

CHAN HON GOH

The new RAD Vice-President and Bedells Bursary judge says dancers shouldn't be afraid of being vulnerable – and even imperfect.

DANCE GAZETTE | ADVICE BUREAU | ISSUE 17 – OCT 2026



The best advice I ever received

One of the greatest challenges in my career as a dancer was learning to step outside my own nature. I was naturally quite introspective and, in many ways, a little shy.

My favourite advice I ever received was not to be afraid to be vulnerable, imperfect, even ugly if that is what the role demanded. To be truthful. To surrender to the character rather than protect my own image. It taught me that great artistry is not about looking beautiful all the time. It is about being authentic, honest, courageous, and allowing yourself to be seen without inhibition.

That advice became one of the most important lessons of my career. It helped me push through barriers I had unknowingly created for myself and gave me permission to explore emotions and qualities that did not come naturally. Some of my most meaningful performances came from those moments when I stopped trying to control everything and simply trusted the work.

It is still something I practice today, not only as an artist but as a person. Being fearless is never effortless. It is a discipline that requires constant intention. Life, much like ballet, is an ongoing exercise of learning, growing, and having the courage to begin again.



Photo: Emily Cooper

The advice I would pass on

I often share that same advice with young dancers because I know how transformative it can be. Do not be afraid of vulnerability. Do not fear imperfection. Those are often the very places where authenticity and artistry are found.

I would also encourage them never to give themselves excuses. Growth does not come from waiting until you feel ready or confident. It comes from showing up, doing the work, and having the courage to try. The simple act of trying already makes you better than you were yesterday.

We often underestimate how much progress is made through persistence rather than perfection. Every class, every rehearsal, every setback, and every success shapes who we become. If you remain curious, disciplined, and willing to embrace the uncomfortable moments, you will continue to grow, not only as a dancer but as a human being.

For me, that has always been one of ballet's greatest gifts. It teaches us that excellence is not a destination. It is a daily practice of courage, humility, and the willingness to keep learning.

RESOURCES

[!\[\]\(cbe80b694ebd74fcfe136a095b608235_img.jpg\) Chan Hon Goh C.M., D.Litt. at the RAD](#)

[!\[\]\(a03a7eb2f4046e1d3c76772003e549ea_img.jpg\) The Bedells Bursary will take place on 25–26 October 2026](#)



 SEND YOUR FEEDBACK

ISSUE 17 – OCT 2026

← PREVIOUS



NEXT →

