

NP: Exposing Students to Art

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From a Swedish film festival in January, Pops 'N Classics concert in July, staff and student concert in August [see pg 4] to the Rondeau XVII a classical music performance put by the NP concert band in December, Ngee Ann Polytechnic's arts calendar has been jam-packed this year.

It's all been part of a campus Arts Festival to create a greater awareness of the arts among students, organised in tandem with the NP 40th Anniversary celebrations.

Freshmen were exposed from the start, through the June orientation camp's Convention Nite, where 15 clubs, including the Cultural Activities & Social Service Clubs (CASSC) and the Song Composing Club, put up a joint performance. Jasmine Koh, 19, a third-year Biotechnology (Bio) student said, "I... was once again reminded of the success our school's CCAs have achieved."

It wasn't all about sitting in a theatre or concert hall either. In August, the library held a mini exhibition on Singapore's Visual and Performing arts and a showcase for "Forbidden City, Portrait of an Empress", The Singapore Repertory Theatre's (SRT) Musical of the Year.


Mrs Leo-Lim Bee Ang, the SRT's Reference Manager who coordinated the display, says the posters were put up to highlight a popular performing art, "The idea was to cultivate students' interests in the arts and entice them to

read more books on the local arts scene."

Ms Charlotte Nors, 37, Venue & Marketing Manager of The SRT is very appreciative of NP for having the display. "Students are our future audience, and we have to educate them. Now they're at the right age to be exposed to the arts scene and many of them are very enthusiastic. They deserve quality theatre... but at prices that are affordable."

Said Amy Teo, 20, a second-year Accountancy (ACC) student, "I like the idea of an art's fair; it's great that the school is willing to plan such activities. We see the school in a different light."

You might have thought that there would be performer and audience fatigue, but Guo Shuhua, treasurer of the NP Concert Band is anything but tired. "We have practices twice a week, three hours each time to prepare us... Because music is my life, I'm willing to put in time and effort for the band," said the third-year Business IT student.

Audiences are not complaining either because turnout at the events, many of which were sold-out performances at the cavernous Convention Centre, was excellent. Speaking about the staff and student concert, which drew about 1,800 staff and students, co-chairperson of the arts fest committee, Mdm Ong-Long Fung, Director of the School of Business & Accountancy (BA) observed that, "Normally it would be difficult to get an audience for school performances, but you could see the convention centre was filled." 



OPEN YOUR MIND TO THE ARTS: The NP Library held a special exhibition featuring Singapore's Visual and Performing Arts, with a showcase on "Forbidden City: Portrait of an Empress", a Dick Lee-composed musical starring Kit Chan and Hossan Leong.

[Picture: Mugilan R.]