

Honing film-making skills

UNIVERSITIES play a crucial role in shaping future generations, not just by imparting knowledge but also by fostering creativity and practical skills. More so, universities need to provide the platform and project opportunities for students to learn new skills, use their creativity and innovativeness and strengthen their understanding of the knowledge and theories they have learnt so far. A recent project called *WAU*, by lecturers and students at Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT) is among the various activities of the university that exemplify this perfectly. *WAU* is a 2023 in-house film production in conjunction with the Merdeka celebrations, focusing on the message of unity and togetherness.

The film features a diverse group of TAR UMT students from various states and ethnicities coming together for a unique challenge: a kite-making competition. Through teamwork and understanding, they not only built a traditional Malaysian kite or *WAU* drone but also forged strong friendships amidst the challenges of building the kite, depicting a powerful testament to unity in diversity.

Michelle Tee Min Shiuann and Anthea Choong Li Xuan, both pursuing broadcasting at TAR UMT, are among the students involved in the film production.

She joined the production as part of the assistant director's team. She also held the responsibility as the continuity

supervisor, focusing on documenting every aspect of the production, from takes and wardrobe to sets and lines. This experience provided her with invaluable first-hand experience of the intricate details involved in filmmaking.

"The filming is not an easy task and it is very tiring, as we had to shoot for 12 hours or more to keep up with the production schedule. Although tiring, the experience has taught me how to adapt and manage with limitations, in this case, limited time to rest. I also learnt a lot about myself in terms of endurance and how I deal with limitations. Such lessons are important as they are stepping stones to further improve myself," she says confidently.

"Other than that, there are a lot of things I was able to apply from my programme. Normally, we do a screenplay in the classroom and that was it. But, during the filming, I learnt that I needed to shoot a scene on the set and at the same time also imagine the outcome on the screen, just to have the best cinematography. In addition, it was also important to understand each character and scene well to ensure the audience understood the significance of each scene and the overall storyline in the movie."

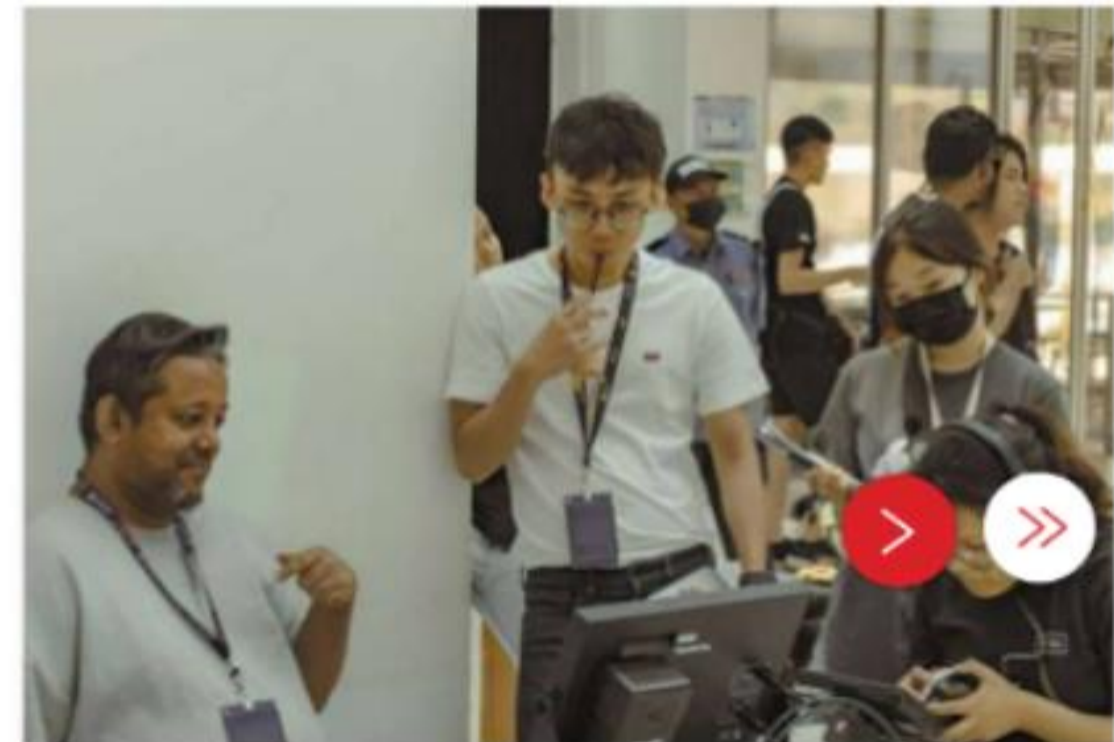
Tee also concedes that being part of the film gave her the chance to see and learn from

others, "I learned a lot from the team of assistant directors, especially the first assistant director. She oversaw everything very well, including managing the shooting flow and communication between the director, the crew and talents."

As for Choong, she joined the team from the pre-production stage, where she took on the role of casting assistant. "My responsibility is related to the film's talents where one of my earliest tasks was to search for suitable talents for the director to assess. I have learnt a lot in my role especially on how to search for talents, communicating with them and resolving unforeseen problems when they occur. This is another level of working with different people, managing expectations and being resourceful, especially in solving problems," she explains.

When sharing about her memorable experiences while working on the film, she says, "For me, it has to be the few days spent in the village where we had to prepare a village house for shooting. It was my very first time staying in a kampung house and it was fun as the whole team slept in the living room and then had breakfast together before starting the preparation work for the shooting. It's an experience that is very special for me."

■ For more information about



Tee (second from right) with the production team.



Choong (middle) with the *WAU* production crew.

TAR UMT's communication and creative industries programmes,

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