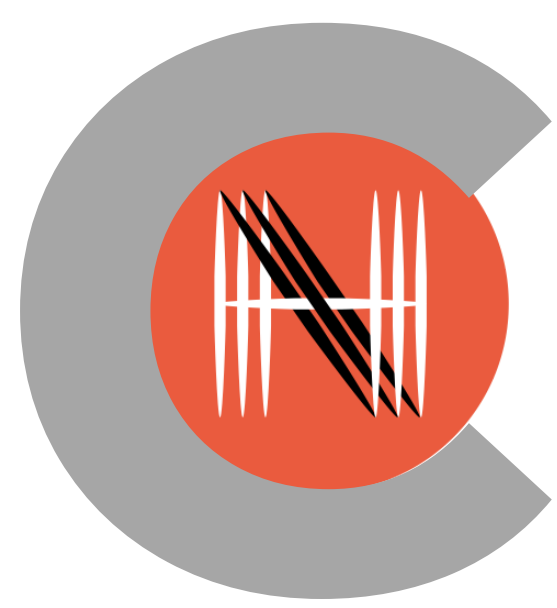




STUDENT  
LED



# THE NHJS COMMUNIQUE



# A CLASH OF CULTURES

Vol. I - Term 4 AY 2018-2019

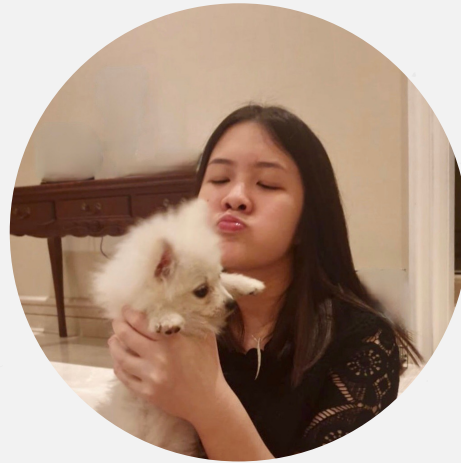


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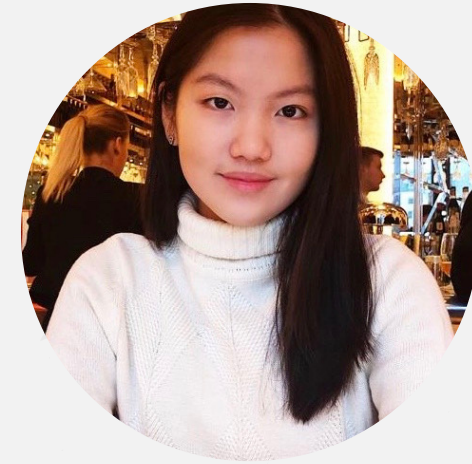
JAKARTA, INDONESIA

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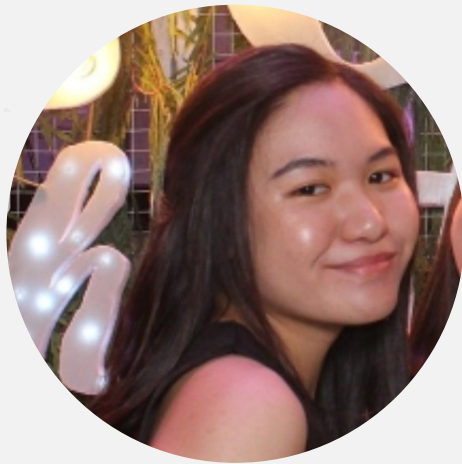
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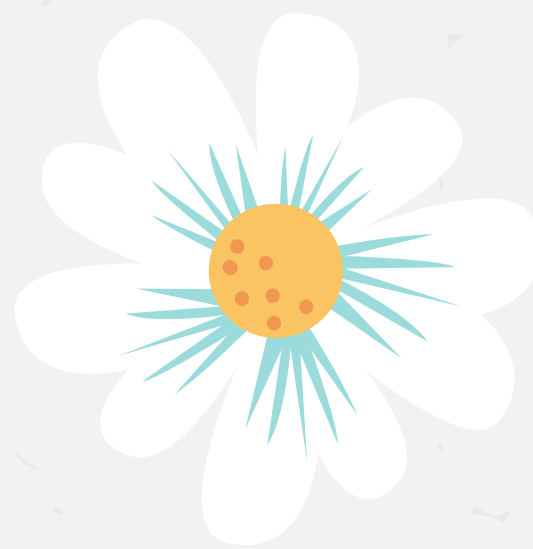


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CALYSTA NINGTYAS  
HARMAWAN

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Hi guys!

It's taken the dream of having our own student-run magazine a long time to finally materialise. I'm very excited for the NH Communique team to finally be able to share this brainchild with the whole school.

This issue talks about the push-and-pull of values and cultures the youth of today are subjected to. It discusses the challenge of embracing new values and cultures without the cost of losing one's own. Through this issue's articles, we hope to spark an in-depth conversation of how to best reconcile the clash of cultures PIAGETIANS are constantly exposed to.

To echo our editor-in-chief, happy reading everyone!

Mara Barbra S. Nanaman  
NH Communique Adviser

Dear PIAGETIANS,

Hey guys! I'm beyond delighted to share the very first issue of the NH Communique with you. We will be embarking on an exciting journey of discovery and introspection of events and issues that matter to us as a community. This magazine will be our opportunity to explore various topics, in today's modern world, as well as problems that have affected the human race for as long as we can remember. In this issue, we're going to discuss globalisation and trends that are more prominent than ever before. I'm talking about Broadway, cultures of other countries, and Indonesia's intolerance to provocativeness.

Last but not the least, I'd like to thank all the people who have contributed to this volume. First of all, my wonderful team of writers and artists: Aileen Bachtar (Year 10), Amanda Foekri (Year 9), Annabelle Aurelia Jayadinata (Year 9), Calysta Ningtyas Harmawan (Year 9), Kathleen Humato (Year 10) and Nadya Annabelle Lumy (Year 9). You'll find their articles later on in this paper. Also, I cannot stress enough our gratitude for the support we've received from our adviser who I'm sure you all love too: Ms Mara.

Happy reading everyone!

Your Editor-in-chief,

Putri Aimee Srijaya





# STREAMING DENIED!

BY : NADYA ANNABELLE LUMY

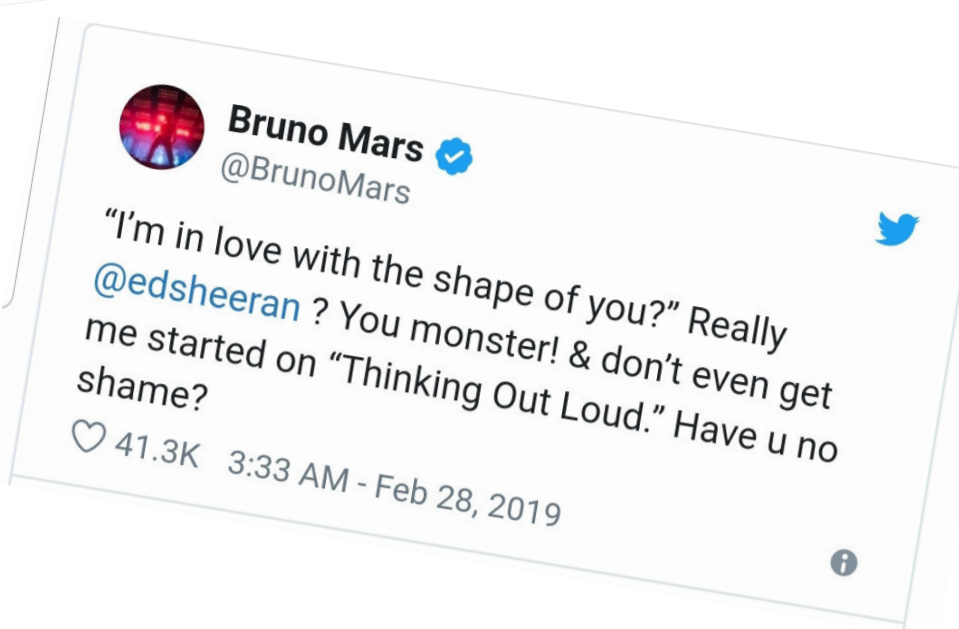
Say goodbye to hearing some of your favourite artists' songs in public! Bruno Mars? Ariana Grande? Even, Ed Sheeran! Forget it. The government has taken 'Thank You, Next' quite seriously. It's known that Indonesia is not the most radical of countries. Being a religious country with a predominantly Muslim population, a majority of the nation's population has been raised with conservative values and morals. As music-loving members of Gen Z, we deal with the conflicting liberal values of West which we get exposed to via the popular artists we listen to and the traditional Indonesian values we have been raised to embody.

On the last week of February, the government in West Java has decided to put limitations on the airing of a number of foreign songs on televisions and radios, causing public uproar from both Indonesians and the foreign artists whose music has been affected. The provincial broadcast commission of West Java has restricted 17 Western pop songs that they thought contained inappropriate lyrics. The commission now only allows these 17 songs to be aired from 10pm to 3am. Among the songs affected are Mr. Brightside by The Killers, Ariana Grande's Love Me Harder, Ed Sheeran's Shape of You, That's What I Like by Bruno Mars and Midsummer Madness by 88rising.

Not surprisingly, people have conflicting opinions on this. Many agree that the songs restricted are inappropriate and the public's (especially the younger listeners') exposure to them should be limited. But others think that there are other simpler measures that can be taken to lessen the negative effects of these songs on the people such as (bleeping the lyrics or playing clean versions?)

Social media was in flames because of this news. Many have voiced both their support and criticisms on the internet. Bruno Mars was one of the few artists to speak out. He decided to poke fun on the matter on Twitter by jokingly blaming Ed Sheeran for creating "sick, perverted lyrics" while his were actually "wholesome".

The 17 songs that were censored do contain adult and sexually implicit content that many may consider unsuitable for the general public. In this modern era where even young children are now able to easily access to all types of music via apps like YouTube and Spotify, numerous people understand the concerns of many people regarding the vulgarity of numerous songs. Especially in the most populated province in Indonesia where most of the people are religious, it's not a surprise if numerous Western songs seem offensive.



A lot of people also believe that there are more sustainable measures that can be taken to reduce the negative influences of foreign music. Anyway, there are tons of other songs that contain adult lyrics out there. Thousands, even millions. Our government surely cannot restrict all of them..

Moreover, a large number of people believe that it is the responsibility of adults and parents (and not the government's) to ensure that our youth and children will not be negatively influenced by the music of today. We should not stop young people from listening to Western music, instead they must be taught on what is right and what is wrong - which ideas can be set as good examples and which issues can be used as a learning tool to avoid unfavourable influences and behaviours.

In an incredibly diverse, yet conservative society full of sometimes conflicting morals, values and ideologies, an issue like this is sure to spark great controversy and debates. Maybe not as big as a controversy as James Charles, but it's close. Perhaps, we should just celebrate that the government has left Shawn Mendes alone?



STOCK PHOTO

SONGS RESTRICTED BY THE WEST JAVANESE GOVERNMENT: 🔍

- 1) Dusk Till Dawn, by Zayn Malik
- 2) Sangria Wine, by Camila Cabello featuring Pharrell Williams
- 3) Mr. Brightside, by The Killers
- 4) Let Me, by Zayn Malik
- 5) Love Me Harder, by Ariana Grande
- 6) Plot Twist, by Marc E. Bassy
- 7) Shape of You, by Ed Sheeran
- 8) Overdose, by Chris Brown featuring Agnez Mo
- 9) Makes Me Wonder, by Maroon 5
- 10) That's What I Like, by Bruno Mars
- 11) Bad Things, by Camila Cabello featuring Machine Gun Kelly
- 12) Versace on the Floor, by Bruno Mars
- 13) Midsummer Madness, by 88rising featuring Joji, Rich Brian, Higher Brothers, AUGUST 08
- 14) Wild Thoughts, by DJ Khaled featuring Rihanna
- 15) Till it Hurts, by Yellow Claw
- 16) Your Song, by Rita Ora
- 17) F\*\*\* it I Don't Want You Back, by Eamon





1919, Batavia, Indonesia

I sat in my living room, feeling hopeless as a sense of dread settled into my gut, imagining how the rest of my life would play out. In a few days, I, a fifteen-year-old, Catholic, Chinese-Indonesian would be married off to a Dutch aristocrat's son, who was kind-hearted but a whole decade my senior.

Even as a child, I had already known life would never be in my favor. My father had always tried his best to soften the unfair blow, but when all my six brothers were sent to school and I wasn't, I knew that even his most sincere attempts to placate me with promises of a good marriage with a well-to-do husband would not be enough to spare me from our prejudiced, backwards society. My father was thoughtful, sympathetic and cordial, and the fact that he would go to such lengths for a business deal meant that there was really no other way for us to thrive anymore. We needed my marriage to save us from financial ruin. Albeit having no choice, that didn't mean that I would just passively accept my fate.

Initially, our family's construction company had been prospering, but a series of unfortunate events had sent us into a downwards spiral. Colonised Batavia was a harsh place to live in for a Catholic family of Chinese descent. The discriminatory Dutch justice system had failed us, not to my surprise. A Dutch aristocrat had claimed my papa's land as his own, and the judicial system had just allowed it. The only way we could reclaim our land was by raising enough out of our insufficient funds to buy him off.

Papa had tried to soothe my worries to no avail. "Don't you worry too much Jing Jing, Papa will make sure he's a kind man."

But that did not matter to me. Kindness would never save me from my predicament. I soon realised that I would have to fight tooth and nail to find my own happiness.

I stood up from where I had been sitting in the living room, mind made, feeling determined, and walked into my brother's elaborate bedroom. I rummaged through his intricately carved *Kayu Besi*<sup>1</sup> table and swiped a quill and papyrus, hid it under my cinched *qipao*<sup>2</sup> and tiptoed back into my modest bedroom. After carefully hiding it in my drawer, I drafted a letter to my aunt.

A teardrop slid down my flushed cheeks. I felt embarrassed that I was unable to perform an elementary task all six of my brothers learned to do in their early childhood.

I went into da ge's room and I combed through his overflowing bookshelf for the letters his friends from Surabaya had written to him. I singled out the words I felt were necessary to convey my message to *Yi yi*<sup>3</sup>. With much perseverance, I managed to write with my teeth grit, in broken English, a letter well written enough for *Yi yi* to understand me.

I struggled to put down my thoughts on pen and paper as the words couldn't flow out the way I wanted to. My thoughts were a jumbled labyrinth. My hands, unaccustomed to the strange feeling of gripping a quill, shook tremendously and were sweating profusely.

In the next few days, Mama prepared me for the worst. She explained to me how I would have to live with my suitor, Albert's family instead of my own as men were more dominant in the society. The wedding was to be modest but momentous, it will take place in Albert's ornate residence. The aisle was embellished with flora of all sorts, and a sweet strain of classical music drifted through the poised crowd. Although the mood was tickled pink, my heart was filled with sorrow. I plastered a cheery smile onto my face, covering the hollowness and hopelessness I was experiencing, until I saw a familiar face.

*Yi yi Hui Lin,*

*I am writing this letter. I hope I'm able to retain much from what you had taught me in the three months you stayed over. Papa is making me marry his friend's son who is the same age as da ge<sup>4</sup>. I feel that it's not fair, but most of my female neighbors are also getting married too. The man is kind, but sadly his Papa is even more strict and stern than mine.*

*I need your help because I do not want this life. I know that I have much more to give to the world than this. I still have my whole life ahead of me and dreams to fulfill. I want to go to Singapore to live with you. Maybe Papa will invite you to the wedding, and you'll be able to help me escape. Please help me. You told me how you feel imprisoned in your own marriage. I do not want this to be my fate as well.*

*I know it will break Papa's heart but this is what I have to do.*

Love,  
*Jia Jing*



It was Yi yi. My heart sprung up and down as I made eye contact with the only person I could trust. The one who acted how a supportive mother should all these years when my real mother's values have been brainwashed by my father and our patriarchal society.

Yi yi who taught me how to read and write when the world told me I was too dumb to learn how to. The only person who believed that I was meant for something more than sitting still and looking pretty, and instead taught me how to fight for myself and speak up when I feel it is necessary.

Wah, Jing Jing, you look beautiful ah!" Yi yi complimented me, as she pulled me to a corner.

"Xie xie Yi yi," I replied as my cheeks flushed pink.

"Now, what will we do about this situation? Are you sure that you want to disobey your father's wishes? You do know the consequences right?"

"Yes I do Yi yi but what else can I do? This is not the path I want to follow."

"All right, just follow me, we have to be quick before anyone notices us." Yi yi grabbed me by the hand and we swiftly went through the crowd and out to the gate when a familiar sound greets us, "Where are you going?" asks Papa with disappointment and despair heavy in his voice.

It was then, I realized that it would be selfish of me to disobey Papa's wishes, which could also cost us our house and everything we cherished. I had to make a sacrifice.

I stopped and slowly turned around. I looked at my father, steeled myself and made a decision. I would accept my fate and do what is best for my family.

Although I was forced into an arranged marriage at fifteen, I promised myself that I would never allow this to happen to my daughter. I would fight to make sure that she would receive the education that every human being deserves. Even if she may not attend school, I will teach her how to read and write with my limited knowledge. I pledged to myself that I wouldn't confine her to a certain role that my father or the society had place on me. She will have all the opportunities I never had and be treated as be empowered to choose her own path. Someday.

*This essay was written in response to the following Stanford University Prompt:*

*Imagine you went back in time 50 or 100 years. Choose one or more personal attributes or characteristics (such as your gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, nationality, culture, political creed) and, using those attributes as a framework, describe how your place in society would be different, and why.*

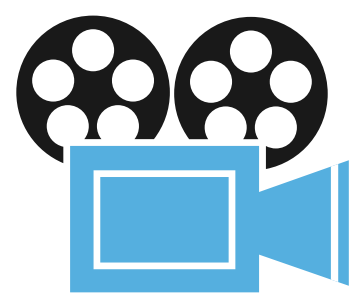
<sup>1</sup> Kayu besi is a rare timberwood native to Brunei, Indonesia.

<sup>2</sup> A qipao/旗袍 is a feminine, traditional, body-hugging dress mainly worn by Chinese women.

<sup>3</sup> Yiyi/阿姨 is how the Chinese address their aunts.

<sup>4</sup> Da ge/大哥 is how the Chinese address their eldest brother





# CINEMA XXI 0.1

STOCK PHOTO

BY ; CALYSTA NINGTYAS  
HARMAWAN

## Why is there a need for a performing arts community in Indonesia?

In the future, it is the hope that teenagers like NH students can seriously consider pursuing a career in theater without thinking it's too unrealistic, too unstable or that it's just a pipe dream that's just too far beyond their reach. Any child who dreams of it should have the chance to go on stage. All they may need is a trip to the local theater to find that spark and light the fire in them. Soon enough, a kid will go watch a play, say "I want to be like that!", and actually believe it's possible.

Last but not the least, having a strong theater community shows the world that Indonesia is moving forward in the field of performing arts. A few months ago on the 24th of February, 2019, the final showcase of the Passport to Broadway Indonesia Musical Theater Intensive ended. There, 15 talented finalists were hand-picked among thousands of applicants to embark on a journey to New York with the aim to continue pursuing their studies with the Passport to Broadway creative team and hopefully fulfill their dreams of making their Broadway debut.

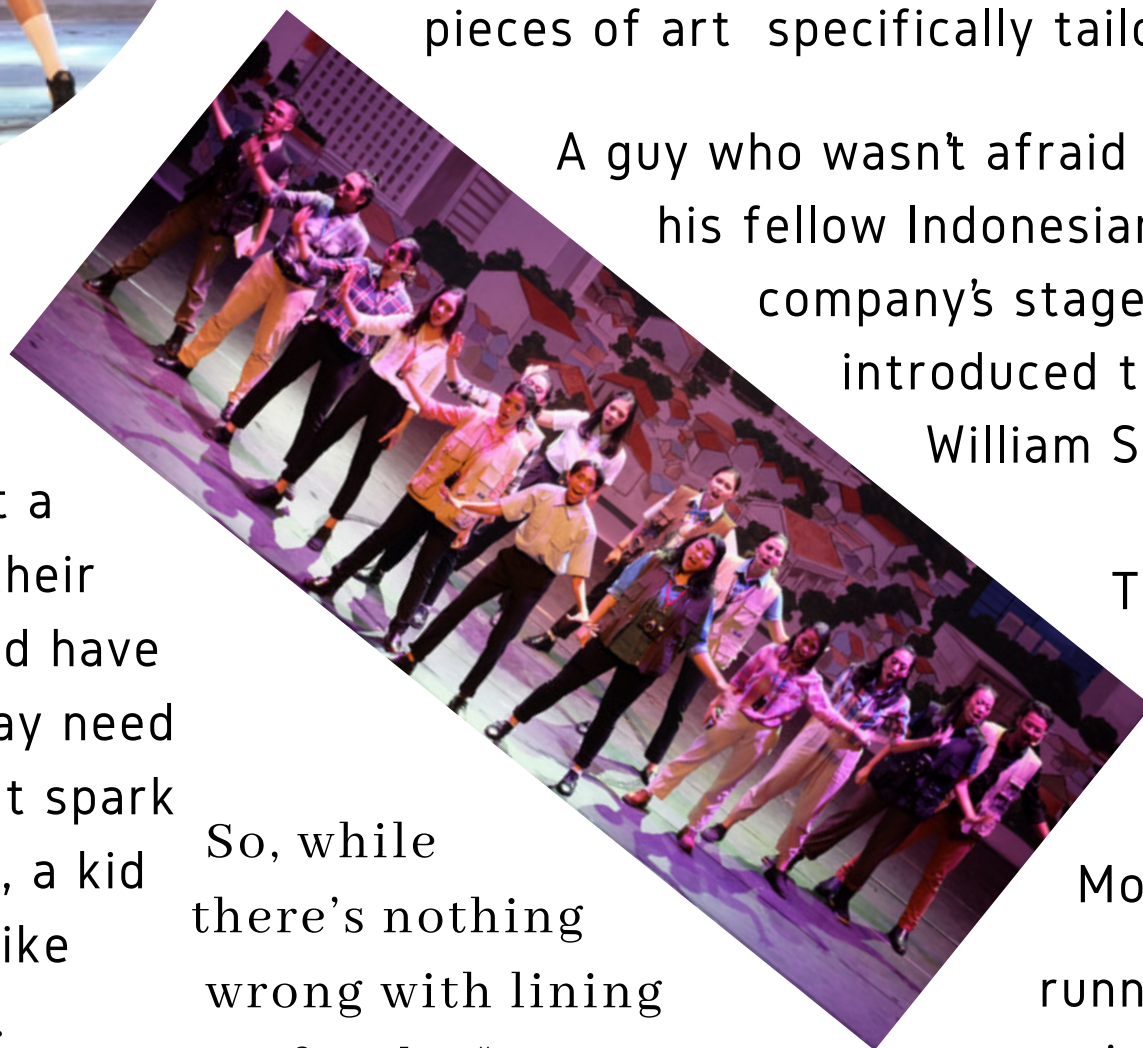
These types of programmes prove to everyone that Indonesia is certainly are no longer just an agricultural, or ahem, a corrupt and polluted country, but it is instead a force to be reckoned with in the performing arts as well.



Back in the day, way before these massive cinematic productions like the Avengers and even hit series like Game of Thrones, how did Indonesians entertain themselves? Perhaps they watched people in colourful masks dancing around on stage? Maybe. Witnessed a couple of intricate puppets telling a traditional Indonesian tale with shadows? Could be. Cheered for people singing their hearts out on stage? Definitely. Indonesia's performing arts is a mix of all these things plus much, much, more. With over 17, 000 islands in Indonesia, it shouldn't be surprising how such a wide range of cultures and styles are used in Indonesian theaters, with little threads of western influences woven into it. Despite the overwhelming patronage of these foreign movie and TV franchises, Indonesia's traditional performing art forms, from Wayang Kulit to Tari Piring are on their way to claim their rightful place in the modern performing arts society, and we're here for it.

Decades ago, performers danced and acted out dramas on stage to ward off evil spirits by calling on good spirits to heal the sick and protect the people. Heroic plays were put on to commemorate and pass on ancestral bravery, similar to what we see in theaters today.

One of the many people who are credited for broadening Indonesia's range of stage is a man by the name of Willibrordus Rendra. Rendra was truly a joker of all trades, using his many skills in play writing, directing, acting, and performing to adapt the most popular plays from Western theaters into pieces of art specifically tailored to Indonesians.



A guy who wasn't afraid of controversy, he served content to his fellow Indonesians raw (as it is). Thanks to him and his company's stage adaptations, Indonesia has now been introduced to multiple playwright legends such as William Shakespeare and Sophocles.

So, while there's nothing wrong with lining up for the "Avengers: Endgame" movie, perhaps we can try jumping on the performing arts boat as well; visit a local theater, audition for the school play, watch another school's musical, because what you discover just might surprise you.

*An adaptation of The Caretaker by Harold Pinter that tells the story of three young women in the modern day metropolitan city of Jakarta, one of whom is diagnosed with bipolar disorder.*

**Let us take the time to appreciate these past and upcoming musicals :**

The NH Communique is glad to report that theater-based youth groups like the JPAC (Jakarta Performing Art Community) and JktMovein (Jakarta Movement Inspiration) are now up and running. In 2016 alone, a whopping 2 279 aspiring performers applied to be a part of JktMovein's annual theater production, a promising sign for the upcoming times.

Penjaga Rumah - Harold Pinter & Teater Pintu Show date(s) - 9-10 April,

COCO, National High Jakarta School Show date(s): Coming soon!





The pungent scent of smoke wafted through the air. Budi held his cigarette in between his fingers in one hand while holding the pristine smartphone he had bought from his friend for just two million Rupiah in the other. He had splurged most of his month's salary on this one item.

"Ampun<sup>1</sup>!" he cried into the phone while pacing around the miniscule room that he rented for only 250 thousand Rupiah a month. Budi did not have enough funds to pay for the additional running water fee. With cellular data, food and cigarettes to pay for, there was no money left for clean water. Besides, he was fine with bathing in the murky river that ran along the side of the slums he lived in; he enjoyed watching the green leaves of tropical trees dance as he scrubbed himself.

Given the choice between having a phone or having access to clean water, guess which one most Indonesian millennials would choose? According to the World Bank and UNICEF, an unbelievable 42 percent of Indonesians have internet access, but more than 27 million Indonesians lack access to drinking water. That's the whole population of Australia! Basically, there are tons of Budis in our country.

Let's be real, who wouldn't want a "friend" (Siri or Alexa, for most of us) in your pocket who is there with you 24/7, and can essentially be your personal assistant? Over the past ten years, the number of people who use the internet has more than quadrupled in size. Us homosapiens have jumped head first into the pool of modern technology and now, we're drowning.

A popular saying these days is: 'If it's not on Instagram, it didn't happen.' Social media was supposed to be a simple way for us to look back on our lives and maybe even give us a little sense of nostalgia. But clearly, it's now much more than that.

Have any of you been to The Louvre or read The Davinci Code by Dan Brown? After reading that book, (10/10 recommend) many have been inspired to visit the Mona Lisa that is hung in all its glory in the famous museum. The Louvre amassed 8.1 million visitors in 2017, keeping its intangible status as the world's most visited museum. Leonardo Da Vinci's renown painting is the main reason why those people come over. Sadly, today, you'd barely be able to see the artwork in the midst of hoards of other tourists trying to catch a glimpse of it too.

**Digital disruption**  
- a transformation caused by emerging digital technologies and business models. Innovative new technologies, as well as various digital platforms created by tech giants, have been influencing our lives in different ways and challenging our traditional values.

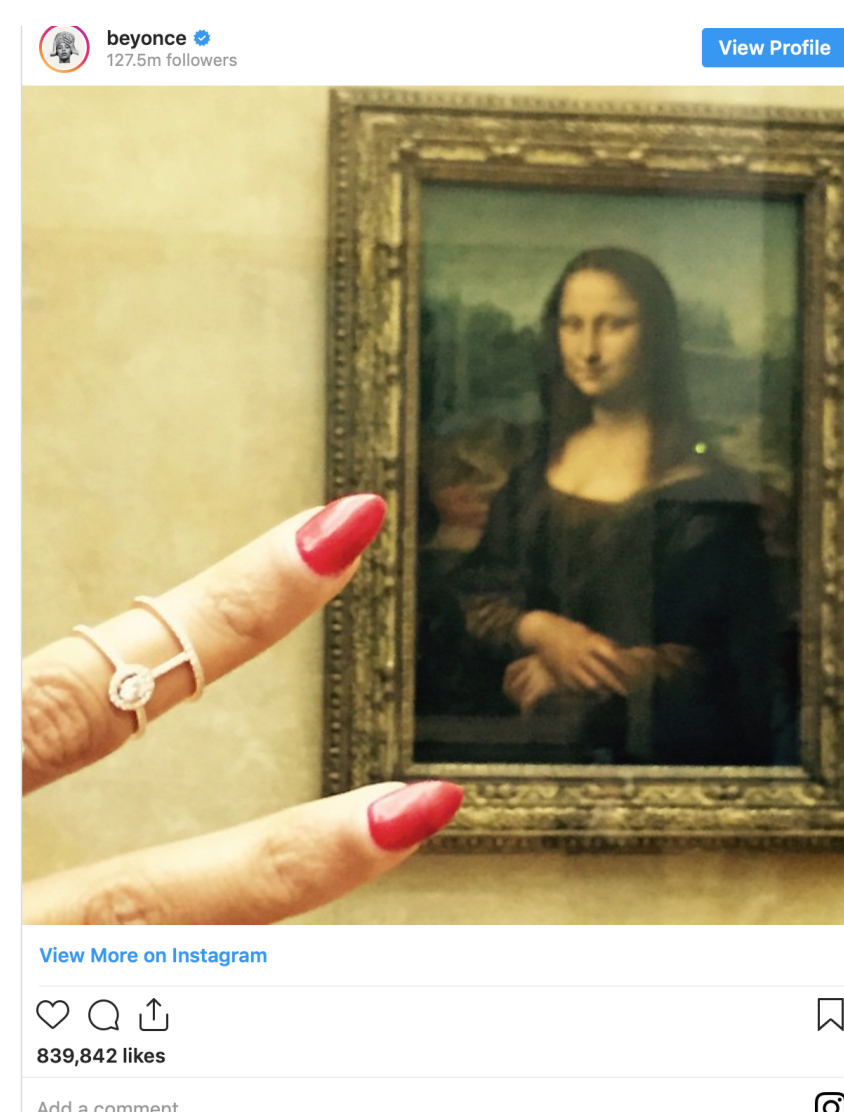


Pedro Fituza / NurPhoto -via Associated Press

"It's too small, and it's too crowded to get close to look at the detail," said Jeannie Li, 28, a financial analyst in Shanghai, unimpressed by her first sight of Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa." "I can see it better in a book or on the internet." (from The New York Times "What the Mona Lisa Tells Us About Art in the Instagram Era" by Scott Reyburn)

Beyoncé and Jay Z also visited 'Mona' and uploaded a picture to Instagram which made BuzzFeed say "No Picture Matters More Than Beyoncé And Jay-Z Posing In Front Of The Mona Lisa," and adding, "It might very well be the best picture of our generation. Or any generation." Somehow, the celebrity couple actually successfully relegated one of the most important works of art into the background and diminished its value.

It's obvious that various media outlets also have their own thoughts and views on social media's prominence, whether it should be praised or looked down upon. I have a question for you all to consider: Is social media worth the interference to our values?



A digital revolution is already here and while it seems like we have no choice but to succumb to it, we don't have to fall prey to the various internet black holes. We just need to be more responsible, regulate our internet use and not forget our priorities. The digital place is a great place to live, but it's doesn't beat living in the real world.

(photo taken from Beyoncé's official Instagram account)

<sup>1</sup>Ampun is 'Goodness!' in Indonesian



# STUDENT PET APPRECIATION

Submit photos of your pets to : [annabellejayadinata@nhstu.piagetacademy.org](mailto:annabellejayadinata@nhstu.piagetacademy.org)  
(specify name, age, and breed)

Toffee



2 YEARS

**WELSH CORGI**

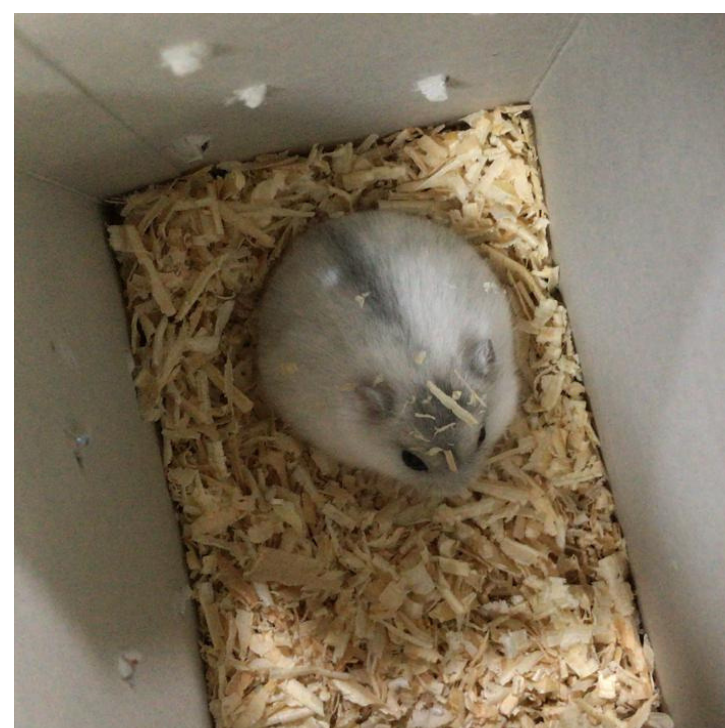
Coco



5 MONTHS

**SCOTTISH FOLD**

Gandalf



AGE UNKNOWN  
(RIP 15/4/19)

**RUSSIAN DWARF HAMSTER**

**B  
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5 MONTHS

**TEACUP POMERANIAN**


Owi



13 YEARS

**SCHNAUZER & POODLE MIX**



The background features a light cream color with large, overlapping pastel shapes in shades of teal, pink, and light blue. White snowflake icons are scattered throughout. A trail of small pink dots descends from the top right towards the center.

# Happy Summer Break!

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**MAY 28 - JULY 15 2019**

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HAVE AN AWESOME HOLIDAY! WISHING  
YOU ALL PEACE AND JOY.