

## DERBY BAYANIHAN PRODUCTIONS- INSPIRING NEW TALENTS FOR THE FUTURE

*“A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality.”  
-John Lennon*

This was the motto in which the founding members of Derby Bayanihan Productions (DBP) have held on since they started their mission. DBP is an independent non-profit group dedicated to showcase talents from the Filipino Community in Derby as well in the UK, and aims to inspire talents by opening a platform to express and develop in the form of Arts, Music and Sports.

Last February, the voluntary group already held their second big event entitled “Celebration of Love”, presenting talented kids from the age of five in dance and musical performances developed during their free dance workshops last year. The three-hour showcase highlighted the children’s progress along the five months they have faithfully rehearsed with support from the group’s dance mentors.



*Pic 1: Filipino kids developed by Derby Bayanihan Productions' projects gets ready to perform during the show.*

The show was well-received by the crowd from Derby and Loughborough, and was a follow-up of their first show “Summer of Love”, held last July which was also a sold-out, producing enough financial support for the workshops the group plans to provide for the children in Derby and neighbouring towns. It was participated by more

than 30 children, some of which haven't performed at all before the group launched their dance classes last October.

### *Fresh Start: Summer of Love*

Derby Bayanihan Productions started as a plan for a concert by a group of Filipino music performers in Derby. Acoustic duo The Soulm8s collaborated with karaoke champion/DJ, Rex Portillano-Barr to celebrate their passion for music in a show. The two acts were already performing professionally in various pubs across Derby. Enlisting the help of ex-MBA player Aldrich Reyes, who has a network of sponsors from his basketball tournaments, and Portia Barcebal, owner of renowned decorating agency DoubleGees Events, the group set the date for the show in July 2019.

After the overwhelming responses of fellow Filipinos who wished to let their kids perform in the show, their initial plan then evolved in developing children's talent. Their "Summer of Love" was participated by teen performers such as singing prodigy Erin Casayuran and acoustic group Kafe Band. Guided by the established mature talents, the teens were inspired to perform to their best and earn great praised from the audiences.



*Pic 2: Talented singer, Erin Casayuran belts out a tune during the initial show, "Summer of Love".*

Derby Cultural Dancers and Filipiniana Dancers also presented the gracefulness of Filipino cultural dances to the mixed crowd. The initial show also launched the Derby Bayanihan Dancers, trained by couple Dino and Cindy Sindol.

Pic 3: Champion acoustic duo, The Soulm8s encouraged the crowd to dance during DBP's Summer of Love show last July 2019.



Pic 4: Derby Cultural Dancers shows the gracefulness of the Filipino dances at the Summer of Love.

The group performed contemporary dances which motivated other children who watched the show to sign up for the production group's Free Dance Workshops project.

### *Free Dance Workshops and Christmas Celebrations*

Proceeds from the "Summer of Love" was disbursed to fund for the four-week dance workshop and art-exhibit held last October to November at Landau Forte College. The dance workshop benefitted more than 40 children in Derby, including three creative youngsters who held Art Exhibits during the classes.



*Pic 5: Free dance workshops were held at Landau Forte College in Derby last October to November last year. More than 40 children participated including artists who exhibited their artworks during the classes.*

Mai Duay, an Illustration-student in Staffordshire University displayed her artworks alongside Allana Cajudo and Emilio Barawed to inspire other children's interest in art. In addition to the dance tutorials, Filipino history and language classes were taught by former teacher, Ms. Joy Hartley sparking promoting the culture to the youngsters.

The success was celebrated by the group, with the help of the supportive parents of the children in a Christmas celebration last December at The Venue in Derby. More than 200 people came and supported the event with videoke competition, raffles and art auctions. Dance performances were also presented by the children as well as some of their encouraging parents. Video greetings from

*Pic 6: DBP also supported some creative kids with their Art Exhibit during their free dance workshops. Mai Duay, exhibited her art creations as she pursues her passion by studying Illustration at Staffordshire University.*



celebrities such as Streetboys' Michael Sesmundo, PBA legends Allan Caidic and John Ferriols and Pinoy Boyband star Russel Reyes were also shown during the festivities.



*Pic 7: The children of Derby Bayanihan Dancers developed with the guidance of established dance tutors who volunteered for the project.*



*Pic 8: Celebrating the success of the workshops, the group organized a Christmas celebration to thank all those who supported their projects. Video greetings from Filipino celebrities and sportsmen such as Michael Sismundo of Streetboys and Allan Caidic was shown during the party.*

### ***Celebration of Love and future endeavours***

Derby Bayanihan Productions' latest show, Celebration of Love was a sold-out even with the storm Denis flooding the Midlands last February. The performances of the talented kids, joined by singers from Loughborough, received praises from the spectators. Although some ticket holders did not manage to come, they were still treated with video postings of the performances in consolation for their support on the projects in the group's Facebook page, some of which has already raked up to 1,200 views.



*Pic 9: Children from the age of 5 danced to Natsumi's "Mr. Cupido" during the Celebration of Love show last February 16.*

Celebration of Love provided the stage for violinist, Von Balawag who swept the audiences with his rendition of Ed Sheeran's Perfect. Additionally, talented singers Ella Sumaculub, Yno Quilongquilong and Kristy Amoroso came all the way from Loughborough, Leicestershire and performed various song numbers which moved some onlookers to tears.



*Pic 10: Violin prodigy, Von Balawag joined the talent showcase with his performance of Ed Sheeran's "Perfect".*



*Pic 11: The show ended with Rex, Erin, Jackie and Christina singing Yeng Constantino's "Salamat" while the kids gave roses to their parents.*

Moving forward, the show's income will be used to fund for the children's rehearsals, costumes and refreshments. Their transport for future performances will also be assisted with the production groups' funds, as they will be performing in several Barrio Fiestas including the ones in Nottingham and Birmingham. The group also supports Royal Derby Hospital's Air Arts charity through musical performances in the hospital.



*Pic 12: The talented children will continue to perform at various Barrio Fiestas and charity events in Midlands. DBP will support their development through regular rehearsals, providing refreshments and transport during their performances.*



*Pic 13: The organizers of Derby Bayanihan Productions led by their chairman, Mr. Aldrich Reyes provides voluntary work to ensure the Filipino children in Derby learns how to be productive with their time as well as create friendships with their fellow Filipinos.*

The group aims to inspire other Filipino groups to actively share their resources in developing Filipino kids to be more productive in their time and create friendships with fellow Filipinos. To book for events or to show your support for Derby Bayanihan Productions' projects, feel free to check out their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/derbybayanihan](http://www.facebook.com/derbybayanihan) or contact Mr. Aldrich Reyes at 07912964395.