

# Projek kreatif siswa 'Kelas 1'

**PENUH SASPENS:** Film perang 'Okusan' menjejak hidup 'wanita penghibur' askar Jepun, Mei Na (karar), yang hamil dan melarikan diri daripada bapa anaknya, seorang tentera Jepun. - Foto ihsan SYAZA AGAPE NADIAH RAHIM



## Keluar masuk hutan bikin filem perang 'Okusan'



**BERPERANG DENGAN RASA TIDAK SELESA:** Antara cabaran yang dihadapi Cik Syaza Agape Nadiah Rahim dalam menghasilkan filem perang 'Okusan' tentang 'wanita penghibur' pemuas nafsu tentera Jepun pada era Perang Dunia Kedua adalah berada di lokasi rimba terpencil. - Foto BH oleh KHALID BABA

KAKI Cik Syaza Agape Nadiah Rahim terpaksa menjejak hutan rimba terpencil meskipun teras tidak selesa demi merealisasikan impian menghasilkan projek filem tentang Perang Dunia Kedua.

'Okusan' merupakan tajuk filem testinya bagi pengajian tahun akhir kursus ijazah Sarjana Muda Seni (Kepujian) dalam Filem di Maktab Seni Lasalle.

La mengisahkan tentang 'wanita penghibur' yang dipaksa menjadi pemuas nafsu askar Jepun di Singapura sewaktu Perang Dunia Kedua. Filem ini menjejak kehidupan Mei Na, 'wanita penghibur' yang hamil dan melarikan diri tetapi perlu bersenandung dengan bapa anaknya itu, seorang tentera Jepun.

Menurut Cik Syaza, 26 tahun, beliau merah inspirasi menghasilkan *Okusan* selepas menonton filem perang arahan Sam Mendes, *1917*.

"Selepas menonton *1917*, saya dapat idea bagaimana mengisahkan projek filem perang buat tesis tahun akhir saya."

"Saya ingin tumpukan filem saya pada kisah seorang protagonis wanita. Kami sepasukan perlu membuat kajian tentang 'wanita penghibur' pada zaman alam Singapura serta kekejangan Perang Dunia Kedua."

"Cabaran utama yang dihadapi adalah dari segi skala penggambaran filem ini, ketidakelesaan berkunjung ke lokasi seperti rimba dengan rupa bumi bersejarah."

"Masa penggambaran juga panjang dan tidak mudah melakukannya. Namun, saya merasakan keri kami buat yang terbaik bagi membesarkan projek ini. Memang tak perlu berca-cita tinggi, tetapi saya tidak menyesal mengisahkannya," jelas Cik Syaza ketika dihubungi *Berita Harian*.

Cik Syaza, anak sulung tiga beradik, yang sebelum ini mengambil kursus Diploma Filem Digital dan Televisyen di Politeknik Temasek, banyak belajar daripada penerbitan filem ini.

"Paling utama sekali, di sebalik segala kesukaran, saya harus terus berkembang dan berusaha sebaiknya."

"Saya pula adalah individu yang menikmatkan zon selesanya. Lantaran itu, pengalaman bikin filem perang di luar zon selesa saya membuat saya rasa rendah hati kerana ada banyak perkara lagi yang boleh dan perlu saya pelajari dalam bidang perfilman," kongsi.

### SUKA MENULIS

Cik Syaza memilih bidang perfilman sebagai pengajian posmenengah kerana suka menulis. Waktu menyenangi kerangan menjadi kegemarannya di sekolah menengah.

Beliau juga terdedah kepada banyak filem yang ditonton sejak usia 16 tahun.

"Saya ingin menyatakan minat menulis dan menonton filem, lantas kursus perfilman adalah yang paling tepat kerana menggabungkan kedua-duanya."

"Saya tentunya terkejut apabila mendapat tahu saya memperoleh ijazah Kepujian Kelas Pertama kerana selama ini di mana-mana peringkat persekolahan pun, saya selalu menghadapi kesukaran capai keputusan cemerlang dalam bidang akademik."

"Cuma, saya tahu saya perlu bekerja keras untuk berdiri sama tinggi dengan rakan lain. Saya beriklan yang terbaik. Alhamdulillah, segala pengorbanan saya membawa hasil."

"Saya tak akan dapat capai segalanya tanpa sokongan orang-orang tersayang. Lagipun, banyak masa malan saya tertuang bagi menyelesaikan tugas saya," kata Cik Syaza lagi.

### TIGA PENGARAH SUMBER INSPIRASI

Mengenai tiga pengaruh yang mencetus inspirasi butanya, beliau berkata:

"Saya merah inspirasi daripada pengaruh Amerika, Eliza Hittman. Filemnya adalah tentang perjuangan kaum Hawa dalam masyarakat. Saya suka cara beliau paparkan sudut pandangan wanita dalam filemnya."

"Saya juga tersentuh dengan filem arahan sutradara Korea, Hong Sang Soo. Filemnya berlegar sekitar perbualan atau dialog biasa dan sederhana sepanjang tempoh karya ceritera ini."

"Dialognya juga organik sehingga anda terdasa seakan-akan perbualan harian yang biasa anda dengar. Tiada yang dibuat-buat."

"Akhir sekali, saya teruja menonton filem buatan anak watan Singapura, Shooki Lin, yang menghasilkan projek filem tahun akhirnya yang bertajuk *Adam*."

"Beliau mengembara ke Pesta Filem Cannes. Filem Shooki cukup nostalgik dan asli tanpa banyak dubutabuni. Pendekatan realis filemnya menarik," ujar Cik Syaza lagi.

Beliau, yang kini berehat daripada dunia perfilman, beralih menjalankan tugas dalam sektor pengendalian pula.

"Apa yang saya pelajari di sekolah filem boleh dialihkan ke satu lagi industri kreatif. Justeru, saya bersyukur."

"Kalau saya berpeluang bikin filem lagi, saya akan fokus pada isu kesihatan mental seperti kondisi keresahan atau gangguan personaliti. Bagi saya, isu ini belum lagi dipaparkan mengikut takrifan sebenarnya."

"Saya juga ingin bekerjasama dengan artis, penyanyi atau pembuat lagu untuk bikin video muzik. Sebabnya, saya suka memikirkan konsep bersama artis dengan hala fikiran yang sama," tambahnya.

## Animasi pelajar: Lain generasi, lain tanggapan mengenai seks



**ANIMASI DARI HATI KE HATI:** Bidang animasi membuka ruang buat Cik Shahrazad Logan teroka kreativiti menghasilkan watak magis di samping menyentuh hati penonton dengan pesan sosial yang disampaikan secara santai dan disisip humor. - Foto BH oleh NUR DIYANA TAHA

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ANIMASI dengan watak comel lagi melucukan sudah menarik perhatian Cik Shahrazad Logan sejak sekolah rendah lagi. Video juranimasi amatir ataupun penggemar animasi yang melukis kartun sebagai hobi di YouTube menarik perhatiannya.

Anak sulung dua beradik yang kini berusia 21 tahun itu akur animasi berupaya dijadikan wadah penyebar pesan sosial. Lantaran itu, beliau memilih jurusan ijazah seni animasi di Maktab Seni Lasalle setelah tamat peperiksaan Sijil Am Pelajaran (GCE) Peringkat 'A' di Maktab Rendah Anglo-Chinese (ACJC).

Antara kenangan manis Cik Shahrazad di Lasalle termasuk menghasilkan animasi *To Kill The Birds And The Bees* yang memenangi Anugerah Arahkan Seni Terbaik, Lakon Layar Terbaik dan Muzik Terbaik pada Anugerah Filem Belia Kebangsaan (NYFA) tahun ini.

NYFA merupakan anjuran badan tidak mengaut untung yang tertumpu kepada usaha membangun bakat dan kepimpinan belia, "SCAPE."

Filem hasil usaha Cik Shahrazad dan teman-temannya itu menyentuh tentang pendidikan seks dan tanggapan generasi berbeza mengenainya.

La juga akan ditayangkan di Pesta Filem Antarabangsa Singapura, hujung tahun ini.

Ikuti wawancara *Berita Harian* (BH) bersama Cik Shahrazad yang tamat pengajian di Lasalle dengan ijazah Kepujian Kelas Pertama.

Beliau kini guru seni lukisan sambil buat kanak-kanak dan konsultant sambilan di Lasalle yang memberi panduan buat pelajar animasi.

Bulan ini juga beliau mengusahakan syarikat seni konsep dan animasinya sendiri.

Lebih menarik lagi, Cik Shahrazad meneruskan misi memburu ilmu dengan mengambil pula Diploma Persembahan di Lasalle.

**SOALAN (S):** Tahniah kerana meraih ijazah Kepujian Kelas Pertama. Apa perasaan anda dan mengapa kursus animasi menjadi pilihan?

**CIK SHAHRAZAD (SH):** Sejurnya, saya lega matlamat saya tercapai. Saya adalah seseorang pencapai tinggi dalam apa juga perkara yang diceburi. Lantaran itu, saya enggan mengecewakan sesama khususnya diri saya sendiri.

Sejak kecil, saya tahu lukisan adalah salah satu subjek kegemaran saya. Namun, cinta pada animasi pula bermula setelah saya menonton video animasi di YouTube. Ia dihasilkan individu amatir sebaya saya.

Video saya mudah dihidang, melucukan dan menghiburkan. Saya juga dapat siri buku kanak-kanak kegemaran saya juga dijadikan animasi oleh peminat buku itu di YouTube.

Apabila melihat kata-kata dalam buku berubah menjadi kartun, saya terdorong bikin animasi sendiri.

Kadangkala saya gunakan blok Lego bagi menghasilkan animasi asis hentik gerak di samping mencuba animasi digital dengan memanfaatkan software percuma seperti *Microsoft Paint* dan *Windows Movie Maker*. Semuanya menggunakan tetikus sebab pada masa itu, saya tidak memiliki tablet lukisan.

**S:** Siapakah juranimasi pencetus inspirasi buat anda?

**SH:** Kebiasannya orang akan memberikan nama juranimasi si terenal.

Namun, saya lebih terinspirasi dengan juranimasi YouTube yang benar-benar memberi kesan pada diri saya serta mudah dilaksanakan kerja seni ringkas mereka.

Lebih peribadi rasanya melihat bagaimana mereka dewasa dalam dunia animasi.

Pencapaian mereka terasa realistik. Ia membuatkan saya rasa, kalau mereka boleh, saya pun boleh.

Salah seorang yang saya kagumi adalah juranimasi Fernanda Dias dari Brazil. Kerja seni yang dimuatnaikan tidak banyak, tetapi setiap animasinya mempunyai mutu yang benar-benar digilap.

Cara Fernanda melukis animasinya nampak cantik dan bendalir. Saya nak juga capai mutu animasi sebegini.

Rekaan watak dan subjeknya juga sejajar dengan minat saya terhadap haiwan fantasi, magis dan comel.

**S:** Centakan pula tentang animasi *To Kill The Birds And The Bees* yang memenangi banyak anugerah.

**SH:** Walaupun konteksnya di Singapura, saya berharap pesanan yang cuba disampaikan tentang pendidikan seks dan perseperti generasi berbeza mengenainya adalah sejat.

Filem ini terbahagi kepada tiga bahagian meliputi kelompok kanak-kanak, remaja dan orang dewasa. Walaupun setiap bahagian memiliki pesanan berbeza, kesemuanya menjurus ke arah kenyataan bahawa warga Singapura biasanya mengelak daripada berbicang tentang seks kerana terdapat banyak stigma dan salah takrifan mengenainya.

Animasi santai dengan sipan komedi ini menangi isu serius. Saya dan teman-teman rasa penting menggunakan komedi yang kadangkala lebih berkesan membuatkan orang ingin ambil tahu berbanding sesuatu yang serius dan perisai satu lenteran menasihati. Matlamat kami adalah agar filem ini bermakna dan seronok ditonton semua.

Saya adalah pereka watak utama dan juranimasi projek ini yang memastikan watak utama dan latarnya sesuai ditampilkannya dan nampak sepadan dengan skematik filem ini.

Saya seronok melukis unsur pergerakan gila-gila dan raut muka watak yang disangka remeh, tetapi digabungkan watak berkenaan.

Saya juga pembikin boneka tangan seperti dalam *The Muppet Show* dalam animasi ini. Ia projek mencabar, tetapi menyeronokkan dan dibarekan sewaktu cuti sekolah. Saya gembira memperoleh kemahiran baru.

Segalanya mampu dihasilkan dengan kerjasama dua rakan saya, Calleen Koh dan Wan Yee Teo. Kami akhirnya memahami kekuatan masing-masing dan berkolaborasi.

**S:** Namakan tiga animasi kegemaran anda.

**SH:** Kartun Netflix, *Shera and the Princess of Power*. Walaupun saya bukan lagi si cilik, saya seronok menontonnya sebab ia menceritakan tentang dunia fantasi dengan kerencaman watak, unsur magis dan haiwan fantasi. Nilai seperti menerima diri sendiri dan pertumbuhan peribadi banyak diterapkan.

Saya juga suka animasi gerak henti Wes Anderson, *Isle of Dogs*. Teknik gerak henti makna masa dan mahal. Keperincian setiap objek ditekankan. Saya paling suka apabila Wes melukis watak haiwan dan raut wajah mereka penuh realistik. Animasi asap berkepulatan atau rintik hujan menampakkan pemikiran luar kotaknya.

Akhir sekali, animasi kegemaran saya ialah *How To Train Your Dragon*. Ia adalah filem di mana naga akhirnya dihargai dan tidak dijadikan watak antagonis. Rekaan watak naga ini kelihatan unik dan menarik kerana ia dipadankan daripada beberapa haiwan sebar.

Setiap naga ada tarikan dan pergelutan hidup sendiri. Watak-wataknya menyentuh hati. Saya berharap sudah hari nanti saya dapat menghasilkan filem yang menusuk kalbu seperti ini.



**RUANG PERBINCANGAN:** Filem animasi *To Kill The Birds And The Bees* menorka topik yang selalu dielakkan warga Singapura iaitu pendidikan seks. - Foto ihsan SHAHRAZAD LOGAN

### **'First class' student creative projects**

*Despite still studying in LASALLE College of the Arts, these two students have undertaken a great task in completing challenging and high-quality animation and film projects. Their perseverance paid off and the two projects were among the reasons behind them being conferred Bachelor of Arts degrees with First Class Honours, recently. BERITA HARIAN reports.*

#### **FULL OF SUSPENSE:**

The war film *Okusan* traces the life of a Japanese soldier's 'comfort woman', Mei Na (right), who becomes pregnant and runs away from her son's father, a Japanese soldier. –Photo courtesy of SYAZA AGAPE NADIAH RAHIM

#### **Going in and out of the jungle to make a war movie 'Okusan'**

**FIGHTING WITH DISCOMFORT:** Among the challenges faced by Ms Syaza Agape Nadiah Rahim in making the war film *Okusan* about a 'comfort woman', who had to satisfy the lusts of the Japanese army in the Second World War, was having to be in a remote jungle location. –BH photo by KHALID BABA

Ms Syaza Agape Nadiah Rahim's legs had to trek through a remote jungle despite her discomfort in order to realise her dream of carrying out her film project about the Second World War.

*Okusan* is the title of her thesis film for her final year studies for the Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Film at LASALLE College of the Arts.

It tells the story of a 'comfort woman' who was forced to satisfy the lusts of Japanese soldiers in Singapore during World War II.

The film traces the life of Mei Na, a 'comfort woman' who was pregnant and on the run, but had to face her son's father, a Japanese soldier.

According to Ms Syaza, 26, she was inspired to produce *Okusan* after watching the war film *1917* directed by Sam Mendes.

"After watching *1917*, I got the idea to propose a war film for my final year thesis."

"I wanted to focus my film on the story of a female protagonist. As a team, we had to do a study of 'comfort women' from Singapore's past as well as on the atrocities of the Second World War. "The main challenge faced was in terms of the scale of the filming and the inconvenience of visiting a location like a jungle with rugged terrain."

"The filming also took a long time and it was not easy to do. However, I felt our crew did their best to complete this project. It was indeed an ambitious project but I do not regret working on it," explained Ms Syaza when contacted by *Berita Harian*.

Ms Syaza, the eldest child of three siblings, who previously took a Diploma course in Digital Film and Television at Temasek Polytechnic, learned a lot from the production of this film.

"Most importantly, despite all the difficulties, I have to continue to grow and try my best.

I am an individual who enjoys being in my comfort zone. Therefore, the experience of making a war film outside of my comfort zone humbles me because there are many more things I can and need to learn about the field of filmmaking," she shares.

### **LOVES WRITING**

Ms Syaza chose filmmaking for her post-secondary studies because she loves to write. Essay preparation time was her favourite task during secondary school. She was also exposed to many movies she watched since the age of 16.

"I want to combine my interests in writing and watching films, so the film course was the most appropriate because it combines both of my interests. Of course, I was surprised to find out that I obtained a First Class Honours degree because all this time, I always faced difficulties in achieving excellent results at school regardless of which level I studied at. It's just that I know I have to work hard to stand as tall as my friends. I give my best. Alhamdulillah, all my sacrifices have paid off."

"I would not have been able to achieve everything without the support of my loved ones. Furthermore, I spent a lot of time at night to complete my assignments," said Ms Syaza again.

### **THREE DIRECTORS BECOME SOURCES OF INSPIRATION**

About the three directors who have inspired her, she said:

"I took inspiration from the American director, Eliza Hittman. Her films are about the struggles of the sisters of Eve in society. I love the way she features women's perspectives in her films."

"I was also touched by the film directed by Korean director, Hong Sang Soo. The film revolves around an ordinary and simple conversation or dialogue throughout the duration of the narrative work."

"The dialogue is also organic so that you feel like it's a normal daily conversation you would often hear. Nothing was made-up.

"Finally, I was excited to watch a film made by a Singaporean, Shoki Lin, who produced his final year film project entitled *Adam*."

"He travelled to the Cannes Film Festival. Shoki's film is quite nostalgic and original without much modification. The realist approach of the film is interesting," said Ms Syaza again.

She is now taking a break from the world of filming and has switched to working in the advertising sector.

“What I learned in film school can be transferred to another creative industry. Therefore, I am grateful. If I ever get the opportunity to make another film, I will focus on mental health issues such as anxiety or personality disorders. For me, this issue has not yet been featured in its true depiction. I also want to work with artists, singers or songwriters to make music videos. The reason is, I like to think up concepts with artists who are like-minded,” she added.

### **Student animation: Different generation, different perception of sex**

**HEART TO HEART ANIMATION:** The field of animation opens up a space for Ms. Shahrazad Logan to explore creativity through the creation of magical characters while touching the hearts of the audience with social messages which are delivered in a relaxed manner and interspersed with humour. - BH photo by NUR DIYANA TAHA

ANIMATIONS with cute and funny characters have always attracted the attention of Ms Shahrazad Logan since primary school.

Videos by amateur animators or animation enthusiasts drawing cartoons as a hobby on YouTube capture her attention.

The eldest child of two siblings, who is now 21 years old, agrees that animation can be used as a platform to spread social messages.

Therefore, she chose to major in animation art at LASALLE College of the Arts after completing the General Certificate of Education (GCE) Level ‘A’ examination at Anglo-Chinese Junior College (ACJC).

Among Ms. Shahrazad’s sweet memories in LASALLE include producing the animation *To Kill The Birds And The Bees* which won the Best Art Direction Award, Best Screenplay and Best Music at this year’s National Youth Film Awards (NYFA).

NYFA is organised by \*SCAPE, a non-profit organisation focused on developing youth talent and leadership.

The film, the brainchild of Ms Shahrazad and her friends, touches on sex education and the perceptions of different generations about it.

It will also be screened at the Singapore International Film Festival later this year.

Follow the Berita Harian (BH) interview with Ms Shahrazad who graduated from LASALLE with a First Class Honours degree.

She is currently a part-time children’s art teacher and a part-time consultant at LASALLE who provides guidance for animation students.

This month she also started at concept art and animation company Finding Pictures.

Ms Shahrazad has one younger sibling, who is currently taking up a Diploma in Performance in LASALLE.

**QUESTION (S):** Congratulations on being conferred a First Class Honours degree. What are your feelings and how did an animation course become an option for you?

**Ms SHAHRAZAD (SH):** To be honest, I am relieved at having achieved my goal. I am a high achiever in whatever I venture into. Because of that, I refuse to disappoint anyone especially myself.

Since childhood, I knew painting was one of my favourite subjects. However, the love for animation started after I watched an animation video on YouTube. It was produced by an amateur individual who is my age.

The videos are easy to digest, funny and entertaining. I also found that my favourite children's book series had also been animated by fans of the book on YouTube.

When I saw the words in the book turn into cartoons, I was motivated to make my own animations.

Sometimes I used Lego blocks to produce basic stop-motion animations, as well as try out digital animations by taking advantage of free software such as Microsoft Paint and Windows Movie Maker. I did everything with a mouse because at the time, I didn't own a drawing tablet.

**S:** Who is the animator that inspired you?

**SH:** Usually, people will name a famous animator.

However, I am more inspired by the YouTube animators who really made an impact on me and their short works are easy to watch.

It's more personal to see how they have matured in the world of animation.

Their achievements feel realistic. It makes me feel, if they can do it, I can too.

One of the ones I admire is the animator Fernanda Dias from Brazil. The artwork she uploads isn't much, but each animation work has a really polished quality.

The way Fernanda paints her animation looks beautiful and fluid. I also want to achieve such quality animation.

The character design and subject matter are also in line with my interests in fantastical, magical and cute animals.

**S:** Tell us about the award-winning animation *To Kill The Birds And The Bees*.

**SH:** Although the context is Singapore, I hope the message it is trying to convey about sex education and the perceptions of different generations about it is universal.

The film is divided into three parts covering groups of children, teenagers and adults. While each group has a different message, they all point towards the fact that Singaporeans usually avoid discussing sex because there is so much stigma and misinterpretation about it.

This casual animation with comedy inserts addresses a serious issue. My friends and I feel it's important to use comedy which is sometimes more effective at making people curious rather than something serious and sounding more like a nagging advice. Our goal is to make this film meaningful and fun for all to watch.

I was the main character designer and animator of this project making sure that the main character and the setting were appropriately featured and suit the environment of the film.

I enjoyed drawing the elements of crazy movements and the facial expressions of characters which were thought to be trivial but I managed to bring them to life.

I was also the hand puppet maker in 'The Muppet Show' segment in this animation. It was a challenging but fun project which was completed during the school holidays. I am happy to have been able to acquire new skills.

Everything was made possible with the cooperation of my two friends, Calleen Koh and Wan Yee Teo. We understand each other's strengths and we communicate.

**S:** Name three of your favourite animations.

**SH:** The Netflix cartoon, *She-ra and the Princesses of Power*. Even though I'm no longer a little child, I enjoy watching it because it tells the story of a fantasy world with a mix of characters, magical elements and fantasy animals. Values such as self-acceptance and personal growth are extensively incorporated in the series.

I also love Wes Anderson's stop-motion animation, *Isle of Dogs*. Stop-motion techniques are time consuming and expensive. The detail of each object is highlighted. I love it most when Wes Anderson draws animal characters and their faces are full of realism. Animations of puffs of smoke or raindrops reveal out of the box thinking.

Finally, my favourite animation is *How To Train Your Dragon*. It's a film where dragons are finally valued and not made antagonistic characters. The design of the dragon characters looks unique and interesting because they match some real animals.

Each dragon has its own appeal and struggles in life. His characters are touching. I hope one day I can produce a film that tugs on the heartstrings like this.

**DISCUSSION ROOM:** The animated film *To Kill The Birds And The Bees* explores a topic that Singaporeans have always avoided, namely sex education.

– Photo courtesy of SHAHRAZAD LOGAN