

SOTA RAISES \$235,000 IN FIRST FUNDRAISING SHOW - IMPACT 2022

The amount raised will go towards the SOTA Endowment Fund

On 11 November 2022, School of the Arts, Singapore (SOTA) commemorated its first fundraising show, *Impact 2022*. The inaugural show was inspired by the life and works of Tang Da Wu, who has inspired generations of artists of different disciplines with his experimental and pioneering vision.

“As a young nation trying to build a distinctive culture and identity, there is much value in building on our past. By studying the life and works of our local cultural icons, our students imbibe the values and dispositions of these giants and we hope that they would be drawn to this dedicated process of growth”, said Mary Seah, Principal of SOTA.

Held at SOTA’s Drama Theatre, the show explored themes connected to nature, self, and community through Dance, Film, Music, Literary Arts, Theatre and Visual Arts performances.

“It is always an exciting thing when young creative people make their own original artistic material. We are reminded of how rich their world is, how deep their thoughts are, how big their questions are, and how broad their artistic vocabulary is. This has been the case for the *Impact* process, where we approached a range of students and alumni, inviting them to create new works for the event”, said Sean Tobin, Artistic Director of *Impact 2022* and teacher from the faculty of Theatre.

Inspired by Tang Da Wu’s exploration of self and identity through his art, Year 3 Theatre students, Chen Huiyao, Mila Jade Thiagarajan, Tiana Lea Campbell and Uthara Vivek, from the Arts Plus programme, presented *Transit*. In their performance, the students expressed their collective thoughts and feelings about growing up in Singapore. It reflected how they negotiated their identity and race in an increasingly complex society. More information on selected performances can be found in Annex A, and selected photos can be found in Annex B.

The amount raised will go towards the SOTA Endowment Fund (SEF) that addresses the need for long-term sustainability in providing students with bursaries, scholarships and other financial assistance so that no child gets left behind in the pursuit of an arts education.

“Naturally, the context of *Impact* – to support arts education and to reduce the barriers to its access – is critical. Almost my entire education has been supported and made possible through scholarships, so this fundraiser means a lot to me, even in just being a public reminder that access to arts education is not a given” said Ashley Ho, Dance alumna from the class of 2017.

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About Impact - SOTA Fundraising Show

Impact is an annual fundraising show that is organised by School of the Arts, Singapore (SOTA) to raise funds for the SOTA Endowment Fund (SEF).

Like the roots of a tree, the SEF was set up in 2019 to serve as a strong foundation towards growing a self-sustainable source of funds for the school in providing our students with bursaries, scholarships, and other financial assistance. The fund ensures that SOTA's unique arts education remains accessible so that no child gets left behind due to financial disadvantage.

Supporting our school's vision to nurture the next generation of cultural leaders who positively impact society, the annual fundraising show takes inspiration from a local icon who has made significant contributions in shaping Singapore's arts and cultural landscape. Young aspiring artists at SOTA are encouraged to learn from the stories and works of these icons, in turn creating new and original works for the show.

Featuring Dance, Film, Literary Arts, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts works by the SOTA community, Impact is a carefully crafted multidisciplinary showcase that is cohesive and rich in meaning. It is a celebration of everything that makes the SOTA education experience unique.

For more information, please visit <https://www.sota.edu.sg/whats-on/impact2022>

About School of the Arts, Singapore

The School of the Arts, Singapore (SOTA) is Singapore's first national pre-tertiary specialised arts school with a six-year integrated arts and academic curriculum, leading to the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma or Career-related Programme, for youths aged 13- 18 years old.

Under the ambit of the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY), SOTA offers a dedicated development path for those who have interest and show early talent in the arts, providing a learning environment where both the artistic and academic potential can best be realised.

With a vision to nurture creative citizens for the future, SOTA aims to identify and groom artistic and creative learners who positively impact Singapore and the world, through a vibrant learning environment that is anchored in the arts.

A school of the future, SOTA embraces a holistic educational philosophy that celebrates experimentation, expression, and discovery.

For more information, please visit <https://www.sota.edu.sg>

Annex A - Selected Performances

Nocturne of the Sembawang Phoenix

Composed by Kenny Teo, Music (Year 4)

Performed by Pay Jia-En Anastasia Atarah, Music (Year 4)

Year 4 Music student, Kenny Teo, drew inspiration from Tang Da Wu's sculpture, Sembawang Phoenix to compose an unconventional music piece for the guzheng.

"I was interested in the name itself as it consisted of Sembawang being a place in Singapore, and the Phoenix as a mythological symbol of rebirth. With more research, I learned that the work was based on the location of the Artists Village where it was founded, and the bird in the artwork was based-off the large-tailed nightjar, which chirped with a 'tok-tok' sound."

"These ideas formed the main inspiration for my piece, utilising percussive elements such as knocking on the guzheng, to simulate the bird call, a ternary structure to simulate the 'death' and 'rebirth' of a theme, and a relaxed vibe evocative of night time through elements of the nocturne form", said Kenny.

As a music student, taking inspiration from a sculpture and incorporating and expressing its elements through the medium of music was a new learning experience for Kenny. This was Kenny's first interdisciplinary work and he hopes that through his piece, performed by Year 1 Music student Pay Jia-En Anastasia Atarah, the audience can see the connections that can be made between artforms.

Sediment

Art direction by Andrew Huang, Amber Lim and Emma Tay (Year 6, Visual Arts)

Choreographed and performed by Hanna Qistina (Year 5, Dance)

Music composed by Preston Ng (Year 6, Music)

Film by Joshua Sng, D'Oliveira Wey Han Chua (Year 6, Film)

When Year 6 Visual Arts IBCP* students Amber Lim, Andrew Huang and Emma Tay first started exploring Tang Da Wu's work, it got them thinking about new contemporary ways of creating performative art installations and exploring the inherent connection between man and nature.

They then thought about how they could blend together different elements to create an interdisciplinary work and approached their peers from Dance, Film and Music to collaborate.

Creating their artwork involved the organic process of cloth absorbing ink in a natural environment relying on elements of chance such as sun, wind and rain. In the creation process, Hanna Qistina, a Year 5 Dancer, responded to the artwork and music by Preston Ng, a Year 6 Musician, to echo spontaneity. This process was filmed by Year 6 Film students Joshua Sng and D'Oliveria Wey Han Chua.

The finished artwork of 4 cloths and the film were featured in the show. As the artwork was revealed on stage, Hanna completed the performative art installation with an on stage dance performance.

Through the incorporation of stage visuals, ambient music, and a live dance performance, they demonstrated how each art form could correspond and react to one another to create one cohesive work.

“It was a great experience to work with such talented individuals from Dance, Film and Music to create a performance that challenged our preconceived notions of art. As visual artists, working with more performative disciplines forced us to think more about movement and space, bringing a new dimension into our work,” said Andrew, Amber and Emma.

**IBCP = International Baccalaureate Career-Related Programme*

Annex B – Selected photos from *Impact 2022* (high-res photos can be found [here](#))



Dr Lee Boon Yang (right) presenting a cheque to Mrs Mary Seah, Principal of SOTA. SOTA has raised \$235,000 for *Impact*.



Under the Banana Tree, written by Sophie Ang Jia Shuen (Year 3, Literary Arts) and performed by Bernadette Koh (Year 5, Theatre), featuring all performing members of the showcase.



Transit, performed by (L-R) Tiana Lea Campbell, Koko Kusano, Uthara Vivek, Chen Huiyao, and Mila Jade Thiagarajan (Year 3 Theatre students).



Transit, performed by (L-R) Uthara Vivek, Chen Huiyao, Koko Kusano, Tiana Lea Campbell, and Mila Jade Thiagarajan.



Nocturne of the Sembawang Phoenix, written by Teo Kang Lee, Kenny (Year 4, Music), performed by Pay Jia-En Anastasia Atarah (Year 1, Music). In the background: *Phoenix Rising* metal sculpture by Zhu Di (Year 5, Visual Arts).



Raw, composed and performed by Miya Figueroa (Year 2, Music) on the keyboard, and Year 4 Dance students Miko Seah Jia En and Von Tay Yu Man. Behind Miya is a metal sculpture piece, *Me*, by Na ByungHa (Year 5, Visual Arts).



Sediment, choreographed and performed by Hanna Qistina (Year 5, Dance). Art direction by Amber Lim, Andrew Huang, and Emma Tay (Year 6 Visual Arts students). The piece also comprised a film by Joshua Sng, D'Oliveira Wey Han Chua (Year 6 Film students).



Hanna Qistina performing in *Sediment*.



Jozef Chua (alumus) (left) and Kenzo Seah Jia You (Year 5, Dance) (right) performing in *Terr(A)qua*, choreographed by Hanna Qistina with music composed by Charlene Cloud Tan (Year 5, Music).