



张丽铃患有退行性视力障碍却依然坚持舞台梦。(受访者提供)

立志成为舞台剧演员

眼疾无阻她追梦 「视界」仅硬币大小

郑书逸 报道
zshuyi@sph.com.sg

从4岁就被诊断患有视网膜色素变性的19岁女生，“视界”只有硬币大小，但立志成为舞台剧演员，在台上量脚步练走位，听口述学动作。

张丽铃从小就喜欢表演，然而因退行性视力障碍的疾病不断恶化，如今她只能看到硬币大小的世界。尽管如此，她仍热衷于自己所爱，14岁时确立了要当专业演员的梦想。

“我看这个世界的感觉，就像你们拿一根吸管，从那么小一个洞里看出去的感觉。不过，我从没有想过要放弃成为舞台剧演员。”

为此，她也要付出比别人更多的努力，需要比别人更多的彩排时间。彩排时，她用脚量舞台，去感受舞台的空间大小。在学习表演的过程中，尤其

是学习动作时，她需要靠老师和同学的口述。

“我很感谢老师对我的耐心，他们总是花更多时间关注我，照顾我。如果没有同学的照顾，我在拉萨尔艺术学院的道路也不会这么顺遂。”

目前，张丽铃在为学前教育的孩童设计演讲和戏剧课程。同时，她也教导和她同样有视力障碍的学生。

“我对学生的要求是，即使我们有视力障碍，但我们的表演一样还是要非常专业。我相信，当我们非常专业的时候，没有学校会不接受我们。”

张丽铃表示自己是首个从拉萨尔艺术学院表演文凭毕业的视障学生，她曾经被其它表演学校拒绝过。虽然觉得很难过，但她没有想过放弃，她只要求自己变得更好。

完全失明也不放弃

医生说未来会完全丧失视力，张丽铃表示即便如此也永不放弃。张丽铃表示，她的眼疾并无治疗方法，医生表示未来她会完全丧失视力。

“我非常确定未来我还是会当演员，这也是我想传达给学生的。表演总有方法，我们可以利用对空间的认知技巧去表演。就算我完全失明，也永远不会放弃表演事业。”

希望专业被重视 ‘演得不好请直说’

她希望大家不要带着“慈善”的有色眼镜看她表演：“演得不好请直说！”

受访时，张丽铃表示最大的心愿是她艺术的专业性被重视，而不是她本身条件的特殊性。

“很多时候，当大家看到残疾人士表演，会把我们当成励志的故事。不管我们表演得如何，观众不会要求太多。我其实不希望大家给这种特殊待遇

和保护，我希望被当成专业演员，大家能够诚实地评价我的表演。”

未来，她想为更多被边缘化的群体发声，例如有听力障碍、学习障碍、精神疾病的患者和孤儿等。

“我想拿到社会工作的本科文凭，让我更了解可以帮助这些被边缘化群体。我还想去英国学习更具有包容性的做法，并把这些做法带到新加坡来实践。”

Determined to be a theatre actress despite eye condition

Claire Teo Li Ling, 19 years old, was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa at the age of four. The scope of her vision may be limited but she is determined to become a theatre actress. When she practises on stage, she measures her position by the number of paces she takes and learns movements via verbal instruction.

Claire's passion for performing began since young and despite the steady deterioration of her eye condition, it has not held her back – her dream of becoming a professional actress, since she was 14 years old, is still as strong as ever.

"The way I see this world is similar to how you would see it through a drinking straw. The scope is that tiny. However, I have never considered giving up my dream," she shared.

To achieve this, she has to put in more time and effort than others during rehearsals, and she is thankful for the support from her peers and lecturers, stating: "I am very grateful for the patience and attention my teachers have shown me. Without the care from my fellow students too, my learning journey at LASALLE would not have been this smooth-sailing."

Presently, Claire is kept busy developing courses in public-speaking and drama for pre-schoolers. She also teaches students who have similar visual disabilities.

"My expectation of my students is professionalism. Regardless of our disabilities, we have to be professional when we perform. When we take our art seriously, no school will reject us," she said.

Claire is the first student with a visual disability to graduate with a Diploma in Performance from LASALLE College of the Arts. She had previously been rejected by other schools and although saddened, she remained positive and told herself to never give up.

Persevering in spite of total blindness

Doctors have told Claire that there is no cure for her condition and that she will eventually lose her sight completely. Even so, she continues to persevere with her dream, sharing: "I am absolutely certain that I will still be an actress in the future. This is something I wish to convey to my students too. There is always a way to express ourselves as performers, and there are workarounds to obstacles such as spatial awareness. Even when I am totally blind, I will never give up my acting career."

She hopes her professionalism will be recognised and welcomes feedback

"If my performance is poor, please tell it to me straight," said Claire. She hopes that audience members would refrain from regarding her performance with a charitable bias, and wants to be recognised for her professionalism instead.

"Often, when people watch disabled actors like myself perform, they would view us as motivational role models and not hold high expectations of us to be able to perform. To be frank, I wish people would refrain from giving us such treatment. I want to be seen as a professional actress and want to receive honest assessments about my performance too. This is the only way I can improve," she explained.

In the future, she plans to be a voice for more marginalised groups, such as persons with hearing or learning disabilities, those afflicted by mental illnesses, and orphans.

Claire shared: "I plan to earn a bachelor's degree in social work so as to help me understand how to better help such marginalised groups. I also have plans to visit the United Kingdom to find out more about best practices regarding inclusivity. When I return to Singapore, I hope to implement these practices."