



Electric Youth



Team Young NTUC: A dynamic bunch with a passion for the performing arts.

By Sharon Lee

THEIR enthusiasm was infectious. Ripping open the plastic bags containing their red and white windbreakers, the youths quickly put them on, chatting excitably.

Wearing the jackets emblazoned with the words, "TEAM YOUNG NTUC", their pride was palpable.

The 50 Young NTUC members, part of the labour movement's performance arts group, "Performing with Love, by Active Youths!" or "p.L.a.Y!" for short, received their certificates in acting, dancing and singing at a ceremony on 6 January 2007.

Held at Harry's at the Esplanade Mall, the occasion was also a time for the 18- to 35-year-olds to get together and foster greater bonds of friendship.

They were among the 60 who underwent training from top Singapore thespians Jeremiah Choy, Babes Conde and Gani Abdul Karim from October to December 2006 following their selection from several rounds of audition.

Guest-of-honour, NTUC Youth Development Unit Director Josephine Teo hopes that p.L.a.Y! will be a platform for its members to perform regularly.

"It's wonderful that we have the opportunity to train with Singapore's finest and so we really want to thank Jeremiah, Babes and Gani for being with us and partnering with us. We hope they will be with us on this journey for a long time," she said.

The group intends to perform on various occasions, including May Day, Youth Day, National Day and Children's Day. Already, it has presented a medley locally penned and arranged songs to a VIP-studded audience at a thank you dinner for immediate past labour chief Lim Boon Heng on 5 January 2007.

Miss Charissa Seet, 22, was among the eight singers who performed at the dinner. The part-time business student, who bears a striking resemblance to local songbird Stephanie Sun, graduated with a certificate in singing and acting.



(Right) Rosalind Tan, 13, who is the youngest participant, has made firm friends with Debbie Tjong, 17.

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– Steve Tan

"Someone told me about the audition and I decided to take part," said Miss Seet, who has been interested in singing since she was 16. Acting, on the other hand, was new to her.

"I had never explored it, so I jumped at the chance to study acting when I was offered the opportunity."

The experience has been great so far, said fellow singer Spencer Tan. The human resource associate consultant, 27, has been singing in church choirs for nearly 15 years.

"It has been quite an experience for me. I'm very happy and grateful that NTUC has provided this chance for us because such opportunities don't present themselves all the time," said Mr Tan.

He was initially nervous about performing in front of such a large audience but remembered what Mr Choy said: "He told us to relax and have fun, and everything went quite smoothly after that," he said.

Casting is underway for the May Day Musical, "A Labour Of Love." The 95-minute long musical, being produced by OrangeDot Productions, will be performed at University Cultural Centre.

"This will be an opportunity for us to showcase our youth's talent. It is a good way to engage them as there is a strong interest in performing arts among the young," said Youth Development Unit Assistant Director Steve Tan. ■

Young Talent

At only 13 years old, petite Rosalind Tan is the youngest member of p.L.a.Y!

The Secondary One student at Greenridge Secondary School and avid ballet dancer was spurred on to audition last year after encouraged by her mother.

Despite not being at least 17 years old- the minimum age - Rosalind was allowed to attend classes.

Wanted: Bowlers For Team Young NTUC

Selected Athletes To Train Under Former National Coach

Young NTUC is forming a team of competitive 10-pin bowlers, aged between 18 and 35 years old. Selection trials will take place tomorrow (20 January 2007) at Orchid Bowl, Orchid Country Club.

There will be two rolls-off, at 9.30 am and 11.30 am. Places will be allocated upon registration, at \$5 each, which includes a drink and a snack. Each player will bowl 3 games.

Selected athletes will be trained by a former national coach and be given opportunities to represent Team Young NTUC at competitions.

Sign up online at: www.youngntuc.org.sg/bowling/form.

ENQUIRIES

Rathika Sitharam Madavadas at Youth Development Unit
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YOU CAN SALSA... Ever wanted to learn to do the Salsa?

Young NTUC invites you to join in its Salsa Dance Class.

Conducted by professional trainers from JJSalsaRengue, pay \$11 an hour to pick up this fun and sensual dance plus unlimited free entry to Union Square – the hottest Salsa Club in town. Open exclusively to NTUC Members, class will start on 27 January 2007.

Start on this cool learning journey with a partner or go alone and meet like-minded friends. You will find many in the Young NTUC's Union Salsa group.

Join the group and get a free T-shirt plus enjoy many benefits including getting 20 per cent discount for dance classes conducted by JJSalsaRengue, free entry to Union Square (Salsa Club) and free first soft drinks on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Sign up at www.youngntuc.org.sg/salsa/email.htm.

ENQUIRIES

Rathika Sitharam Madavadas at Youth Development Unit
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"My mom asked me to give it a try and I agreed. I'm happy that I've been given the chance to learn hip-hop dancing," said Rosalind, who has made firm friends with another participant, Debbie Tjong, 17.

The pair, who partnered each other during lessons, attended lessons for two hours once every week.

"You have to know your priorities. Of course, studies come first and then dancing. I can still cope even if it is hectic." ■