



**AISHAH SAMAD** ◀

Team Singapore Shooter  
by Yan Tuck Hong for Shooting for the Best

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# WELCOME TO THE 8<sup>TH</sup> PARA GAMES

The 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games is here in Singapore for the first time! You're in for an inspiring festival of sport that showcases the courage and skill of Southeast Asia's best para athletes in this biennial multi-sport event for persons with disabilities. With 15 sports, 500 sport events, and an estimated 3,000 athletes and officials, this year's Para Games is set to be a key milestone event in Singapore's sporting history. Certainly, it's a fitting finale to Singapore's Golden Jubilee celebration.

Lend your voice to cheer them on in their efforts to beat the odds and challenge the status quo. Be inspired by their acts of bravery as they rise to the occasion.

**Together, let's Celebrate  
the Extraordinary!**

► Artwork by a student from  
Association For Person with Special Needs (APSN)  
to mark the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games



# AN EXUBERANT CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY

Join 174 volunteers, 120 motivators, 454 students from 15 special education schools, and 661 performers to make this a unique party.

**Sport & Arts:** Formal aspects of the ceremony are meticulously woven into the narrative of the performance. Spot our Team Singapore sporting heroes Aishah Samad (Shooting) and Yip Pin Xiu (Swimming) in the stadium and on the large screens!

**Inclusive:** There will be 'live' sign language interpretation and captioning, a first for such a major event in Singapore. Furthermore, the show is en-abled by industry professionals, students and volunteers with a wide range of abilities and talents, working together to create a sublime performance. Let us be inspired!

**Interactive & Immersive:** Sing and sign along! Get hands-on! Spectacular video projections (several created from artworks by students from the special education schools) illuminate the Singapore Indoor Stadium. Be spirited away!

**Cultivating a Legacy:** We want to discover and nurture new talents. Apart from household names, we are working with tomorrow's stars. Through the ceremony, we aim to shift perspectives. Let's be a catalyst for change in how we view disability in Singapore and the region.

“ This booklet gives you an insight into the people who have en-abled Celebrate the Extraordinary to become a reality. Hear how they mirrored the championship mindset and tenacious spirit of the Games to give you a gold medal performance in the fabulous ceremony you will shortly behold! ”

**PHILIP TAN**  
Creative Director,  
Music Director, Composer  
Opening and Closing Ceremonies






# STRETCHING THE BOUNDARIES

Team Singapore shooter Aishah Samad kickstarts the show with a dramatic entrance. This is followed by a moving dance choreographed by dance therapy expert Dr Filomar C. Tariao and which features 15-year-old Luo Mang, who is autistic. The performance is set against Kleopatra Korai's breathtaking hand-drawn animation which introduces us to the 15 sports to be played at the Games. This leads us to the National Anthem brought to you by Chao Yang, Grace Orchard and other special education schools. Then, against a stunning film, comes the grand parade of the 1,500 participants of the Games, the very people who know all about pushing their physical and mental limits to reach their goals.

**Let us forge a new 'en-abled' vision. Let us work hand-in-hand with our ASEAN friends to achieve new heights in sport and the arts, as well as the way we live, in our work and play.**

 Use of Pyrotechnics

**“ I am proud to support the Opening and Closing Ceremonies by providing advisory support for interpretation and live captioning. To have these provisions for the first time in such a major event will be overwhelming for the deaf and hard of hearing. Do not forget that 3% to 5% of Singaporeans have hearing problems. With these facilities we can include everyone! ”**

**NEO HOCK SIK**  
Singapore Association for the Deaf

**“ The 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games proves that there are no limits within sport and the arts, and that everyone can be a player and creator. The way athletes and performers collaborate demonstrates how we can build friendship and connect with one another — which is the spirit of the Games. Together with our neighbouring countries, we hope to create a beautiful connection and memory together. ”**

**PUA JIN WEN**  
Movement Director

**“ As a former athlete myself, watching how the athletes push themselves has been mindblowing. I want my work to help change people's perception, to respect these athletes as world-class athletes. I've seen what the 2012 London Paralympics has done. I think we can do it for ASEAN too. ”**

**YAN TUCK HONG**  
Associate Visual Director

► **Drawing of Wheelchair Basketball**  
by Kleopatra Korai  
for Stretching the Boundaries



“ I want my animations to touch the hearts and minds of all the people watching the show. My aim is to make the world feel closer to the amazing athletes participating in this glorious celebration of the extraordinary. ”

KLEOPATRA KORAI  
Associate Visual Director

“ The road to success is never an easy one! The resilience of the athletes and performers in this event is indeed admirable. As a self-taught designer, I had to quickly learn the ropes in a competitive industry. With sheer hard work I reached the goals I had set for myself. ”

MOE KASSIM  
Costume Director

“ This project 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. We should be proud of what we can do, no matter what it is. ”

AMBER LIN, 23  
Project Director

“ What an international showcase! The 20 of us dancing in this movement come from at least seven nationalities including the Philippines, Thailand, Japan and China. As a Dance Movement Therapy student, being in this show allows me to see a powerful purpose of dance. I've also learnt that through dance, we are able to share the stage with people with special needs. ”

JONIT OH WEI TIAN, 18  
Dancer  
(Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts)



“ I like to dance. I'm very happy to be able to dance for the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games. ”

LUO MANG, 15  
Solo Dancer  
(Eden School)



“ I feel nervous as it is the first time I will be performing in front of so many people! But I am so excited to be part of this ceremony. ”

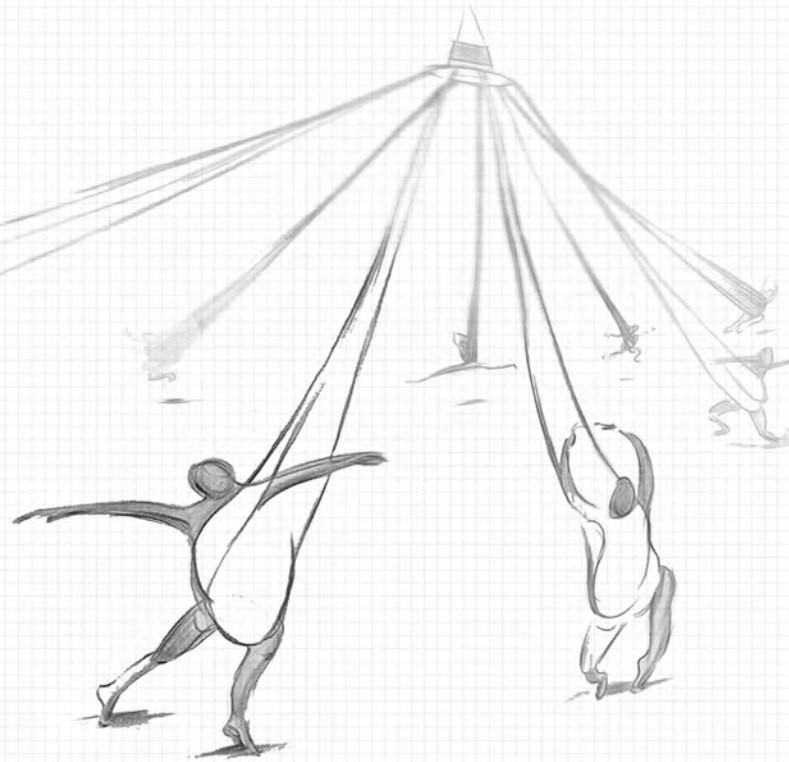
MUHAMMAD FIRHAD BIN AZHAR, 13  
Chorus Singer  
(Cerebral Palsy Alliance of Singapore School)



A Sitting Volleyball team at the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games



# A WORLD OF CREATIVE POSSIBILITIES ✨



With the flags of the ASEAN Para Games and the ASEAN Para Sports Federation raised, the show gets into full swing. Choreographed by Peter Gn, this movement features a group of dancers who are on their feet, as well as off their feet, up in the air. They form a magical carousel. With each of the ribbon symbolising each ASEAN country, we celebrate our unity, friendship and love for superb sporting competition.

Early sketch  
by Airik Ng of set design  
for A World of Creative Possibilities

“ I feel honoured to be involved as it is for an important cause. It's even more significant because the Games is held in our home country. Working with my new friends has taught me 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 great satisfaction. The human spirit can conquer every challenge! ”



CHANG EN, 16  
Dancer  
(Anglo-Chinese Junior College)

“ Each of us is 'special'. It is our man-made narrow-mindedness that dis-en-ables us. My ADHD, dyspraxia and dyslexia are my distinct programming systems that en-able me to intuit and intellectualise about the world in unique ways. Working on the shows and programme booklets have been tough, but I love a cracking challenge. Who needs a boring, easy life? ”

DR TAN KAI SYNG  
Visual Director,  
Communications Director

Use of Pyrotechnics





# SHOOTING FOR THE BEST

There is no hurdle too high  
No roadblock too tough  
We are better than perfect  
Sharper than blades  
Swifter than light  
We are stronger, and braver,  
and brighter than ever

Swimmer Theresa Goh 'splashes' onto the screen and shows you why she is a champion. The video poem leads us onto ASEAN Best, which is a celebration of the last seven Games. Redeafination, Singapore's stellar hip hop dance group for the deaf, dances to a film installation created by Michael Larsson. This is followed by Personal Best, which valorises our great sporting heroes and heroines for whom their greatest competitors are themselves. On stage is a diverse group of ASEAN talents including singers Natasha Gray (Philippines), Crenshaw Yeo (Singapore) and 13-year-old Indah Wahyu (Indonesia), who are accompanied by pianist Lui Chee Chau (Malaysia), marimbist Lily Goh (Singapore), guitarist Daniel Purnomo (Indonesia), keyboardist Samantha Gray (Philippines), as well as a film by Yan Tuck Hong.

► **Digital Print**  
by Timothy Chan  
based on X-ray images of his body  
for Shooting for the Best: Personal Best

“ Being among athletes dedicated to their game has been overwhelming. We want our work to express the beauty and power of the Games, and to capture the soul and sounds of what goes on behind the scenes of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. ”

**CHRISTINA MOK**  
Associate Visual Director  
(Leading Transfixion/Ngee Ann Polytechnic)

“ This project reveals that as individuals we play an important part within the 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 our exceptional capabilities as human beings. ”

**AIRIK NG**  
Set / Props Director

“ Not only are we opening this special sporting event, we are showcasing the amazing talent and passion of performers with a wide range of capabilities. Everyone has put in so much of effort. Its success will be one to be savoured! ”

**SUVEN CHAN**  
Lighting Director

“ It has been such an enriching experience interacting with different individuals in this project. May the shows bring a smile to all athletes, performers and audiences! ”

**GENEVIEVE PECK**  
Chief Associate Visual Director

► **Drawing of Shooting**  
by Kleopatra Korai  
for Stretching the Boundaries



“ I have Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and I have been using a wheelchair since I was 13. I am an avid chess player. I was the champion in the 2009 and 2014 National Disability Leagues and represented Singapore in the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games. My work in this movement consists of marks that I created by running paint under my wheelchair. I have also made digital drawings that are based on my X-ray images. I want to show that there's beauty inside all of us. The drawings become materials that artist Michael Larsson transforms into a film installation. ”

TIMOTHY CHAN, 25  
Associate Visual Director

“ This project enables people who have special needs to shine. It 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 never give up, but reach for your goals. ”

LUI CHEE CHAU  
Performer, Music Arranger

“ While the ASEAN Para Games does not feature games for the deaf as such, we are delighted to be part of the show. We welcome this gesture of inclusivity and display of support to the communities with special needs. ”

LILY GOH  
Performer  
(ExtraOrdinary Horizons)

“ I found it tough at first. We persevered and kept on practising over and over, until our steps were right. Now, we can remember them very well! You know, people with disabilities have hidden abilities and talents too. This event ensures that your forte comes to light. All your dreams can come true. Never underestimate yourself! ”

PATRICIA GERARDINE  
TOMNOB MERILO, 18  
Performer/Dancer  
(Redeafination)



## FIRE YOUR IMAGINATION

Sporting star Khirmern Mohamad (filmed by LASALLE College of the Arts) leads us on an imaginative tour through the business district of Singapore. Cheer along with the ever-enthusiastic bunch of volunteers as they teach us how to sign and sing with our hands, accompanied by wheelchair dancers in steampunk outfits celebrating a vision of Singapore that is both nostalgic and futuristic. Next up, a montage of our national sports stars (created by filmmaker Bertrand Lee) shows us what inspires our sporting heroes and heroines. This leads us to the climax of the show, with the torch parade and lighting of the Games cauldron. And so, let the Games begin. Let us celebrate sporting excellence, friendship and respect.

Think big. Fire your imagination.  
The little red dot that is Singapore  
glows, inspiring all others around her.

“ Nothing is impossible;  
I am able to. ”

YIP PIN XIU  
Team Singapore's Paralympian Gold Medallist

► Early Sketches of Ballet Wheelchairs  
by Airik Ng and Alan Huang  
for Fire Your Imagination

Use of Pyrotechnics

# FIRE YOUR IMAGINATION 🎵

We are stars blazing in the sky  
Hear our war cries across the oceans  
Watch our bodies roar to life  
It's time for dreams to fly free

Every day we are born again!  
Spirits soaring high!  
Every moment we can win again!  
Steady! Shoot! Strike! Score!

Right here! Right now!  
Around the world, the galaxies,  
and the universe  
We stand tall! Proud! Strong! Hand-in-Hand!  
Our friendship is our greatest strength



“It's been a great educational experience for my students as they were able to work with different organisations and athletes (such as Khirmern Mohamad, pictured). It's also about giving back to society which is very important.”

**KHALID AL MKHLAIFY**  
Associate Visual Director  
(Leading LASALLE College of the Arts Students)

“Since young, I have always wanted to represent Singapore in a major sporting event. Now, I'm living the dream by participating in the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games! Wheelchair Basketball helps me work as a team with people of different types of disabilities and most importantly, unique abilities!”

**CHOO POH CHOON**  
Wheelchair Dancer, Basketball Player

“I'm blind in one eye but I have been an active volunteer since 1961. There's so much love and kindness in the team. The instructors are patient, so I don't have to worry about not remembering all the steps! The younger dancers are always there to help me practise the moves. When riding the train home, I would not stop chatting with my Indian and Malay friends. I return home each evening feeling so pleased.”

**ALICE BEE AH LEONG @ MA LOON YIN, 78**  
(pictured, second left)  
Volunteer



## A VICTORIOUS CELEBRATION EXTRAORDINARY ✨

People of all abilities have been at the heart of this show from the beginning. Every single item has been anchored, inspired and/or created by an athlete, performer or creative team member with disability. These are the people who help us to grasp, expand and spread the true meaning of the Games. The finest legacy of the Opening Ceremony would be a renewed respect for people from all walks of life. Let us strive towards a more inclusive community, society, country, region and world. Let the students from 15 special education schools lead us in a jubilant dance of victory.

✨ Use of Pyrotechnics

Let us dance. Let us play.  
Let us transform the Singapore Indoor  
Stadium, and the world,  
into a barrier-free playground.

“ I’m so excited to perform 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. ”

WARREN CHEH ZHENG WEI, 14  
Circus Act Performer  
(Grace Orchard School)

“ This journey has been an enlightening one. In the process of teaching these groups of motivated group, I kept thinking: ‘the only disability society has 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. ”

JUSTIN HENG  
Choreographer  
(Foreign Bodies)

“ I love working with people and I love music. I can’t wait to be in the show! ”

LIDIYA BINTE RYMEE ISKANDAR, 11  
Chorus Singer  
(Rainbow Centre Yishun Park School)





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## CAST

### ATHLETES

Aishah Samad (Shooting)  
Chee Weng Fai Jason (Table Tennis)  
Marc Chiang Chia Ling (Goalball)  
Choo Poh Choon (Basketball)  
Aloysius Gan Kai Hong (Boccia)  
Muhammad Firdaus Bin Nordin (Athletics)  
Football Team  
Goalball Team  
Theresa Goh (Swimming)  
Kalai Vanen (Powerlifting)  
Khirmern Mohamad (Athletics)  
Ong Meng Hong (Football 5-a-side)  
Raja Singh (Wheelchair Racing)  
Jack Lai (Athletics)  
Benson Tan (Swimming)  
Jovin Tan (Sailing)  
Kelvin Tan (Goalball)  
Tay Wei Ming (Badminton)  
Toh Wei Song (Swimming)  
Yap Qian Yin (Sailing)  
Yip Pin Xiu (Swimming)  
Wheelchair Basketball Team

### SOLOISTS & TALENTS

Jonah Chi Jee Hong  
Lily Goh  
Natasha Gray  
Samantha Gray  
Lui Chee Chau  
Irene Ng Ai Hui  
Oon Shu An  
Daniel Purnomo  
Raghavendran Rajasekaran  
Haikal Rosli  
Eunice Sim Hui En  
Vanda Seetoh Yu Wen  
Tan Mei Zheng  
Renee Joy Tan  
Indah Wahyu Hapsari Tjahjowidodo  
Terence Nathanael Tay  
Crenshaw Yeo

► **Purple Symphony Orchestra,**  
Singapore's first inclusive orchestra  
rehearsing their item  
by Transfixion (Ngee Ann Polytechnic)

## GROUPS

ExtraOrdinary Horizons  
Foreign Bodies  
Redeafination  
1023

## SCHOOLS

Anglo-Chinese Junior College  
Canossian School  
Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore  
Chao Yang School (APSN)  
Down Syndrome Association  
Eden School (Luo Mang)  
Evergreen Secondary School  
Grace Orchard School  
Metta School  
MINDS  
Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA)  
ITE College West (ITE West Styles District)  
Tanglin School (APSN)  
Katong School (APSN)  
School of the Arts (Natasha Michella Da Costa, Rachel Wong, Ted Ngoo, Tessa Tang)  
Rainbow Centre (Margaret Drive)  
Rainbow Centre (Yishun Park School)  
(Lidiya Binte Rymee Iskandar)

## ADVISORY BOARD

Teachers from various special educations schools

## INTERPRETATION

The Singapore Association for the Deaf (SADEAF)

## EVENT MANAGEMENT

ShowTec  
Presplay

## SPECIAL THANKS

to each and everyone of our 1000-strong team of volunteers, motivators, students and performers for teaching us about the true meaning of reaching for the extraordinary

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to ASEAN Para Sports Federation, Singapore Disability Sports Council, performers and schools for supplying photographs and artworks for this publication

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Big3  
CraveFX  
The Shooting Gallery

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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 for 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 for 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 for leading staff and students Ho Si Hao, Vittorio Carecci Wei Long, Godon Koh Wan Rong, Siti Zalilah Binte Rosli and Syafiq Syahmi bin Zakariah)



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