

What a party!

By Song Jia Jia Photographs by Victor Chick

The drums and percussion instruments proved the biggest draw. People simply could not resist taking a turn banging on Chinese woodblocks, jembes from Africa and congas from Latin America.

Three-year-old twins Colin and Casey Liew were no exception. They grinned from ear to ear at being allowed to make a lot of noise.

"We could hardly persuade them to go home," said their mum, Mrs. Candy Liew.

The toddlers joined others in an impromptu rhythmic performance with local percussion ensemble OneHeartBeat Percussions at the Central District's Arty Party on Nov 24. Amazingly, everyone jived together melodiously.



Performers from the Chinese Opera Institute were among the many who put on a show. They included members of the Rose Borromeo Spanish Dance Company.



Many visitors to the Arty Party took the opportunity to be part of this big bash, where the theme was 'It's All About You!' and everyone could be a star.



Kathakali dancers from Bhaskar's Art Academy prepare for their show, which mixed Chinese and Indian elements.



Hey, what's over there? All the day's artistes gathered for the grand finale – a whacky musical about people rushing to Arty Party. It included highlights of their performances earlier.

The occasion was the annual day-long finale to the month-long District Arts Festival, which featured special local and overseas performances at the weekly Community Life Arts Programme (CLAP!). Arty Party was held along Waterloo Street, between Fu Lu Shou Complex and OG Shopping Centre.

There, people were entertained to a non-stop concert from 11am to 9pm.

The stars were Quipukamak, a quartet from Ecuador which played South American folk music.

Besides the concert, the crowds could try their hand at such diverse activities as Malay and Indian dance and calligraphy.

Making objects from plastic bottles proved to be a hit.

Said Madam Ng Ah Lee, 61, who was busy weaving a lamp base: "I can make

decorations for my home and help the environment too. It's very meaningful."

Just as popular was the booth offering the chance to do "fabric graffiti". People were invited to decorate a piece of fabric.

"I'd never be allowed to do this at home," said a thrilled Lin Jia Jia, eight, who was painting a butterfly on her fabric scrap.



Madam Ng Ah Lee (left), her sister, Madam Ang Chye Tee (right) and Madam Koo Jet Ho busily turn old plastic bottles into decorative items at the Christian Outreach to the Handicapped booth, one of six offering a variety of arts and crafts for visitors.



Ballerinas from the Singapore Dance Theatre performed excerpts from the popular ballet Swan Lake.

Buskers like this stiltwalker and gongfu artiste entertained between 6pm and 6.30pm.



This four-year-old and his aunt work on decorating squares of fabric. People's efforts will be sewn together and displayed at the Singapore Art Museum for Total Defence Day celebrations next month.