# A Nation's Birthday

National Day is the most important day of the year to me. It falls on the 9th of August and the festival is celebrated annually. The National Day is a designated date on which celebrations mark the nationhood of a nation or non-sovereign country. This nationhood can be symbolized by the date of independence of becoming republic. Often the day is not called "National Day" but serves and can be considered as one. The National Day will often be a public holiday. In an effort to celebratory mood beyond The Float @ Marina Bay for Singapore's 46th birthday bash, the National Day Parade 2011 Executive Committee had partnered eight private and public agencies to coordinate a series of celebratory activities around the Marina Bay waterfront and Resort Worlds Sentosa. The National Day last year features a seamless ring of inclusive and wide-ranging events designed to bring together more than one hundred thousand Singaporeans for our nation's birthday in the days leading up to and on 9th August 2011

Last year, it was celebrated at The Float @ Marina Bay. The celebrations last year were being billed by the mass media as being the best ever. It was probably the most expensive ever too, considering that it was probably not cheap to construct the "floating" gallery. My classmates and I went to The Float at Marina Bay to celebrate the festive occasion too last year. When we reached there, we were entertained by the hosts from 4.30pm to 6pm before the actual performance started. We spent a whale of time laughing at the funny jokes the host told us. At a blink of an eye, it was already 6pm and the performance started.

First, there was a mass sing-a-long which warmed up the audience and got everyone together singing the National Day. Then, the second act began with a procession of the different cultural influences on Singapore. Each culture bought to Singapore its own unique culture and identity. The choreographed dance symbolized the integration of these different cultures in Singapore. In the third act, it features Mother and Son living in a kampong in Singapore. It was the 1970s and the kampong people were a close-knit community who look out for one another. The good natured bantering and humour recall a simpler time which many Singaporeans could relate to. The fourth act showed the progress of Singapore from the 1970s to the year 2000. This was done through the use of buildings, roads and vehicles through time. It also presents the growth of Son from childhood to adulthood. This was done through a video projected on the LED screen showcasing the highlights of his life. The first part of the fifth act continues

the journey of Son and his child, Grandson. It was the present and Grandson was 11 years old and a member of his school relay team. Initially, his team refused to practice and lost. However, after a pep talk by Son, the team was motivated and won the final race. Everyone cheered in support of the young team. After that, the different uniformed groups namely, the National Cadet Corps, National Police Cadet Corps, Red Cross and Girl Guides.

After that, it was the pledge moment. The Pledge Moment 2011 acts as a platform to unite Singaporeans all over the world to come together and recite the pledge in order t share the brief moment together. It is a symbolic and meaningful moment that connects the hearts of all Singaporeans as one and also strengthens the bonds of the nation.

Lastly, it was time for the display of fireworks. It was just magnificent! I enjoyed myself throughout the whole fireworks display and could not help but smile to celebrate my nation's birthday. It was an experience that will be etched in my mind forever.

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