

Believing in My Possibilities

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Abstract:

For 30 years, NPO Palette has aimed to achieve a society where people with or without disability can live an ordinary life by offering various activities in Ebisu.

I first participated in the English conversation class offered by Palette when I was 9 years old, and more than 10 years have passed since then.

I love to sing and dance. My mother encouraged me to participate in the fashion show "Pale Colle" sponsored by Palette three years ago. I participated in the 2012 show as well. "Pale Colle" exploits the ability of the performers in a natural way so that the audience can enjoy the stage and at the same time get a better understanding of the people with disability.

The show was a big success and everyone who saw the stage was impressed by the expressions and movements of the performers that differed from their usual self.

I tried to smile during the show because I felt it was very important. I tried hard to let the audience enjoy. I would like to participate again if I were given the opportunity. I hope many people will see the stage and become aware of the possibilities of the people with disability.

<Keywords: Possibilities of people with disability>

My current job

I have been working in a wedding hall called the Best Bridal Co. Ltd. since 5 years ago. My responsibilities include cleaning, polishing tableware, folding table napkins, gardening and some administrative jobs. My job requires me to come to the office in a party dress twice a year as part of the job responsibilities. Commuting in a party dress was not easy at the beginning but by now, it's fun. Many of my colleagues are young and I find a lot of common topics like favorite TV programs and idle singers. They are friendly and often talk to me. It takes a long time to commute to the office but since I walk pass the Tokyo Disney Land that I love very much, I occasionally stop by to do some shopping.

About "Palette"

Palette is a Non-Profit Organization established in 1983 in Ebisu, Tokyo. The objective of the Palette's activity is to create a community that can accommodate all neighbors- people with / without disabilities- and to allow all neighbors to live a normal social life in the community. I first came to know Palette when my mother took me to an English conversation class organized by Palette when I was 9 years old. Since then I have been engaged in its activities for more than 10 years. Palette's twice-a-year overnight excursion trips are my fun.

My favorite things

I love singing and dancing. I belonged to a drama club for 3 years when I was a high school student. I still remember the fascinating public performance we did at the Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre. When I have some spare time, I still attend the Palette's dancing class.

The Palette Collection

The Palette Collection is a fashion show that the Palette organized in 2010 and 2012 in Tokyo. The purpose of the fashion show was to let the young persons with disabilities to freely express their feelings through the whole process of the show, while giving the audience the sense of joy and the understanding of disabilities. 5 (five) workshops were held in order to optimize the performers' potentials. Each performer was the main character. Each performer contributed to the show, making the most of their unique characters.

I participated in the Palette Collection twice in 2010 and 2012 as my mother recommended to do so. I met with a lot of new participants at the workshop, practiced the performance and did dress rehearsals. My costume was designed by a dress-making college student and a professional fashion designer.

On the day of the public performance, performers were grouped in 4 teams, each of them having the team color of white, blue, yellow and red. I was in the red team, which represented the flower. Since I performed the show before, I displayed my leadership so that new participants could also enjoy the show and most importantly, they could keep a good smile during the show.

The Palette Collection, the public performance

There was an audience of 300 at the public performance. They included my colleagues, friends from the Palette and my family members. During the performance, audience

encouraged the performers by a storm of applause and beating time with their hands. I did my best in the performance and went wild in dancing to the live music. When I performed solo, in appreciation to the audience, I waved to them and made a shape of the heart with my hands. The audience wanted to shake hands with me and do a high touch at the finale of the performance. All the performers enjoyed the moment together with the audience.

What I would like to challenge in the future

Through my continued engagement with the Palette and the Palette Collection, I would like to further develop my personality and impress and encourage the audience. I also wish that more people come to see our performance and recognize the potentials that the people with disabilities have.

Thank you for your kind attention to my speech.