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With the recent unforeseen circumstances, the world was put to a halt. We lost a lot of our loved ones and our personal and business lives alike were shaken. As we are approaching the end of 2020, The Miss Chinatown Foundation, Inc. together with Chinoy TV rose from the dark and decided to produce the first ONLINE Mr. and Ms. Chinatown pageant. When we first began to plan this idea, It was a blur to everyone how to stage it. With the lockdown, restrictions, the only way to put our message across was to create an online movement. With limited manpower and resource, we can only

do so much but luckily, the opportunities in utilizing our online presence were endless. This year's theme - R.I.S.E. aims to Rebuild what was broken down and inspire others to cooperate, communicate, and help each other to be a strong unit and be able to empower each other as one.

There is no better time than now to RISE together, just like a phoenix. A bird in Chinese mythology which represents unending rebirth from the ashes. 2020 is reaching to an end and we have more pressing problems that are continuously over this pandemic, I empower all of you to face this reality headstrong and to hold on to your dear families. I would like to thank all of our supporters who continue to follow our movement especially the 2020 candidates from around the world our loyal sponsors and friends, THANK YOU. 'Til we meet again, next year.

WILSON AGBAYANI

Chairman
Miss Chinatown Foundation

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Seven incredible years — this is how long Mr. and Ms. Chinatown Philippines has been around. Fleeting as it might seem compared to most local events of the same nature, I feel like it has already achieved so much and has grown to be bigger than what it was initially set out to be. In just the last few years, the project has successfully produced a handful of ambassadors of the Filipino-Chinese youth. By offering a new definition of what it means to be a Chinoy in this generation, they've forged ahead in fields they only once dreamed of breaking into, all the while leading and embodying advocacies that matter.

As always, I would like to thank CHiNOY TV's Chief Operations Officer and my mother, Loraine Tan, and the Miss Chinatown Foundation led by Mr. Wilson Agbayani and Dr. Alexis Go for continuing to co-spearhead this project. Our innovative efforts this year would also not have been possible without our many partners, most notably UnionBank Private Banking, Oishi Nisce Skin Medispa, Silka Skincare, and Hoseki. Really, what would Mr. and Ms. Chinatown Philippines 2020 be without them?

As you turn the pages of this e-magazine, which our team has thoughtfully filled with pages of inspiration and hope through the stories of our delegates, I hope that it will spark in you the need to #RISE regardless of where you are, where you come from, and what you plan to achieve for yourself. Remember that the first step is to help ourselves. Only then can we give our best to everyone else around us, especially at this crucial time.

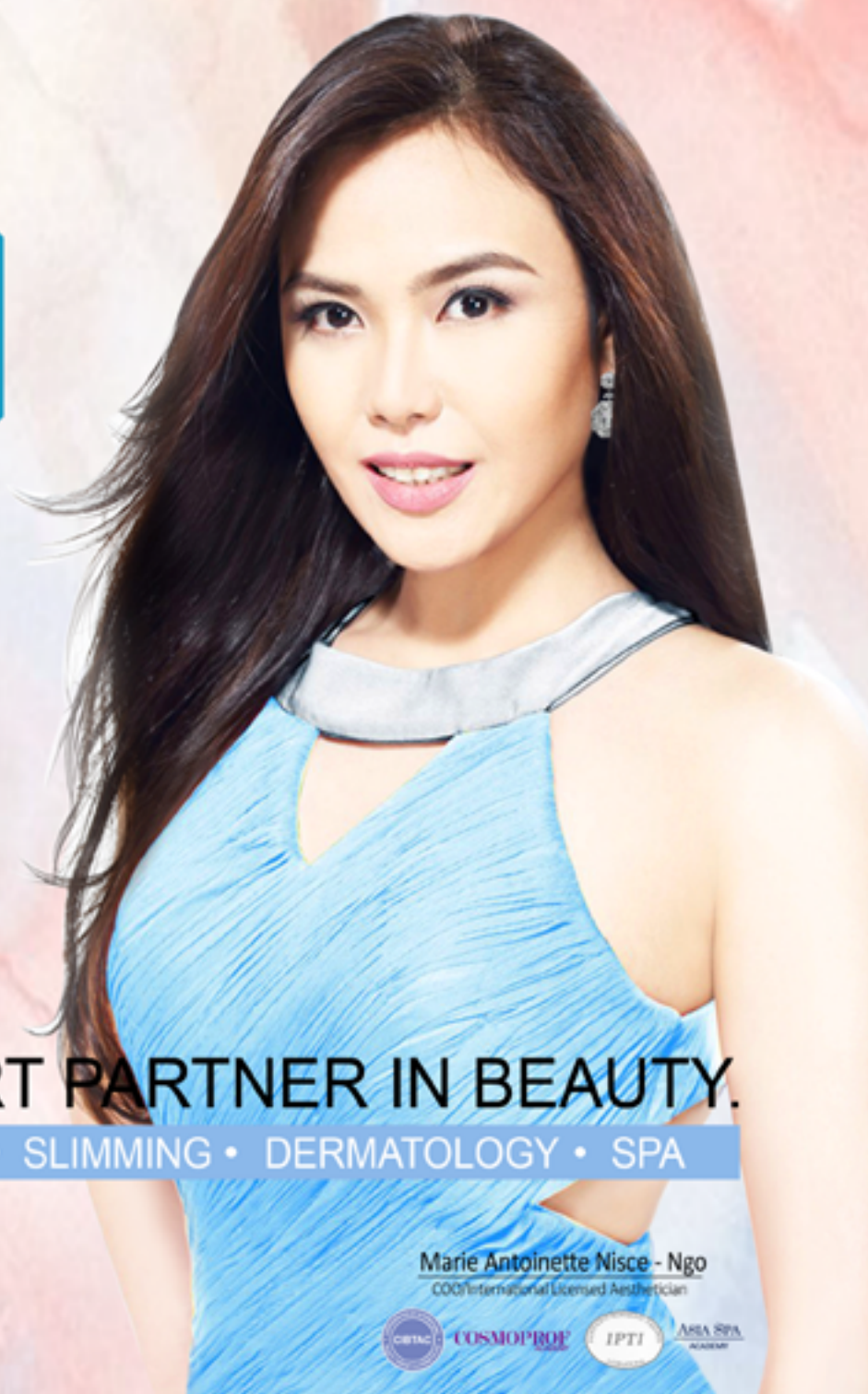
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欣逢今年菲華電視台慶祝創立十週年，但很不幸全球各地遭受新冠肺炎病毒的挑戰，疫情非常嚴重危險，經濟影響重大，這次疫情帶來許多困難，這是我們無法否認的！

由此，本台好多的活動因而被強迫取消，唯有菲華先生、小姐的選拔賽活動至今已連續主辦五年了，其宗旨乃為弘揚中華文化、促進菲中友誼、為國家社會作出貢獻。為了顧及大家的安全，今年的選美比賽是通過 ZOOM 視頻的形式來舉辦，從單純的傳統選美比賽中，我們都受到了喜愛，並在隨後的這些年裡一直跟隨著。通過這個今年的代表，我們希望在困難時期成為菲律賓華人社區的聲音，我們必須首先超越我們自己的障礙，可能是學術上、健康和健身、家庭，或者商業——并通過我們個人的方式做出改變。

在此，本人謹代表菲華電視台和菲華小姐基金會向各社團、廣告廠商及熱心各贊助者致以萬二分的謝意和致由衷的敬意，在連續五年給予我們不間斷的鼎力支持，沒有您們的協助和支持，就沒有每年菲華先生、小姐選美活動的圓滿成功！

菲華先生小姐選美會自舉辦以來，已成為華社每年的一個主要盛大活動，目的在實現賦予現代青年男女動權的使命，成為社會變革現代中國價值觀和文化的典範。

今年 2020 菲華先生、小姐加冕晚會於十月十八日舉行！

最後希望大家在疫情期間多加小心，謹慎注意安全！

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姚麗英
Loraine Tan
菲華電視台台長



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Back in 2018, I moved to Sydney, Australia to pursue my Masters in Business Administration degree. I have been here for over 2 years now and was able to be exposed in such a beautiful environment and government. Being able to come home only once or twice a year, if I am lucky was difficult as I also have obligations here which I cannot just leave behind. When the recent pandemic broke out, the MMCP organization was shaken and we were thinking about what better way to inspire the youth than to have an online movement. We were hesitant in the beginning and we didn't know how to go about the 'new normal', but here we are with 24 candidates who come from different parts of the Philippines and some international candidates from Australia, United States and more.

As we moved into staging the first ever ONLINE Mr and Miss Chinatown pageant, we removed a big chunk of style and made the substance of this pageant even stronger as this year's theme, RISE means to REBUILD, INSPIRE, STRENGTHEN and EMPOWER each other as one communi-CHI. It's not just simply a beauty pageant, rather a movement for all of us to RISE and overcome this situation and see through the adversities together. I would like to use this opportunity to thank our candidates for being a cooperative and fun bunch using their creativity in their weekly tasks/challenges. It wasn't easy staging an online event, but we are looking forward to being on stage again, next year. Let us all look forward to meeting again, hopefully without masks and face shields.

DR. ALEXIS SY GO
Executive Director
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Rebuild.
Inspire.
Strengthen.
Empower.

More than a stepping stone,
 we are a movement.

More than just another pageant, Mr. and Ms. Chinatown has become a platform for dialogue for young Chinoy to share their voice. It has become a stepping stone for most who wanted to do more for the community. Over the past few years, the theme has been focused on the individual and the community. In 2016, it featured “Unity in Diversity”, recognizing that amidst the differences, we all need to be united as one Chinoy community. In 2017, it launched “#NewDynasty”, a generation of young Chinoy who are not afraid to break barriers and step out of their comfort zones. This was followed by “Beauty in DiverCHlty” in 2018, asking everyone to embrace the beauty in being different – Different Individuals Valuing Each other Regardless of Culture, Heart, Intellect, Traditions, or Youthfulness. In 2019, it took a step back from the individuals and refocused on the bigger picture – to build bridges between the Filipino and Chinese community. “#BuildingBridges” was all about cross-cultural sharing and understanding.

This year, it will be more than a stepping stone. It will be more than looking for fresh faces. It will be a movement. From #BuildingBridges in 2019, we want to encourage everyone to join us as we #RISE above the current challenges that we are facing. We want you to #RISE with us.

The Phoenix

For most of you who don't know, we call our crown the Phoenix crown. Last year, we focused on each virtue that the 7 pearls in the crown represents. This year, we want to focus on the Phoenix itself.

In Asia, the Phoenix reigns over all the birds as it is the symbol of the Chinese Empress and feminine grace. It also well represents the Chinese virtues such as goodness, duty, propriety, kindness and reliability. For most of us, we know the Phoenix symbolizes rebirth. It is a long-lived birth that cyclically regenerates or is otherwise born again by arising from the ashes. It is the ultimate symbol of strength and renewal.

Like the Phoenix, we want the Chinoy community to #RISE from the ashes and to regenerate as we all show our new and empowered selves even through this pandemic.

R.I.S.E–Rebuild. Inspire. Strengthen. Empower. As we call on everyone to #RISE with us, we don’t just refer to “rise” in its verb form. When we say R.I.S.E, we really mean that you join us

Rebuild, Inspire, Strengthen and Empower the Chinoy the community.

Rebuild.

Previously, we wanted to focus on building bridges, but because of the pandemic and recent events, bridges have been burned down, ideologies have been compromised, and racism has come back full force bringing us back to zero. With this, we want to urge you to fight stigmas and stereotypes. We urge you to rebuild that bridge that was broken. We urge you to rebuild that connection with one another.

Inspire.

The Philippines is under recession. The world is experiencing the next great depression. Everyone’s morale is at its lowest point. Given this, we want you to join us as we inspire others by presenting the situation from a different perspective. We want to turn the negative experiences into fuel that will drive them to be better versions of themselves. We want to inspire others to see the good in the bad and to see the opportunity in this adversity.

Strengthen.

The Filipino-Chinese community and the Philippines as a whole have experienced a tough beating from the effects of the global pandemic. Our frontliners are exhausted, businesses are closing down, people are under extreme pressure and anxiety. With this, we want to strengthen the community by giving back. We want to strengthen the morale of others and strengthen the ties that we have with each culture. We want to start this movement that aims to encourage the community to work together and rise up as one.

Empower.

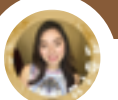
Majority of people in this lockdown have discovered new talents and learned new skills. We ask you to empower one other to share these stories of your new “reborn” self. We want to empower others to rise above the challenges that we are facing now. We want to empower others by saying that their stories matter – no matter how simple and basic it is. We want these stories to show strength and renewal, similar to that of the Phoenix.

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#RISEWITHMMCP

ADVOCACY PARTNERS:



Written by:
 MISH TAN

2019

WINNERS



*Wondering how the reigning Mr. and Ms. Chinatown Philippines are doing?
Read on to see how they each pursued their advocacy, dealt with the challenges they faced,
and managed to #RISE amidst the pandemic*

MR & MS
CHINATOWN
二〇二〇年菲華先生和菲華小姐

Nina Tay Lee

MS. CHINATOWN PHILIPPINES 2019

A year went by quickly without us noticing it. We were stuck at home and forced to take a pause in our lives. Once again, it's time to bid our reigning Ms. Chinatown farewell as she hands over the crown to the next queen who is ready to RISE and make a difference. Let's see what Nina has to share from her experience as Ms. Chinatown 2019.

"Last year, I was given the opportunity to become your Ms. Chinatown 2019. More than the crown and the title, I believe I was given a blessing of so much more. I had the chance to build bridges, to inspire others, and to influence our Chinoy community. This is what I believe to be the most important gift of being your Ms. Chinatown.

I've always believed that our generation can make a difference, and that when joined together hand in hand, we can create an impact. When I won last year, the first thing that came into my mind was that I wanted to reign with purpose; to create an impact not just with myself but with my fellow Chinoys. The pageant has provided me a platform to reach a wider audience.

During this pandemic, I'm so blessed to have the chance to help our frontliners. At first, I wasn't sure if I can help because my biggest problem was, "what can I give?". Contrary to popular belief, I am not well off myself. It was not until I was invited in a chat called "Pasig SOS Benguet Farmers", which helps the livelihood of farmers, pahinantes, working and distributing crops, that I found the opportunity to contribute to our frontliners. I quickly gathered orders and donations and I'm extremely grateful of my neighbors who helped me on this. With this, we were able to distribute bags of vegetables to some barangays and also to our frontliners at The Grove. Not only were we able to help farmers, but also the small communities. I can't stress this enough. Help comes in different ways. So, use your time to listen to those around you, connect with people, and smile as an act of gratitude.

I sincerely wish I left an impact as Ms. Chinatown 2019. The journey from the beginning up until now is a memory that I shall remember. I encourage everyone to RISE together as one and welcome our new Mr. and Ms. Chinatown with open arms. Join them as they rebuild, inspire, strengthen and empower others."

"After winning the pageant and the more I get myself exposed to newer things, the more I realized that there is so much more that we can do for others and ourselves. This pandemic, I finally understood the sayings 'it's not what you have; it's what you give.'"





Jonah Chantong

MR. CHINATOWN PHILIPPINES 2019

"I am Jonah Chantong, your Mr. Chinatown Philippines 2019.

Looking back, I was ecstatic to be part of Mr. & Ms. Chinatown 2019. It was a very exciting and fulfilling experience together with all of my co-candidates, as a lot of us were newbies to the world of pageantry and each of us needed to overcome the challenge of getting out of our little bubbles. Despite that, though, we were all able to be actively immersed in the programs and enjoyed being part of them! I definitely learned a lot, and I am happy to have that shared experience with everyone to have had an opportunity to learn a lot about myself.

After winning the pageant, there were so many doors of opportunity that opened for me – it was short of a whirlwind experience of everything good and going well. I was exposed to a larger audience and was surprised that I was actually enjoying it! I attended several important events, sponsor meets and the like. Although, the most memorable activity was the celebration of the Chinese New Year in Binondo, where alongside the previous circle of winners, took part in the Binondo Float Parade and were also invited to become speakers during the Chinese New Year's Eve Festival. Truly, it was an exhilarating experience being recognized by other people, hearing them clapping and shouting our names.

With that, another heartwarming experience was when I was invited to speak in my high school alma mater – Xavier School – during their Chinese New Year event. Not only did this give me a chance to share with them my advocacy efforts, but I was also able to provide insights to motivate them to overcome personal, social, and academic challenges and, most importantly, be proud of their Chinoy identities.

Shortly after this, sadly, the pandemic struck and the lives of people – both young and old – were all profoundly affected. In an instant, everyone's lives changed and threatened us all physically and psychologically. The economy became unstable, businesses were challenged, everyone's health was compromised. To be candid, I was not able to escape these negativities as well – all too suddenly, I lost all of the opportunities just like that.

My partners and I lost our bar which at that time was thriving, and my job, as well as my contract with a network, were both affected. For a while, I felt my self-esteem being challenged as everything just happened so suddenly. I've never expected to face a pandemic in my lifetime and certainly not during what was supposed to be the best year of my life. I was twenty-four, starting to create a name for myself, hoping to become an inspiration to other people, especially the youth, and I suddenly did not know what to do. But despite these challenges, I knew I needed to rise above the situation.

I took this as a test for my perseverance and resilience, and with that, I've come to realize that we cannot allow ourselves to wallow at the enormity of the pandemic. Rather as a hindrance, we need to face it and see this as the potential to grow. Through this, I've learned to appreciate the more important things in life which I otherwise would have taken for granted before; I learned to be happy and content with simple joys and to treasure these moments alongside my family and friends.

As Mr. Chinatown Philippines, I hope that in my own way, I can inspire people to see things the way I've come to. It isn't easy and we know it will be a long and winding road for some if not most of us."

"After winning the pageant, there were so many doors of opportunity that opened for me - it was short of a whirlwind experience of everything good and going well."



JANEENA CHAN
HOST




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Candidates

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In this time of uncertainty, the delegates are leading the way to Rebuild connections, Inspire others, Strengthen the community, and Empower one another. See what it means for them to #RISE this year and beyond.



Despite all the challenges we have faced — the trials, failures, disappointments, and disasters — I still managed to see the beauty behind them. I've learned to be positive because I know in that way, I could inspire other people to be optimistic.

Due to this pandemic, a lot of people, including me, have had a hard time dealing with mental health issues. However, I thought of ways that will eliminate these negativities. I turned to other means to earn money and started a physical fitness routine so I can better take care of my body and health. I believe that by doing these, I also get to inspire other people around me to do the same.

I never get tired of performing and joining singing competitions because, for me, winning is not always the end point of every competition. Equally or more important is the lessons you learn from it and the experience itself. With that, my goal is to inspire and empower people to see the good in every situation. It is not being naive. It is believing that there will always be wonderful things ahead. We just have to wait and make way for them. Together, we will #RISE.

#RISEwithMMCP
#RISEwithHerc



I always believe that progress can be achieved once prejudice and biases are removed from an individual and mutual respect is promoted in our society.

As the eldest sibling in the family, my father always brings me along to various campaigns and projects aimed at serving and providing for the marginalized people, which ignited my passion for leadership and service. By immersing myself in the interaction of people from different racial backgrounds, my view on cultural diversity was broadened.

This also taught me that I am not an individual self, but a crucial member of a community who has so much to give back. With this, I am determined and all more prepared to rebuild with what has been lost, inspire people to constantly strive to achieve their dreams, strengthen them in these trying times, and empower ourselves to #RISE altogether.

#RISEwithMMCP
#RISEwithCarlo



The year 2020 has been very challenging for everyone. There are growing problems every day, both economically and mentally, but it was the latter that greatly affected Beef. His work and passion are both in the fitness industry, so when there was a need for it to shut down as events got cancelled, gyms had closed doors, and social gatherings were highly discouraged, he just grew more and more frustrated.

These frustrations allowed Beef to divert his supposed goals this year to coming up with something much bigger than what he envisioned. What he started as short voluntary online workout sessions became a growing online fitness community that aims to make an impact in both the mental and physical state of individuals.

It will always be up to us on how we deal with obstacles during the pandemic. There will always be that option to do something to overcome them or let them be. For Beef, every obstacle is just an opportunity for us to #RISE by turning these challenges into our greatest victories together.

#RISEwithMMCP
#RISEwithBeef



As an advocate of having a more sustainable community, I believe that the benefit of the #RISE movement is having a wider platform and tapping different channels. Being born and raised in a Filipino-Chinese family, I realized that hard work alone is not enough. Everyone must be given opportunities so we can truly become someone we're hoping to be. We can do more if we make opportunities equally available for everyone.

As an educator, my goal is to influence the Filipino-Chinese youth through social media and continuously establish the idea of a sustainable community to my students. Generating employment is the best way for me to fulfill my advocacy, so as an entrepreneur, opening opportunities to all is also a part of my priorities. I want to promote a nation where discrimination of any kind has no place, may be it in age, gender, or culture.

When it's the youth's turn to lead their generation, we will see a community where poverty cannot foster and no one will be left behind.

#RISEwithMMCP
#RISEwithEric



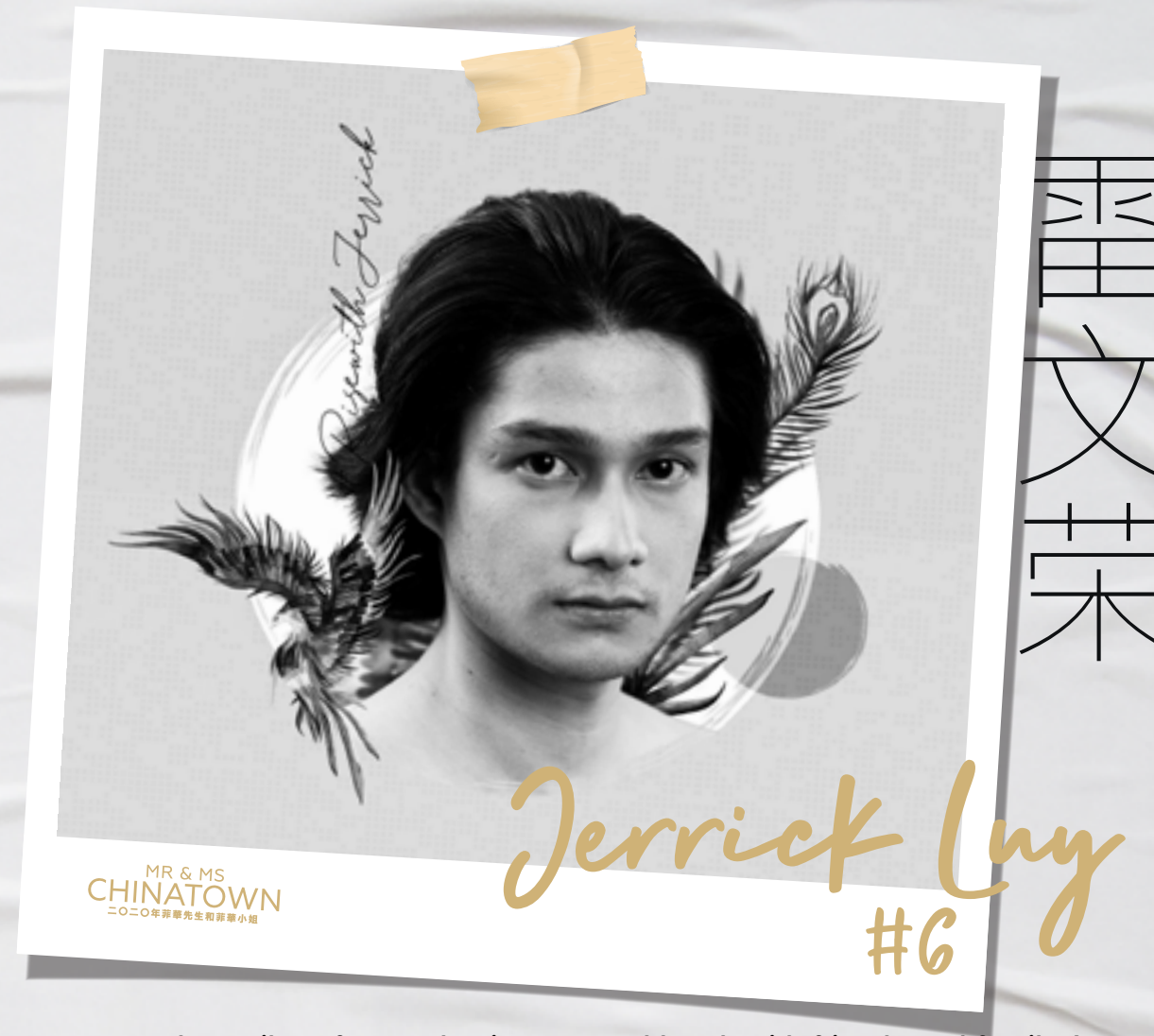
Just like everyone else who was hopeful for the new decade, 2020 was supposed to be an exciting year for me. Fresh from graduate school in London, I decided to take a chance by moving to Norway to pursue the life I thought was in store for me. My plans were drastically changed as I had to move back home to the Philippines with my family just in time before the lockdowns.

Being the person that I am, hungry for personal growth and learning despite the situation, I tried my best to #RISE above and make the most out of it. With my entrepreneurial spirit, I built a brand of Nordic-inspired interior decorations in the Philippines all while holding down my full-time job as private markets analyst. I count myself lucky to have a family to come home to and ride this pandemic through together, but I know this isn't the case for all.

I believe acknowledging this privilege is the first step I have to take to help those who aren't in the same position as I am in. My story may not be the best or most inspiring, but I hope to use what privilege I have to create a movement rooted in the same growth mindset I have in order to help rebuild, inspire, strengthen, and empower others as well.

#RISEwithMMCP
#RISEwithJiro

吳長紅



As someone who smiles often and enjoys a good laugh with friends and family, I may not look like it but there was a point in my life where I was at my lowest. Fortunately, at that time, I was able to persevere and move forward, of course with the help of the people around me — people who genuinely cared for me and supported me when I couldn't even support myself.

Now, I aspire to be that support for others, to be a foundation that helps individuals #RISE up to the occasion especially today where COVID-19 is disrupting our day-to-day lives with huge impacts. This is the perfect opportunity for me to use my platform to help our fellow kababayans who are struggling just to make ends meet. I can only imagine the hardships that they are going through which we all know affects an individual both physically and mentally.

I know I'll be able to help, because I know far too well the feeling of being trapped in darkness, of feeling that you are alone, and all you really need is a glimmer of light to show you the way. I can be that light for others, to help guide them and to let them know that there is and always will be a better tomorrow.

#RISEwithMMCP
#RISEwithJerrick

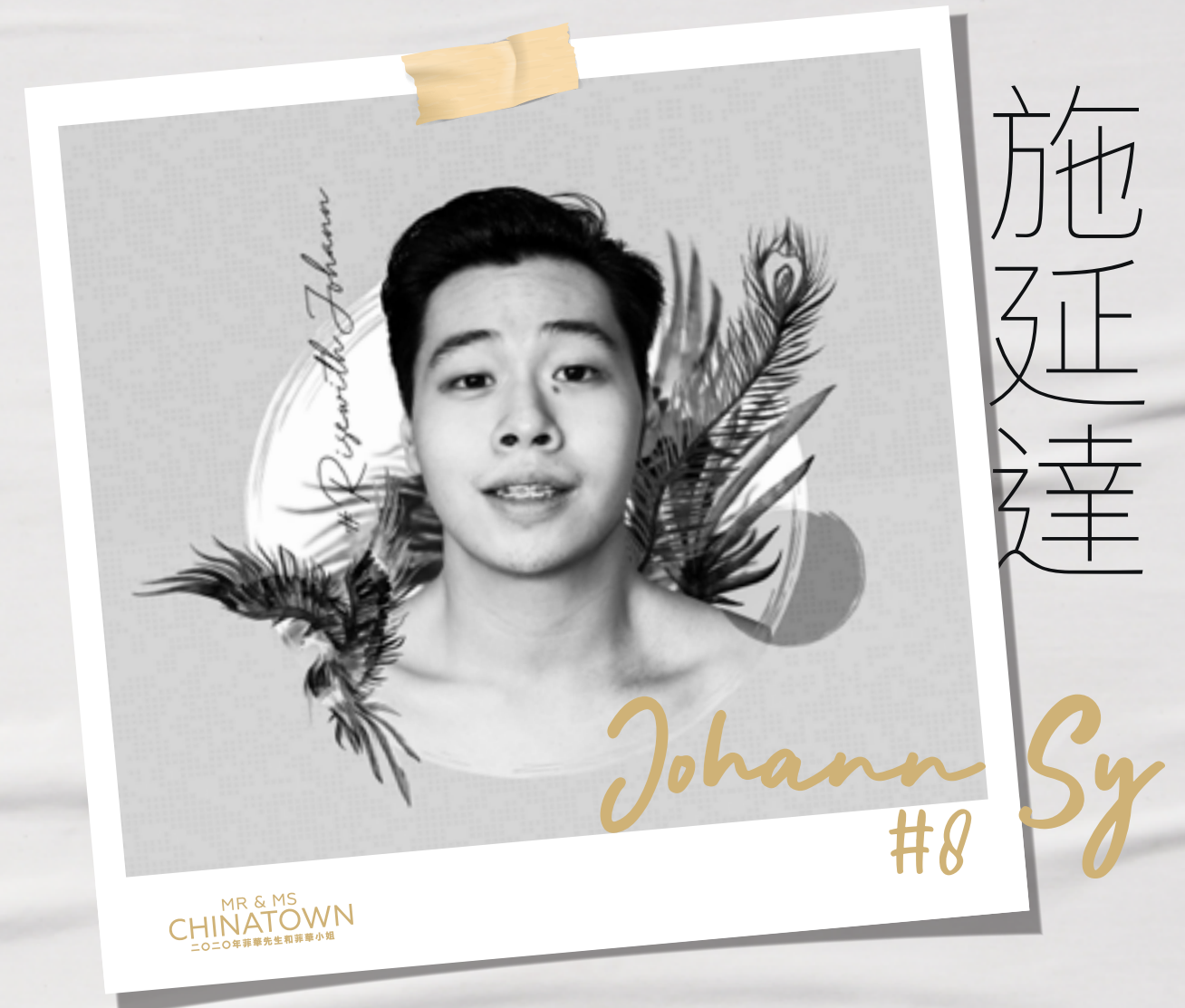
羅文基



This year, thousands of people have lost their jobs or suffered tremendous amounts of financial distress in their business. Personally, I was fortunate enough to land a secure job early in the year. However, my journey wasn't easy to reach this point in my life. Moving to Melbourne at the age of 17, I decided to be financially independent. This involved a lot of stress and anxiety, experiencing homelessness for a few months, as well as scrubbing kitchens and washing cars at petrol stations just to make ends meet. A lot of sacrifices were made but the end was worth it.

During this pandemic, I empathise with thousands of Filipinos who are working hard in their jobs or business just for food and shelter. By joining this year's Mr. and Ms. Chinatown Philippines, I would like to challenge everyone to #RISE by supporting local and creating a platform where home-based restaurants and other businesses are able to promote and sell their products.

#RISEwithMMCP
#RISEwithGeorwin

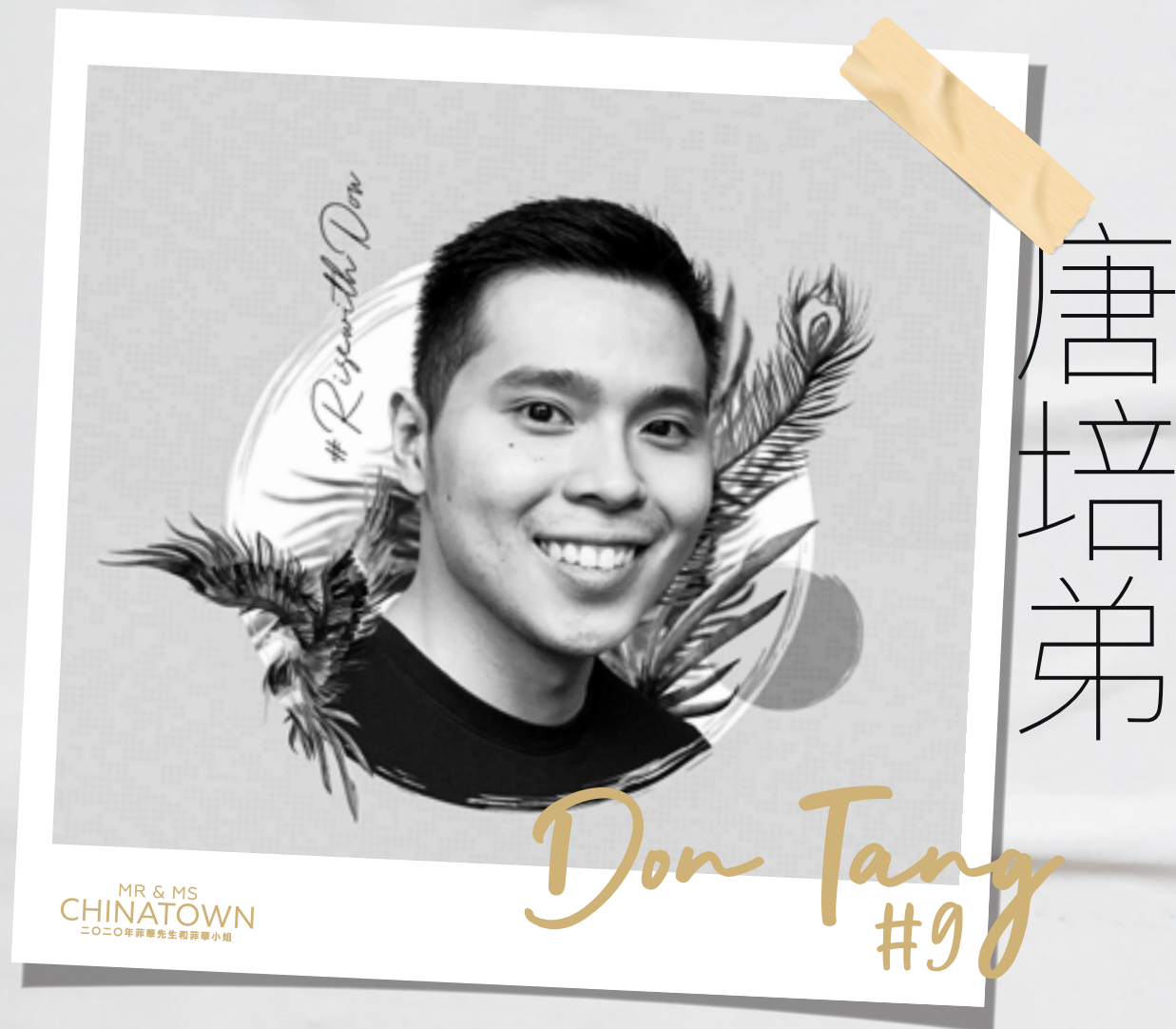


When I entered De La Salle University as a freshman, I was so proud, and doubly more so when I was admitted to the double degree program for Accounting and Financial Economics. I was getting good grades which made me cocky. So when I failed the qualifying exam for Accounting, not just once but twice, my world fell apart. I began to question everything around me, and I was afraid to face my parents and my friends.

I expected anger, disappointment, sadness, even shame from them. But what they gave me was encouragement, and they restored my faith that all things happen for a reason. I remember crying to myself, not because I was still feeling down from failing, but for the inspiration they all gave me, strengthening my inner man.

I came away from that experience empowered to rebuild my future. I cannot let a degree program, or in this a double degree one, define me. I let go and let God, and in His wisdom, he placed me in Economics where I found a passion for sustainable programs that can help the marginalized sectors in the Philippines. With like-minded friends, we set out to launch a start-up and we are looking forward to enriching ourselves, not with money, but with lessons and experiences.

#RISEwithMMCP
#RISEwithJohann



If there's one thing that this year has taught me, it's that tomorrow is not a guarantee. The pandemic has thrown a wrench in everyone's lives, put the world at high risk, and forced businesses to close shop.

Personally, I didn't only have to put my life plans on hold; I also had to be let go from my job for reasons bigger than myself. While the hardships and challenges took their toll on me for a while, I made a decision to roll with the punches and explore new opportunities as they arise.

With everything that has happened, I've come to realize that all the closed doors and detours ultimately led me to this moment. It's one I didn't see coming, but it compelled me to #RISE by pushing my boundaries further and making the most out of every situation.

#RISEwithMMCP
#RISEwithDon



Looking back, I had high hopes for 2020 as it represents my zodiac animal — the rat. Little did I know that we will end up just like them, hiding and only going out for food. This basically summarizes our transformation in this period.

With face masks covering our nose and mouth, the more we need for our voices to be heard and the more we need to push for initiatives that support others, starting with helping them with their self-improvement. Working as a fitness coach, I was one of those greatly affected by the impact brought by the pandemic to the fitness industry. Many gyms, and sports centers remain closed, thus we're grabbing this opportunity to improve ourselves by taking up seminars, exploring online coaching, and keeping ourselves fit.

As we strive for self-improvement, we realize that the things that we cherish the most are the same things that we usually walk right by. Take this time to bond with your family, catch up with friends, develop your hobbies, and practice healthy habits. Rid yourself of the things that hinder improvement and the burdens that weigh you down. It's up to us if we want to change for the better.

#RISEwithMMCP
#RISEwithAbs



鄭啟明

Kevin Ty
#11

Like most people, I was caught off guard by the pandemic that hit us this year. It never crossed my mind that a virus could shut down the entire world, and this made me realize that life's biggest troubles are often things that are completely unexpected. Despite this, life goes on and it will continue to have its ups and downs.

With that, I want to inspire others to be resilient. Problems will continue to pile up, but it's up to us to #RISE above them all. I used the quarantine to focus on the things that I could control. I trained hard. I learned basic skills that I overlooked before like biking and cooking homemade meals. I caught up with my high school batchmates and worked with them to hold PPE donation drives for frontliners.

However, the thing I'm most proud of is that I took advantage of technology to create a platform on social media to promote both physical and financial wellness, expanding my reach to Filipinos outside Metro Manila. I would like to empower others to take advantage of digital tools as all the necessary information to make ourselves better is right at our fingertips. We just need to work together, stay focused, and grab every opportunity that comes our way.

#RISEwithMMCP
#RISEwithKevin



叶俊良

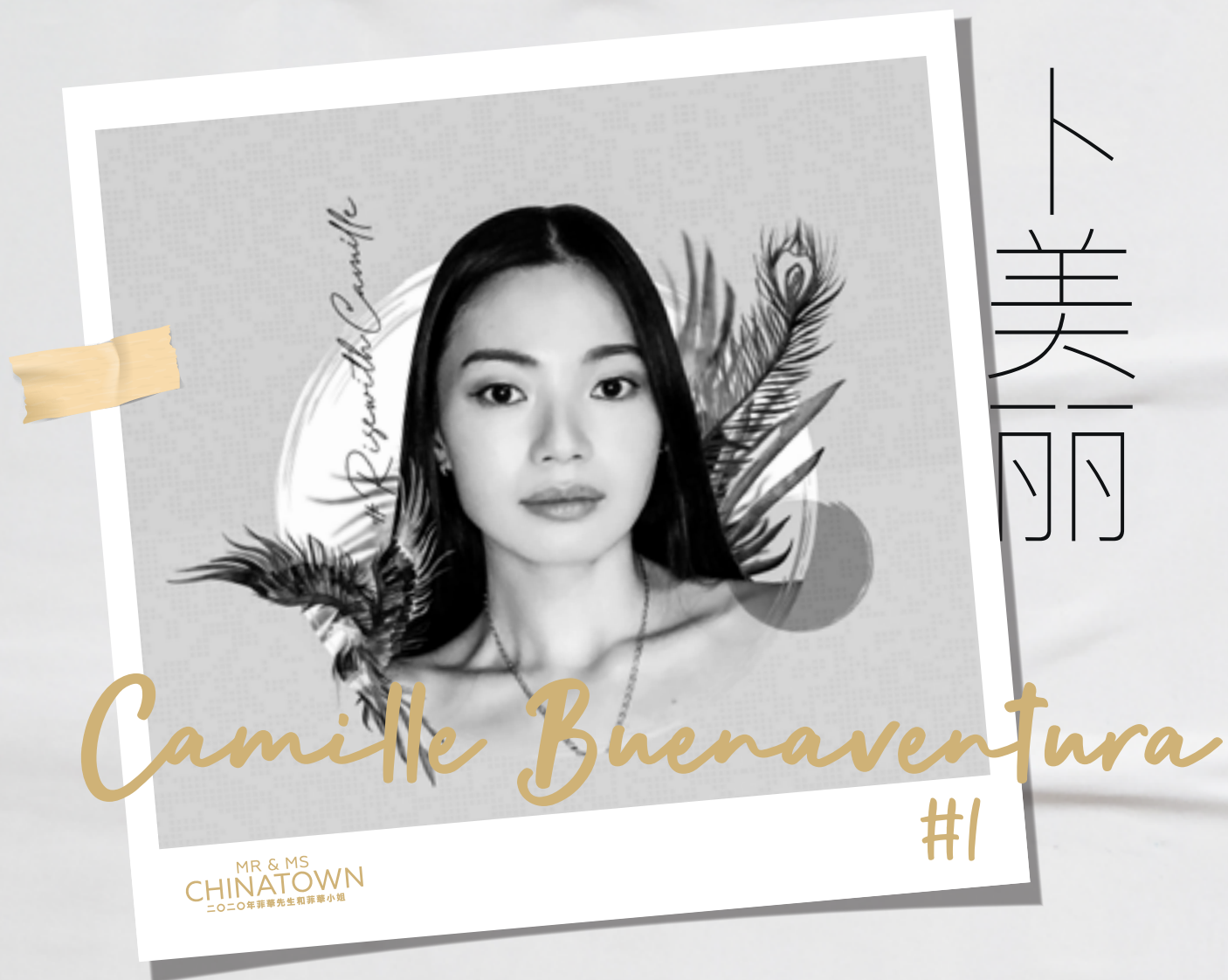
Justin Yap
#12

Living in a mid-sized Visayan city like Tacloban is always a test of adaptation to the realities of the world you have to live in. You are caught in the maelstrom of your Chinese identity and at the same time, you strive to fit into an adaptive culture which your grandparents and parents have learned to love.

Early on in my life, my parents have always taught us how to be resilient and empowered when faced with difficulties. At a young age, I witnessed how our business was burned down by a fire that left our family financially strapped and emotionally drained. In 2013, my mother was diagnosed with cancer. In November the same year, the world's strongest typhoon to have made a landfall in history, Yolanda, devastated my beloved city. And this year, just before the coronavirus lockdown, our beloved Amah, the matriarch of our family, passed away.

Representing my city in the prestigious Mr. and Ms. Chinatown Philippines, I would like to convey my sincere appreciation and gratitude to my family who have taught me how to #RISE up from tragedies and failures, as well as to the people who believe in my capabilities and my mission as an ambassador of goodwill. Let my voice be heard by this generation and the next, that no matter how difficult life may be, there are always a hundred and one reasons to smile and be thankful for.

#RISEwithMMCP
#RISEwithJustin



美丽

It is a childhood dream of mine to join a pageant. Now at 26, I'm finally here. Why now? For several years, at the last minute, I would always make up excuses as to why I couldn't join — I have a day job, I have a lot of commitments, or I don't have time. But the real story is, I've always felt like I wasn't good enough, I wasn't beautiful enough, I wasn't smart enough, and I was scared I wouldn't make it.

But one day, I thought, why would I wait to be perfect? Why would I wait to be a better version of myself? Suddenly, it hit me — my biggest competition is myself. So I stepped out of my comfort zone, started to work on getting over my insecurities, and learned to consciously enjoy who I am at the present.

I aim to inspire others to do the same. Step over your walls, break out of your shell, power through the difficulties, and #RISE from the ashes like a phoenix. Because how can you make the world a better place if you don't love yourself first?

#RISEwithMMCP
#RISEwithCamille



曾新玉

A lot of us have been affected mentally by the pandemic. I am one of those who experienced overwhelming anxiety about the state of our world. The first thing I've done to #RISE over my anxiety was to accept the fact that the effects of the pandemic will be part of our lives for a long time.

Instead of worrying about all the things that can go wrong, I began trying to find ways to adjust to the new normal. My work had a minor setback since we had the pressure of transferring 100% of our classes online in only a short matter of time. Thankfully, our school was able to manage and we began the re-opening of our dance school during the middle of the year.

I feel grateful for my situation because, unlike most, I still have the opportunity to teach during this pandemic. Seeing my students and being able to teach them despite the distance have made me develop a strong sense of gratitude. It's through this very gratitude and the company of loved ones that I've overcome my anxiety and rose up.

#RISEwithMMCP
#RISEwithCassandra

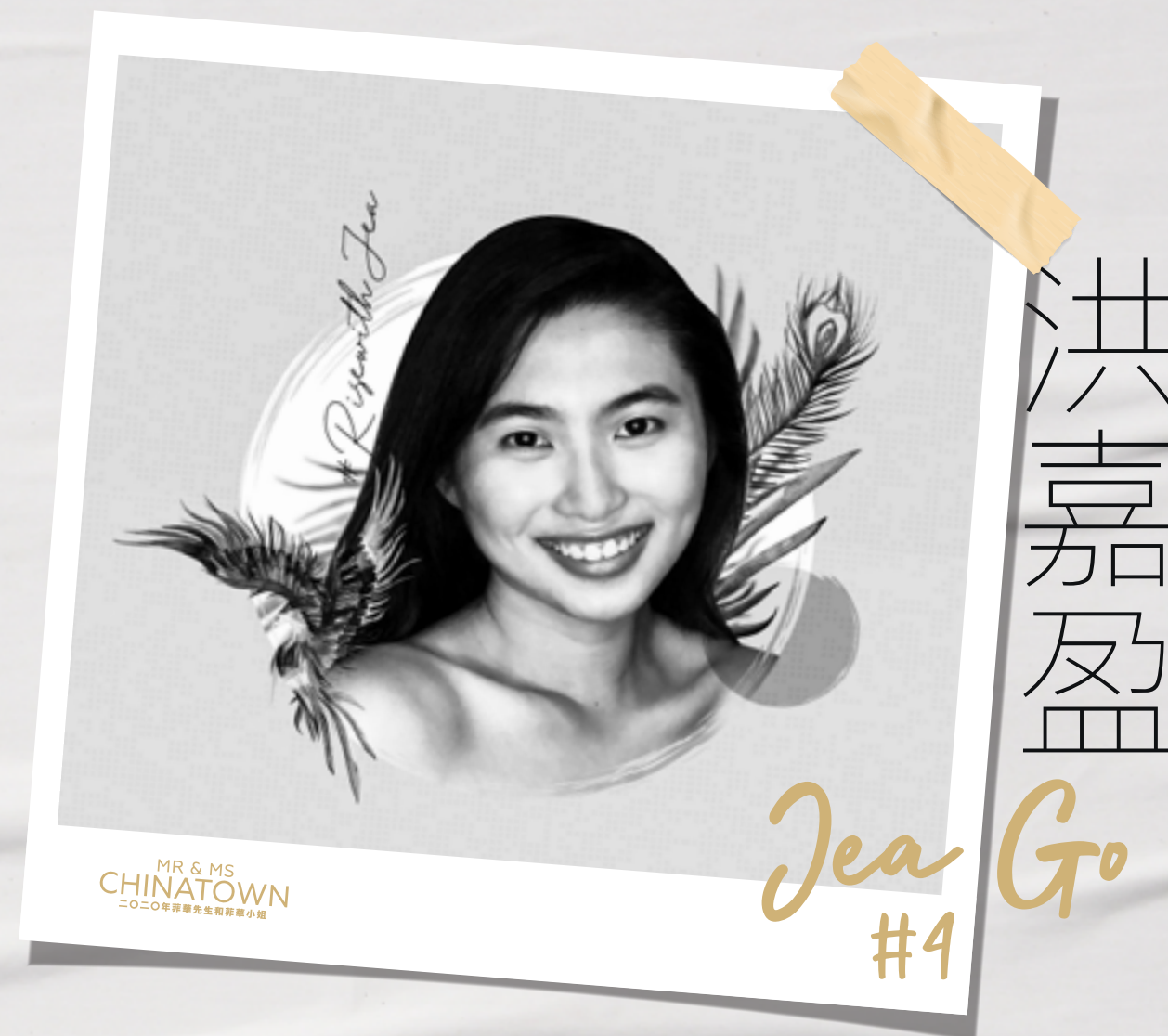


The times are changing. Adapting to these changes are crucial to our survival, both physically and mentally. During this pandemic, our ability to #RISE is put to the test. Seeking inspiration and, in turn, inspiring others keep me moving and fuel my purpose of creating positive change, not only within myself but along with my community.

Having the right mindset allowed me to capitalize on the situation to progressively discover myself and build my impact in the society. I am currently part of a team, called We Champion, that campaigns COVID-19 education and promotes engagement of the Filipino community through various initiatives.

This also encouraged me to be part of the Mr. and Ms. Chinatown Philippines movement. Not only is this a learning opportunity, but it's also an avenue for change. Despite the challenges and stigmas faced by my race in this fight against COVID-19, it is through lifting each other that we get to truly win it. We are in this together, and having a sense of community is the key to rising from the challenges brought about these extraordinary times.

#RISEwithMMCP
#RISEwithAlexi

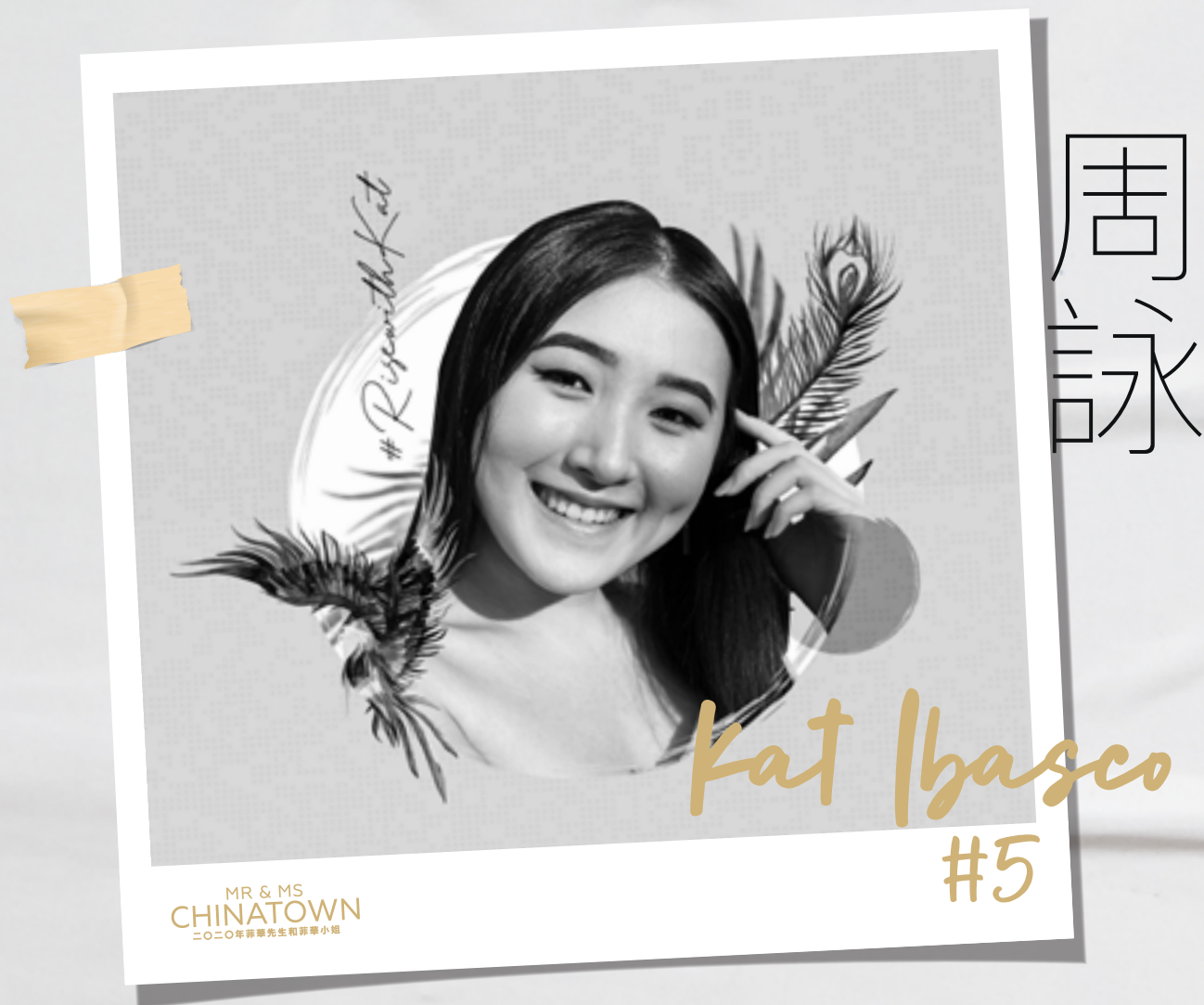


When the government implemented a stricter community quarantine this March, our lives have been put on hold. This is especially hard on the less fortunate and the medical, security, and service industry frontliners because they are constantly exposed to the coronavirus. Many are struggling financially and emotionally — having a hard time putting food on their tables while some have even lost their loved ones to the disease.

Seeing the gravity of the pandemic, I realized that I have to be sensitive to their situation. While in quarantine, I made sure to help through my own small ways. As a family, we constantly participated in fundraising initiatives organized by different institutions. Practicing proper safety measures can count as a responsible behavior, I also try to remind myself and everyone around me to practice proper safety measures and follow guidelines provided to the public.

I believe the #RISE movement calls for us to be informed and show empathy towards others. We should support one another and manage adversity with tenacity together. Being patient can go a long way in these times and can definitely shine even the slightest bit of light on anyone.

#RISEwithMMCP
#RISEwithJea



The pandemic has shown us that we can only be as great as the world allows us to be. Despite all our planning and all our hard work, sometimes we won't always get our way. Along with many other artists and live entertainment workers, the pandemic drastically affected my work and being. I was no longer able to return to the Broadway costume shop I had called my home last summer, and I had to witness my entire theatrical family find themselves in unemployment and indefinite uncertainty.

The emotional strain accompanying such turmoil cannot be avoided. I won't deny that I was emotionally exhausted. I cried and I grieved. I was confused and idle. But I realized that this is a time like no other, and it's okay to not be okay. I channelled my frustrations into fine-tuning my creative energy and discovering new skills that would help me grow as a versatile and productive artist. I readied myself to help rebuild the arts, reconnected with a few friends, and even discovered a new hobby.

We will never look back at this year like we did any other. Instead, we will remember how we adapted, empowered and created anew.

#RISEwithMMCP
#RISEwithKat

周詠



This year has been a huge turning point for all of us. Who would have thought that all our plans would be in the limits of our homes? During this new normal, I have stepped out of my comfort zone to open new doors, new opportunities, and new ways to #RISE. I had a vision of how I wanted my 2020 to start, but due to uncertainties, the last few months of 2019 led me to feel like my dreams were over.

This year, I decided to turn away from all these and try new things. Never did I expect I'd land a chance to take my shot in Mr. and Ms. Chinatown Philippines. With this, I hope to inspire others that even if all your doors and current dreams have shut you out, there will always be a new one that opens. Most times, it's even better than you'll ever expect.

I encourage others, especially the Filipino-Chinese youth, to bounce back better, bolder, and with a new perspective, all the while upholding our traditions. In order to rise, one must take the risk, jump into unknown waters, and come out of your comfort zone. Never forget the roots of your past as a new flame burns brightly within.

#RISEwithMMCP
#RISEwithMaxine

王心怡



陳美智

I started 2020 with high hopes of starting my dream career in the field of hospitality in the USA. I flew to the states during the very first week of January, which was a good start of the year I guess. But my dreams were shattered when the company that hired me forced us to fly back home for our own safety due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The hassle and stress of having probably the biggest setback of my life affected me and my family emotionally. But as a person who would naturally #RISE up to challenges, I made sure that this setback is an opportunity for a big comeback.

I dedicate my time learning new skills in the kitchen, renewing myself spiritually by joining a virtual life group, and ultimately joining a movement, the Mr. and Ms. Chinatown Philippines 2020. This pandemic has taught me two things — never dwell in failures and always embrace every opportunity arising.

#RISEwithMMCP
#RISEwithKate



施掌珠

Lost. This was how I felt for the first few months of the lockdown. Nights were spent with endless thinking and stressing over my future, as I had just resigned from my job the same time this pandemic happened. But it was one tough ride I'm proud of overcoming.

I'm not one who grew up to be business-minded or even a bit interested with anything business. I personally wouldn't have thought that by binge-watching K-dramas, while lying on my bed all day, led me to create my first business venture, which sells Korean and other Asian food online. It pushed me to focus on myself more — balancing talking to suppliers, catching up with friends, watching TV series, sleeping early, exercising, painting, and even learning an instrument.

These hard times helped me see who I am and what I want to do in life. I aim to inspire others to do great things through small things. Let's empower each other to stay connected with friends, make a self-care routine, do what we love, and more. We are able to take care of others when we take care of ourselves first. This why my advocacy is promoting self-care so that we can #RISE together.

#RISEwithMMCP
#RISEwithEzra



I used to believe perseverance was the real key to success. The more I work, the more I gain. The more I accomplish, the more fulfilling my days would be. But these times of uncertainties have molded me into the person I have always wanted to be — understanding and seizing what life truly means. I have realized that life is not about working all day and all night to acquire the possessions we think would give joy and satisfaction to us.

During these times when death has constantly been threatening us has led me to ask a life-changing question, “At the end of the day, would the amount of possessions I have be worthy of death? What in life truly matters?” That is when it hit me. Success is not solely based on perseverance, but the motivation of your perceived success.

This platform is something I never expected to have but I know it has given to me not for myself, but for others above anything else. This is what #RISE means to me. It is not about persevering to be above others, but to rise up and commit yourself to serving and making an impact in others’ lives. After all, at the end of the day, there are no bridges that must set each and every one of us apart.

#RISEwithMMCP
#RISEwithLatisha



The past few months have been very challenging to all of us. In my case, I work as a junior architect, a student preparing Architecture Licensure Examination, and I manage a small business. Despite everything that is happening, one of the biggest changes I have to adapt to is shifting to e-learning. It’s a big adjustment not just for us, the students, but the teachers as well.

During the lockdown, I thought of a campaign called E-BridgEs which aims to bridge the gap between online education and the less fortunate students. As a Mr. and Ms. Chinatown Philippines 2020 candidate, it gave me the privilege to influence and communicate with people to help me push through the campaign.

By doing so, I can help rebuild a community of hope and love so that the less fortunate children may complete their education. Through the campaign, I also hope to inspire them not to delay their goals amidst the health crisis, strengthen the community to work hand in hand for these children, and empower them through education and compassion that we are here for them to build their future. It’s okay to dream big. At the end of the day, what you will regret is a dream not big enough.

#RISEwithMMCP
#RISEwithAnie



施喜莉

Hillary Uy
#11

MR & MS
CHINATOWN
二〇二〇年菲華先生和菲華小姐

I've been faced with challenging trials in my life. Nonetheless, I still believe I was birthed into the universe for a great reason. These trials weighed heavily on me for years and inevitably put me in a dark place. I've been belittled, put down, told that I was an inconvenience and that I won't make it far in life, and discouraged by the very role model I should look up to. I have questioned my self-worth from the invalidation that I was subjected to countless times, and thus, I spiraled down into a pit of indifference and melancholy.

Suffering is inevitable, but pain is temporary. However, the question here is, "What am I going to do about it? How am I going to transform this into a lesson?" So, I changed my mindset. I chose to get myself out of the void I was in. I chose to fight and eliminate self-pity. And for the first time in a long time, I chose myself.

When we #RISE above adversity in life, we are actively choosing to do something about the problems we face daily. Rising above challenges is a part of life, and this awareness fuels me to become a better person every day. It's how I know I am alive. It reminds me how amazing and good life can be. And, it pushes me to be the best version of myself for me and others.

#RISEwithMMCP
#RISEwithHillary



洪婉瑜

Julianne Yap
#12

MR & MS
CHINATOWN
二〇二〇年菲華先生和菲華小姐

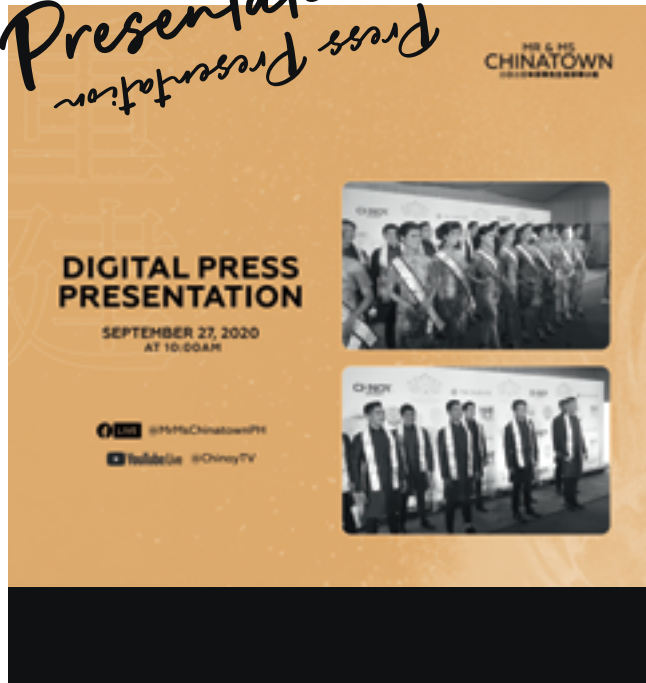
For me, to #RISE is to go beyond my boundaries whilst setting a good example for the people around me. Romanticizing the resilience of the community will not cut it anymore. Yes, we must stay strong and united in this time of need, but we must also rise and take action. As a representative of the Filipino-Chinese community, I want to use my position of privilege to help through any means I can.

For instance, I used to participate in medical missions with my church. Unfortunately, the pandemic struck and the missions could no longer push through. Together with my family, we conquer the pandemic by donating to the frontliners and providing face shields to our customers and third-party couriers.

Additionally, as I am merely starting my journey in the medical field, I want to be able to help my community by lending my voice to the frontliners. I want to empower doctors and healthcare workers who are dedicating their lives to the hippocratic oath. However, we must take note that in order for the frontliners to work optimally and efficiently, they must also be adequately rested and compensated. Therefore, given that we all work together and rise to the occasion no matter what our profession is, we may all overcome this pandemic and achieve a more inclusive society.

#RISEwithMMCP
#RISEwithJulianne

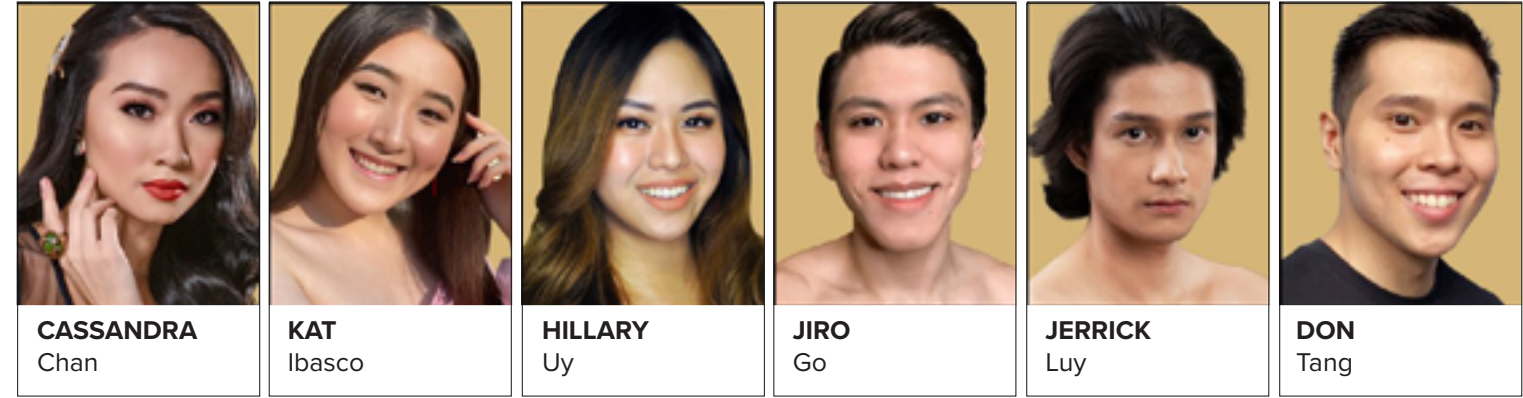
Press Presentation
Press Presentation
Press Presentation



The 24 delegates got their first taste of the media spotlight when they went through a digital press presentation. Also their first official task for the entire competition, it brought out their wit, fast-thinking and, most importantly, confidence, as they answered questions from the event's host, Janeena Chan, and media partners from ABS-CBN News, Push.com.ph, PEP.ph, Manila Bulletin, Pageantry Norms, Titas of Pageantry, and Sash Factor.

In an exciting twist, the aspiring ambassadors of the Chinoy youth also got to face one another in a word showdown, while giving their best impression to the judges composed of international model Maria Fabiana, pageant coach Voltaire Tayag, and Releve Fashion founder Raia Gomez. By the end of the presentation, two special awards were given to five confident candidates. Beef Co and Cassandra Chan won the Darlings of the Press Award, while Don Tang, Alexi Enriquez, and Julianne Yap shared the Winners Circle's Choice Award.

Confidence



Winners Challenge 2a



My Chinoy Inspiration aims to inspire others to be resilient, innovative, and passionate about one's culture and heritage. For this challenge, each candidate was tasked to do a creative photo challenge using items that remind them of being Chinoy.

Creativity

Winners Challenge 1



Microphone

Microphone is one of the things that inspire me. Whenever I get to sing, perform or join singing competitions, there's always a feeling of excitement. It inspires me to be more confident and to believe in myself because in singing, I can express who I really am. No matter what people think, I will continue to sing for myself and for those who believe in me.

#RISEwithHERC
#MrMsChinatown2020



Lanterns

Chinese lanterns allow us to have an indomitable, full-throttle comeback as they also represent a desire to have a better and brighter future. We may have experienced things that hurt us physically or emotionally and it would get to a point where we feel that we have been betrayed by life. We should realize that these struggles are gifts from life itself where it could remind us that we are up for something far greater.

#RISEwithCarlo
#MrMsChinatown2020



Mooncake

With the resemblance of a full moon, the mooncake's roundness symbolizes the togetherness and completeness of a family reunion. And since we are all spending most of our time at home with our loved ones, it has been greatly emphasized this year. This pandemic may have caused us a great tragedy for all of us but it has also given us more time to actually appreciate and get closer to our loved ones.

#RISEwithBEEF
#MrMsChinatown2020



Wushu

When I was young, I used to practice Wushu. I remember always making time for rehearsals so I can join competitions. What sets wushu among the rest is that it upholds the values of the Chinese culture. Being raised in a traditional Chinese family, this kind of inspiration has a special place in my heart that will always remind me of what I can call home.

#RISEwithERIC
#MrMsChinatown2020



Chinese Calligraphy is more than just an art form. And its main tool, the brush, is more than just an instrument. It is control, showing the vitality of life, the energy of the artist within certain boundaries. Just like a brush, I am bound by certain elements but I am in control. My life is a blank canvas, and I am a brush — shaping my character with each stroke I make.

#RISEwithCamille
#MrMsChinatown2020

Chinese Calligraphy



Pancit

The famous dish pancit has been handed down by the Chinese and fully adopted into our local cuisine. It is the perfect mix of both cultures into one. Much like this time-tested dish, my hope for the rest of the year is to break through our social and cultural barriers and create lasting change in my community.

#RISEwithCassandra
#MrMsChinatown2020



Dining Setup

I've always been a person who pays great attention to detail. The dining setup, in particular, is an aspect that lured me to immerse myself in my Chinese-Filipino roots due to the numerous symbolisms embedded there. All dishes are served in huge portions. This encourages interaction among friends and family, who are ideally all present in this dining setup during this time.

#RISEwithALEXI
#MrMsChinatown2020



Silk

Red is a popular color in the Chinese culture for it symbolizes and attracts positive circumstances like luck, joy, happiness, and prosperity, to name a few. Strong, resilient, and elegant — red silk bears and represents these characteristics that I hold myself up to. I am inspired by Filipino-Chinese who set their goals high and pursue them with great determination and perseverance.

#RISEwithJEA
#MrMsChinatown2020



White Rabbit

I've always been fond of White Rabbit. From my childhood and up until today, its milky taste has always brought me sweet memories of my grandma. Unfortunately, she suddenly passed away last 2018. Ever since then, her jar of White Rabbit has remained empty. It reminded me of all the smiles and the laughs that my Grandma and I shared every time she gave me a piece.

#RISEwithJIRO
#MrMsChinatown2020



Chopstick

Growing up, I've only ever learned to use chopsticks through constant practice. It always amazed me how a simple tool can be so versatile especially when it comes to eating. Finally being able to use chopsticks opened my eyes to the vast and rich culture the Chinese have through their food. And being someone of Filipino-Chinese descent, I'm able to enjoy the best of both worlds with my handy pair of chopsticks.

#RISEwithJERRICK
#MrMsChinatown2020



Wok

For me, the wok is where cultures can come together seamlessly by having flavours from different cuisines mixed together. Having my first job at the kitchen, using the wok properly was the hardest thing for me to learn. One must use the right strength to toss the food and the right flame to cook the dish. This wok has inspired me by teaching me patience and compassion as learning to use the wok took a lot of dedication.

#RISEwithGEORWIN
#MrMsChinatown2020

Mooncake

Each time I bite into a mooncake, I am sinking my teeth not only into an inviting delicacy, but also into my Chinese legacy. I was introduced to the mooncake tradition as a child and sampled it while surrounded by family. The shape symbolizes our intimate circle and the ties that bind us together. Whatever it may look like outside, the inside is the real treasure.

#RISEwithJOHANN
#MrMsChinatown2020



Silk

Silk has a great history as one of China's greatest influences on the rest of the world. The prized material is said to have been invented around 3,000 BCE, as legend goes, by Lady Hsi-Ling-Shih. The resounding importance of silk in history has not only affected the cultures I have been born into, but also the industry I love. Thread by thread, silk connects us all.

#RISEwithKAT
#MrMsChinatown2020

Lantern

To me, a lantern symbolizes the burning passion in each and every one of us. Usually, lanterns would light up during the night wherein its light stands out above the rest. I'd like to set the lantern as an example of how we should act during our downfalls. That even if everything turns into darkness, the light inside of you shall always burn brighter.

#RISEwithMAXINE
#MrMsChinatown2020



Make-up

Make-up plays an important role and is a distinct feature in Chinese opera. Exaggerated facial patterns on the performer's face was called "a mirror of the soul" by the Chinese. The colors and strokes are used not only to portray a young elegant woman with dignified personality, but mostly to illustrate the ideal concept of Chinese feminine beauty.

#RISEwithKATE
#MrMsChinatown2020

MAKE-UP MOPIT



Mopit

Like a paint brush, which symbolizes the creation of endless art, I aspire to inspire people to widen their imaginations as to how we live and paint our lives. It never ceases to amaze me how art can touch people, and at the same time, make a deep impact in their lives.

"Creativity is contagious, pass it on"

#RISEwithEZRA
#MrMsChinatown2020

GOURD FLUTE



Gourd Flute

The gourd flute, which originates from the pre-Qin Dynasty period, was the first instrument I learned as its form and material resembles my persona. From performing in competitions to practicing by my own, having a portable flute also means I could play my favorite tunes wherever and whenever I feel the need to express my emotions.

#RISEwithABIATHER
#MrMsChinatown2020



Dice

Life's a game — of odds, of luck, of chances. Just like in the dice game, we never know what we're getting but we still play anyway. Why? Because the only way we can win the game of life is if we make a move and take action. In playing, we also have to be willing to take some risks. But if you were to ask me, that's where I find the real charm of it — we're all given another opportunity to keep playing, to keep trying, and to keep rolling the dice.

#RISEwithDON
#MrMsChinatown2020

FAN



Fan

I bought this useful and durable fan back in 2007, when I was in Beijing. This fan does not only serve its common purpose of cooling, but it also functions as decor in our home. So everytime I get a glimpse of it, I am reminded of our first trip as a family, which also inspires me as it serves as a reminder to constantly work hard to be able to bring my family abroad to travel once again.

#RISEwithKEVIN
#MrMsChinatown2020

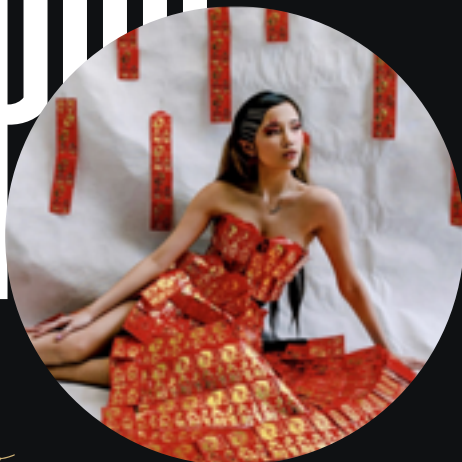


Puso

More than just a pouched rice, this must-try street food, puso, symbolizes the resilient heart of the Visayans. They used the puso as a ritual object, offered to the anitos and spirits. What remains of the ritual is the very object that we now enjoy — a proof that this iconic street food, just like the hearts of the Visayans, could stand the test of time.

#RISEwithJUSTIN
#MrMsChinatown2020

ANG PAO



Ang Pao

The ang pao, or 红包, is known as the red envelope Filipino-Chinese give during certain occasions and events. Because money is usually associated with this envelope, it is inevitable that people get extra excited when seeing them. And that personally is the reason why the ang pao is very much important to me. In a single glance, there is already an instant happiness and joy that is being brought to a person.

#RISEwithLATISHA
#MrMsChinatown2020



Chinese Herbs

Growing up in a very traditional Chinese Family, my mom and ama (grandma) used to let me drink different kinds of herbs. The use of this type of traditional medicine is based on the theory that all of the body's organs mutually support each other, just like in the health crisis we are having right now. The world will heal, slowly through time, with solidarity and cooperation.

#RISEwithANIE
#MrMsChinatown2020



Sword

My left sword represents discipline. In the process of forging, the metal first goes through harsh phases before being able to produce the perfect blade. My right sword represents strength. Similar to the strength the blade needs in order to be fully forged, so should we be with the trials in our lives. I have become strong through withstanding pain, and now I know I have the thick skin and courage to combat life's trials.

#RISEwithHILLARY
#MrMsChinatown2020



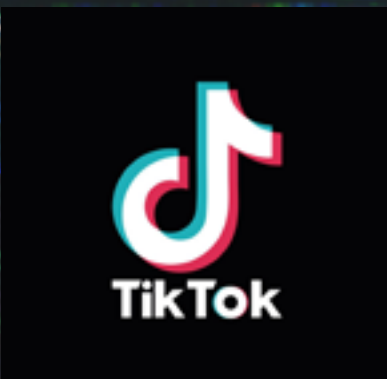
Jade Bracelet

For a long time, my jade bracelet was my jewelry of choice. The jade will always remain to be something dear to my heart not because of its luck, but because it brings back fond memories and was an item that helped me connect to different people who were willing to talk about the jade with me.

#RISEwithJULIANNE
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BRACELET

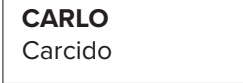
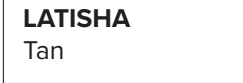
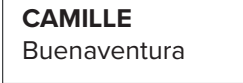
No on-ground fashion show? That didn't stop this year's candidates. For the second part of their creativity challenge, the candidates showcased four different outfits: Smart casual, semi-formal, athletic, and Chinoy-inspired. They showcased their creativity through a TikTok virtual fashion show



Challenge 2b

Headpiece Challenge

The culture challenge aimed to reconnect the candidates with their Chinoy heritage by submitting an Instagram photo entry and an educational TikTok video entry of their chosen Phoenix headpiece. As a powerful spiritual totem, the Phoenix is the ultimate symbol of strength and renewal which the candidates embodied in their entries.



Winners Challenge 3



#1 HERC ANG

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Phoenix



#2 CARLO CARCIDO

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#3 BEEF CO

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#4 ERIC CUA

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#1 CAMILLE BUENAVENTURA

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#2 CASSANDRA CHAN

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#3 ALEXI ENRIQUEZ

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#4 JEA GO

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#5 JIRO GO

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#6 JERRICK LUY

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#7 GEORWIN NG

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#8 JOHANN SY

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#5 KAT IBASCO

MR & MRS
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#6 MAXINE KONG

MR & MRS
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#7 KATE TAN PIAN

MR & MRS
CHINATOWN



#8 EZRA SEE

MR & MRS
CHINATOWN



Phoenix



Phoenix



Phoenix



洪婉瑜

We rise with you

As the COVID-19 situation became part of our everyday lives, we at PwC Philippines had been working closely with organizations to help them prepare and respond.

We are one with Mr & Ms Chinatown Philippines' in its request to #RISE with them as they rebuild connections, inspire others, strengthen the community, and empower others this 2020.

Faced with your own challenges? Talk to us and let our assurance, advisory, or tax people help you solve your important problems. Visit pwc.com/ph/covid-19. Or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PwCPhilippines. Or simply email us at ph_markets@pwc.com.



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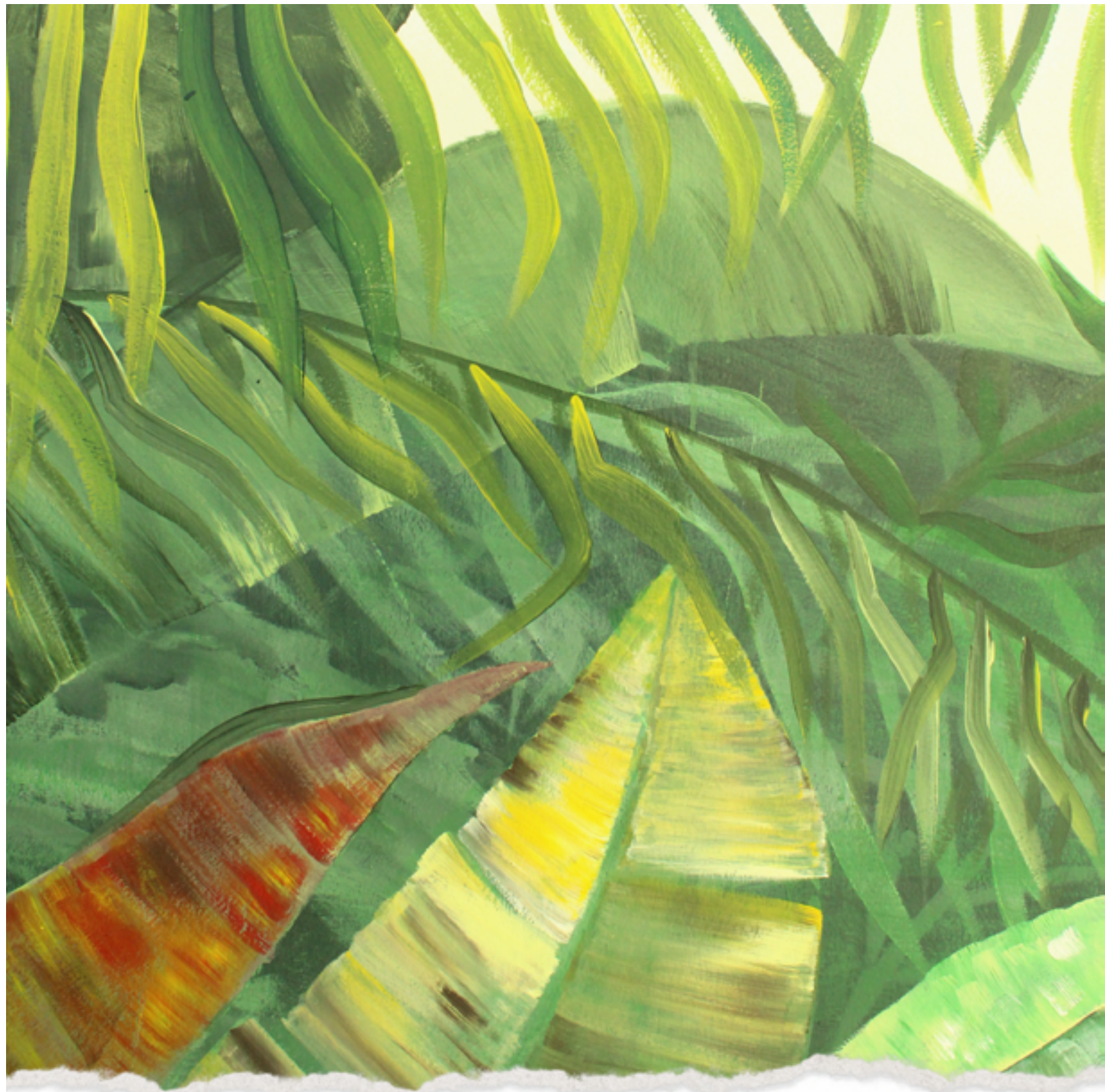
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