Source: *The Straits Times,* pD4
Date: 26 August 2016



Participants at the 2013 We Will Dance event. PHOTO: JAMES HII

Dance charity marathon returns

Brina Tan

So you think you can dance? How about dancing for 10 hours straight?

If you are up to the challenge, sign up for We Will Dance, a charity dance marathon which is back tomorrow for the third edition.

The event was first organised in 2013 by a group of alumni from the University Scholars Programme (USP) at the National University of Singapore to raise funds for the USP Students Assistance Fund.

It is organised this year by current students of the programme.

Ms Clarice Ng, 27, a dance instructor at The Royal Dance-Off, participated in last year's We Will Dance where she taught Broadway jazz. At tomorrow's event, she will be teaching lyrical jazz.

"I was from the University Scholars Programme, so I identified with the students and it's interesting to use what I'm doing to give back," she says.

Participants can take part in the event in three ways: the 10-hour package (Maniac category), six-hour package (Survivor) and any amount of time (Challenger).

Held at the Bayfront Event Space beside Marina Bay Sands, We Will Dance is scheduled to start at 10am and end at 8pm. A 15-minute break is scheduled after every 45 minutes of dancing. There will be a different genre of dance at every hour, from urban hip-hop to bokwa fitness.

Ms S.Y. Tan, 27, an assistant manager, will take part in We Will Dance in the Maniac category for the third time tomorrow.

"My friends and I enjoyed the experience of trying out the many different types of dance over one day. It was like a day of exposure classes. Dancing has always made me happy," she says.

Participants will be provided with refreshments. Food is available at a carnival, which is held concurrently as part of the event. First-aid personnel are on standby should any participant require medical assistance.

But Ms Tan does not think participants need to be in excellent shape to join in the fun.

"There is no need to have prior training or be very fit to take part in a dance marathon, unlike run marathons which typically would require more training and practice," she says.

We Will Dance saw about 600 participants in 2013 and 700 participants last year, raising $36,000 and $19,000, respectively. The organisers hope to see 600 participants tomorrow and match the amount raised last year.

NUS student Kelly Tan, 20, is excited about participating in We Will Dance for the first time.

She says: "I've never danced with so many people before, so I'm preparing to have fun and enjoy the company of my friends dancing together. It's great that I can help others while having fun."

BOOK IT / WE WILL DANCE

WHERE: Bayfront Event Space, next to Marina Bay Sands, 10 Bayfront Avenue

WHEN: Tomorrow, 10am to 8pm

ADMISSION: 10-hour (Maniac Category): $40 (students) and $55 (public); six-hour (Survivor Category): $35 (students) and $45 (public); and any amount of time (Challenger Category): $30 (students) and $35 (public)

INFO: Go to www.wewilldance.sg and www.facebook.com/WeWillDanceSG for details

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