

一輩子的「外展人」

A Lifelong “Outreach Guy”



強勁的音樂節拍、酷炫的舞步，三十多歲的排舞師Samuel一生交織於街舞之中。他遵照外展社工的指引，慢慢踏著舞跳出夜店，走進無線電視台，最後帶著一身的武藝回到恆安中心「雖然外展已經close咗我嘅file，但我已經是一輩子的『外展人』，只要外展需要我，我就會出現。」

外展仔變成舞蹈導師

十六歲本該是讀書的年紀，但那時的Samuel已經輟學，終日在夜店、屋邨裡無所事事，肆意浪費著青春。而龍蛇混雜的夜店裡不乏社團人士，吸毒和打架是常事。而社工小馬便在屋邨認識了Samuel一行人。

Samuel is a choreographer and he has danced for life. He has followed the guidance provided by a social worker, gradually left the club and entered TVB, and has finally returned to the Centre. 'Although I am no longer a service user of the Centre, but I will be part of it all my life. Once it needs me, I will definitely give it a hand,' he said.

An Outreaching Client Evolved into a Dance Tutor

The 16-year-old Samuel dropped out of school. He wandered around Hong Kong's streets or hung out in clubs late into any given nights, and he was exposed to triad culture, drugs and fights. Siu Mar, a social worker, met Samuel and his friends when they were wandering around the estate.



音樂節拍響起，Samuel與朋友隨著街舞熱潮在空地上練起街舞。單手倒立、酷炫的招式吸引了路人的圍觀。於Samuel而言，途人的欣賞目光更勝舞池裡的歡呼，街邊跳舞取得的滿足感更多。為了進步，他向小馬借錄影器材，到尖沙咀錄下其他人的舞步，然後逐格播放、逐格學舞。

小馬眼見年輕人對跳舞的熱誠，於是準備了場地、找老師訓練他們跳街舞，成就了外展隊伍的第一個街舞班。作為其中一員，Samuel開始與其他學員一起在屋邨裡、商場裡表演，也是Samuel口中的「合法跳舞」。因為跳舞班，小馬與Samuel開始熟絡起來。為了讓Samuel有一個新的身份，小馬一年後給予了Samuel當導師的機會。Samuel表示，想不到沒怎麼讀書的自己有一天也可以成為「阿Sir」，成為了老師就要有擔當。隨著身份改變行為，他慢慢改變吸煙、吐痰等等的習慣。

一份堅持成就不可能

同年，他人生卻遇到了瓶頸位。二十歲出頭的Samuel面對著生活壓力，工作並不足以糊口的情況下，他決定報讀無線舞蹈藝員訓練班，將興趣變成職業。但是，這次的投考因未能於截止前寄出作品集而宣告失敗。意興闌珊的他放棄了「發跳舞夢」，到夜店當全職的服務生。「那裡差不多全都是黑社會人士，而我也變差了，上班就做壞事。」日夜顛倒的生活，毫無方向的人生猶如行屍走肉。

三年後，TVB再次收生。可是二十四歲的Samuel剛好超齡，再加上學歷達不到要求。Samuel不知所措之際，一直陪伴著他的小馬說了一句話鼓勵了他：「嘗試一下吧！不嘗試又怎麼知道結果。」小馬更為四處為他準備推薦信，滿滿印章的信上寫下Samuel多年來擔任舞蹈導師的熱心服務。如是者，他獲得了考試資格。雖然如此，一直鐘情街舞的Samuel卻要跳爵士舞。小馬隨即聯絡相識的爵士舞導師為Samuel排舞、惡補基本功。對此一竅不通的Samuel雖然不知所措，但他說：「那時覺得只要她幫我我便會成功，那是一份信任，那是相識了八、九年間她給我的感覺。」經過幾天的努力練習後，Samuel被錄取了。

『沒有外展就沒有我，沒有我就沒有你，所以不可忘本，要繼續做義工』。在這裡，舞蹈不單單是潮流，更是一份外展的情。
“If there weren't the outreaching team, I wouldn't be here. If I were not here, you wouldn't be here too. Never forget who you are and where you come from. Just continue to volunteer.” Dance is not only a trend, but also a kind of affection among the people here.

Samuel and his friends started practising dancing in public housing estates. The dance attracted people and they were thrust into the limelight. Samuel had a sense of satisfaction when passers-by looked at them with approval in their eyes. He borrowed video equipment from Siu Mar and recorded how others dance in Tsim Sha Tsui. He endeavoured to learn the steps to improve his skills.

Noticing the young men's passion for dancing, Siu Mar found dancing tutors to train them, and the first street dance team of the outreaching social work team was formed. Samuel became a member of the team and got chances to perform in estates or in shopping malls. Since then, Siu Mar and Samuel have gradually got acquainted with each other. In order to give Samuel a new identity other than a street thug, Siu Mar recommended him to be a dance tutor for young kids. Samuel said he could never imagine he would be a tutor, which requires a sense of responsibility. Ever since, he has gradually given up his bad habits.

Actualizing the Impossible through Perseverance

Samuel faced a career bottleneck in the same year. Facing the pressure of life and financial burden, the 21-year-old Samuel decided to sign up for TVB Artists Training Class so as to turn his interest into his career. However, the application failed as he failed to post his portfolio before the due date. He resigned and gave up his dream, and worked as a full-time employee in a club. 'Most of the people came to the clubs were triad members. I behaved badly and did many bad things,' Samuel recalled.

The training class was open for application again after 3 years. Samuel was 24 years old who was out of its age range. Siu Mar encouraged the hopeless man, 'Just try! How do you know the result if you don't even try it?' She also helped him prepare the recommendation letter. Samuel thus tried and got a chance to attend the admission test. Samuel who has had a passionate interest in street dance was required to perform Jazz in the test. Siu Mar immediately contacted a Jazz tutor he has known and arranged him to help Samuel choreograph a dance and practise some basic skills. 'At that time, I thought that I could be successful as long as she helped me. It's the trust and feeling she has given me,' although Samuel knew nothing about Jazz, he thought in this way. He gained admission at last after he had practised for few days.

一份情承傳「回饋」精神

訓練過後，Samuel當了三年的無線藝員，涉獵了不同舞種，練成十八般「舞」藝。但Samuel仍不忘「回饋」二字：「回想起自己從以往在街上跳舞，到成為舞蹈導師，再成為了無線藝員，幸好有外展隊多年來對我的栽培。因為沒有這些機會，我不會成為舞蹈員、排舞師，可能已經害了很多人、坐了牢。」於是Samuel創業成立自己的工作室後，便開始與外展隊合作，不少外展青年成了他的學生。Samuel除了教導技巧，引薦不少青少年進入無線工作，練成十八般「舞」藝，更承傳了「回饋」的精神：「我常教育他們說道：『沒有外展就沒有我，沒有我就沒有你，所以不可忘本，要繼續做義工』。在這裡，舞蹈不單單是潮流，更是一份外展的情。」

Samuel說，過去人生經歷順境或逆境時，小馬一直都在陪著他走過一段段路，就如投考無線時準備作品集、找導師，又或是創業時寫計劃書、處理人際關係，小馬都在他身邊跟進，陪著他。自稱為「外展特種兵」的Samuel笑說，他們身為外展的舞蹈第一梯隊，就如築路一樣，將雜草荊棘都除掉了，為其他外展青年提供很好走的路，而自己亦會繼續當外展隊の後盾。



Passing on a Spirit of 'Reciprocity' Due to his Affection

Samuel worked as an artist for 3 years after the training and has learnt various forms of dance. 'Reciprocation' is the word imprinted on his mind. 'Recalling that I used to dance on streets, then became a dance tutor, and finally was trained as an artist, I am grateful that the outreaching team has nurtured me for years. If there weren't those chances, I would not be a dancer nor a choreographer, but in a prisoner now,' Samuel said. He thus started cooperating with the team after establishing his own studio. Apart from teaching dancing skills, he has also recommended many youngsters to TVB. The students have learnt the spirit of 'reciprocation' from Samuel as well. 'I always teach them and say, "if there weren't the outreaching team, I wouldn't be here. If I were not here, you wouldn't be here too. Never forget who you are and where you come from. Just continue to volunteer." Dance is not only a trend, but also a kind of affection among the people here,' he said.

Samuel said Siu Mar has always accompanied him along the way. When he needed to prepare his portfolio, or find tutors, or prepare proposals for the studio, or deal with his interpersonal problems, Siu Mar must be there to support him. Samuel named himself as the 'special forces of the outreaching team'. 'As the first dancing tier of the team, we built roads and cleared obstacles to provide a better environment for other outreaching youths. And I will always support the team.'

