

KAREN SAYS

MOVIE MAGIC

SEVERAL months ago, as the editorial team huddled in our favourite café, we decided quite unanimously that we needed an issue highlighting professions that, for various reasons, were not top of mind for most. With our shared passion for movies, this issue is centered on the many things we may or may not know about the industry.

Our first act stars none other than Johan Mahmood Merican – the man who I am told, inspired our Movie Wisdom column – and (I mean this in the best possible way) big hairy feet. Johan masterfully draws leadership lessons from *The Lord of the Rings*, and by the end of his article may also inspire innovative ‘training day’ proposals to unsuspecting bosses.

Speaking of masters, Lim Lay Hsuan, gradually revealing her skills as master of many trades, tracked down yet another inspiring leader. James Lee Thim Heng shares his journey of becoming a successful independent filmmaker here in Malaysia.

Millie Ong, fast earning a reputation of connecting with critics on a level not often explored, takes a close (and squinty) look at the life of ants and that wonderful movie *A Bug's Life*.

Just a few weeks ago, Leaderonomers were all atwitter (o yes – this was a word before *Twitter*) that Eduardo Pena, concept designer for movies like *The Hobbit*, *Hercules*, *Transcendence* and *Lucy*, was in our office sharing his experience and insights. Sarah Tan was on the case and brings his life lessons – from Bogota, Colombia to Tinseltown – to you.

Our next act stars David Kwong – magic consultant for movies like *Now You See Me*, *The Incredible Burt Wonderstone* and *The Immigrant*, puzzle creator for national publications in the United States (as well as the movie *The Imitation Game!*), singer and a Harvard man – helping us understand how we can prepare ourselves to develop a career in areas we are passionate about.

Last, but not least, we learn from one of my favourite Disney movies *Mulan* – which always made me think that workplace diversity was alive and kicking (quite literally!) way back in the annals of China.

There are common threads in the articles we bring you this week. I love the way creative people think and see the world in different ways. Yet the advice by Lee to be an ‘attentive communicator, observer and listener’ in order to guide others resonates with many aspects of life and work.

So put your feet up this weekend, catch a movie with family and friends, and challenge each other on how many life lessons you can take away! The winner should definitely submit an article for our Movie Wisdom column.

And that's a wrap! Have a fantastic weekend all!

KAREN NEOH
Editor
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LIFE'S A MOVIE

By **LIM LAY HSUAN**
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ADMIT it. We love a great and inspiring story, real or reel. It doesn't even matter if it is a case of life imitates art, art imitates life, or somewhere in between.

Some say life at its fullest is a beautiful picture made out of many jigsaw puzzle pieces. The catch is that it all depends on ourselves to go out looking for the missing pieces.

Others may look at it as a storybook written by the Divine, with you as the main character.

We encounter various plots, characters, scenes and climaxes – going through life page by page and chapter by chapter – before we eventually reach “The End”.

If your life in book is adapted into a movie, would your story leave a lasting impression on your audience? Or will it be a forgettable movie?

If you have the opportunity to rewrite the script of your life's movie, how would you like to see it turn out?

Here are three fundamental points you can apply to direct how your story ends:

● **PATIENCE: REVISE YOUR SCRIPT**

In a world of unpredictable circumstances, we need to be agile and flexible enough to adapt to changes.

We are all uniquely crafted to be different. Hence, your story doesn't need to be the same as the person next to you.

● **PASSION: GIVE YOUR BEST**

With every script you have prepared, get into your role and put your best foot forward. With that in mind, be mindful to work your strengths to your advantage.

In areas where you lack, identify them specifically and make a conscious effort to improve yourself.

● **PERSEVERANCE: ENVISION YOUR DESTINATION**

How do you envision the ending of your movie? Would it be dramatic, serene, sad or happy?

Once you have set your mind to your destiny, take proactive steps and work towards it. Hiccups may occur along the way, but press on until you see the end result of your “movie”.

May your “movie” be a blockbuster that inspires and leaves a lasting impression to your audience for days, months or even years.

“In the future, everybody is going to be a director. Somebody's got to live a real life so we have something to make a movie about.” – Cameron Crowe



The opinions expressed in this career guide are those of the writers or the people they quoted and not necessarily those of Leaderonomics.



01

“If life has taught me anything it's that 95% of the people are always wrong.” – **Jack Nicholson's character in *The Bucket List***

02

“I know what I have to do now, I've got to keep breathing because tomorrow the sun will rise. Who knows what the tide could bring?” – **Tom Hanks' character in *Cast Away***

03

“I think one of the privileges of being a filmmaker is the opportunity to remain a kind of perpetual student.” – **Edward Zwick**

04

“A temptation resisted is a true measure of character.” – **Dustin Hoffman's character in *Papillon***

05

“I think audiences get too comfortable and familiar in today's movies. They believe everything they're hearing and seeing. I like to shake that up.” – **Christopher Nolan**

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