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April 2021

My dear friend

Here is the story of one of our young men from where he began to where he is now. It is always encouraging to see young people grow and develop particularly when they have been stalwarts of the services for other young people at Youth Outreach for so long. And this year is the 30th anniversary of the setting up of Youth Outreach and so for us is particularly significant. No matter what he is doing “Siu Fei” will always be a part of the Youth Outreach family.

From Dancer to Barber

It seems that “Siu Fei” was fated to be with Youth Outreach from the beginning. He certainly was far from outstanding in standard academic subjects. He started street dancing in 2007 and then in 2009 heard of “Youth Outreach” and joined the newly established “School of Hip Hop”. From being a dancer, to Assistant Instructor, to Instructor, then becoming Senior Instructor, he also shared his life experience with his students. He actually specialized in that part of the Hip Hop culture, which is called “Break Dance”. As time passed he has been to the USA, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and mainland China to take part in competitions and learn more. In 2015, he went to Slovakia to take part in a competition. In many of the competitions, he won prizes. He may have been hopeless at “book learning” but he was certainly an excellent dancer.

He decided that he wouldn’t be dancing all of his life and began to explore alternative career paths. He became interested in running a hair salon and decided to be a Barber. He said you have to try many different things before you know your real interests, a belief he was later to teach his students.

Starting a Barber Shop

Siu Fei eventually opened his own Barber Shop and went out of his way to make it “special” so that when people come in, even though it may only be for a simple haircut, he gives them a personalized service – studying the shape of the head and face, quality and length of hair to make sure that the finished product suits and satisfies the customer.

In 2015, Siu Fei as a teacher at Youth Outreach went to the Broadway Dance Center in America and gained a Certificate of Excellence in Professional Dancer Training, further professionalizing his skills. In 2015, he travelled to competitions in several different countries and he used these opportunities to study what hairstyles were popular with young people and practice them, buying the necessary tools and equipment, even practicing on the young people in YO. Slowly he built his dream one brick at a time. Now he has his own shop and is slowly establishing his name and service.

Youth Outreach Days

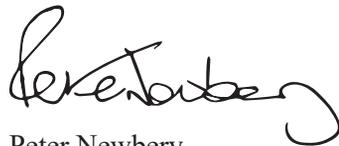
Siu Fei met Youth Outreach because of “Breaking” over 10 years ago and at that time many young people were crazy about Breaking and every day our hall was crowded with groups of young people learning Breaking. Sometimes he practiced until late at night but was still keen to continue the next day. Siu Fei said that he always had to be in good shape so that his young students would follow his teaching and understand what they had to do. He believes that teaching dancing has led him to see the ways he can connect with people.

In addition to teaching Hip Hop Siu Fei has joined in the YO Dancical (an annual flagship fundraiser consisting of a large scale Hip Hop performance) and one year, he himself was invited to be the main character. He shared his life story and personal development with the audience – leaving many people moved. In other years, he has joined the team of directors, planning the production and training the younger dancers.

Conclusion

As his life changes and he grows older, he can see that he cannot carry on dancing for much longer and so his present goal is to develop his barbershop. The barbershop is not only his career but also his passion. However, he too realizes that (as in dancing) it is necessary to look for a balance. Siu Fei himself encourages young people to try different things while they look for their own interests. Not everything needs to be final or deep but without looking they will never find.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Newbery', with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

Peter Newbery