

Muzik penawar hingga raih ijazah kepujian

Pemain genderang, penyanyi SG Ridz Razali atasi ADHD untuk lulus cemerlang dalam kursus muzik elektronik

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HATI ibu mana tidak sayu melihat anaknya disisihkan dan dipersenda sanak-saudara sendiri hanya kerana si kecil tidak cemerlang dalam pelajaran serta payah duduk diam dek kondisi gangguan hiperaktif dan kurang tumpuan (ADHD).

Ini lah yang dirasakan penyanyi band legenda Singapura, Yezz, Shakhila Hamid, suatu ketika dahulu, semasa membesarkan anak tunggalnya Muhammad Ridzuan Razali yang mesra dengan panggilan Ridz Razali. Namun, segala jerih payah membesarkan Ridz, 27 tahun, yang mula menempah nama dalam bidang seni sebagai pemuzik alat genderang dan penyanyi yang telah beberapa kali membuat persembahan di pusat seni Esplanade, ternyata berbaloi.

Anak muda yang sudah merakamkan beberapa lagu Inggeris seperti *Have You Ever*, *Be My Forever* dan *Hold On To Me* itu baru-baru ini tamat pengajian dalam kursus ijazah persembahan muzik elektronik di Maktab Seni Lasalle dengan Kepujian Kelas Dua Atas.

Sebagaimana kongsi Shakhila, 52 tahun, dalam satu wawancara Zoom bersama *Berita Harian*:

“Ridz mengalami ADHD ringan dan payah memberi tumpuan di bilik darjah ketika itu. Saya dan suami sudah biasa dipanggil gurunya yang mengadu tentang keadaannya yang kurang minat belajar.

“Sebelum kami ketahui keadaan itu, memang Ridz pernah dimarahi dan disebat bapanya kerana menduga kesabaran kami.

“Sedih juga apabila fikirkan, ada dalam kalangan saudara sendiri yang sisihkan Ridz. Dia masih budak ketika itu... tak tahu apa-apa... tapi ada pula yang tak suka kalau Ridz mendekati anak mereka yang sedang belajar. Mereka akan kata, Ridz tak boleh belajar, jadi jangan kacau anak mereka.

“Mujuirlah, berkat doa dan usaha, kami nampak kecenderungannya dalam muzik. Dia sentiasa bergendang, dipalunya meja dan bermacam barangan lain... di situlah tenaganya disalurkan secara positif.

“Muzik menjadi terapi buat Ridz mengharungi dan mengatasi ADHD. Apabila bakat muziknya diiktiraf dan dia dapat mengiringi persembahan karyawan muzik lain, saya dan suami cukup bangga.

“Tahun ini, dia tamat pengajian dengan kepujian, kami lebih terharu sebab dia menemui bidang yang dicintai, sungguh-sungguh melakukannya dan membuktikan bahawa ADHD yang dialami bukan halangan mengecapi kejayaan.

“Di kala keputusan prelim Ridz bagi GCE Peringkat ‘N’ dan ‘O’ kurang memuaskan, kami dapatkan tutor yang baik untuk membantunya. Ridz juga kerja keras sampai masuk politeknik dan seterusnya ke Lasalle.

“Ini juga perangsang buat beliau lain yang bertarung dengan bermacam kondisi kesihatan. Walau potensi mereka lambat berkembang, masih ada harapan cipta kejayaan berkat kesabaran,” kata Shakhila.

TIDAK KENAL ERTI PUTUS ASA: Pemuzik Ridz Razali (*tengah*) yang meraih Ijazah Kepujian Kelas Dua Atas dalam persembahan muzik elektronik pernah mengalami kondisi gangguan hiperaktif dan kurang tumpuan (ADHD) ringan sewaktu kecil yang menjejaskan fokusnya pada pelajaran. Bersamanya ialah ibu bapanya, penyanyi band Yezz, Shakhila Hamid dan bapanya Razali Dae. – Foto BH oleh KHALID



Ridz, yang bermain muzik buat kumpulan genderang mapan The Wicked Aura mahupun band unik yang mengalunkan muzik nostalgia The Jazz Djogets, menjelaskan beliau tidak putus asa menimba ilmu kerana ingin membanggakan ibu bapanya.

“Mereka telah lalui susah payah membesarkan saya. Mereka menjadi pencetus inspirasi bagi saya ceburi bidang muzik dengan pengaruh awal mendedahkan saya pada muzik nostalgia dan *motown*, maka sewajarnya saya berterima kasih dan berikatan yang terbaik dalam pengajian saya di Lasalle,” katanya lagi.

Ridz menganggap tahun terakhirnya di Lasalle sebagai yang paling mencabar kerana perlu menyiapkan tesis yang menyisipkan unsur akademik muzik.

Beliau mengkaji kesan genre mikro muzik elektronik yang dipanggil *synthwave* yang biasanya dikaitkan dengan runut bunyi filem aksi, cereka sains dan seram era 1980-an.

“Walaupun tidak dilahirkan pada tahun 1980-an, saya berminat mengetahui bagaimana muzik sebegini bermain di kotak minda kita dan membawa ingatan dan nostalgia sampai ke hari ini.

“Saya teringat drama sitkom 1990-an seperti *Full House* yang mempunyai muzik 1980-an. Penyarah saya meminta saya memperkukuh tesis saya dengan menggunakan unsur ontologi muzik di mana saya mengkaji aspek-aspek muzik dan kaitan yang menyatukannya, dalam hal ini, muzik sebagai pengembali nostalgia,” jelas Ridz lagi.

Muzik 1980-an, tambahnya, banyak menggunakan alat pensintesis dan bunyi dram yang membuat anda terasaura di stadium.

Ridz juga perlu menghasilkan gubahan lagu sendiri untuk dipersembahkan dalam resital bersama rakan sekursusnya secara berkumpulan.

Antara pencapaian Ridz yang mengembirakan di Lasalle adalah kejayaannya meraih Anugerah Filem Belia Kebangsaan bagi runut bunyi buat dokumentari berat, *Vichora*.

Dokumentari arahan GurJeevan Singh Balrose, siswa jurusan perfileman di Lasalle, menyingkap bagaimana keluarga beragama Islam, Hindu dan Sikh mengharungi tempoh getir perang, konflik dan perpecahan India dan Pakistan kerana perebutan wilayah pada 1947.

Bapanya Razali Dae, 60 tahun, mendoakan kejayaan Ridz dalam arena muzik.

“Sebagai ayah, saya hanya mampu mendoakan yang terbaik dan bangga dengan pencapaiannya setelah banyak kesukaran dihadapi.

“Sokongan sentiasa diberi. Saya ingat sewaktu kecil, Ridz memang pantang dengar lagu Michael Jackson. Dia akan menari. Hari ini, saya gembira melihat dia miliki kekuatan dalam bidang muzik dan moga dapat menyumbang kepada arena muzik Singapura,” jelasnya.

Healing music leads to honours degree

Any mother would be saddened when her child gets ridiculed by his own relatives just because the little one does not excel in his studies and has difficulty sitting still due to Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). This was the experience of Shakila Hamid, a singer in the legendary Singapore band Yezz, while she was raising her only son Muhammad Ridzuan Razali, who prefers to be called Ridz Razali.

Nevertheless, all the trials and tribulations she went through to raise Ridz has paid off as he has begun to make a name for himself as a percussionist and singer who has performed several times at the Esplanade. The 27-year-old who has recorded several English songs such as *Have You Ever*, *Be My Forever* and *Hold On To Me* recently completed his BA(Hons) Music degree from LASALLE College of the Arts, attaining Second Class Upper Honours.

“Ridz used to have difficulty concentrating in the classrooms. My husband and I were often called up by his teacher who shared about his lack of interest in his studies,” said Shakila. “Before his ADHD diagnosis, some from our own family would ostracise Ridz, stating how they did not want him to disturb their own children while they were studying. It saddens me greatly because he was just a child then and did not know anything.”

Fortunately, Ridz’s parents noticed his interest in music as he was always drumming the table. “Music became therapy for Ridz as he tried to overcome ADHD. It was a positive way for him to channel his energies. My husband and I are so proud of him when his musical talents are acknowledged by other musicians,” she added.

With the completion of his tertiary education, Ridz’s parents shared they are thankful that their son was able to discover a field he loves and is earnestly working to prove that ADHD is not a barrier to success. “I hope Ridz’s story will encourage parents and youths who are struggling with health conditions. Although a child may be slow to develop his potential, it does not mean there is no hope. It is always possible to achieve success through patience,” said Shakila.

Ridz, who plays music for percussion group The Wicked Aura and jazz band The Jazz Djogets, explained that he has not given up acquiring knowledge as he wants to make his parents proud. “They went through a lot of hardships to raise me. Because of them, I was exposed to Motown at an early age and developed an interest in music. It is therefore only fitting that I thank them by giving my best in my studies at LASALLE,” he added.

Ridz shared that his final year at LASALLE was the most challenging as he had to develop a thesis. This was the first time he had to write such a lengthy academic paper and he poured a lot of a research into it. His thesis discusses the effects of electronic music genre 'synthwave', which was frequently used in the 1980s as soundtracks for action, science fiction and horror films.

"Although I was not born in that era, I am interested to find out how such music is capable of evoking memories and feelings of nostalgia. This happens to me whenever I watch old sitcoms such as *Full House*, which had 80s music," he said. "My lecturer suggested I can reinforce my thesis with music ontology hence I went on to examine aspects of music and the connections that unite them."

Among his many achievements at LASALLE, Ridz shared that he was happiest when his soundtrack for a documentary *Vichora* won 'Best Original Music' at the National Youth Film Awards 2020. Directed by Gurjeevan Singh Balrose, a fellow BA(Hons) Film student at LASALLE, the documentary tells the story of how Muslim, Hindu and Sikh families lived through a tense period of conflict when territorial disputes erupted between India and Pakistan in 1947.

Ridz's father, Razali Daee, is also proud of Ridz's various accomplishments. "As a father, I pray for the best for him. Despite all the hardships he has endured, Ridz has achieved a lot," he said. "I will always support him. I remember when he was young, Ridz loved Michael Jackson's songs and would dance to them. Today, I'm happy to see that he has gained strength through music and will hopefully contribute to Singapore's music scene."