

# *FIELD ASSIGNMENT #1*

News Writing

*Zakkiethunnisa Bte Ziawdeen*

*S10171758C | T202*

Headline: Vasantham strikes two firsts with one event

Byline: Zakkiethunnisa Bte Ziawdeen

Standfirst: The channel held duo auditions for the first time at Bukit Panjang Plaza's Garden Plaza.

Lead: Vasantham strikes two firsts with this year's Vasantham Star auditions, by holding duo auditions and holding them in a public venue for the first time. (25 words)

After having held the auditions for Vasantham Star as solo auditions for the past five editions of the competition, the auditions were changed to duo auditions.

Veteran Vasantham artiste Mrs Vicknesvari Vadivalagan, one of the three judges for Vasantham Star 2017, said that it was the decision of Vasantham and the production crew to adapt Vasantham Star into a duo competition in order to "give it a new twist and a new look".

"I think it's going to be interesting to see how a pair can work together and render the song," she added.

From friends to siblings, and even acquaintances who met only once or twice before deciding to participate together, there were hopefuls from different walks of life who turned up for the auditions on Sunday, May 21. The auditions started at 10am and concluded at 4.45pm.

“It [the duo audition] is a good idea... for those who feel like they might be too scared to go alone, ... it’s better for them to have a support system,” said MDIS advanced diploma student Asiya Shamna.

On the other hand, others are a little more doubtful about this new twist to the competition.

ITE College Central student Janani expressed concern over how, as a duo, the chances for getting eliminated are potentially higher, as there are now twice the chances for someone to “make a blunder” and cost the duo their place in the competition.

Many supporters clapped and cheered heartily as their friends performed harmonious duets and tried their hand at impressing the judges.

However, the duo auditions are not the only new feature of the Vasantham Star auditions. Also for the first time, the auditions were held at the Garden Plaza at Bukit Panjang Plaza, a public venue, rather than one behind MediaCorp’s closed doors.

This proved convenient for the supporters, because watching the auditions was not an option during the past years’ auditions held at MediaCorp. Many were shoppers or passers-by who stayed on to watch the auditions out of curiosity.

Several hopefuls came for the auditions hoping to enter Vasantham Star 2017, and sing on television in the future, while there were others with bigger ideas.

Staff nurse Logaswari D/O Gopal Alagan cited the time when Miss Vasantham 2011 Ms Vimala Velu shaved her head for breast cancer awareness, as an inspiration for her to be a “role model” to Vasantham viewers.

(424 words)