



Ms Pearl Forss

Executive Producer at Channel News Asia (CNA)

Ms Pearl Maria Forss is an Executive Producer at Channel News Asia (CNA)*. Over the years, her films have won many international awards. Most recently, her documentary series on US-China relations titled "When Titans Clash" was awarded the Best Documentary at the New York Movie Awards, Istanbul Film Awards, Cannes Silk Road Film Awards, Jury Awards (Europe Film Festival), and Best Documentary Series (from Singapore) at the Asian Academy Creative Awards in 2022. Ms Forss's other notable works include "The Organ Bazaar", which exposed the secret criminal networks behind organ trading, as well as "The Iran Deal" which brought audiences insights from Iran. Ms Forss has also been on the judging panel at the New York International Film & TV Festival since 2016.

Amongst her many accomplishments in the areas of journalism and media, Ms Forss is also a Chevening Scholar – a distinction awarded by the British government for her contributions to journalism; as well as a fellow on the International Visitors Leadership Program – a premier professional exchange program run by the State Department of the United States. In addition, Ms Forss is the founding President of the University Scholars Club at the National University of Singapore and was formerly the Vice-President of Xinya Media Holdings.

Ms Forss graduated from St. Margaret's School (Secondary) in 1997 and she participated actively in Girls' Brigade during her time here. Ms Forss fondly recalls her days in St. Margaret's (Secondary) and credits the school for who she is today. She is grateful to the school for giving her a safe space and nurturing environment to try different things during her teenage years.

Ms Forss said, "I was a totally ordinary student, and failed a few Math and Physics exams in school. I also struggled with Mandarin. Fortunately, I scraped through the O-Level exams. The truth is, I did not excel in academics till I went on to Junior College. My teachers at St. Margaret's never pressured me excessively, and always inculcated in me a love for learning, and not just a love for good grades."

Out of the many values imbued in her at St. Margaret's School (Secondary), Ms Forss identifies learning continuously as the one which has helped her the most in her career. According to her, "It is important to be constantly curious in life, whatever your job is. And as a journalist, a deep curiosity about the world around us, and open-mindedness to different perspectives are critical values. I think St. Margaret's had that kind of open and accepting environment, and encouraged debate, which is a stepping stone to critical thinking later."

Ms Forss's varied achievements across different disciplines and the care she shows for the subjects of her articles and documentaries truly reflect the values of her alma mater: Showing Care & Being Gracious, Being Resilient & Tenacious.

*correct as of May 2023