of the Deaf Access Services states that if this come true, 'it will be overwhelming for the deaf and hard of hearing. Please do not forget that 3% to 5% of Singaporeans have hearing problems'. → *There is something for everyone!*



### 4. Interactive + immersive: get Hands On!

We invite you, the audience, to be our collaborators. Each part, or 'movement' of the shows is interactive and immersive. Spectacular video projections illuminate and transform the entire Singapore Indoor Stadium (Opening Ceremony) and Marina Bay Sands (Closing Ceremony). Many of these video projections are created from artworks made by students from the Association for People with Special Needs, the Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore and other Schools. → *Sing, and sign along!*

### 5a. Cultivating a legacy: developing new talents

This show is also about discovering and nurturing emerging talents. Hence, apart from household names in the core Creative Team (such as Venice Film Festival alumni filmmaker Bertrand Lee), we are working with tomorrow's stars (such as Associate Visual Director Timothy Chan, born 1990). → *Remember that you saw them here, first!*



### 5b. Cultivating a legacy: within Singapore, and beyond



Through the show, we want to enhance our understanding of (dis)ability and difference. Let's shift perspectives and be a catalyst for change in the disability discourse in Singapore and the region. In other words, this has not just been another ordinary dance or music event. This show is our effort to encourage our ASEAN partners to understand, learn, appreciate and to have a renewed respect for people with disability. We want this show to be a game-changer with its bold central message, innovative aesthetic approach and inclusive working process. *Celebrate the Extraordinary* is a jubilant celebration of, by and for people of all

abilities, from all walks of life. This is the perfect metaphor for the inclusive community, society, country, region and world that we dream for! → *Let's make this dream come true.*



## ABOUT THIS PRESS KIT

This press kit gives you an insight to the people who will en-able *Celebrate the Extraordinary* to become a reality, and who make the shows truly extra-ordinary. The volunteers, performers and Creative Team talk about how their creative processes have been inspired by the championship mindset of the athletes of the ASEAN Para Games. At the same time, some of these stories will show that, in order to achieve excellence, we all need to embody the same hunger and fighting spirit of our sporting stars. Enjoy.



Redeafination

## ABOUT THIS SNEAK PREVIEW

The segment prepared for you at this Press Conference is an extract from the third movement of the Opening Ceremony, called *Shooting for the Best*. The dynamic multimedia performance is a celebration of how we all aim for the best in all that we do, and that we do so with a sparkling energy that infect all others. The act highlights some of the features of the Ceremonies that make them extra unique: celebratory, interactive, immersive, inclusive and legacy-building. This display is fronted by performers from **Redeafination** (Singapore's premier dance group for the deaf), **Foreign Bodies**, **Singapore School of Deaf**, **Extraordinary Horizons** as well as volunteers. The images are created by Associate Visual Directors **Timothy Chan** (international Para Chess Champion) based on X-rays of his own body, and **Michael Larsson** (Sweden). The music is composed by Creative Director and Music Director **Philip Tan**, while the choreography is by Movement Director **Pua Jin Wen**.

## OPENING CEREMONY HIGHLIGHTS



Artwork by Associate Visual Director Kleopatra Korai for the first movement

There are 5 parts or 'movements in the Opening Ceremony:

**I. Stretching The Boundaries**

**II. A World Of Creative Possibilities**

**III. Shooting For The Best**

**IV. Fire Your Imagination**

**V. A Victorious Celebration Of The Extra-ordinary**

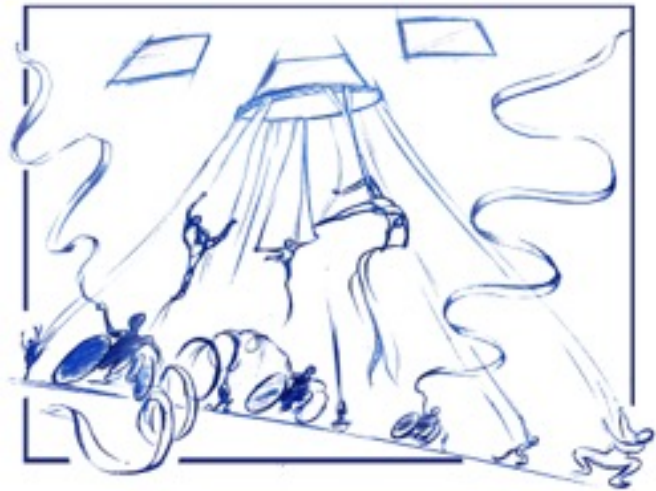
## I. Stretching The Boundaries

- Leave your comfort zone. Stretch your physical and mental boundaries. Embrace challenges. Break free. Whether you're an athlete, actor, accountant, aged 8 or 80, there are new beginnings and exhilarating expeditions to experience. Go for it.
- Filmmaker Bertrand Lee's mind-blowing video poem 'Because I Am A Champion' opens the Ceremony with a proud, defiant bang. Aishah Samad (Shooting) will be one of the featured athletes.
- Teenager Luo Mang's solo dance follows on, exhibiting the same fighting spirit.
- Greek artist Kleopatra Korai's breathtaking hand-drawn animation introduces us to the 15 sports to be played at the APG.
- Then comes the grand entrance of the 1500 athletes from 11 nations, the very people who know just what it means to really push themselves ceaselessly, against limits, and to begin again and again after each and every failure, and victory.



## II. A World Of Creative Possibilities

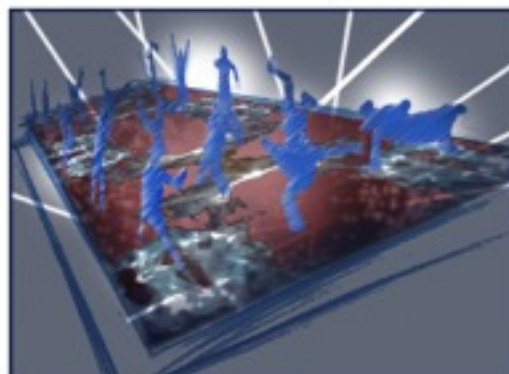
- Let Singapore forge a new 'en-abled' vision. Let's work hand-in-hand with our ASEAN friends to achieve new heights, not only in sport and the arts, but in the very way we live, in our play and in our work. Let our dreams soar for people of all abilities!
- With the flags of the ASEAN Para Games and the ASEAN Para Sports Federation raised, the show gets into full swing -- literally and metaphorically.
- Ushering us into the festivities are a young Opera singer and a group of dancers who are on their feet, on wheelchairs as well as *off* their feet, up in the air.
- They form a magical carousel. With each of the ribbon symbolising each of the eleven ASEAN countries, we celebrate our unity, friendship and love for superb sporting competition.





### III. Shooting For The Best

- Control your breathing. Slow down your heart rate. Get a good focus. You've got a clear shot. Go on. Go for the kill.
- 'ASEAN Best' honours the last seven ASEAN Para Games.
- 'Personal Best' celebrates our great sporting heroes and heroines for whom their greatest competitors are themselves.
- Sing along! Embody for a moment the championship ethos of these perfectionists .



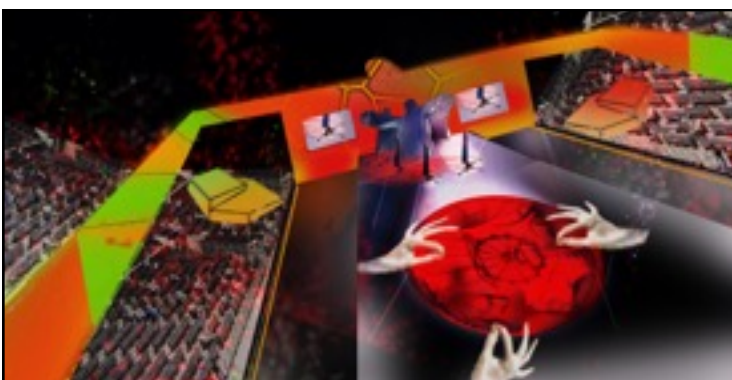
### IV. Fire Your Imagination

- *Fire Your Imagination* is the climax of the 8th ASEAN Para Games Singapore 2015 Opening Ceremony, in which the cauldron is lit and the Games officially begins. It also celebrates Singapore's glorious achievements as a nation that turned 50 this year.
- An energetic army of cheerleaders in their 40s to 80s teaching you how to sign and indeed sing with your hands. Wheelchair dancers forming patterns evoking Singapore's iconic skyline. Torch bearers ranging from emerging sporting talents, veteran athletes to a Paralympian gold medalist burst into action on the video screens, then continue into the Indoor Stadium, guided by the stunning floor patterns (Toh Wei Soong, Aishah Samad, Aloysius Tay Wei Ming, Yip Pin Xiu)
- Let us celebrate excellence, friendship and respect. Let the Games begin!



### V. A Victorious Celebration of the Extra-ordinary

- Sensational farewell party for us to toast to SG50 and the start of the Games.
- Let us celebrate friendship, sportsmanship and excellence. Let us transform the Singapore Indoor Stadium, and the world, into a barrier-free, beautiful and exuberant playground.
- Students from 15 Special Schools lead us in this dance of victory.
- Let us sign and sing to music inspired by 11 countries. Let us party!







Photograph by Yan Tuck Hong

## PERFORMERS & VOLUNTEERS: STORIES AND QUOTES

### Athlete

#### Choo Poh Choon, Basketball Player, Wheelchair dancer

'I have always wanted to represent Singapore in a major sporting event from a tender age. Now, I'm actually living THE dream by participating in the 8th ASEAN Para Games Singapore 2015! Wheelchair basketball helps me work as a team with people of different types of disabilities and most importantly, unique abilities!'



### Volunteer

#### Michael Lee, 57, Motivator



'Here, hearty old ties are renewed and warm new friendships forged. Sports pulls individuals closely together regardless of race, language or religion! I admire the athletes' indomitable spirit as it soars to even greater heights through the Games. Let the human spirit triumph!'

## Performers

**Patricia Gerardine Tomnob Merilo, 18, Redeafination**

<http://redeafination.com>

'I found it very tiring at first, as the dance is rather long and there were a lot of new steps to learn. But we persevered and kept on practising over and over, until our steps were right. Now, we can remember them very well! I just wish to say that people with disabilities have hidden abilities and talents too, and this is what this whole event is all about: making sure that those talents will come to light. All the dreams you have can come true. Never underestimate yourself.'



**Lily Goh, Extraordinary Horizons**

<http://www.eohorizons.com>



'While the APG does not feature any games for the Deaf, we are so glad to be part of the performing showcase. We welcome this gesture of inclusivity and display of support to the communities with special needs. For the first time, we are involved with the choreography of different movements in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. It is important to have an awareness and understanding of different disabilities, especially when mainstream communities may have their conservative views. We hope to have continuous support from them, as well as Singapore government.'

Registered in 2011, ExtraOrdinary Horizons (EO Horizons) is a social enterprise run by Deaf with its vision to create an inclusive society where the disadvantaged attain confidence in their own abilities. It aims to promote deaf awareness through sign language courses, workshops, outreach programs, tuition services, interpretation services and performances. EO Horizons also aims to help Deaf better integrate into mainstream society and to be accepted for who they are. Revenue from courses, programs and performances are used to sustain this social enterprise and fund the employment of deaf staff. The employment of the disadvantaged help them to gain self-confidence to overcome life challenges through their attained skills and knowledge to become contributing members of the society.

### **Luo Mang, 15, Eden School**

'I like to dance. I'm very happy to be able to dance for the 8th ASEAN Para Games.'



Lou Mang has moderate autism but that does not stop her from pursuing her passion and talent in dancing. She faces challenges especially in the area of social communication. She may have difficulty expressing her needs such as when she is tired or in pain, and may not understand social rules. However, Luo Mang's mother has cultivated her interests in dancing and music since young, tapping on her talent and interest. This has enabled Luo Mang to partake in many school performances and given her the opportunity to showcase her talents to schoolmates, teachers and the public. She has won 2 Awards (a Talent Award and a Best Visual Award) in the Hong Kong Autistic Talent Gala Competition 2014 organized by the AnAn Foundation. Luo Mang also plays the piano and has achieved Grade 6 certification. With strong parental support and collaboration, guided practice from the trainers and her teachers, and her own time invested in practicing the movements, Luo Mang has been doing extremely well in the performance rehearsals.

### **Warren Cheh Zheng Wei, 14, Grace Orchard School**

'I have never performed in front of so many people in such a big place. It was challenging to learn new things but I never gave up because I saw myself improving and I wanted to keep on improving.'

When Warren was selected for the Circus Act for the Opening Ceremony he was initially very reluctant to join, as it meant a commitment to practices twice a week. He would try to find all sort of excuses not to go for practice and rehearsals. Yet, seeing senior classmates perform, Warren got really motivated. He started attending and even helping out in the practices, making sure he is practicing as much as he can.



**Lidiya Binte Rymee Iskandar, 12, Dancer (Rainbow Centre)**



'I love to work with people and I love music. I am so glad that I have been given this opportunity where I get to experience both of that.'

**Muhammad Firhad Bin Azhar, 13, Chorus Singer (Cerebral Palsy Alliance of Singapore School)**

'I feel nervous as it is the first time I am performing in front of so many people! But I also look forward to being part of this whole ceremony.'



**Muhammad Izzat Bin Abdullah, Grace Orchard School**

Being part of the APG Opening Ceremony has helped Muhammad Izzat Bin Abdullah in numerous ways. As Izzat is a new boy in school, he hardly talks and does not participate in activities. So when he was selected to be in the choir and he confidently agreed, it was a huge surprise to his teachers. Now, Izzat participates in singing for APG actively, with gusto!



**Chang En, 16, Anglo-Chinese Junior College**



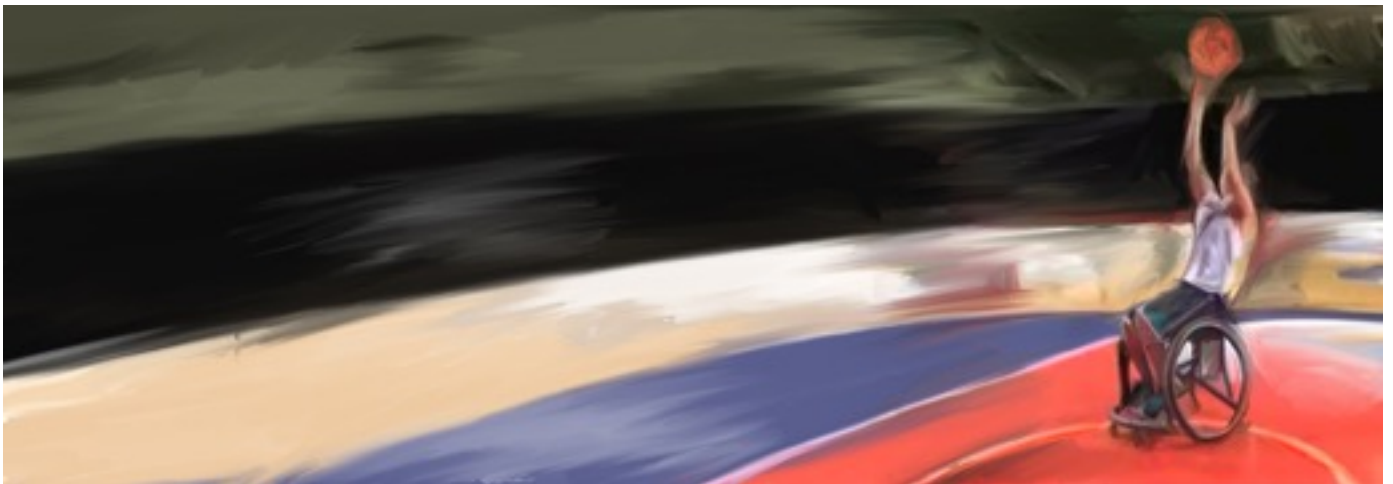
'I feel honoured to be involved in as it is for a very meaningful cause. It's even more significant because it's held in our home country. By working with these new friends, I have learnt to appreciate what I have and to never stop believing in what I want to do. Although there may be many obstacles along the way, overcoming them will bring about a great feeling of satisfaction. The human spirit can conquer each and every problem!'



### West Styles District (WSD), ITE College West



With 30 dancers under their wing, ITE College West's West Styles District (WSD) has been in action for the past five years, taking part in competitions such as the Super24 Dance Competition (2010). Student-initiated, the group has performed in the NTU Fest 2014, ITE Fiesta 2014, ITE College West 5th Anniversary, ITE Cultural Nite 2015, the Republic Polytechnic Dance Production, Momentum 2014, at the E2i Career Fair 2015 and many more. WSD feels privileged to work with people from different dance groups which allow them to exhibit team work and the true Singaporean spirit.



Animation by filmmaker Kleopatra Korai for Movement 1

## CREATIVE TEAM: STORIES AND QUOTES

### At a glance

Creative Director: Philip Tan		
<b>Communications:</b> Dr Tan Kai Syng (Director) Amber Lin Amelia Jaishree Alexa Ong Seow Fen Muralidharan Gopal Arleen Teo Richard Wright	<b>Costume:</b> Moe Kassim (Director)	<b>Lighting:</b> Suven Chan (Director) Michael Chan Josiah Yoong
<b>Movement:</b> Pua Jin Wen (Director) Kenneth Cheng Orchid Chua Venus Chua Peter Gn Justin Heng Kenna Hoe Yong Kher Xin Lam Yat Sau Soh Jun Wei Tan Mei Zheng Tan Xin Yi Dr Filomar C. Tario Trevalyan Neo Vincent Yong	<b>Music:</b> Philip Tan (Director) Lim Tiong Kang Lui Chee Chau Arleen Teo Azmeer Idzagi Muhammad Amirullah Chua Si Min	<b>Project Management:</b> Amber Lin (Director) Juliana Kassim Chan Chua Si Min Nuruljannah Abdul Razak Siti Nur'Ain Binte Mohamed Firdous
<b>Technical/ Special Effects:</b> Marc Brandon Hor (Director) Helen Chu	<b>Set/Props:</b> Airik Ng (Director) Alan Huang Karen Ong Connie Tan	<b>Visuals:</b> Dr Tan Kai Syng (Director) Genevieve Peck (Chief Associate) Jolinn Ang Timothy Chan Dharfianto Kleopatra Korai Michael Larsson Bertrand Lee Yan Tuck Hong
<b>Visuals (continued):</b>  <b>Companies:</b> Big3, CraveFX. The Shooting Gallery  <b>Schools:</b>  Fu Hua Primary School (teachers Helmindra Bin Kamal Nur Muhammad, Ho Kok Soon, Low Sok Hwee and Vivian Tan Bee Geok, and Media Trainer Don Chan Wei Zheng leading students Amerc Chai, Goh Yi Xian, Brian Lee, Lim Hong Wei, Ng Xin Ying and Tan Wei Heng)  Clementi Town Secondary School Multimedia Services Club (led by teacher Chia Chun Kiat)  LASALLE College of the Arts (lecturer Khalid Al Mkhlaafy leading staff and students Aroozoo Wesley Leon, Jonathan Chan, Andrew Kose, Jabez Koh, Sylvest Low, Pang Chee Hin, Paul Prado, Pham Quang Tung, Quan Dong Ong, Shumski Stsiapan and Mohamed Shawifi Bin Talib)  Ngee Ann Polytechnic (Transfixion: lecturer Christina Mok Ling Ling leading staff and students Ho Si Hao, Vittorio Carecci Wei Long, Godon Koh Wan Rong, Siti Zalilah Binte Rosli and Syafiq Syahmi bin Zakariah)		

## Core Creative Team

**Philip Tan, Creative Director, Music Director, Composer** [www.philbeat.com](http://www.philbeat.com)

Philip Tan is an award-winning, critically-acclaimed Creative Director with a 20-year international portfolio. He is also a Composer, Surround Sound Designer, Visual and Performing Arts Consultant, as well as a well-respected Educator and Arts Community Leader. Since 1998, Tan has worked with cultural workers, individuals and groups with disability. He has been running programmes for welfare organizations which include VSA, AWWA, Boys Home, Grace Haven, Metta school, Jurong Garden special school, Chao Yang Special school, Andrew and Grace Home. He has also helped to put up performances involving people with disabilities for NKF, THK, Community Chest Fundraising with Media Corp production since 2004.



Recent high-profile multidisciplinary events he led include the Opening of the Sports Hub 2015, Opening of the Gardens by the Bay 2012, 20th World Orchid Conference 2011, 27th SEA Games Closing Ceremony 2013, Garden Rhapsody Light and Sound show 2012-2013. Philip's work has been praised as 'Gesamtkunstwerk' - a total work of art (Dr K.K. Seet 2012) and 'one of the most innovative performances I've ever seen' (Minister Heng Swee Keat). A large-scale commission was described to have 'set a new benchmark that is hard to match' (Ambassador Robert Chua 2013), while another is 'spectacular' as 'a world class event that bears resemblance to what China did for the Olympics' (Dr. John Elliott, 2011). On top of that, Tan has also been described as 'one of the best composers in Southeast Asia' (Sarajevo reviewer). Tan's zest for exploration of new formats, technologies, ideas and multi-media story-telling have been showcased in more than 30 countries worldwide.

Philip was awarded the Young Artist Award in 2007 for his visionary approach, enthusiasm and sincerity which has also inspired people from all sectors of the community. Tan holds a Master of Arts from Kingston University, UK, 2001.

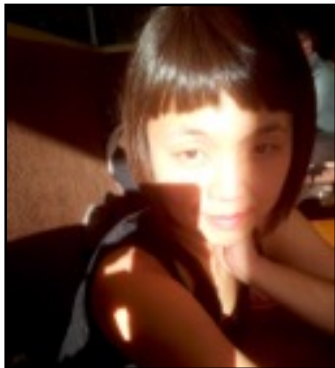
**Pua Jin Wen, Movement Director**



'I am extremely humbled to have been given this opportunity to be a part of the Creative Team, to explore and showcase the strong human spirit of the Games. This show proves that there are truly no limits within the sports and the arts, and that everyone can be a player and creator. It is simply about how we open our hearts and minds to it. The way athletes and performers collaborate reveals how we can build friendship and connect with one another – which is the spirit of the Games. With our neighbouring countries coming together, we hope to create a beautiful connection and memory together, truly a Celebration of the Extraordinary!'

Pua is a freelance choreographer and instructor with a wealth of experience in competitions, managing productions, performing in shows performed and educating youths in dance through his classes. He has choreographed for Chingay from 2009 to 2015 and National Day Parade (NDP) for 2011, 2012 and 2014. In addition, Pua has represented Singapore for the SEA Games 2013 Closing Ceremony in Myanmar, and more recently, part of the Opening Ceremony for the 28th SEA Games that was held in Singapore. Other opportunities include choreographing and performing for Project Superstar Kelly Poon's Music Video and her public performances and shows, working with Universal Music (Music Videos), the Singapore Press Holdings (Roadshows), Mediacorp (Shows) and People's Association Youth Movement (Chingay).

**Dr Tan Kai Syng, Visual Director, Communications Director** [www.kaisyngtan.com](http://www.kaisyngtan.com)



'Each of us is 'special'. It is our man-made narrow-mindedness that dis-en-ables us. This September, I was (finally) diagnosed with ADHD, dyspraxia and dyslexia. Not being physical, such traits are often hidden or disguised. I'd never been screened as I've always been a high-achiever. And I achieve *because*, and not in spite, of my 'disorders'. These are my gifts, my distinct programming systems that en-able me to see, intuit, analyse and intellectualise about the world in unique ways. Working on the shows - in particular, putting together the programme booklets in 6 weeks flat with a team of two - has been challenging. And I love a cracking challenge. Who needs a boring, easy life?'

Tan is an award-winning artist, curator, researcher, lecturer and advisor. After running about in the art world (dOCUMENTA; Biennale of Sydney; transmediale; Artangle Open100; Young Artist Award, San Francisco International Film Festival Golden Gate Award, Japan Foundation artist-in-residency award, artworks in Museum of London and Fukuoka Art Museum Collections), she returned to the Slade School of Fine Art and completed her Fine Art PhD as a University College London Scholar. Tan also has a MA Distinction from Tokyo's Musashino Art University, and a first class honours from the Slade (as Singapore's first Shell-NAC arts scholar). She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (past members include Charles Dickens and Karl Marx), Arts and Humanities Research Council Peer Reviewer (UK) and Director of the RUN! RUN! RUN! International Body for Research. She currently works as a Research Fellow at Leeds College of Art (UK). She has been Expert Panel Advisor for Media Development Authority, amongst others.

**Airik Ng, Set / Props Director**

'Working on this project has impacted me on many levels. In *Fire Your Imagination*, we are reminded how as individuals we play an important part within the larger community. We partake as a creator or an observer. Either way, we experience that emotional resonance for the athletes who expand and redefine what we understand about human being's exceptional capabilities.'



Ng comes with a background in fine art. Currently a storyboard artist, set designer, props designer and an art educator, his dynamite experience is a force to be reckoned



with. Ng has produced storyboards for films, documentaries and television commercials. As an art educator, he shares his personal art experiences with a wide range of students including children, adults and retirees. As a set designer and props master for the APG OCC, Ng interprets the complexity of the show through his pre-visualising skills to bring about Tan's vision in a way that is easily understood.

### **Moe Kassim, Costume Director**

'I began my creative journey as a self-taught designer. Thus, I had to quickly learn the ropes. in a competitive industry filled with talented people. With sheer hard work I found myself achieving the goals I had set for myself. The road to success is never an easy one. I can personally vouch for that! The resilience of the athletes and performers in this event is indeed admirable. Being part of this is a such an honour. I am so delighted to design meaningful costumes for these wonderfully talented group of people.'



Our in-house costume virtuoso is Moe, whose creations have featured in major national events like the National Day Parade 2006 as well as the annual Chingay Parades. Moe was trained in the performance arts with the SAF Music and Drama Company in the 1990's. His assiduous attention to accurate details, creative eye for colourful designs have been seen in numerous stage productions commissioned by W!ld Rice such as *Aladdin* (2004) and *Oi! Sleeping Beauty!* (2005). Toy Factory's *Titoudao* (2007) won him national acclaim from the larger arts community. Moe has attained 'Best Costume Design' in Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards' for many consecutive years. Moe's recent project includes The World Expo (2012) in Korea, Wildrice! Panto *Hansel & Gretel* (2012), Michael Chiang's *High Class* (2013) and Theatre Practice's *Legends of the Southern Arch* (2015).

### **Suven Chan, Lighting Director**



'What an honour - not only are we opening this special sports event, we are showcasing the amazing talent and passion of performers with a wide range of abilities and capabilities. Everyone has put in so much of effort. The success that comes with this is indeed one to be savoured!'

The Ceremonies are illuminated with the lighting talent of Suven Chan, who has had a multitude of experience creating the lighting design for various major theatre companies in Singapore. Chan came to Singapore in 1990 to work in the Substation as Technical Manager after graduating from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. She then worked in different commercial companies and returned to the theatre business in 1998 as freelance lighting designer. Chan's lighting design experience include being involved in productions by W!ld Rice, Singapore Repertory Theatre, Singapore Dance Theatre, Cake Theatrical Productions and The Necessary Stage. In 2004, Chan clinched the LIFE! Theatre Awards for Best Lighting Design for "Revelations" by The Necessary Stage and in 2005, the LIFE! Theatre Awards for Best Lighting Design for "Sound of A Voice" by Lunar-id Theatre.

### **Genevieve Peck (born 1990), Chief Associate Visual Director**



'Being part of the Creative Team has been a great privilege. The months of preparation work has bestowed upon me the amazing opportunity to interact with individuals from various backgrounds. It has been truly enriching. I hope that through the ASEAN Para Games Ceremonies, we are able to bring a smile to all athletes, performers and audiences alike, making it an eventful celebration of the human spirit.'

Peck graduated from The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, London (2012) with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Theatre Practice, specializing in Lighting and

Projection/ Video Design. Though she is only in her mid-20s, Genevieve has had the privilege to design for shows not only in Theatre, but Musicals, Dance and Concerts. Examples include Singapore Lyric Opera, Singapore Chinese Orchestra, at the Theatre Green Base Theatre (Tokyo Japan), Esplanade Concert Hall, National Museum of Singapore Gallery Theatre, Kallang Theatre, as well as other venues such as the Royal Opera House (London) to critical acclaim in the UK.

## **Associates**

### **Lui Chee Chau, Performer, Arranger**

'I am a strong believer in equality for all. As the first visually-challenged student to be admitted to LASALLE College of the Arts and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, I have helped to open doors for other up-and-coming musicians with disabilities to pursue their dreams. This project enables people who have special needs to shine like others. This is also a chance to show the world that we are able to contribute, when given the right opportunities. I want to motivate people, whether disabled or not, to not give up, but to chase your dreams.'



Lui was born blind in 1979. With scholarships from the Lee Foundation and the Shaw Foundation, Lui attended LASALLE College of the Arts and graduated with a Diploma in Performing Arts (Music) with Distinction. He subsequently attended the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, where he graduated with a BSc Music (First Class Honours) awarded by the University of Wales, U.K. At both LASALLE and NAFA, he was the first visually-challenged student ever admitted. His exemplary performance has now opened the doors at both institutions for the visually-impaired. Apart from representing Malaysia at the Wataboshi Asia Pacific Music Festival in 1995, 1999, 2001, 2009 and 2012, Lui also composed for the Malaysian National Science Centre and arranged for the 50th Malaysian Olympic Council. Lui is currently a freelance composer, music arranger and sound engineer.

### **Marc Brandon Hor, Technical / Special Effects Director**

“It is such a unique opportunity to be involved in this project. The process has been an amazing roller-coaster ride! I’m very happy to be able to explore and expand on such exciting ideas and to use all my available resources to create a strong and impactful memory for everyone.”

Another of our treasured collaborators is Hor, a Project Engineer at AVL Acoustic Systems Pte Ltd with over 18 years of technical and management experience. As a technical designer, Marc constantly seeks out external opportunities, applying his various skills in lighting design and video productions, alongside events management. Other current clients include Golden Village, and Formula 1 Night Race.

### **Bertrand Lee, Associate Visual Director**



‘I am thrilled to be part of the Creative Team, as the subject matter is something that is very close to my heart. Through my film efforts for this show, I want to express what it means to be a person with disability, and depict how these athletes have to put in one thousand times more effort compared to others in order to be at the top of their game.’

Trained at the prestigious Escola Superior de Cinema i Audiovisuales de Catalunya, Spain, Lee first gained prominence in 2004 when his short film *Birthday* was selected as to screen at the prestigious Venice Film Festival, and subsequently went on to screen at more than 50 international festivals, picking up 6 international festival awards. Other accolades include winning the Best Short Fiction Film at Filmfest Dresden 2005. Unfortunately, while taking pictures of the Indian Ocean in Mumbai in 2005, a two-tonne lorry mowed Lee down. He lost his left leg, which was amputated right up to his pelvic bone. After a 4-year recovery period, Lee resumed making films and has since directed ad campaigns for clients such as BreadTalk, Canon, Dumex, McDonald’s, Singtel, Starhub, Philips in Singapore and around Asia. Recent commissions include CiNE 65 commission 2014.

### **Amelia Jaishree, Chief Writer**

‘To be involved in APG 2015 as a writer has not only been a great honour, but an excellent opportunity for me to reconnect with society as I revisit the true human spirit of strength, resilience and unrelenting determination.’

### Timothy Chan (b 1990), Associate Visual Director

'My work in the shows consist of marks I create by running paint under my wheelchair tyres. I have also made digital drawings that are based on X-ray images of my own body, as I want to show that there's beauty inside all of us. This will be the most significant work that I have done to date, and being in the show is a tremendous validation of my work. Through my work, created in collaboration with fellow Associate Visual Director Michael Larsson, I want to inspire other people with disability, and to show how we are able to make meaningful contributions to society.'



Chan (b 1990) is a young role model for sport, art and disability. Aged 5, Chan was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, a muscular disorder. Today, he is an inventive young artist and designer. Currently a 3<sup>rd</sup> year Product Design student at the Art and Design Media, Nanyang Technological University, he mobilises his wheelchair as art medium, and his own X-Rays as beautiful patterns. Chan was Singapore representative for the 5th ASEAN Para Games 2009, and Champion at the 4th and 9th National Disability League (Chess, 2009, 2014).



### Kleopatra Korai, Associate Visual Director <https://vimeo.com/lokey>



'It is a great honour to be involved as an artist in such a huge and aspirational event. Seven days of pure sportsmanship bringing together people from all over Asia to demonstrate and celebrate the power of the human spirit. I surely hope my work touches the hearts and minds of all the people watching. My aim is to make the world feel closer to the amazing athletes participating in this glorious celebration of the extraordinary.'

Korai is a director and animator with a focus on video, motion graphics and stop-motion animation. She studied Photography at Blow Up in Athens and Film at the European Film School in Denmark. She has also



completed the Animation Program in Bristol U.K., co-created by the University of Bristol and the world-renowned Aardman Animations, for which she has also worked as Production Assistant. Kleopatra has developed, directed and produced short films, music videos as well as animation for television, film and advertising commercials. She has also created video components for theatrical plays and 3D art installations. Since 2005, alongside art director Yanni Lolis, she has been one half of the creative team LoKey based out of Athens and New York. She is a founding member of the new media art collective Medea Electronique whose work has been displayed and performed at the Onassis Cultural Centre, the Benaki Museum and the Michael Cacoyannis Foundation, among others.

**Michael Larsson, Associate Visual Director** [www.ohsoweird.com](http://www.ohsoweird.com)

'It is a true privilege to participate in creating the face of the 8th ASEAN Para Games. Given the width of collaborators involved in the creative process each and one of us - with unique skill-set of tools have the ability to collectively produce an equally unique experience that will speak to the hearts and minds of our audience. All is one.'



As an international display of talents, our Creative Team boasts our very own Larsson, who is a Swedish filmmaker and photographer. Michael possesses a passion for artistic exploration in moving images to tell stories about the human state of mind and its relationship to time and space. With a background in photojournalism his exploration have spanned from traditional art practices to contemporary vision sciences, from photography via filmmaking to stereoscopic virtual reality. Dedicated to artistic and technological innovation he runs a creative agency with an international portfolio of work.

**Justin Heng, Choreographer (Foreign Bodies)**

'This journey has been an enlightening one. In the process of teaching these very motivated group of dancers, the following thought kept running through my mind: 'the only disability we have is the lack of compassion'. We take many things for granted and fail to consider those around us who struggle. Compassion is not about taking pity on others. It's about considering how others are. This is how the good in humanity can be maintained.'

**Yan Tuck Hong, Associate Visual Director** <http://www.tuckys.com/main/>



'Being an ex-athlete myself, watching how the athletes push themselves has been a remarkable experience. Through my photographs and videos, I want to help change people's perception, and to respect these athletes in the Para Games as being on par with all world-class athletes. I've seen what the 2012 London Paralympics has done. I think we can do it for ASEAN too.'

Yan is a well-known professional photographer with more than 20 years of experience in theatre and performance photography His past high-profile clientele includes Cake (theatre production), Esplanade and Ministry of Trade and Industry.

## Schools

### Christina Mok, lecturer leading a team from Ngee Ann Polytechnic

'We feel especially honoured to be part of the Games, the very first in Singapore's history. Just being among athletes dedicated to their game has been overwhelming. Through our work, we want to express the beauty and power of the Games. The athletes are really showing us what doing the impossible means! We can't wait to capture the soul and sounds of what goes on behind the scenes of the 8th Asean Para-Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies.'

Transfixion Production consists of six students and staff members from the School of Infocomm Technology. Lecturer Christina Mok leads staff and students Ho Si Hao, Vittorio Carecci Wei Long, Siti Zalilah Binte Rosli, Godon Koh Wan Rong, Syafiq Syahmi bin Zakariah. They in turn guide and collaborate with Fu Hua Primary School and Clementi Town Secondary School Multimedia Services Club. Together they capture what goes on behind the creative process of the Ceremonies - the sweat, tears and tears of joy.



### Khalid Al Mkhlaafy, lecturer leading a team from LASALLE College of the Arts

'It's been a wonderful educational experience for my students as they got the opportunity to work with the athletes, Sports Singapore and the Singapore Disability Sports Council. It is also about giving back to the community, which is something that we take very seriously. It's been a tremendous pressure too, as the work will be experienced by a large number of people!'



Lecturer Khalid Al Mkhlaafy leads a group of staff and students from the Diploma of Broadcast Media and School of Performing Arts. Together they create three 'I Am A Champion' are 'video poems' for the Opening Ceremony, which are pithy and punchy short films that surprise the viewers about what they thought they knew about disability.

## Project Management

### Amber Lin (born 1992), Project Director



'It is a great honour and inspiration to be involved as the Project Manager and one of the lyricists. It has allowed me to see the superhuman in everyone I work with: the crew, the performers, the athletes, even myself. We want this work to not just entertain, but change the ways people define a person's 'ability'. Everyone has their own unique superpower, and we should be proud of what we can do, no matter what it is.'

A graduate from the Diploma in Performance Program in LASALLE College of the Arts, Lin is a freelance actor and a part-time spoken word artiste. She was last seen as young Georgette in "The Worlds of Georgette Chen" (Channel News Asia). In the recent National Youth Film Awards, she won the Best Performance Award for her role in a short film, "Chasing Tomorrow". While she dabbles in puppeteering (Puppets and Mascots), Lin has outstanding experience in stage management (Bellepoque) and teaching (Inwardbound, Wordforward). Lin hopes to contribute in raising the profile of the performing arts scene in Singapore.

### Idham Budiman, Body Percussionist Trainer

'To be given such an important role for a prestigious event makes me feel excited and yet nervous. With this project, I hope that I can explore my creativity to its limit as I am working with new materials such as body percussion and Chinese drums.'

### Jolinna Ang, Visuals Department

'I have been a big fan of sports and have known about the ASEAN Para Games for some time now. I think it takes more than an exceptional sportsman to become part of the Para Games. This inspires me as I go around filming the artworks created by the students of the Special Schools. I want more people to see the athletes as they are, the hope that they represent.'

### Dharfianto, Visuals Department

'What a new experience and a wonderful platform to grow as a filmmaker! Stories about life have always intrigued me in many ways and I am sure my involvement in this will be something enriching at the end of the day.'

### Muralidharan Gopal, Communications Department

'This has been a great opportunity for me to learn and foster a bond with the people who have made a difference in their lives. I wish to spread the word of their courage and determination to inspire the world at large.'

#### PHOTOGRAPHS

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ja04yqbvf1p1snw/AACZy0yWyDv3O3LgrjMZy4FDa?dl=0>

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