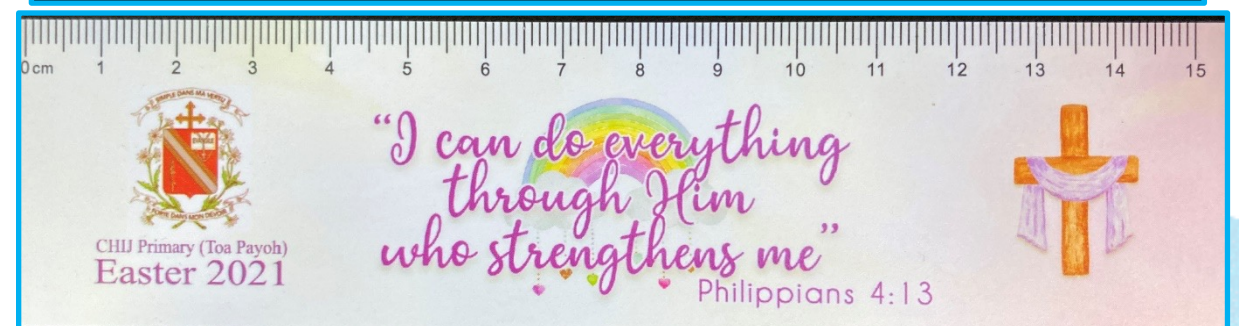


Easter Play with a Difference!

I was approached by Brenda Pek from the Central Parents Council in early January to take part in the annual CHIJ Primary Easter Play. Having no previous acting experience, I was initially hesitant and unsure of what to expect. However, Brenda assured me that the cast would be guided by experienced professionals (a director and a producer). In addition, the play would be a virtual production (recorded via Zoom) which removed the pressure of appearing "live" in front of an audience! I had always been keen to volunteer for school events so decided to give it a go.

Due to the COVID restrictions, our communication and meet-ups were primarily via WhatsApp and Zoom. The cast was comprised of Parent Volunteers (inclusive of the director, producer, videographer and actors and actresses) who were warm and welcoming when I first met them online and we quickly settled into a weekly evening routine for rehearsals. Parent Volunteer, Christian Huber, was the brains behind the script and he revised the dialogue and narrative multiple times, incorporating feedback from the cast and taking into account the personalities of the different volunteers in the play. I was cast as Rebecca, a studious and stressed out P5 student. This role suited me well as I am primarily an introvert and was fairly nerdy in school!



Mrs Simon, one of the Vice-Principals of the school, made a cameo appearance! She was lively and easy-going, “getting into character” easily and inserting her own mannerisms into the play.

We agreed to wear school uniforms to better portray the student characters and brought our own props to complement the dialogue. As the recording done on Zoom was split into a few sessions, the director had to ensure that the placement of characters on screen was consistent and that characters only appeared on screen when it was their turn. This gave me interesting insights into putting together a Zoom production.

A highlight of the play was a dance sequence to the song “My God is so Big”. We brainstormed multiple ideas, including asking the girls from the Dance Club at school, roping in our own girls to dance alongside their parents, before eventually settling on the cast ourselves performing the dance. Having two left feet, I practiced at home occasionally with my daughters prior to the actual recording, a great way to bond! During the recording, we performed the dance a few times, as a group as well as individually. The session felt like a high-intensity interval training (HIIT) workout, energising and fun. Subsequently, our videographer, another Parent Volunteer Vernon Leow, stitched all the different takes together into the final format that was presented on Easter Monday to the whole school.



It was an intense but interesting 2.5 months, a whirlwind of pre-production activities, rehearsals, actual recordings and dance performance and post-production editing. Kudos to the Central Parent Council for continuing with the tradition of holding the play despite COVID restrictions, our talented producer, director and videographer for choreographing and planning, those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to put things together and my fellow parent volunteers for their enthusiasm during the whole process. I feel blessed to have had this opportunity to be a part of the Easter play this year and believe that the IJ CHRIST values will continue to live in all of us.

by **Geraldine Chia,**
mother of **Clarice Foo, P3 Orchid & Raelynn Foo, P1 Lily**



Christian Huber
Director
Writer
Dancer



Gregory Goh
Producer
Editor



Special guest star
Mrs Mischa Simon
as herself



Dr Margaret Lee
Special guest
voiceover



Angelo Png
as Mr Tan

Geraldine Chia
as Rebecca Xie

Lisa Choo
as Harriet Wong



Brenda Pek
as Cindy Teo

Lindy Cheong

Adeline Huber

Sean Tan

Cara Ann Pereira

Vernon Leow

