



18 August 2019

Tapping into their creative talent

TUNKU Abdul Rahman University College (TAR UC) staged a production, "Aduni" by the Department of English Studies at the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities (FSSH).

It was held from Aug 1 to 3 at TAR UC's Kuala Lumpur Main Campus.

This year's play, written by Malaysian poet Wong Phui Nam, is an adaptation of *Medea*, a Greek tragedy by Euripides.

The production was led by Darminaa Uthayakumar, a second year Diploma in Mass Communication student while Mohd Fadli Zakaria, a lecturer at FSSH's Department of English Studies, guided the team involved.

The TAR UC production team presented a different, modern-day take, which centres around a 16-year-old girl named Aduni who is misunderstood and discriminated against, and who tries to

redeem herself.

"It was indeed a valuable experience for me to be able to learn how to direct a play.

"After this, I intend to continue my journey in theatre and grow from there. If I am lucky enough, maybe this will become a fulfilling career," said Darminaa.

She said she was proud and honoured to be given the opportunity to lead the production, adding that it had not been an easy journey as there were many obstacles along the way.

The main objective was to expose the talented students to the world of production, especially to Malaysian writers such as Wong, said Mohd Fadli. He also teaches subjects such as Fundamentals of Acting and Characterisation.

"Practising every day from 6pm to 9pm was tiring especially when we had assignments piling up but



The entire cast and crew of the Aduni production team with the playwright, Wong (front row, in blue shirt).

we would not have changed anything," added Sheryl Ho Xin Yi, the lead actress who played Aduni.

During the opening scene, the audience was transported to an eerie, green-hued scene at an abandoned school lavatory.

"We were very impressed.

"What struck me most was that the actors were titans on stage! Each one of them was outstanding. Thank you for a fascinating, if a bit scary, evening," said Nigel

Morris-Cotteril, a member of the audience.

"Their hard work really paid off. "Sheryl's "Aduni" was so intense and convincing that she left the audience feeling both anguished and unsettled," said Umi Ilyana Kamaluddin who attended the play.

Wong attended the play on the last night with his entire family. He took the time to share his thoughts and opinions with the directors, cast and crew of the

play in a session after the performance.

In tandem with the objectives of the faculty, the annual play serves to create a platform where TAR UC students can explore and enrich themselves through the wonders of the performing arts.

"Aduni" is the fourth instalment of the annual play produced by the faculty.

It plans to continue its tradition of showcasing Malaysian productions.

