

## Ms Candy CHEA Shuk-Mui

“CHEA Shuk-Mui” is a household name in Hong Kong. Like many of her generation, she came from an underprivileged family. At the age of four, she was sent to live with a foster mother, and so from a young age she could understand the pain of feeling neglected and having to live under someone else’s roof. Soon after, Ms Chea and her foster mother, a domestic worker, moved to a village in Yuen Long, where she quickly became the target of bullying by other children because she was an outsider. To protect her, her foster mother locked her inside the house with only a transistor radio as her company. It was during this time that the young Ms Chea began to dream about working in radio broadcasting. She wanted to bring joy to those like her, who would otherwise be alone with their sadness.

While living with her foster mother, she learned to speak the Hakka dialect fluently. Upon returning to her birth family four years later, the eight-year-old Ms Chea had difficulty readjusting, and was blamed for constantly requesting to return to Yuen Long. At the time, her only companion was her older sister, Ms CHEA Sum-Mui, in whom she confided her dream of a career in radio. With her sister’s encouragement and guidance, she eventually performed a children’s story on the radio in fluent Cantonese. Her performance so impressed the producer that she was invited to play the lead character in a children’s drama. Unfortunately, as she received more and more scripts, she felt increasingly stressed, and her Hakka accent crept back in. In the end, she was dropped from the schedule, and felt as though her dream had been shattered. Worse still, she was sent to work in a factory after finishing primary school to help meet family expenses. There she realised that only knowledge could change her fate, so she decided to find a way to study in the afternoon while working part-time in the morning. She went to school with all her fingers dyed with paint from the factory.

By Form 4, Ms Chea had become very envious of her sister, who was then working at Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK). Her sister advised her that correcting her accent was a prerequisite to becoming a broadcaster. Under the guidance of her sister, she spent half a year practising standardised Cantonese. After matriculation, she joined RTHK to work as a production assistant for a show targeting young people. She still dreamed of becoming a programme host, and even thought up a name for her programme. All she needed was a good opportunity. Finally, in 1978, Ms Chea was assigned to host a 5-minute weekly slot. But this amazing opportunity did not mean it was all smooth sailing thereafter. Ms Chea was criticised for her animated style and high-pitched voice, which only motivated her to work even harder to address her weaknesses.

After becoming a radio host, she continually enrolled in courses in pursuit of higher academic qualifications. She forgot about time while working, spending her days and nights collecting information and seizing every opportunity to interview news figures. Her compelling yet unobtrusive interview skills have been widely recognised. For decades, with her friendly and sincere voice, she has accompanied the people of Hong Kong through countless mornings.

Throughout her long and distinguished career, Ms Chea has received many awards, including a “New Women’s Award” from Asia Television, and a “Radio Broadcasting’s Most Outstanding Performing Artist

Gold Award” from the Hong Kong Performing Artistes Guild. She was elected “The Most Popular DJ” in Hong Kong for eight consecutive years. Currently she hosts a talk show called *Footprints in the Old Days*, which aims to tell uplifting stories and which has received high ratings from radio audiences.

Reflecting on her several signature shows, Ms Chea finds *Dreams Come True*, a programme segment, one of the most memorable parts of her career, in addition to *Morning Suite*. The idea behind *Dreams Come True* began with a letter Ms Chea received from a listener, telling her about a three-year-old child who suffered from leukemia and who had only half a year to live. The child’s dream was to visit Disneyland in Tokyo, but his family couldn’t afford the travel expenses. After reading the letter on her programme, Ms Chea received an outpouring of positive responses from listeners. As a result, the whole family could make the trip to Disneyland. Disney even sent Donald Duck to accompany them during the visit. Despite his short life, the child gained good memories. This experience deeply moved Ms Chea and inspired her to create a regular segment, *Dreams Come True*, devoted to helping the disadvantaged in the community by bringing together donors and beneficiaries. Thanks to the show, Ms Chea became known as the “mouthpiece of the unfortunate”. Another unforgettable memory for Ms Chea was when she invited Mr TANG Siu Pun (the quadriplegic euthanasia advocate known as “Ah Bun”) to write a short weekly segment called *Bun for Tomorrow* for her show, so that he could have income to realise his wish of providing financial support to his parents. Even though it was a nominal amount, Ah Bun felt very delighted.

Ms Chea truly believes leading by example is the best way to influence others. She often serves as an emcee for charity events and doesn’t miss any opportunity to help the disadvantaged, having offered her time to charities including the Hong Kong Kidney Foundation, the Hong Kong Disabled Youth Association, Tai Shan International, the Intellectually Disabled Education and Advocacy League, and the Hong Kong Youth Arts and Speech Association. Ms Chea is an enthusiastic proponent of turning words into actions. This explains why she has won numerous awards, including the “Ten Outstanding Young Persons Award”, “Yan Oi Tong Outstanding Charitable Artist Award”, the “Excellent Social Contribution Award” from the Regeneration Society, and the “Hong Kong Volunteer Award”. She has also received a commendation for community service from the Chief Executive, and a commendation from the Secretary for Home Affairs. As the founding chairperson of the Hong Kong Volunteer Awardees Society, Ms Chea plans to continue to reach out to people from all walks of life, building a strong volunteer force to create positive energy through personal bonding. After the difficulties of her childhood, she is able to understand and connect with the less fortunate. It was through her refusal to accept setbacks that she was able to make her dream to become a broadcaster come true. It is due to her humility and her belief in the human spirit that she continues to inspire people to strive for their dreams despite adversity.

Mr Chairman, in recognition of her extensive contributions to the broadcasting industry and the community of Hong Kong, may I present Ms Candy CHEA Shuk-Mui to you for the conferment of an honorary fellowship.

*Citation written and delivered by Professor Annie CHAN*

## 車淑梅女士

「車淑梅」是香港家傳戶曉的名字。就像許多同年代的香港人一樣，車女士來自窮困的家庭，四歲那年因家境問題，被送往與養母同住。養母是家庭傭工，所以車女士自小明白被人忽視，寄人籬下之苦。後來二人搬往元朗鄉村居住後，她這個外來人，很快成為其他孩子的欺凌對象。養母為了保護她，只好把她鎖在屋裡，陪伴她的只有一部原子粒收音機。因此，那個時候年紀小小的車女士已經夢想成為電台播音員，希望為那些處境像她一樣的人帶來歡樂，不要讓他們孤單地面對悲傷。

在與養母相依為命的日子，她學會了滿口客家話；四年後，車女士回到自己的家庭生活，八歲的她一時不適應，不時嚷著要返回元朗而受責備。當時她唯一的夥伴是姐姐車森梅女士，她告訴姐姐自己的夢想是當電台播音員。在姐姐的鼓勵和指導下，她到電台以流利的廣東話演繹了一個兒童故事，由於表現出色，監製立即邀請她當兒童劇的主角。可惜，由於劇本愈來愈多，壓力也隨之增加，她的鄉音不受控制地跑出來，結果她失去了這寶貴機會，播音夢也隨即破碎了。與此同時，她小學畢業後，為了幫補家計而放棄學業到工廠工作。後來，她意識到只有知識才能改變命運，所以決意想辦法半工讀，早上上班，下午回校上課，上課時手指還染着工廠的顏料。

中四那年，她非常羨慕姐姐在香港電台工作，姐姐提點她如果要成為播音員，先決條件是要將口音改正。在姐姐的指導下，她花了半年時間磨練標準的廣東話。預科畢業後，她進入港台工作，擔任年輕人節目的製作助理。她無時無刻都幻想自己當上主持，就連節目名稱也想好了，只苦等機會。終於在1978年，她等到了，每星期主持五分鐘的節目環節，可惜，獲得了這寶貴機會並把不代表從此一帆風順，車女士被批評說話聲調過於戲劇化和音頻太高，不過她沒有氣餒，反而更加努力改善自己的缺點。

當上主持後，車女士為補學歷不足，私下不斷報讀不同的課程。她爭取訪問新聞人物，為了搜集資料，可以通宵達旦廢寢忘餐。她那引人入勝、不亢不卑的訪問技巧一直為人稱頌。數十年來，她以親切的聲音，真摯的情懷，陪伴香港市民渡過了無數的清晨。

車女士在漫長而傑出的事業生涯中，獲得了不少獎項，包括亞洲電視「內外兼備新女性大獎」、香港演藝人協會「電台廣播最傑出表現藝人金棒獎」等等，她更連續八年當選「全港最受歡迎DJ」；現在主持專門散發正能量的訪談節目「舊日的足跡」，節目經常高踞電台節目榜內的最高收聽率。

在眾多招牌節目中，除了《晨光第一線》外，她最難忘的節目環節是《夢想成真》。《夢想成真》的緣起是當年車女士收到了一位聽眾來信，告知醫生通知他們三歲半患有白血病的孩子，壽命可能只得半年。孩子夢想到迪士尼樂園，可惜他們無力負擔旅費。車女士在節目中讀出信件之後，竟然收到各方面積極的回應，結果他們全家都可以成行，日本迪士尼公司更派出了唐老鴨全程陪伴，孩子在短暫的生命中得到了美好的回憶。這件事深深感動了車女士，更啟發了她要做更多。《夢想成真》是專為關注弱勢社群及不幸者而設的節目，致力為施與者及受惠者之間扮演橋樑的角色，當時車女士更被稱為「不幸者的喉舌」。另外，令她難忘的是邀請鄧紹斌(人稱「斌仔」，四肢癱瘓並倡議安樂死)參加她節目，他負責每周撰寫一次《斌向明天》的小環節，讓他能夠有收入，可以實現在經濟上支持父母的心願，縱使是象徵性的數目，斌仔也很興奮。

車女士深信以身作則是最佳感染他人的方法，她走出直播室，經常出任各大小公益活動的義務司儀，也不放過任何可以幫助弱勢社群的機會，她更參與了「香港腎臟基金會」、「香港傷殘青年協會」、「泰山公德會」、「勵智協進會」、「中國青少年文化藝術交流協會」等等不同的慈善組織。車女士熱心義務工作，身體力行，因此也曾經獲得多個獎項，包括：「香港十大傑出青年」、「仁愛堂傑出愛心演藝人大獎」、「再生會傑出社會貢獻大獎」、「行政長官社區服務獎狀」、「民政事務局局長嘉許計劃獎狀」，以及「香港傑出義工獎」，身為「香港傑出義工會」的創會會長，她將會繼續團結各方義工精英，接觸各階層人士，使行義路上人強馬壯，發放更大正能量。由於她童年曾經處於弱勢位置，令她更理解弱勢社群的心靈，與他們更有默契。正因為她有永不言敗的精神，才能實現成為播音員的理想；正因為她那謙卑及堅持人文精神的信念，才能繼續啟發他人不畏艱難奮勇向前。

主席先生，為表揚車淑梅女士對廣播界和香港社會的貢獻，本人謹恭請閣下頒授榮譽院士銜予車淑梅女士。

贊辭由陳效能教授撰寫及宣讀