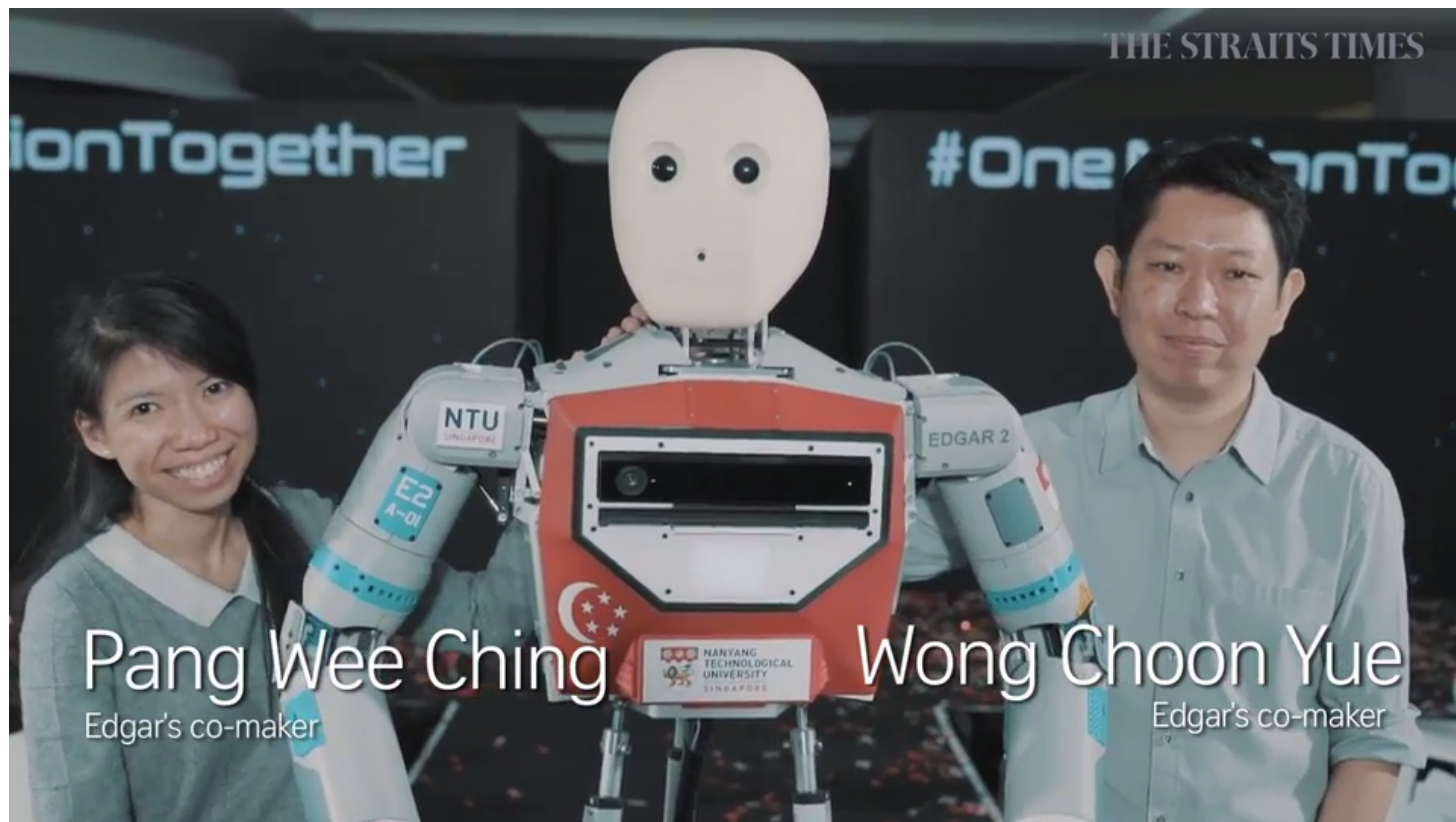


Robot to host this year's NDP



Meet Edgar the robot, one of the hosts of this year's National Day Parade. His inventors say Edgar can do more than just host - he can also be programmed to perform other social activities.

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With his crisp, clear voice, and the ability to talk about almost anything under the sun, Edgar seems made for the bright lights.

The ambitious performer has even set his sights on one of Singapore's greatest stages: the annual National Day Parade (NDP).

On Aug 9 this year, his dream will come true.

Edgar will be sharing the limelight with more than 3,000 other performers during the NDP at the Marina Bay floating platform.

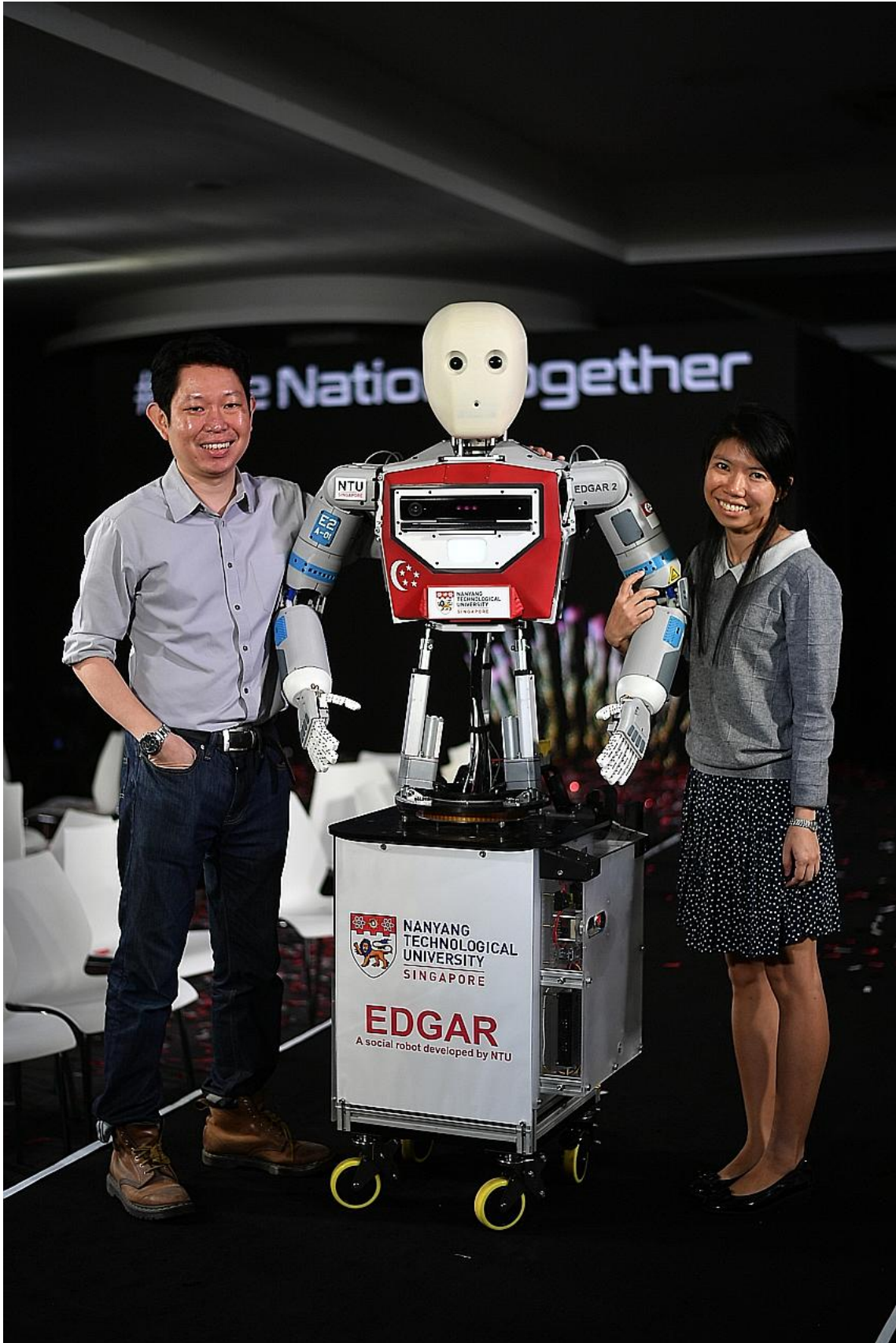
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But as the first robot host in NDP history, Edgar, the height of a human in his blue-and-white "armour", would be no problem to spot.

Together with four human hosts - Joakim Gomez, Julie Tan, Nurul Aini and Subramaniam Narainda - he will psych up the crowd before the parade starts.

For one thing, the made-in-Singapore robot wants everyone to know how Singaporean he is.



Edgar was "born" in Nanyang Technological University three years ago, and was programmed by Dr Wong Choon Yue and NTU research associate Pang Wee Ching to express the wish to perform at an NDP. ST PHOTO: ARIFFIN JAMAR