

MY PARENTS

Screenplay by

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Based on true story.

OPENING --

Scene opens medium shot of a man with 3 different panel. The man is wearing 3 different outfit to signify his career transition during the COVID-19. First panel, he's a car mechanic, second panel, he is a chef, last and third panel he is a delivery guy wearing a cap.

DAD, a Chinese man in his 50s. He is wearing a smile with unkept greyish short hair, and he is plump looking. Like your typical asian dad.

SON

(v.o.)

This is my dad. His name is Ah San, people usually call him Mr. Wong or simply Ah San. This is his story during COVID-19..

The 3 DAD looked up and talks to the SON that is off screen.

DAD

Oi, who are you talking to?

SON

(v.o.)

Uh... your potential fans?

**1 EXT. CAR WORKSHOP - EVENING**

**1**

Timeline - CMCO (May 2020)

We see two cars in the workshop, one is a white BMW and another NISSAN CITY. The NISSAN CITY is being repaired by a mechanic.

The sound of air drill can be heard, as DAD can be seen kneeling down, installing the last tyre for his customer while wearing a mask on his face. An Indian customer wearing a face mask can also be seen sitting on a chair near his car.

CUSTOMER 1

Eh, Uncle Wong, done already ah? How much ah?

DAD

(looking into the office)  
Ah Fang, can help me get the bill for the customer?

**2 INT. CAR WORKSHOP OFFICE - EVENING**

**2**

MOM, a.k.a Ah Fang, age 50s, can be seen sitting in the office with their son.

SON, a.k.a Ah Xian, age 30s, is sitting in front of the office computer, calculating the workshop finances.

MOM

(shouting from inside of the office)

Okok, 1 minute.

MOM

(to SON)

Come, let me prepare the customer bill first.

Without saying a word, SON rolls away from the computer while still sitting on the office chair. MOM moves in front of the computer and started printing the invoices while standing. Once she is done, SON rolls back to his original position doing the accounts for the workshop.

**3 INT/EXT. CAR WORKSHOP - EVENING**

**3**

MOM walking out the office after wearing her mask, and pass the bill to the CUSTOMER 1.

MOM

Here you go, haiyo, long time no see, how are you, how's your wife?

CUSTOMER 1 took over the bill and started looking at the bill.

CUSTOMER 1

Ok la auntie, lucky salesman like me still can run around, if not ah, everyday stay at home will go crazy oh. My wife everyday work at home, nothing special also.

MOM

Good la, we've also been staying at home. Can't run our business, means zero income for us...somemore ah...

CUSTOMER 1

(interrupting MOM speech)

Eh, Auntie, 480RM a bit expensive leh, can discount a bit ah? Company not doing well these days ah..hahaha

MOM chuckled a little, and turn to DAD. DAD is now kneeling in front of the workshop near the waterpipe washing his hand.

MOM

(in hokkien)

San, how ah? how much discount you want to give?

DAD

(while washing his hand)

uh... give RM450 la.

MOM turned to CUSTOMER 1.

MOM

Boss say final price RM450. Ok ah?

After a while of hesitation, CUSTOMER 1 nodded and reach for his wallet, and passed MOM a credit card. It seems the CUSTOMER 1 is wearing a glove while doing so.

#### 4 INT. CAR WORKSHOP OFFICE - EVENING

4

After the customer left with his car. The metal gates outsides are shut halfway but not totally shut. The family members can be seen sitting inside the office discussing something.

SON face doesn't look so happy sitting in front of the computer. MOM is packing stuff ready to go home, while DAD is drinking water with his mask under his chin.

SON

(annoyed)

Really, discount again? It's not like they're the only one having a hard time, your workshop also has not been doing well already, you still want to give discount?

DAD sat there quietly for a moment without responding. He had this arguement with SON before many times, and everytime it

always end sourly.

DAD  
so, how was it?

DAD is closing his water bottle, and looks at the financial papers with his eyebrow raised, as if he's pointing the papers with his eyes.

SON  
Bad.

DAD  
How bad?

SON  
You're going to beg for food on the street the next month kind of bad.

MOM stares at SON, frowning, trying to de-escalate the heat before it explode again like many times before. SON can feel the MOM stares but chose to ignore it.

DAD  
(let out a long sigh)  
Haih... then how, what you suggest us to do then?

SON  
Something that you should've done long time ago when all your other partners decided to pull out this business. Close it down.

DAD  
It's not that easy. We have so many regular customer that still relies on us.

SON  
Then who are we supposed to be relying on then?

DAD fell into another silent moment, he knew his son was right. The business had not been good even without the intrusion of COVID-19. He's just too proud to admit it.

DAD  
Ok then, let's say we close down shop. Then what?

SON's eye glow immediately, his posture straighten.

SON

You've always wanted to open a restaurant right? Why not do that, you've always been a good cook.

DAD listening closely, while MOM finished packing and sat at a chair nearby.

SON

I can help you promote your restaurant on Facebook, Instagram, we can set up shop on delivery platform, that's what everyone is doing now during MCO. People still got to eat right?

DAD fell into another silent. He nodded.

DAD

Okay, give me some time and I'll figure it out.

SON

You always thought me to adapt, learn and survive, I think you can do it too.

CUTS TO:

MALAYSIA PRIME MINISTER ON TV ANNOUNCING RMCO

TIMELINE - AUGUST 2020

**5 EXT. HAWKER STALL RESTAURANT - DAY**

**5**

We see a normal hawker stall restaurant set in the middle of business centre, surrounded by offices and colleges. (SS15, Subang Jaya). Hawker stall restaurants are barricaded by chairs and tapes to allow only single entry and single exit.

DAD and MOM has just finished setting up their new hawker stall for their new business.

There's also a special makeshift corner made out of 4 tables outside the restaurant for delivery workers.

**6 INT. HAWKER STALL RESTAURANT - DAY**

**6**

Inside the restaurant theres two lines of hawker stalls. The owners/cooks are inside the stalls, while tables are set in between the two lines of hawker stalls.

We can see a simple card board print signboard on your typical hawker stall, it reads [CINCAI HOTPOT]. It comes with a glass panel and on the glass panel we can see it is full of laminated picture showing what type of food it's selling. Other than the MALA HOTPOT the old couple is selling, they also sell porridge and noodles as well.

A couple can be seen working on their food materials inside the stall.

A China lady, known as the LADY OWNER, in her 40s, wearing t-shirt and jeans approach the couple. She is wearing golden necklace, jade earring and multiple bangles on her hand. She's a stern and serious looking lady.

LADY OWNER

(glance through the hawker stall, then look at her phone)

Everything okay ya? So as mentioned before, RM1,300 per month, if you owe more than 2 month you are out.

DAD was cutting vegetables, he did not notice the LADY OWNER approaching before that.

DAD

Ah yes yes, surely. Thanks for setting up the stall for us also.

LADY OWNER

If anything, feel free to let me know. (points at the counter in the middle of the restaurant, while still looking at her phone) I'll always be there. Also, I'd like to order 2 MALA HOTPOT, mid spicy, bring to my counter later.

DAD

OK no problem. Thanks ya.

**7 EXT. HAWKER STALL RESTAURANT - NOON**

**7**

We see customer coming in and out of the restaurant. There are office workers, young students, and adult from different age. They also had to scan MYSEJAHTERA before going in.

We also see delivery worker picking up foods from their delivery order.

**8 EXT. HAWKER STALL RESTAURANT - DAWN**

**8**

We see different set of customer coming in and out of restaurant to take away.

Delivery worker can also be seen waiting for their orders outside of the restaurant to be done.

We can also see small numbers of people dining in. (less than 5, 2 person per table max)

**9 EXT. HAWKER STALL RESTAURANT - NIGHT 9**

Customer and delivery worker crowd getting lesser. Hawker stalls have to close shop at 10pm to adhere to the RMCO rules.

**10 INT. HAWKER STALL RESTAURANT - NIGHT - FEW WEEKS LATER 10**

We can see the old couple started cleaning up their stall and packing, ready to go home.

MOM

Remember to wipe the glass panel from the inside also, should I keep these Enoki?

DAD

(wringing wet cloth to clean the glass panel)  
 Hmm, let me see. (Took a look at it, while still cleaning the glass panel) Just throw these away, we get fresh ones tomorrow morning.

MOM turned around and throw away the Enoki.

MOM

(rubbing her hands cleans with her apron)  
 I think we should really talk to the opposite stall aunty about registering as food delivery partners. You see, most of her sales are from food delivery platform, she din't even have to promote her stall.

DAD

OK ah, you ask her and see la. You know I'm not good at talking one. So anything else to keep?

MOM

I think that's all, let's go.

The old couple hang their aprons on the top corner of the hawker stall. Old couple walks away with their bags and belongings.

Camera focus on the Hawker Stall.

Timelapse from night to dark as the restaurant turn off the light and the sound of the metal gates can be heard pulling down.

**11 INT. HAWKER STALL RESTAURANT - DAY**

**11**

Camera focus on the Hawker Stall still. It's morning now, and the couple just arrive on scene, and started their usual operation.

We see MOM walks toward the opposite stall, to talk to a lady in her 60s. She is an Indonesian, selling Nasi Lemaks in this restaurant. She looks plumpy, always seen wearing baju kurung and her apron. She's always sitting on her chair, watching drama on her phone. Commonly known as Mak Cik.

MOM

Hello, Mak Cik! How are you?  
Everything going well?

MAK CIK

(pauses her drama and  
looked up at MOM)  
Ya, Amoi. Want order nasi lemak is  
it?

MOM

Later la, it's too early now. Can I  
get the FoodPanda Agent number from  
you? We're thinking of listing on  
FoodPanda as well now.

MAK CIK

Aiyo, now only you want to join ah!  
I told you since the day you come,  
must join one, you never listen  
haha. Wait wait.

She started browsing her phone for the agent number.

She show MOM the phone number, it is displayed as EJEN PANDA on her old android phone.

MOM took out her phone and started saving the numbers she see on the phone.

MOM



Thank you Mak Cik! Later I will talk to him later.

MAK CIK

No problem, you just call him, he will come here and register for you one.

MOM

Okay Mak Cik, 2 order of Nasi Lemak for lunch later ya. Thank you again.

Mak Cik puts out a okay sign and continues her drama on her stall.

**12 INT. HAWKER STALL RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON - THE NEXT DAY 12**

We see an Indian young man, in his 20s, wearing office attire with his tie on looking around at each and every stall as if he's looking for a particular stall. Finally, he approached [CINCAI HOTPOT].

The old couple saw the Indian young man and they introduced themselves. He introduced himself as FOODPANDA AGENT.

MOM and FOODPANDA AGENT can be seen sitting on the table, while DAD is standing beside as the current RMCO rules is maximum two person per table.

After a while, they waved (no handshake allowed) and the agent left.

CUTS TO:

MALAYSIA PRIME MINISTER ON TV ANNOUNCING MCO

TIMELINE - JANUARY 2021

**13 INT. HAWKER STALL RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON 13**

We see a pink device with FoodPanda logo printed on it.

The device suddenly starts beeping, and the couple can be seen looking at their phone and started working on the next order.

No customer can be seen in the restaurant as no dine in is allowed.

They puts the ready food with the order number written outside on the makeshift table for the delivery person.

Some of the stalls can be seen closed during operation hour.

**14 INT. HAWKER STALL RESTAURANT - DAY**

**14**

Camera focus on the two lines of hawker stalls.

Days passed by, more and more stalls can be seen closed down one by one.

CUTS TO:

MALAYSIA PRIME MINISTER ON TV ANNOUNCING FMCO

TIMELINE - JUNE 2021

**15 INT. HOME - NIGHT**

**15**

We see the family at home having dinner, watching TV. Looking at the Prime Minister announcement regarding the full lockdown.

DAD looks at the TV, holding this bowl of rice and seems like there's something on his mind.

SON  
(while eating his food)  
So how was business?

MOM continues to eat, trying to avoid SON question.

DAD  
Bad, stalls are closing one by one  
and we're not doing well.

SON  
Then how?

DAD  
(continues)  
... and the Lady Owner is asking for  
a raise on the rent to cover her  
loss.

SON  
...how much?

DAD

Needs to add another RM500.

SON  
(in disbelief)  
What?! RM1,800 for that tiny stall?  
Is she crazy?

MOM  
Actually, your dad has been ignoring her for 2 months. I don't think we can continue to run away from this conversation with her. She been coming to our stall and nagged us about this more and more frequently.

DAD  
yeah.. I'm thinking of closing down shop too. We've been making lost for the past 3 months, I think. So yeah, I don't really know what to do now, to be honest with you. Our savings are almost running out. I don't know what to do now.

The dinner room fell into a cold silence.

SON  
Sorry. It was my idea. I'm really sorry.

Tears can be seen flowing down DAD's eyes. SON looked down, he doesn't dare to look into his eyes. MOM pulled a tissue from the table and passed to DAD.

**16 INT. HAWKER STALL RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON**

**16**

We see the old couple started packing their tools and utensils into multiple boxes.

DAD started tearing down the food pictures on the glass panel.

CUSTOMER 2, an office lady with lanyard on her neck, and a handbag on her sides walks towards the old couple.

CUSTOMER 2  
Eh Uncle, no more?

DAD  
Hahaha, close down already lo. If only you come earlier, maybe I can still prepare your porridge for you.

CUSTOMER 2  
 (looks at the boxes)  
 Aiya, where you moving to? My dad  
 still wants to eat your MALA HOTPOT  
 leh..

DAD  
 I'm still not sure, still looking  
 for the next spot. Sorry ya, if  
 anything you can check on our  
 Facebook, we will try to update  
 there.

CUSTOMER 2  
 (dissapointed)  
 Oh, like that ah. Okay lo. Good luck  
 ah uncle. (Looks at MOM) Bye Auntie.

MOM looks at CUSTOMER 2 and waved with a smile, DAD continues  
 to tear down the signboard.

**17 INT. HOME - NIGHT**

**17**

We see the old couple is watching TV in the living room,  
 while MOM is scrolling through her phone, not really paying  
 attention to what's going on.

SON walks down the stairs and walk towards the living room.

SON  
 You guys still got the FOODPANDA  
 AGENT phone number?

MOM  
 Yea, I got. Why?

SON  
 I got an idea. What if, instead of  
 renting a place to start your  
 business, we start the business  
 here?

DAD  
 Huh?

MOM  
 Huh?

SON  
 Your restaurant. Since it's a  
 delivery service, then it doesn't  
 matter where the kitchen is right?

MOM looked at DAD for his reaction.

DAD

Yeah, I guess. We can give it a try then.

SON

Awesome! Ma, tomorrow you give the FOODPANDA AGENT a call and see what he say, see if this is possible.

**18 INT. HOME - THE NEXT DAY**

**18**

We see that MOM is on the phone with someone.

MOM

Ah.. okok. That's all right? Is there anything else we need to do? Okok, thank you very much. So you can help me do that also right? Okok, thank you thank you.

DAD walks out of the kitchen, with his apron on.

DAD

So? What did he say?

MOM

He say it's possible, but we need to keep it a secret because there's no clear rule of this is allowed or not. We just need to change the location of our restaurant to our home address and everything is okay.

DAD

Wow. Unbelievable. Uh.. So I just finished set up our kitchen. I guess when everything is online, we're back on business again. Hahaha....

DAD brightens up again, he walks back to the kitchen whistling. MOM let out a relieved smile, she knows that her husband has found himself again.

**19 EXT. HOUSE FRONT YARD - NOON - FEW WEEKS LATER**

**19**

We see a normal terrace housing area, few of the houses have white flag raised to asked for help, the white flag movement.

MOM walks out with a pack of food. There's a FOOD DELIVERY GUY waiting outside the door. HASAN, a food delivery guy in

his mid 30s, has been doing food delivery service since MCO because he lost his job.

HASAN  
ORDER 34 is it?

MOM  
(wearing her slippers)  
Yeah, coming coming...

HASAN  
Eh Auntie! It's me la.

MOM  
(confused)  
Who is it ah?

HASAN  
Me la auntie, no wonder this  
"restaurant" name sound so familiar.  
I used to helped you deliver food  
when you are still at the hawker  
stall, remember?

MOM  
(passing the food to  
HASAN)  
Ohhh! Yea yea, how are you! How is  
your dad doing? I can't believe  
you're delivering for this area  
also.

HASAN  
(sadly)  
Ah.. My dad just passed away last  
month due to COVID-19. Had a lot of  
things to settle, I actually just  
started back delivery so I was  
assigned to this area.

MOM  
(shocked)  
Oh dear, I'm really really sorry to  
hear that. Oh dear. I hope  
everything will be okay for you.

HASAN  
Had to la auntie, I still got a wife  
and two kids too feed. No matter  
what, have to be strong. It is  
destiny, I believe.

MOM

Yea...you wait here for a moment,  
Auntie go get something for you.

HASAN  
Oh, okok.

MOM turn back into the house, open the door and turn around  
looking at HASAN.

MOM  
You want to talk to uncle or not? I  
ask him come out.

HASAN waved politely.

Few minutes later, MOM came out with a bottle of green tea,  
behind her is DAD with his apron on.

DAD  
(with a smile on his face)  
Oi! Healthy?

HASAN  
Healthy, Uncle!

MOM  
(passed the bottle of  
green tea to HASAN)  
Come, here you go, this is for you.  
Now go deliver the food for me.

HASAN  
Aiyo, you don't have to la, thank  
you very much auntie uncle!

HASAN continues his food delivery journey.

MOM and DAD waved at him as he rode off.

MOM  
Haih, poor kid. This pandemic really  
took a lot of precious thing from a  
lot of precious people.

DAD  
What to do. We had to do what we  
need to do to survive, we are really  
blessed in many ways actually.

CUTS TO:

MALAYSIA PRIME MINISTER ON TV ANNOUNCING National Recovery  
Plan

TIMELINE - OCTOBER 2021

**20 INT. HOME - DAY**

**20**

Camera focus on the same pink device with FoodPanda logo printed on it. However, it is not beeping as much as usual.

MOM and DAD can be seen sitting on the sofa, watching drama on the TV.

SON walks out of the kitchen with a glass of water.

SON

No order again today?

DAD

No, nothing.

MOM

Last order was three days ago.

SON

Huh... I guess everyone can't wait to go back to dine in a restaurant since they've been vaccinated.

DAD tries to hide his emotion, yet he can't hide the worries written all over his face.

MOM puts her hand on DAD's hand. DAD looked at MOM and gave her a quick smile and he replies with a tap on her hand, signifying he is okay.

CUTS TO:

MALAYSIA PRIME MINISTER ON TV ANNOUNCING END OF MCO

TIMELINE - January 2022

**21 INT. HOME - DAY**

**21**

Camera focus on the same pink device with FoodPanda logo printed on it. It has now been turned off completely.

Sound of cleaning, items being packed into boxes and the sound of cabinet opening and closing can be heard from the kitchen.

**22 INT. HOME - NIGHT - FEW DAYS LATER**

**22**



The house is now filled with hundreds of unknown parcel in the middle of the living room. Some are grey, some are boxes, some are bubble wrapped. The old couple is writing down notes and planning something while looking at GOOGLE MAPS on their phone.

Sounds of gate open. SON is now home.

SON  
(shocked)  
Omg. What are all these? Did you guys stole parcels from the whole neighbourhood?

DAD  
(laughed)  
Yeah. It's not easy to pull off though.

MOM  
(unamused by the joke)  
Your dad just started his new career as a parcel delivery guy.

SON looks confused as ever.

SON  
What? How? When?

MOM  
Just a few days ago, your dad met an old friend from our restaurant days, he introduced this new gig for him.

**BEGIN FLASHBACK**

**23 EXT. HOUSE FRONT YARD - NOON**

**23**

DAD can be seen tending to his plant in the front yard. He saw a familiar number plate outside of his house, he waved.

A motorcycle rode towards the house front yard, it was HASAN. He looked different now, he's no longer wearing the delivery platform uniform.

DAD  
Hasan! How's everything?

HASAN  
(while taking off his helmet)  
All good uncle! How's your restaurant business?

DAD  
Haha... close down long time ago lo.

HASAN  
Eh? What happened?

DAD  
(teasing)  
You never helped me deliver already mah, so I close down shop la.

HASAN  
Haha, why say like that uncle... So what are you doing now?

DAD  
Nothing la, everyday sit at home, enjoying my retired life, bored out of my mind. Why, got good business intro? I see you're not working for food delivery service already.

HASAN  
Yeah uncle, too competitive and the money is hard to earn, people tend to complaint a lot even when it's not our fault, give us bad ratings. Such a headache. I'm doing parcel delivery now, my friend introduced me to a boss, he owns a fulfilment centre. Good money if you work hard, and you can arrange your own time. Fits me perfectly.

DAD facial expression lights up and he's very interested.

DAD  
Where is this company? Can introduce me?

HASAN  
Confirm uncle, come I give you the company name card, it's actually 10 minutes away from here, near the factory area. You come tomorrow morning at 6am, they're always short-staffed. I will be there around that time too, I see you there tomorrow.

DAD  
Ok ok, see you tomorrow.

**END FLASHBACK**

**24 INT. HOME - NIGHT****24**

SON

Huh...then how are you going to sent all these? Using your old BMW?

DAD

(jokingly)

What else? As long you have the capability, you deliver with a bike also can.

SON put down his bag on floor and sat on the sofa. He reached out for one of the parcel and examined it.

SON

So what's the salary like?

MOM

No salary, purely commision based. The more you deliver, the more money you get.

SON

But, you can't deliver with your BMW all the time right? It's, it's just not economical.

DAD

That's why I'm starting to save up for a delivery van. I've talked to your mom about this, she's very supportive so I think this is what I'll do.

The old couple went back to discuss the route they're going to take the next day. SON looks both relieved and worried, but he will support his parent, whatever their choices are.

**25 EXT. OUTDOOR - DAWN****25**

We see the couple driving around in their BMW delivering parcel, houses to houses, condo to condo, offices to offices.

DAD is the driver, while MOM is the navigator.

- DAD dropped rang a house doorbell and put the parcel on top of the gate pillar
- DAD puts multiple parcel in the condo mailbox, and text the recipients
- DAD loading up parcels from the fulfilment centre
- CUSTOMER 3 received a parcel from DAD and says thank you
- MOM and DAD and other delivery crew members cleaning up parcels from the flood in the fulfilment centre

Scene opens medium shot of DAD with 3 different panel. DAD is wearing 3 different outfit to signify his career transition during the COVID-19. First panel, he's a car mechanic, second panel, he is a chef, last and third panel he is a delivery guy.

MOM then also join in the first panel, second panel and third panel hooking DAD's arm. In all three panel, both of them look at each other and laugh happily.

SON  
(v.o.)

So this is the story of how my dad turned from a car mechanic, to a chef and lastly a delivery guy. He wouldn't have done it without the support from my mom as well. It's a really bizzare journey from my point of view, but I think that is more so for them. They always thought me to adapt, learn and survive; and now they show me how they actually applies it to their life. To all the Malaysian that are facing hardship during COVID-19 period, Adapt, Learn and Survive. If two 50 years old couple can do it, you can too.

THE END.

**Submitted to Capital Dynamics as part of the UNprofessional Competition.**