

Press Release



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Asia's Got Talent judges strike a chord with youths at Marina Bay Sands

Grammy Award-winning producer David Foster, Korean hip-hop and R'n'B star Jay Park, and international recording artist Anggun give inspirational talk at ArtScience Museum



Asia's Got Talent judges David Foster, Anggun, and Jay Park (centre) posing with students invited by Marina Bay Sands for an In Conversation With session held at ArtScience Museum on Wednesday

Singapore (6 December 2017) – The three multi-talented judges of Asia's Got Talent Season 2 – Grammy Award-winning producer David Foster, Korean-American hip-hop and RnB star Jay Park, and international recording artist Anggun - shared insights into their musical journeys at a special dialogue session organised by Marina Bay Sands and Asia's Got Talent on Wednesday.

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The session was part of Marina Bay Sands' ongoing *In Conversation With* series, which features prominent speakers from creative industries spanning film, music and art. It was attended by 90 students and beneficiaries from Orita Sinclair School of Design and Music, Students Care Service, AWWA, Rice Company, Singapore International Film Festival and Lasalle School of Music.

The event is one of the many ways the integrated resort gives back to the local community through its CSR programme *Sands for Singapore*. The programme allows for unique opportunities where the younger generations are able to gain insights into the worlds of music, film, art, and culture through the eyes of experts and celebrities hosted by Marina Bay Sands.

The light-hearted session also saw David Foster asking the students to do an impromptu 30-second audition for the judges, to emphasise the importance of always being prepared as a performer looking for his or her big break.

Among the students who got the opportunity to perform for the three judges was Shahizman bin Muhammad, 16, a student from The Rice Company. He said: "Performing for the judges was scary, but David Foster was trying to make a good point about always being prepared. I managed to gather a lot of inspiration from the three judges, and got a glimpse into things I may face in the future and an insight into what I should be doing in order to pursue my dreams. I hope the information I gained will help me grow my repertoire in the performing arts sector. Thank you Sands for Singapore for the opportunity."

David Foster, who also stressed on the importance of networking as a key to success, said: "You never know when you're going to get the opportunity to impress somebody. You always have to be ready. If you can't rise to the occasion today, you're never going to do it. Life is going to be filled with moments like this, and you may be put in front of people that can make a difference to your life."

Fellow judges Jay Park and Anggun also gave encouraging advice to the students on pursuing a career in performing arts, drawing on their personal experiences over the years in their respective careers. Jay Park said: "At the end of the day it comes down to what is dear to your heart. At first I thought performing would be a way to support my family but as I went on, I found a passion for music and as an artist. It's about what I'm passionate about – hip-hop, music, rap, the culture – and making sure that the next generation is going to take this culture and be good with it. For me, I don't let people or companies dictate what I want to do or what I envision."

Anggun said: "A lot of young people want to be famous. But you have to pay attention to what it is that makes you special...the most important thing is what you do, because nowadays, people can be famous by doing nothing, but you don't really want that. To me...it's all about knowing who you are, what you want to do, and working on that. Then, if you're lucky, the fame will come to you."

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Since the series made its debut in 2015, *In Conversation With* has featured renowned talent such as actors Adrian Grenier, Dev Patel, Michelle Yeoh, Choi Siwon; Oscar-winning screenwriter Lord Julian Fellowes, singer-songwriter Corinne Bailey Rae; and award-winning filmmaker Darren Aronofsky. The latest to star in this series are Japanese actor Koji Yakusho and award-winning filmmaker Shekhar Kapur during the recently-concluded Singapore International Film Festival.

The Asia's Got Talent Live Finals and Results Show takes place on December 7 and December 14 respectively at the Mastercard Theatres.

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About Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd

Marina Bay Sands is the leading business, leisure and entertainment destination in Asia. It features large and flexible convention and exhibition facilities, 2,560 hotel rooms and suites, the rooftop Sands SkyPark, the best shopping mall in Asia, world-class celebrity chef restaurants and an outdoor event plaza. Its two theatres showcase a range of leading entertainment performances including world-renowned Broadway shows. Completing the line-up of attractions is ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands which plays host to permanent and marquee exhibitions. For more information, please visit www.marinabaysands.com

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