

Host of an experience

BY JONATHAN MAH TJUN TJIN

THE old saying goes that there is always a first for everything. One recent first for myself was appearing in front of the camera.

The opportunity came knocking when one of my seniors from University College Sedaya International (UCSI) approached me to help him out for a UCSI Web TV project. Of course, I immediately accepted the offer. After all, how many people can say that they have appeared on their campus online television channel?

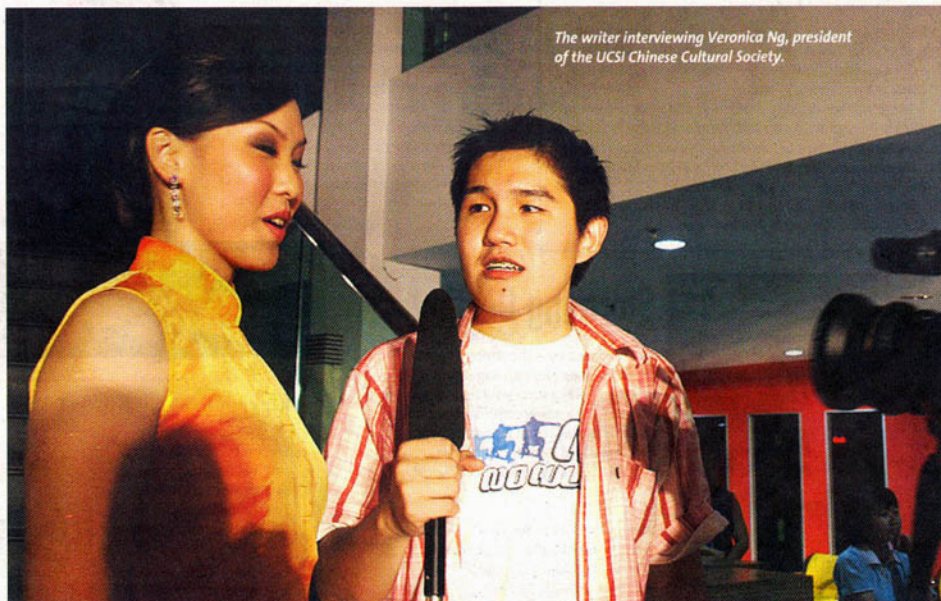
Besides, I have also always had an interest in various forms of media and this was an area I had not ventured into before. I have had, in the past, my articles published in magazines, hosted a slot on Hitz.FM and emceed several events.

Many people think that hosting on television is nothing but fun. On the contrary, it was quite an experience.

Half an hour before the Mid-Autumn Festival event at UCSI started, I was handed the script by one of the supervisors for the production. I took a look at it and thought to myself: "Well, this shouldn't be too bad, only four questions. I should be done with this in no time."

Shooting started as soon as the UCSI Chinese Cultural Society's Mid-Autumn Festival commenced. My main task was to go around interviewing students and those who attended the event who were hanging around the lobby and reception area on the ground floor.

The first few runs were pretty simple; going around selecting people at random, stuffing the microphone in their faces and catching them off guard. However as the night went on, my legs were screaming for me to sit. My



The writer interviewing Veronica Ng, president of the UCSI Chinese Cultural Society.

packed 8am to 6pm timetable earlier on that day didn't help much either.

I soon realised that being a reporter isn't just all fun. You're always on the move, you have to think on your feet, and I guess, this is where the impromptu speaking sessions I had back in secondary school really paid off. I was glad to have been able to string together coherent sentences for up to two or three minutes at a

time. The pace never let up, but then the event was over. In retrospect, I can imagine why it was such a tiring event for me to cover. I had not, in my two years at UCSI, witnessed an event that involved so many students and best of all, the turnout was simply remarkable. According to Veronica Wong, the President of the Chinese Cultural Society, they had a staggering 120 working committee members to

ensure the success of the event.

The night started out with the officiating ceremony by Associate Professor Chin Peng Kit, the Deputy Vice Chancellor of UCSI. It was attended by members of the administration as well as the academic staff of UCSI. The night then proceeded with performances by students from the House of Joy as well as a 24-drum performance by students of SJK (C) Salak Selatan. Later that night, there were performances by the students of SMK Taman Connaught as well as a Wushu demonstration by students from Universiti Malaya.

The compound of Menara Gading was filled with various food and games booths set up to keep the patrons occupied. This gave a carnival-like atmosphere to the whole place and was enjoyed by both the local and international students. The icing on the cake for that night was a special appearance by local Chinese artist Serene Cheam, who belted out a few songs from her upcoming album. She then proceeded to the foyer to sign autographs for some of her adoring fans.

It was an eventful night, after weeks of preparation and countless sleepless nights. My peers at UCSI have truly successfully pulled off an achievement by organising such a sensational event in conjunction with the Mid-Autumn Festival.

For me, it was really an enlightening experience hosting a segment for the WebTV, as well as celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival together with my local and international friends at UCSI.

