

CHANNING TATUM JAMIE FOXX

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF
INDEPENDENCE DAY
THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW
2012



WHITE HOUSE DOWN

IN CINEMAS 27 JUNE

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SPARKS

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Igniting Change

IT WILL START LIKE ANY OTHER DAY

SACA CHARITY FILM PREMIER

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SACA

A publication of Singapore After-Care Association

Helping ex-offenders and their families get back on their feet

HAPPINESS IS ONLY REAL WHEN SHARED...

Dear Friends,

In partnership with Sony Pictures Singapore, welcome to this year's SACA Charity Film Premiere 2013.

The movie WHITE HOUSE DOWN is about Policeman John Cale (Channing Tatum) who has been denied his dream job with the Secret Service of protecting US President James Sawyer (Jamie Foxx). Being a loving father and not wanting to let down his little girl with the news, he takes her on a tour of the White House. Unfortunately, the White House complex is overtaken by a hostile heavily armed paramilitary group. The situation has become tense and dangerous. The nation's



government is falling into chaos and time is running out for everyone! It's up to Cale to step up against all odds to save the President, his daughter, and the country. Directed by Roland Emmerich, who also directed other epics like 2012, Independence Day, Godzilla and Day After Tomorrow, this movie will knock you off your seats with state-of-the art effects and cutting-edge action.

In a nutshell, the movie deals with facing insurmountable odds, taking a stand and protecting what is important in life. Most of us may not be called to save the world like John Cale. We are just ordinary people leading ordinary lives in an ordinary world. We just wish to live happy. **And this happiness is only real when we are able to share it** with our loved ones, friends and family.

Many of SACA's clients unfortunately find happiness elusive. Many are struggling to make ends meet and worrying about making a living so that they can take care of their families and leave the past behind. Think about it – basic things like accommodation, job security, and wider community acceptance are tough challenges faced by ex-offenders and their families, sometimes on a daily basis. The need for more meaningful and in-depth professionally-administered programs to help this group is an ever-present one.



Are we seriously giving the cause of Second Chances a real fighting chance? Reintegration into society should not be a mere catch phrase for scholars, practitioners and politicians. Reintegration must be a shared responsibility across community stakeholders (and that includes you and me!). This is not a lone crusade. There must be a conscious effort in spreading this message of love and care. **By being here today and with all the partners and supporters together at this Charity Premiere, you are sending a clear message across – The cause of Second Chances is alive and well; and marginalized groups will not be forgotten!**

In my previous capacity before SACA, my Mentor took effort to drum this point into the various project teams: when you are accusing someone with 1 pointed finger, there are at least 3 other fingers pointing back at you. This I find to be so true. Very often we are too quick to judge and blame others for their mistakes. At the same time, we are also painfully slow in reflecting on our own

error or misjudgment. Some would say it is natural instinct and a form of self-preservation. Perhaps it is time for us to learn forgiveness and to let go of bias, and fear.

Someone close made me recall a book that I have read a few years back. The protagonist is named Christopher McCandless. His life is an epic tale of youthful wanderlust, self-discovery, the need for absolute solitude and deep reflection regarding life, death and everything in between. His story addresses the issues (and challenges) concerning acceptance in the community as well as finding one's niche in the grand scheme of life; and to triumph over adversity. In particular, there is a passage in the book that resonates with me:



*"Make a radical change in your lifestyle and begin to boldly do things which you may previously never have thought of doing, or been too hesitant to attempt. So many people live within unhappy circumstances and yet will not take the initiative to change their situation because they are conditioned to a life of security, conformity, and conservation, all of which may appear to give one peace of mind, but in reality nothing is more damaging to the adventurous spirit within a man than a secure future. **The very basic core of a man's living spirit is his passion for adventure. The joy of life comes from our encounters with new experiences ...**" Jon Krakauer (1996) "Death of an Innocent" (The book was later made into a movie titled "Into the Wild").*

No one is asking anyone to abandon all rational thinking and forgive unconditionally. Rather, the distilled learning here is to stop the blame game and for once, stop being myopic in order to embrace life and walk the path towards forgiveness. Give offenders, ex-offenders and their families a real chance to reintegrate into society. The future must be built on positives instead of

apprehension, bias and fear. It is vital that we remember that no acts (and thoughts) of kindness, regardless how small, is ever wasted or been in vain. As a community, we must take that conscious step forward together and with confidence.

In this issue of Sparks, we read about the collaborative project partnership between ACS (Baker Road) and SACA that is in the pipeline. We journey back and relive the best moments of the Volunteers' Appreciation Night in November 2012.

Do you know that SACA is now on Facebook?! Check us out by logging onto the Facebook homepage and typing "Singapore After-Care Association" in the search box. While "liking" us is a sign of your endorsement towards SACA, the main purpose of this Facebook page is to provide another meaningful platform for SACA to communicate with all our friends, supporters and partners. Hence, we would welcome your opinions, viewpoints and thoughts across a diverse range of subjects; all within the framework of mutual respect and decency.

It is a work-in-progress; and SACA is making its first foray into social media. There will be plenty of adjustments and growing pains. But this is exactly the spirit that I have been talking about! Nothing ventured; nothing gained. We humbly beg everyone's patience and indulgence and hopefully we can grow this into a useful forum for all.

Lastly, it has been a tremendous past 2 years penning this column. Thank you for this wonderful platform to share my thoughts and happiness. It was Smurfs in 2011 and MIB3 in 2012. It is June 2013 now; it is White House Down.

Blue, Black and White! How cool is that?!!

We are already midway through the year. And this too, will pass. What will 2014 hold for us? Unless you have a crystal ball to gaze into the future wait for 2014, until then - lean back, tear open the popcorn, suspend your judgment; and enjoy the movie my friends! 😊

... This is **Eric Lue** here.

Good Night,
Good Luck &
Au Revoir!

CFP MILESTONES

CFP Looking Back:

Year	Film Title	Our Guest-of-Honour
2013	White House Down	Mr Masagos Zulkifli Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs
2012	MIB 3	Mr S Iswaran Minister in Prime Minister's Office Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade & Industry
2011	Smurfs	Madam Halimah Yacob Minister of State Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports
2010	Karate Kid	Mr Masagos Zulkifli Parliamentary Secretary Ministry of Education
2009	State of Play	Mr Lim Boon Heng Minister in Prime Minister's Office
2008	Journey to the Centre of the Earth	Mr Lim Swee Say Minister in Prime Minister's Office
2007	Die Hard 4.0	Mr Gan Kim Yong Minister of State Ministry of Education and Manpower
2005	The Flight of the Phoenix	Dr Vivian Balakrishnan Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports
2004	The Haunted Mansion	President S R Nathan
2003	The Core	Assoc Professor Ho Peng Kee Senior Minister of State Ministry of Law and Home Affairs
2002	A Beautiful Mind	Assoc Professor Ho Peng Kee Senior Minister of State Ministry of Law and Home Affairs
2000	Meet the Parents	Mr Wong Kan Seng Minister for Home Affairs



All the above has been made possible because SACA has wonderful and steadfast friends, supporters, staff and partners.

Thank you everyone!

金基氏李
LEE FOUNDATION

Kuan Im Tng Temple
(Joo Chiat)



Giving Hope. Improving Lives.



Kwan Im Thing
Hood Cho Temple



Yi Kai Development Pte Ltd

...and others whose names are unavailable during press time.



"No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave"

- Calvin Coolidge



The evening witnessed a special token of appreciation being presented to the ex-Chairman of SCORE, Mr Kong Mun Kwong. Mr Kong has been a friend and firm supporter of SACA during his capacity as SCORE's Chairman; and has been instrumental in developing the CARE Network which SACA is a member of. Mr Kong has made a deep impact in the after-care sector and his presence and guidance will be missed by many who have benefited from his leadership and wisdom.



The evening's goody bags were packed with wonderful contributions and gifts from Sony Pictures Singapore, Resorts World Sentosa (RWS) and SouthWest CDC.

The entire hall was racked with laughter, cheers and applause when the MC for the evening brought staff and VIP guests on stage to demonstrate their latent abilities to dance Gangnum style.

It has always been the unselfish spirit of giving that sets Volunteers apart. As a charity, SACA runs on a lean workforce and depends largely on public goodwill and funding to run the various programs and to help the affected families due to the incarceration of a loved one. Alone, we will not be able to do it. With the help and close support of our volunteers, together we are able to execute our after-care programs and raise public awareness on the need for Second Chances.

have benefited greatly from his patience and dedication in imparting skills to help prepare them for their impending release. In his quiet unassuming way, he has changed and impacted the lives of many people and has made our community a better place to live in.

Another note-worthy accolade is the "Outstanding New Volunteer of the Year" award. For 2012, the honour went to Ms Shakila Mohd Abdul Latif. Despite her busy schedule and being new to the sector, Shakila's enthusiasm and passion has been simply outstanding! Her positivity and out-going nature has endeared her to many; and she has dedicated her time and energy to initiatives like the Community Befriending Project and the recently launched IIMAC program.

The SACA Volunteers Appreciation Night is an annual event whose main objective is to show our volunteers how much we appreciate their time, effort and support. It is also a time whereby we let our hair down as a group and enjoy the evenings' games, lucky draws and performances as one big family. Held at Furama Riverfront Hotel on 2nd November 2012, the theme of the evening was "Our Stars, Our Heroes".

For 2012, SACA took the opportunity to present the "Outstanding Volunteer of the Year" Award to Mr Thomas Tian Nyong Jan. Thomas has been a steadfast volunteer of SACA for many years. What makes Thomas such a worthy role model is his passion and dedication to the programs he has been involved in; and the level of care and concern he has shown towards his clients. Thomas facilitates coping skills in Mandarin to inmate-clients every month without fail. This is in addition to his daily work and family commitments. Through our feedback channels, clients have shown remarkable positivity and appreciation towards his efforts; and



SACA
Volunteer Appreciation Night 2012



It was a memorable evening; made all the more special by the presence and participation of our beloved volunteers!

Till November 2013 ... 😊



COME JOIN US!
DINNER FOR DADS @ ACS Barker Road
Date : 26th October 2013
Time : 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Venue : Anglo Chinese School (Barker Road) Range

My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person, he believed in me.

Jim Valvano

Inspired by *The Good Father & Other Stories**, the students of Class 4A1 and Class 4A2 of Anglo Chinese School (Barker Road) have decided to prepare a special fund-raising dinner for their parents. Parents and guests are welcomed to pay (or donate) as much as they wish for the dinner. There is no fixed price here! The aim of this event is to bring the students closer to their parents, especially their Dads; while at the same time to raise public awareness of the challenges faced by ex-offenders and their families during their reintegration process. It is a very worthy endeavour and the money raised will be pledged to SACA and the Cause of Second Chances.

As a lead-up to this event, the boys have been pushing the sale of *The Good Father* books to their schoolmates and teachers. To date, they have raised \$600.00 for SACA! (Thank you guys! We are very proud of you!)

This is a pioneer project for the boys. Through this meaningful event, the bonds of friendship, trust and unity amongst the students will be reinforced and celebrated. And this batch of students will also serve as leading examples to their juniors - that they can achieve whatever they want if they put their heart and passion into it.

A Note to the General Public:
 If you are keen to show your support or would like to find out more about this coming event in ACS on the 26th October 2013, please refer to the D4D website:
<http://sites.google.com/a/students.acsbr.org/dinner-for-dads/>



SACA: Relaxes...

Every now and then go away, have a little relaxation, for when you come back to your work your judgment will be surer. Go some distance away because then the work appears smaller and more of it can be taken in at a glance and a lack of harmony and proportion is more readily seen.

Leonardo Da Vinci

SACA: Relaxes...

Was Da Vinci thinking of the people in social services when he wrote the above lines, I wonder?

Dealing with people and people-related issues on a daily basis can be a very demanding task. Every client is different; every family functions differently too. And there are more clients out there today needing professional guidance and care than ever before. In SACA, we take steps to care for the well-being of our people; we work (and play) towards maintaining a work-life balance.



SACA: Relaxes...

It was a simple gathering of friends; made all the more special by the comradeship and warmth that was felt all around.

In May this year, the Welfare Committee was at it again but decided to go "digital" and organized a series of console-based activities at Play Nation. For an afternoon, we were spoilt for choice – the menu consisting of X-box 360, Playstation 3 and Wii games. Behind colourful cartoon characters, music and laughter, the games played required concentration and coordination; essential ingredients in team-building and cooperation.



Play Nation