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Council Chairman Professor Stephen Chow, Director Professor Adrian Walter, teachers, honourable guests, graduands, family members and friends. Good afternoon! First of all, I would like to thank The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts for the opportunity to share my experience over the past 34 years in the performing arts industry on this special occasion.

I am sure this year's graduands must be looking forward with great enthusiasm to joining the performing arts industry - but not without fears and worries. Questions that are likely to be on your mind are: How do I get into the industry? What does the future hold? Can I make this a lifetime career?

Let me talk about the first question. I got into the industry as a singer after winning the Hong Kong 18 Districts Singing Contest in 1984 (the same year the Academy was established). As for my friends in the industry - some of them were introduced by acquaintances, some entered through beauty pageants, and some were discovered on the streets by talent scouts. But many more were graduates from artists' training classes or the Academy. There is no formula in terms of achieving success, grasping opportunities or honing performance skills. What newcomers do share is excitement and curiosity about what lies ahead, which is what I believe many of you will be feeling today. I should know - I have been there myself! I recall when I was working on the *Snow*.

香港演藝學校董會主席周振基教授、校長華道賢教授、各位老師、嘉賓、應屆畢業的同學、各位親友，大家好！非常感謝香港演藝學院的邀請，也非常榮幸有機會和同學們分享一下我在演藝表演行業 34 年的一些經驗。

我相信和任何一屆的畢業同學一樣，此刻各位應屆畢業生一定是懷著非常熾熱的心情準備投身演藝圈，卻也同時帶著一點徬徨和忐忑，擔心如何才能入行？前途如何？又是否可以把它當成終身職業？

如何入行嘛！我是 1984 年贏得全港 18 區業餘歌唱大賽冠軍（也是香港演藝學院成立之年），以歌手身份入行的。我認識的一些圈內朋友，有經行內熟朋友介紹的、有經選美入行的、也有在街上被星探發掘的、更多是讀訓練班或演藝學院後入行的。究竟以哪一種方式入行成就較突出、表現更優秀、更專業，倒沒有既定的模式。唯一的共通點，就是當大家（包括我自己）知道有機會加入演藝表演行列時，都會表現得有一些雀躍、好奇、對未來總是有一份期待。我相信在座的同學裡，很多也有相同的感受吧！記得我在 1997 年做《雪狼湖》音樂劇時，大部分台前幕後的工作人員都是從演藝學院招募回來的。而他們的表現更是十分卓越和專業，其中很多位日後

Wolf Lake musical project in 1997, the majority of the crew, be it front or back stage, were recruited from the Academy. Their performance was nothing short of excellent. Many of them went on to become mainstays of the performing arts industry. I can therefore assure you that you already have one foot in your dream profession.

So what about the future? Can you make a lifelong career in the performing arts industry? If you asked me, I would say, "Not bad at all, especially money-wise, haha. You can definitely make it a lifelong profession!" Of course, that's because I am one of the lucky ones, surviving in this industry for almost 34 years - with no plans to retire! However, if you ask those who have had a bit of a rocky path, or those who have left the industry, you might get a completely different answer. Of course, this is not unique to the performing arts industry, as every profession has its ups and downs and its hard-luck stories.

Then how are you meant to decide if a career in this field is right for you? Well, the key question to ask yourself is why you want to work in the industry. If your ultimate goal is to earn a fortune, my advice to you is choose another career. Are you familiar with the *Forbes* World's Billionaires list? I took a quick look the other day and couldn't find a single person from the industry in the top 300. If, on the other hand, your goal is to become famous, you should think about making a name for yourself in social media. It takes virtually no time and effort compared to the day in and day out practice that is required to stand out from the crowd when you perform on stage. All you need to do is start a fight with an old man on a bus, or shoot a glamorous poolside video, and you could become an internet sensation overnight! However, if neither fame nor fortune is the driving force behind your intention to join the performing arts industry, I would be happy to share something of my experience with you.

Does anyone here think it would have been more fitting if today's guest were Jay Chou, Eason Chan, Andy Lau

也成為了業界的中流砥柱。所以可以這樣說，大家已經是「有一隻腳踏入演藝行業了」。

至於前途如何？又是否可以把它視為終身職業呢？如果你問我，我會說：「好呀！收入還……嘻嘻！嘻嘻！當成終身職業完全沒問題！」那是因為我算是行內運氣好的，我亦幸運地在這行業工作了接近 34 年，而且打算繼續做下去！但如果你剛好問到一些運氣不濟的同行，或一些已離開了演藝圈的前藝人，可能會得到一個完全相反的答案。我的經驗告訴我，這現象在任何行業都會出現，有人說好，有人說千萬不要入行，那該如何抉擇呢？我認為要視乎你追求的是甚麼？舉個例，如果你希望進演藝圈可以發大財，賺很多錢的話，我建議你趁還未入行，馬上考慮投身其他行業。不知道大家有沒有留意最新公佈的「福布斯富豪榜」，我略看了一下，頭一、二、三百位，都找不到一個行內大家熟悉的名字。也就是說，如果「錢」是你追求的目標，你肯定是方向錯誤了。又如果你的目標是希望有更多人認識你，想「紅」的話，我認為自從互聯網和社交媒體蓬勃發展後，你根本無須浪費這麼多時間和汗水去苦練，再和其他人比演技、比歌藝、比專業才能脫穎而出。你只要在巴士上和阿伯吵一架，又或者拍條青春無敵嬉水片段放上網，說不定就一夜爆紅了。如果大家都不是為了「名」成「利」就而加入演藝圈的話，現在我可以開始跟大家分享一下我的經驗了。

不知道在座有沒有同學希望今天的嘉賓不是張學友，而是周杰倫、陳奕迅、劉德華、梁朝偉……就更好更適合呢？我就是其中一位。雖然我已經入行超過 30 年，但我始終覺得自己是個「不夠好」的藝人，我亦深信「覺得自己不夠好」的態度，就是我可以在这行業生存幾十年的主要原因。當你覺得自己夠好或是最好的，你就無需再進步了，也就沒有要求自己再好的動力和空間

or Tony Leung rather than Jacky Cheung? I certainly do! Even though I've been in the profession for so many years, I still think I'm not good enough. I truly believe it is this mentality that has helped me survive in the industry for all this time. You see, if you already think you are good, or the best, there is no incentive for you to improve. It is only when you think that you are not good enough that you will examine your shortcomings and drive yourself to improve through continuous practice. This is the only way you can get close to anything like perfection in your performances. You may encounter rejection along the way, coupled with fears and misgivings, but there is one thing you must never do, and that is give up. The reason is this: all the practice, all the hard work will take you to a different level without your even noticing it. One day you will be practising or performing, and you will suddenly say to yourself: 'Gee, I'm getting better!' And improvement is like a drug – it's addictive. The satisfaction you derive from it can be found nowhere else. And it is the key to surviving in the performing arts industry.

Dear graduands, we in the performing arts industry must have a lust for beauty. I'm not talking about a concern with how one looks, but the yearning for beauty and perfection. The beauty in a dance move, the beauty when an actor touches the heart of the audience, the beauty of a musician's interpretation of a score, the beauty of a stage enriched by a technician's lighting effects, the beauty of a screenwriter's storyline that brings tears to the audience, the beauty captured by the lens of a cinematographer, the beauty of a director's deft handling of cast and crew, and the beauty of a song that speaks to our hearts.

The pursuit of beauty is a recurrent cycle of practice, mistake and correction. It is the pursuit of a lifetime. We are all humans and mistakes are inevitable. However, no mistake should be brushed off by giving ourselves excuses. We need to find the cause of the mistake and correct it through constant practice. It is true that everyone has their limits, but we should also remind

了。只有覺得自己不夠好，你才會不斷檢視自己的不足，才會不斷要求自己更進步，通過不斷的練習、表演、再練習、又練習、再表演，希望完善自己。期間你可能要面對很多的失敗、恐懼、打擊，但千萬不可以放棄。因為在不知不覺中，突然有一天當你練習或表演時，會發現自己進步了。而進步是會「上癮」的，那種滿足感是沒有其他東西能給你的，何況「進步」就是你要在演藝行業持續生存的必備條件。

各位同學，我們從事演藝行業的一定要「貪靚」，並不是把自己打扮得「更靚仔靚女」的那種「貪靚」，而是對「美」的不斷追求。舞者做出每一個舞蹈動作的線條美、演員演戲時觸動觀眾心靈那一刻的美、樂手演奏一段旋律那份和諧美、燈光師利用一盞燈便能豐富整個舞台的美、編劇用筆寫出一個個刻骨銘心、賺人熱淚的故事的美、攝影師眼裡看到這世界的美、導演流暢的運用鏡頭拍出一部好電影的美、歌手演繹一首歌讓聽眾動容、開心、融為一體的美……。

追求「美」是一個不斷重複「實踐、犯錯、修正」的過程，是可能要用上一輩子時間去追尋的東西。我們是人，人就會出錯，但我們不能隨便為自己找個藉口原諒自己，要找出出錯的原因，通過練習、再練習去克服眼前的困難，避免再犯同樣的錯誤。我們都知道人是有極限的，但同時也要認清所有今天我們認為不可能做到的，特別是別人能做到的事，只要我們不放棄，有一天，可能是明天，就可以做得到。

最後，既然我們不是為了「名」或「利」，那加入演藝行業又是為了甚麼呢？是為另外一個字——「愛」！我們愛我們所做的，只有夠愛，我們才可以不怕艱難，不計回報，耗盡一生的青春、精力、時間去做一件根本不知道終點在哪裡的工作。各位同學，要好好保住這份愛，我們才

ourselves that if someone can do it today, why can't we do it tomorrow?

Before I close, if we have discounted money and fame, how can we sum up in one word what should drive those who choose the performing arts profession? The answer is love. We must love what we do. With love in our heart, we can overcome all obstacles – giving no thought to the sweat and tears we have shed, counting as nothing the pleasures of youth we have given up to pursue a path that has no guaranteed destination. Dear graduands, let us keep this flame of love and passion burning. It is what will keep us going through thick and thin, enabling us to persist till the end and make this a lifelong profession.

All that remains for me to do is to formally welcome you into the performing arts industry. May your love for the stage, dance, films and music help make Hong Kong's performing arts industry shine even more brightly, the envy of Asia and even perhaps, one day, the world. My best wishes to you all. Thank you!

可以堅持到底，才可以把演藝工作當成我們的終身職業。我在這裡，正式歡迎大家加入演藝行業，希望憑著我們一代代人對舞台、對表演、對電影、對音樂的愛，香港的演藝事業可以再發光發熱，冠絕亞洲甚至全球，也是不無可能的。祝福大家！祝福香港！謝謝！

