

## Extraordinary CLAP!



The choir of Bishan Home comprising the intellectually disabled, showcased their singing ability at the show.



Students from Grace Orchard School impress with their coordination and sense of balance while performing juggling acts.

**As she** swept across the stage with her partner, gracefully whirling to the tune of the Spanish number "*Festa De Um Tovo*", 32-year-old Julie Chong made one thing very clear — being unable to walk need not hold you back from ballroom dancing.

Ms Chong, 32, is wheelchair user. But that has not stopped her from taking ballroom dancing lessons for two and a half years. On May 5, she had her audience cheering.

It took a month of practising twice a week for her and her partner, Mr Ang Hock Seng, 35, to polish up their item for the "Extraordinary CLAP!" show.

Said Ms Chong: "When we were approached to perform for this event, we thought it was a good idea because we wanted to show that one can dance even in a wheelchair."

At the 90-minute concert, at the Toa Payoh Central Amphitheatre, the couple were not the only ones showcasing the abilities of the so-called disabled.

So did a choir from the Muscular Dystrophy Association and teens with special needs from Grace Orchard School, among others. Busker-singer Daniel Ng who is visually handicapped, wrapped up the evening with numbers in four languages.



Said the association's choir conductor, Mr Kenny Khoo: "To focus on the actual performances though, would be missing the point. We must appreciate and acknowledge that the performers have been able to develop their self-confidence and independence through this."

Ms Chong showing off her ballroom dance steps with Mr Ang.

**Extraordinary CLAP! You can do anything if you put your mind to it.**

Please refer to pg 30 for more information on CLAP!