

Alvin Yong 楊欽皓





## Introduction

Alvin was born in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, a country that doesn't really have much opportunity for street performing. Because of this reason, he started street performing in Taipei, Taiwan since 2015. Until now, he has been traveling abroad to perform in street festivals.

## Specialities

Diabolo since 2002 (age 9)

- Diabolo aka the Chinese Yo-yo is a big size yo-yo manipulated by a string attached on a pair of sticks. What makes it challenging is the Diabolo required coordination between vision & object manipulate ability.

Cyr Wheel since 2017 (age 24)

- Cyr wheel is a 15kg giant circular apparatus made of stainless steel. It has to be 10cm taller than the performer; therefore it required a highly physical strength and endurance to conduct a Cyr Wheel routine.

# Bio

Alvin was born in July 1993, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

He graduated from JinWen University of Science & Technology, Taiwan, with a degree in Food and Beverage Management.

Meanwhile, he is also a licensed street performer in Taiwan, which has an annual <15% success rate in the audition.

By doing street performance, he discovered his second passion besides Diabolo, that is Cyr Wheel. Now, he is the pioneer of the Cyr Wheel in Malaysia, able to perform and coach others.

After finishing his studies from Taiwan, he chose to return to his motherland as he hoped to grow the street performance culture through his experience. However, his job is not common in Malaysia, he found less opportunity to fulfill his desire to become a better performer, therefore he aims to become a street performer that meets the condition of international standard.

Alvin's dream is to be an artist who will leave an impression of Malaysia to his audience/people encountered along his journey, while filling his soul from challenge himself to (reach higher limit/see how far he can go), together with two of his mates --- Cyr Wheel & Diabolo.

Now, Alvin is still on his journey to explore his possibility in life.

In his younger age, before he dedicated his life becoming a performer, he was a naïve kid who was passionate about diabolo because of the great motivation on friendships, brotherhood, enthusiasm and accomplishments.

[Begin]

It all started in 2002.

Alvin met Diabolo (aka chinese yo-yo in Malaysia) in co curricular during primary school. After practising for a certain period, it gave him an opportunity to perform on stage. He enjoyed the excitement brought to him from performance no matter how it went, since then he never refused any opportunity to perform, eventually he grew his passion on Diabolo.

In high school, he met a lot of people who were as passionate in Diabolo society. Eventually, Alvin and a few of his best mates formed a team called Soul D. They were one of the leading diabolo teams in Malaysia who were recognized internationally. They had been invited to many performances and also took part in International competitions together.

Unfortunately, their paths divided after high school, Alvin chose to follow his heart, by remaining on this path, despite walking alone.

[Dream]

In 2010, Alvin and his team were invited to participate in an International Diabolo Competition held in Taiwan. It was their first time traveling abroad to meet international players. One thing that inspired Alvin the most from the trip, was meeting the diabolo team from TPEC, formerly known as Taipei Physical Sport College. This experience not only opened Alvin's world, but also planted a seed in his soul to study in this college in order to keep him motivated and improve his diabolo skills to the next level.

Traveling to Taiwan also brought an impact to Alvin that he wanted to travel to more places because of Diabolo. Additionally, he found out that Taiwan has a culture of street performance, through news randomly found on the internet. It was his first impression of knowing there is a free platform for people who are keen to perform, therefore he found his dream to become a street performer, in order to travel the world with Diabolo.

After graduating from high school, due to insufficient financial support, Alvin took a gap year to work in order to have enough savings for studying in Taiwan, as a Diabolo coach. His journey of 'pursuing dream' to Taiwan had begun in 2013. However, he got off to a bad start when he failed to get into the university he had dreamed of for 2 years , so he put all his effort on his last target, to become a street performer .

Alvin failed his audition to get a street performer license in 2014, but it never stopped him from achieving this dream. Fortunately, he got his street performer license the next year in 2015 and then had his first street performing experience in November. Afterward , he became a full time street performer since September 2016, while he was still an undergraduate.

[Evolve]

Ever since Alvin had been performing on the street for more than a year, he found out that most of the great performers he met had more than one speciality, he then realized that he needs some new element in his show/life in order to be a better performer. It was in his final year of University studies, by the reason of bringing something new/rarely seen in Malaysia, Alvin decided to pick up Cyr Wheel as his second talent.

Alvin first met Cyr Wheel in Taiwan, by watching the show of well-known street performer, Isaac Hou, who brought this act from Europe to Asia. He was also one of Alvin's teachers during the early stage of learning Cyr Wheel. Influenced by the life story of Isaac, Alvin determined to be a great performer that could bring the awareness of the art form, just the way like Isaac brings an impact in Taiwan.

In Jan 2018, Alvin comes back to Malaysia with his vision and determination. This year, Alvin had been doing many corporate performances with a modern circus company, eventually he felt lost because of not seeing his personal growth even though he had the opportunity to perform. It was until Nov 2018, he won a competition named Artistreet, he then realized sharing his own act and idea to others is filling the emptiness in his soul. So, he decided to seek more opportunities in doing his show.

In 2019, he started to perform his street show again in several festivals. And even travel to Europe to explore more about the street performance and circus community. It has opened up his world, he is stepping towards on this new journey he discovered. To be a performer, a circus artist, continuing to amaze himself.

## From Specialities to Show

Along Alvin's Journey, he had so far developed two kind of shows.

First is the entertaining short show of his individual act, Diabolo or Cyr Wheel, and even both combined. This is purely for the spirit of SHOW, to leave the audiences in awe while entertaining them on stage. He likes to show his enthusiasm on performing and spread the energy to everyone.

Secondly, the show that brings him to meet the world, a long show that meets the criteria of street festival around the world, his 'Soul to Show' street act. It was a show that Alvin put his thoughts and expressed it throughout the performance, a rather artistic side of him about what he has been loving to do, definitely putting his SOUL on it.

## Diabolo

- Diabolo since 2002 (age 9)

- Diabolo aka the Chinese Yo-yo is a big size yo-yo manipulated by a string attached on a pair of sticks. It is commonly known as a juggling or circus props among western countries, while it is categorised as a cultural toy from Chinese society in Asia. What makes Diabolo challenging and fun to watched it's because of the requirement of coordination between vision & object manipulation.

- The modern Diabolo has also evolved into the element of LED Light into the props, therefore it looks more attractive and unique in the dark, like a shooting star.

- In Alvin's performance, he will show you the enthusiasm he had from the experience of diabolo journey. He want's to share the energy together with the audience while performing his ability on diabolo.

## Technical Requirements

Space : 6 meters x 6 meters

Heights : 8 meters

Floor : Flat

Show Durations : 7 minutes

Preparation : 10 minutes

On stage set up : 2 minutes

## Cyr Wheel

- Cyr Wheel since 2017 (age 24)

- Cyr wheel is a high risk and intensity circus apparatus, it is very rare in Malaysia, Alvin is the pioneer of this form of circus art in Malaysia. This 15kg giant circular apparatus is made of stainless steel, it has to be 10cm taller than the performer. To conduct a Cyr Wheel routine, it's a basic requirement that the artist has to be strong on his physical strength and balance. It's a circus art with a combination of strength, grace, agility, music and balance.

- The performers of Cyr Wheel usually are acrobats or dancers who already have a high level of understanding in their body movement, therefore a Cyr Wheel act is commonly seen as a graceful performance. Alvin had never been involved in any proper training of these skills, but it never stopped him to find his way to dance with the wheel, despite knowing his disadvantage. He puts a lots of effort on training to educate his body to tolerate the dizziness, gain the trust between himself and the wheel to make him comfortable while spinning. Last but not least, to avoid hurting himself.

-After more than two years of training, performed numerous shows on stages and streets, locally and abroad. Alvin is now capable of performing Cyr Wheel confidently, no matter on a short-high energy routine, or slow-cinematic routine.

### Technical Requirements

Space : 6 meters x 6 meters

Heights : 5 meters

Floor : Hard and Flat

Show Durations : 6 minutes

Preparation : 20 minutes

On stage set up : 2 minutes

## Story

Alvin began his journey with his mate , a Diabolo to perform on the street. As the time went by and his passion in performing grew, he discovered another mate that will journey with him, a Cyr Wheel.

Alvin's story is a journey about how a young man from Malaysia became a street performer. From taking the Diabolo as a hobby to the time when he met the Cyr Wheel. These two mates have become an important part of his life as a street performer. He named this journey "Soul to Show".

Alvin has been training on Diabolo for over 18 years and 2 years of Cyr Wheel. When both of this puts together it sure will be a beautiful yet jaw dropping and an exciting street performance.

## Technical Requirements

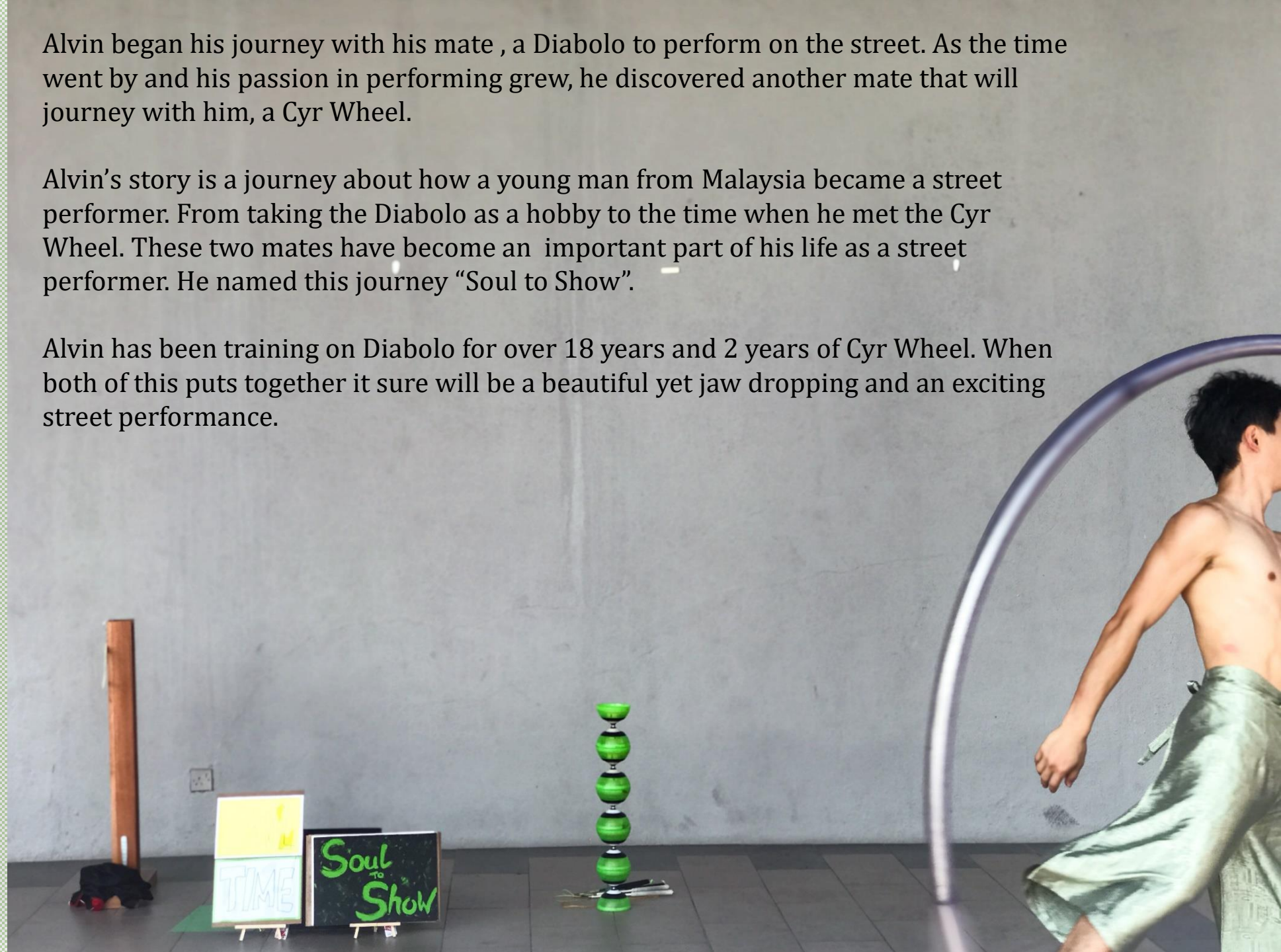
Space : 6 meters x 6 meters

Heights : 8 meters

Floor : Hard and Flat

Show Durations : 25 minutes

Set up : 30 minutes



# Story behind the name “ Soul to Show ”

This name was first a name for Alvin's facebook page, which was created in Nov 2017.

After the separation of his team ' Soul D ', Alvin continues his path on diabolo and moves on. He thinks that this decision of following his heart, somehow is partly influenced by the team. He wants to carry on the spirit and achieve the targets they were supposed to work together. This is why Alvin has a strong bond with the word 'SOUL'

The reason Alvin started his facebook page, is to share his life as a street performer to his friends & family, and also people who are curious about what it is about. He hopes to show his thoughts, that life is all about being true to ourselves, believing the heart towards our passion. He thought this decision of revealing his life and inner self are similar like sharing his soul to others, that's why he named this action as ' Soul to Show '.

Ever since Alvin started practising Cyr-Wheel, he learnt that in order to do a good act, it's important to have strong body movement and expression. This is the thought he never thinks about when he performs with Diabolo. By figuring out how to put both of his speciality into one show, he thinks that these two different 'mates' gave him very different thoughts in his performing life stage. So, he then decided to do a show about his story as a performer, from a young boy who loves to show his diabolo tricks and get applause from the audiences, to a story-teller who wishes to show his appreciation to the audiences for lifting him up along the 'life' of his show.

From the stories above, Alvin knows that ' Soul to Show ' isn't just a name for facebook page anymore, it's his motto in life. By watching his show, you're already involved in his life, which he describes as a 'Cahaya', meaning lights in Malay. He wants to be your 'Cahaya' as well, by sharing his act 'Soul to Show'.



## Experiences & Accomplishments

### Champion

ARTISTREET 2018 – Quest for the best street acts

### Street Performance

2015-2018

Taipei, Taiwan

2019

Penang Hot Air Balloon Fiesta - Malaysia

Gwangju Fringe Festival - South Korea

Festival D'Avignon Off - France

Chalon Dans La Rue Off - France

Edinburgh Fringe - Scotland UK

### Corporate Performance

2018

Cré – One of Asia's Largest Circus Troupe

2018-2019

Psycusix – Modern Circus in Malaysia

### Radio Station Interview

988 breakfast show - Morning Up

### International Diabolo Competition 得獎記錄：

- 1) 2010 Taiwan PEH Cup – International Acrobatics Festival , Team 1<sup>st</sup>-runner up 體健杯 公開團體亞軍
- 2) 2012 Tokyo International Diabolo Competition, Team Champion 東京扯鈴大賽 公開團體冠軍
- 3) 2012 DMOC, Malaysian Open Individual Champion 馬來西亞個人冠軍
- 4) 2013 Taiwan PEH Cup – International Acrobatics Festival , Male Individual 5<sup>th</sup> place 公開個人第五名
- 5) 2014 Moyostage , Team 1<sup>st</sup>- runner up 公開團體亞軍
- 6) 2016 Moyostage , Team 1<sup>st</sup>- runner up 公開團體亞軍
- 7) 2016 Moyostage, Diabolo Battle Top 4
- 7) 2017 Taiwan Asia Cup , Male Individual 10<sup>th</sup> place 亞洲杯 公開個人第十名

### Awards :

#### Champion

ARTISTREET 2018 – Quest for the best street acts

18<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018, Alvin won in the competition held by MyCreativeVentures. Competed with other local artists such as dancers, street drummer, musicians, caklepong and more.

### Performances:

Malaysia Represented

**2018 Citizens Sports Games , Miaoli, Taiwan** - Choreographer & Team member in Malaysia Diabolo Association

In Oct 2018, Alvin and others Malaysian diabolo player are invited to be guest performers of the Taiwan Citizens Sports Games. Together with guests from the Phillipines, Singapore and Australia.

### Guest Performer

2015 Diabolo Star – Taiwan North District Diabolo Convention

2018 Diabolo Malaysia Open Competition

2019 Link 2.0 National Diabolo Camp, Malaysia

### 其他經歷：

- 1) 2015 北區聯合鈴展 表演嘉賓
- 2) 2015~2018 Taipei 台北市街頭藝人
- 3) 2018 苗栗全民運-馬來西亞代表團 表演編排
- 4) 2019 鈴系杯 裁判
- 5) 2018, 2019 DMOC 裁判 + 策劃團隊

### Radio Station Interview

988 breakfast show - Morning Up

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, Alvin had an interview on local radio station 988. Shared about his stories in street performing, cyr wheel and diabolo.

## Contact

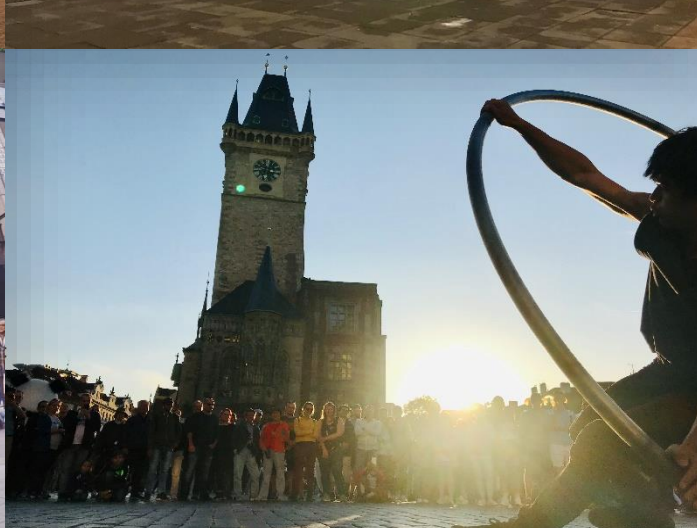
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‘ Thank you for being my Cahaya (Light) ‘

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