

The International Golden Sash Academy is an academy designed for women of all ages competing in pageants. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced beauty queen, The International Golden Sash Academy will give you the tools you need to reach your next level of success! It will give a comprehensive overview of what it takes to succeed at your next competition starting from the inside out. This is a ten week course that will focus on a different topics each week.





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With the success of "Moana" and growing need/interest in diversity in their princess line/history, Disney has been trying to pass the cultural test with all possible flying colors by adapting every kind of hero and heroine for their animated feature films. With "Moana," and "Raya and the last dragon," it's clear Disney is trying to put their own iconic magical spin on every possible fairy tale they can weave with new rising stars and storytellers to pave the way for future profits and programming. "Encanto" is a Columbian fantasy tale, scored through the genius musical mind of Lynn-Manual Miranda, who had already delivered substantial musical success for Disney with his work in "Moana" and "Mary Poppins Returns." One always hopes lightning strikes more than once so let's see if Disney has conjured up the right kind of magic once again.

In a humble village in Columbia, the centerpiece of the town (and the story) is the Madrigals family: a family blessed with a magical house that is not only alive and vibrantly energetic but also grants each new family member as they come of age with their own, unique mystical power. From super strength, weather manipulation, and shape-shifting, there's something extra special about every member of the Madrigals family...except for Mirabel (Stephanie Beatriz). She's the only one who never received a mystical gift and it has left her feeling disconnected and ignored by her magical-powered relatives. However, when a mysterious danger threatens to eliminate the magic from the Madrigals forever, Mirabel must find out what is causing the magic to disappear and save her family's gifts before they are lost for all eternity.

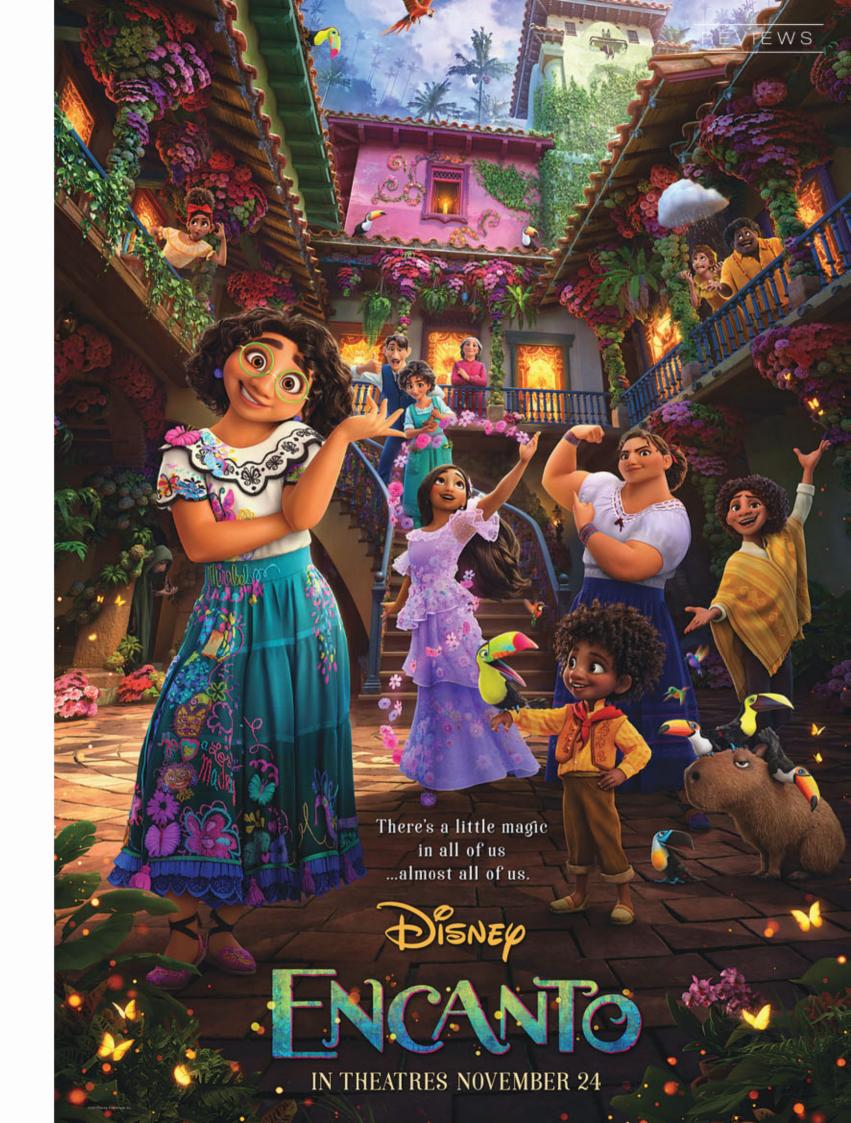
The subject of family is no stranger to Disney's usual go-to story focuses. Certain cultures and families have a greater emphasis on the importance of family and that is no different here. However, the strange thing about "Encanto" is that for as fantastical and family-focused as it is, the film seems to mix its signals on presenting family; often coming off sadder and head scratching than anything whimsical. Almost every plot twist, line of dialog, and the musical number has to revolve around why family is so important and how dedicated this particular family is to one another. And yet, Mirabel not only receives no magical gift she gets shunned and ignored by her family members simply because she is different from them; even from the figurehead of the family.

The prejudice towards Mirabel not only feels hurtful but also unnecessarily aggressive, even if that is the point/source of conflict for the character. The whole plot circles the looming threat of everyone losing their powers and that level of jeopardy feels a bit lacking when everyone is being an obnoxious pill towards Mirabel just because she's different; even to the point you WANT them to end up powerless so they can see what Mirabel has been going through. The movie kinda spins its wheels around this central plot and doesn't really leave room for much else outside of enjoying Miradna's signature soundtrack works of art. The songs range from catchy to forgettable. They are well presented and beautifully packaged, but again, they all dance around the same issue with little variation, and even the tune pitches don't change enough for me to say I can remember more than one song off top of my head after seeing it.

The catchiest song actually deals with the character of Bruno (voiced by John Leguizamo) who is treated even worse than Mirabel, and the more you find out the worse you feel for this character. I felt bad for him more so than anyone else in the rest of the family. Among all the beautiful colors, stunning visuals, and bouncing tunes; the film seems to mishandle its own message and sends conflicting morals about family connections that were handled far more elegantly and meaningfully in Pixar's "Coco" then they were here. Even with a Disney film having an expected happily ever after, the cast never becomes likable or memorable enough to feel like the lessons have been learned or expressed in the right way; to us or the cast.

Overall, "Encanto" has a lot to like but not as much to love if you ask me. There's plenty of flash and colorful music but no staying power, not during the film and certainly not after it. The message about the power of families feels disjointed and poorly arranged in a way that it contradicts itself and ends up painting the Madrigals as glorified jerks rather than a whimsical family to emulate and idolize. Once you get behind it all, there's not much going on and at the end, the answers all seem so obvious you're wondering why it took so long to learn the clear-cut message. But hey, at least it's got great music.

We give "Encanto" 2 stars out of 4 stars.



#### FEATURE

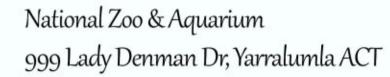




The National Zoo and Aquarium is a privately owned 19-hectare (47-acre) zoo and aquarium in the Australian capital city of Canberra. It is located in Yarralumla at the western end of Lake Burley Griffin, next to Scrivener Darn. It's definitely one of the best zoos in the country - it's a treasure in Canberra. While most Australian cities have zoos, this one has a level of familiarity and maturity to it that is rarely seen elsewhere in the country. The animals all appeared very cared for, and it had massive enclosures with a number of places to hide and chill. We especially loved to see the beautiful giraffes, and rhinos and it's worth noting that the playground and kids area is totally fabulous.













#### FEATURE











The National Dinosaur Museum is Australia's largest permanent display of prehistoric specimens, located in Gold Creek Village near Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, Australia.

The museum's exhibition follows the evolution of life, with a particular focus on dinosaurs. With an annual patronage of 100,000 visitors, the museum is one of the most popular attractions in the Australian Capital Territory. The gift shop stocks a range of natural history books, dinosaur replicas, toys, fossils, crystals, minerals and meteorites. It's definitely an amazing place for the young and old regardless what you think of dinosaurs. You can't miss this place as there are several life-sized models of dinosaurs displayed outside as well as an awesome park with a secure gate allocated for the little ones to play and enjoy.

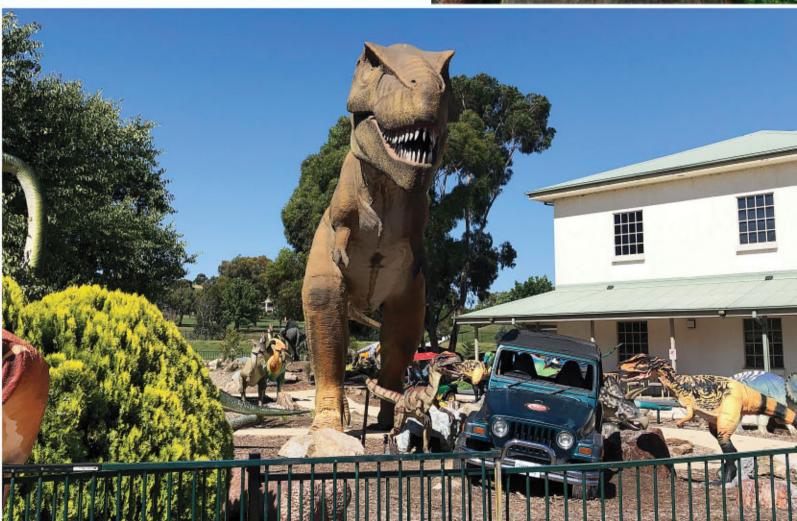




6 Gold Creek Rd, Nicholls, Canberra 2913, Australia









Seeyan Arthemy Ricardo was only four years old when he first walked the runway. It was a great honour to have done it for the late Filipino international and Hollywood fashion designer Rocky Gathercole during his "Very RG Fashion Show," held in Sydney in July 2019.

From his first-ever fashion runway, Seeyan took an interest in joining pageants and modelling.

In his first-ever pageant, Seeyan, who just turned 5-year-old, took home the grand title of Little Mister Glam Australia 2019 and Little Glam Charity King 2019.

In the same pageant, Seeyan also won 8 other special awards, namely: Best in Talent, Best in Runway, Best in National Costume, Darling of the Press winner, People's Choice Award winner, Netizens Choice Award, Little Mr. Friendship, and Little Mr. Congeniality.

In January 2020, Seeyan represented Australia in the Little Mister Glam International competition. He bagged the title Junior Glam Earth International 2020 and Mr. Photogenic.

In December 2020, in the Little Miss & Mister World pageant, Seeyan was awarded the Mr. Little Asia Pacific (Australia) 2020 title. He was supposed to compete in the Internationals in Myanmar, but due to Covid-19, he did not push through.

On the 11th of December 2021, Seeyan was one of the TrendyB Kids Fashion Fest models held in Eastern Creek. It's one of the biggest kids' runway shows featuring pageant and African-inspired clothes by Trendy B Designs. Seeyan also joined the Talent Contest part of the show, where he sang.

On the 26th of December 2021, Seeyan was awarded Mister Australasia, Little Mr. International King of the Year, Best in Swimwear, and Best in Social Media.



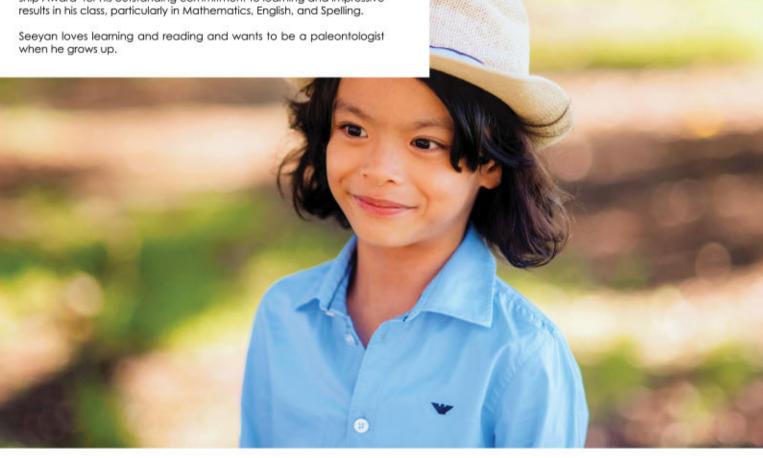


In other community events, Seeyan has performed and sang "True Colors" (original by Cyndi Lauper) at the 123rd Philippine Independence Day celebration hosted by APCO (Alliance of Philippine Community Organisations) on the 5th of June 2021. He was also one of 11 model kids who did a fashion show during the Philippine National Day Ball hosted by the Philippine Community Council of NSW on the 12th of June 2021. He also paraded with fellow Little Glam Australia 2019 winners at the Philippine Christmas Festival at Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour, Sydney, on the 9th of November 2019. He had also appeared in a couple of radio interviews, including Jinky Marsh's Generation Hope and with Ms. Violi Calvert on Radio Tagumpay, both on Triple H 100.1fm.

Apart from modelling, fashion, and pageants, Seeyan also loves music and playing the piano; he enjoys dancing and singing; he loves swimming and playing chess for sports.

Academically, Seeyan is now in Year 2. Last year, he was 1 of only 3 Year 1 students in his class who was recognised and awarded "Citizenship Award" for his outstanding commitment to learning and impressive results in his class, particularly in Mathematics, English, and Spelling.













She enjoys dancing, singing, art, fashion, and she hopes that one day she will become a makeup artist, especially editorial makeup, exploring different art and craft of makeup.

She also has dyslexia and hopes to inspire others that there is nothing you can't do if you put your mind and passion into it.

Her achievements include starting dancing at 2, being awarded a class performance award for Grade IV Jazz, and receiving the CPA High Achievement award from the Australasian Dance Association. In 2019, she was elected School Representative Council and Library Monitor. In 2018 and 2019, she was Mini Vinnies Leader. She helped raise money for the Homeless; she was Bethlehem College Ambassador in 2020 and 2021, and she was also selected for the gifted and talented music program at school in 2020.

Isabel was recently crowned Miss Teen Australasia and Miss Photogenic and she is also the ambassador teen model for BareLife Naturals, and Chocolate Day Spa.





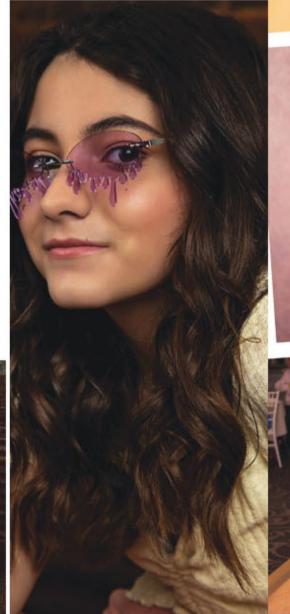




PHOTO CREDIT PAUL VASQUEZ

fileyah-Fhel ALIMAG BIGORNIA



Aileyah-Fhel Calimag Bigornia is four years old of Filipino descent. She is passionate about pageants and modelling, following her sister's passion.

At her age, she enjoys watching dancing, singing, pageants, and fashion shows, and she spends her time on technology to learn basic learning. She also helps her sister segregate recycled plastic cans and bottles to raise funds and donate them to the Philippines to help children in need. She spends her time at dance school at the weekend doing the Emma Wiggle ballet, tap, jazz, and singing with instruments.

Aileyah – Fel's first exposure in public was when she joined the Trendy B designs at the Christmas Fashion show for charity fundraising at the age of 2. Also, she was one of the three awardees who won the best-dressed guest at the TendyB Kids Fashion show last year, 2021.

Alleyah-Fel, at the age of 3, was recently crowned as Little Miss Australasia Global 2021 held at Dockside Darling Harbour and with a special award, "Darling of the Crowd."

She is very independent in her ADLs and responsible for tidying and cleaning her mess at her age.



Candice Tyra Geonzon Tarrant is a 12-year-old Filipino Australian. She is the only daughter of Randy Tarrant and Cheryl Tarrant. Her dad, Randy, has been a Timber sales consultant and expert wood machinist for over 20 years and her mother, Cheryl, is a full-time night shift nurse and a beauty Queen - the reigning Woman of the Universe Australia 2021, Woman of the Universe Tourism 2021 and Mrs. Universe Australia Finalist 2022.

Following the footsteps of her beauty Queen mother, Candice is an official candidate in the Junior Miss Earth Australia 2021 and Little Miss Australasia 2021. Candice has a passion for helping other people through her recycling advocacy. She has been collecting empty bottles, cans, and cartons for two years now. She donated 300 AUD or 10,000 pesos as COVID 19 Assistance in Iloilo, Philippines, last year from recycling.

This year, in collaboration with her mother, they came up with an event "Appreciation Day for Aged Care Workers" where they will provide lunch for Aged Care workers from selling their preloved items and recycling set in December with the hope that the restriction in Aged care will ease by that month. She also performed in various Aged Care Facilities to help fund Dementia Australia.

Candice is also an active performer and a member of the Team Fuchsia Performance Troupe of Stepaside Studios West Ryde for over seven years now. This year, she has eight dance lessons: Youth Cheer, L3 Ballet, L3 Jazz, Intermediate Acrobatics, Intermediate Hip-hop, L2 Tap, Trio Hip-hop, and Performance Troupe. This year, they have won several dance competitions, and they are competing for National Hollywood Bound in January 2022.

Candice was awarded as Most Outstanding Junior Dancer of 2019; this year, she performed the lead role as Sophie in the Enchanted Dance concert held in Pioneer Theatre Castle Hill. This year, she also completed her Classical Ballet examination with Honours by Australian Dance Vision. During her primary years, while other kids were on their lunch break, Candice volunteered twice a week as Library Monitor in their school. She is also the lead dancer of their Wakikiri School Performing Dance, a member of the senior dance troupe, and a school representative in netball.

She was awarded as PSSA Best and Fairest Junior Netball 2019 and Mandarin High Achievement 2019 of WRPS. She will be in her 7th year at Marist Sisters Woolwich. When she grows up she wants to be a Physiotherapist particularly a dance and sports physiotherapist. Candice aspires to be a print ad and a runway model as well. She is under the management of the Starfish Kids talent agency. Candice is looking forward to receiving her award as Sydney's Best Dressed 2021 Awardee this year.



INTRODUCING SEACRET AMBASSADOR MARYROSE SALUBRE

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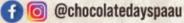
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