



Code Red

WHO:
Ng Ser Ling Gwendolyn, 20, Second Year, Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information

THE HIGHLIGHT:
She enjoyed her 15 minutes of fame along with Hui Foon and Song Jia Jia (both 20, Second Year, WKWSCD). They were two of 60 people selected to take part in the Channel 8 variety show – "Code Red" ("Ai Shang Xiao Hong Dian").

WHEN DID IT HAPPEN:
21 July

GETTING INVOLVED:
"Hui Foon has a friend working in MediaCorp and encouraged Jia Jia and me join. One reason I decided to go was because of the cash prize. Even if we lost, we could still receive \$50 each," Gwendolyn almost could not take part in the filming as she was very nervous and answered

the jingle wrongly. She only got in after the second round of questioning.

UNFORGETTABLE EVENTS:
"I'll never look at TV the same way again. Everything is orchestrated. If we didn't look happy enough, we had to redo the take."

"It was a rare opportunity to be able to take part in filming and we got behind the scenes."

BAD EXPERIENCE:
"Miscommunication was a problem. For example, the host Kym Ng would tell us to do something, so we would call our leaders who are outside and our base camp leader would talk to Kym. However, we would get scolded by the director because we did not have the camera filming us at that time."

ADVICE:
"You never know if you never try. Just have fun and don't be nervous."

OW Holidays!

For most students, the summer holidays mark a rare respite from hectic university life, but some sought out rewarding experiences instead. **Peh Kai Ru** and **Han Xue Mei** take a look at their adventures

Midsummer Night's Dream indeed

WHO:
Lee Xin Yan Alyssa, 20, Second Year, School of Humanities and Social Sciences

THE HIGHLIGHT:
She was a fairy in the Singapore Repertory Theatre's (SRT) production of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream". There were 15 performances at Fort Canning Park.

WHEN DID IT HAPPEN:
From 4 to 27 May

GETTING INVOLVED:
"I am in the SRT's Young Company and had a chance to work with Barry Kyle, the former Royal Shakespeare Company director. I was in a dilemma as rehearsals were intensive and they clashed with examinations, and I had to decide between

forfeiting this opportunity and juggling my studies with rehearsals."

UNFORGETTABLE EVENTS:
"The stage was built on a hill so slanted.

It was a very intensive process as the director evaluated our performance every night so changes were made to improve it.

"For publicity, five of the 19 fairies went around town area and Shenton Way, dressed as fairies that do not understand human language, which was fun."

"We also held crazy cast parties with free flow drinks with many inspiring actors and actresses like Emma Yong and Jason Chan."

BAD EXPERIENCE:
"We had physical training every night and were bitten by mosquitoes and ants."

ADVICE:
"Doing theatre in Singapore is tough, arduous, and your efforts often go unnoticed. However, if you were to be really into theatre, you can get this sense of immense satisfaction and achievement. Being in a youth group will expose you to more opportunities in theatre."



A dancing star is launched

WHO:
Tan Weihao, 24, Second Year, School of Art, Design & Media

THE HIGHLIGHT:
This is Weihao's first time choreographing a segment in the National Day Parade (NDP), a five minute show titled "Singa City" with more than 400 youth volunteers from Singapore Soka Association (SSA), a Buddhist organisation participating.

WHEN DID IT HAPPEN:
From November last year till now

GETTING INVOLVED:
Weihao has been involved in the NDP since 2000 as a member of SSA, which has been active in NDP for many years. Weihao has had different roles – group trainer, block trainer – and finally an assistant choreographer this year.

UNFORGETTABLE EVENTS:
With NDP round the corner, Wei Hao's holidays were largely spent going to meetings, trainings and

rehearsals. "It's like my very own art piece and my first one, so I have a certain level of expectations that I have set," said Weihao who is heartened by the progress of the performance.

During one of the trainings, Weihao suddenly started sneezing non-stop while speaking over the microphone.

"Over 400 participants were standing at their position waiting for me to stop sneezing so that training could resume. That was kind of embarrassing."

BAD EXPERIENCE:
Weihao sprained his leg while training. It was such a bad sprain that he took three months to recover fully.

ADVICE:
"Whenever I do something, I will always keep in mind to create value in what I do. Since we are young, we should exert ourselves and accomplish more."



On Ho Chi Minh's Trail



WHO:
Ooi Jit Hong and Ong Wei Han, both 22, both second-year Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

THE HIGHLIGHT:
With a budget of about \$1300 each, they visited Vietnam for two weeks and Cambodia for one week with two NTU ODAC friends.

They visited minority villages around Sapa in the northern Vietnamese mountains, crossed the border to Phnom Penh in Cambodia and travelled up north to Siem Reap to visit the Angkor temples.

WHEN DID IT HAPPEN:
Three weeks starting from end-June to mid-July

GETTING INVOLVED:
Wei Han was discussing post-examinations activities with his friends when they thought of backpacking in Vietnam and Cambodia. "All four of us like outdoor activities and we'd also have less hassle with the immigration procedures as we're also from a South-East Asian country," said Jit Hong.

UNFORGETTABLE EVENTS:
"An Australian guy slept on my shoulder for the whole trip when we were travelling from Hoi An to Nha Trang," said Wei Han who felt helpless in the bus' crammed conditions.

In Vietnam, our backpackers rode on motor bikes without licenses. "We don't need a license to ride," said Wei Han. "The hike is auto gear, so it's easy to learn. Even 14

or 15-year-olds ride them."

Vietnam's home-brewed beer costs only 30 cents a cup at the roadside stalls in Vietnam and according to Wei Han, it tastes better than Tiger Beer.

BAD EXPERIENCE:
For Jit Hong, who is quite tall, bus rides were horrible as there was often not enough space to stretch his legs. Likewise there was "little stretching space and poor ventilation" for the six-hour boat ride along the Mekong River during the crossing from Ho Chi Minh City to Phnom Penh.

ADVICE:
"Plan where you'll be going and book the accommodation first or else it can be quite inconvenient if you were to plan and look for accommodation on the spot," said Jit Hong. Fortunately for them, planning was well-done and hence there were few problems.