

Three words with...

lilyanne Seah

TWO auditions and over a hundred hopefuls later, it's time to unveil the faces behind Paul the Musical! We share three words with the three judges/organisers, who incidentally are all in the 5th Canticle Choir (Sunday 5.30 pm choir) - Anthony on keyboard, Lianne is a psalmist and Dennis plays the guitar.



Anthony Tay

Musical Director

Lianne Seah

Producer

Dennis Heng

Stage / Artistic Director

I am an... assistant professor, teaching Economics at Singapore Management University.

My biggest passion(s)... are music and cooking! I love cooking and often cook at home for my wife, Rita, and 6-year old daughter, Emily.

I also enjoy composing music, and learning more about orchestration in my spare time.

Not many know... but I was a keyboardist in *Poverello* (1986 musical on the life of St Francis, by the Franciscan Friars and the Youth Apostolate Committee of Singapore).

I joined Paul... because I was itching to get back in the game (of music).

Then Dennis shows up and proposes putting together an original musical and I figured, yeah why not! It's a great way to fulfill something as opposed to just thinking about it.

Regarding the auditionees... I was very impressed with the quality of the talents, especially among the guys.

For *Poverello*, it was more difficult to find guys who could both act and sing. But this time around, people are more interested in musicals and singing.

Still, even though there are really good, strong singers, it's a matter of finding someone appropriate.

But we'll still have a fantastic group of backup singers along with the band - unusual for musicals but some of the songs would sound much better with backup singers.

I am an... undergraduate in National University of Singapore (NUS), majoring in Southeast Asian Studies.

My biggest passion(s)... are singing and theatre! Growing up in St Mary's, I joined the Children's Choir and am now proudly serving in the 5th Canticle Choir. I also love theatre. The stage, the lights... I always feel this rush and excitement around it!

Looking back, my passion has always been changing but whatever I do, it has been with God's blessings. I'm just His instrument.

Not many know... but I can speak Vietnamese. My love for the language started when I learnt about the Vietnamese culture in my coursework. It has made me more patient.

I joined Paul... because St Mary has so much to offer! It'll also be great to put together something theatrical and liven up the Catholic scene.

So there I was, an innocent bystander throwing out ideas when Fr John-Paul suddenly said, "Let's do this!" And before I knew it, I became the producer of the musical!

I take it up as a challenge, but it's definitely going to be a big project and I hope that we'll have the support of the whole church.

Regarding the auditionees... we discovered so many hidden talents. There were fantastic vocalists and many others with great wit, charisma and acting skills. We're going to have a superb cast!

I am a... casting director at MediaCorp TV.

My biggest passion... is acting! My love for acting started young as it was always a treat for me as a child when my dad brings me to the theatre.

I don't know why but Indiana Jones actually inspired me take up acting!

Not many know... but I acted in some Channel 5 dramas like *Moulmein High* and *Light Years*.

I actually snagged my first acting role by accident.

During my first year in polytechnic, I wanted to buy Freshman Night tickets but I wound up at the wrong stall, ended up signing with an online talent agency and landed my first big break!

I joined Paul... because I wanted to write the Passion play for Lent but Fr John-Paul had other plans in mind and asked me to stage *Paul the Musical* instead.

Regarding the auditionees... I'm very delighted and appreciative that people actually turned up for auditions (*laughs*).

There's a lot of talent out there and I'm surprised at the level of talent people have displayed. It's heartening and inspiring to see that they are not only doing this for themselves but for God.

It's a learning process for all of us. We really appreciate the effort everyone has put in.

Change Is Come

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This year, the Church of St Mary of the Angels is collaborating with FI in the Advent Project to help raise awareness and funds for the work of FI around the world.

Just before the end of this catechetical year, our children undergoing catechesis were each given a brick-sized coin box to allow them the opportunity of contributing to the work of FI. With each passing week in Advent, these 'bricks' will be used to wall the crib - that characteristically Franciscan tradition depicting the nativity scene - as a symbol of our commitment to continue the work of change that Jesus heralded and which Francis shouldered.

To raise greater awareness and funds to support the work of FI, the third week of Advent will further see the distribution of contribution envelopes to the adult members of the parish to promote a more universal perspective of social injustices and inequalities beyond the confines of our island.

In the wake of Ms Mavis Khoo's donation of €5 million in October to FI in memory of her late mother, Mrs Rose Marie Khoo, the call to look beyond the immediate boundaries of our parish echoes and resounds.

Each Sunday of Advent, a leaflet accompanying the church bulletin will also feature a case study on how FI confronts systemic problems in the four main areas of Development, Environment, Human Rights, and Peacemaking, in Africa, Asia, the Pacific and Latin America.

FI's focus upon these four main areas authentically reflects the concerns which inspired St Francis in his day, as well as attests to the interrelatedness of social and moral injustices today: peace cannot be achieved where human dignity and human rights are violated, the development of communities for future generations cannot be maintained when the local environment is abused without thought for sustainability.

It is here that FI is able to translate love of God, love of neighbour and love of creation into tangible steps for change as we work together in building the Kingdom of God.



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