

UCSI Students Add "Flavours" to Chrestus Home

“EVERYONE from the UCSI Indian Cultural Society (ICS) has toiled blood, sweat and tears to make sure this event pulls through,” said Ravivarman Arron event director for the night. The lights were dimmed as sounds of “Innisai” reverberated through the UCSI auditorium while the appearance of three girls in elaborate classical Indian dance costumes and ankle bells mesmerized the audience. As they danced in perfect unison, more people were filling into the packed auditorium. Near the front row, twelve children sat back and swayed to the tune of the music. They were the children from the Chrestus Home, a home for abandoned and abused children in Cheras. Tonight however, they were the main stars of this event.

The concert was held to fulfil a “wish list” from the Chrestus Home who wished for luxury items such as CD Players, evening gowns, remote control cars and make-up kits. Proceeds from the ticket sales amounting to RM1, 500 went into buying the items on the children’s wish list. But most importantly, the gifts were intended to boost the children’s self confidence, as they themselves were there to perform. Later, the boys from the home did a break dance to a hip hop tune, and the girls danced with ease to contemporary music.



UCSI students performing an Indian classical dance to the strains of Innisai music.

Thirteen-year old Jesintha from the home did her part by singing her version of a popular pop song.

Aptly themed “Flavours”, the ICS did not confine their performances to those that were only culturally Indian. Students from the Malay Cultural Society dished out traditional Malay folk dances and songs. This was further

garnished by entertaining instrumental numbers by the band Elizaz, who performed popular favourites on the saxophone, keyboards and clarinet. To add extra flavour and zest to the servings offered, a short sketch on a Ramayana epic with a 21st century interpretation was the highlight of the night. To top it all, a rap group *Boomerang* made an appearance and performed to the delight of the children from Chrestus Home.

UCSI has 14 clubs and 8 student associations registered with the Student Council. Students here would be hard-pressed for choice for activities to fill their free time. These societies and clubs are part of UCSI’s mission to produce competent, confident and consummate graduates who are internationally employable. It seems like the ICS event fulfilled that mission statement.



Children from the home building a human pyramid at the end of their performance.



Representatives from the Malay Cultural Society presenting a Malay folk song.