



SEA-side salon speak

Education ambassador **ANNA LEE** mentors Team SEA through its second *Nailympics London* experience

This year marks the second year that I've organised Team SEA to enter the international *Nailympics London* competition at *Olympia Beauty*. As with 2012, the results were both amazing and encouraging for the team, myself and the whole SEA nail community.

Anna Trieu says...

Soak off Gel Manicure, Division 1, 3rd place

"For someone who was entering this nail competition for the first time, I didn't really have an idea of what to expect. However, the actual experience of it was a real eye opener and encouraged me to get more involved in future competition scenes. As I sat in the arena and looked around at all the other competitors, it suddenly hit me that not many SEA nail techs have the self-confidence to put themselves forward to compete like myself.

"After taking part this year, I've a newfound confidence that means I will now take it further. Having Anna Lee as my mentor has played a big part in this. If it weren't for her, I would not have entered at all. I decided, after much persuasion from her, to enter and she told me that if I didn't place, at least I'd tried and that was good enough. I didn't go into the competition with high hopes or high expectations of myself, as the disappointment would be too high.

"On the day, my nerves really hit me when I entered the hall itself; I remember looking around and asking myself 'What am I doing here?' But it was too late to back out, so I just tried to focus on myself and the job in hand. Once the clock started, time passed quickly.

"Finding that I was placed 3rd was shocking! It was so unexpected and a real achievement for the SEA community and myself. I honestly didn't think I stood a chance with all the other great international competitors around me. I'm now so pleased that I entered, and next year I will certainly be back - with an even bigger and better Team SEA."

Tina Pham says...

Soak off Gel Manicure, Division 2, 8th place

"This year was my second time competing in this competition. I felt the familiar rush of excitement and confidence once more. And although the nerves were still there, my model Kaya Beecroft helped me keep calm and focused. This year, the competition was harder than last year as the time limit was shortened from one hour to 30 minutes. As a result, the pressure was increased.

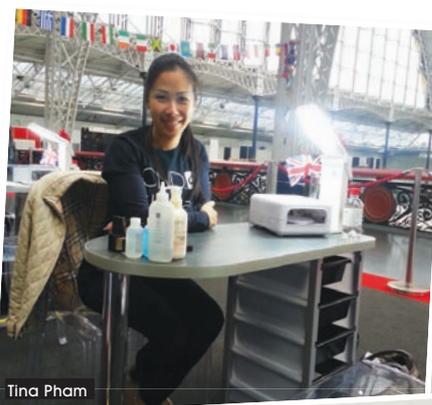
"Finding out that I placed in the top 10 again for the second time was brilliant. I'm so very happy with myself however, to place 8th again, has left me slightly disappointed. I felt I should have done better as this was my second attempt, but I guess number eight is now my lucky number! And fortunately, this has given me the determination to aim higher next year. And regardless of placings, I had so much fun taking part with my SEA girls - and therefore I would like to thank my mentor Anna Lee for her time, encouragement and support."

Lee Hogan says...

Soak off Gel Manicure, Division 1, 15th place

"I entered the *Nailympics London* this year; my first ever nail competition. It was more nerve-wracking than I could have ever imagined, but then again, I didn't really know what to expect. Despite that, I felt very proud of myself for even participating in such an event.

"At first, I was incredibly doubtful about the time limit we had; 30 minutes worried me, but Anna Lee, the SEA girls, my family and friends were all so supportive and I knew I couldn't let them, or myself down. In truth, my only aim at the actual competition was to finish. Even though my nerves were making my hands shake, I did manage to finish and on time. I learned quite a bit from the experience and am looking forward to doing it again next year. I am hoping Team SEA's journey through the *Nailympics London* will encourage more members to join and compete alongside us!" **S**



Tina Pham



Team SEA



Anna Trieu with Alex Fox

Lee Hogan

