



TOH WEI SOONG “MAKING WAVES” SCRIPT

Act One: “A Ripple of Passion”

We open on a wide aerial drone shot of Sentosa Island as the glistening turquoise sea meets the golden sands.

INTRO CARD: START YOUR IMPOSSIBLE - TOYOTA

The crash of waves and sounds of nature bring the frame to life.

In a long take, we descend downward towards a Toyota vehicle, tracking it as it drives along a beachside road.

We turn away from the vehicle toward the sea to find our hero, Toh Wei Soong, doing what he does best: swimming.

We cut between close-up shots of him propelling himself through the water with his big, strong arms. Then to a peaceful, dreamy, and serene underwater shot looking up at him as he stops, rolls onto his back, and spreads out his arms, floating peacefully on the surface of the water. He closes his eyes and we cut to...

Wei Soong (VO): It's been my dream to become a world champion ever since I can remember.

...Wei Soong's childhood home and explore the house in a long, single Steadicam movement, passing along the corridor and catching glimpses of the kitchen, living room, and dining room, before entering his bedroom.

We hear sounds and voices of his past intermingled together.

The camera circles the bedroom and we notice posters of famous swimmers lining the walls. A stack of comics sits on the desk as we settle our focus on a small television with DVDs on the top that shows home video footage of Wei Soong as a baby being bathed by his mother.

Wei Soong (VO): I was diagnosed with transverse myelitis at the age of two. It's an incurable condition that causes inflammation in the spinal cord, affecting my lower nervous system and restricting the use of my legs.

We cut from home video footage of a cute two-year-old Wei Soong taking his first dip in the swimming pool with his loving mum at his side to him gradually learning to swim unaided.

With an alternate edit, we intercut between this archive footage and a close-up shot of Wei Soong with his eyes closed as he floats on the surface of the sea.

Wei Soong (VO): I couldn't run and play like I used to and swimming was a form of physiotherapy, but it gradually became a hobby and then a passion. I enjoy the freedom of being underwater. Being able to move about without obstacles is why I love swimming.

Now we cut between footage and photographs of a skinny, teenage Wei Soong competing as a para-swimmer at a variety of swimming meets, such as the Special Event at the annual SSSC Championships.

Wei Soong (to camera): It wasn't until I joined the Aquatic Performance Swim Club (ACS) under the Singapore National Para-Swimming Team and met my current coach, Ang Peng Siong, a former Singaporean Olympic swimmer, that I thought this could be a career.

We show Wei Soong getting out of a Toyota with ease, highlighting its mobility benefits.

He enters the swim club, smiling and saying hello to the receptionist and the rest of the local swim community he knows so well as he makes his way to the locker room.

We cut inside the locker room to find him laughing and joking with his fellow swimmers - some able-bodied, others not.

But he is focused when he emerges from the locker room to find his coach, Ang Peng Siong, waiting by the swimming pool. Wei Soong confidently transfers himself from the wheelchair to the swimming pool. He jumps into the water and we intercut...

Act Two: In the Flow

... between Wei Soong swimming in the pool and archive footage of him competing in an alternate edit.

As he dips underwater, we cut to archive footage of Wei Soong winning his first international medal - a silver in the Men's 100-metre freestyle S8 event at the 2013 Asian Youth Para Games in Kula Lumpur, Malaysia.

This increases in speed, intensity, and excitement as we continue, showing Wei Soong...

Wei Soong (VO): Either real audio commentary from the event or Wei Soong explaining the achievement.

Winning three golds and one silver at the 2015 ASEAN Para Games in Singapore.

Breaking several Games records on his way to winning two gold medals and one silver at the 2017 ASEAN Para Games where he was also a torch bearer.

Wei Soong (VO): Either real audio commentary from the event or Wei Soong explaining the achievement.

Becoming the first Singaporean to win a para swimming medal in the Men's 50-metre freestyle S7 event at the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Australia.

Wei Soong (VO): Either real audio commentary from the event or Wei Soong explaining the achievement.

Becoming the most decorated Singaporean athlete of the Asian Para Games after winning gold in the Men's 50-metre freestyle S7 event and 100-metre freestyle S7 event as well as a bronze medal in the Men's 100-metre backstroke S7 event in 2018.

Wei Soong (VO): Either real audio commentary from the event or Wei Soong explaining the achievement.

Coming 4th in the Men's 50m Butterfly S7 twice in a day at Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, but setting a new national record and shaving two seconds off the previous record.

Wei Soong (VO): Either real audio commentary from the event or Wei Soong explaining the achievement.

An interview with an upbeat Wei Soong after this epic performance.

Wei Soong: I went out, had fun, and did my best.

Wei Soong clinching the Silver medal at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, UK.

Wei Soong (VO): Either real audio commentary from the event or Wei Soong explaining the achievement.

One of Wei Soong's Instagram posts appears over the footage: "I would like to thank everyone who has watched and supported me in following this path to medalling at Paris in 2024. This Silver is a stepping stone to that higher goal, but it's good to be racing at a CG again."

We end this archive montage with the Singapore Disability Sports Awards in 2022, where Wei Soong is named Sportsman of the Year.

Wei Soong (VO): Either real audio commentary from the event or Wei Soong explaining the achievement.

We cut to Wei Soong, revealing that he is watching the archive footage projected onto a wall. He sits in his wheelchair in front of a large panoramic window overlooking an Olympic size swimming pool where other professional swimmers are training at night.

We go in close on Wei Soong, capturing his spontaneous reaction as the light from the projector flickers on his face and illuminates his smiling, nostalgic expression.

Wei Soong: No. I can go a lot faster.

We cut between rigs on the outside of the car, capturing Wei Soong looking reflectively out the windows.

Then to a shot from inside the car showing what he is looking at as they drive through the streets of Singapore.

We capture wide shots as his vehicle drives through green, modern areas of the city, past glass-walled buildings with interesting reflections.

Wei Soong (VO): I've had success but it hasn't always been easy.

We cut to a Steadicam weaving between a class of students at the National University of Singapore while a lecturer stands at the front. We land on the focused face of Wei Soong as he takes notes.

Wei Soong (VO): Juggling my swimming and academic commitments has been particularly tough, especially at the start of my international competitive career. I struggled for several months to balance the stress from school and the pool. But it got better. It always gets better. You have to plant your feet and weather the storm

and the weight of what life throws at you because you will get past this struggle and be better for it.

Act 3: Tides of Change

We cut to a long, observational take of Wei Soong at home with his parents and family, sitting around a table as they eat dinner together and talk.

Wei Soong (V.O.): When I had an interest, they tried it; when I had an ambition, they fed it; and when I had a dream, they stayed with me all the way.

Wei Soong's parents: They acknowledge the difficulties and sacrifices along the way, but say that it was all worth it and talk about how proud they are of who he has become.

We cut back to a medium shot of Wei Soong in the swimming pool with his coach, Ang Peng Siong, walking alongside him.

Wei Soong (VO): My coach Ang Peng Sion is my hero and role model, but I'm also grateful to my teammates for motivating me to improve and for always having my back in this crazy sport.

Wei Soong reaches the end of the pool and stops. We get a close-up of him as he catches his breath and listens to instructions from Ang Peng Sion.

Wei Soong (VO): Medals are wonderful and representing your country is an honor, but real self-fulfilment comes from performing your best. From seeing the hours pay off and knowing that you have given your all.

We cut to Wei Soong reflected in the side or interior mirror as he pulls up outside a school.

Wei Soong (V.O.): I have a tenacious drive to achieve the impossible and to "overcome myself", something that I hope can be an inspiration to other young people.

Wei Soong leads a physical education class with a group of mixed-ability children, laughing and joking with them as he shows them how to perfect the different swimming strokes.

Wei Soong (VO): The idea of 'mobility for all' resonates in particular with me, as I feel that it offers a promise of hope that everyone has a chance to improve. In partnership with Toyota, I will be championing "Equality of Opportunity", working with the Singapore Disability Sports Council as a motivational speaker in their joint school outreach program to encourage youths, especially those with disabilities, to

pursue their sporting dreams and to be unafraid to bravely challenge the impossible. I want to give them the hope that nothing is impossible and that their dreams can become reality.

We cut to Wei Soong waiting in the office corridor of the multimedia journal where he is editor-in-chief. He emerges into the large office space with panoramic floor-to-ceiling windows that overlook the city outside. An audience made up of media industry types rise to their feet and applaud him as he takes his place in front of them and begins to talk.

We cut to a shot of the now empty office as a reflective Wei Soong looks out of the panoramic window at the city outside and the many opportunities it presents.

We cut to an excited Wei Soong in a Toyota vehicle looking out of the windscreen at the open road up ahead.

Wei Soong (VO): I must always remind myself why I am here, that there are other things left to do, and that today there is still time to do them.

We end on a wide aerial shot of the Sentosa Island coastline and see the Toyota vehicle travelling down the road. It reaches an intersection, allowing us to leave Wei Soong's story and pick up the next protagonist.

END CARD: START YOUR IMPOSSIBLE - TOYOTA