

NEW YORK –

"Initially nervous yes, because we are trained directly by professional players of Broadway musical theater, also casting director and music director. Your skills really really advanced," said Non Bia, Nabila Katyana, None North Jakarta 2015 nick exhausted at Herald Square Park, Manhattan, New York. Together with Non Ufa (Ufa Sofura), Bang Audi (Audi Pratama) and Bang Aldy (Rinaldy Zulkarnain), Non Bia has just practiced at the Pearl studio located a few blocks from Herald Square.

Appearing in front of Broadway artists, the four members of the Abnon Theater Jakarta played some theater performances from stage scenarios and Broadway songs such as Kinky Boots and Show People songs. They perform with the Broadway musical concept that combines theater, dance and song. For ten days, they take intensive training every day. Out of the rehearsal studio, they still had their own practice to memorize thirty minutes of Broadway manuscripts, songs and lyrics, all in English.

Initially, the four alumni of Abang & None Jakarta passed the audition in the program #abnontobroadway initiated by Ikatan Abang None Jakarta (IANTA), an organization that aims to preserve the original culture of Jakarta is Betawi art culture. IANTA in cooperation with Oudpro for Passport to Broadway initiated by Oudpro founder, Novie Hernawaty, provides an opportunity for Abnon alumni who are members of the Abnon Jakarta Theater Group to audition. This theater has successfully performed performances Babe Muka Kampung Rejeki Kota and Six Skets Jakarta.

"Passport to Broadway is a self-esteem development program, personality and leadership using Broadway theaters as a medium for their personal development process," explains Novie Hernawaty who helped accompany the training. The program is supported by the DKI Government, Department of Education, Bekraf, and the Department of Tourism and Gallery of Indonesia Kaya. "By attending this musical theater workshop, Abnon will learn discipline and character not only for role art but also dance and appreciation art while memorizing scenarios and song lyrics," Novie added.

For Non Ufa (Ufa Sofura) who is also choreographer Abnon Theater, theater learning experience on Broadway has its own challenges. Finalist None Jakarta Utara 2013 who is also a dancer and professional dance teacher, began to wrestle in the world of dance since the age of 17 years. "Here I learned how to memorize scenarios, song lyrics, acting and more in-depth character. Not much time off, back to the hotel we have to learn again by ourselves. Have to memorize all the lyrics. Learn the discipline for training in the studio as well as outside the studio," said Non Ufa who wish to apply this training in Indonesia.

While Abang Jakarta Kepulauan Seribu 2017, Bang Aldy (Rinaldy Zulkarnain) also feel the same experience with Non Ufa.

"We are learning about acting and stage management, and now we are motivated to create a theater that has the same level as Broadway," said Bang Aldy, who played in *The Gift*, directed by Hanung Bramantyo.

"We are also learning to work quickly and under pressure, very disciplined." All the English manuscripts should be self-taught, "added Bang Audi (Audi Pratama) who has a profession as a linguist in French. Audi follow Abang None North Jakarta in 2014 and perform in all Abnon Theater shows. Among the Abnon, there was also a singer and actress Lala Karmela who trained on Broadway.

In addition to workshops, various activities are designed to add insight into theater arts during their stay in New York, such as performing live studies backstage at Broadway and art appreciation at Central Park and Chinatown public parks. They also get the chance to watch live Broadway Shows, *Kinky Boots* and *Frozen*.

Amy Weinstein, Artistic Director and CEO of the Students Live Broadway Education Program who designed the training curriculum, had doubts about Abnon's abilities and talents from Jakarta. "They are very kind and polite, I have doubts because the culture here is different from Indonesia, more open and expressive, but they can adapt well, very professionally," said Amy who wants to give young people more chance to learn about American musical dramas.

"After New York, the participants are expected to be able to share their experience on Broadway for the past 10 days to other communities belonging to the Creative Room program at Galeri Indonesia Kaya," said Djarum Foundation Program Director, Renitasari, who supports the Abnon Theater program to Broadway. "In the future we will also invite the Passport To Broadway team to Indonesia to provide training to improve the skills of Indonesian performing arts artists," added Renitasari who came to New York for the program. [nr]