



BEAUTY IN WORLD OF SIGHTLESS

KUALA LUMPUR — *Arts Beyond Sight* — *Experience of Senses* by Dialogue in the Dark, is one of the many art segments of the Blossom Arts Festival Malaysia 2017 (BAFM2017).

The segment will bring a group of able people through a pitch-black space.

Guided by a group of visually impaired people, they will get to experience what it is like to be blind for 20 minutes.

They will be put through many tasks where they have to rely on their other senses such as hearing, smelling, tasting and touching.

BAFM2017 chairman Datin Paduka Chew Mei Fun said people with disabilities deserve to showcase their talent to the world.

“*Arts Beyond Sight* will be a platform to show the public what the visually impaired community can do to help people appreciate human senses when they no longer have them,” said Chew, who is also chairman of the Malaysian Chinese Cultural & Arts Consultative Committee.

Dialogue in the Dark founder Steven Chan who is also visually impaired, expressed his gratitude for being able to collaborate with interdisciplinary artist Poesy Liang who has dedicated her time to craft the set via her storytelling.

“It is great to work with someone like Poesy. I only got to know her personally a few months ago but we worked well to produce this. Poesy is an amazing artist who has a deep interest to understand the blind community,” said Chan.

Poesy is most known for her survival stories of overcoming paralysis twice, various philanthropic causes and as the founder of Helping Angels group, which is driven by compassion based on random kindness.

The writer, poet, composer, humanitarian and motivational speaker was trained from age six in Chinese stone seal carving, calligraphy and landscape painting, Chinese watercolours, piano and ballet.

She recently said that blind people have superpowers.

“While I’m a person with sight, I’ve come to admire and become close with the blind community, getting to know them through their stories, their struggles and joys.

“I have always been curious to work with the blind. My first project with the blind was seven years ago when I was in San Francisco. The immense reward from that humble project brought me clarity. Ever since that, I have held a strong belief that the blind can often see a life situation far more clearly than someone with sight,” she said.

Poesy also said that being able to see, we may be influenced by what we see and through that, perceptions and attitudes are impacted.

“Our eyesight causes confusion because it makes us judgmental human beings. But take that sight away and the distraction of stereotype changes completely. Our intuition becomes sharper. When Chan approached me about doing this exhibition, I saw the opportunity of gifting this extraordinary dimension to the Malaysian public,” said Poesy.

The segment is going to be driven by Poesy’s story narration derived from her short animation film project titled, *Poesy Anime*, which she started four years ago.

“This short movie was only going to be five minutes long; I wanted it to be short since our attention span these days are also short. For *Arts Beyond Sight — Experience of Senses*, you will hear the soundtrack of this film. This script has gone around the globe and it took 14 writers two years to shorten my life story into five minutes of storytelling.

“I hope you will gain insights from your experience and tell all your friends about it on social media and other mediums,” said Poesy.

Beginning tomorrow, the month-long festival is held at Wisma MCA in Jalan Ampang. There will also be dance shows, cultural activities and short film screenings from 11am to 7pm everyday.

