

Club Singapore

Semi-annual Newsletter

ISSUE 01, SPRING 2010



this issue

2009: Year in Review p.1

Dias'pura 2 p.2

Dias'pura 2 in Pictures p.3

2009 in Pictures p.4-5

2010 & Looking Ahead p.6-7

2009: Year in Review by Mindy Ong

2009 was an eventful year. The highlight was undoubtedly Dia'spura 2, a three-part event consisting of a speaker series, film festival and a musical composed and directed by our alumni Joshua and Caleb Yap. Here we would also like to thank the alumni for their generous support which was critical to the success of Dia'spura.

This newsletter was conceived as a way to update the alumni (and also current students) of the going-ons of Club Singapore @ Penn. We accept that things will change as we go through various stages of life, but we hope that the bonds forged at Penn will remain. Plus it's always fun to look at photos and recall the (insert adjective here) things one did in college.

In other news, our website is up and running! Visit us at

<http://www.dolphin.upenn.edu/spore/> to get more up-to-date information on events.

In this issue you will find a spread of photographs from 2009 to present. Enjoy!

Club Singapore

Club Singapore is the representative body of the Singaporean student community at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Singaporean community at Penn is comprised of a diverse mix of undergraduates, graduate students, post-doctoral students and exchange students from Singapore. Membership currently stands at about 80.

The organization serves two purposes at Penn - to provide a "home away from home" for Singaporeans, and to educate the university's general population about the "little red dot" that is Singapore.

Dias'pura 2 Recap by Alvin Loke

Dias'pura is for Singaporeans from all over to talk about what it means to live and work abroad while retaining one's identity as a Singaporean.

History of Dias'pura

It was nearly two years ago, in March '07, when Club Singapore hosted the inaugural Dias'pura event. Over three hundred guests from all around the US and UK came to hear our speakers, and to watch our performance of "Sing, City!" in the evening.

The speaker series featured such luminaries as Prof. Chan Heng Chee, the Ambassador to the US, Alfian Sa'at, leading playwright, and Colin Goh, humorist of Talking Cock fame.

The musical was conceived and directed by the Yap brothers, Joshua and Caleb. They set it in an alternate reality not too different from our own, following the trials and tribulations of three girls who left the bosom of Singapore to come and study at Penn. The musical drew praise from Colin Goh for its "poppy score and witty libretto".

Two years and countless hours of preparation later, we're back – bigger and better than ever before

Dias'pura 2 was held on the 28th of March 2009. Similar to the inaugural Dias'pura, it began with a panel discussion hosted by Mr Brown featuring Singaporean filmmakers Boo Junfeng, Li-Anne Huang, Michael Wang, Mirabelle Ang, and Eva Tang.

This was followed by a lunch reception where participants had the opportunity to interact with our speakers. The lunch spread was catered from Banana Leaf Restaurant, and featured hometown delicacies such as Char Kway Teow, Sambal Kangkong, and Hainanese Chicken Rice.

After lunch, there was a screening of selected short films and excerpts from the works of our invited filmmakers.

The day ended with a performance of the eagerly anticipated "Sing, City! 2" musical.

A Resounding Success

The entire event was a huge success. Attendees included over two hundred Singaporeans and Singapore-affiliates from colleges all over the US, including students from NYU, Columbia, Cornell, Duke, Tufts, and many Penn Alumni.

In particular, the morning's discussion on what it meant to be Singaporean struck a note with many participants, who were studying or living abroad.

In addition, the musical was very well-received. Performing in front of a capacity crowd of over three hundred at the Harnwell Rooftop Lounge, the audience was treated to 3-hours of comedy, drama and suspense, combined with "singing, dancing and PowerPoint", put together by the Singaporeans at Penn.

It was truly a day to be remembered.

Acknowledgements

The event could not have been possible without the generous donations from our Penn alumni.

Moreover, Club Singapore would like to thank its members, our friends and family, who supported this event from start to finish. We would not have been able to do it without you.

The logo for Dias'pura 2, featuring the text "Dias'pura 2" in a stylized font with a red swoosh underneath.

Dias'pura 2 in Pictures by Alvin Loke



2009 in Pictures by Alvin Loke



Hey Day!



Senior Send-off at Sakeya



Picnic during Spring Fling 2009



Class of 2009



UPenn booth at Experiences 2009



Selling Mua-Chee at Mochi Fest 2009



Dishing out chicken curry at Battle of the Spices



Halloween Party



Selling Milo Dinosaur at Fall Festival



Mid-Autumn Festival



2010: Events so far

Back to School: Pyjamas Party: 22nd January 2010

Club Singapore welcomed members back to Penn with a Pyjamas Party held at the Harnwell Dungeon. It was a night of board games, mahjong, midnight snacks, and catching up with each other.



Chinese New Year Celebrations 2010: 12th February 2010

Armed with 6 hotpots, stoves and a lot of ambition, we held a hotpot dinner for an army of Singaporeans and friends this Chinese New Year. We mobilized our troops and went down to Chinatown to buy enough food to feed 60 people. That was followed by an afternoon of cleaning, washing and preparing the food. During the dinner, we also challenged people to come up with as many auspicious sayings as they could to usher in the new year, and tested them on arcane Singlish expressions.





Looking Ahead: Upcoming Events

ClubSg goes Apple Picking

Join in the fun in late March, as we plan a trip to Bucks County, PA for a day of apple picking!

Spring Fling BBQ

Party the weekend away, but at the end of it come take part in some healthy sports and games followed by a BBQ!

Senior Sendoff

Say your teary goodbyes to our graduating seniors as we wish them all the best.

Sotong Fests

Held to welcome new pre-frosh to Penn, this gathering would benefit from the collective experience of all Penn students, past and present. We would love to see more alumni at our sotong fests dishing out advice and anecdotes!

Club Singapore

Contact: clubsgexco2009@googlegroups.com
Website: <http://www.dolphin.upenn.edu/spore/>