

13.5.2020

Inspired in self-isolation: Tom Sung

With Covid-19 lockdowns worldwide and health authorities urging people to self-isolate and practice social distancing on a massive scale as part of an enormous effort to #FlattenTheCurve of this global pandemic ... we are reaching out to industry friends, colleagues, associates, partners, etc., and asking them to share their #StayAtHome and #QuarantineAndChill activities with us during this extraordinary time.

Taiwan-based Sung, Fang-Yu AKA Tom is a lighting and visual designer whose work includes concerts, theatres and exhibitions. Interesting recent projects include the opening show of the new National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts WEIWUYING – the world's largest single-roof span performing arts center which is in Taipei, and also the spectacular kinetic light show that opened the Taipei Music Center. He is also Taiwanese singer and record producer Bobby Chen's LD and has lit his famous New Year's Eve concert for 26 years in a row! Without the Coronavirus pandemic disruption, he would have been lighting a fashion show now.

Robe: Where are you right now?

Tom: Taipei, Taiwan.

Robe: How are you spending time whilst isolating / on lockdown?

Tom: In fact, the situation of COVID-19 is quite stable here in Taiwan. So as of May 8th, Taiwan has had no local cases for 25 consecutive days. We therefore don't need to be locked down anymore, so most elements of daily life are running normally again, except for crowd gathering events which are illegal! So, people working in this field have nothing to do for now!

Robe: What's the most creative thing were able to do whilst in isolation?

Tom: During this jobless period, I have created a small mapping work for myself in response to the world at this moment in time – SOGOODTHANSEE

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_sJZP2m5TII

It means that even if we are separated at this difficult time, we must believe everything will eventually be overcome and we will get back to normal in the future.

Robe: Are you looking after anyone else during the Covid-19 crisis? Like neighbours or others in the family?

Tom: Luckily, I don't need to look after anyone. In the past two months, I was invited by several workshops and lecture sessions to share knowledge and teach on subjects like timecode, mapping and lighting design for college students, so I have been using this time to educate students and enrich my own experience.

Robe: Has anyone particularly inspired you since this crisis started?

Tom: During this time, I have seen many people using simulation software for lighting. And I enjoying watching these videos, especially when they make some interesting scenes. One of the most fun pieces I have seen to date is an Alien video created in WYSIWYG.

Keeping a sense of humor ... can make life easier!

Robe: What has been your favourite book / movie / Netflix or TV series / viral video / Games / music?

Tom: PS4 Spiderman ... It's a really cool video game, and at this time when people can't go out, it puts the whole of New York City in front of me!

Spiderman can traverse the city freely, using his special abilities, especially his webs to move horizontally or vertically, circumventing obstacles without stopping.

Robe: What's the first thing you'd like to do when we are through this crisis?

Tom: Of course, getting back to work and repaying the loan that has covered for the current situation!

Robe: Own question / answer / message of solidarity or something you'd like to say?

Tom: We all know this situation will not be an easy recovery! The biggest challenge our industry will face in the next half-year will be how to make income from the skills we have.

