



15 Mr Glenn Lim, 38, is a youth specialist consultant, life coach and founder of coaching-mentoring organisation Mastery Learning Academy. He is a Commonwealth Youth Ambassador (Asean) and has won six awards, including the Outstanding Young Person of the World Award 2007 from global youth leadership network Junior Chamber International. In 2007, he published his autobiography, *Wake-up Call*, about his teen drug and vice problems.

The former school dropout who barely scraped through his A-levels is now pursuing a masters in social science with Swinburne University of Technology, which he will complete in April.

“THE youth cultural landscape today is one ruled by ‘paradoxical permissibility’.

For example, many of Singapore’s youth keep an intensive fitness regime, yet they don’t think twice about their smoking habits and weekend binge drinking. One word describes them: Contradiction.

There are no ‘absolutes’ for them. They regard organised religion, systems and schools with suspicion – whether it is traditionalism, authoritarianism or any big picture narrative. They don’t trust anything because they feel there is no longer just one absolute truth.

This ideology is fuelling an ‘instant’ generation that neither takes time nor effort to process their actions, even though some of them start off with noble intentions.

As a result, today’s youth make impulsive choices that demonstrate an erosion of values and principles. They act and behave without discretion, pushing the limits to satisfy their curiosity, often resulting in dire consequences.

All these put them in a high-risk category. The rise in underage sex and delinquency stems from youth not having anchors in today’s information-rich and choice-laden world. They are confronted with choices but have no compass to help them navigate the high seas.

It does not help that current teaching curricula, such as moral and sex education, focus mainly on giving youth informed choices, with little teaching of values. Dishing out ‘informed choices’, however, is like imparting knowledge without wisdom. Youth end up making arbitrary choices without guiding principles.

Creating more intervention or corrective programmes to address this may not be the answer. Today is the day of tribes. Youth prefer to interact in small communities, not big rallies. They are suspicious of the guy who fills the room, of leaders who get there by appointment and not by relational influence. This is a generation that is craving for authentic relationships.

Mentoring is the key to guiding youth through life. I’m so glad that Singapore has set youth mentoring as a national agenda because mentoring focuses on intrinsic values and processes that help build character and strong anchors.

To this endeavour, I will launch Mastery Learning Academy early this year to invest in leadership development through holistic mentoring of the youth in all aspects, from relationships to academia. It is my goal to develop youth into competent masters of their life’s journeys.

We have already been engaged to hold values-based motivational camps at schools, and we will follow these up with eight weeks to a year of group mentoring.

I will also hold workshops for parents to help them understand the world of their children this year.

This is my passion for 2009: that mentoring be a staple youth outreach vehicle to change the youth climate in Singapore, by building strong values and resilient future leaders.”

Seeing today’s youth as lacking a compass to navigate the high seas of an increasingly complex world, Mr Lim (right) is launching a coaching-mentoring organisation this year. ST PHOTO: SAMUEL HE

MIKE WILUAN: FILM

13 Mr Mike Wiluan, 31, is the managing director of Infinite Frameworks, Singapore’s first full-fledged, high-definition post-production facility. The company also finances, produces or does post production work for animation (*Sing To The Dawn*), documentaries (*Marco Polo: The China Mystery Revealed*) and feature films (*Eric Khoo’s My Magic*).

It recently announced plans to develop Singapore’s first sound stage in Mediapolis@one-north, a billion-dollar media hub in Buona Vista expected to be ready in 2020.

“SINGAPORE’S efforts to develop its fledgling media industry in the last decade have largely paid off and international players are now landing on our shores and setting up offices here. However, to become a powerhouse, three areas need attention: infrastructure, experience and financing.

Infrastructure here is limited for beginning-to-end film-making. There are no sound-proof production studios or negative print-cutting facilities, as there are not enough domestic films to support the investment.

With more local as well as international co-productions, it is the right time to look into infrastructure. We are investing in Singapore’s first sound-stage complex in Mediapolis.

In 2006, we started production on Singapore’s first English animated feature film: *Sing to the Dawn*. To do it cost-effectively but with good production qualities, we set up a second studio in Nongsa, Batam Island. It has now grown to house more than 100 computer graphics artists.

We hired Phil Mitchel, one of the creators of the world’s first 3D CGI television series called *Re-boot*. He helped to broad-



Mr Mike Wiluan, 31, in the 3D animation studio of his firm's Bukit Pasoh Road office. The company has another studio on Batam island and plans to develop Singapore's first sound stage in a billion-dollar media hub that will be built at Buona Vista. PHOTO: JOSEPH NAIR FOR THE STRAITS TIMES