



NAFA Alumni Cupid Series



When Artist Meets Actress

Terry Wee

Diploma in Fine Art, 2009

Technical Officer (Printmaking), NAFA

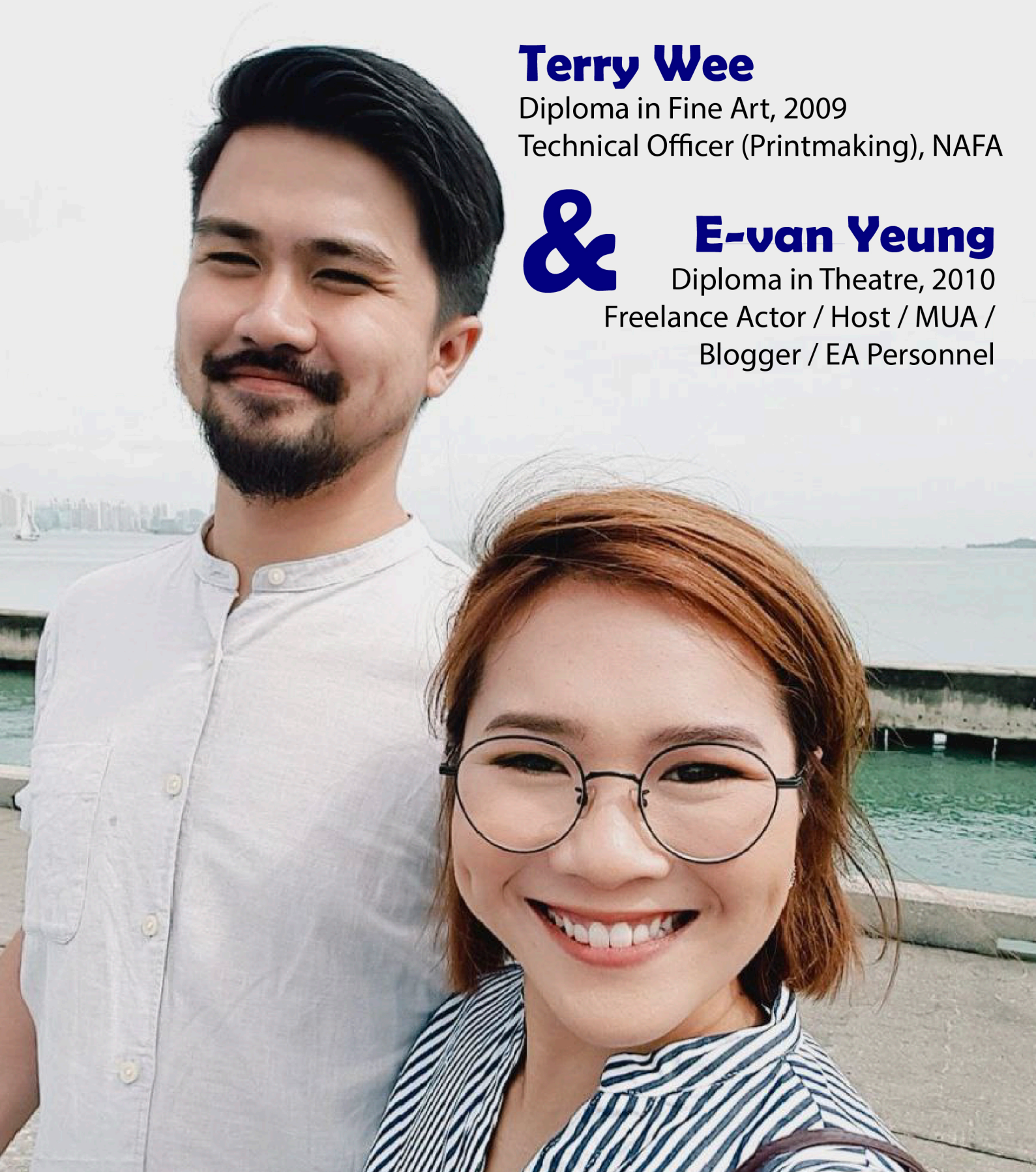
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E-van Yeung

Diploma in Theatre, 2010

Freelance Actor / Host / MUA /

Blogger / EA Personnel



1. Thanks for accepting this interview. You are our first cross-disciplinary couple in this series! Please share with us on your chosen fields and how did you meet since you were both from different programmes at NAFA?

E: Terry watched my performances when I was still studying Theatre at NAFA as early as 2009 but we only formally met in 2012, when he commented on a movie role he saw me in. We hung out for only a short while as friends, got together within a week and stayed together ever since! At that time, I was a freelance actress and soon started my first full time job as an entertainer while Terry pursued his degree in Fine Arts.

T: Though I was studying fine arts, I also always had a keen interest for theatre, and wish that I was brave enough to dabble in performance art; an art form available to students now as opposed to our time.

It just so happened that I was invited by a lecturer from Fine Arts who had tickets to a (student) theatre show at NAFA. I definitely benefited so much from that one play. (After meeting E-van) I was afraid to approach someone so confident like her, so I just stuck to being a fan secretly for many years.

Unexpected Wedding
Role: Princess Sunny
Universal Studio
Singapore
Directed by Markham
Gannon



Photo Credit: Melvin
The Dance for The Magic Beans (2017)
Role: Milk Bartender
Universal Studios Singapore
Directed by: Markham Gannon

2. Terry: How do you feel coming back to work at NAFA as a printmaking technical officer?

T: Honestly, never in a million years would I have expected myself to be back at NAFA, especially in the field of printmaking. I was previously trained as a painter, but have worked as a costume technician in Universal Studios Singapore and a printer at the Singapore Tyler Print Institute (STPI) before coming back. These experiences honed my fabrication skills like casting, airbrushing and also brought about collaborations with local and international artists.

Back then when I was a student, training was more heavily skilled base (fine arts), and now it's more conceptually driven. I see that students today are definitely more vocal, and more critical in their thinking. I do see a lot of freedom in today's teaching structure, where students are able to learn new skills and/or problem solving with technical officers.

I definitely have more empathy for students who are not into printmaking because of its technical nature. Seeing myself as being an "outsider" of printmaking, I can also help students see a different perspective and other forms of cross disciplinary arts. Maybe, that's my calling?

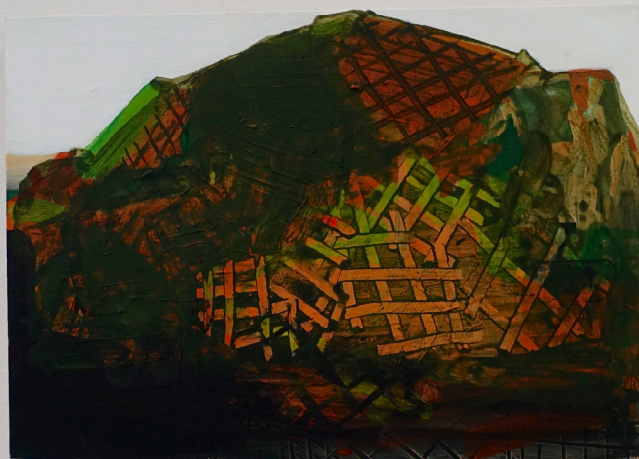
Concrete Archive by Terry Wee



Wild Chase within Ring Fence by Terry Wee
UOB Highly Commended Emerging Artist Category



Extended project from Administration Culture
Winston Oh Travel Award show 2015
Series of Painting on (Christmas Island) Island transfer



3. E-van: Share more with us on your recent experience shooting KFC's advertisement?

E: It was my first ever fast food TV commercial (TVC) shoot where I was the main talent and I did not know how exhausting it could be!

I went through at least thirty drumsticks (all binned of course, I didn't eat any) and the shoot went past midnight. I was surprised I could still look awake and not like a zombie when it finally aired. Nevertheless, it was a very fun experience! I know of many who ordered KFC chicken right after watching my tvc!



Credits to:
KFC Hot & Crispy Hits The Spot Campaign
Feat. E-van Yeung
Published 2 Apr 2022, KFC Singapore

**ONLY KFC HOT & CRISPY
HITS THE
SPOT**

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KFC

4. How has parenthood changed your lifestyle and what sacrifices did you have to make after having your child?

E: Parenthood has changed our lives drastically. I was a full-time character host at the Universal Studios Singapore, but I had to give that up because I could not perform with a belly. Unfortunately there wasn't a protocol for pregnant performers to be allowed to continue on contract. I'm still slowly finding my footing as many of the jobs I can do requires me to 1; not be pregnant or 2; needs more time committed. Hence I am taking on different jobs that allow me the flexibility to spend more time with my toddler son.

T: We have to reconfigure everything, and try to work around our child. We have to make the extra effort to dating all over again and listen to each other's needs and dreams, because both of us definitely had to look into delaying our passion and aspirations. Having a child is like having a little best friend, and a new boyfriend for the mother. So there is little bit of a competition over attention, especially being a dad and I'm always working, I guess that is a worthwhile sacrifice.





5. Do share with us a fond memory you had while studying at NAFA.

E: My classmates made learning Theatre so much fun. I love acting very much, so that itself wins points on it's own. There were too many fun moments to name but every show we put up as a class was a definite fond memory for me.

I remember we had a class module where we had to experience the extremes of emotions such as fear, sadness, euphoria and anger where we touched deep within our own lives, sharing things that trigger these emotions.

Those sessions sure made an impression on us. It put us all in a very vulnerable state and I can vouch that there's nowhere else in this world where we can experience this rawness of emotion with each other in that way, ever.

5. Do share with us a fond memory you had while studying at NAFA. (cont'd)

T: I missed working in a shared space with my friends, although we are in the same department but everyone's work is so unique in their own ways.

I also missed the grad show in the past, it was akin to the Big Bang, when everyone graduated together across different departments.

It was the only time everyone dolled up after putting so much effort into the show, and it was a nice way to graduate 'happily ever after' together, after going through all the ups and downs, thick and thin, together.

